

ANOTHER SCHEME OF LEGAL GRAFT

Henry E. G. Cooke, Operating in New York, Arrested at Baker City.

\$2000 FROM \$100 INVESTED

Stock Sold in Oregon Ranching & Timber Co.—Entrymen Brought to State to File on Land Which Was to Go to Cooke.

Henry E. G. Cooke has been arrested at Baker City, Idaho, returned by a Federal grand jury of New York state charging conspiracy to defraud the Government of public lands located in this state.

Cooke is the official head of the Oregon Ranching & Timber Company and the Southwest Texas Development Company, with headquarters at New York City. He is charged with organizing a fraudulent scheme for acquiring several thousand acres of valuable timberlands in Eastern Oregon. A Deputy United States Marshal has gone to Baker City and unless Cooke furnishes the required bonds he will be brought to this city and lodged in jail awaiting further instructions from the East.

Cooke's alleged plan of operating surpassed the nerve land-grabbing tactics heretofore employed in this state by C. A. Smith and other millionaire timberland speculators of Minnesota and Wisconsin, to say nothing of those of the smaller looters, who were disclosed in the public land-fraud investigations. Cooke is said to have operated in Oregon under the name of the Oregon Ranching & Timber Company and it is reported, in the execution of his scheme brought a carload of New York men out here to enter on the desired lands.

Entrymen were secured by means of correspondence accompanied by a prospectus compiled by the enterprising promoter, who promised through his "get-rich-quick" scheme to guarantee those participating a return of \$2000 from an investment of \$100 and all within 90 days.

By means of circular letters Cooke induced various persons to purchase shares of stock in the Oregon Ranching & Timber Company for which \$100 was to be paid. On this stock as collateral the company had secured \$400,000 in necessary funds to file on and complete proof on a quarter-section of Oregon timberland. Under these terms the entrymen were brought to Oregon, flying the necessary money to Cooke's ranch at a rate of \$1 a day. The terms of the written contract entered into by the entrymen and Cooke provided that the former should receive \$3000 net when final proof to the land was made and deeded to Cooke.

In his circular letter Cooke frankly admitted that the transaction was a questionable one but he said the Government had knowledge of his operations but was unable to interfere for the reason that to all purposes they were entirely "legal."

COURT UPHOLDS HUMANE LAW

Wolverton Declares Valid Statute Relating to Stock in Transit.

Judge Wolverton yesterday upheld the constitutionality of the Federal statute of 1906 imposing a penalty on transportation companies for the unnecessary continuous transit for more than 28 hours without rest, water and feed. The question was raised in the consideration of a demurrer filed by the Oregon Cattle Company in a suit filed by the United States Attorney for violating the law in the shipment of a carload of 31 hogs. The demurrer was overruled by Judge Wolverton holding that the law originated from the promptings of humanity and the protection that belonged to the owner of cattle against the loss that resulted from the inconsiderate treatment of stock while in transit.

In another case, involving a violation of the same statute, the Oregon Cattle Company had applied for an interpretation of the law as to whether it contemplated a penalty for each carload of cattle included in a shipment. In accordance with a recent decision by the Court of Appeals, Judge Wolverton ruled that where several shipments belonging to different owners are included in the same train by which the law is transgressed, a penalty is recoverable from each shipment only and not each car. The penalty for the violation of this statute is \$50 for each shipment.

THOUGHTS BEFORE WORDS

Writer Defends Mrs. Fiske's Indistinct Enunciation.

PORTLAND, July 11.—(To the Editor.)—After reading The Oregonian editorial on "Mrs. Fiske's Indistinct Enunciation" I am surprised to find that your thoughts on the subject of enunciation and distinct speaking.

Can any one under the sway of complex and intense emotion think to speak distinctly? Does not the voice choke up and become almost inaudible under extreme excitement and feeling? Mrs. Fiske's performance would be spoiled if she had allowed her thoughts to dwell one moment on distinct speaking. What reason have you to suppose that Rebecca spoke distinctly? In her thoughts, back of the lines. In fact they prompt the lines. There is where Mrs. Fiske's genius lies. Watch her face and you can see the thoughts passing in her mind.

Robert Mantell, in his portrayal of "Hamlet," depended largely on eloquent effects and his actions were so quiet. Whenever he forgot his distinct enunciation and the inflexion of his voice, he did excellent work. His whisper was distinct and no doubt it could be heard in the gallery, but was it appropriate in good taste? I wonder if Hamlet prided himself on his whisper.

One word in regard to the actress playing the part of the unfortunate Queen. Her mind was wholly concentrated on distinct enunciation and careful pronunciation. I felt it and that was her performance was thoughtless and stilted.

Let us be thankful that we have an actress who can give us thoughts instead of dead, soulless utterances and let us love and be true to the truth in dramatic art, and not be misled by empty show and false acting.

HYPATIA.

THE CHAUTAUQUA SPIRIT

Seattle Pastor Commends Viewpoint in Oregonian Editorial.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 10.—(To the Editor.)—To thank The Oregonian for seeing and understanding and commending a worthy enterprise, is being the same as thanking it for being it.

LAY OUT PONY POLO GROUNDS

Country Club to Introduce Sport to Pacific Northwest.

FORM LINK IN CHAIN

Proposed to Connect Portland With Polo Clubs in Canada and California—Grounds to Be Laid Out Inside Track.

Preliminary plans for laying out of spacious grounds for continuous pony polo at the Country Club site are already well under way. President S. G. Reed, of the Country Club and Livestock Association, has this matter personally in charge and is working out the details of the scheme so as not to interfere with any of the plans for the race and livestock meet this fall.

The pony polo grounds will be laid out entirely inside the mile track on the floor of the great amphitheater, where the races will be held, and will embrace a tract 450x150 yards, every square inch of the padded and sodded surface to be as level as a billiard-table. The grounds will also be laid off so that on the afternoons when the polo is being played, the spectators and tournaments golf enthusiasts may hold forth.

Getting Pointers on Grounds.

President Reed is in correspondence with the stewards of the leading polo organizations throughout the country, and has asked for detailed plans of the grounds as laid out and prepared by the foremost clubs of the United States. He expects to have matters in such shape that the board of directors can take proper action and appropriate a suitable sum to improve the grounds as soon as the arrangements for the race meet and livestock show have been disposed of. It is even hoped to have the polo field in shape for some lively skirmishes this fall following the races.

The polo and golf grounds will not be handled directly under the jurisdiction of the directors of the Country Club, but will become a part of the social activities of the Country Club department of the association. The social end of the organization has of late been somewhat discarded entirely in order that no outside matters may interfere with the holding of a most successful race meet in September, but with a few weeks' arrangements will be made for the organization of a Country Club devoted mainly to social functions, and the management of this club will have charge of such things as pony polo, golf and other outdoor sports. Memberships in the Country Club will carry such privileges.

Link in Polo Club Chain.

"There has been a growing demand for such a feature in connection with our other plans," said Mr. Reed last night, "and we are working out preliminary plans so that we may be ready to take hold of the pony polo and golf features as soon as the race and livestock meet are off our hands. There are some exceptionally talented polo players here in Portland, and there are hosts of them in British Columbia, Victoria and Vancouver, particularly. They have splendid tournaments up there, and in California there are a number of clubs, so that by making Portland a link in the chain we could form a Pacific Coast Polo Association, and run off tournaments over the entire circuit. I believe this sport will arouse as widespread interest as do the Coast tennis tournaments and other athletic contests. We do not propose to limit our work solely to the Coast. We hope to be able to hold out strong enough inducements to bring Eastern polo-players and golfers out here for at least one large meet each season."

The polo grounds, according to the preliminary sketches, will be laid out directly in front of the grand stand.

Cloudburst Cuts Erie Track.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., July 13.—Cloudbursts near Rathbone, Steuben County, last night, washed out five miles of Erie tracks.

REPORTS ON CROPS VARY

FARMERS GENERALLY LOOKING ON DARK SIDE.

Bulletins Received Weekly From Railroad Agents Show Existing Conditions Bad.

Varying reports of crop damage in the wheat fields continue to pour into the Portland railroad offices, where a weekly telegraphic crop report is received throughout the season. Yesterday's bulletins from the interior were as various as the localities represented, some reporting extensive damage, while others were more optimistic than earlier in the season.

These crop reports come from the railroad agents, who are instructed to make trips into the nearby country and talk with the farmers, getting their exact opinions of the crop outlook. Railroad men say, however, that unfavorable weather is eagerly seized upon by the farmers as an excuse to predict heavy losses. They say that farmers as a class are not at all optimistic and are rather inclined to look at the darker side of things when crop prospects are being discussed.

Grain is doing fairly well in the Walla Walla country, according to the bulletin received yesterday by the general freight department of the O. R. & N. Company. It is estimated that the yield will be but 15 per cent less than that of last year.

More damage has been done in the Palouse country, according to the railroad's informant. There it is said the past week of dry, warm weather has been most unfavorable and late spring grain is in a bad way. While fall grain will be about 85 per cent of an average crop, it is said spring grain will not amount to more than 65 per cent of an average yield, and rain is badly needed.

A warm rain fell over the Grand Ronde Valley yesterday that was very beneficial to the growing grain, and has improved the outlook in that district greatly.

In the Powder River Valley also there has been rain during the past two days that helped the grain yield considerably. Conditions are reported as unchanged in Gilliam County, where spring grain is said to be suffering for rain. It is said that spring wheat and barley has been damaged 80 per cent while fall wheat has been damaged 20 per cent.

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