

SILETZ SETTLERS RISE IN DEFENSE

Homesteaders Meet to Insist on Rights.

NOT SCAPEGOATS OF FRAUD

Adverse Reports Declared Due to Overzealous Agents.

CLAIMS NOW IN DANGER

Oswald West Going to Washington to Present Claims to Interior Department and Congress. Affidavits Are Ready.

DALLAS, Or., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—At a meeting attended by 50 Siletz homesteaders held tonight in the Courthouse, resolutions were adopted urging the Oregon delegation to take immediate action to secure the enactment of a law to protect the homesteaders in their rights.

Oswald West, Railroad Commissioner, who called the meeting at the request of Senator Chamberlain, will leave tomorrow for Washington to take the subject members of Congress.

A fund of \$45 was subscribed to defray the expense of preparing a printed statement of the case of the settlers, which is to include a large number of affidavits, signatures to petitions and other facts bearing on the Siletz issue.

Right Insisted Upon.

"We must demand our rights under the constitution and refuse longer to be made the scapegoats of the Oregon land frauds," said L. M. Gilbert, of Siletz, in his address. "I believe that every homesteader present is firmly convinced that he has a better right to his homestead than any other living person and I propose that we live together and insist upon our rights."

West said:

"On October 31, 1894, R. P. Boise, W. H. Odell and H. H. Harding, Commissioners appointed by the United States, entered into an agreement with the Indians on the Siletz Reservation, whereby the Indians, in consideration of the sum of \$150,000, were to release to the Government all of the unallotted land upon the reservation, except five sections. This agreement was ratified by Congress on August 15, 1894, and the lands were held for disposal under the homestead law. The act provided that each settler should at the time of making his filing pay 50 cents an acre in addition to the fees then required by law and at the time making final proof should pay the further sum of \$1 an acre and it also contained the following provision:

"Final proof to be made within five years from date of entry and three years actual residence of the land shall be established by such evidence as is now required in the best of the land as a prerequisite to title and patent."

"Squatters" by Compulsion.

"These lands were thrown open to entry by Presidential proclamation on July 25, 1894, and the public was informed that three years' residence was required and that such residence could be established by such evidence as was then required by the Government in the matter of homestead proof. By the acts of May 17, 1900, and January 26, 1901, known as the free home acts, the extra charge provided for in the act of August 15, 1894, was wiped out and the usual commuting privilege after 14 months' residence was extended to settlers. But as most of the reservation was unsurveyed when thrown open, many settlers could not claim their lands as 'squatters,' and being obliged to await a survey before making final proof, were forced to live on their claims a much longer time than would have been required if the lands had been surveyed.

"The officials of the Interior Department knew the character of the land and knew it was covered with a dense growth of timber. They knew it was in a remote district and without transportation facilities, and they knew that no man, during the first few years, could earn a living for himself or family on one of these claims, and that he would be obliged to leave his claim and be gone months at a time in order to earn money to buy clothing and provisions. No man would have the heart to leave his family in a wilderness like the Siletz to hold down his claim while he was away at work, knowing these things, and knowing the manner in which the department had for years been passing upon and accepting homestead proofs.

Patents Unjustly Refused.

"It was a crime to open these lands to homestead entry and say to the public, 'three years' residence only will be required and your residence may be established by such evidence as is now required by the Government in passing upon homestead proofs,' and then reject their applications for patent when they knew they had done more to comply with the law than nine-tenths of the homesteaders in this state.

"The Siletz settlers were unfortunate in that the time for making final proof came when the land fraud investigations were at their height in this state

DIRE VENGEANCE MENACES SONNECK

DEATH IS NEAR MAN WHO SAID "DIXIE" MOST POPULAR.

Musical Librarian Finds He Has Stirred Up Hornets' Nest by Expressing Opinion.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—"Is 'Dixie' more popular than 'Yankee Doodle?'" That is the question which apparently has divided the country into two camps and brought about a controversy which promises to become second only to the recent great question of the day: "Who discovered the North Pole?"

The innocent assertion of Otto G. T. Sonneck, chief of the division of music of the Library of Congress, in a publication of American National songs, that "Dixie" was more prominent in patriotic popularity than "Yankee Doodle," has stirred up a hornet's nest, and even resulted in threats of death to Mr. Sonneck.

The offender's office in the Congressional Library has been swamped with letters from various parts of the country, in which the writers take exception to the statement about "Dixie." Some of these letters threaten Mr. Sonneck with dire punishment.

MASONS HONOR GEN. PIKE

Eighteenth Annual Banquet of 33d Degree Men Is Held.

The annual banquet of the 33d degree Masons of Oregon, celebrating the centennial birthday anniversary of General Albert Pike, was held last night in the Portland Hotel. The banquet was the 18th celebrating General Pike's birthday anniversary by the 33d degree Masons of Oregon, commencing with the year of General Pike's death in 1821.

Five out of the 22 33d degree Masons in the state were absent on account of illness. They were: H. L. Pitcock, J. M. Hodson, John McCracken, Major J. A. Staden and Judge F. A. Moore. Those present were: Deputy of the Supreme Council P. S. Malcolm, L. G. Clark, General T. M. Anderson, B. G. Whitehouse, C. A. Dolph, Judge J. B. Cleland, Judge M. C. George, Dr. C. W. Lewis, Donald Mackay, S. L. Pope, Mayor Simon D. W. Taylor, J. W. Cook, W. D. Penton, B. H. Nicoll, W. E. Grace and Colonel T. C. Taylor.

SEATTLE TIGHT NEW YEARS

Chief of Police to Allow No Freedom to Saloons.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—No latitude will be allowed saloons, cafes, or other places where intoxicating liquors are sold, either New Year's eve or New Year's night. This statement was given out today by Chief of Police Irving Ward.

"At midnight Friday my department loses 36 patrolmen, three sergeants and three captains, which reduces the efficiency of the department 125 per cent," said Chief Ward. "New Year's eve and New Year's night are the hardest periods of the year for this department. Many otherwise sane citizens insist on taking a little more liquor than is good for them. The saloons and cafes must close promptly at 1 A. M. January 1, and at midnight on the same day.

A few of the better class saloons will close at 9 o'clock Friday evening.

JAPAN SEEKS NEW TREATY

Ambassador Uchida Hopes Immigration Law Will Be Revised.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Among the first official acts of Baron Uchida, new Japanese Ambassador, will be a series of steps leading to a proposal to the United States for a modification of the Root-Takahira agreement which imposes limitations on the immigration of Japanese laborers to the United States.

While the subject is now being spoken of in a conservative vein, it is said that such a duty is one of those especially imposed upon the new Ambassador by his government.

It is also reported that Japan wishes to terminate in 1911 its treaty of commerce and navigation with the United States.

To what extent Japan will ask for a modification of the Root-Takahira agreement has not been learned.

COIN PASSES UNNOTICED

Logger Wins Wager That Folks Won't See Money on Sidewalk.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—How many persons will pass without noticing a 50-cent piece lying on the sidewalk? Test of the question was made by a well-known logger yesterday. He made a wager with bystanders that at least 25 persons would pass the coin without picking it up.

In each test between 27 and 30 persons passed before the coin was picked up by the logger who placed it there. In each test the logger won.

ONCE RICH, DIES PAUPER

Gilbert Noble, of Pueblo, Spent Money Like Prince.

PUEBLO, Colo., Dec. 29.—Gilbert Noble, once the richest man in Pueblo, his fortune being estimated at from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000, died today at the county poorfarm.

He was lavish with his money, and at the time of his death had an interest in a large mine which was tied up in litigation.

ZELAYA DECLARES KNOX IS TO BLAME

No Quarrel With Americans as People.

ROOT'S WORK BEING UNDONE

American Marines Among Rebel Dead After Fight.

DICTATOR NOT PRISONER

Mexico Will Make No Effort to Prevent Return to Nicaragua. Would Pass Rest of Days Out of Political Strife.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 29.—"Mr. Knox is not my judge. I am answerable only to my government."

Jose Santos Zelaya, who arrived this morning from Salina Cruz, thus replied to a question tonight as to what attitude he would assume should Secretary Knox seek to extradite him from this country. Zelaya refused to discuss such a probability, but strongly intimated that the Secretary of State would not have the right to request his presence in the United States.

The former dictator's baggage included two valises bulging with American gold and a third filled with paper money.

"I have no feeling against the American people at large, nor the Government," he said. "Secretary Knox has been systematically misinformed, and public opinion in the United States has been prepared against me, but the real facts must become known in time, and it is to time I trust for my vindication.

Root's Work Undone.

"My relations with the preceding American Government were exceedingly friendly. The situation contains many unfortunate conditions. Secretary Root had the complete confidence of Central America and his policies were drawing the people closer together politically and commercially. I am afraid the attitude of Secretary Knox is undoing all that work throughout Latin America."

Zelaya said American marines engaged in several recent battles in Nicaragua, and that 20 of them were killed. He said:

"Do you know that there were 400 Americans fighting with the insurgents at Rama? Do you know at the battle of Colorado Junction on November 1 the bodies of 20 American marines were picked up by our forces, all dead and all from American gunboats anchored in the river to protect American interests? The official explanation given me was that these men were deserters."

Federation Is Predicted.

Zelaya believes the confederation of all Central American republics ultimately will be brought about, he says, the great masses of the people are unionists and

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THIRD OF HOLDUP GANG IS CAPTURED

"WHITEY" TAKEN IN IDAHO HOTEL, MAKES CONFESSION.

Feigning Sleep, Highwayman Attempts to Give Police Slip—Valuable Watch Is Found.

"Whitey," the partner of Earl McCroskey and Fred Mattson, highwaymen, who waylaid and robbed George Estes last Monday night at Fourteenth and Morrison streets, has been captured. He was taken by Sergeant Golts in the Idaho Hotel, at 67 Hood street, last night.

Estes' valuable gold watch was found in the prisoner's possession and after futile attempts to hide his identity, the thug confessed a series of crimes committed by him, McCroskey and Mattson.

Posing first as John Coates, the prisoner proceeded with his confession by admitting his name is Charles Whitting. He was born in Michigan and is 25 years old. Through an informer, Sergeant Golts learned a mysterious stranger had registered at the Idaho Hotel, this information coming to the police while they were in quest of a man said to possess a watch he would dispose of for a nominal sum. Whitting was found in his room on the second floor, in bed.

At the approach of Sergeant Golts, who was accompanied by Chief of Police Cox and Detective Long, Whitting feigned sleep and in anger demanded to know why he was disturbed. In Whitting's vest, found under the mattress, Estes' watch was found. Then the prisoner admitted his identity. He was manacled and taken to the Police Station.

Whitting's confession dovetails the confession made by McCroskey and Mattson. The prisoner is lame and blames this misfortune for his criminal career. He says his right leg was injured last Summer when he was employed as porter at Collins Hot Springs. He asserts he met young McCroskey for the first time about six months ago when McCroskey, Sr., secured work for him at the springs.

AERONAUT TO SCALE MOUNT

Balloon to Aid Tennesseean to Climb McKinley.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—With the aid of a large balloon minus a basket and designed to assist in climbing, Colonel H. P. Shirley, of Nashville, Tenn., an experienced aeronaut, is planning to scale Mount McKinley.

The balloon, 20 feet in diameter and holding just enough gas to lift a man off his feet, is ready for shipment. Shirley says he will attach himself to the balloon by a harness and belt. This will leave him free to climb and yet give him the buoyancy of the gas-filled bag.

SUBMARINE SAVES LIVES

New Use for Boat Found When It Dives Beneath Sinking Vessel.

TOULON, Dec. 29.—The submarine Cigroigne performed a remarkable life-saving feat in a recent storm. The boat was practicing diving in the open sea when the commander saw a large fishing boat suddenly sink.

The submarine immediately dived under the fishing craft, of which the masthead alone was above water. The valves were operated quickly and the Cigroigne rose to the surface, lifting the boat and holding it above the water long enough to take off the crew.

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PINCHOT DAZED BY BALLINGER'S MOVE

Sweeping Inquiry Not What Was Planned.

FOREST SERVICE VULNERABLE

Usurpation of Authority of Congress to Be Shown.

ONE OR OTHER MUST GO

President Determined to Remove Faction Found to Be Wrong. Glavis to Have Chance to Tell All He Knows.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 29.—The Congressional investigation of the Forest Service and Interior Department, which will begin about the middle of January, will result either in the forced retirement of Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester, or the resignation of R. A. Ballinger, Secretary of the Interior. One of these officials will have to go; both cannot remain after the inquiry is concluded.

The information brought out by the committee will determine which one is to sever his connection with the Administration, for the President has made up his mind to act in accordance with the findings of this committee, and to act as drastically as the facts seem to justify.

Subordinates Also to Go.

Should the committee's findings justify the removal of Forester Pinchot, several of Pinchot's subordinates also will be slated for dismissal, for since March 4 there has been a unanimity of purpose on the part of the leading officials of the bureau, and all, or nearly all, have worked to a common end. On the other hand, if the committee finds that Secretary Ballinger has been in the wrong, and has pursued a course that does not justify public approval, Assistant Secretary Piers, Land Commissioner Dennett, and some other officials of the Interior Department will have to go with the Secretary. There has been the same concert of action in the Interior Department as in the Forest Service.

There is a significant thing in connection with this investigation that has heretofore escaped public notice. The friends of Mr. Pinchot and the Forest Service were, up to two weeks ago, desirous that Congress should investigate the Interior Department. From Forest Service sources information was to be produced justifying this investigation. But not once did these men suggest an inquiry into the conduct of the Forest Service itself.

Pinchot Followers Silent.

When the Pinchot sympathizers had about perfected their plans for an investigation of Mr. Ballinger's department, they were taken by surprise by learning that Secretary Ballinger was even more

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GIFT OF \$150,000 MADE EMPLOYEES

LOS ANGELES MILLIONAIRE DONATES WAGE INCREASE.

Nonunion Huntington System, One of Best in World, Now Pays Highest for Good, Faithful Service.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 28.—(Special.)—Henry E. Huntington, millionaire streetcar man of Southern California, today announced a New Year's gift of \$150,000 to the employees of his trolley system.

The increase in wages comes unexpectedly and as a complete surprise to the men, who had made no demands. The Huntington system is not unionized and it is said with this raise they are the best-paid streetcar men in the country.

The new scale increases the wages of every man in Huntington's employ. Some will get 1 cent an hour raise; others a much larger increase. Formerly, a man had to be with the company 13 years before he received the 30 cents an hour; now everyone who has been six years with the company will get that sum.

The scale provides for 25 cents an hour for first-year men and an increase of 1 cent an hour each year up to the sixth. Concluding his announcement, Mr. Huntington expresses a hope for continuance of the harmonious relations between men and management.

BIG WHEAT DEALER DIES

George W. McNear Passes Away at Oakland Home.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—(Special.)—George W. McNear, the largest wheat dealer in California, is dead in his Oakland home.

For 30 years the grain exporting business of the state was divided between the following firms called "Big Four": George W. McNear & Co., Balfour-Guthrie Company, Girvin & Byrne and Eppinger & Co. McNear shipped most of his grain direct to England.

Mr. McNear came to Portland in 1886 and purchased the Irving dock property. He opened an exporting office and for four years engaged in business under the name of G. W. McNear. At that time A. F. Thayne acted as local manager. In 1900 the business was transferred to Eppinger & Co., and later to Girvin & Byrne. The three San Francisco firms then combined and with the Portland property was operated under the name of Northwestern Warehouse Company. During the past nine years Charles E. Curry has acted as local manager of the interests in which Mr. McNear figured.

SWAIN IN STUPOR; POISON?

Marriage Offer Declined, Man Falls at Girl's Feet.

TACOMA, Dec. 29.—Harry Switzer, a railway brakeman, has lain rigid and unconscious almost continuously since Sunday night at the home of his sweetheart, Agnes Anderson, and physicians are puzzled as to the cause, considering an attempt at suicide probable. His chance for life is uncertain.

Sunday evening Switzer renewed a request to permit his removal from the Tacoma hospital to his home in Seattle, but she refused, as she had done before, on the ground of her youth, being 19 years old. Switzer walked into the kitchen for a glass of water and, returning, fell to the floor.

He has been in a stupor most of the time since then, his condition being too serious to permit his removal from the Tacoma hospital. His sweetheart managed to remain unceasingly by his side, holding his hand, since any effort to release the grasp causes him to moan, though he does not regain consciousness.

VALUABLE ORE FIND MADE

Largest Known Body of Pitchblende in World in Colorado.

DENVER, Dec. 29.—According to an assay made today by Herman Fleck, professor of chemistry of the Colorado School of Mines, the largest known body of pitchblende in the world has been discovered in a mine at Central City, Colo.

The discovery was made December 21 and the assay made by Professor Fleck shows, it is asserted, that the ore runs almost to the highest percentage of all uranium ore ever discovered.

It is said the strike was made by the regular force of men engaged in taking out gold ore, and the assay, it is claimed, ran 55 per cent pure, whereas the previous record was 30 per cent pure.

The mine is owned by Bishop Matz, of Denver, and is leased to Philadelphia capitalists.

RICH WOMAN IS SERVANT

Eccentric Philanthropist Works as Domestic in Seattle Home.

SEATTLE, Dec. 29.—According to the Times, Mrs. Ellen Mack, who has been working as a servant in several Seattle homes, is Mrs. Helens Fox McAllister, formerly of Chicago and Madelon, Wis. possessor of a fortune of \$150,000 and founder of an orphanage and an old people's home in Wisconsin.

Mrs. McAllister's husband and child were drowned 17 years ago, after which she retired from society and devoted herself to works of philanthropy. Two years ago she came to Seattle and has since worked as a day servant, giving her earnings to the poor.

Last week a niece in Seattle visited Mrs. McAllister and prevailed on her to go West to look after her property.

PORTLAND IS OUT OF NORTHWESTERN

McCredie Will Not Support Second Team.

DUGDALE IS UP IN ARMS, TOO

Congressman's Utterances Offend Sound Magnate.

COST OF TEAM TOO GREAT

If Portland Gets Team in Northwestern League Next Season Some One Other Than McCredie Will Have to Finance It.

BY W. J. PETRAIN.

If Portland has a team in the Northwestern League during the coming season, such a team will have to be financed by D. E. Dugdale or someone else interested in the Class B circuit, for Congressman McCredie, in a letter to his nephew, Walter, received yesterday, renounces any allegiance he may have had with that organization.

This means that there will probably be no Portland team in the Northwestern League this coming season, as it is reported from Seattle that the Northwesterners have definitely decided to drop Portland from their circuit. This action, it is reported, was taken because Seattle was affronted at the utterances made by Congressman McCredie regarding the Northwest circuit.

Congressman McCredie feels that he has been unjustly criticized by the Northwestern League adherents and openly expresses his aversion to paying out \$5000 or more of real money merely to gratify a whim of the Seattle and Spokane magnates, who think Portland should affiliate with them.

McCredies Fight Hard Battle.

For three years Congressman McCredie has labored faithfully in the effort to secure a combination of the two baseball organizations, whereby an all-Pacific Coast league could be formed, and on a number of occasions when such a league was about to be formed, the Northwestern people blocked it. On other occasions

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