

CAREFULLY WOULD GET BACK LANDS

Asks Appropriation of \$1,000,000 to Obtain Titles Acquired Fraudulently.

CONGRESS IS DISGRUNTLED

In No Mood to Consider Giving Money for More Secret Service Agents—Promptness Needed Because of Certain Statutes.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Jan. 24.—After several years of more or less sensational and successful prosecution of persons charged with the fraudulent acquisition of public lands in the West, the Interior Department is now anxious to turn its efforts to recovering title to lands acquired in violation of law.

It is for this work, largely, that Secretary Garfield, in a recent report to Congress, asked for an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for special agents, in order to facilitate the collection of evidence to be used in suits and other proceedings, looking to the recovery of title to all lands fraudulently acquired.

Request in Reasonable Light.

Viewed in one light, the request of the Secretary is entirely reasonable. The amount he asks, it is explained, will be used in an effort to recover title to \$10,000,000 worth of public lands, or 100 times the appropriation asked.

During the past 12 months the special agents of the Land Office have recovered 16,333 acres of forest lands, worth \$254,625; 618,240 acres of unpatented lands, worth \$1,547,100; have collected from timber trespassers \$126,694, and collected in fines \$267. This is a total of recoveries of \$4,516,824, which is \$4,016,824 in excess of the salaries of the special agents employed in the recovery.

Scope of Work Wide.

Nor have the operations of the special agents been confined to the work outlined. An examination into the Carey act projects, involving 150,223 acres of land, showed that 62,500 acres had not been reclaimed, and ought to be turned back to the Government. The Secretary's statement continues:

"The investigations of the past two years by special agents, aided by an aroused public sentiment, have produced evidence and information of wholesale and astounding frauds upon the public lands. As a result, we have of record 22,000 distinct cases, demanding further field action, notwithstanding that during the past 12 months there have been investigated a total of over 25,000 cases."

Situation in Oregon.

Referring particularly to the Oregon situation, the Secretary says: "Example might also be cited to some of the more determined and persistent violators of the act to prevent unlawful occupancy of public lands, known as the fencing laws. A single case reported from Oregon amounted to over 55,000 acres of Government land in one inclosure; in addition thereto there were large numbers of fraudulent or dummy entries on some of the lands inclosed. If the Government expects to present such a case to the court or jury, with a showing which will warrant something more than a nominal fine (which means a very nominal charge for pasture on the public lands, and the exclusion of the general community from free range), it becomes necessary, not only to show the inclosure, but to show it in detail; probably survey, chain, and, subsequently, plat over 100 miles of fence; investigate into the circumstances and bona fides of probably from 50 to 100 entries, of one kind or another, made within the inclosure, supposedly for the benefit of the livestock company; also interview from 50 to 100 witnesses, the dummy entrymen, the men who built the fences, to determine when they were built, and who paid for them; cowpunchers, and small cattlemen, for proof that the large company controls the inclosure, and that the stock of small individuals is driven therefrom; in some cases the settlers are forcibly prevented from investigating or occupying the lands."

MAGDOON WANTS MAINE REMOVED

Says Wreck Has Become National Reproach and International Scandal.

HARBOR SHIPPING INJURED

Anchorage Restricted by Sunken Warship—Cuba Willing to Aid in Getting Hull Removed—Fear of Spanish Plot Expressed.



Governor Charles E. Magdoo.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Governor Magdoo, in his annual report to the Secretary of War made public today, brings to his attention the wreck of the United States battleship Maine in the Havana harbor and recommends that the Government take immediate steps to accomplish its removal without further delay. He says: "The wreck of the Maine continues to lie in the mud and waters of Havana harbor. The sunken battleship is a serious menace to the shipping of the harbor, as it occupies a portion of the best anchorage. The obstruction has increased annually during the past 10 years by causing a shoal. The moderate tides prevailing in the harbor are hardly sufficient to prevent a gradual filling up and this shoal seriously interferes with the action of the tides, and, therefore, the entire harbor is rapidly filling."

Wreck Impedes Anchorage.

"It will be necessary in a short time to begin dredging in order to provide proper anchorage for the large amount of shipping now entering the harbor, unless the wreck is removed. The anchorage is also restricted by the wreck and the shoal, for ships are obliged to anchor at sufficient distance to prevent grounding in case they strain on their cables. "Even more important than this obstruction to navigation is the fact that this wreck, although it contains the bodies of 83 American seamen or what is left of them, is apparently abandoned and forgotten by the Government and people of the United States. Thousands of Americans annually enter the harbor of Havana and probably not one omits to express regret and censure for the deplorable spectacle."

Become National Reproach.

"It has become a national reproach and an international scandal. The neglect to remove the wreck is attributed by many, especially the large Spanish contingent in Cuba, to the fear that its removal will disclose the fallacy of the popular belief that the Maine was destroyed by a torpedo or mine instead of an interior explosion; so generally does this opinion prevail that the Cuban Government was deterred thereby from dealing with the wreck as an obstruction to navigation of its coastal waters and destroying it. "However, it should be added that the Cuban authorities were also restrained by a belief that the United States would demand the return of the vessel to aid and preserve the wreck as a whole, instead of breaking it up and removing it in the more inexpensive manner."

Cuba Willing to Help.

"The correspondence on file in the Department of State and the Navy Department at Washington shows that a belief prevails in those departments that it is necessary to secure, by a treaty or otherwise, the consent of the Republic of Cuba to the authorities of the United States entering the harbor of Havana and proceeding with the work of removal. This permission, if necessary, can be easily secured, and the Cuban government would gladly assist every assistance that may be required to accomplish the desired result, but only because of the injury to the harbor facilities, but also because of the prompting of patriotism and sentiment. I strongly recommend that the United States Government take immediate steps to accomplish the removal without further delay."

WIFE OF MURDERED MAN ASKS FOR ADMITTANCE.

Declares She Feels Violence—Arrests in Mysterious Case Are Expected Today.

HELENA, Jan. 24.—The Hancock murder case continues as the chief theme of discussion in Helena. The latest development is the return to the County Jail of Mrs. Hancock, wife of the man who was lured to his death by a decoy note more than a week ago.

BURGLAR IS A BENEFACTOR

Leaves More Money at East Side Market Than He Stole.

The accommodating burglar is by no means uncommon. Burglars are often gentlemen and many deeds of gallantry are recorded. An Irvington burglar Saturday night, while lacking in some of the finer points of chivalry, because he knocked down a night watchman, still was accommodating enough to leave more money than he stole.

TO HELP UNLUCKY INDIANS

Secretary of Interior Would Guarantee Them Good Land.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Jan. 23.—The Secretary of the Interior has urged Congress to pass a bill in the interest of reservation Indians who have taken allotments, and said allotments have turned out to be worthless, or of little worth. He urges the passage of a bill providing that where the surplus lands of any Indian reservation have been thrown open to settlement, Indians on said reservation who have been allotted lands unsuitable for allotment purposes may relinquish their allotments and select in lieu lands of equal area from the unappropriated portion of the reservation. The Secretary says it often happens, through error or ignorance, that Indians are allotted worthless lands, and he insists that they be helped to the best lands of the reservation, prior to the opening.

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PENSIONS FOR PIONEERS

Congressman Hawley Expects Aid for Indian Fighters Soon.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Jan. 23.—The spirit of economy that is operating to prevent the passage of a river and harbor bill this session, and is holding down all appropriations made by Congress, will prevent the enactment of a law this Winter increasing the pensions of the old Indian fighters of the Northwest. Representative Hawley, of Oregon, has been interested in the Indian war pension bill ever since his arrival in Washington, but has never met with the slightest encouragement from the "powers that be."

MYSTERY IN DEATH

Body of Jewess Found on St. Louis Preacher's Porch.

GIRL CAREFULLY PLACED

Letters on Person in Yiddish Cannot Be Deciphered—Had Eaten Nothing but Orange for Hours—No Money or Jewelry Found.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 24.—(Special.)—Deep mystery surrounds the murder of an unknown girl, evidently a Jewess about 20 years old, presumably from Chicago, whose body was found in a sitting position on a porch at the residence of Rev. W. D. Cook at 3 o'clock this morning. An autopsy showed that the girl had been shot through the roof of the mouth, the bullet penetrating her brain. Death had been instantaneous. No revolver was found. The clothing bore the mark of a Chicago tailor, and letters also indicated that the girl was from Chicago.

PIONEER WOMAN DEAD

Mrs. Adeline Buchanan, 35 Years Vancouver Resident, Passes.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 24.—(Special.)—An invalid for seven years, Mrs. Adeline Buchanan, aged 35 years, died last night at her home, 715 Ingalls street. Mrs. Buchanan crossed the plains in 1882 and had lived in Vancouver for 25 years. She was a sister of Mrs. C. B. Sloum, a prominent Vancouver woman. The funeral will be held from her home tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock.

BY ALL MEANS ATTEND THE Clearance Sale

THIS WEEK at Olds, Wortman & King's

Sale of Oriental Rugs

Our already extremely low prices reduced for this week's selling; some of the richest productions of the master weavers of the Orient. At Clearance prices.

Soiled Muslinwear 1/2

Some are only very slightly mussed, and there are hundreds of pieces to select from. Easy to choose, for they are heaped on large tables Half Price in Muslinwear Aisle, 2d floor.

Special Prices on China

Decorated English China, Royal Doulton Ware, Cauldon Pattern, Indian Tree, Royal Worcester and Chelsea. Many articles to select from, and a wide choice of patterns and prices.

The Clearance in Linens

Table Naperies of the preferred sort—the kind that you will exhibit with pride and use with satisfaction. Prices are decidedly low, and it is to your advantage to choose promptly.

Small Sized Shoes \$1.98

Let every woman with dainty feet, who can use a small size and narrow width, take advantage of this sale. Choose of many sorts and styles, worth as \$1.98 high as \$6.00 the pair. Clearance price only \$1.98

Dress Goods and Silks

Yard-wide black Taffeta, fancy Silks, silk and wool Novelties, black Dress Goods and colored Dress Goods, are well bargained. Special lots at radical reductions.

Now for Baby Week Again

Another week of bargain giving in the Infants' department. Everything that Baby needs is to be had at a special price if you take advantage of this opportunity. Besides the sweeping general reductions that all little things go at, look for a score of interesting specials on various lines of Baby Wearables.

EVERYTHING IN THE INFANTS' DEPARTMENT IS REDUCED FOR THIS WEEK

Marble Busts and Statuary

See the window display, corner Fifth and Washington. It won't take you long to decide that you will own one of these very artistic pieces. A magnificent assortment, wide choice of subjects and prices. For the Clearance Sale they are 1/3 LESS. \$4.00 values, Clearance price only \$2.67. \$6.00 values, Clearance price only \$4.00. \$8.25 values, Clearance price only \$5.50. \$8.50 values, Clearance price only \$5.67. \$9.00 values, Clearance price only \$6.00. \$10.95 values, Clearance price only \$7.17. ALL PEDESTALS ARE ALSO SELLING AT ONE-THIRD LESS THAN REGULAR.

\$3 Neckwear at \$1.98 Elastic Belting at 48c

Women's Collars, very handsome affairs of lace and silk, or rich lace. Also hand-embroidered effects and jabots of Irish lace. Regular values to \$3.50; \$1.98 special at low price of only, each. The Belting that this bargain is on comes in elastic effects or fancy tinsel. Besides the tinsel effects, the colors are black, white, red, navy, brown, tan and green. Worth 75c the yard, at only 48c.

Full Set of Teeth \$5.00

Written Guarantee on All Work for TEN YEARS. TEN PER CENT REDUCTION ON ALL WORK FOR THE NEXT TEN DAYS. This is a Bona Fide Offer, So Be Sure to Ask About It. Every One Treated Fairly Here NO PAIN! NO GAS! UNION DENTAL PARLORS. We keep in our employ only dentists of practical experience, who have spent years of study in preparing themselves in all branches of dentistry. When people visit Portland from out of town they must take advantage of the opportunity and have their dental work attended to. The Union Dentists have a full corps of old, time-tried crown and bridge workers and painless extractors. And don't forget our prosthetic dentist in making up your mind where to go.

Have your teeth out in the morning and go home with new ones the same day. If you wear a plate, perfect fit is necessary for appearance, comfort and the proper mastication of food. Unless your plate is properly made, swollen gums and kindred troubles will be your lot. We pay particular attention to this branch of the profession, and our work cannot be improved upon. TEETH WITHOUT PLATES NERVOUS PEOPLE. And those afflicted with heart weakness can now have their teeth extracted, filled and bridge work applied without the least pain or danger. UNION PAINLESS DENTISTS 221 1/2 MORRISON STREET, CORNER FIRST STREET. LADY ATTENDANTS.