

# The Corvallis Times.

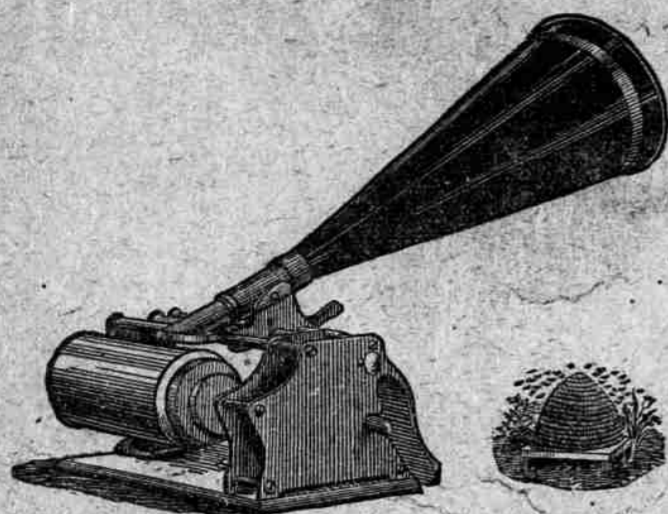
WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, JUNE 14, 1905.

B. F. IRVINE Editor and Proprietor

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**J. H. HARRIS.**

Purchases to be made by June 15th.

## LAND FRAUDS SPREAD

**HENEY SAYS THAT CALIFORNIA'S LAND OFFICE IS MORE CORRUPT THAN OREGON'S.**

Agents and Land Thieves Combine  
—Two-Thirds of the Golden State's Priceless Timber Lands Stolen.

San Francisco, June 10.—There are the best reasons for believing that the scandals in the land office in Oregon will soon be dwarfed by the exposure of yet more gigantic frauds in connection with the land office of California. Notwithstanding the determined inaction of the men whose official position makes them guardians of the public domain and who are in honor bound to checkmate every attempt to acquire state or federal territory by illicit means, the explosion cannot much longer be delayed. The administration at Washington has been informed of what is going on, and that big stick is ready to fall upon guilty heads however high in authority.

Francis J. Heney, who left for Portland last night to prosecute his investigations as special government counsel, deserves the credit of setting the wheels of investigation in motion. In an interview yesterday he revealed some startling facts in connection with the land grabbing in this state.

"There is no use in pounding away at private individuals who have been trying to turn a dishonest penny at the state's expense," he said. "The center of corruption is in the land offices of the state of California itself. As before, it has been hand and glove with the ring and any pretense of ignorance in regard to the scheme of graft which have been hatched under its nose is absurd. The land ring has received favors from this office ever since the last election until now two-thirds of the state's priceless timber lands have been practically stolen."

It is known on good authority that Attorney Heney, when in Washington, D. C., reported to President Roosevelt that he had uncovered unmistakable evidence of fraud in the methods by which public lands had been acquired by large syndicates in California, Idaho and Oregon. The president, it is stated, requested him to proceed at once with the probing process. Whether Heney will accept the commission and clean every stall in the Augean stable, or whether the completion of the task will devolve upon other shoulders, is as yet uncertain.

It is stated that some of the same men who stole vast quantities of land in Oregon are also involved in the California frauds.

F. P. Hyde and H. P. Dimond, charged with conspiracy to defraud the government of public lands, have given bonds in the sum of \$20,000 and \$10,000 respectively for their appearance before the supreme court.

B. F. Barrett will be tried Wednesday before Judge Hanford in the United States district court on acquiring timber lands in Montana illegally.

A conspiracy is alleged to have been entered into in Spokane by Barrett, who is a wealthy banker of Winona, Minnesota, and three other men. Judge Hanford, sometime ago, disposed of the preliminary questions of law so the case is sent to him for trial.

The government claims that Joseph Placiona signed a contract with Barrett whereby he was to furnish the banker with fellow countrymen who would file on land, later to be turned over to Barrett and in return the men were to receive \$1,000 each. All the land involved is in the vicinity of Kalispell.

Portland, June 12.—Oregonian: Today the mill of the government begins to grind once more. The material that has been gathered with such care by the net of the department of justice is ready to be placed in the hopper for the reduction, and the engineers of the United States are in waiting to turn on the power and start the wheels.

Judge John De Haven, who has been detailed by Judge Gilbert to preside over the land-fraud cases,

reached the city yesterday from San Francisco and is now at the Hotel Portland where he will stay during his residence in Portland.

United States Attorney Heney also reached the city yesterday and is at the Portland.

The circuit court of the United States will be called this morning at 10 o'clock in the new quarters at the Federal building when the arguments for and against the demurrer to the Mitchell indictment will be made by Judge A. S. Bennett, of the Dalles, and Senator Thurston, on behalf of Senator Mitchell, while the cause of the government will be defended by Mr. Heney.

The defendants in their demurrer place their chief reliance upon the allegation that the indictment shows that the money paid by Frederick A. Kribs for the expedition of the land claims involved in the case was paid to the firm of Mitchell & Tanner, and not to Senator Mitchell. From this it is also contended that Senator Mitchell knew nothing of the source from which his share of the firm income arose, that he had no knowledge of any fraudulent practices and that nothing of the kind is alleged in the indictment. This is the main point in the demurrer that will be argued before the court.

Unless Judge Bennett and Senator Thurston take up more time with their speeches than is expected, it now seems certain that the end of the argument will be reached today, or, if not that soon, tomorrow by noon at the latest.

If the arguments are concluded to day it is possible that the decision of Judge De Haven will be rendered by Wednesday, in which case there is but little doubt of the trial commencing by Monday, June 19. It will not take more than five days for the order to draw the jury to be observed and for the future arbiters of Senator's Mitchell fate to arrive in the city in pursuance to the orders of the court.

London, June 10.—The keenest interest is manifested in President's Roosevelt's note endeavoring to bring Japan and Russia to an understanding. While the British government is not taking any part in the negotiations, it is giving the most cordial support to the president, of whose actions in the matter it has been kept fully informed.

Diplomatic and official circles speak in the highest terms of the diplomatic manner in which the president handled the matter, and are fully in accord with what they consider to be the only way in which the difficulty could be overcome.

The United States not being entangled in any way, was really the only country which could take action, but even President Roosevelt could not do more than endeavor to start direct negotiations between the belligerents. Japan, it can be stated, refused to start the negotiations until fully assured of the earnestness of Russia and that her proposals would be seriously considered. Her demands will include an indemnity, the amount of which point the president is urging lenient treatment.

It is considered here that Japan is entitled to an indemnity, and it is pointed out that, while the payment of an indemnity might affect the standing of Russia among the powers, it is not so serious as the loss of territory; besides the payment of an indemnity would be forgotten sooner than the loss of territory, and would leave no feeling for revenge.

Financial circles in London are of the opinion that the Japanese will demand an indemnity amounting to about \$1,000,000,000, that being their estimate of the cost to the Japanese of the 16 months' fighting. This is considered in some quarters to be too large an estimate of the expenditures, which it is thought to be nearer \$600,000,000.

It is also understood that Russia now admits in principle that the demand for an indemnity is justified. It is suggested that the terms of Japan will probably also include the acknowledgement of a Japanese protectorate over Corea, the total Russian evacuation of Manchuria, the handing over of Russian interests on the Liao Tung Peninsula and at Port Arthur to Japan, and the cession of the railroad from Port Arthur to Harbin. The question of the Island of Sakhalin will also be raised.

Blackledge sells refrigerators.

## COMMITTS SUICIDE

**PENDLETON GIRL ENDS HER LIFE BY BREATHING GAS IN PORTLAND LODGING HOUSE.**

Arrested in California for Passing Worthless Check—Girl Said to Have Been Unsound in Mind—Russian War Ships Interned at Manila.

Portland, June 9.—Evening Telegram: Lying still and cold on a slab in the morgue is an attractive young woman, supposed to be Miss Wavelle Cunningham, of Pendleton, daughter of Mrs. B. Cunningham, of that place, who committed suicide at a rooming house at 694 East Alder street this morning by inhaling gas from a rubber tube which she had connected with a jet in the room that had been rented by her yesterday. Coroner Finley has wired to Pendleton in the hope of obtaining information of the unfortunate and as to what disposition shall be made of the body. This is believed to be the young woman who was arrested in San Francisco on a charge of cashing a \$160 check on A. & C. Feldenheimer, in this city, when she had no money in the bank. The matter was settled out of court.

From the evidence gathered at the scene Coroner Finley says the woman appeared there yesterday and rented a room, agreeing to stay a week. She said she wanted to be where it was quiet, saying she was from Stanford University and was feeling ill. She left the house at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon and returned again at 5 o'clock, and remained quietly in her room after that. Early this morning the inmates of the dwelling detected the odor of gas, and on entering the apartment found the young woman, lying at the foot of the bed, arrayed in her night clothing.

She had removed a pillow from the head of the bed and placed it at the foot, connecting the tube with the gas jet she covered the lower end of the hose with the pillow and, after turning on the deadly fumes, had evidently deliberately prepared for the end, for her features were composed and displayed no signs of pain.

Coroner Finley says the body was yet warm when he reached the scene after a physician had made an examination and found that life was extinct. The suicide had written a letter and then destroyed it, pieces of the missive being found on the floor, and from this the address of Mrs. B. Cunningham was learned and on one corner of the paper was a message to the coroner saying she had committed suicide and not to hold an inquest. The deceased was about 23 or 24 years of age, of medium height and rather stout. Her clothing was of good quality but quietly made, and she had a trunk, suit case and small grip, together with a small amount of change.

Miss Cunningham was arrested in San Francisco last Saturday afternoon, being wanted in Portland on a charge of passing a worthless check to the amount of \$160. Preparations were made to send Detective Reising after and bring her back for trial. The case, however, was settled and the woman was released Monday afternoon. Shortly after her release she started for Portland, arriving here last night. Miss Cunningham did not have a bad reputation, and was raised by respectable parents. For a while she was a student of Pacific University at Forest Grove. She was in Portland two weeks ago.

John Cunningham, of Pendleton, Or., arrived in Portland this morning and will leave for Arlington this evening with the remains of his daughter, Miss Wavelle Cunningham, aged 26 years, who committed suicide by inhaling gas at her room at 694 East Alder street yesterday morning. The father is heart-broken over the affair. In the Cunningham family there were two children, a son who died from consumption about a year ago, and Miss Wavelle Cunningham, who took her life yesterday after a short period of much trouble. The father in giving an explanation of his

daughter's rash act, said:

"Since her brother died, about a year ago, my daughter has acted strangely, and we have reason to believe that she was mentally deranged. She was suffering from consumption and did not have long to live. We believe that because she was mentally distressed she passed the forged check for \$190 at the A. & C. Feldenheimer jewelry store. As far as her character is concerned, we believe she was pure. I shall accompany her remains to Arlington, Or., where we used to live, tonight, and she will be buried by the side of her brother."

Washington, June 9.—Secretary Taft has received the following cablegram from Governor Wright, at Manila:

"Russian war ships did not leave harbor within the required 24 hours and as a result are now in custody of Admiral Train, who informs me he has taken the necessary steps to intern them. They are now behind the breakwater under the guns of the Ohio and Monadnock. He will disable their machinery and remove breech blocks of guns. He has doubtless reported full details to navy department.

Washington, June 9.—Rear-Admiral Train has reported to the navy department that the Russian ships at Manila have been interned. In addition to the information conveyed in Governor Wright's cablegram, Rear-Admiral Train said that the coal supply of the ships has been limited and the officers and men paroled upon condition that they take no further part in the war.

London, June 10.—The Tokio correspondent of the Daily Times says that some of the Japanese torpedo-boat destroyers which were chasing the Russian cruiser Izumrud were ordered back, the Japanese allowing the ship to escape.

Tokio, June 10.—Three torpedo-boat destroyers will be launched at Yokosuka on Saturday next, June 17.

Tokio, June 9.—Army headquarters have given out the following: "A detachment of our forces which advanced from Lianshuichuan, two miles east of Chenchengtu, dislodging one company of foot and one company of horsemen of the enemy, holding the hills north of that place, at 3 o'clock in the morning of June 7, occupied an eminence east of Chapengan an four miles northeast of Chenchengtu."

"At 6 o'clock on the same morning the enemy attempted an attack on Soufaugtai, ten miles north of Changtu, and on Taaotun, five miles northwest of Changtu, and on Shiitiuti, two miles north of Taaotun.

"All attacks were repulsed."

Paris, June 9.—The French government has indicated its willingness to assign a torpedo boat to carry the body of Paul Jones down the River Seine from Paris to Havre where a French squadron will deliver the body to the American squadron. This will necessitate a change in the rendezvous of the American squadron from Cherbourg to Havre, which is now under consideration.

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