

DRAWING TO CLOSE

Government Has About Completed its Case

LAND OFFICE RECORDS

Heny Making Strenuous Efforts to Link Hermann with the Blue Mountain Conspiracy—Finish This Week.

(Special to The Evening News.)

Portland, Or., Jan. 25.—The annual reports of Ex-commissioner Binger Hermann and other interesting things of a like nature formed the principal points of attention in the Hermann trial today. Heny is drawing to the close of the evidence to be submitted by the government, and this morning finished the direct examination of McVean, who has been on the witness stand for a couple of days, and will follow this witness with other former employees of the general land office, expecting to show by their testimony that Hermann had knowledge of the fraudulent practices which it is alleged prevailed in the handling of the lands set aside for the forest reserves, and in which transactions Heny hopes to connect Hermann. Portions of the circumstantial evidence submitted by the government shows that Hermann discussed the creation of the Blue Mountain reserve with Mays while in Portland, and the prosecution is now attempting to demonstrate by government documents, Hermann's letters and the testimony of land office employees, that the defendant knew of the fraudulent practices in vogue to acquire school lands within the boundaries of the reserves that were created, and that knowing these facts he could not otherwise but have urged in his annual reports that the land act be changed or repealed, and that he must then have declined to recommend the creation of the reserve because of the existing conditions.

Portland, Jan. 25.—The greater part of yesterday was taken up by the government in the introduction of numerous letters which passed between Hermann and Hitchcock and between Hermann and different residents of Oregon, all bearing on the reserve. Attorney Heny sought by the introduction of the bulk of this correspondence to show, while the Blue Mountain Reserve was under consideration, that Hermann had personal knowledge that extensive frauds were being perpetrated in Oregon and California through the creation of forest reserves. Several of the letters introduced advised Hermann in 1901 and 1902 that thousands of acres of valuable land were being grabbed illegally. Another purpose of submitting the letters as evidence was to bring out that the only investigations ever conducted by Hermann against Hyde & Company, who had been represented to him as one of the land-grabbing concerns was directed only against Benson, the silent member of the firm, and then only in a few cases in which Benson's operation were entirely within the law. The letters were intended to show that although Hermann had knowledge of these frauds he took no decisive action against the creation of additional reserves until after the Blue Mountain Reserve had been temporarily withdrawn and recommended for a permanent reservation. By reason of this alleged attitude, it was intimated by the prosecutor that the defendant had participated in the alleged conspiracy to the extent charged in the indictment.

Letters are barred. Mr. McVean was on the stand when court adjourned yesterday afternoon. Attorney Heny having just concluded his direct examination. The cross examination of the witness will be taken up probably by Attorney Worthington this morning. The direct examination of Mr. McVean had progressed smoothly until Attorney Heny offered the three unsigned letters referred to, for identification, and for admission as exhibits. Responding to the objection of counsel for the defendant, Attorney Heny abandoned an effort to have the communications introduced through the witness, apprising the court that he would call Professor Roth some time today for that purpose.

Mr. McVean testified that the three letters relating to the reserve and the protests that had been filed were written some time in September. He said Hermann was absent from the commissioner's office from August 5, to September 16, 1902, but that before going away Hermann had issued an order directing that the first assistant commissioner should sign all correspondence in his absence as acting commissioner. The witness described the procedure through which all letters emanating from his division passed. As clerk, McVean said he would write letters usually after consulting with the commissioner. The letters would then go to the assistant clerk, thence to the chief clerk who would submit them to the commissioner for his signature, when they would be returned to McVean who mailed them.

In the absence of Hermann, who was in Oregon during that part of 1902, McVean said all letters of importance, particularly those pertain-

ing to affairs in Oregon, were held by the first assistant commissioner until Hermann returned, that the commissioner might sign them himself. The three letters in question, he said, passed through the usual course. The reason they were not signed "acting secretary," in accordance with the order left by Hermann when he started for Oregon that year, was undoubtedly due to the fact that it was with the knowledge of the witness that the commissioner, at the time the letters were written, had returned or would be in his office in time to sign them before they were mailed.

Attorney Worthington objected to the competency of this portion of the testimony of the witness, averring that there was nothing to show that the letters had not been written and mailed early in September, prior to the return of Hermann, who did not reach his office until September 16. Attorney Heny did not insist on offering the letters in evidence while McVean was on the stand, but intimated that he would identify the communications more satisfactorily and explain the significance of the absence of Hermann's signature by the testimony of Mr. Roth, who, he said, would be called today.

Included in the large volume of documentary evidence offered by Attorney Heny yesterday were letters to Hermann from W. G. D. Dodson and Orin L. Patterson, publishers of newspapers in eastern Oregon in 1902. Dodson presented the objections of the mining interests to the creation of the proposed reserve, while Patterson submitted a largely signed protest from the people of Grant county. In his letter Patterson wrote that Joseph Simon, Malcolm A. Moody and Congressman Williamson were all in favor of the reserve and for that reason those objecting to the reservation were required to depend upon Hermann and Senator Mitchell if the proposed reserve should be defeated. Patterson further charged that most of the signatures to the petitions were obtained through misrepresentation. He also declared that "somebody would make big money if the reserve is established."

The letters introduced yesterday traced the course of the reserve from the time the petitions asking for its creation by the people of Harney and Malheur counties, were received, until late in the year 1902, shortly before Hermann retired as commissioner. Included was one which was not unfavorable to the defendant, as showing his views on the question of creating further reserves and the abuses that were being practiced by land-grabbers through the creation of reservations. This letter was written on July 31, 1901, by Hermann to Secretary Hitchcock, asking for Hermann's judgment as to whether additional forest reserves should be created or additions made to those already created. In his answer, Hermann replied recommending that no further reserves be created until "prevailing conditions" were changed. A further reason urged against creating more reserves was that the creation of further reserves would require a considerable increase in the forest service, which the available appropriation would not cover.

Mrs. Cora B. Singleton has received a check in the sum of \$500 as insurance carried on her barn which was recently destroyed by fire. The policy was carried in the Williamsburg Insurance Company.

FLOODS DEVASTATE FRENCH TERRITORY

(Special to The Evening News.) Paris, Jan. 25.—One-third of France is under water, according to reports from the provincial towns. Rains that have been falling steadily for more than a week continue uninterrupted, and the Seine, fed by the swollen tributaries, is rising at a rate of nearly an inch hourly. Great damage to property and crops is inevitable.

NO REPORT FOR NEXT TWO MONTHS

(Special to The Evening News.) Chicago, Jan. 25.—While the actual investigation into the workings of the meat trust by the government will begin late today, or possibly tomorrow, it is intimated that the results of the work of the federal grand jury in its efforts to probe into the matter, will not be made public for at least two months. The grand jury began the morning session by disposing of the calendar cases. The popular protest against the present high prices of all kinds of meats will probably have a tendency to hasten the otherwise deliberate movements of the jury in its duty of ascertaining the cause of the excessive cost of the commodity to the consumer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE.

Dr. J. D. Springston, of Portland, will conduct a Sunday school institute at the Baptist church Wednesday and Thursday. Afternoon sessions will be held from 3 to 4 o'clock. Evening sessions will begin at 7:30. Dr. Springston will be assisted by Rev. C. H. McKee, of Minnville. Everybody invited to attend.

Miss Annie Martin, of Portland, arrived here this morning to spend about ten days visiting with friends.

INTERESTING FACTS REGARDING WEATHER---ROSEBURG BEST

Seattle and Portland Enjoy 30-38 Mile Gale

DOUGLAS COUNTY CALM

Wind Velocity and Storms in Douglas County Compared With Reports from Other Sections—Our Climate Best.

Yesterday morning the hardest gale of the season swept over the valley from the southwest, and aside from lifting a few of the globes from the street lights, did no damage. The wind was spoken of as a "gale," but upon investigation it was found that very many people were unaware that the wind had been blowing, since it came in the night and did not make enough disturbance to awaken any but the lightest sleeper. At the office of the United States Weather Bureau in this city it was found that the "gale" had reached the tremendous rate of 26 miles an hour for a period of five minutes. It was a nice little squall and a lot of rain fell for a few minutes. When the morning came no sign of the storm was visible, but through the day genuine April conditions prevailed, and this morning the "gale"

was again going it some, the weatherman's instruments indicating that it was hitting a two mile clip per hour.

Reports received at the weather bureau by Observer Bell this morning demonstrate that we have had some of the best of the game down here in Southern Oregon. Up at Seattle a gentle sea breeze was rolling the fog and smoke along over the city at the maximum pace of 38 miles an hour. Portland was delighted in the fact that the Washington metropolis was the winner in wind velocity today—although that is about the only thing that Portland will admit concerning its rival—and the zephyrs whipped around the corners at a 30 mile gait. Out at North Head the spray from the old ocean was flung inshore like a drenching rain in the teeth of a 38 mile wind, while from other sections of the country, east and south, come reports of devastating storms and distress.

These are not simply "booster" figures, culled because of their favorableness to this section, but are the usual reports from the United States Weather Bureau. Roseburg always has the best of the story, and there is never any suffering or distress on account of storm conditions here in Douglas county.

HETTY CAN'T STAND GRAFT.

Multi-Millionaire Cuts Out Meat Diet—Eats Fish.

New York, Jan. 25.—Mrs. Hetty Green, who has many millions of dollars, declared today that at present prices meat is too dear for her and she cut it out of her noonday order.

Mrs. Green entered a modest uptown restaurant and scanned the bill of fare. Steak she found at 50 cents a portion and roast lamb and roast beef at 35 cents. Mrs. Green took halibut, which was 15 cents a portion.

"Have you joined the boycott?" asked the waiter.

"No," said Mrs. Green dubiously, "but meat is too high. You don't get your money's worth. People really can't afford to eat it. There are other things just as good and cheaper."

In response to a lighter demand the price of beef in the Brooklyn wholesale district declined 20 per cent today and pork loins slumped sympathetically. As an offset there were signs that the western supply will be shut off to hold up the price, although representatives of the packers deny this. Fewer carloads were received today.

Two young women who made a house to house canvass today for the National Progressive Woman's Suffrage Union obtained nearly 1,000 pledges to abstain from meat for 60 days.

Labor unions, although they listen to many resolutions, have not committed themselves to definite action.

ADVOCATE HOME RULE FOR IRELAND

(Special to The Evening News.) London, Jan. 25.—John Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalists, today practically announced that he will hold the legislative balance of power in his own hands during the coming session of parliament, and if he succeeds in holding this control will substantiate the claims of Ireland for home rule.

TWO TRAINMEN KILLED IN WRECK

(Special to The Evening News.) Schenectady, N. Y., Jan. 25.—The Twentieth Century limited passenger train running on the New York Central railway collided with a freight near Jonesville today. The engineer and fireman were killed and several passengers injured.

SUIT FOR LIBEL.

To be Brought by Local Train Dispatcher.

Olaf Olsson, train dispatcher at Roseburg, an old-time Central Pointer and a never-quit booster for the little old town, writes the Herald that he is about to institute damage proceedings against this paper for defamation of character, in having published a picture of Central Point last week that did not measure up to the "stories" he has been telling his Roseburg friends about the "Hub of the Rogue River Valley."

It is intimated by grapevine dispatch from Roseburg that Olaf has been telling those benighted Douglas countytites that it is always the full of the moon at Central Point, and that alpha berry vines have been successfully grafted on telephone poles here. It is also hinted that the dispatcher tells the boys around the office that when a Central Point man

breaks an incandescent lamp he plants the broken fragments of glass in his garden and raises 32-candle power electric lights, which are used during the winter season when the moon is obscured by clouds. At least his letter says:

"I have been telling of wonderful things about Central Point, and here you come with this picture. The boys came back at me with the horse laugh, and I think I will have to collect from you for damaged reputation as the office force all swear they will never again believe my stories of good about Central Point."

The picture was printed when the moon was obscured by clouds and the latest crop of garden grown electric lights had been nipped by a black frost. Otherwise the picture is all right.—Myrtle Point Herald.

BOOSTER SERMONS ARE APPLAUDED.

The publishing of the booster sermons delivered from Roseburg's pulpits Sunday, was a feature handled exclusively by the Evening News, and the following words of commendation concerning the sermons and their publication by this paper were received by the manager of the Roseburg Commercial Club this morning from Mr. Tom Richardson, of Portland:

"The boost doctrine, as preached in the churches of Roseburg Sunday, is the very best work that has yet been done in the state. We have had many sermons preached, but nothing so complete as that published in this one issue of a newspaper."

LANDSLIDE TIES UP GREAT NORTHERN

(Special to The Evening News.)

Kailasell, Mont., Jan. 25.—Traffic on the Great Northern railway is completely tied up on the line east of here on account of one of the greatest landslides in the history of the road. The slide occurred at Highgate, sixty miles east of this city, and it will take several hours before the tracks are cleared.

LAW RATE ON BAGS

Walla Walla Farmers Buy Two Million

AT \$1 LESS HUNDRED

Tacoma Firm Gets the Contract to Supply the Ranchers With Grain Bags—Big Saving to the Consumers.

Walla Walla, Wash., Jan. 25.—The farmers' association of the Walla Walla valley has just awarded a contract for two million grain bags to be delivered during June and July. The contract for furnishing this large number of bags was awarded to Franslott & Co., of Tacoma, Wash., and the price is nearly \$1 less per hundred than was paid for bags last year. The farmers contracted for bags in 1909 at a price of \$6.32 per hundred, and this year the price is \$5.47 1-2.

FAIR ASSOCIATION MEETS.

Eugene Getting Ready for 1910 Exhibition.

Eugene, Or., Jan. 25.—At a meeting of the Lane County Fair Association Saturday afternoon it was voted to ask the county court for an annual appropriation of \$1,000 for the support of the fair and the following committee was appointed to interview the court in regard to the matter at its next meeting: J. S. Medley, E. McBe, R. J. Hemphill, C. J. Hurd, E. A. Bond, George Wildmer, F. M. Wilkins and Jack Rodman.

P. E. Snodgrass, cashier of the First National Bank of Eugene, was elected secretary of the association in place of O. E. Yoran, resigned. The board of directors elected an executive committee consisting of the following: F. M. Wilkins, C. J. Hurd, C. M. Young, M. Svarrerud and J. Beebe.

The grand jury is still grinding away with no indications of adjourning.

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OFF DON'T DELAY BUYING ONE OF THOSE GOOD HARTH'S TOGGERY SUITS

\$15.00 Suit or Overcoat \$11.25
 \$18.00 Suit or Overcoat \$13.50
 \$20.00 Suit or Overcoat \$15.00
 \$22.50 Suit or Overcoat \$16.85
 \$25.00 Suit or Overcoat \$18.75

NEW YORK CITY

This Winter - Weight Regal Style Has The New York Custom Tag

The original of this identical Regal style is now on display in one of the most exclusive and highest-price custom shoe shops in New York—and is now being worn by the best-dressed New Yorkers. This Regal style is made of heavy Oil-grain leather, especially for winter wear.

\$350
 \$400
 \$500

REGAL SHOES

give the same perfect fit and comfort as custom-built shoes—because they are made in quarter-sizes. We would like you to compare our latest Regal models with any other shoes in town—for we know that Regals will gain by the comparison.

Harth's Toggery