

STATE FILES SUIT FOR SWAMP LANDS

39,451 Acres Involved in Litigation.

OWNERS' TITLE IS ATTACKED

Tracts Obtained Illegally, Is Contention.

\$4,000,000 IS AT STAKE

Reversion of Grants to Commonwealth Demanded in Complaint of Attorney-General.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—Four suits looking toward the recovery by the state of approximately 39,451 acres of so-called swamp lands valued in excess of \$4,000,000 were filed in the circuit court for Lake county today by the attorney-general. A fifth suit, involving lands of similar character and the same legal questions as are set out in the four preceding actions, will be filed in the Lake county courts Monday, it was announced at the attorney-general's office tonight.

Three of the suits are directed at the Chewaucan Land & Cattle company, a California corporation with headquarters in San Francisco. These suits involve a total of 21,973 acres of swamp lands in what are known as the Pauline marsh and Sycan marsh land in Lake county.

In the first suit against the Chewaucan Land & Cattle company, there is involved an aggregate 9558 acres, approximately 5177 acres of which are situated in Pauline marsh. The remaining 4381 acres of the land at issue is included in the Sycan marsh.

Owen Suit Attacked.
This suit is based on a certificate of sale to H. C. Owen, with deeds issued by the state board of land commissioners to James M. Allen. These deeds were dated September 28, 1886.

The second suit against the Chewaucan Land & Cattle company was based on a certificate of sale to George H. Small, with deeds issued by state board of land commissioners to James M. Allen. These deeds also were dated September 28, 1886. The lands involved in this suit are in Sycan marsh and include approximately 2372 acres.

The third suit, in which the Chewaucan Land & Cattle company is named as defendant, was based on 10 certificates of sale, one of which was issued to James D. Fay and the other to A. M. King. The deed conveying to Mr. King 19,135 acres was dated July 13, 1882, while the deed transferring to Mr. King 1922 acres was dated November 1, 1882. These lands are located in Chewaucan marsh.

Fourth Suit Filled.
The fourth suit was directed against the Lake County Land & Livestock company and involves approximately 6240 acres of swamp land in Warner valley, Lake county. This suit was based on a certificate of sale to H. C. Owen, with deeds issued by the state board of land commissioners to Jerome S. Wilson and J. A. Wilson. These deeds were dated December 28, 1894.

The attorney-general, in all four of the suits, alleged that under the law of 1870 there was no limit to the acreage of swamp land sales in the hands of the purchaser had paid to the state 20 per cent of the price set on the lands.

This law was amended in 1878, according to the attorney-general, to the extent that the sales of these lands were limited to 320 acres to any one person except in instances where pending applications had complied with the act prior to its amendment.

The attorney-general alleged that the lands involved in the four suits at issue were obtained subsequent to the passage of the law of 1878, and as the result the state board of land commissioners

7 THEATERS CLOSED IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

KNICKERBOCKER TRAGEDY IS CAUSE OF ACTION.

Board of 5 Engineers Condemns Buildings After Making Careful Inspection.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 18.—Seven theaters, including the New National and Poli's, two of the principal playhouses in the national capital, were ordered closed tonight by the board of commissioners, governing body of District of Columbia.

The order was issued after an inspection of playhouses in the district had been completed by a board of five engineers. The inspection grew out of the recent collapse of the Knickerbocker theater, which cost the lives of 95 persons.

Other theaters closed were the Metropolitan, Columbia, Maryland and Forsker, motion-picture houses, and the Cosmos, vaudeville and motion pictures. The Metropolitan and the Columbia are two of the larger downtown theaters. The former is owned by the Crandall company, which also owned the Knickerbocker.

The report of the engineers on which the order was issued was not made public, but members said that "in most cases" structural weakness and inadequate fire protection had been disclosed by their investigation.

In issuing the order tonight, commissioners did not communicate the details of the weaknesses to the theater owners, but it was explained that these would be given them soon, so that they could take action. Some commissioners estimated it would be several months, possibly midsummer, before some of the theaters could reopen.

In one case, it was added, an entire new roof would have to be constructed, while in other cases balconies would have to be strengthened. In another case, it was said, the space under a stage had been found filled with loose papers, greatly increasing the fire hazard.

Colonel Charles Keller, the engineer commissioner, representing the war department on the district governing board, said that about ten other theaters were being examined. The action of the district commissioners, it was pointed out, was in line with the recommendation of the coroner's jury in its findings on the Knickerbocker theater disaster, brought in early this week, and recommending that the entire building code of the district be revised and that "theaters and public places" be closed until their safety was assured.

Before issuing its closing order, the commissioners drafted and adopted a new building regulation authorizing the closing of such places where examination had disclosed structural weaknesses or inadequate fire protection.

SCHOOL DANCE ASSAILED

University Official Says Students Have Become Licentious.

MADISON, Wis., Feb. 18.—"Licentiousness and luxury" have come into the schools of the nation through student dances, which must be curbed if there is to be a solution of the moral problem of the country, Dr. Jay William Hudson of the University of Missouri declared today in addressing a teachers' association meeting.

"We have come upon a reign of moral looseness and debauchery," Dr. Hudson said. "Students dance as people were not allowed to dance in the worst resorts 20 years ago. There is a heathenish trend."

HARDING WOULD SEE FETE

President Hopes to Attend Festival in Portland.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—President Harding told Senator McNary today that he hoped either to attend the Rose Festival at Portland or appoint a representative.

The special invitation extended by Senator McNary came from H. K. Whitney, director of the Whitney boys' chorus, who urged the president to visit Portland at that time and hear a chorus of 2000 boys which Mr. Whitney proposed to increase to 29,000 voices, representing every state in the union, as a feature of the Portland exposition in 1925.

BOSTON DISMAYED BY OWN DEPRAVITY

Labyrinth of Corruption Revealed in Probe.

BLACKMAIL TOTALS MILLIONS

District Attorneys of Two Counties Involved.

POLICE COME OUT CLEAR

Higher Officials, However, Use Women of Underworld to Ensnare Wealthy Men.

BY EDMUND HART.

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BOSTON, Feb. 18.—(Special.)—In the days when the muckraker thrived, picturing the moral and political degradation of other great American cities, Boston leaned back complacently and thanked the good Lord that she was not as others were. But times have changed and now reformers New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco may point the finger of scorn at the Hub of the Universe, writhing in its own shame and corruption.

Boston's condition today is pitiable. Her troubles are not alone political and financial. It has been recently brought to light that a coterie of unprincipled lawyers, working in collusion with the district attorneys of the surrounding counties of Suffolk and Middlesex—the former a democrat and the latter a republican—have for years carried on a system of blackmail on a scale hardly believable, cleaning up a million from the dupes.

Underworld Women Hired.

The "plunderbund" employed attractive women of the underworld to ensnare wealthy men. They also had on their staff "injured" husbands and fake detectives, ready to appear in sensational raids, planned and timed by the gang, when evidence was manufactured to be used in important suits. Most of their victims settled rather than face shame of publicity, for amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

If the man or the woman in the case refused to "come across" they were threatened with indictment and suits. Most of their victims settled rather than face shame of publicity, for amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

Automobile thieves, highwaymen, plunderers of widows and orphans, defrauders, fake stock promoters of the Ponzi type, including Ponzi himself, who lured the public to the tune of millions in a few months, were allowed to go free, provided they settled with the "plunderbund." In some instances, it was brought out in the trials of the district attorneys, transgressors were steered up against the gang and "shaken down" for thousands of their ill-gotten gains.

Law Violators Also Bled.

Two years ago there was a lively contest for the republican nomination for attorney-general of Massachusetts. The "plunderbund" was active against the nomination of the successful candidate, John Weston Allen of Newton, a Yale graduate who had worked his way through college.

HOPES ARE RENEWED IN DRIVE FOR CHEST

RECANVASS OF PHYSICIANS WILL BEGIN AT ONCE.

All Occupational Groups to Be Combed This Week in Hope of Raising Full Quota.

Hope of raising the full quota of the community chest—\$798,777—was renewed at headquarters yesterday because of the vigorous manner in which the doctors' committee, Dr. Alan Welch Smith chairman, is setting about its work of recanvassing that professional group.

"All the committee wants," said Dr. Smith to General Robert E. Smith yesterday, "is complete information and instructions, and we will do the rest. You can go away and forget it, so far as we are concerned. Give your time to other phases of the chest campaign, but we will canvass our own group. I will include in my committee work just the regular allopathic and homeopathic physicians of the city, and we can assure you of results."

"If other groups of the city will do equally as well as the doctors," said General Smith, "there will be no question about raising our budget."

"The doctors, too, have explained that we have not realized, perhaps, the setback the campaign received in its earlier stages because of the prevailing sickness. Grippe and colds sapped both workers and prospects, with very bad effects upon the drive. We hope the peak of this condition has passed."

Many physicians of the city have told Dr. Smith that they were out of (Continued on Page 10, Column 4.)

ENGAGED DAUGHTER WORRIES MCCORMICKS

FAMILY TO DISCUSS DECISION OF 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

Millionaire President of Harvester Company Is to Consider Giving His Consent.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Miss Mathilde McCormick, 16-year-old daughter of Harold F. McCormick, millionaire president of the International Harvester company, may know tomorrow whether she is to have her father's consent to marry Max Oser, 48-year-old proprietor of a Zurich, Switzerland, riding academy.

Tonight an "armistice" was in effect between father and daughter. Mr. McCormick came home from New York this afternoon to talk matters over with Miss Mathilde, but the discussion probably will be held at a family council at Lake Forest tomorrow morning at the home of Mr. McCormick's mother.

"We haven't talked it over yet," Mr. McCormick said tonight, "in fact we have agreed on a sort of armistice for the present."

To reporters who boarded his train in the suburbs, Mr. McCormick said: "Anything I have to say, I will say through my daughter, when the time comes. I don't know how much authority fathers have nowadays in these matters. Of course she has spent half her life in Switzerland, and they handle these things differently over there."

He indicated Miss Mathilde's regard for her riding master was not new to the family, but the publicity had (Continued on Page 10, Column 4.)

LANDIS TO LEAVE BENCH MARCH 1

Judge Sends Resignation to President Harding.

DUTIES ARE TOO STRENUOUS

Time to Be Devoted to Job as Head of Baseball.

DOCKET TO BE CLEARED

Night Sessions of Court to Be Held. Retirement Delayed Because of Criticism.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis will end his 17 years of service on the federal bench on March 1, to devote his entire time to his duties as national commissioner of baseball, he announced today, when he forwarded his resignation to President Harding.

For the last 15 months Judge Landis has held both positions, drawing \$50,000 a year from organized baseball, less the \$7500 salary he received as federal judge.

At the time he took up his duties as baseball's dictator, he was offered a contract for \$55,000 a year, but insisted that as long as he remained on the bench the amount of his salary as judge be deducted from the total paid him by baseball. The contract was for seven years.

Judge Pressed for Time.

"There are not enough hours in the day for these activities," Judge Landis declared in announcing his resignation. "There isn't time enough to do everything. I've worked hard. I've been getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning and have had to go without lunch for two weeks."

It informed that it had been rumored that he had been advised by his physician to go south for a rest, he snapped out: "I will take no vacation. I will continue at the bar. I am not going south."

He added that he would hold night sessions of his court to clear his docket before his resignation takes effect.

Criticism Delays Resignation.

According to his friends, Judge Landis intended to resign the judgeship shortly after he accepted the post as dictator of organized baseball, but delayed because of criticism of his action. At that time he was quoted as saying that he would not resign under fire.

Senator Dial had attacked the judge because of the latter's statement that bank officials sometimes were responsible for robberies by boys because they did not pay adequate salaries. Senator Dial and Representative Welby of Ohio later brought impeachment proceedings against the judge, the representative basing his case on the fact that two jobs were held by the judge. Both cases were dropped.

Comment Made on Low Pay.
Shortly before the Dalton robbery, in which the loot was nearly \$750,000 in liberty bonds, Judge Landis had made some remarks about the low salaries which he said were paid to bank clerks. This was in the case of a young Ottawa, Ill., bank clerk who had attempted to steal \$50,000 from the bank where he worked.

When Judge Landis made the remarks he was widely quoted by newspapers throughout the country. After the Dalton robbery some newspapers quoted Dalton as saying that he had committed his robbery because he felt, through Judge Landis' remarks, that nothing would be done to him. Dalton never said this and later, in a signed statement, said that he had never before heard of Judge Landis' remarks. The story had spread, however, and the judge

PANAMA CANAL GUNS ARE FAR OUT OF DATE

MODERN WARSHIPS ARE ABLE SAFELY TO BOMBARD ZONE.

Hostile Fleet Could Attack and Stay Out of Range at Same Time, Experts Declare.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—Guns in existing defenses of the Panama canal are outranged thousands of yards by the rifles of foreign warships now afloat, it is regarded by the military experts as wholly possible that a hostile fleet of modern warships could lay off the Pacific entrance forts, far out of range, and pound the defenses to pieces at their leisure without risk to themselves.

Joint army and navy maneuvers, planned for this winter, but abandoned because of inclement weather, was expected, it was learned today, to have demonstrated this weakness of the canal defenses in striking fashion.

Coasts on the Pacific side of the big waterway were to have been the object of attack by the combined fleet of the United States and Great Britain as one phase of the war game. The purpose was to test in simulated war conditions the adequacy of the defenses and to obtain further data for their modernization.

Under the naval limitation treaty the maximum size of guns on existing or future capital ships is to be limited to a 16-inch weapon. It is to be expected, many officials said, that as replacement proceeds on the treaty schedule, all capital ships will come to be equipped with guns of approximately that size and power.

The canal fortifications were planned when even the British 15-inch naval rifle was an experimental stage. Since then both American and Japanese navies have gone to the 16-inch.

Warships designed since the battle of Jutland have received greatly increased gun elevations and consequently greater range. Army devices what is in a restricted sense high angle fire that always has been peculiarly effective against fixed fortifications.

Army experts have taken this into account in planning modernization of the canal fortifications. They have equipped the forts with batteries equal in power and range to the largest gun that under the treaty can be mounted afloat. With the stationary base from which to fire and the far better means of range determination and sighting which are available ashore, they estimate that hostile craft could be kept at arm's length without difficulty.

The situation was understood already to have been presented to congress.

BOBBED HAIR BAN IS OFF

Boys' Club Disbands When Vice-President Elopes.

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Feb. 18.—The Boys' Progressive club, organized to discourage youths from having dealings with bob-haired, short-skirted girls, disbanded yesterday.

Lilburn Redding, its vice-president eloped with Bessie McLellan, 18.

THE OREGONIAN INAUGURATES BUSINESS-NEWS SERVICE OF HIGH CLASS.

Beginning today, The Oregonian publishes the business and financial news service of the Philadelphia Ledger News Bureau, recognized as the best of its kind. Features of the service include a daily Wall-street review from New York by Monitor, a tri-weekly business letter by Richard Spillane, a weekly cabled London review of business conditions by Francis T. Hirst and weekly or semi-weekly reports from local points on conditions in all the big industries of America, Canada, the West Indies and Hawaii. It is, altogether, a business-news service par excellence, and in Portland only The Oregonian will have it.

DELAY OF GENOA SESSION ASSURED

Fall of Italian Cabinet Causes Postponement.

NEAR EAST ALSO TO WAIT

Important Meeting of Foreign Ministers Delayed.

FRANCE TAKES NO STEPS

Lloyd George Is Declared to Want Series of Gentlemen's Agreements Over Borders.

BY JOSEPH W. GRIGG.

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LONDON, Feb. 18.—(Special cable.)—With the collapse of the Italian government it is now a foregone conclusion that the Genoa conference will be postponed for at least a month and, what is more, that the all-important meeting of the foreign ministers of Great Britain, France and Italy to consider the urgent near-east question will have to be deferred.

It was the desire of the British government to have the Turkish treaty problem taken up without delay. It appeared a week ago that the meeting of ministers would be arranged for a time when it would be in progress during the Genoa parley.

France Takes No Steps.

Meanwhile a conference of allied experts on the agenda of the Genoa conference is scheduled for next week, but France has not yet made a move to show whether or not she means to send her experts to London.

On the contrary, inspired attacks are appearing in the French press, which declare that the British government has ignored the note from Premier Poincare, which proposed a three-month delay of the Genoa conference and asked that many details of the agenda be made clear.

In the highest quarters here, it was asserted again today that the British government had no intention of answering Premier Poincare's note, and it was added that the French government had been informed that the whole thing was a matter for the experts to consider.

As I have already pointed out, there is a formidable difference in the British and French positions on the Genoa conference. The French are playing for delay, hoping that the conference will not be held at all, while Premier Lloyd George stands squarely for it, believing that now is the time to try to bring about European pacification.

Agreements First Step.

The first step in his programme is to procure a series of "gentlemen's agreements" between different groups of states on the inviolability of frontiers. For example, Lloyd George would not only have Russia guarantee the Polish frontier, but also have the Poles guarantee the Russian frontier. The French have sought all along to gain British adherence to a pact which would simply guarantee the Polish frontier against the Russians.

One of the chief grievances of France concerning the Genoa conference was that soviet Russia was coming into it without giving a guarantee beforehand that she would be responsible for all the financial obligations of the carlist regime. But now the British suspect that France is conducting some underground pourparlers with Russia which are stimulated, probably, by French industrial magnates who fear that the French policy toward Russia will have isolated France when it comes to obtain concessionary advantages in Russia.

It is now clearly understood here that America will probably not take any active part in the Genoa conference while the United States senate has under consideration the treaties formulated at the arms conference.

PICTORIAL CHRONICLES OF THE NEWS, BY CARTOONIST PERRY.

