

READS LETTERS TO AND FROM HALL

Honey Offers Correspondence of Ex-District Attorney in Evidence.

TELL OF ILLEGAL FENCING

Show that Settlers Repeatedly Appraised Official of Facts and Demanded Relief—Hall's Promises Apparently Unfulfilled.

More than 50 letters, most of which were either written by Hall or addressed to him by settlers, have been introduced at the Hall-Mays conspiracy trial by Prosecutor Honey before Judge Hunt in the Federal Court. These letters, so far as they have been introduced by the Government, show that E. A. Putnam and other settlers residing in the vicinity of Fossil repeatedly apprised Hall, from March, 1900, until May, 1904, of the unlawful fencing and urged him to give them relief. The correspondence also shows that while Hall apparently made effort to have at least two Special Agents from the Interior Department visit the Butte country and investigate the complaints of the settlers, one of them, E. D. Stratford, never visited the premises while the other, C. E. Loomis, did not make any investigation until two years after the first complaints had been made of the fence.

Putnam's First Letter.

Your favor of March 20th just at hand and contents noted. I permit me to say that before I can commence an action in the name of the Government land the law requires that some person familiar with the facts furnish me an affidavit describing the lands enclosed by metes and bounds, or by legal subdivisions, or by any other description by which the land can be identified, and further that the person or corporation making or controlling the fence have no color of title to said land, made or acquired in good faith, or if asserted right thereto of any claim made in good faith with a view to enter thereon at the proper land office, under the general laws of the United States at the time such enclosure was made.

Wrote Loomis Strong Letter.

Your letter of March 4, enclosing one to Mr. Loomis, came duly to hand and contents noted. I wish to inform you that I have written Mr. Loomis a strong letter urging him to take action on this matter at once, also enclosing your letter to him. I think the result will be that he will take action in the matter at least not later than the setting of Spring, and we can expect some good results in the near future. In this connection I wish to inform you that of course you understand that Mr. Loomis has quite a large section of country to cover and that things of equal importance have to be taken up in the order in which they are presented to him. At the same time I realize how much this means to you people in that section of the country. Kindly keep us informed of any new developments in this case for I assure you that I am desirous of doing everything possible in assisting this matter to a final determination.

Hall Asks for Names.

Replying to a letter dated April 25 1900, from Putnam saying the requested affidavit had not been received, Hall wrote on April 27 as follows: Replying to your favor of April 25, in relation to the affidavit which I was to procure and forward to you for signature in the land fencing case, permit me to say that I have had some difficulty in procuring the same. I have had a grand jury and have been so pressed with work that I could not reach it. It will be necessary for me to have the full name of this company or corporation that has this land inclosed, as the initials only were sent to me, which is not sufficient. Please oblige me by sending the full name, and also if you know whether or not they are incorporated in this state, and where their principal place of business or office is maintained, and oblige.

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Putnam Loses Patience.

Putnam waited patiently until September, hoping that Stratford might yet show up, and on the 22d of that month wrote Hall as follows: As I have not heard from Mr. Stratford since I saw you last July I thought it best to write you and try and have the case rushed along as the weather will soon get hot again and then we will have to wait another year. When I saw Stratford he had more than he could attend to and was soon to go East with his family but would be here in September, but up to date I have not heard from him. If there is any other agent that could be got right away it might be best to send him before the bad weather sets in as it will be so small job to investigate all that should be done. The land sharks claim to have seen one of the agents and he positively agreed not to come. I think they had reference to Loomis of Oregon City.

Refers to Land Frauds.

Putnam followed this letter up with another on January 3, 1901, in which he said he had heard nothing regarding the complaint of the settlers, one of them, E. D. Stratford, never visited the premises while the other, C. E. Loomis, did not make any investigation until two years after the first complaints had been made of the fence.

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showing the homestead entries that had been made after the original map had been drawn. "If necessary, I will pay for having the maps renewed," wrote Putnam.

Fenced Entire Township.

In this letter Putnam wrote that the Butte Creek Company had almost a township of Government land under fence. "We cannot get an agent to investigate a single case," wrote Putnam. "It looks like our Government is getting pretty rotten."

Loomis on Defensive.

There were several persons at Fossil who found fault with my having gone to your place and permitted you to go with me to the hearing and the decision does not rest with me, but I am sure that I will stand by my affidavits or not so that I may know when to act.

Refers to Land Frauds.

Putnam kept up his record as a persistent correspondent by sending the following detailed letter to Hall under date of February 29, 1902:

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and in connection with it there is between 60 and 90 acres of Government land under fence, so you see we are all into it a little, but what the people object to is fencing by the township.

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CROSS HOT SANDS

Half-Hundred Novices Initiated Into Mystic Shrine.

HISTORY OF FAMOUS ORDER

Dates Back to Crusades, and First Temple in United States Was Instituted at Rochester, N. Y., in the Early '70s.

Al Kader Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, conducted 54 candidates across the hot and burning sands of the desert last night and when their journey was over, they had been initiated into the order and were received as brother nobles by the members of Al Kader Temple. The initiation was held in the new Masonic Hall, West Park and Yamhill streets.

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Hall Expresses Surprise.

To this letter, Hall, on February 23, 1902, made the following reply: Your letter of the 19th is just at hand and contents noted. I was surprised to learn that no special agent had been out in your district to report upon the illegal fencing case. I have again written to Mr. Stratford asking him to go out there at once and make an investigation. I will tell him to report to you, and you can give him all necessary information. If you think best send down the names of persons or companies who have Government land under fence, and I will write each of them a good share letter, quoting the law to them, which, perhaps, may have the desired effect. I am sorry that this matter has been delayed so long, but