

VICTORY IS BARREN

County Wins Decision in Tax Assignment Case, BUT GETS NO MONEY WITH IT

Assignment of Certificates in Payment for Invalid Warrants Declared Illegal, but Money Must Come From Property-Owners.

The transfer of the tax certificates, amounting to \$728 by Multnomah County to W. F. White in settlement of County warrants held by the First National Bank was declared illegal and void by Judge Frazer yesterday, and the county still holds the tax certificates as if no assignment of them had ever been made.

The First National Bank years ago accumulated about \$500 worth of county warrants which it was subsequently assigned to the law by the county and raised road work time checks.

It is admitted by all parties to this suit that all these warrants were more nullities in law. Can the officer of a county by doing illegal acts, under a misapprehension of the law, by acting without authority, where there is no misrepresentation or mistake of facts, confer property-ownership rights on those who would otherwise have possessed, or deprive the county of any of its rights?

It follows, then, that the county is in exactly the same position as it would have been if the transfer of the certificates to White had never been made.

It may be proper to add that while the acts of the county were clearly and conclusively fraudulent in law, there is no question of an act of fraud in fact. The defendant, the county, is presumed to do nothing in the eyes of the law that it must assume in this case that they are all valid.

SAYS HIS WIFE ABUSES HIM.

P. H. May Tells Story of Attack With Ax as Ground for Divorce.

P. H. May, who says his wife, Sophia, attacked him with an ax upon his return from a lodge meeting and would have done him great bodily harm except for the interference of one Albert, yesterday commenced suit against her for a divorce.

WOODS TO BE TRIED TUESDAY

Second Indictment on Charge of Pension Frauds in Federal Court.

The case of the government against T. A. Wood and his son, Hosea Wood, for alleged pension frauds will come up for trial in the Federal Court Tuesday morning.

LOVE'S SUIT IS SETTLED.

Contest With Fascinating Lotte McGuire for House and Lot Ended.

The suit of Fred D. Love, by his son, Royal F. Love, as guardian, against Lotte McGuire and Marietta Bernard to recover a house and lot in Amer's Addition, was dismissed in the State Circuit Court yesterday by stipulation, having been the result of court.

MUCH FALSE ALARM

Talk of Land Fraud Based on Misapprehension, BUT IT CHECKED BUSINESS

Courts Have Decided That Settler May Legally Take Land Intending to Sell, if No Other Person is Interested in Claim.

For three years past, there has been a hue and cry about land frauds in Oregon, the result of which is now becoming apparent to those directly interested in the lumber and industrial interests of the state.

Owing to the diligence of the Government's special agents the popular impression is that persons who have taken up timber lands with any idea of selling them at a profit at some subsequent date have done so fraudulently and in violation of the law.

Eckerth Guilty of Assault.

O. F. Eckerth stands convicted of unlawful assault upon Lizzie Lehn, 12 years old, several months ago. A verdict of guilty was rendered against him by a jury in Judge Sears' Court yesterday. Eckerth was formerly a druggist at Good Samaritan Hospital.

POLITICIANS ARE BUSY.

Many of Both Parties Gather From All Parts of Oregon.

A number of visiting political stalwarts took the pavement of Portland yesterday. Among them were B. L. Eddy, of Tillamook, candidate for Circuit Judge in the Third Judicial District; J. W. Baker, of Clatsop County, an ally of the Republican cause; and Robert Eakin, of Union, Circuit Judge in the Eighth Judicial District.

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ELKS STAG SOCIAL.

Probably the best vaudeville programme ever rendered in the city was that offered at the Elks social given in the Elks Hall in the Marquam building by Portland Lodge, No. 142, P. O. E. Thursday night.

BANQUET AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

About 120 men attended the first banquet of the Men's League at the First Presbyterian Church held Friday night in the lecture-room of the church building.

ARRESTED FOR THREATENING TO KILL.

Jacob Janey, of Mount Zion, was arrested Thursday by Constable A. D. Keenan, of the East Side Court, on an information charging him with threatening to kill Rollin Humphrey, son of Mrs. Lizzie Humphrey.

CONTEST WITH FASCINATING LOTTE MCGUIRE FOR HOUSE AND LOT ENDED.

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CLEARING OUT RASCALS

HOW THE MUNICIPAL VOTERS' LEAGUE DOES IT IN CHICAGO.

Its Assistant Secretary Describes the Work of Rooting Out Corrupt-Element in Public Affairs.

How the broom of the Municipal Voters' League of Chicago is sweeping out the dark and dusty corners of the government of that city was told last evening by George C. Sikes, assistant secretary of the organization which for some years has been slowly lifting from the Illinois metropolis the stigma of gang rule which has fallen upon it.

"We have concentrated our efforts on the City Council," said Mr. Sikes. "As a result 50 out of the 70 Councilmen have been elected on our platform. Unlike your city here, we are working toward government by the council, not by the Mayor, according to the New York plan. In the fact there is now talk in Chicago of the Mayor being elected by the Council."

"Mr. Sikes is a deep-chested, be-speckled young man. He looks Chicago and he talks Chicago. 'I am on my vacation, headed for Los Angeles just now, I'm sorry that I must leave Portland this evening. I was unable to find anyone associated in a similar movement to ours. The name of Mr. Strong, an attorney, was mentioned to me by Clinton Rogers Woodruff, of Philadelphia, but he was out when I called.'"

"We have two Councilmen to each ward," said Mr. Sikes. "As the city has been run, there was a gang in the Council which passed franchises over the Mayor's veto. Our purpose became at once to secure enough Councilmen to sustain the Mayor's veto of franchise ordinances. Isn't it true that every city is more or less controlled by the gas, electric light and street-car companies and the political administrations? Well, it is against such influences that we have directed our energies. No, we haven't made much of a fight against saloons."

"The Chicago man was informed that an anti-saloon law ordinance was now before the Portland Council. 'What, wine-rooms for two?' he asked. 'Such as that are all out of Chicago saloons. Three persons can engage a wine-room, but two can't.'"

"The voters of Chicago are like the newspapers, the most independent in the country. Out of the 400,000 registered voters in Chicago, 100,000 are independent enough to be influenced one way or another. Party lines have been abolished in the Council too."

"Falter Fisher, the secretary of the Voters' League, is now the head of the movement, succeeding George E. Cole. We have a permanent office with an assistant secretary, myself just now, an investigator and a stenographer on salary. We have no definite membership roll."

"Before city elections we get out a list of the candidates for Councilmen and give the record of each, telling whether or not he is fit to be retained in office. Spicy? Well, I should say they are. Crosby Noyes, of the Washington Star, ran a paper in Chicago for a time and as usual his paper received a great deal of publicity. He said, 'Great Scott, go publish things like this here!' Lawson, another newspaper publisher, assured him that was the custom. We just plainly say in it whether or not a candidate is a rascal."

SAW PORTLAND'S FUTURE.

Mrs. Pio Has Diary of Pioneer on Trip Across the Plains.

Mrs. C. H. Pio, of 45 East Clay street, has the manuscript account of the trip of the company, of which her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Adams, of Hillsboro, were members, across the plains to Oregon in 1857. Mrs. Pio was about 10 years old in the company, and Mrs. Cecelia E. Adams, Mrs. Pio's aunt, who died a few years ago, kept a close record of every day's travel and its events, closing with an account of the arrival of the party at Portland from the Cascades on the old steamer Multnomah. The diary was closely written on the sheets of a large account book, although somewhat worn, is still very clear. The names of many Oregon pioneers appear. Mrs. Pio thinks that the Oregon Historical Society would be the proper custodian of the manuscript.

NATURAL ACT IS TO SELL.

The fact that an individual who neither owned a sawmill nor had any personal use for the timber on a claim should give his entry upon it does not itself conflict with the spirit of the statute, and the courts have frequently held that the fact that such a holder of timber lands would be to sell them as soon as he could do so is a profit.

TO HONOR BOER OFFICERS.

Representatives of Irish societies in this city had a meeting yesterday with the two Boer officers, General G. D. Joubert and Captain W. S. O'Donnell, and promised that the societies would attend in a body to the lecture to be given by the Boer officers at the Marquam Theater Tuesday night, and that General Joubert and Captain O'Donnell would be tendered a reception about the end of this week by the Irish societies. The latter represented at the meeting were the United Irish League, the Catholic Order of Foresters and the two local divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Those present were: Dr. A. C. Smith, president of the United Irish League; Robert J. O'Neil, of the Catholic Foresters; Rev. P. J. Curley, Paul Strain, District Attorney John Manning; Editor Sullivan, of the Catholic Sentinel; John Van Zante, James O'Connor, Joseph H. Murphy and J. J. Keegan.

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THE CATHOLIC FAIR.

Grand Opening of the Fair Given by the Catholics of Portland for the Benefit of St. Michael's Church.

The Grand Bazaar, held in the Good-nough building, Fifth and Yamhill streets, for the benefit of St. Michael's Church, will be opened on Monday, the 8th instant, and continue open every day, Sunday excepted, until Monday, May 23. His Excellency, Governor Chamberlain, will deliver the opening address. A select literary and musical programme has been prepared for the occasion. The Portland Italian band will furnish the music.

SPECIAL RATES.

The Canadian Pacific will sell on May 11, 12, 13, June 16, 17, 18, July 1, 2, 3, August 8, 9, 19, September 5, 6, 7, October 3, 4, 5, round-trip tickets to St. Louis, \$7.50.

Lessons of Buddhism.

PORTLAND, May 7.—To the Editor: For people who are accustomed to take for granted without further inquiry, what they hear, the speaker either a theologian belittling the creed of another, or a scientist holding up to scorn all theological doctrines, it may be well to point out that the statement recently made by a learned local lecturer touching Buddhism is not well grounded. The statement with its context would have the audience believe that Prince Sihantha taught that it is a deplorable thing to give up the earth life as quickly as possible, for everywhere is sorrow to be found. That might be taken as an excuse for suicide. As I

East Side Notes.

The East Burnside branch of the Portland Railway Company is completed to the intersection of East Pine and Twelfth streets.

Married in Open Court.

Gus Christopher and Miss Ellen Manley were united in marriage Friday afternoon by Justice Heif. Following a banquet which was set some weeks ago the young couple appeared during the session of court and it was necessary for an adjournment of ten minutes to be taken while the two were married, and sent on their way rejoicing. The young couple are residents of the city.

The 'Different' Store Portland's Best Sort o' Shop. HATS, NOURMAN & KING. THE KING OF HATS. \$3.50. HATS FOR MEN. Home of Quality and Fashion, Fifth and Washington.