

PUTER SWEARS HE NOW TELLS TRUTH

Declares Statements to Heney and Roosevelt Were Out of Whole Cloth.

FORCED SMITH TO PAY

Land-Fraud King Declares He Used Government as Agent to Collect \$10,645 From the Minnesota Millionaire.

DEVELOPMENTS IN GOVERNMENT SUIT.

United States Attorney McCourt closed the prosecution of the case against Charles A. Smith, the Minnesota millionaire, and the Linn-Lane Timber Company soon after noon yesterday.

The litigation involves recovery to the Government of title to 8000 acres of timber, now valued at \$500,000.

It has been proved that the land was secured through a conspiracy between Horace G. McKinley and Stephen A. D. Puter.

The conspirators secured saloonmen, laborers and farmers to file on the lands under an agreement to pay them from \$50 to \$100 each. Puter testified that the "saloonmen" were representing him in the deal.

The entrymen testified that they took the lands for themselves and that they were at liberty to sell them to anyone who would purchase.

Sidney Scanlan and Samuel Pickins have been arrested, charged with perjury.

Puter arrived in Portland Monday night, was whisked from the train at the East Side depot and spent hours in the city before the Government could find him.

On the witness stand Tuesday Puter repudiated the statements of President Roosevelt, Prosecutor Heney, Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock and District Attorney McCourt.

Yesterday Puter announced that he had used the Government to collect a bill of \$10,645 from Smith, and that he intentionally misrepresented the facts to the President and court officers.

To gratify a spite against Smith, the witness announced that he had padded his story in order that the Government might be induced to bring the suit.

Frederick A. Kribs will be the first witness for the defense this morning.

The case will then be adjourned to Minneapolis, where evidence will be taken by deposition.

Cross-examination of Stephen A. D. Puter yesterday established the innocence of Charles A. Smith and the Linn-Lane Timber Company of having been parties to the conspiracy leading up to the filing of entries by dummies. Filings were made in January and February, 1909.

Puter testified, in response to questions from Government counsel, that he intentionally stretched the truth about the origin of the conspiracy and the connection which the Minnesota millionaire had with McKinley and himself, in order to make sure that President Roosevelt and the United States Attorney would prosecute.

The witness admitted that the only time he had ever told the truth about the case is at the present trial.

Attorneys for the defendants and the Government last night agreed that the only question left in the case is whether prior to the purchase Charles A. Smith can be charged with knowledge of the frauds by which the lands were acquired from the United States.

On resuming the witness-stand at the opening of court Puter was confronted with a bunch of letters written by himself to Horace McKinley, and which the latter recently turned over to the Minnesota attorneys.

The documents proved that the first time that Puter met Smith was about February 8, 1909, when Smith sent Puter to see his agent, Frederick A. Kribs, at San Francisco. Smith told Puter that if the lands in Linn and Lane counties would cost 70,000 feet per acre he would buy them on recommendation of Kribs.

The first time Puter met Kribs was about February 18, at San Francisco, and the correspondence made the fact plain that Kribs had not agreed to accept the lands until after the first visit Kribs made to Rock Creek and Roseburg in April of that year.

Puter Gives Testimony. Letters written between February and April contained urged McKinley to show the lands to other prospective purchasers. Puter explained them by saying he was "afraid that Smith and Kribs would fall down, and I wanted other strings to pull if that should develop."

On February 20 Puter wrote McKinley that he had not at that time mentioned the Rock Creek lands to Kribs, but was trying to sell him lands in Coos County.

"If I can get Kribs up to Coos County, I will then take him on to Linn," wrote Puter. "I don't think Kribs will buy the Coos County tract, and when he turns that down I will offer him the Linn County timber."

Asked if he ever talked with Charles A. Smith at any time prior to selling him the lands of the conspiracy and fraud by which McKinley and himself were securing them, Puter replied: "Well, I should say not."

In March, 1909, Puter sent a letter to McKinley urging the latter to hunt up some school land which they could secure and sell the scrip in the East, his plan being to raise money in that way for the Linn County deal, should Kribs and Smith fall thru.

Scared by Heney and Burns. Coming down to the investigation of the lands arising from a report submitted by Colonel A. R. Greene, then a special inspector for the Secretary of the Interior, Witness Puter recounted how Heney and Burns scared everybody who had ever been engaged in the illegal practices, and the manner in which his alleged confessions were secured.

Puter complemented stated that in the investigation of the Smith lands he misrepresented the facts, and when it became apparent that Smith might be brought from Minneapolis as a witness before the grand jury, Kribs aided in the collection of the money due Puter.

Criminal prosecution of the cases was barred by the statute of limitations and Puter wanted a civil suit brought. Puter admitted that Heney secured an affidavit from Kribs on the promise that no civil action would begin.

"Heney was always trying to get

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evidence to convict Mitchell," said Puter, "and promised to not urge these civil suits if Kribs added him to get Mitchell." Cross-examination of Puter did not go into the question of the connection which Kribs and Smith had with the conspiracy after the advent of Kribs early in April, 1909. Puter had informed the Government that Kribs was at Roseburg on April 18, when the first proofs were submitted and when the Northern Pacific contacted the lands. At that time Kribs was said to have decided that he would not put up the money for the mortgages and would not purchase the lands.

"I went after him and got him to see us through," said Puter.

It is believed that the evidence to be submitted by Frederick A. Kribs today will be a flat denial of any knowledge of fraud in connection with the land locations.

The Government will contend that the fact that 23 claims at one time and ten at another were proved up on mortgages to Kribs and decided to Wild on the same day is proof of an understanding between Puter, Kribs and Smith which cannot be explained away.

The case will be concluded today and on June 25 depositions will be taken at Minneapolis. Argument will be submitted July 15.

3 JOIN STARVATION CULT

Albert S. Houghton, First Local Exponent, Weak but Happy.

Upton Stenclair's "Starving-for-Health Brigade" has been increased by the addition of three new advocates in Portland since Albert S. Houghton commenced his fast 13 days ago. The new converts to the starvation cult are G. H. Howell, a printer employed by the Evening Telegram, his daughter, Clara E. Howell, and Mrs. Phoebe Bingham, a friend of the family.

The trio has taken no food in any form since Sunday, and expects to continue the fast until the end of the week. Mr. Howell says that aside from a severe headache on Tuesday, he has been feeling excellent both mentally and physically. "I expect to continue to fast for at least a week," said Mr. Howell, "and perhaps longer. The desire for food is largely a matter of the mind for the first few days, and after the first pangs of hunger wear off I do not expect to be troubled by hunger."

Mr. Houghton had eaten nothing up to last night, which made 13 days he had been without food. "I am feeling somewhat weak and have an occasional attack of dizziness," he said yesterday, "but thus far I have had no desire for food. So long as I am able to attend to business I shall fast until my appetite returns."

Mr. Houghton, when seen at his studio, appeared somewhat weak and nervous on his feet, but was in the best of spirits. He weighed exactly 130 pounds last night, having lost 14 pounds since he commenced his fast 13 days ago.

LAWRENCE HEADS CLUB

Portland Architects Hold Annual Meeting and Banquet.

At the annual meeting and banquet of the Portland Architectural Club, held at the Commercial Club on Tuesday night, Ellis F. Lawrence was elected president of the organization. David L. Williams, vice-president, Fred Allyn secretary and John M. Hatton treasurer. Announcement was made that from June 2 to June 19 the annual architectural exhibit would be held at the Art Museum.

In reviewing the work by the club during the last year, special attention was given to the work being carried on under the direction of the Beaux Arts Society of New York. Drawings have been submitted by the local draughtsmen in competition for scholarships.

A number of standing committees were

appointed by President Lawrence for the ensuing year, as follows: Municipal committee, dealing with the relationship of the architects and the municipality, Joseph Jacobberger, chairman; A. B. Doyle, John Wilson. Civic improvement committee, dealing with legislation and direction of civic

betterment, D. L. Lewis, chairman; W. C. Knighton, Martin Soback. Educational committee, direction of lectures, for the public and for the club, H. Goodwin Beckwith, chairman; C. H. Kable, W. H. Crowell, W. S. Clausen. Scholarship committee, direction of all student affairs, Morris H. Whitehouse,

chairman; John Hatton, N. D. Root. House committee, dealing with entertainments and direction of library and rooms, Frank Logan, chairman; C. L. Linde, F. W. Webber. Dramatic committee, dealing with the club's dramatics, W. P. Dawson, chairman.

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