

WITNESSES SEEM LOTH TO TESTIFY

They Forget, When Pressed by Heney.

FACT NOTICED BY THE JUDGE

He Permits Prosecutor to Ask Leading Question.

WITNESS ADMITS PERJURY

Henry E. Beard, in Williamson-Biggs-Van Gesner Trial, Confesses That He Swore Falsely Under Oath.

VAN GESNER'S LETTER TO BEARD. The following letter was identified by Henry E. Beard, a witness at the Williamson trial yesterday, as one written to him by Dr. Gesner, advising him to relinquish a timber claim taken by him at the request of Gesner and Williamson. The letter was written just subsequent to the publication of Secretary Hitchcock's report in the Oregonian, in which report the Secretary declared his intention of probing the Oregon land frauds to the bottom. The letter is regarded by the Government as conclusive evidence of the conspiracy now being tried, as regards the connection of Gesner with the case. The letter reads: "Prineville, Or., May 23, 1904.—Mr. Henry E. Beard—Dear Sir: I think the only thing for you to do is to not relinquish your timber claim. The Department has a tip on the business, and to avoid trouble I have got to get out from under the whole thing. Have nothing more to do with it and say nothing about it to any one. They are liable to call us before the United States grand jury as witnesses and give us lots of trouble, so the only thing to do is to relinquish your claim. I would do it right away. Stay nothing about it and go before Mr. Biggs. Very truly, VAN GESNER."

Three witnesses now have been heard in the trial of Representative Williamson, Dr. Van Gesner and Marlon R. Biggs, whose cases are being heard before Judge De Haven. They have given damaging testimony, but it has been literally dragged from them, and yesterday morning when Henry Beard was testifying, Judge De Haven turned to District Attorney Heney and said: "Mr. Heney, you may lead the witness, for it seems as if this is the only way you can get anything out of him."

This statement came from the court after his Honor had listened to the examination of Campbell Duncan, Green Beard and his son Henry. Hardly had the direct examination of Duncan gotten under way than inferences that witness for the Government had been tampered with were brought out. Duncan had a splendid ability to forget. His memory in connection with the talks and deals that he had with the defendants was conveniently a blank. So was that of Green Beard, who was another of the men who had taken up a timber claim, which, it is alleged, was taken up for Dr. Gesner and Representative Williamson. His son Henry was also suffering from a bad memory, but after a severe shaking up both by Mr. Heney and Judge Bennett, he blandly admitted, when he was closely pressed by Judge Bennett, that he had committed perjury in swearing to his timber entry affidavit.

From the line of questioning pursued by District Attorney Heney when Duncan was recalled, inference was plain that the Government prosecutor believed that some one was tampering with his witnesses. Duncan was recalled to identify a copy of The Oregonian of the date November 24, 1902. This article contained a paragraph from Secretary Hitchcock's report which forecasted prosecution of land frauds. It was this paragraph which was read to Duncan and Green Beard by Dr. Gesner, when he told them to relinquish their claims. Duncan, with the same halting and reluctant manner in which he had given all of his testimony, stated that he thought that was the paragraph which Dr. Gesner had read. Mr. Heney also tried to get the witness to admit that when he was served with a subpoena he ran from the Deputy Sheriff. Further testimony along this line was objected to by the court, and he was allowed to go, and seemed very willing to make his exit.

SAKHALIN WILL BE SPOIL OF WAR

Japan Lands Strong Force and Will Demand Its Cession by Russia.

NO ATTEMPT AT DEFENSE

Large Naval and Military Expedition Attacks Korsakovsk. Whence Russians Retire After Destroying All Defenses.

THE ISLAND OF SAKHALIN.

Sakhalin, or Pakhalin, an island off the coast of Manchuria, was ceded to Russia by Japan in 1875. It is properly a portion of the mainland, cut off only by the narrow Strait of Tartary. It is a wild, mountainous country, containing some coal mines and few timber settlements. The island is 520 miles long, varying in width from 20 to 120 miles. The climate is cold the year round and several efforts to civilize the island by making settlements of convicts have failed.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 8.—(2:20 A. M.)—The landing of the Japanese on Sakhalin and its probable effect on peace negotiations is the absorbing topic of conversation in all circles, the surrender of the Kiaz Potemkin having taken a secondary place.

This move is generally recognized as an indication that Japan intends to demand the cession of the island as one of the conditions of peace, but this is no longer an insuperable obstacle in the way of a termination of the war.

No further news was received from Sakhalin last night. Operations against the Russian left at Beliche and Logushan, reported by General Linnievich, are apparently in the nature of a reconnaissance in force and there are no indications of a general engagement developing in Manchuria yet.

The rumor that General Kuropatkin is about to retire is again revived. General Batjanoff, commander of the third Manchurian army, it is reported, will be his successor.

JAPANESE LAND ON SAKHALIN

Important Card Played to Influence Terms of Peace.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 8.—(7:30 P. M.)—A landing of Japanese troops on the island of Sakhalin was officially reported tonight, and starts military circles in St. Petersburg, though it had been realized since the defeat of Admiral Rojestvenski before the meeting of the cabinet before the meeting of the cabinet, that in the interim, the strength of the landing force cannot be ascertained, but the garrison of the island is too weak to offer an effective defense.

Though the Japanese seem unwilling to risk a grand battle with General Linnievich, pending the peace meeting at Washington, the landing of troops on Sakhalin is considered to express Japan's decision regarding the formal conclusion of the armistice, namely, that in the interim, the strength of the landing force cannot be ascertained, but the garrison of the island is too weak to offer an effective defense.

STRONG FORCE MAKES ATTACK

Russians Retire From Korsakovsk After Destroying Buildings.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 8.—A dispatch dated July 7, from General Llapunoff, commanding the Russian troops on the island of Sakhalin, says: "At 9 o'clock in the morning of July 7 a squadron approached the village of Chlipvan, about seven miles southwest of Korsakovsk, and opened fire on the shore."

Another dispatch of the same date says: "At 3 P. M. Japanese torpedo-boats approached Korsakovsk and the Russian batteries opened fire on them and compelled the boats to retire. During the day four of the inhabitants of Korsakovsk were killed. The battle had been anticipated and the commandant had ordered the withdrawal of the defenders northward."

"The Japanese fleet covering the landing of troops on the island of Sakhalin consisted of two battleships, seven cruisers, three gunboats, 30 torpedo-boats and ten transports loaded with troops. The Japanese landed at the village of Mere, between Shepivan and Korsakovsk. The commandant of the Russian detachment of troops at Korsakovsk ordered the constant defense gun to be blown up and all the government buildings burned before their return."

Scouts Occasionally Skirmish.

TOKIO, July 8.—(1 P. M.)—The following official dispatch has been received from the Japanese army headquarters in Manchuria: "Occasional collisions take place between scouts on both sides of the railroad along the Fenghua, Kai-yuen, and Kwangling roads. The enemy is being gradually driven northward."

WILL TAKE MESSAGE TO CZAR

Casini Gives Farewell Dinner to Successor Before Leaving.

WASHINGTON, July 8.—Count Casini, the Russian Ambassador, gave a dinner tonight at Baron Rosen, his successor. The other guests were the members of the Embassy staff and Baron Schlippenbach, the Russian Consul at Chicago. Many friends called at the Embassy

LAWSON'S PLAN TO BEAT SYSTEM

Sell Back Stocks and Bonds to Its Frenzied Financiers, He Says.

FINDS NO OTHER REMEDY

He Says Ballots Cannot Beat Frenzied Finance, Roosevelt is Brave but Powerless, Public Ownership Will-o'-the-Wisp.

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PLAN CARE OF FORESTS

Technical Foresters Appointed for Reserves of Northwest.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, July 8.—(Special.)—The Forestry Bureau today announced the assignment of technical assistants to forest superintendents in Oregon and neighboring states as follows:

H. J. Brown, Trinity and Klamath reserves, Oregon and California; M. Smith, Washington reserve, Washington; M. L. Ericson, Sawtooth, Payette and Weiser reserves, Idaho; L. von Yrenschke, Pfeiffer reserve, Idaho; S. G. Smith, Mount Rainier reserve, Washington. These technical assistants will make extended examinations and prepare plans for carrying out practical forestry in these reserves, including sale of mature timber, reseedling of cut-over lands and protection of young growth.

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