

SEAMAN GETS TROUBLE ON LAND

Old Sailor Tells How He, Too, Took Up Land for Potter and Jones.

JONES PAID THE FREIGHT

Ira Wade Again Connected With the Land-Fraud Case by Witness Whom He Asked to Be Ready to Testify.

It developed yesterday, during the trial of Jones, Potter and Wade, that John L. Wells, their agent, who doubled in an act that might be called "An Old Soldier's Method of Frenzied Finance," not only trafficked in old soldiers, but extended his endeavors to old sailors as well. One witness was not a soldier, but a sailor—a sailor with an alias—and he explained his alias by saying that when he enlisted in 1861 and went aboard the Portsmouth, the landlady gave his name as Thomas Johnson, while his real name was Henry Yoemans.

Johnson is an Englishman, and still talks with an accent. He had taken up a homestead on Wells' persuasion. His story of how he came to take up the homestead did not differ from that of other witnesses who had taken up claims. Like the rest, he was busy in his recollection, and confessed that a sailor knew nothing about land. His job was to know about water and navigation. Johnson said so when District Attorney Heney pressed him concerning the answers he made in filing his final papers, and when he swore that he took up was best for grazing purposes.

"I'm a sailor, not a landman," he said, "and I don't know much about land. My right name's Yoemans, and if you please, I would like to explain how I came to 'ave a hallas, for there is some as thinks I'm dishonest to 'ave a hallas. When I shipped aboard the Portsmouth in '61, my landlady gave my name as Johnson. When I went aboard and they called 'Johnson' I did not answer. They called it a couple of times, an' I says my name's not Johnson, but Yoemans, an' the man says, 'Johnson, you gets seven days on the black list, an' I got the seven days. My discharge papers is made out Thomas Johnson, alias Henry Yoemans."

Wells Got Him to Do It.

The explanation was accepted, and a smothered laugh broke the monotony of the afternoon's proceedings. This entryman, like the rest, had been approached by Wells, and had gone to the Siletz Indian Reservation and filed upon a homestead. He testified that he had made three visits to his homestead. On the occasion of his second visit, he said, he did not go to the same cabin that he had on his former visit. It was the same old story of Jones paying all the expenses of the trip, leading him to and taking a mortgage on the claim. In some of the questions asked by the Government when it comes to getting the final papers, the

name of Mrs. Johnson was used, and the witness swore emphatically that she had never been on the land, and could not have been because at the time she was quite ill. Witness denied having answered many of the questions which are credited to him in the final papers, and those he is credited with having answered when he was witness for other entrymen.

The other witnesses heard during the day were: Miss Ethel Parrish, of Toledo; C. E. Elsworth, also of Toledo; H. L. Siler, Lorenzo J. Morse, Louis Paquet and George J. West. West was one of the old soldier entrymen who slipped away from Jones and Potter, for after getting the claim he sold it to E. B. Montague, of Albany. From the testimony of several of the witnesses, it seems that there were many contests, and in some instances the contestant was one Dean Clark, who, it is said, was connected with Montague, Montague, it seems, knew that Jones and Potter were getting the soldier entrymen to take up the lands, and he had his agents out among the entrymen offering to buy their claims. His agents were about the same, and it is said that he was able to get about five of the claims originally intended for Jones and Potter. It was Montague's scheme, so it is alleged, to wait until the Jones-Potter entrymen had been located on their homesteads, and had made application for their final papers, and then overbid Jones and Potter for the land. It is also said that in some instances when Montague found he could not get the land, contests were made at his instigation.

The testimony of Miss Parrish and C. R. Elsworth was in connection with Ira Wade. Miss Parrish worked at the Toledo Hotel, and Mr. Elsworth is the owner of the hotel. Both testified that Wade called at the hotel about the middle of last month and requested to see the hotel register containing the names of the many entrymen that Jones and Potter had sent to Toledo. There have been some changes in the addresses given by some of the entrymen, but no attempt yesterday was made to show by whom the changes were made. Mr. Elsworth said on the stand that Wade had called his attention to one of the changes. On cross-examination, Elsworth testified that Wade had said to him at the time he was examining the register that he (Wade) might want the witness to appear in court, and asked him if he would come in case he was telegraphed for. The witness said he had consented.

Transfer of Claims.

H. L. Siler was the man to whom Jones transferred several of the claims. Some time ago, to the satisfaction of District Attorney Heney, it was shown that Siler's connection with the transaction was an innocent act of friendship. The witness said Jones had called at his home one evening, and asked him to consent to having a number of the homesteads which had been taken up by old soldier entrymen placed in his name and his wife's name. The records of Lincoln County were produced in court to prove the transfers had been made. The witness testified that the property had been transferred to him without consideration. It is expected that Senator Fulton will take the stand on Monday. He will be called upon to explain numerous letters which he wrote to the Department of the Interior in behalf of the claims in which Jones was interested, and which were held up by the department. In addition to the testimony of Senator Fulton, the Government has a host of other witnesses yet to take the stand, and, in consequence, the trial will occupy at least another week, and perhaps more.

Printers Respect Contract.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Oct. 7.—The president of the Typographical Union of this city has assured the employing printers of Milwaukee that the printers will strictly live up to their contract with the employers, which does not expire until 1907.

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California Reformers Are Not of One Mind

Disruption Threatened Over Attempt to Inject State Politics into San Francisco Republican League.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Oct. 6.—(Special Correspondence.)—The Republican League, which was formed for the purpose of rigging the city of the Schmitz regime, has come dangerously near being wrecked this week on the rocks of factional strife. It is generally believed that the danger is now past, but nevertheless a restless feeling prevails. The trouble was caused by the attempt to inject state politics into the organization. Men who were willing to put personal ambition aside for the good of the city were unwilling to relinquish any shadow of power for the good of the state. The reform movement, although well started, has not reached that stage of development in San Francisco, where it can be applied to state affairs. The next few months will solve the problem.

There is no hitch in the movement to elect John S. Partridge Mayor. The trouble came when the reform league attempted to effect a permanent organization which should have control in state politics as well as in municipal affairs. The clash came between Postmaster Arthur C. Flisk and Fairfax Wheelan. Wheelan has been recognized as the leader of the movement for municipal reform. Naturally he desired to have as permanent head of the league a man who was devoted exclusively to the cause of Partridge.

Flisk, however, has ambitions of his own, and while willing to do all he can for Partridge, desires to make use of the cause for his own ends. He has been accused of being very close to Southern Pacific interests and has his eye on the governorship. He figures that with both a railroad and the league behind him he will have no trouble in securing the nomination for Governor next year, and matters now stand in California, a nomination would be equal to an election. The election for a permanent head of the league was held this week and resulted in a deadlock. Daniel A. Ryan, Wheelan's candidate, and William H. Davis, Flisk's candidate, each secured 41 votes. Cooler heads at once saw the danger to the reform movement with such a sectional strife among the members and suggested that the permanent organization be delayed until after the municipal election in November. This was approved by both sides and so the matter stands present. The rival factions are resting the battle for control in state matters, it have agreed to put together to save the city in the November election.

The state has been treated to an era bouffe performance this week regard to charges of graft at the session of the Legislature. For several weeks there had been talk of scandal in connection with the prize-bill, which was defeated after a long party of San Francisco sports went to Sacramento with a plentiful supply of coin. The District Attorney Sacramento County has been searching for tangible evidence on which to base an action. No names were mentioned and every one supposed to know nothing about the matter kept the name of the grave.

A great sensation was caused, therefore, when Assemblyman Fayette Mitchell, of Palo Alto, announced another day that he had indisputable evidence that money had been passed in connection with the bill. He stated that he proposed to expose the whole tale, which he asserted, would cause sensation greater than the state had known before. Accordingly, everyone was primed for the explosion which it was believed Mitchell was about to cause.

However, the Assemblyman was the first to take flight when he saw what a hubbub he had kicked up, and instead of leaving bare the great scandal, has tented himself with small talk. In

GUTS OUT BIG CONTRACTS

BIDDERS ON STAR ROUTES MUST CARRY MAIL THEMSELVES.

Postmaster-General's Order Excludes Wholesale Bidding and Benefits Small Contractors.

As the result of instructions which have been issued by Postmaster-General Cortelyou, mailcarriers upon star routes in the West will have an opportunity to close contracts with the government at a figure that will allow them to make a reasonable profit upon their services. It is stated upon good authority that at present not 10 per cent of the mail routes upon the Pacific Coast are operated without loss. The order which is expected to remedy this condition provides that all bidders for contracts to carry mail must live contiguous to the routes upon which bids are made, and if awarded the contract, must carry the mail themselves or give it their direct supervision.

Up to four years ago the Postal Department awarded contracts for Western mail routes to the lowest bidder, without regard to his place of residence, and permitted him to sublet them if he so desired. As a result, professional contractors sprang up, living mostly in Kentucky and Missouri. These men bid upon contracts, not only in their own states, but also in the West. Not knowing anything of Western conditions, they often took contracts at a figure that would not permit the routes to be operated with profit. The routes were always sublet to anyone who would take them, and as the pay was extremely low, poor service resulted.

When the bids were received four years ago it was intended that no one was allowed to compete who did not live in the vicinity of the route upon which he bid. This requirement, however, was not enforced so strictly as it will be the later rule, and this, added to the fact that the ruling was not generally known, resulted in contracts being again taken at a low price.

Bids are now being received on the bidding opened September 15 and to close about December 1 are upon contracts extending through the next four years. The new ruling which requires the bidders to perform the work themselves or have direct supervision of it, will confine the bidding to the people who live along the routes. With the professional contractors eliminated, there will be less competition, and the contracts will probably be awarded at a figure that will give the carrier reasonable wages and at the same time enable him to give efficient service to the Government. At any rate, whatever profit there may be in the work will go to the man who does it, instead of being divided with a wholesale non-resident contractor.

Williamson Asks New Trial.

Attorneys Bennett and Wilson, in behalf of Representative Williamson, Dr. Van Geener and Marlon R. Biggs, yesterday filed with the Clerk of the United States Circuit Court motions for a new trial and arrest of judgment in behalf of their clients. The papers were mailed on Friday, the day set for the appearance, but did not reach the Clerk's office until yesterday morning. The motions are made for each defendant separately. They are very brief and formal. District Attorney Heney said yesterday that he did not believe the motions would be heard until after the Jones-Potter case was concluded.

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"LOW DUTCH" WINS OUT

Epithets and a Trim Ankle Fail to Baffle Her.

Jar Justice.

Raring her ankle before Justice Reid in the Justice Court yesterday morning, Mrs. Elizabeth Hammaker, who had caused the arrest of August Zahn on a charge of assault and battery, showed a bridle to the court and to witnesses in the hopes that Zahn, who is a neighbor of the Hammakers, would be compelled to pay a fine.

Zahn, who is a Hollander, and dubbed by Mr. and Mrs. Hammaker as "low Dutch," was accused by the plaintiff of hurling a brick at her because her husband continually killed pigeons in Zahn's yard with a bean blower, thus causing anger to rise in the breast of Zahn.

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