

INDICTED BY JURY

Mitchell and Hermann Both Charged.

HELD TO BE IN RING

Conspiracy to Defraud Is Alleged.

SAID TO HAVE AIDED PUTER

Government Accuses Them of Expediting Claims

WHEN THEY KNEW FRAUD

Payment of \$2000 to Senator Mitchell by Puter Is Asserted in Indictment—Sorenson Is Charged With Attempt to Bribe.

The Federal grand jury fulfilled the expectations of the public yesterday afternoon at 3:30, when it returned indictments against Senator Mitchell, Binger Hermann and George Sorenson. Mitchell and Hermann were indicted jointly and are charged with having conspired with all of the defendants heretofore indicted to defraud the Government out of land situated in township 11 south, range 6 east.

The Alleged Conspiracy.

The story of the connection of Senator Mitchell and Representative Hermann with the conspiracy dates back to the time of the Puter-Mays letter, and shows that all of the conspirators were and are mixed and entangled in the web of guilt. If the allegations of the indictment and the testimony upon which they seem to have been returned is to be taken as true...

Puter Goes to Washington.

Before he left Portland, it is said, he went to F. P. Mays, and secured from him a letter to Senator Mitchell, though in fact he was well known to the Senator. Arriving at Washington, the land speculator went to the office of Senator Mitchell and conferred with him in regard to having his claims taken from the suspended list and put through to patent as soon as possible. He told the Senator, it is said, that he had already sunk a large amount of money in the claims, and that Emma L. Watson, a hard-working and honest girl, had also invested in them at his suggestion. It was necessary for him to have some influence with the Commissioner to secure favorable recognition of his claims, and he therefore would like to have the help of Senator Mitchell. He promised to make it right with the Senator in event that he would give to Puter his will and assistance.

Sorenson Tried to Bribe Hall.

The indictment against Sorenson was made upon the testimony of John Hall, who told Mr. Heney and Mr. Burns that Sorenson came to him on March 28 and offered him \$5000 to let Waldgamot and the rest of in the case which was about to be tried.

Hermann Expedites the Claims.

On March 4, 1902, the story continues, Mr. Hermann wrote a letter to Senator Mitchell, stating that he had expedited the claims as per his request. This is the letter which was introduced in the first trial here and over the identification of which both Senator Mitchell and Mr. Hermann had so much trouble. It is the same letter to identify which Commissioner W. A. Richards made his trip to Portland from Washington.

President and not according to law. These were the Davis lands, in which W. H. Davis, of Albany, was interested with a number of other men in and around Albany.

HAS MADE GOOD

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HIS END ACCOMPLISHED

Attorney-General Must Now Push Land-Fraud Trials.

IS SOLID WITH PRESIDENT

He Has Been After Hermann for Two Years and Has Now Bagged the Big Game—More Indictments Will Drag in Smaller Fry.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 31.—Today's developments leave no doubt that Secretary Hitchcock will be reappointed Secretary of the Interior on March 4. To a certain extent he has "made good" and has brought about the indictment of Binger Hermann, something he has been striving to accomplish for two years. Hermann was his highest objective; he was the largest game the Secretary sought to bag and it is his boast that he and his assistant have been able to gather evidence sufficient to insure Hermann's indictment.

The Secretary now washes his hands of the case, saying it now rests with the Department of Justice. He has gathered the evidence—it is up to the Attorney-General to make that evidence stick and secure convictions.

Land Pass to Patent.

Mr. Puter and Mr. Richards had an extended conference. The latter knew nothing of the Davis and Loomis letters and could only judge from what he saw in the affidavits and proofs of small settlement which he had before him. Influenced, therefore, by these and by the recommendation of Senator Mitchell and Mr. Hermann he allowed the lands to go to patent. He also read the Loomis and Ormsby reports which made a fair case for the homesteaders and all considered saw no reason why the lands could not be passed, especially as he was influenced by sympathy for L. Watson and Maudie Witt in their efforts to gain a claim upon which to make a home, as shown by the talk of Puter and the reports of Loomis and Ormsby.

HILL RETIRES TODAY.

New York Democratic Leader Really Out of Politics.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 31.—The retirement of ex-Senator David R. Hill from active politics, after 40 years' unintermitted participation in the Democratic councils in this state and the Nation, will take effect tomorrow, according to the authorized statement made through the Associated Press August 29 last, upon the occasion of Mr. Hill's 61st birthday.

STORM THE FORT

Japanese Capture Sungshu Mountain.

MINES ARE EXPLODED

Assault Quickly Follows and Succeeds in an Hour.

RUSSIANS ARE ENTOMBED

Rescued by Japanese Who Take the Gorge—Defenses of Port Arthur Fall One by One Into Besiegers' Hands.

BY EXPLOSION OF MINES.

Japanese Blow Up Fort and Capture It by Swift Assault.

TOKIO, Jan. 1 (7 A. M.)—Sungshu Mountain (Canon Hill) was stormed and captured yesterday (Saturday) by the Japanese forces besieging Port Arthur.

CAPTURE ANOTHER POSITION

Japanese Blow Up Wall Near Panlung Mountain and Rescue Russians.

AWFUL HAVOC WROUGHT.

Japanese Bury 150 Russians by Explosion and Take Many Guns.

HOW THE BOLDIERS LIVE.

Russian Correspondent Draws Favorable Word-Picture of Camps.

Japan Will Never Yield.

Will Try Russian Murderer.

North Sea Commission Completes.

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