

## HIGH OFFICIALS CONCEAL FRAUD

### Astounding Story Told at Salt Lake.

### BAD FOR WYOMING SENATORS

### Men at Head of Land Office Shield Thieves.

### HEADED OFF ALL INQUIRY

### Men Hired by Wagon Leads to Perjure Themselves That Union Pacific and Rio Grande Railroads Might Grab Coal Land.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Nov. 28 (Special).—An astounding story of fraud and corruption reaching to the very heart of the General Land Office and apparently permeating its every branch was told in detail before the Interstate Commerce Commission here today. Witnesses who are in the employ of the Land Office, witnesses who stood proof against the malign influences which corrupted many of their fellow-employees, acting on orders issued directly by E. A. Hitchcock, Secretary of the Interior, took the stand and told the Commissioner of their fruitless efforts to fight the "system" which powerful influences had built up with a view to robbery.

The tale which these witnesses told left no doubt in the minds of hearers that there were certain corporations and certain men in high places who were able completely to control appointments in the Land Office and the official acts of this division of the Government.

### Hitchcock Proves Inquiry.

Thus far not even the breath of suspicion has been cast upon Secretary Hitchcock, who is now bending every effort toward a complete exposure of the guilty persons. The testimony, however, has been of such a character as to create amazement that such things could be done for years without the complete knowledge of the head of a department. Apparently, however, Mr. Hitchcock is doing all in his power to assist the Commission and to make amends for the corruption which has apparently existed in the General Land Office.

### No Immunity for Williams.

When Commissioner Clark resumed his investigation today, E. M. Allison, attorney for the Rio Grande system, made the request that H. C. Williams, general manager of the Utah Fuel Company, a Gould corporation, be summoned before Mr. Clark as a witness. Mr. Allison stated that the chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington had communicated with Mr. Williams' superior officer in Washington and asked that Mr. Williams testify before Mr. Clark. J. T. Marchand, who is conducting the Government's case before Mr. Clark, flatly refused to examine Mr. Williams, stating that he did not propose to render Mr. Williams immune to future action. At the request of Mr. Marchand, Mr. Clark also refused to give testimony at the present time. Mr. Cook, a mining operator, and William D. Foster, secretary to Robert Forrester, a geologist in the employ of one of the coal companies under investigation. It was stated that these men would be asked to appear before the grand jury.

### Implicates Senators and Officials.

Sensational testimony was given by Michael A. Myendorff, a special agent of the Government, who began an investigation of the coal land frauds in Utah and who, before he had completed his investigations, was transferred to Los Angeles and then to Portland, Or. Mr. Myendorff presented an affidavit in which he told of effects made by influential men to induce him to cease his investigation of the coal land frauds. He named Senators Warren and Clarke, of Wyoming; Commissioner Richards, of the General Land Office; and George F. Pollock, Chief of Department of Interior, Washington.

### Will Spend Time Resting

#### Peary Insists Only Dog Sledges Can Reach Pole.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—Lieutenant-Commander Robert E. Peary returned to his home here tonight after his long absence on his Arctic expedition. He was accompanied by Mrs. Peary.

### Damage Proves Only Slight.

SYDNEY, N. S., Nov. 28.—An examination into the condition of the bottom of the Arctic steamer Roosevelt disclosed the fact that she is in much better condition than was thought. Her bottom was found only slightly damaged. The planks are in good condition. Two hatches of the propeller are gone, but the steamer will not require any repairs before she resumes the voyage to New York. Captain Bartlett expects to sail tomorrow for New York.

## CONGRESS TO ACT ON CHINESE ISSUE

### Bitter Debate on Exclusion Predicted.

### CHINA READY FOR OFFENSE

### Denby Bill Favored by Many Congressmen.

### SPONSOR KNOWS SUBJECT

### Sen of Ex-Minister Would Require All Privileged Chinese to Get Certificates From Consuls Before Sailing.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—(Special).—Congress will be compelled, early in the coming session, to face the question of Chinese exclusion. It faced it last Winter, but despite the fact that the President urged action, the lawmakers turned their backs to the subject and weakly put off the evil day of double evil possibly, for the Chinese matter will be discussed with all the bitterness that discussion is bound to provoke, at the same time that the State Department is trying its best to straighten out the Japanese tangle. We are to have both the Oriental nations watching us at once, ready, as they always are, to take offense.

### Denby Bill Favored.

The committee on foreign affairs will take up two bills at the outset of the coming session, and unquestionably one or the other will be reported for favorable consideration of the House. One was drawn by Representative Edwin Denby, of Detroit, who had the assistance of his brother, Charles Denby, chief clerk of the State Department. The Denby brothers lived for years in China, where their father was the American Minister. They are in thorough touch with Chinese conditions, and Congressional acknowledgment is made that the measure is based on sound reason.

### Could Not Get Hermann to Act.

Colonel P. S. Sowers, a special agent of the Land Office, was again called as a witness and told of his inability to induce the Land Office to act in matters relating to coal land. Witness told of numerous letters written to the Land Commissioner and of the submission of affidavits bearing on land frauds and suggestions that investigations be made, but his letters were not answered. In November, 1902, he reported in relation to land which eventually was transferred to the Pleasant Valley Coal Company, a Gould corporation. Witness testified that he had recommended action against Robert Forrester, geologist for the Pleasant Valley Coal Company, but was informed by the department that the facts did not warrant prosecution.

Following this, in January, 1905, he testified, he was asked by the department to tender his resignation. In response he wrote to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, calling attention to the gross laxness in probing the coal-land scandals in Utah, but he received no reply. He resigned from the service, but later was reinstated, he testified, at the request of George A. Sutherland, then attorney for the Pleasant Valley Coal Company and now United States Senator from Utah.

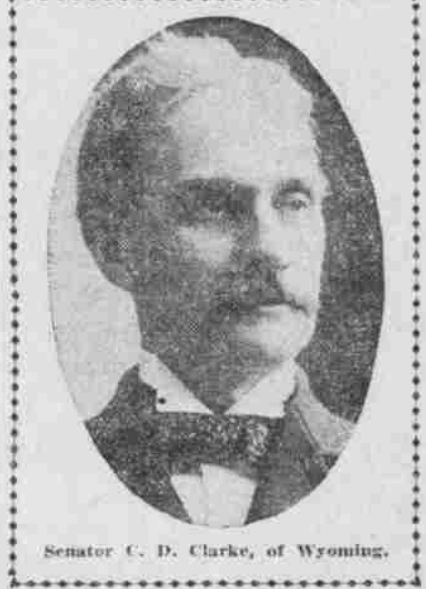
### Clark Blocks Allison's Game.

Mr. Clark, who had evidently been getting information during the recess, this afternoon explained the Williams incident by saying that President Knapp of the commission had asked Manager Jeffrey, of the Rio Grande, whether Mr. Colton, a former manager of the Utah Fuel Company, could furnish certain information to the commission. Mr. Jeffrey had replied, according to Mr. Clark:

"Mr. Colton is no longer with the Fuel Company, but you can get any information Mr. Colton had from Mr. Williams."

### Perjury at \$4 a Head.

Mr. Myendorff's affidavit alleges that on one occasion 77 affidavits were taken into office in the Union Depot at Denver before W. I. Gifford, agent of the Union Pacific, and signed their names to powers of attorney, relinquishments and affidavits which were used to acquire title to coal land in Wyoming. Some of these men, it was asserted, signed fictitious names. The men who signed received \$4 each for their trouble. The Myendorff affidavit included affidavits made by a Denver saloon-keeper named Bartlett and Victor Le Bat, an expressman of Denver, stating how a wagonload of these men had been picked up on Seventeenth street in Denver and driven to the offices in the Union Depot. After they had signed the papers, Bartlett collected \$1 from each man for his trouble in getting them together, each man retaining \$3.



Senator C. D. Clarke, of Wyoming.

## SCHMITZ RETURNS AS A PRISONER

### Loyal Friends Give Him Warm Welcome.

### THOUSANDS WAIT FOR HOURS

### Mayor of San Francisco Denounces His Accusers.

### BLAMES THE NEWSPAPERS

### Addresses Great Audience in Dreamland Pavilion—Political Conspiracy His Cry—Many Speeches Made at Midnight Meeting.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 28.—Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz, who out of his European trip to Russia had to face the charge of extortion and grafting on which he was indicted by the grand jury during his absence, was warmly welcomed on his arrival at 12 o'clock tonight. From 7 o'clock in the evening until after midnight, 600 people, among them many women, crowded the Dreamland pavilion to his fullest capacity and hour after hour waited with remarkable patience for the Mayor's arrival.

### Big Crowd Dwindles Away.

At the Ferry about 800 persons, headed by a reception committee, gathered early in the evening to welcome the returning Mayor. But as hour after hour passed and the Mayor's train was announced as being later and later, the chilly wind drove most of the crowd home, until it had dwindled to the reception committee and about 200 persons.

### Defended by Dr. Yorke.

Speeches were made by the Rev. Peter C. Yorke, Hon. Samuel M. Shorrbridge and others, interspersed by music by a band to entertain and hold the crowd. Dr.

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## NETTLETON APPROVES ROOSEVELT'S ACT

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### GOT FACTS AT BROWNSVILLE

### Cowardly Conspiracy to Terrorize the Town.

### MARTYRS' HALO NOT THEIRS

### Former Assistant Secretary of Treasury Reports Strongly Against Discharged Troops After Inquiry on Scene of Riot.

BROWNSVILLE, Tex., Nov. 28.—Because of the apparent misunderstanding in portions of the country of the facts which called forth the order discharging the three companies of colored troops recently stationed here, and in view of the resultant criticism of the President's course in the matter, the citizens' committee of Brownsville recently requested General A. B. Nettleton of Chicago, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, now here on business, to make in his own way a thorough and disinterested investigation of the Brownsville tragedy of August 13 and report his conclusions. General Nettleton has embodied his findings in a letter to the Secretary of War. He says in part:

### No Provocation Given.

After summarizing facts hitherto published as to the killing of one citizen, the maiming of the Chief of Police, the firing of volleys into and through hotels, saloons and many private residences and the terrorizing of the entire town, the letter continues:

"Well attested evidence is that the colored troops were treated here with the same consideration that colored soldiers of the hearing are given in every other part of the Northern States, that on the other hand the street conduct of some of them was often aggressive and carelessly hostile toward white men and women; that there was no provocation for the murderous raid by the soldiers, unless it can be called a provocation that the drinkers among them were provided with separate cars in saloons and that on one occasion individual insolence was resented by individual citizens. It is a matter of common knowledge that the colored troops have been Republican Federal officials. There was no 'riot' and no street row," as many newspapers have stated, "with the occurrence. It was simply a most cowardly conspiracy to terrify, wound and kill by offending the women and children at the hour of midnight, when defense or resistance was impossible and was not even attempted. Evidently not an opposing shot was fired."

### Approves Roosevelt's Course.

General Nettleton's letter sharply raises the question what were the white officers of the garrison doing at the night of the raid, and closes thus:

In view of the facts as I find them here, the persistent attempt on the part of some to make matters of a poor sort of discharged men would be appalling. It were not grotesque. The conspiracy to offend the women and children in certain saloons and that on one occasion individual insolence was resented by individual citizens. It is a matter of common knowledge that the colored troops have been Republican Federal officials. There was no 'riot' and no street row," as many newspapers have stated, "with the occurrence. It was simply a most cowardly conspiracy to terrify, wound and kill by offending the women and children at the hour of midnight, when defense or resistance was impossible and was not even attempted. Evidently not an opposing shot was fired."

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## SCANDAL IN FAMINE FUND

### RUSSIAN MINISTER ACCUSED OF ROBBING HUNGRY.

### Gave Contract for Food Above Market Price—Cabinet May Drive Him From Office.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 28.—The recent exposure of gross irregularities in the matter of the disbursement of relief in the famine-stricken provinces, coming as it does at a time when harrowing descriptions of the sufferings of the starving are reaching St. Petersburg, is threatening to result in a scandal which may involve a member of the Cabinet, and which, it is believed, will have influence in the coming elections.

The Novoe Vremya has taken the lead in the agitation, and with great indignation it hurled the reproach that the funds for relief voted by Parliament have been misused.

The affair developed into a sensation of the highest order when it was reported that the Council of Ministers, which met today, had summoned Assistant Minister of the Interior Gurko and demanded an explanation of how the relief funds were expended. M. Gurko, it is said, heatedly refused to reply and retorted that he would explain only to the Emperor. The rumor that M. Gurko had been forced to resign was denied by the Official Telegraph, but the report is current that he cannot survive and that he will be denied his post, as the Cabinet is loath to shouldering the responsibility for his alleged malfeasance before the elections.

### Calls on Penrose to Explain.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—The War Department has called on Major Penrose, of the Twenty-fifth Regiment at Fort Reno for an explanation of the statement alleged to have been made by him in a newspaper interview to the effect that the dismissed battalion of that regiment was the best battalion in the United States Army.

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Nov. 28.—"I am being investigated and any report I have to make will be sent to Washington. I have nothing to say now."

Major Penrose declined either to confirm or deny the report that he had characterized the discharged negro troops as the best battalion in the United States Army.

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## AN IDEAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

