

PUTER CAUGHT, BUT FREE AGAIN

Breaks Away After Desperate Struggle.

FOUND BY BURNS IN BOSTON

Suddenly Draws Revolver and Threatens Death.

BURNS CLOSES WITH HIM

Leader of Land Swindlers Slips Out of Grasp of Law Through Blundering of Hub Police in Misunderstanding Orders.

BOSTON, March 26.—Stephen A. D. Puter, of San Francisco, who is wanted by the United States Government as a witness in the land-fraud cases in Oregon, was arrested here tonight by United States Secret Service Agent W. J. Burns, of Washington, D. C., but, after being in custody less than half an hour, Puter drew a revolver and succeeded in escaping.

It is alleged that the Oregon state authorities want Puter, who was a broker, in connection with the forgeries of school certificates involving \$70,000.

Police Make Bad Blunder.

Mr. Burns was detailed by the Government at Washington to come to Boston and search for Puter. He located him and waited at the Fenway branch post-office, where he learned Puter was in the habit of calling for mail addressed to "John H. Brownell." Puter agreed to accompany Mr. Burns to a private room in the postoffice. Mr. Burns understood that Superintendent Swift of the branch office had gone for the police, but it developed later that Mr. Swift understood that Mr. Burns wanted the assistance of the police.

Supposing that two officers were outside the building, Mr. Burns placed Puter under arrest and took him to the sidewalk. After asking a question or two about his removal to Washington, the prisoner suddenly drew a revolver, and leveling it at Mr. Burns' head, exclaimed: "I'll kill you, Burns, if you dare to move."

Struggle With Gun at Breast.

The crowd about the two men was quite dense, but fell back rapidly at the appearance of the revolver, but Mr. Burns, although considerably older than his prisoner, jumped at him and pushed up his hand. Puter struggled and succeeded in slinging the muzzle of the revolver at Mr. Burns' breast for a second time. Again the officer closed with his man, but he could not wrench the weapon away.

Puter finally got free from the grasp of Mr. Burns and gradually backed away, with the revolver still aimed at Mr. Burns. He suddenly turned and darted down the street, followed by the officer and many other persons. The fugitive, however, escaped.

HAD NO PLEDGE OF IMMUNITY

Honey Says Puter Is Dead Shot and Dangerous.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 26.—Francis J. Honey, special prosecutor in the land-fraud cases, said Secret Service Agent W. J. Burns received a tip last week that S. A. D. Puter was in Boston, and Friday night Mr. Burns went north, promising Mr. Honey to bag his man on Tuesday. He made the arrest one day earlier than he expected. Speaking of the case tonight, Mr. Honey said:

"Puter was the ringleader of that crowd of crooked timber thieves that operated so successfully in Oregon. After his conviction along with McKinley and others, these two men confessed to Mr. Burns and myself, on the understanding and agreement that they would not be prosecuted in the remaining cases, provided they told all they knew about the land frauds in Oregon and acted in good faith in aiding the Government to secure convictions. It was stipulated by me that they must suffer punishment in the case in which they had been convicted, and that I would not recommend leniency for them in that case, unless I subsequently concluded that their conduct was such as to entitle them to some leniency."

Senator Teller stated in the Senate a short time ago that Senator Mitchell was convicted upon the testimony of Puter, whom he would not believe under oath. This seems to be a general impression, but the fact is that Puter was not a witness at all in the case in which Mitchell was convicted. The Senator was convicted upon the testimony of his own law partner, Judge Tanner. Puter was not sentenced on his first conviction, a postponement being made pending his use as a witness; he was released on bond. He acted in good faith with the Government. Prior to their disappearance Puter and McKinley kept myself and Mr. Burns posted as to their whereabouts, and had been willing to appear as witnesses for the Government. No trace of Puter was found until a month ago. He will be taken, whenever captured, to Oregon and sentenced for the original conviction in 1904. The penalty for which he is liable can be two years' imprisonment and \$50,000 fine upon each count of the indictment, of which there are several. The chances are he will only get two years. "Puter is a bad character. He is a hard nut and a quick man with a gun. He has a reputation as a dead shot; he is nervy, brave and reckless. When Mr. Burns went to Boston for him I started

CHARGES AGAINST PUTER.

One of First Land Swindlers—Evidence Needed Against Others.

S. A. D. Puter, Horace G. McKinley, Daniel W. Tarpley, Frank H. Walgamot, Harry Barde, Miss Mary L. Ware and Mrs. Emma L. Watson were indicted by the Federal grand jury April 3, 1904, charged with conspiracy to defraud the Government out of a portion of the public domain in connection with illegal operations in township 11 south, range 7 east, Willamette Meridian.

Harry Barr was soon afterwards committed to the State Insane Asylum at Salem, from which he escaped before the cases against the alleged conspirators came to trial, and has never been apprehended.

The trial of the others commenced November 21, 1904, and lasted until December 6, when all the defendants were found guilty, with the exception of McKinley, who pleaded guilty just before the case was submitted to the jury, and Miss Ware, who was acquitted upon the recommendation of Assistant United States Attorney-General Francis J. Honey.

There were additional charges of conspiracy pending against all the defendants, and their second trial under these indictments was set for December 12, at which time their attorneys made a motion to quash the same.

The next day Mr. Honey created a sensation by asking Judge Bellinger to postpone the trial until the next day, supplementing it with the request that the United States grand jury be convened without delay. Judge Bellinger consented, and the grand jury was convened December 12.

In the meantime, Puter, McKinley, Tarpley, Mrs. Watson and Miss Ware are known to have confessed their share of the frauds, and this fact actuated Mr. Honey in postponing their second trials and hurriedly summoning a new grand jury.

The confessions of the gang led subsequently to the indictment of United States Senator John H. Mitchell, Congressman Binger Hermann and J. N. Williamson, besides a host of other more or less prominent politicians and commercially. Both Mitchell and Williamson were convicted, while the trial of Hermann on another charge is about to take place at Washington, D. C., the Oregon cases against him awaiting the result of that case.

Although the verdict of guilty was rendered December 6, 1904, none of the defendants was ever sentenced, Honey holding their convictions over their heads as a lash to make them aid him in the capture of what the Government regarded as bigger game. This phase of the situation is borne out by the subsequent active interest of the defendants in behalf of the Government, their information being looked upon as of vital consequence.

It developed later that Puter and McKinley had been carrying on their illegal operations in connection with the location and sale of state school land, and upon getting wind that the grand jury of Marion County had found indictments against their convictions over their heads as a lash to make them aid him in the capture of what the Government regarded as bigger game. This phase of the situation is borne out by the subsequent active interest of the defendants in behalf of the Government, their information being looked upon as of vital consequence.

OBJECTS TO EXPENSES

Mutual Life's London Manager Resigns Because of Extravagance.

LONDON, March 26.—D. C. Haldeman, British manager of the Mutual Life Company, of New York, has resigned, owing to differences of opinion between himself and the New York office over matters which he considers of vital importance to the British policyholders.

Before resigning, Mr. Haldeman consulted many prominent people of the English public, some of whom are insured for large sums in the Mutual Life. He is still prepared to give his services to the British policyholders in advising the best measures to adopt in their own interests. It is understood he was constantly remonstrated against the extravagance of the working of the company as a whole, as compared with the local branch, where the expenses were only 1.5 per cent of the premium income. His resignation was tendered March 10, to take effect May 1.

TURN TO HUGHES AS THEIR SAVIOR

Republicans of New York Want Him to Run for Governor.

BRACKETT'S BOOM SMALL

Only Danger of Defeat Comes From Party's Divisions, and Great Cross-Examiner Alone Can Unite All Elements.

Hughes Another Roosevelt.

Up-State Democracy Dead.

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described the political situation in these words: "Our party now confronts practically the same conditions that came near wrecking us in 1888. At that time we had a big majority in both Senate and Assembly and a Republican Governor, Frank S. Black, who was personally honest and unobjectionable. But the Governor's honesty did not help him, for he was ruined by his political friends. The bad characters of the men he had appointed to office prevented him from being renominated, and the only thing that saved us was putting Theodore Roosevelt as the head of the ticket. His independence, together with his own record, for he had practically won the battlefield to the stump, gave us the votes that spelled success.

"Governor Higgins is in the same fix. Superintendent of Insurance Hendricks is discredited. So is Superintendent of Banks Kilburn. The sad part of the matter, from the Governor's standpoint, is that he originally appointed neither of them. Hendricks was put in office by Roosevelt and Kilburn by Morton, and at the time both were regarded as admirable selections; but the man now in office must take the blame for their faults and their misdeeds.

"I am convinced that we need another Roosevelt this year, and so is everybody else I meet, and the name on every lip is Hughes. True, I never met him in my life, and know nothing whatever about him except that he is the most wonderful cross-examiner I ever heard about. What he would do if he got in office is more than I would even venture to predict. He is originally appointed neither of them. Hendricks was put in office by Roosevelt and Kilburn by Morton, and at the time both were regarded as admirable selections; but the man now in office must take the blame for their faults and their misdeeds.

"The great question before the people during the coming campaign," they declare, "will relate to the enforcement of reforms in the method of life insurance in the state. We recall with pride that, except for the persistent work, the unending honesty, the conscientious independence and the splendid courage of this man, who for years carried on the fight alone, there would have been neither insurance investigation nor the aroused public sentiment that made that investigation a success."

While Mr. Brackett is thoroughly willing to be regarded as the "only original plunger," there are others who dispute his claims, and nobody expects for a moment that he will be nominated. Both parties in New York State are now hard at work looking for a political Moses. Senator Brackett is willing to take the job, more willing than the party managers are to give it to him.

Look to Hughes as Moses.

The general sentiment of the voters throughout the state seems to favor Charles E. Hughes, and he is being industriously boomed as the only man who can certainly carry the state. Mr. Hughes has never held a political office of any kind or description in his life, but his masterly conduct of two state investigations has won the admiration of the voters. A year ago, outside of his immediate circle of friends, Mr. Hughes was unknown. Now if he will take the nomination he can have it.

But Mr. Hughes has maintained a diplomatic silence. Even his intimates do not know whether he possesses political ambitions or not. Last Fall he refused to run for Mayor, but that was a practically hopeless proposition, and besides he was tied up with the insurance investigation. Will he decline to run for Governor? It is an honor that up to date no man in New York has refused, but Mr. Hughes may establish a precedent.

Joseph H. Choate is being discussed, but despite his admittedly great ability the leaders say he would not be a vote-getter, because of the false impression that he is a corporation lawyer, and oh! how the people hate corporations and corporation lawyers!

Republicans in Bad Fix.

A New York City district leader today

SOON SET DATE TO VOTE ON RATES

Senate Draws Near End of Debate and Tillman Urges Action.

NO HURRY ON AMENDMENTS

Scott Wants Compulsory Track Contributions, Foraker Would Prohibit Passes, Culberson Forbid Contributions.

Wants Time Fixed for Vote.

Delays Vote on Amendments.

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there should be no vote on any amendment, and Culberson assented to this decision as fair.

Tillman responded that he would tomorrow ask the Senate to fix a time to vote, and that, when that decree was issued, he would prepare an order of proceeding for submission to the Senate.

Some Rate Bill Sure to Pass.

Teller referred to the pressure for action, but expressed the opinion that the Senate should not be influenced by House clamor. "On one thing we may be certain," he said, "and that is that some rate bill will become a law before the final adjournment of Congress."

The Colorado Senator expressed the opinion that no Senator was opposed to a review of the decisions of the Interstate Commerce Commission by the courts. The difference of opinion referred only to the method of proceeding. He referred to the charge that many of the Senators were railroad attorneys and added:

"I have no doubt that a large number of Senators have been railroad attorneys, and possibly some of them have been railroad presidents. Before coming to the Senate, I have no prejudice against railroads, but on the contrary, recognize their instrumentality in building up the country. I do not intend that any demand from anybody should cause me to do any injustice either to the roads or the shippers. We should not be forced into action until we are prepared to act. What we want is railroad regulation, not railroad destruction."

New Bill for Appeals.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The Senate committee on judiciary today reported favorably a bill providing for appeals from interdictory orders or decrees. The measure is almost identical with a bill that recently passed the House.

LIVE AMERICAN BEAUTY

SHE SPRINGS FROM ROSE AT MILLER'S BANQUET.

Millionaire Whom Fitzsimmons Accused of Winning Away Wife Gives Unique Entertainment.

NEW YORK, March 26.—(Special.)—It leaks out today that Major C. J. S. Miller, of Franklin, Pa., was host at a unique banquet at the Hoffman last night. Major Miller is the man of whom Joe Fitzsimmons said harsh things. The banquet was given to pay a debt and the floral decorations cost a small fortune. Surrounding the table were seven gorgeously gowned women, whose names were not disclosed, and the following men: Count von Beroldingen, Major Miller, Prince de Drago of Italy, Marquis de Torres Hermon of Spain, Count de Gastero of Paris, Baron de Guild, Colonel Monaghan of Austria and Russell Hopkins.

One of the guests said afterward there never before was such a banquet. One of the many features of the affair gives an idea of what it was like. It consisted of a monstrous American Beauty rose, which, when carried in by four waiters and deposited upon the banquet table, opened, permitting a bejeweled, blonde woman to emerge.

BURIED IN RUINS OF HOME

Oklahoma Farmer and Wife Terribly Injured by Tornado.

GUTHRIE, Okla., March 26.—A special to the Capital from Perry says: Three persons sustained injuries that may prove fatal and thousands of dollars' worth of property was destroyed in a tornado that struck the neighborhood south of Billings, Okla., at 10 o'clock Sunday night. Telephone and telegraph wires are down in all directions, and particulars are practically unobtainable. None of the victims has died, according to last reports.

Mr. and Mrs. James Russell were critically hurt as they lay in bed. The home was literally blown to pieces over their heads, and they were buried in the ruins. Mrs. Sam Merrill sustained serious injuries in a similar manner.

A cloud was seen first south of Billings. It split, part of the funnel going toward Red Rock and the other swooping down north of Ceres. The Russell home was directly in the path of the tornado. The substantial farmhouse was twisted and wrenched and fell in on the occupants. The outbuildings were all cleared away.

WIFE OF TRACTION MAGNATE GETS DIVORCE.

Mrs. Henry E. Huntington. The divorce suit which Mrs. Henry E. Huntington filed against her husband, the millionaire traction magnate, in San Francisco, created a sensation in California. The case was tried and the divorce granted in seven minutes. Destruction was given by Mrs. Huntington as the cause of her desire to be separated from the nephew of Collis P. Huntington. No announcement was made as to the financial settlement made, but it is understood that Mr. Huntington paid his former wife several million dollars. In Los Angeles, where Mr. Huntington has large interests, gossip is rife that when the year of the statute has elapsed there will be a new Mrs. Huntington.

LAND-FRAUD CRIMINAL WHO ESCAPED AFTER HIS ARREST IN BOSTON



S. A. D. PUTER.

STANDARD MEN CONFESS FACTS

Clean Breast of Missouri Monopoly.

JOHN D. WILLING TO TESTIFY

Wants Court to Go to Lakewood to Hear Him.

AUDITOR MAKES ADMISSION

Standard Men Sent to Audit Accounts of Pretended Competitors. All Companies Have Offices in One Building.

NEW YORK, March 26.—John D. Archbold, vice-president of the Standard Oil Company, was the principal witness today in the hearing being conducted by Attorney-General Hadley, of Missouri, before United States Commissioner Sanborn. In response to Mr. Hadley's direct question: "Who is the active head of the Standard Oil Company?" Mr. Archbold replied that there was "no master mind" in the Standard Oil Company; that it consisted of "an aggregation of individuals."

Mr. Archbold also volunteered the statement that John D. Rockefeller knew nothing about the matters concerning the present suit, but that, if Mr. Hadley wished to go to Lakewood and question him, he would find Mr. Rockefeller willing to answer any questions.

Mr. Hadley interrupted this statement with the remark: "There is only one way to examine witnesses here." Wade Hampton, general auditor of the Standard Oil Company, testified he had on various occasions sent men from his office to audit the accounts of the Waters-Pierce Company and that, while so employed, the men were on the payroll of the company. The same course was pursued in auditing the books of the Standard Oil Company in Indiana.

No Master of Standard Oil.

Mr. Archbold protested against being sketched, and the artists desisted. Mr. Archbold said M. M. Van Buren is his son-in-law, and is now in New York. Soon after he stated that a process-server left the room. Mr. Archbold said that John D. Rockefeller is president of the Standard Oil Company, but has taken no active interest in the business affairs in some years, owing to ill health. He has an office at 26 Broadway, but is seldom there.

"Who is the active head of the Standard Oil Company?" asked Attorney-General Hadley. "There is no master mind in the Standard Oil Company," replied Mr. Archbold, raising his voice. "It is made up of an aggregation of individuals."

The business is controlled by men, experts in their respective departments, he said, and the term committee as applied to the various departments is a misnomer. H. M. Tilford, Mr. Archbold thought, is the principal individual in the domestic trades, and he has been connected with the Standard Oil Company since 1855.

Competitors of the Standard. Asked concerning the stock of the Waters-Pierce Oil Company, now in the name of Mr. Van Buren, Mr. Archbold said it was the 250 shares formerly held in the names of the Standard Oil trustees.

"Are you familiar with the product of oil in this country?" asked Attorney-General Hadley. "I am."

"The daily production of crude oil in the United States is about 300,000,000 gallons, and the Standard Oil produces about one-seventh."

"And about the refined product?" "The Standard Oil probably sells and markets about 70 per cent of it, and I want to add," continued Mr. Archbold, "that wherever there is a Standard Oil refinery in the United States, there is a competitive refinery in that section. There is a great deal of competition in the oil business. The competition of course is greatest in the big oil region of Pennsylvania."

Attorney-General Hadley asked Mr. Archbold concerning the men who composed the various boards of directors of the Standard Oil companies, including Francis D. Carley, Colonel W. T. Thompson, Horace D. Hutchins, D. S. Cowles and H. M. Tilford. These men had all been at one or another time connected with the Standard Oil Company, principally, however, about 1870.

"Who composed the original board of directors of the Standard Oil Company under Mr. Hadley?" "John D. Rockefeller, Charles Pratt, William E. Woods, H. M. Brewster, J. A. Bostwick, O. H. Payne and myself."

Tinsley's Journey to Spain. Mr. Archbold said that he knew R. P. Tinsley and that he is connected with the Waters-Pierce Oil Company, but the witness had never heard him designated as an agent nor had he ever heard of Walter Jennings as an agent. The witness believed Tinsley left the Waters-Pierce Company to go with the Standard Oil Company, and now is on his way to Japan. "He left for Spain about the time or a

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