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Portland, Tuesday, July 11, 1905.
AN ABUSE AND ITS SOURCES.
It is common knowledge that land frauds have been facilitated, almost encouraged, perhaps actively invited, by the loose laws which Congress long ago enacted for disposal of the public lands.

small holdings by actual settlers. The land laws, decisions and practices have become so complicated that the settler is at a marked disadvantage in comparison with the shrewd business man who aims to acquire large properties. Not infrequently their effect is to put a premium on perjury and dishonest methods in the acquisition of land. It is apparent, in consequence, that in very many localities, and perhaps in general, a larger proportion of the public land is passing into the hands of speculators and corporations than into those of actual settlers who are making homes.

Development made through the present trials in Oregon disclose some of the features of the system under which the lands have been passing into the hands of speculators, through the policy of "lands for the landless." But these disclosures are but drops in the great ocean of transactions that have converted hundreds of thousands of single entries into a few great monopoly holdings. It has been possible to wrangle public and official attention to the abuse, so that the abuse might be dealt with in an effective way. Applicants for lands will be careful hereafter. Needless to say, Senators and Representatives will be wary also.

THE PROFESSION OF MEDICINE.
Once there were three learned professions, and only three—theology, law and medicine; now there are many. In one sense, medicine has become a learned profession, for there is none which can be successfully practiced without long study. Even farming, which has been a byword for ages on account of the ignorance of those who made their living by it, begins to rank among the exact sciences. The same field of investigation which yielded glory to Pasteur, Virchow, Koch and Lister, has given agriculture the knowledge of the nitrogen-fixing bacillus. The same general science of biology, which in the nineteenth century so illumined medical theory and rationalized therapeutics, becomes in the brain of a great practical genius like Burbank a guide to the application of new and beneficent species of plants. Pedagogy, or teaching, in the hands of a man who is as humble as those of medicine, has developed a rational theory and exact practice much more slowly. The nurture and discipline of the normal mind are far from that sound basis upon which the treatment of the insane reposes. There is today better medicine for the "mind diseased" than regimen for the mind which needs no physician but only a teacher.

cession. Our literature, dominated half by greed and half by a splintered prudery in form and substance, makes money but not fame. Our physicians march with the vanguard, Marion Sims, founder of gynecology, was an American; Morton, of Boston, pioneer in surgical anesthesia, was an American; Walter Reed, discoverer of the mosquito that transmits the yellow fever germ, was an American. The list is long and glorious; and of the physicians now attending the medical convention in Portland, there are a goodly few whose names posterity will worthily inscribe among these benefactors of their kind.

CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA.
The Kiaz Potemkin is at the bottom of the sea with Rojestvensky's fleet, and the certainly endeavor to keep that freight moving on a downhill grade to tidewater in preference to lifting it over another lofty mountain. Economical operation means increased profit. In the old days when the O. S. N. Co. was alone in its glory in the up-country traffic, rates were so exorbitantly high that the practice of economy was unnecessary, and the prodigality of the O. S. N. Co. and its successor, the O. R. & N. Co., was duplicated by the Northern Pacific when it first began hauling wheat over the Cascade Mountains. But all this has changed, and for several years there has been an ever-increasing tendency to cut out the curves and reduce the grades wherever there is heavy traffic to be moved. This economical policy will still further intensify, and convince the people of Portland or Puget Sound demand it, but because it adds dollars to the profits of the railroad companies, a railroad is needed down the north bank of the Columbia River, because the traffic developing in the Inland Empire will shortly outgrow the facilities of one single-track railroad down the river.

UNPARADISO.
How may a hard whose life is given To writing parodies, arise (Of his soul with a sin unshriven) To Paradise?

Lament of Mount Rainier.
I am the monarch of the range—Rainier The Mighty; fourteen thousand feet and more I rise above the vulgar lowliness Of this terrestrial ball. Though proud am I And sticking far into the vasty heavens, I'm not stuck up at all. The pride of kings Comes natural to me, and who shall say I'm not entitled now to feel my oats?

The second point worth noting is that the call for a free national assembly persists and grows louder. The demand is nearly formulated; it is for a national assembly representing all classes, elected by universal suffrage. History gives no warrant for expecting a general revolution to break out in Russia before this national assembly meets. It is the only apparent means to unify the aspirations and define the purposes of the scattered, helpless population. A really great leader would accomplish the same result with ease.

THE NORTH-BANK ROUTE.
Not since the wonderful days of the Willard regime in the Pacific Northwest has the industrial air of this region been so heavily surcharged with the lightning. Despite the atmospheric secrecy that pervades the inner circles of the railroad headquarters, there are enough straws of information floating around to indicate to a degree the direction of the wind. Four great projects, the completion of either one of which would be of benefit to Portland and the territory around it, are now assuming definite shape. The first is the Snake River branch of the O. R. & N. Co. with an electric-line feeder to the Clearwater; the opening up of the Central Oregon field, either by extension of the Columbia Southern or by an east-west line across the state; the building of the long-overdue Nehalem Railroad; and, last but not least, the building of a line down the north bank of the Columbia River.

The many friends of the late Mrs. J. H. Albert of Salem, have learned with sincere sorrow of her death as the result of an automobile accident in that city a few days ago. A native daughter of Oregon, of pioneer and missionary parentage, Mrs. Albert was widely known and universally respected in the community in which she was born more than three-score years ago, and in which nearly her entire life was passed.

Japan's Gay Geisha Girls.
Leslie's Weekly.
There are many geisha training schools in Japan, the best of them all is, I think, the one in Kioto to which I, with some difficulty, gained admittance. It is apparently a delightful place, but it is a place of unrelenting toil. The girls are apprenticed to these schools by their parents or guardians at the age of sometimes 6 years, and for 18 years, at least, they are put through such a course of training as would break the spirits of girls less invulnerable to unquestioning obedience to authority. The physical training is of great importance and through such little girls must go through such exercises every day as will keep her little body flexible as rubber, and after that is finished she must divide her time in tasks that far exceed in difficulty any schoolgirl work imaginable to one of us. No woman of ordinary mind can possibly become a successful geisha, because she must be able to acquire and make use of every kind of worldly knowledge which will tend to her success in a vocation that will lead men to seek her society.

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As Si Smith says:
Si Smith says, says old Si Smith: "What's the use to worry with 'This you can't in no way keep From a happening?' Don't lose sleep—Makes you thin; let keep a stiff Upper lip, I'll say, and if Things don't suit you, let 'em don't! Grit might hep you—worry won't."

I should say that moping 'round Doesn't pay, on any ground, As Si Smith says.

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Kansas City Star.
The verdict in the Mitchell case is sound and right. The law explicitly forbids Senators to practice before the departments in Washington for pay. It has been established that Senator Mitchell violated this law, and that violation is a punishable offense. The plea that the Oregon Senator is a minor offender in comparison with a number of his fellow Senators who have been corrupted to the same purpose, but whose methods are calculated to protect them against punishment, should not stand in the way of punishment for the sort of violation of public trust of which he is convicted.

Roosting Out the Grifters.
New York Tribune.
The Oregon Senator was unable to realize the true character of the trust committed to him or to appreciate the obligations he owed to the state which had honored him by electing him five times to the United States Senate. With his colleagues he could tearfully protest that his tenderest sensibilities were outraged by the suspicion that he could do or had done anything inconsistent with the highest standards of official and personal integrity. But behind their backs he was trafficking in his office and selling his office-grabbers before they had even taken them against punishment, should not stand in the way of punishment for the sort of violation of public trust of which he is convicted.

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Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.
So far as may be judged from the summary of the evidence printed in the newspapers, there was little ground for reasonable doubt that he had deliberately taken advantage of his influential position to help along the frauds through which hundreds of thousands of acres of public domain were handed over to a few men; and the proof that he acted as counsel for the land-grabbers before the Senate, which seems ample. That this was illegal Mitchell must have known. That he betrayed the interests of the people of his own state for private profit is apparently clear. His advanced age and public disgrace which has been put upon him may have seemed to the jury a sufficient reason for recommending him to mercy. But the Department of Justice manifestly had warrant for its action in indicting him; and it should proceed with equal rigidity against the other "leading citizens" of Oregon who were indicted at the same time.

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Indianapolis News.
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Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin.
Concerning the Senator Mitchell's guilt, there is now no reasonable doubt. He stands before the American people in the light of a man who, though clothed with the high dignity and responsibility of membership in the Senate of the United States, stooped to the low crime of grafting. The testimony upon which he was convicted showed that as a Senator he accepted fees for using his influence on behalf of clients who sought ends which were sometimes antagonistic to those of the people at large. He announced determination to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Thrills.
Puck.
Miss Blueblood—Didn't you thrill with the spirit of '73?
Miss Shopper—No; but I do thrill with the spirit of '13.

EASTERN PAPERS ON MITCHELL TRIAL.

Verdict of the Jury is Commended as Proper—Lessons Drawn From the Senator's Career and Its End.
Dead Sea Fruit.
St. Louis Globe-Democrat.
Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, is convicted of grafting at a time of age. Oregon, on so old a foe can hardly fail to bring bitter apples or Dead Sea fruit.

Offense Harmful to Society.
New York Press.
After the sentence of Mitchell, who seems to have had absolutely no claim to the clemency of the jury save that which is based on his official rank and his age, it should be easy for the Department of Justice to bring to book the criminals who can plead neither senile debility nor their political power as extenuation of offense quite as harmful to society as is any other crime in the code, not excepting murder.

Did Not Examine the Laws.
Topeka State Journal.
All men make mistakes, says Senator Mitchell. One of the mistakes of Senators Burton and Mitchell seems to have been that they did not examine the laws quite close enough before they began to violate them. Senator Thurston assured that Oregon jury with tears in his voice, that Senator Mitchell was a perfectly innocent and upright man. But Senator Mitchell was not upright when he stood from the standpoint of a United States Senator. The jury thought otherwise.

Bad Practice for Congressmen.
New York Globe.
The Federal statute which forbids Congressmen from accepting fees for practice before the departments is based on sufficient reasons. The attorneyship may be legitimately used, but it is a public trust, and it is not to be used as a means to departmental practice. The Federal statute which forbids Congressmen from accepting fees for practice before the departments is based on sufficient reasons. The attorneyship may be legitimately used, but it is a public trust, and it is not to be used as a means to departmental practice.

"Innocent Intentions" Not Credited.
Indianapolis Star.
Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, has been found guilty of accepting money for practicing before Federal departments. It was pleaded in extenuation of his offense that he was an old man, and that whatever crime he had committed was done without any evil intent. Mr. Mitchell has been in active politics for half a century, and has held various offices of trust in Oregon, and has been elected four times elected United States Senator from this state. Therefore, his plea of innocent intentions was not given much weight by the jury that convicted him.

Hard Blow to the Senate.
Pittsburg Dispatch.
Mr. Mitchell is the third Senator to run into collision with the vexatious restraints of the civil law. If the operation continues the public faith in the dignity and infallibility of the Senatorial office may get a severe jar. In this connection it is well to recall the quiet and effective work which Secretary Hitchcock is doing in running down and punishing land frauds. There has been less trumpeting of his effort than of any other Cabinet member, but it has accomplished much more than the less ostentatious pursuit of the land thieves. When the Secretary discovered the existence of fraud and injustice in his conduct, he was confronted with the fact that its affiliations extended into the Senate and high financial and social circles. But attempts to call him off have failed. He was given a peculiarly encouraging example of a man who knows but one duty in such cases, and that is to punish the wrong-doers.

Used His Position for Private Gain.
Philadelphia Enquirer.
There is no reason to doubt the righteousness of the decision thus recorded. It must be assumed that the jury has done justice, and the passionate denial of the charges which have now been sustained, upon the floor of the Senate, can only, if he is to be acquitted of downright lying, be explained upon the assumption that he did not himself realize the extent of his crime. He saw no harm in making the use of his position declared to have done of its official position for the purposes of private gain. Perhaps he knew of others who were doing the same thing, and he was unable to see where in it was illegitimate. Here was a chance to make some money without doing anyone any injury, and he took it and it is safe to say that he bitterly regrets the circumstance. It is an unfortunate fact that the prevailing standard of commercial morality is not high enough to be of any benefit to the public, and as it needs to be, if the name of the country is to be upheld and its property established upon an enduring basis. There are altogether too many men with this notion of right and wrong when it comes to a question of profit.

Lesson Is Deserved.
Omaha Bee.
John H. Mitchell is 70 years old and has been many years in public life, having held several official positions in Oregon and been four times elected to the United States Senate. It is sad to see a man at his time of life, who has been so long prominent in public affairs, convicted of a crime against the Government which will undoubtedly send him to the penitentiary for his remaining years, yet the career of Mitchell as a whole is not best such as to commend such a punishment. He has not been an example, politically or morally, which invites emulation. He was not chosen to walk in the straight and narrow path, but has generally preferred the wide and crooked, and tortuous course. The penalty of this is severe, yet it cannot be doubted that it is deserved, and the lesson of it ought to prove a warning, especially to those in public life. The attorney Mitchell pursued the usual course in moving for a new trial, though probably with no expectation that it will be granted. What other effort they can make to save their client from punishment is impossible to say, but in any event it is not probable that he will any longer represent Oregon in the National Senate. His conviction puts an end to his public career.

The Mitchell Jury's Verdict.
Salem Capital Journal.
Foreman Steiner, of this city, is authority for the statement that the report that the Mitchell jury stood eleven to one for conviction, and took seven ballots before agreeing in not convicting. He says the jury agreed to give out no statement as to how they did stand on the subject of conviction on the first ballot, but that they did stand as published in this paper and the Portland papers.

Of course, if they gave out no statement, the whole matter is conjecture, but if they did not stand eleven to one—and did take seven ballots—all their mistakes have more than one against conviction. However, as to this Mr. Steiner nor has any juror said. The truth of the matter will probably never be made public, nor indeed should it be published. It is published as a fact that only two of the jurors were Republicans, and Senator Mitchell's friends are entitled to that grain of comfort. Finding Mitchell guilty, but recommending him to the mercy of the court was plainly a political sarcasm.

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