

WOERNDLE TO KEEP HIS CITIZENSHIP

Mr. Humphreys Ordered to Drop Prosecution.

CASE HELD HOPELESS

Statute of Limitations Prevents Criminal Charge—Government Appeal Halted.

Joseph Woerndle, ex-Austrian consul here, can retain his American citizenship while his further legal action, officials Washington decided, according to a letter received yesterday by United States Attorney Humphreys. In the letter, Humphreys was ordered by Solicitor General Bell to drop the suit which the government was preparing to file in the United States circuit court of appeals, asking that Woerndle's naturalization certificate be revoked.

The Woerndle case is now finished, finally and definitely," announced Mr. Humphreys. "We shall proceed no further."

The Woerndle case is one of Oregon's famous war-time prosecutions. The most interesting interest in the celebrated trials of Dr. Marie Equi and J. Henry Albers. A statute of limitations prevented a criminal charge being preferred against Woerndle, and the government was forced to confine itself to an attempt to revoke his American citizenship privileges.

Woerndle Is Well Known.

Woerndle, a lawyer, realty dealer and Austrian consul before the war was one of Portland's well-known residents. In 1914, the government charged he secured a passport for a trip to Germany and then allowed Hans Boehm, notorious German spy, to use the document in order to make a trip to the fatherland.

By the time that the act was discovered, the state of Oregon had intervened and barred criminal prosecution. Attorney Humphreys, holding that Woerndle, in swearing allegiance to the United States, did so with mental reservations, filed a civil proceeding in the United States court asking that the naturalization certificate be declared void.

Judge Bean, on hearing the case, denied the motion of the government, held that the federal attorney had failed to prove that the defendant had deserved his loyalty for his fatherland. Six weeks ago Humphreys received instructions from Washington to appeal the case to the circuit court of appeals, and when he received the letter from Washington yesterday.

Further Action Dropped.

Referring to department letter of July 10, the letter read, "In relation to taking an appeal to the circuit court of appeals in the case of the United States versus Joseph Woerndle, you are instructed to take no further steps to prosecute the case."

The case, in the opinion of the department, after careful consideration, does not present a question of law upon which the department could hope ultimately to prevail. This does not mean, of course, that the department is unwilling that the use of his passport was highly reprehensible, and were it not for the statute of limitations would demand a vigorous prosecution. The question, however, whether the act rendered at that time when Woerndle made application for naturalization and showed a mental reservation of loyalty to his mother country, having been heard and determined upon, an appeal to the department cannot see that an appeal to the circuit court of appeals would avail anything on the question of law sought to be raised."

"The department of justice simply followed the thought of Judge Bean's decision in dropping the matter," said C. T. Haas, attorney for Mr. Woerndle in proceedings.

Partially as result of the attack on his naturalization, disbarment proceedings were initiated against Woerndle by the Multnomah County Bar association. These proceedings are still pending before the state supreme court.

ROAD GRADE PROTESTED

Spur on Mount Hood Loop Highway Held Planned Too Steep.

HOOD RIVER, Aug. 21.—(Special)—Protests are being voiced here against action of the bureau of public roads in surveying the spur road to connect the Mount Hood loop highway with Coopers Cloud Loop, or 5 per cent grade. Although the survey is now on local good roads enthusiasts will endeavor to have the federal roads bureau put the new road on a grade with a maximum of 5 per cent.

"The spur road," said W. A. Langille, veteran United States forest man, "is really a primary road, and will have an exceedingly heavy traffic. It would be very unwise to make it greater than 5 per cent."

FARM HOME DESTROYED

Gasoline Stove Explosion Causes Loss of About \$6000.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Aug. 21.—(Special)—Fire Friday destroyed the farm residence of William Ramsay, 10 miles up the Wishkah river, causing a loss estimated at about \$6000. Mr. Ramsay is an Aberdeen carpenter and had at odd times during the last few years built a fine home.

Mr. Ramsay was the only one of the family at home at the time. She was engaged in washing, using a gasoline stove. While she was hanging out clothes an explosion occurred, setting fire to the building. There was no insurance.

Modern School to Be Built.

KELSO, Wash., Aug. 21.—(Special)—The Oceanside school district has a modern two-story frame school building under construction to replace the one destroyed by fire early this summer. The new building is \$2 by 70 feet, the lower floor being divided into two class rooms. A kitchen is also provided. The upper floor will be used as a public hall. It has a stage 12 feet wide. E. Grotvik of Castle Rock has the contract and the building will be completed in time for school next fall. It will cost approximately \$7000.

Phone your want ads to The Oregonian, Main 7070.

Society News

LANDS for entertaining attractive and interesting visitors are occupying society's attention at present.

Mr. Samuel T. Halsted of Riverside, Cal., who is a guest at Ardour, the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William MacMaster, is the inspiration for many of the smartest affairs of the season. This afternoon Mrs. Edward H. Gear will entertain with a bridge tour for Mrs. Halsted. Mrs. George T. Willett will be hostess tomorrow at a luncheon and Mrs. Erie F. Whitney will preside at a tea.

Mrs. Joseph Nathan Teal will be hostess Saturday at a tea for Miss Martha E. Wright, aunt of Mrs. Halsted, who also is a visitor at the MacMaster residence.

Mrs. Sidney Z. Mitchell and Mrs. Charles M. Maxwell of New York City have come from the east for a visit of about four weeks and are Alexander Court. They are being welcomed cordially by their many friends and a number of social honors are being planned for the pleasure of the visitors. Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Maxwell formerly resided in the state and have a wide circle of relatives and friends among Oregon's prominent families.

Mrs. Earl Wilbur of Berkeley and Mrs. Benjamin Sommers of St. Paul, Minn., were honored yesterday at a tea given by Mrs. Ralph Wilbur at their home in Laurelhurst. At the tea table were Mrs. W. L. Brewster and Mrs. Wallace McCamant. Assisting were Mrs. J. C. Lewis, Miss Sally Hart and Miss Elizabeth Wilbur.

Mrs. Stephen D. Braseau and her daughter, Miss Elizabeth Braseau of Spokane, who are the house guests of Mrs. William L. Thompson, will be complimented with a tea today when Mrs. Thompson will entertain with a bridge tour for Mrs. J. R. Dickinson, Mrs. F. E. Judd, Mrs. W. J. Furnish and Mrs. Ralph W. Hoyt. They will be assisted by a group of the younger set, including Miss Elizabeth Halley, Mrs. Henry Judd, Mrs. John M. Dolph, Miss Barbara Stanfield and Miss Louise Hoyt.

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Aune Photo.

MISS RUTHMARY BURROUGHS OF MILWAUKEE ENTERTAINED AT SEVERAL SOCIAL GATHERINGS.

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