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CHARACTER SKETCH OF JUDGE HUNT

Who Will Preside over the Next Land Fraud Cases

Inasmuch as on the 28th of this month another federal grand jury is to be summoned to investigate land fraud cases, and that it is authoritatively announced that Judge Hunt of Montana will preside over all pending cases and possibly others, the following interview of attorney Callahan of Baker City, in the Journal, who is well acquainted with Judge Hunt, will be interesting.

Colonel Emmet Callahan, the Baker City attorney, who is here attending legal business, has known for many years Judge W H Hunt, who will finish the land fraud cases. The attorney pays a warm tribute to the Montana jurist for personal integrity and the qualities that make a great man on the bench. An interesting story is recalled of the days when money in Montana politics flowed lavishly, and multi-millionaires paved with gold the way to the goal of their ambition.

"Judge Hunt was on the supreme bench of the state at the time disbarment proceedings against George B Welcome, manager of Senator Clark's senatorial campaign in the legislature of 1898," said Colonel Callahan yesterday.

"It was at that session of the legislature that Senator Whitehouse arose in the senate, raised \$1,000 bills aloft and said they had been tendered him for his vote. The investigation following caused the attorneys of Anacosta to commence disbarment proceedings against Mr Welcome. At the time I was one of Marcus Daly's attorneys, and was connected with the matter.

OFFERED \$200,000

"The case went before the supreme bench in regular manner. The friends of Mr. Welcome and Senator Clark were bending every effort to prevent the disbarment of the former. They felt they were safe if they could win Judge Hunt. While the disbarment proceedings were pending and about the time that a decision was to be rendered, a prominent physician who was a close personal friend of Judge Hunt's, drove up to his place one afternoon and called him to the gate for a talk.

"You are a sick man, judge," said he. "You must take a trip to Italy or some other country."

"Take a trip!" said the judge. "I haven't money enough to go to Portland or the coast. That house is not paid for, and I have no means for a trip anywhere."

"The doctor then said \$200,000 would be given him if he would take the trip and remain out of the state for some time. Judge Hunt looked at him for a moment, and said with deep feeling

of pity: 'I thought you were a friend of mine; I thought you knew me better than that.'

"Mr. Welcome was disbarred immediately following that, and he remains disbarred until this day, although I believe that every attorney who prosecuted him except myself has signed a petition to have his certificate restored. Possibly I would have signed it had I remained in Montana.

GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO

"These facts regarding Judge Hunt were brought out at the hearing of the senate committee on privileges and elections. The occasion was dramatic in the extreme. I remember gazing at the strong, clear features of the judge as he testified, and related this incident in his testimony. The effect was never to be forgotten. The capacious room was crowded with distinguished men, and as the witness proceeded there was an unbroken quiet that told the intense feeling of everyone present.

"As a result of the testimony given, and the impression made of a man's keen sense of honor, Judge Hunt was later honored with the appointment of governor of Porto Rico. He was a sick man, badly overworked and worn out by his arduous duties. When he was offered \$200,000 for a vote in favor of keeping Mr. Welcome on the list of attorneys he was in poor health, as he stated. The act for which he was offered a fortune was not to influence a judicial decision. The judges of the supreme court had it within their absolute discretion to disbar Mr. Welcome, or permit him to remain. There would have been no special criticism attaching to a decision one way or the other, and certainly it could not have been regarded as more than an individual's view of the case. FIRM AS ADAMANT

"While he was serving as governor of Porto Rico, the district federal judge ship of Montana was made vacant by retirement and Judge Hunt was chosen to fill the office which he now holds. He is a great student, one of the brightest men on the bench, democratic and easy to reach, but firm as adamant in the performance of his duty. He will meet anyone in the most cordial manner, but it is an error to assume that this acquiescence will bring favors when the genial man takes up his judicial duties."

Colonel Callahan is a candidate for the office of federal judge in this state, the interests are involved with seven eighths of his friends. He has been practicing law in Oregon for several years, with offices at Baker City, and is a frequent visitor to Portland while appearing before the federal courts here.

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