

EVIDENCE IN HYDE CASES NEARLY IN

Testimony of Scores Will Be Used in Several Courts Where Land Is Located.

FEDERAL RECORDS GIVEN

State Brings Actions to Recover Tracts Taken Fraudulently, It Charges, More Than 25 Years Ago—Officials Involved.

SALEM, Or., May 6.—(Special.)—Within the next few weeks, Attorney-General Brown has announced, all the evidence in the suits now pending in eight Oregon counties to recover to the State of Oregon the so-called Hyde-Benson lands will be submitted for hearing in the Circuit Courts where the lands are located.

Since Attorney-General Brown took up the cases begun by his predecessor, A. M. Crawford, testimony of nearly 100 witnesses has been taken. Part of the evidence has been stipulated. Yesterday testimony of witnesses was taken at Seattle and immediately following other evidence will be gathered from witnesses in California, Canada and Washington, D. C.

By stipulation, the evidence taken in Washington, D. C., during the trial of Hyde in 1907, will be used in the pending suits. For three days last week the testimony of 20 witnesses was taken in Portland and this week 13 witnesses testified in the cases at Salem.

35,000 Acres Are Involved. The lands involved in the Hyde suits amount to about 35,000 acres and are worth in excess of \$500,000. In the present proceedings the Interior Department is co-operating with the state. Special Agent Arundell has been assigned by the Interior Department to the work. The records of the Land Department at Washington have been placed in the hands of Attorney-General Brown for use in the cases.

The history of the Hyde-Benson land transactions dates from the late '80s and early '90s, when Frederick A. Hyde, of San Francisco, was carrying on his operations in Oregon in securing school and indemnity lands. In many of these cases Hyde was acting as agent of different concerns, such as the Glenn-French interests, which obtained large tracts of land in and around Burns, and also the Miller & Lux Corporation, which is the parent and controller of the Pacific Livestock Company.

Letters Sent Governor. In his operations in this state Hyde had as his representative E. P. McCormack, of Salem, who prior thereto had been clerk of the State Land Board. Hyde refers to McCormack as having more influence with the Legislature of Oregon than any other man in the state.

In 1895 and 1896 Hyde became much exercised over a decision of the Secretary of the Interior to the effect that surveyed school land within forest reservations could not be used as base for other selections. McCormack was consulted and asked to induce the Governor of Oregon and the United States Senators to intervene and induce the Secretary of the Interior to change his decision.

\$25,000 Given Agent. Letters were written by Hyde and sent to McCormack that he persuade the Governor and United States Senators to sign and forward to Washington. Later Hyde started proceedings in California and requested McCormack to secure from the Governor copies of letters which Hyde had written and induced the Governor to sign in order to show that the State of Oregon was vitally interested in the matters raised in his California proceedings.

In 1898, shortly after the act of June 4, 1897, providing for exchange of lands within forest reserves had been passed, Hyde sent Joseph H. Schneider, who had been in his employ for many years, to Oregon to procure school lands of the State within the forest reserves.

Schneider first came to see McCormack, who was then president of the First National Bank of Salem. There was deposited in this bank for Schneider's use about \$25,000. Schneider used this in making first payments for the school lands to the State of Oregon.

Signers Are Paid For. From Salem Schneider proceeded to Portland, where he met Wiley E. Allen. He presented to him a letter of introduction from Mr. Sherman of the Sherman-Clay Piano Company. Mr. Sherman was a relative of F. A. Hyde. Allen was indebted to Mr. Sherman for past favors.

Thomas McCusker was introduced by Allen to Schneider and an understanding was entered into whereby McCusker and Allen were to be paid by Schneider for Hyde, the sum of \$10 for every person they persuaded to sign school land applications. McCusker, in his turn, took others into his confidence. He induced approximately 40 persons to sign applications.

On the other hand, Wiley E. Allen induced his friends and employees to sign applications. McCusker and Allen sent the applicants to Schneider for signing. Many of the applicants did not even read over the papers which they signed, as they were told by Allen and others that they had a right to sign the papers and were doing them a favor.

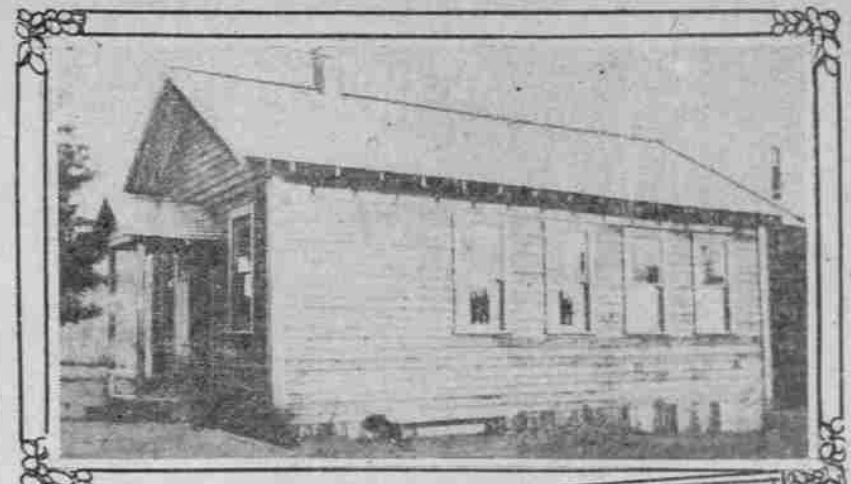
Signatories Are Never Found. Schneider himself was not idle. He took something like 25 applications and assignments of certificates to D. Alexander to have him sign as notary. Alexander testified in Washington in the criminal proceedings brought against Hyde that none of the people appeared before him to swear or acknowledge the papers. None of these persons who were purported to sign the applications, which were taken to Alexander, was ever found.

In 1902 and 1904 William J. Burns and others attempted to locate these signers. Others have tried to find them since, but to no avail. The city directories of Portland do not show that such persons ever lived there. All of the other persons, amounting to more than 100, whose names appeared on the papers, have been located and accounted for. Altogether between 140 and 150 applications were filed for school land for a total acreage of approximately 47,000. Deeds were issued by the State Land Board to Hyde and his associates for these lands. Hyde was careful not to take title for all lands applied for in his own name. He used the names of several of his relatives and others whom he could trust. As he himself said, he did this so as not to arouse suspicion.

10,000 Acres Patented. After obtaining title to these lands, Hyde attempted to relinquish them to the Government as a basis of selection of Government lands, the idea being that he would sell the lands selected to others. About 10,000 acres of the selected lands were patented by the Government before the Interior Department realized what was being done.

Late in 1902 Schneider was located in

PUPILS WHO CAME TO TOWN FOR FIRST TIME YESTERDAY, THEIR TEACHER AND THEIR SCHOOL.



Mountain District Teacher Takes Class of 10 to See Outside World. PARTY GOES TO EUGENE. Trains, Motor Cars, Movies, University, Church, Stores, Bubble Fountain, All Are Wonderful to Youngsters.

EUGENE, Or., May 6.—(Special.)—The textbook gave place to reality today in the lives of the ten boys and girls of the High Prairie School, in the mountainous section of eastern Lane County, when they made the trip from the little settlement at the end of the trail to Eugene. Most of them were born in the neighborhood, where the little schoolhouse was recently erected and never had before ventured beyond the forest. In a single day, they beheld wonders. It was like unfolding before them the universe of which they had read, but never fully understood.

Wonders Seen on Trip. On the way to the city, the wonders began to occupy the attention of the travelers. At Springfield, they boarded motor cars, which whirled them along at rapid rate, while ten little necks were craned in all directions watching freight trains, motor cars, and all manner of conveyances, such as they had never seen, pass in an almost endless procession. They had arrived in the busy world.

SALEM, Or., May 6.—(Special.)—George C. Bingham, who is a candidate for the Republican nomination for Circuit Judge of the Third Judicial District, comprising Marion and Linn counties, with two vacancies to be filled, was born in West Salem, Wis., in 1855. He came to Oregon in 1872 and was admitted to the bar seven years later, after graduating from the law department of the University of Michigan. He has been practicing law in Salem for the past 39 years.

OLD RESIDENT IN RAGE. C. A. SEHLBREDE, WHO SEEKS JUDGESHIP, IS WELL KNOWN. Marshfield Man Has Long Record in Public Life—G. C. Bingham is Running at Salem.



George C. Bingham

CITY TRIP AMAZES BACKWOODS PUPILS

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The members of the party left their homes at 4 o'clock this morning, and after traveling 48 miles by wagon, train and motorcar, through the rain, arrived in the city at 9 o'clock. "The Village Blacksmith" had been one of their lessons and their teacher, Miss Edna Stephens, had tried the best she could, to describe a blacksmith shop, something none of them had ever seen. Today, in Eugene, the blacksmith and his work became a reality. They heard the clanging of the anvil of which the poet wrote and they saw the blacksmith's sinewy muscles. The welding of bars of iron held the little folks spellbound as they crowded into one corner, beyond the spark zone. The problem of picturing to them a blacksmith shop was what influenced the teacher to plan the educational excursion to Eugene.

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Sign Policy Causes Fuss. Mr. Dieck Wants to Know Why Some Are Permitted and Not Others.

When the City Council adopts an iron-clad policy prohibiting the erection of electric or other signs and banners across streets in the business district, what does it mean? The question is about that many words is asked of the City Council in a letter filed with City Auditor Barbur.

"JOYRIDER" IS IDENTIFIED. Maude Love Arrested on Testimony of 16-Year-Old Girl.

MAN DIES ON WAY TO JAIL. A. J. Craig, Frequent Offender, Has Last Ride in Patrol Wagon.

Roof of House Catches Fire. The roof of a house at 224 Flinders street caught fire yesterday afternoon about 2:20, and for a time the building was threatened. Quick work on the part of the fire bureau, however, resulted in getting the fire under control before any great damage had been done. The house is occupied by Anna Jones, a colored woman.



of two who honor before love—starring Norma Talmadge and the Griffith-Fine Arts kiddies. The scenes range from the city's gay night life to the most entrancing glimpses of real fairyland.



Shorty Hamilton in A Rough Knight

The Fun Has Been Packed Into 2 Reels. It's a Keystone. Every Monday Evening Fashion Show—Living Models, Displaying Latest Styles for Men and Women—Courtesy Eastern Outfitting Co. COLUMBIA Sixth and Washington Continuous 10:30 A. M. to 11 P. M.

8,000,000 GET RELIEF

PROFESSOR KITTRIDGE TELLS OF WORK IN BELGIUM. Expenditures Put at \$150,000,000, of Which Home Countries Contribute \$8,000,000 Monthly.

CORVALLIS, Or., May 6.—"Seven million persons in Belgium and 1,900,000 in Northern France are still being fed by the Belgian Relief Commission," according to Tracy Barrett Kittredge, inspector for the Belgian Relief Commission, who left for Rotterdam May 11.

Trade Upstairs, Men! Why?

Because you can buy more for your dollars. I'm upstairs and save \$10,000.00 a year in rent, and you get the benefit. Why should your money go to benefit the high-rent landlord? I sell standard makes in ready-to-wear clothes and save you \$5.00 to \$10.00. Come upstairs and trade. See the

\$20 Men's Suits for \$14.75 \$25 Men's Suits for \$18.75 ALL READY TO WEAR—ALTERATIONS FREE

JIMMY DUNN THE CLOTHIER 315-16-17 Oregonian Bldg. Elevator to 3d Floor

FEAR OF PAIN KEEPS MANY FROM THE DENTIST YOUR FEARS ARE GROUNDLESS DR. B. E. WRIGHT

GIBNEY SOLID TIRES Produced by Exclusive Processes BALLOU & WRIGHT Broadway at Oak Street, Portland, Oregon.