

SPICY DISCUSSION MARKS ADVENT OF RAILROAD COMMISSION BILL

SUITS NO MEMBERS

Radical Commission Men Express Disappointment.

CONSERVATIVES SHOW ALARM

Washington Legislators, Holding Balance of Power in Doubt Whether to Amend or Help Lay to Rest.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 14.—(Staff Correspondence).—The new railroad commission bill was officially turned over to the joint committee this evening, and the fight is fairly on. The joint committee was called together about 8 o'clock to listen to the reading of the bill. When this was completed there was a slight bungle in the attempt to turn it over to the joint committee, a motion for the adoption of the report calling forth a protest from some of the joint committee members, who did not care to vote for its adoption until they had more time for examining it and had listened to more testimony.

The discussion on this point was brief, but it lasted long enough and was sufficiently spicy to warrant the belief that there will be a hot fight before the bill is passed or turned down, as the case may be.

Chance for Roads to Be Heard.

Brown of Spokane rejoined with a rather flippant remark that the bill had been prepared by a competent committee, and as the railroads were not making the bill, he failed to see the necessity for their opposition. Davis retorted with a mild show of warmth that as the bill provided for everything in connection with the railroads, with the possible exception of legal counsel, he believed that they should be given a hearing.

"If," said he, "it is your idea of right to shut them out from such a hearing, we'll fight it out on the floor of the Senate. You may pass it, but you will have the time of your life if you do. I am for a commission if you get up a bill that suits me, but I do not propose to be rushed."

Venese spoke on similar lines, and Crane of Spokane said that there was no disposition to shut off evidence, but the immediate desire was to get it out of the hands of the subcommittee into the joint committee. This was effected by a motion from Heller that the report be received and the subcommittee dissolved. This carried, and the meeting adjourned until tomorrow evening, when the railroad men will be invited to tell what is wrong with the bill.

It will be an impossibility to pass the bill in its present shape, and it is much more probable than ever before that it will be a difficult matter to pass any kind of a bill.

Rabid Talk of Extremists.

"They will pass the bill the way it is, or they won't pass it at all," was the way one of the rabid commission men put the case after the joint committee adjourned, and this is a sentiment that prevails quite generally among the more rabid commission men. The bill even at this, is not entirely satisfactory to these people, and quite naturally it is not satisfactory to the railroads.

A canvass of a large number of members of both houses today failed to reveal a single individual who was satisfied with all portions of the bill, and quite a number were found who were unable to discover a single feature of merit in it. The bill provides for such an endless amount of red tape and is so drastic in some of its features that it is impossible to force it on the railroad men and make them think they like it.

On the other hand, its failure to confer rate-making and other powers of a receiver on the railroad commission will not satisfy the more rabid commission forces, who have expected too much. Between these two extremes there is a large balance of power which is undecided whether it is best to amend the measure into a condition of uselessness and pass it in the shape it can be passed in without opposition, or knock it in the head as it is.

There has been a radical change in sentiment regarding the bill since it became apparent that its passage might open the way for a political machine of greater power than any that has ever been organized in the state. The members are still anxious to pass some kind of a bill, in order to quiet the clamor which has been made, but many of them will balk at the passage of such a measure as has just emerged from the hands of the subcommittee.

Olympians Boycott Tacoma.

The rumors that the railroad bill was liable to get mixed up with the capital removal fight are unfounded. There are no new developments in the latter issue, except that both parties to the controversy have made a poll of the House and have won out by a safe number of votes, the Olympians claiming victory in the House by a majority of from 15 to 20 votes, while the removal forces are content with a majority of from 12 to 15. The bill will probably pass the House, but it will be by a close call unless there is a radical change in the situation within the next few days.

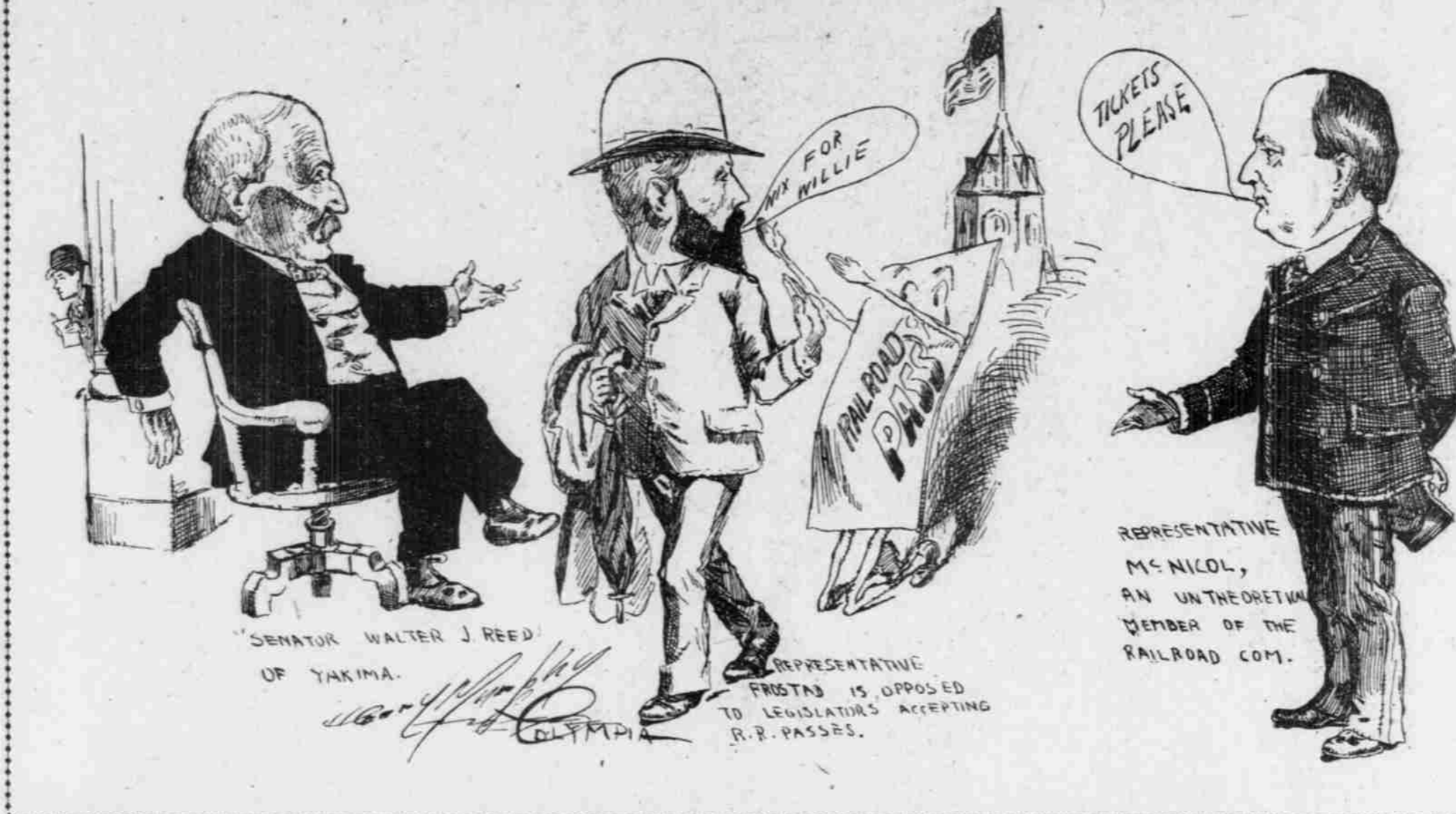
The Olympians are retreating on Tacoma by refusing to buy goods in that city.

A Tacoma drummer who was here today was turned down at five out of six places where he had formerly sold goods.

Russian Capital Interested.

BELLINGHAM, Wash., Feb. 14.—Since R. R. Spencer, at receiver's sale yesterday, made the highest bid of \$205,000 on the unsold Alaska salmon canneries and vessels of the Pacific Packing & Navigation Company, rumors have been persistent that the purchase is in behalf of Russian capital. Mr. Spencer is understood to represent John Rose, Pacific Coast agent for the Alaska Commercial, the Northwestern Commercial and the Northeast Siberian companies.

SENATOR REED, OF YAKIMA, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROSTAD AND M'NICOL, SKETCHED AT OLYMPIA



GRANT OF DOMAIN

Lumber Industry Dissatisfied With House Amendment.

LEGISLATURE GIVEN POWER

Washington Logging, Irrigation and Mining Companies Desire Right to Condemn Private Property for Their Own Use.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 14.—(Special).—The Irving bill introduced in the House, which is a duplicate of the Welsh bill in the Senate, conferring the powers of eminent domain upon logging, irrigation, mining and manufacturing companies, was greatly modified by the House this afternoon. The Welsh bill has already passed the Senate, and it is the measure in which the chief interest of the timber and mill owners is centered.

The bill as introduced provided for the submission of a constitutional amendment, which conferred a grant of the powers of eminent domain upon such companies. The House considered this too broad, and also feared that it would become an abridgement of the constitutional provision prohibiting the appropriation of private property for private uses.

An amendment introduced by Roth to the Irving bill provides for the submission of a constitutional amendment which eliminates the absolute grant of the right of eminent domain, but confers upon the Legislature powers to grant to the companies mentioned such powers and to surmount the same by proper legislative safeguards.

The House passed the Irving bill as amended today, and will, it is believed, pass the amended bill in the Senate. The bill as amended takes the place of the Senate bill. If passed, the adoption in the next general election of the constitutional amendment will not enable mining, logging or the other companies enumerated at once to appropriate private property for their use, but legislative enactment will be required before such powers are conferred.

The House today defeated Fancher's bill, which requires the relatives of insane persons, upon order of the Superior Court, to contribute to the state \$5 per month for the care of such insane persons in the State Hospital, and defeated Kenoyer's bill, which provided that, when applications for liquor licenses were made in rural districts, the County Commissioners should give notice before granting the same.

The Lindsay bill, requiring the City Councils to submit to vote of the people upon petition of 25 per cent of the voters the question of whether to issue mining contracts or awarding valuable privileges came to a vote on final passage this afternoon. The bill developed strong opposition on account of the fact that it was brought through with little debate—aye 50, noes 14.

The school code amendment prepared by the committee of the State Teachers' Association and submitted in a bill by Minard, was passed this morning by the House with 19 votes recorded against it. Roth and Dawes voted aye, announcing that they intended to move for reconsideration.

Senator Moore, who had voted to postpone indefinitely Sisson's House bill, giving the board of regents of the Agricultural College the veto power on the sale of Bitterroot college lands, attempted to introduce a bill in the Senate this morning covering the same ground. A point of order was raised that the bill could not be introduced except under suspension of the rules, and a motion to suspend was lost.

There is now a law which gives railroad companies an easement for a 100-foot right of way across state lands on payment of the appraised valuation, without the necessity of public sale. Handel bill, giving railroad companies the same privilege in securing ten-acre tracts for depot and warehouse grounds was passed by the Senate this morning.

The special committee appointed to inspect the Reform School grounds reported, recommending the passage of the bill providing for the purchase of 100 acres more of land.

Senator Baker today introduced a bill providing for the creation of the County of Benton out of a portion of Yakima and Klickitat Counties. The new county will

be east of a line drawn from the northern boundary of Yakima County at a point about six miles east of Sunnyside to the Columbia River.

The Senate appropriations committee today indorsed the House estimates of the Board of Control needs for the maintenance for two years of the six state institutions under their management. A separate bill for the several items will be introduced and the action of the committee insures its passage without amendment.

The bill will appropriate a total of \$367,385, but indirectly there will be added to the Board of Control's budget \$2,500 for the erection and maintenance of a state school for defective youth, either at Steilacoom or Medical Lake, and about \$40,000 for maintenance, making a total to be expended by the Board of Control of approximately \$1,057,000. The appropriations agreed to by both committees follow:

TACOMA-OLYMPIA INTERURBAN

Promoters Promise Early Construction if Capital City Buys Stock.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 14.—(Special).—Further steps were taken last evening which, it is believed, will hasten the completion of the Tacoma-Olympia interurban electric railway, surveys for which were completed last summer.

Two of the promoters of the road—A. Bettis, of Spokane, and W. L. Benham, of Seattle—have been in the city several days, and last evening conferred with about 15 representative business men of Olympia to talk over plans for the completion of the road.

It was stated by the railroad representatives that there would be no delay in the completion of the road as far as American Lake. The distance assured of being constructed at once is 12 miles, leaving a gap of 17 miles between American Lake and Olympia. The railroad builders desire to avoid, if possible, the cost of building the "high finance" bridges of the East, it being the usual case that the "high financiers" want all the advantages.

The Olympia people were practically assured that the builders would be able to go ahead with the completion of all the road at a very early date, if Olympia people would agree to take \$50,000 in stock. The railroad representatives were informed that Olympia could raise that much money for stock or bonds if proper assurances were given that the road would be built at once, with this understanding, the meeting was adjourned.

Action Taken on Bills.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 14.—(Special).—Final action was taken on 15 House bills in the lower branch of the Legislature today. Among the bills passed were: A measure establishing a Board of Commissioners to promote uniformity of legislation in the United States; providing for the payment of premiums on surety bonds of public officers out of the public funds; repealing the law of 1902 giving four-fifths of the electors in a portion of one county the right to annex such district to a contiguous county.

The House defeated a bill requiring relatives to pay the state for the care of insane persons; a bill penalizing ex-Judges of the Supreme Court, and a bill requiring that notice shall be given of applications for liquor licenses in rural districts.

The Senate defeated the House bill which releases cities of liability for injuries occurring on unimproved streets; passed a 3-cent passenger rate bill.

Mill Men Before House Committee.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 14.—(Special).—A four hours' session of the Judiciary committee of the House was held tonight to enable the owners of mills and factories to appear in connection with the Davis factory inspection law. A dozen millowners and managers were present and several spoke in favor of the bill.

The opposition was led by Labor Commissioner William Blackman, who alleges that the first section of the bill practically nullifies the present law in reference to giving the employees a safeguard from damage from dangerous machinery.

RESCUERS MAY HAVE PERISHED

Three Men Now Believed to Be Lost in Coeur d'Alene Mountains.

WALLACE, Idaho, Feb. 14.—Anxiety is felt for two mountaineers who are searching the Coeur d'Alene Mountains for Waller Sausberry. He became lost a week ago today near Borax, Mont. Nothing has been heard from him since Sunday.

The searchers have been out unprotected in the wild district in the coldest weather experienced in many years. Sausberry must surely have perished, but has not yet been found.

LIFE FOR SOCKEYES

Closed Season Discussed at Washington State Capital.

SIX WEEKS' CLOSE PROPOSED

Endeavor Made to Reach an Agreement With British Columbia Legislature to Prevent Extinction of the Salmon.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 14.—(Special).—The fish lobby that swooped down on Olympia today numbers about 60 persons, including paid attorneys, purse-seiners, trappers, cannerymen and others representing every branch of the industry.

These men gathered in the Senate tonight, where they were attracted by the opening meeting of the joint fisheries committee, held for the purpose of discussing the earlier bill, which seeks to save the sockeye salmon from extermination in Puget Sound and the Fraser River, by providing a co-operation of Washington with British Columbia in fixing a six weeks' closed season in the heart of the sockeye run of the years 1905 and 1906, and a weekly closed season thereafter.

Managers of the three big fisheries combines of Puget Sound are here, and their attorney, J. A. Kerr, who is receiver of the North American Fisheries Company, was given an early opportunity to address the committee. He explained how the sockeye salmon runs in cycles of four years, one being the largest, and the other three years diminishing. He said that in the big run of 1901 the fish output was valued at \$14,000,000, and that in the years subsequent thereto it had aggregated \$10,000,000, and in those three years the packers had not made a dollar, the money all going into trade channels.

The Columbia people were practically assured that the protection was needed, and conferences had been held with the packers of British Columbia, and the earlier bill had been the result of an agreement reached at that conference.

After talks by Kerr and A. E. Wolard, of Bellingham, the independent packers and the fishermen who oppose the six weeks' season on the ground that it will cut them out of business for good and all, but favor a weekly closed season of 36 hours in all years, were given their hearing. These men were represented by H. A. Fairchild, of Bellingham, who chose to present his case in a true lawyerly fashion. He called the law one of his first witnesses George H. George, of Astoria, the Columbia River packer, who is interested also in Puget Sound fisheries.

Mr. George opposed prohibition, but was a protectionist. He believed the six weeks' close, which all admitted would cause a suspension of the industry during the two years, was too drastic a measure. He said that the Columbia River pack had dwindled until artificial propagation had been properly carried out, and that without any suspension of the industry they had been able to bring the fish catch on the river up to a figure exceeding during the last few years all previous records. The argument had been advanced to him that the packers could make more money by packing during the expected big run of 1905 and suspending during 1906, being able to control prices by knowing the exact number of cases produced.

Fish Commissioner Babcock, of British Columbia, was one of the speakers. He favored a closed season throughout 1905, 1907 and 1908, and said that if given such a season he believed the Fraser hatches could bring the yearly pack on Puget Sound and the river up to the sack of the big years of the present fish cycle.

During the evening the debate at times became exceedingly acrimonious, especially between Kerr and Fairchild. A number of purse-seiners and other men interested in the industry, including Edward Rosenberg, organizer of the Puget Sound Fishermen's Union, and Fish Commissioner T. R. Kerueh, were permitted to address the committee. The committee adjourned without taking any action.

PORTLAND'S SUPPLY OF WATER

Prompt Action by Multnomah Delegation to Protect It.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 14.—(Special).—By prompt action on the part of the Multnomah delegation it is hoped that the City of Portland will be made secure in its supply of water from Bull Run Creek. But for this action it is

certain that private interests in water rights would be acquired, resulting in loss to the city. Senator Hodson has secured the passage of a bill in the Senate and it will probably be passed by the House tomorrow giving the City of Portland exclusive right to the waters of Bull Run Creek.

Several years ago the city appropriated water from that stream for city supply purposes and constructed a conduit 42 inches in diameter. That line proved inadequate and recently it was decided to lay a new pipe, when it was discovered that a Colorado capitalist had posted an appropriation notice for the purpose of acquiring a right to use all the unappropriated waters of the stream in supplying water to suburban districts in Portland.

It was evident, however, that the appropriation is invalid because made by an individual, whereas the statutes of this state give the right of appropriation for such purposes only to corporations.

The Hodson bill was promptly introduced and as it carries an emergency clause, it will go into effect before the Colorado capitalist can form a corporation and make a new effort.

The measure of an appropriation is the amount of water diverted; hence the City of Portland has not yet acquired a right to more water than can be carried through the 42-inch main.

RIPARIAN RIGHTS BILL DEAD

House Falls by Several Votes to Pass Over the Governor's Veto.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 14.—(Special).—Eight votes short of a two-thirds majority in the House, Representative Mayer's riparian rights bill failed to pass over the Governor's veto this morning, the vote being 30 yeas to 25 noes. Four members were absent, and one was excused from voting.

The bill provided that riparian owners on the Columbia should have the sole right to use the water frontage of their lands between low water mark and the channel, and aimed to protect riparian owners against encroachments of fish-traps and seines.

Governor Chamberlain vetoed the measure on the ground that it conferred a right on individuals which inherently belongs to the public. The rumored joker in the bill, for the benefit of particular persons in Columbia County, Mayer declared did not exist.

Skim Milk Was Given Guards.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 14.—(Special).—At the penitentiary investigation tonight it was shown that part of the penitentiary betterment fund was used for purchase of furniture, carpets, beddings, curtains, etc., for the superintendent's residence, and the warden's quarters and that the plumbing in the prisoners' cells was unsanitary. Evidence was also introduced tending to show that skim milk was given to the guards, to drink.

Efforts to prove that the portieres given to Superintendent James' family were returned after the McMahon agitation began were unsuccessful, and further testimony will be taken on this point tomorrow.

Gambling Bill Before Senate.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 14.—(Special).—Gray's gambling bill was referred to the education committee in the Senate today. As passed by the House last night, the measure makes managers and dealers of any of the numerous named gambling games guilty of misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in the County Jail not to exceed 30 days or a fine of over \$500. Players are not mentioned, and neither are the owners of the buildings in which gambling is conducted.

The original bill made gambling a felony. The bill passed the House by a narrow margin, as many of the members thought the felony clause had been retained.

Memorials Adopted in House.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 14.—(Special).—The House this morning adopted the following memorials:

S. J. M. T. by Rand—Memorializing Congress to pass an act granting to the citizens of Oregon, Washington and California the right to fell and remove timber on the public domain for mining and domestic purposes.

S. J. M. T. by Schell—Memorializing the Senate of the United States speedily to enact legislation prohibiting interstate commerce in adulterated foods and medicines.

MISSING GROCER IS FOUND.

Philadelphia Recognized in Los Angeles From Printed Descriptions.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 14.—Owen Kelly, a former wealthy grocer of Philadelphia, now wanted there for the alleged embezzlement of a sum, said to exceed \$20,000, is under arrest in this city. Kelly was arrested on one of the main streets last night by Chief of Police Hammel and Chief of Detectives Bradish, who recognized him from printed descriptions sent out at the time of his disappearance.

PUTER IS IN LUCK

No Prosecution for Attempt to Grab State Land.

MAY GET HIS MONEY BACK

Oregon Land Board Will Repay or Orders From the Dummies He Attempted to Use—Afraid of a Hold-Up.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 14.—(Special).—S. A. D. Puter will be repaid the \$2000 which dummies paid to the State Land Board a week ago for the purchase of state land. This conclusion was reached by the board today after hearing a statement by Puter, in which he said that the board has always accepted applications under these circumstances in the past, and he had no reason to believe that the applications would be turned down in this instance. He followed the power to that he has observed for years and he caused the board has permitted it, he could see nothing illegal in it.

The board decided to return the money to Puter without orders from the men who paid it in, but said they would pay it if written orders should be presented. The fraudulent applications will all be disallowed.

Governor Chamberlain suggested that the board might declare the money forfeited to the state, but the board finally decided that there is no law permitting such a course. Under the statutes of the state the board has merely the power to approve an application or to disallow it and return the money. The only question in this case was to whom the money should be paid.

Mr. Puter indicated his fear that a few of the dummies will refuse to sign orders for the payment of the money to him, but may "hold him up" for a part or all of the money. The money lies in the office of the clerk of the Land Board to the credit of the men who paid it in. It can be repaid only to them or upon their orders. It is therefore in their power to make Puter trouble in getting his money back.

There will be no criminal prosecutions against either Puter or any of the men who were engaged with him in this effort to secure 3000 acres of state land in violation of law.

Frosty Mornings at Bay City.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 14.—Californiaans are complaining of cold weather. For several days past the thermometer in this city has fallen as low as 42 degrees above zero in the early mornings and some frost has been seen. There has been neither rain nor snow, and in the afternoon, with the mercury above 70, overcoats are unnecessary and silk waists are worn in the shopping districts.

Sufficient rain has fallen this season to insure splendid crops and the entire state reports that a year of exceptional prosperity is anticipated.

Married Women

Every woman covets a shapely, pretty figure, and many of them deplore the loss of their girlish forms after marriage. The bearing of children is often destructive to the mother's shapeliness. All of this can be avoided, however, by the use of Mother's Friend before baby comes, as this great liniment always prepares the body for the strain upon it, and preserves the symmetry of her form. Mother's Friend overcomes all the danger of child-birth, and carries the expectant mother safely through this critical period without pain. It is woman's greatest blessing. Thousands gratefully tell of the benefit and relief derived from the use of this wonderful remedy. Sold by all druggists at \$1.00 per bottle. Our little book, telling all about this liniment, will be sent free.

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