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WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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H. F. IRVINE Editor, and Proprietor

Stock Taking

Has been completed in our store and we feel like the good house keeper who has completed house cleaning. Now we are ready for the new year and every day see the latest novelties coming into our store. Greatest line of Ladies shoes and wash goods ever bought. Shirt waists, hosiery and many departments receiving a share of the spring shipments.

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J. H. HARRIS.

FOR A MESS OF POTAGE

SALEM MEN SWEAR FALSELY FOR SMALL SUM.

Attempts to Secure Big Tracts of School Land—Governor Gets Confession—Puter Paid in Cash—Other News.

Salem, Feb. 2.—S. A. D. Puter, convicted of conspiracy to defraud the government in timber-land cases, and under indictment on further charges, was caught today in attempt to secure title to 3200 acres of state school land in violation of law, and the state land-board has \$2000 of his good money and evidence sufficient to show the fraudulent nature of the transaction.

Basil Wagner, of this city, procured the men to make the application for the land. As each filed his application he told Clerk Brown that Wagner would call for the certificate of sale.

Applications to purchase school land near Klamath Falls were filed by nine residents of Salem who swore that they wanted the land for their own use and benefit, and had made no contract, expressed or implied, to convey the land to any other person. No certificates of sale were issued, but Clerk G. G. Brown called the attention of the state land-board to the suspicious applications and an investigation resulted.

One of the applicants was taken before the governor, where he was closely cross-questioned, until he admitted that he had made the application at the instance of an agent of Puter and made the initial payment with a bank draft furnished by Puter.

Governor Chamberlain immediately called a special meeting of the state land-board to consider the matter, and Puter appeared before the board. He asked leave to withdraw the applications and receive his drafts, but the land board refused to recognize his right to have the money returned.

The drafts will be returned only to the persons who deposited them, and when these men appear they will be brought upon the carpet and questioned as to the truth of their affidavits. Whether the \$2000 will eventually be returned or will be held by the board as forfeited remains to be determined.

Twenty dollars apiece was the price Puter was to pay the men for their services in making the applications, securing certificates and assigning the same to Puter or persons whom he should name. If the men desired they could retain a one-tenth interest in the land instead of receiving the \$20, but so far as learned the men took the money rather than the one-tenth interest.

This one of many illegal transactions was discovered by Clerk G. G. Brown. Several days ago applications for 640 acres of land were offered signed by Maud Coffin and her mother, and sworn to before a Portland notary. Brown was suspicious and sent back word that the applicants would have to appear before him to make the affidavits. Today the nine applicants mentioned above appeared to apply for the land which Puter had tried to get through Coffin, and other lands in the same vicinity. They appeared one or two at a time, and each tendered a draft on Ladd & Bueh's bank for \$200 as a first payment on 320 acres of land.

There was nothing in this part of the transaction to show the hand of Puter, though Brown suspected that the famous land dealer was back of the whole business. When Randle appeared and made his affidavit, he was ecoratee to the governor's office and put through a sweatbox.

The story Randle told and afterward put in the form of a sworn statement was that two or three days ago Basil Wagner, of this city, approached him and asked him if he did not want to buy some state land. Wagner offered to furnish the money and give him a one-tenth interest in the land or pay him \$20 for the one-tenth interest.

Wagner told him the transaction was all right, and he went into it. After presenting the application and depositing the draft furnished by Wagner, he signed a blank assignment, conveying his interest in the certificate of sale, which had not

yet been issued. Then he was paid the \$20.

While all of this was going on Puter was in the rotunda of the capitol and got wind of the trouble. When the board met in special session he asked for a hearing and was granted an opportunity to say anything he wished. He told the board that the land was being purchased for California capitalists, who furnished the money, and that he was their agent. He did not deny that the applicants had been hired to act as mediums for the transfer of the title to the land, but tried to make it appear legal by representing that the applicants were to retain one-tenth interest, which he afterward purchased for \$20.

Wagner appeared at the time but had nothing to say. The board would make no reply to his request for a return of the bank drafts further than to say that the drafts will be returned to no one but the applicants in person, and perhaps not to them.

Omaha, Feb. 2.—The bitter cold which has prevailed for 48 hours over Nebraska and Western Iowa continued tonight, accompanied in part by Nebraska by a snowstorm. The minimum in Omaha was 24 degrees below zero; early in the day at Lincoln it was 22, and at Sioux City it reached 30 below.

Mail trains from the West were from four to six hours late. In Omaha the street-car service was at a standstill for 24 hours on account of the cold.

Over the entire state of Nebraska the cold weather has been the severest for many years and intense suffering of livestock is reported from many places.

London, Feb. 4.—The crews of the Black-Sea fleet are on the verge of mutiny. Revolutionary literature in great quantities has been found on the ships. The men are in a dangerous frame of mind, and an outbreak is feared at any moment.

The intense feeling of revolution is strengthened by the fact that 38 of their comrades are being sentenced to death as ringleaders in the first outbreak.

Washington, Feb. 4.—It is learned on excellent authority that the government attaches great importance to the fact that Binger Hermann, before retiring from the general land office, caused to be destroyed 36 letter books containing copies of letters he had written while commissioner, an average of ten letters a day for his entire term. Hermann contends that these letters were of a private nature. The government has secured the testimony of one or more clerks who saw the letters in question which shows that many of them were in reply to letters which Herman received making inquiry about public land business of one sort or another.

This fact will be held out by the government to establish its contention that the letters were of a public nature and that the books destroyed contained government records, but it has further been learned that all the letters which the commissioner copied in his private books were sent through the mails under the government frank. Clerks and messengers who mailed letters did not place stamps on them, yet each envelope containing one of those alleged "private" letters bore on its face notice that there was a penalty of \$300 if used for private purposes.

If Mr. Hermann's contention is true, the government will show that he violated the postal laws and laid himself liable to a fine of \$300 for every private letter sent under his frank, and, if all his letters were private, the maximum penalty should be imposed, which will never be done, of course. Mr. Hermann would be fined \$5,000,000, for each letter book contained approximately 500 letters.

But if the government presses the case against Mr. Hermann for illegally using the government's frank on private correspondence, that charge will have to be brought in the District of Columbia, where the letters were mailed. This letter book incident, which for a time was set aside, now promises to play an important part in the government's case against ex-Commissioner Hermann.

Highest prices paid for chickens and eggs at Moses Broe.

POLAND IS ACTIVE

REVOLUTION RUNNING RAPIDLY IN RUSSIAN POLAND.

Strikers Armed With Guns and Smuggled Dynamite—Ominous Quiet Broods Over City of Warsaw—Crash is soon Expected.

Warsaw, Feb. 6.—Revolution is running rampant throughout Russian Poland. This statement is made with positiveness, despite the ominous quiet which hangs like a pall over this ancient city this morning; despite the official statements made by Russian bureaucrats that the situation is vastly improved and can no longer be called serious—even in the face of the reassurance cabled to the United States from this and other Russian cities by newspaper correspondents who allege that the trouble is over. One hundred thousand strikers, armed with firearms and dynamite smuggled across the Austrian frontier are ready to assemble at a moment's notice at any given point and offer their lives as a sacrifice to better the condition of their fellows.

A general strike has been declared throughout the governments of Kalisz, Radom and Kielce. Churches are being burned by orthodox believers, who have lost faith owing to the manner in which their priests have betrayed them by siding with the government.

The governments of Radom, Kalisz and Kielce were declared in a state of siege Sunday. The proclamations setting forth that fact came after 12 hours of turmoil, during which neither life nor property were safe. It is difficult to obtain accurate facts and figures from these outlying districts owing to the strict maintenance of internal censorship and the general state of chaos which has made communication other than by post next to impossible.

Most of the news is brought here by couriers, who, having only observed their happenings in their particular districts, and are not able to give connected accounts of the general situation, but their combined stories tell a tale of horror and crime and of conditions which indicate that the bloody days of 1863 and 1864 will be repeated and that unless every demand is granted to the strikers, or unless those controlling them decide that the day has not come to deal Russian rule in Poland a death blow, the world will witness another of Poland's sinister tragedies.

The statement can be made without fear of contradiction, that the strike of the discontented workmen throughout Poland is practically general to day, and that the figure of 100,000 idle men represents a very conservative estimate.

Whether the peasants have already made common cause with the workers in the cities is still a much mooted question, and the authorities express confidence that the agitation has not reached the agricultural districts. The strikers here, while reticent as to their plans, intimate that before long Poland will be aflame and that all classes will make common cause against Russian oppression.

Prague, Feb. 6.—A congress of the leaders of the movement for "Free Poland," will be held in this city in the near future, at which the advisability of proclaiming the reunion of the three Polands as an independent government will be discussed in all its various phases.

The main body of the delegates will represent Russian, Austrian and German Poland, but there will also be present many men who have shaped the policy of the revolutionary movement, from Paris, Berne and Vienna. In addition, a large delegation from the United States, headed by Philadelphia, Chicago and Pittsburg Poles, has promised to attend.

So far as can be learned at this time the congress will declare those who believe in its object must refrain from participation in any anti-Russian movement that has not for its sole object the liberation of Poland. It is also stated by well-informed parties here that the suggestion to proclaim a Polish republic will not be considered, but that ways and means are to be found to

re-establish the ancient Polish monarchy and secure for it the recognition of both Germany and Austria.

This failing, the old plan, so utterly unsuccessful when last tried, nearly a hundred years ago, is to be readopted and Poland declared a republic. Feeling certain of the success of their plan to re-establish the kingdom of Poland, the leaders of the movement do not care to forecast the possible consequences, political or otherwise, which the proclamation of a republic would have in its wake.

There is a well defined disposition among intelligent Czechs to trust in the acquiescence of both Germany and Austria and with possibly even Russia, in the restoration of Polish throne. It is urged by them that Germany has grown tired of the great burden caused by the indefatigable Polish agitation in her own provinces and that while she would never recognize free Prussian Poland as such individually Emperor William may be willing to act in conjunction with Emperor Francis Joseph and relinquish the provinces which were added to their domains by the Polish partition.

Strange as it may seem, the Czechs who favor the plan express no fear that the Austrian government may take steps to prevent, or if this cannot be done, break up the Polish congress. They say that the Austrian government is willing to listen to proposals and will not exercise police duty over a body at least four-fifths of which owe no allegiance to Austria and can claim the protection of other governments.

There are those who claim to know that the leaders of the congress will receive notice in due time that the political freedom of Poland was absolutely out of diplomatic reckoning and that a serious attempt to bring it about would, if necessary be met by armed force. These conservatives say that the congress will busy itself with questions only which will in no way lead up to the liberation of Poland, but will have only the object to secure for the Polish provinces the restoration of Poland as the official language with all the concessions thereby implied and a larger measure representation in the German and Austrian legislative bodies than is at present the case.

Kennebec, Wash., Feb. 4.—John C. Evans accompanied by two friends from the East, broke all Northwest records for sprinting in an effort to get away from a dog which was carrying a stick of dynamite with a lighted fuse attached. They got far enough ahead of the dog to miss any serious results when the explosion came, but they were thrown prostrate by the concussion and suffered many severe bruises.

Evans, wishing to entertain his friends, took them to a deep hole in the Columbr river to fish with dynamite. Evans was accompanied by a fine bird dog. When Evans lighted the fuse attached to the stick of dynamite and threw the missile in the water, the dog immediately jumped in after it.

Evans and his friends saw the danger of the dog and yelled for him to come back. This the dog did, but with the explosive in his mouth. The men ran; but the dog had no trouble in keeping up, and refused to drop the explosive. Evans said they broke all records in trying to get away, and kept scolding the dog to discourage further pursuit.

They only ran about 100 feet when the explosion came. The concussion threw the three men to the earth, jarred them considerably and burned the clothing on their backs. There was nothing to mark the place where the dog had been but one hind leg and a hole in the ground.

Berlin, Feb. 4.—German military experts familiar with the inner conditions of the Russian army declare that the autocracy cannot depend on the loyalty of any of the troops outside of the few regiments serving as bodyguards to the czar and the grand dukes.

Military men here, in the light of history and tradition, therefore, regard the recent mutiny of soldiers and marines at Sevastopol as immeasurably the most dangerous event of all the recent turmoil in Russia.

They proclaim their belief that it is the forerunner of widespread insubordination, fraught with far-reaching consequences.

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