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## A LAWLESS SOCIETY.

The fact that Wm. McLaren, who testified in certain details in the sheep killing case now on trial at Grand Junction, Colorado, was a willing participant in the unlawful proceedings of May last, would cause his statements to be given little weight if they were not corroborated by strong circumstantial evidence. The trial is at once a sequel of killing sheep belonging to Mr. Reed. McLaren says he was a member of the citizens's committee. This was a secret society, organized for the purpose of keeping sheep out of the Plateau district in Mesa county, and its members were bound together by an oath. It included a number of prominent citizens of the locality, several of whom the witness indicated as participators in the slaughter of sheep. McLaren says each man was known by a number, his being 46, while that of a man named Covert was 39. The witness gave the names of the captain and other officers of the society. He also admits that himself and another man held the horses while the rest of the committee, about thirty-five in all, did the killing of several hundred sheep, on May 3rd, using guns, knives, clubs and stones, and taking about three hours in the villainous work.

The proceedings under investigation at this trial are connected with the cattle and sheepmen's war in western Colorado about the date given. The cattlemen objected to the sheepowners, some of whom were from Utah, using the range in the eastern part of Mesa county, and finding they could not exclude them lawfully, resorted to criminal methods to gain their purpose. The result was the killing of thousands of animals by parties at the time unknown. Subsequent developments threw light on the affair, and gradually the identity of some of the persons engaged in the raid on the flocks became known, and the generally accepted theory that the work was done by a combination of cattlemen was confirmed. It is in conformity with those developments that McLaren's testimony comes in. Of course it is sure to be contradicted by the parties implicated, and a conviction of those accused may not be easy under present circumstances; but the high feelings which existed between cattlemen and sheepowners, the threats made by the former and the injury inflicted on the latter, are conclusive proofs of some such proceeding as McLaren relates, whether or not he gives the details accurately.

It is to be hoped that the efforts of the prosecution in this case to elicit the whole truth pertaining to this unlawful society, and to punish those of its members who committed crimes, will prove successful. The fact that leading men of the locality were guilty parties, or that they were supporters by the sentiment of many of the composite of the district, is no justification for criminality. There has been too much of that spirit in the direction named; and it is full time for an official vindication of the law, whether or not it is reached in the case on trial. Both cattlemen and sheepowners should be given to understand that there is a legal, civilized way of settling their disputes, and that barbarous methods must be prevented in this state. Will and be tolerated.

## IS CHINA'S END APPROACHING?

From recent indications it seems to be said that the war in China is practically at an end, by an amicable settlement between the two nations. It is true that the Chinese government has expressed a desire for peace, and a willingness to make many concessions to the victorious Japanese; but the terms which the latter are believed to impose are in no way acceptable to the defeated nation. China is willing to pay money indemnity, but not to cede any of its territorial possessions. The will compass Chos, even when pressed to the last extremity was but natural at least, but seems determined to maintain the integrity of the empire proper, even if she has to submit to the humiliation of having a foreign army in Peking, and to wait until the millions of China's population can be assembled to drive out the invaders by force of numbers.

On the other hand, the Japanese policy now clearly seems to be to establish an extensive government on the mainland. They have full control over Corea, but that is not sufficient; they want a very large slice of China, and evidently are determined to have it. In carrying out this plan they have figured already upon annihilating the Chinese empire if necessary to their satisfaction, and partitioning it up among Russia, Great Britain, France, Germany and Japan, the latter, of course, receiving the lion's share.

At an earlier stage in the proceedings it was intimated that the Japanese demands would not extend a money indemnity and the independence of Corea. It is quite probable, however, that this was merely a diplomatic play on the part of the mikado, and that the present excuse of Chinese delay is presented in justification of an original design which it was deemed inexpedient to make public at first. The hostilities which has marked Chinese action on the battlefield and in diplomatic quarters now seems likely to prove fatal to the empire itself, as it removes the antagonists which formerly prevented among European powers to the dismemberment of China.

The proposition which now seems to be legally coming to the front is not as to terms of peace between the two nations engaged in the unnatural war, but rather points to the query, Shall China cease to exist as a nation? She has stood the test of ages, and of comparatively modern changes in the surrounding world. Has her hour come at last for complete demolition as a national entity? In this age, when people naturally look for old things to be done away and a new order of things to be instituted, it would seem no surprise if the ancient empire of southeastern Asia should be blotted among the nations of the earth—a victim to natural order in the steady, irresistible force which impels modern civilization to its onward march.

## ONE CERTAIN EVIL.

All the results and lessons of the new famous Lexow investigation in New York city cannot be deemed to be good and salutary. Particularly is this true of the applause and encomiums bestowed that has been given to the practice of bulldozing and blow-hard witnesses which has been exerted to be very efficacious by Mr. Goff, the chief bulldozer and prosecutor. He has had, it is true, a tough lot of witnesses to deal with, most of them very unwilling and not a few thoroughly unscrupulous as to the obligations of the oath they took. But all the previous evils of harrying and bullying cross-questioning have been multiplied and magnified under his manipulation, and a precedent of shameless incivility has been established that will surely return to vex the courts and legal procedure at a later day. As a matter of fact, a witness seems to have no rights that the opposing attorney is bound to respect; he may be insulted without redress, his plainest answers and his most circumspect conduct may be distorted and made to appear infamous, he may be assailed with epithets and insinuations the most foul—all because his evidence does not suit the attorney; while the court sits calmly by and allows the tongue-lashing and the epithet-calling to go on. Goff has been bitter and insulting to the witness, he has kept a running fire of invective and ridicule at witnesses, while they were refused immunity from his impertinent interruptions when they sought to make explanations, and he has varied the regular order by stump speeches filled with railing accusations and with insults which outside a court room would result, as humanity is at present constituted, in some one's being thrashed or killed. As stated, the people with whom he has had to deal were not always those whose feelings were deserving of special tenderness; yet even a criminal has rights, and those it ought to be the instinct of the court to defend. Much more should this be the case with witnesses and the few scenes to be well-founded that the general joy at the exposure and denunciation of the Tammany corruptionists, too evil referred to will be overshadowed by the belief of being cowed, it will furnish an example and a warrant for the exercise of the most outrageous license which that particular class of litigants already too well know how to employ.

## HORSEFLESH FOR FOOD.

It is not long since a warning came from San Francisco that young stallions were being sought there, canned and sent to the international and eastern market as food; of course it was not labeled "canned stock," but was placed under different attractive titles. A little later came an announcement that a number of marine engineers and sailors had accepted a friend's invitation to dine on horse-steak. There are still many people, however, who have so fine that any great quantity of horseflesh will not be in this country.

Belgium and France are two countries of horseflesh, and some of it even gets into Switzerland in tinned packets, though it is questioned by some that white the latter have no love for horseflesh as food, they have no disinclination to supply a fair share proportion of the French and Belgian markets. The British government, however, seems to have the success of its with the object to sanitary regulations, therefore only healthy horses are purchased to be slain and exported for food. In the great international slaughterhouse at Lowth, for instance, every animal has to be officially inspected and those found to be diseased are taken to another slaughterhouse, where they are killed and the carcasses destroyed. Thus the British government trade with the continent, being under scrupulous official scrutiny, may be classed as respectable.

But France and Belgium do not get all their horseflesh, outside of home production, from Great Britain. While the European countries are shutting out American beef and pork, the American horse-slaughterers go on undisturbed, though some of them need watching and enough. Instead of giving the care to their product that is exercised in England, that the flesh only healthy animals shall be disposed of for human food, the opposite is said by those who know to be the rule. Old, blind and diseased animals, with bad joints, huge spavins, frightful ringbones, all go in together. Their skins, hoofs and bones find a legitimate home market, while their flesh—if it exists—all goes in pickle and is shipped to Belgium or France.

This latter statement, however, has been shown by recent investigation to be not strictly correct. For instance, several Indiana horse-slaughterers have been found shipping a portion of their product to Chicago, there to be placed upon the market as pure and wholesome canned meat. The meat and contents is mixed with veal, and goes in with it. The poorer grade is chopped up with pork or beef and made into sausage, and the worst of little delicacies or big hunks a show are manufactured from this source.

Of course, it is only the least reputable packing establishments who do this sort of business, but there is so much competition that the evil seems to be many places. Now that the facts are being brought to public attention, it is not very probable they will encourage the use of imported meat and sausages to any great extent in an all place the United, but it is just as well to give people a chance. Those who do not fancy horseflesh, and especially the flesh of decrepit, diseased animals, will keep a sharp lookout toward importations liable to contain it, at least until there are such regulations as will render comparatively remote danger of being imposed upon in this matter. Horseflesh may be all right with some people for food, but it would be just as well to have it under its proper name.

A little English authority solemnly imparts the interesting information that while a toilet in the temperature takes heart action, it checks and at rest stops respiration. Such a case is surprisingly rare in which the victim cannot be said to have died of "heart failure," as the modern verdict is so fond of giving it; it is a welcome return to the homely old formula that the corpse is a corpse by reason of lack of breath.

In the rather startling showing, this means estimate that 16 per cent of the population of the United States is of foreign parentage. It would be pertinent, too, if it were not for the fact that the younger generation of aliens as well as native born is all the time imbibing truthful and indelible impressions of patriotism through the wonderful extension and improvement of the public school system.

Dr. as is now hinted, a special session of Congress will be needed soon after the 4th of March to give the governmental relief which the present Congress seems unwilling to furnish; it will be only another reminder that no one, like individuals, cannot exist without the business of life.


A Christmas to Remember.

Go to the Bohemian Family Wine and Liquor House, 19 Council st., for Port, Sherry, Angelica, Claret and all other Cali. Wines, at 50c a Bottle.

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Jas. Tolles, of Le Roy, N. Y., says "I have been troubled with indigestion and biliousness for years. Parker's Tea has cured me." For sale by F. J. Hill & Co., and Nelson Dickson Drug Co. 2

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(New York Sun, Dec. 30.)

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In times of general prosperity, people become very lax in keeping themselves posted on what their public representatives are doing; but when it becomes hard for them to make both financial ends meet a pretty thorough investigation is sure to follow, and the untrodden sentiment are pretty effectually weeded out, and the process continues until an honest administration is obtained and general prosperity again resumed.

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