

PUTER'S BOOK'S OFF THE PRESSES

"Looters of Public Domain" Grilled in Volume of Nearly 500 Pages.

WRITTEN IN PRISON CELL

Charge That the Northern Pacific Grabbed 320,000 Acres, Though Congressional Act Included in Oregon Land-Fraud History.

S. A. D. Puter's book, "Looters of the Public Domain," a comprehensive exposition of the Oregon land-frauds, has been published and placed on sale. It is an elaborate compilation and contains much of detail regarding wholesale land grabbing in this state, which has not heretofore been published. It consists of nearly 500 pages and includes about 200 splendid illustrations, among which is a steel engraved frontispiece of Francis J. Heney, besides half-tones and nine etchings of all of the principal actors in the land-fraud drama. The complete title of the book is: "Looters of the Public Domain; by S. A. D. Puter, King of the Oregon Land-Fraud Ring, in Collaboration with Horace Stevens. Practically all of the manuscript for Puter's portion of the work was written in a prison cell, while the land-grabber was an inmate of the Multnomah County Jail, under a two-year sentence for conspiracy to defraud the Government of its public lands. Aside from the numerous captions, the book contains approximately 475,000 words. Mr. Puter, "the land-fraud king," spares neither friend nor foe in his interesting and sensational recitals, and leaves very little to the imagination in any of his exposures, which require 25 chapters for him to describe, besides six chapters that are handled by Stevens personally. The latter also wrote the introduction, which contains about 500 words. Owing to the vast amount of reading matter in the book, together with the extent of its sensational revelations, it would be impossible to cover the various features with any degree of completeness without extended comment upon each subject.

Oregon and California; N. H. Withers, of La Crosse, Wis., and William H. Bradley, of Tomahawk, Wis. (since deceased), besides several other Eastern lumbermen. A complete history of the famous township "11-7" conspiracy is given, and much that has never heretofore seen the light of day is presented in the chapter relating to these frauds. It was in connection with this case that Puter and his associates were convicted by a jury in the Federal Court on December 6, 1904, and the trial of the defendants marked the first appearance of Francis J. Heney in Oregon as a public prosecutor. In his account of the trial and conviction of the "11-7" gang, Puter declares that himself and associates were to be sacrificed as a burnt offering for the sins of those "higher up," and that ex-United States Attorney John H. Hall was to be the high priest at the ceremony. Hall is also accused of being actuated by animosity against the defendants on account of the failure of Puter and McKinley to pay him \$500 for having the indictments against them dismissed.

Story of Burns' Darling. The story of Puter's capture by Secret Service Agent William J. Burns at the Fenway branch postoffice in Boston on the night of March 25, 1906, and his subsequent escape from the famous, Government sleuth, will doubtless create considerable of a stir, as it differs markedly from any account heretofore given publicly. According to Puter, there was a fierce battle on the sidewalk between Burns and himself, for possession of the latter's revolver, and when the land-fraud king got the upper



Stephen A. D. Puter, whose book is out.

Northern Pacific Singled Out. The Northern Pacific Railroad Company is alleged to have been responsible for securing the passage by Congress of an act creating Mount Rainier National Park, whereby it is charged that corporation, by the exclusive privileges conferred by the act, was enabled to grab about 220,000 acres of valuable timber lands in Idaho, as well as 120,000 acres in Idaho, and about 100,000 acres in Washington. C. A. Smith and various other wealthy lumbermen are shown up and the part they played in robbing the people of Oregon of their possessions. The celebrated "11-7" case is given in detail with an explanation of his confession to Heney differs materially from that already published. Of especial interest is the chapter in which Puter in his own words tells of his escape from Burns in Boston. Roosevelt's forestry policy is defended vigorously and ex-Secretary Hitchcock is given credit for his efforts to suppress the land steals in this state.

Big Land Graft Charged. A fierce attack is made upon the Northern Pacific Railroad Company for its alleged scheme of securing the passage of the Congressional act of March 2, 1899, creating the Mt. Rainier National Park, whereby it is claimed the corporation was granted exclusive privileges in the matter of making lieu selections, thus enabling it to grab 20,000 acres of the best timber land in Oregon, with only about 20 miles of completed roadbed in this state, the act providing that the railway company should have the right to make such selections in any state penetrated by its lines. In this way it is charged that 120,000 acres were also acquired in Idaho, besides 100,000 acres in Washington, in exchange for worthless holdings in the Mt. Rainier forest reserve. The Northern Pacific is accused further of having employed bulldozing tactics in preventing settlers from obtaining a foothold in unsurveyed townships in the states named, and instances are cited to sustain this contention. Incidentally, it is hinted that R. A. Ballinger, late Commissioner of the General Land Office, who resigned March 4 last and was succeeded by Fred Dennett, was friendly to the Northern Pacific in the matter of its lieu selections, and that his appointment to the office was part of a game to secure their approval by the Land Department in Washington, D. C.

One of the most interesting chapters in the book relates to Puter's motives for aiding the Government against his former pals, wherein he describes the manner in which Fred A. Krebs was driven into a corner and forced to "pouch" on his associates. In this way the evidence against Senator Mitchell was secured, resulting in his conviction for accepting fees for expediting patents to the fraudulent timber entries that had been made in behalf of C. A. Smith. Puter declares openly that had F. P. Mays, Willard N. Jones and F. A. Krebs not turned a cold shoulder upon him after his conviction in the 11-7 case and had come to his rescue with bonds on that occasion, he would have been the last person on earth to have exposed them, but having been "turned down like a white chip" by this trio, as he expresses it, after having been long implicated with them in fraudulent land transactions, their indifference to his fate, aroused all the vindictiveness in his nature, and he went to Heney on his own volition and secured the information that has sounded the doom of the Oregon land frauds. This view of the situation is at direct variance with Lincoln Steffens' recent version of the matter in the American Magazine, wherein William J. Burns is given full credit for having brought about Puter's so-called confessions.

A. B. Hammond Mentioned, Too. A great deal of unwritten history pertaining to the land frauds appears throughout the book, a considerable portion of which will have a tendency to cause much anxiety in various quarters. Details of a well-laid plot to raid the public domain in the Deschutes country during 1902-3 are given, wherein Puter secured financial backing from several prominent capitalists to acquire title to 11,250 acres of magnificent timber land for speculative purposes. Among those mixed up in this affair, according to the author, was A. B. Hammond, the wealthy Pacific Coast lumberman, who has vast property interests throughout

GOOD THINGS IN PORTLAND MARKETS

BY LILLIAN TINGLE.

THERE was a good supply of wild pigeons when I made my market rounds, but I cannot say for certain whether they are available today, for the owner was debating in his mind the wisdom of shipping the whole lot to Seattle. "Nearly all the 'bon-ton's' have gone up there to see the fleet," he said, "and people are always more anxious for choice things to eat when they are away and don't kick about prices either. Then they'll come back and tell what fine meals they had and ask why they can't get the same things at home."

I don't know what the price will be to those "bon-ton's" in Seattle, but in Portland the pigeons were sold at 75 cents a pair. The slight of them suggested the "wilde lauben mit spargel-pitzen" (wild pigeons with spargel tips), which is one of the famous dishes in a certain well-known German watering place noted for "good eating." There was nothing else of any special note in the flesh and fowl line and poultry prices were unchanged. In the fish department, however, there was plenty of variety—salmon, sea trout, arctic bass, black bass, halibut, rock cod, black cod, shad, sturgeon, croppies, perch, flounders, sole, catfish, crabs, shrimps and clams. The prices are about the same as last week. Shad roe is 25 cents a pound. Don't forget the delicious things—croquettes, scallops, salads, timbale and sandwich fillings—that can be made from it. The price of strawberries has supposedly been kept up by the recent cold weather. Some were 10 cents a box, but the best ones still ran as high as 20 cents. There were Oregon cherries at 15 cents a pound and others at 20 cents. Gooseberries cost 10 cents a pound; rhubarb, five or six pounds for 25 cents. Of foreign fruits the newest were small mangoes from Mexico. Mangoes are delicious when you know how to choose and eat them. I saw one man, however, who did not appreciate them. In a lordly "hang-the-expense" sort of way he flung down the nickel entitling him to one, and promptly took a bite. Was he disappointed in the flavor or did he knock his pet tooth on the stone? I only know that he muttered a word best not recorded and that the mango went suddenly a-flying into the middle of the street.

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Raxony is the most densely populated of the German states, having had at the time of the last census (1906) a population of 2,067 a square kilometer. The average of the whole empire is 112 a square kilometer. Owing to the spreading by rats of trichinosis among swine the German Imperial Government has issued a decree for the extermination of the rat in any district where trichinosis occurs. In Texas the state imposes a tax of 50 per cent on the gross proceeds of the sale of firearms. None is therefore for sale. They are "rented" for 50 years at the regular sale price.