

KRIBS FAILS TO STRENGTHEN CASE

Man Counted on as Star Witness by Government Contradicts Bridges.

TELLS OF BIG OPERATIONS

Not Positive When Pinned Down as to Facts as to Dealings With Roseburg Land Office—Progress of Booth Trial.

Federick A. Kribs did not make a strong witness for the Government in the James Henry Booth bribery trial yesterday. Kribs, the star witness for the prosecution, failed in his testimony to strengthen the contention of the Government that the \$800 check he gave Booth was for the latter's services in appraising Kribs of Land Office secrets. Kribs virtually admitted that the check was given to Booth as compensation for obtaining for Kribs an option on certain timber claims as per the defendant's explanation of the transaction. On cross-examination, Kribs admitted that Booth had never informed him that any of the lands included in the list introduced in evidence by the Government had been held for cancellation.

Kribs flatly contradicted the testimony of ex-Register J. T. Bridges, one of the Government's principal witnesses. Bridges testified that early in the year 1905, Kribs held a conversation with himself and made an arrangement by which the two Land Officials were to be paid \$25 for each selection of which Kribs was to be advised in advance of his final cancellation. Kribs, on cross-examination by Mr. Malarkey, declared that he never had a conversation with Bridges and Booth both were present and that he never offered to pay them \$25 or any other sum for any information they might furnish him.

The witness did testify, however, that he had complained to Bridges, losing several valuable land selections, and was desirous of being kept posted on the subject. Kribs said that he told Booth at that time if he would keep him posted Kribs would "make it all right with him."

Witness Is Forgetful.
Kribs was an unwilling witness. He was not a positive witness for the prosecution and he was even more reticent when questioned by counsel for the defense. He invariably prefaced his answer with "I think," or "I recollect." He disclosed a wonderfully forgetful memory and his replies, with but few exceptions, were evasive and undecided. Seldom did he give a positive answer to the most simple questions.

Left on Desert Island
California Pleasure-Seekers Find Provisions Cut Off.

On direct examination Kribs said he was 45 years old and had resided in Oregon since February, 1907, although his residence was in the Roseburg Land Office began in 1906, when he first came to the state for the purpose of acquiring timber lands. He said that in 1903 he "fell down" on several state lands for the reason that the state authorities had failed to advise him that his selections had been held up for cancellation at Washington.

Mr. Kribs testified that he and several others on the same land before he could make other selections. In order to square the transaction with other parties to whom he had sold and deeded the lands before the selections were made, Kribs approved by the department at Washington, Kribs said it was necessary for him to purchase lands from the persons who had on the land under the timber and stone act, so that title would be clear.

It was after losing out on these lands that Kribs held a conversation with Register Bridges and Booth, and suggested that he was desirous of making some arrangement by which he could be kept posted as to the suspension of any of his selections. This conversation, testified Kribs, was held either in March or April, 1905. He said he held another conversation with Booth at a later date, testing as follows:

Kribs' Account of Conversation.
Answer:—I remember my conversation with Mr. Booth, that his idea was to fall down—that I would not be in a position to know anything about it, and probably would not receive any notification, and I would like to be kept posted in the matter and I assumed the privilege of being the titles up in case they did fall down.

Q—State all that was said in that conversation and where it was in the first place.
A—I think I was talking with him once about that same time in Roseburg. I think my first talk with him was in the Land Office building—that I was very anxious in the matter—to keep me thoroughly posted, and I would do the right thing by him. That is all I recollect.

Q—Did you specify anything by what you meant by being kept posted?
A—That is all there was of it.
Q—What did he say he would do, if anything?
A—My recollection is that upon anything that would interest me he would keep me posted.

Testimony Regarding \$800 Check.
Mr. Kribs then testified to visiting Roseburg on October 3, 1905, when he gave the \$800 check to the defendant, Booth. The testimony on this subject was as follows:

Q—Now you may tell what took place on that occasion. At that time did you give him your own money? Where did you have the check?
A—I was in Roseburg, and one subject that was of great interest to me was to obtain an option on what was known as "The Military Road Grant." I believe they called it Oregon & California Wagon Road Company.

Q—Well, who was interested in that?
A—That was owned, or controlled by the Booth-Kelly Company. I had been figuring up that grant, and I should say, for perhaps a year, and I never got it, a satisfactory option. I had a number of other conditions that I did not feel like working so very hard in trying to sell it. There always seemed to be a hindrance, a string tied to the option that they could pull it back most any time. I had a very large tract, I wanted to sell that tract to it. It was a very large tract, so I called on J. H. Booth, whom I knew a great deal better than R. A. Booth, to help me out on this proposition. He believed in me, I think it was three or four months, or something like that, it might have been two months. I cannot recall any more. And my recollection is that I was there on October 3, and I gave him that \$800 check. I told him as I handed it out to him: "I am very much obliged for anything that you may have done for me, or any favor you can do, and I thought you ought to be paid for it from you. That was the first time I have ever had it in good shape." And I handed him the check. And he made some remark. "It ought to be worth \$1000 or \$1200," something like that, and I said, "Let

it go at that." That is about all I recall. It is so long ago.

Kribs' Extensive Operations.
Kribs was vigorously cross-examined by Mr. Malarkey, who succeeded in gaining from the witness the admission that he had secured for various Minnesota speculators between 200,000 and 400,000 acres of valuable timber lands in this state. Of that acreage, probably 200,000 acres, testified Kribs, were purchased for C. A. Smith, the Minneapolis millionaire, and he presented the intimation that his dealings in acquiring these lands had not been altogether above criticism.

It was further admitted by Kribs that he secured from 2000 to 6000 acres of Oregon timber lands for five other Minnesota speculators. When pressed for a specific answer, Kribs agreed that the bulk of these large transactions had been made prior to the time he testified as witness before the Federal grand jury by which the Booth indictment was reported.

Continuing his cross-examination of the witness, Mr. Malarkey forced the admission from Kribs, after offering several letters relating to the transaction, that Kribs, in July, 1905, obtained an option from the Oregon Land & Livestock Company, of which R. A. Booth was manager, to a tract of timber land in Eastern Oregon, from the sale of which he would have realized a commission of about \$5,000. Kribs admitted further that he might have agreed to pay James Henry Booth, the defendant, something for securing the tract, but did not think he specified any amount.

Kribs testified that he failed to find a purchaser for the tract and Mr. Malarkey then introduced other correspondence between Kribs and R. A. Booth to show that the witness, in October, 1905, a few days after the \$800 check was paid to James Henry Booth, obtained an option to another tract of 30,000 acres from the Booth-Kelly Company, and from the sale of which it was possible for him to make a commission of \$30,000 under the terms of the option. At this juncture, court adjourned and the cross-examination of Kribs will be resumed this morning.

Cross-Examination of Bridges.
The cross-examination of ex-Register J. T. Bridges by the defense was not concluded until shortly before the noon recess yesterday, and then Attorney Malarkey reserved the privilege of recalling the witness. Mr. Bridges was particularly particular with reference to all entries in records at the Roseburg Land Office concerning indemnity school land selection lists and whether they had been exhibited by the Government, and testified that they were made either by himself or one of the clerks in the office. He also identified correspondence that had passed between the Roseburg office and the department at Washington, relating to the same lists. These letters were signed by the witness, the defendant Booth not having signed any of them.

Walter W. Thackeray, clerk at the Roseburg Land Office since 1894, testified as to the frequency of the visits of Frederic A. Kribs to the office in 1905 and 1906. He also testified that Bridges and Booth both lived about a quarter of a mile from the land office, which was located opposite the postoffice in Roseburg.

PERSONAL MENTION.
Mrs. H. J. Lichtenstein, of San Francisco, arrived in Portland yesterday and is the guest of Mrs. H. Bertha Myers, 704 Everett street. At home Wednesday.

CHICAGO, June 29.—(Special.)—Northwestern people at Chicago hotels: From Portland—E. E. Stewart, at Auditorium Annex; E. W. Butler, at the Stratford.

Chances of Woman's Recovery Good.
Physicians in attendance upon Mrs. Chester C. Halloway, the young woman who was shot three times by her husband on Saturday night, said last night at St. Vincent's Hospital that there was hope of her recovery. The patient's condition has remained practically unchanged since the night she was wounded and as no infection has developed the outlook is more in her favor than against her.

Barnes Seeks Another Trial.
WALLA WALLA, Wash., June 29.—Motion for a new trial in the "Eud" From Portland—E. E. Stewart, at Auditorium Annex; E. W. Butler, at the Stratford.

GET DAMAGES FOR TRUNK
Loss of Jeweler's Tools Brings Verdict for \$300.45.

Because a trunk containing jeweler's tools was destroyed in a railroad wreck in Dakota, R. L. Wells obtained judgment against the Great Northern Railway Company for \$300.45 in the Circuit Court yesterday. The case went to trial in Judge Bromberg's department. The suit asked \$600 damages. Wells came to Portland from Chicago and on his arrival learned of the destruction of his trunk. As the railroad company refused to pay the damages he demanded, he brought the suit to recover.

Circuit Court Decisions.
Decisions will be announced by Presiding Judge Gantenbein, in the following cases:
Arthur Prier and others against J. D. Hamilton; demurrer to complaint.
Arlington & Pacific Coast Railway Company against Columbia River & Oregon Central Railroad Company; motion to stay proceedings. Charles E. Benboy against James Johns, a boat; demurrer to answer.
W. R. Bailey against J. A. Gorman; demurrer to complaint.
State ex rel Susan B. Smith against Ella Talbot; motion to vacate order of injunction.

Says His Name Is Blank.
"I have been in this cell for 22 months," said Blodgett, at the county jail yesterday. "A fellow don't mind it so much in the Winter time, but it is mighty hard these nice days. They set my case for trial twice, and the last time continued it without day. We had the witnesses out here from Montana twice. I didn't want to stay in this cell all Summer, so I thought I

Damage Suit Dismissed.
Joseph G. Carson has dismissed the \$25,000 damage suit against Leroy H. G. Hadley for alienating his wife's affections. This follows the granting of a divorce in the Circuit Court to Carson's wife, June 19.

Cruse's Beach Hotel, now open. For reservations and rates apply to J. D. Kruse, lessee, Gearhart Park, Or.

DEPUTIES APPOINTED BY GEORGE J. CAMERON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY-ELECT



J. J. Fitzgerald.

CAMERON NAMES COMPLETE STAFF

Deputies Appointed by New District Attorney to Take Office July 6.

FITZGERALD CHIEF DEPUTY

Others Are Thad. W. Vreeland, J. H. Page, Frank D. Hennessy and David N. Moesssohn—Will Ask Legislature for More Help.

District Attorney-elect Cameron yesterday announced the complete staff of deputies who will enter upon the work of the office with him next Monday morning. The deputies are J. J. Fitzgerald, Thad. W. Vreeland, J. H. Page, Frank D. Hennessy and David N. Moesssohn.

As previously announced, Mr. Fitzgerald will be chief deputy. He is at present chief deputy in the office of City Attorney Kavanaugh. He has a long record as a prosecutor, having served during the terms of both C. F. Lord and W. T. Hume as District Attorney.

Mr. Vreeland will succeed H. M. Esterly as prosecutor in the Juvenile Court work. He will have charge, not only of the office with him next Monday morning, but will also serve in other cases in the Circuit Court when necessary. He is one of the best-known lawyers in the city, and several years ago was justice of the Peace on the East Side. He has long been engaged in the practice of law in Portland.

J. H. Page, who will be assigned to prosecute state cases in the Municipal Court, is a graduate of the law school of Stanford University, class of 1903. After his graduation, he came to Portland, served two years as instructor in the West Side High School, after which he engaged in the practice of law.

Frank D. Hennessy will be attached to the office as a deputy. He is at present clerk of the Municipal Court, which position he has held since Judge Cameron took office in 1905. He was at one time judge of the same court.

David N. Moesssohn, who will be a special deputy, will do general assignment work. He is a young lawyer who has practiced his profession for several years in this city. He is also associate editor of the Jewish Tribune.

Owing to the increased volume of the work of the District Attorney, Mr. Cameron will ask the next Legislature to grant him two more deputies. He is confident that he will have no difficulty in obtaining the additional assistance.

District Attorney-elect Cameron stated yesterday that he is satisfied with the present condition of Sunday-closing, as applied to saloons, and declared he will continue his policy. He will enforce all the laws, he states, as that was the platform upon which he was elected. So far as he has been able to learn, he states, the saloon and moral element both are agreed that Sunday-closing of saloons is wise.

"The only policy I will pursue," said Mr. Cameron, "is the enforcement of the laws, fairly and impartially."

District Attorney-elect Cameron will have no personal representative or private detective attached to his office. He states that he will depend upon Sheriff Stevens for such help as may be needed in this direction. He will, he states, work in harmony with Sheriff Stevens, and whenever any assistance is needed in the line of detective work, the Sheriff will be asked to provide the necessary help.

Mayor Lane has not announced the name of Judge Cameron's successor, but he will probably do so within a few days, as it will be necessary for the appointee to assume the duties of office Monday morning. Judge Cameron said yesterday that he will gladly render to the new judge any assistance possible, until he becomes somewhat familiarized with the duties of the position.

Cannot Remember Circumstances of Crime—Law Provides Verdict of Second Degree Guilt From Jury—Court Notes.

George Blodgett to Plead Guilty in Second Degree.
SAYS HIS MIND IS BLANK

had better plead guilty to second degree. I consulted with my lawyers, and Attorney Jeffrey thought I had better plead guilty to second degree, while Mr. Logan thought it would be better for the case to go to trial, as the jury would probably bring in a verdict of manslaughter.

"I'm afraid I wouldn't make a very good witness for myself now, for my memory is a blank. I don't know why I killed the girl. The District Attorney said I killed her because she wouldn't take a drink. I don't remember telling him anything of the kind. I don't even remember being taken to the police station."

District Attorney Manning said yesterday that he would be satisfied with the plea of guilty to second degree murder.

"It would amount to that if the case went to trial," he said, "as the man was drunk for two days before the murder, and the law provides that in cases of this kind a second degree verdict must be returned. The plea of guilty will save the state the expense of another trial."

Judge Gantenbein had not made up his mind last night whether or not to accept Blodgett's plea, but in view of the probability that a jury would bring in a verdict of second degree murder or manslaughter it is thought that the Court will accept the plea.

The murder of Alice Gordon was committed in the Van Noy House, March 23, 1906. She was employed at the time as an actress in Fritz Conner's Hall. Blodgett's wife, whom he deserted for the actress, has stood by him during his imprisonment. She is now living at Kallispell, Mont., where she is employed as a rural mail carrier.

Blodgett says he has sent her \$150 since his incarceration, this amount being obtained from the sale of his shawls.

Within the last two years Blodgett's father, one of his brothers, and an uncle have died. The goods on the old home place were to have been sold at auction yesterday.

Three feeder lines of the O. R. & N. were dealt with yesterday. These were the Columbia Southern, or the Shaniko branch; the Columbia River & Oregon Central, or the Condon branch, and the Umatilla Central, or the Pilot Rock branch. Values of the rights of way and station grounds were taken up, and James W. Morrow, tax and right-of-way agent for the O. R. & N., together with A. C. Spencer, of the legal

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Homesites in HYDE PARK can be bought now, before the tract is formally opened, at such low prices and upon such easy terms that every man and woman in Portland ought to have one for investment, if for no other reason. We allow a discount for purchase now, another for all cash and another for half cash. Best of all, the uniform terms of payment are \$10 cash and from \$1 to \$2 per week

SPECIAL PROPOSITION

We have two special propositions that will interest any man who has a notion that he would like to own a home of his own. One is a free lot for building and the other a concession we will make to anybody who will purchase RIGHT NOW before opening day. Mail the coupon

COUPON

THE JACOBS-STINE COMPANY,
148 Fifth Street.

Gentlemen—Will you kindly inform me how I can secure a FREE LOT IN HYDE PARK, should I decide to build a home.

Name.....

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The Jacobs-Stine Co.

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Commission Starts Work on Railroads in State.

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department of the road, appeared before the Commission and presented tabulated statements of the mileage of the branch lines, distances between stations, quantities of lands owned by the railroad and where located, together with their value. Methods of arriving at the totals were shown, Mr. Morrow testifying that he was thoroughly familiar with most of the land purchased, having personally bought much of it for the various branch lines.

The Shaniko branch, 69.46 miles long, was said to have rights of way and station grounds valued at a total of \$147,289. The value of rights of way and station grounds on the Condon branch was placed at \$97,551. This road is 45.31 miles in length. The same proportions were held by the Pilot Rock branch were said to be worth \$22,551. The line is 14.21 miles in length.

Later on, an opportunity offers, the Commission will take up the valuation of other lines in the state. The full Commission was present at yesterday's hearing.



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