

Roseburg



Plaindealer.

Roseburg Plaindealer

The most widely read newspaper published in Southern Oregon and containing the most advertising medium. Large, modern equipped job printing department in connection. Established in 1868. Subscription, \$2 per year for Semi-Weekly.

Roseburg, Oregon

Population, 2800. The County Seat of Douglas County. Oregon Soldiers Home; U. S. Land Office and U. S. Weather Bureau are located here. S. P. railroad division; splendid educational advantages. Gateway to the Coast and Cascade country.

Vol. XXXVII

ROSEBURG, DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1905

No. 14

OTHERS INDICTED

Last Act of Now Famous Federal Grand Jury Was to Indict Three Congressmen.

CONSPIRACY CHARGED

In the Creation of the Blue Mountain Forest Reserve in Eastern Oregon.

Portland, Feb. 14.—Just before adjournment Monday the Federal grand jury returned the long-expected indictments dealing with the Blue Mountain reserve and the frauds attempted to be perpetrated by its creation. In the indictments were implicated John H. Williamson, John H. Mitchell, Binger Hermann, Frankland Pierce Mays, W. N. Jones and George Sorenson. The charge is that the defendants attempted to defraud the Government of the United States of the possession and use of and title to 100,000 acres of land situated in various of the states and territories of total value of more than \$7,000,000.

Story of the Conspiracy.

The general story of the conspiracy is that the defendants, come to the conclusion that it would be of profit to gain a large tract of land which could be afterward relinquished to the Government for certificates in lieu.

In the pursuit of the scheme, therefore the defendants, or part of them, picked out tracts of school land in Cook, Grant, Umatilla, Harney, Malheur, Baker, Union and Wallawall Counties amounting in all to more than 150,000 acres, upon which it was determined to file. These lands were school sections, and worthless, and could be purchased for \$1.25 per acre from the state government in quantities not to exceed 323 acres, providing the purchaser would make affidavit that the lands were being bought by himself personally, and for his own use and benefit.

Having picked upon the lands, a man was chosen in Malheur County to circulate the petitions asking for the creation of a forest reserve, under the plea that it was necessary for the conservation of headwaters of various streams taking their start in the districts affected by the proposed reserve. This agent was paid \$4 a day, and worked for some time in making up the list of applicants.

These applications were then sent to Washington to Senator Mitchell, who turned them over to Binger Hermann, Commissioner of the General Land Office, and the creation of the reserve was urged by the Senator to Commissioner Hermann, and was at last ordered by Secretary Hitchcock.

Opposition is Aroused.

After the petitions had been sent to Mitchell and by him turned over to Hermann and the General Land Office, it seems that great deal of opposition was aroused to the creation of the reserve, and remonstrances were sent into the office protesting against the setting aside of the lands. As a result of these objections, Mr. Hermann wrote to S. B. Ormsby on March 11, 1902, enclosing him the petitions asking for the creation of the reserve, together with remon-

TERRIBLE LOSSES

Russian Losses Estimated at Between 100,000 and 200,000—Short of Supplies.

Tokio, Feb. 14.—Reports from Luo Yang place the total of Russian forces between the river and Harbin at 450,000 of which 280,000 are in fighting line. The condition of the Russian pioneers and dead indicates that the Russians are short of shoes and under clothing. It is believed that the severe cold is increasing sickness among the Russians.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 14.—Official returns of the first year of the war not including Fort Arthur show that 130,000 officers and men passed into the hospitals, of whom 400,000 died. Of the total number sent to the hospitals over 27,000 returned to the ranks. The killed in battle are estimated at 400,000 to 500,000.

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The Conspiracy Indictment.

John H. Hall, ex-United States Attorney; Henry Ford, private detective; Harry Ross, ex-Major in United States Army; A. P. Caylor, a Portland grain merchant; John Condon, a Deputy Sheriff; I. H. Hitching, a Portland lawyer; John Northrop, juror in the Sorenson case; Charles Ford, a Portland attorney. It is alleged that the defendants conspired together to form a fund which would cause the removal of District Attorney Heney from office by blackening his character before the public and proving him to be a man of lax morals. The conspiracy was to bring witnesses who would swear to improper relations between Mr. Heney and Marie Ware.

Each of the men indicted will be required to furnish bonds of \$4000 for his appearance before the court in April when the case will come to trial. This is the same sum asked of all those who have been indicted so far in connection with the land cases.

Sabbath Observance

Paper presented and read by Mrs. Carrie Stead before the W. C. T. U. county institute at Drain recently. "Remember the Sabbath." It is the message of our Father—yours and mine—and of the tender, yearning love of His great heart for children created in His likeness and reborn in His love. He knows our weakness to forget, so in one form or another He gives the message repeatedly, "Remember the Sabbath."

God first gave it in Eden when He set the example of resting after six days work, and better still, laid His quieting hand on His eager children to whom the world in its beauty was new and attractive, and set apart that first day of their married life and each weekly return of that day for the quiet communion with Him, which would keep them mindful of their high birth and destiny.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

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Miss Byrd Scores a Success.

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LUTHER BURDANK, WIZARD OF THE PLANT WORLD.

Luther Burdank, the California horticulturist who was recently awarded a year's rest for his services to the Bureau of Experimentation for work, is the developer of the stemless plum, the sphinx cactus, the white blackberry and scores of other new things in horticulture and pomology.

THAT MITCHELL LETTER

The letter here published is a true one, and as I have stated them, they are not to be gotten or alarmed. Harry will, I suppose, identify the copy prepared by him. See him at once on his arrival. Don't be interviewed until I see you, strictly confidential. Don't tell Harry, your son, or anyone. Can't you immediately on receipt of this drop everything and come to my place? Bring with you in trunk, but don't let your family or anyone know all the company's books, day ledger, all of them also your bank book. I am extremely anxious to see for myself personally what the books show. Besides it is important that we should talk over with Fulton, who is to help me in my regard to the cases. I hope you can come. If so, don't let a word know you are coming, not even Harry. And if you do conclude to come, write me as follows: "Join leaves this evening direct for Washington, Tanner." I do hope you can come and immediately, before you are called again before the grand jury. Sincerely your friend, JOHN H. MITCHELL.

P. S.—Don't show Harry this letter, or tell him anything in it. Don't let him see our books. Tell him nothing. P. S.—Keep all important papers in safe, and safe and office carefully locked as these records will get in if possible. P. S.—Burn this without fail.

Expected Letter Would be Published.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 14.—Asked if he had anything to say about his letter to Judge Tanner, Senator Mitchell replied: "I am not afraid of that letter. There is nothing in it that will hurt me. I had a suspicion when I wrote it that it would be published. I was not surprised to read it in the papers this morning. I really expected it would be made public."

"Yes, I sent the letter as published, and the reason, I think, in part at least, appears on its face. After I had been indicted, Judge Tanner had been retained by me as my leading lawyer for my defense, and he had consented to act as such, as his letter in my possession will clearly show. I was extremely anxious that Tanner should come here for a consultation in regard to my defense, and the purpose of my letter, as will appear from the letter itself, to induce him to come and bring with him all of our firm books, in order that we might be fully advised as to precisely what entries were made and by whom made. I supposed I was writing a confidential letter to my retained lawyer, and for reasons satisfactory to me, when I wrote the letter and now, I desired to avoid publicity in regard to his coming, hence my statement in my letter that it should be treated as entirely confidential. Any other questions that may be desired of me in reference to this letter or any other matter connected with my case, I will be ready to promptly answer when my trial is called.

DOUGLAS COUNTY GRAIN ACREAGE INCREASED.

Bashford & Son, the millmen, report that the coming season's crop of wheat will be the largest raised in Douglas county in several years. The low price received for their grain some years ago discouraged the farmers in planting wheat, and the production of that grain in this county almost ceased until the past two years. Messrs. Bashford tell us that with the increased acreage last year, they still had to import about ten thousand bushels to supply their needs

ROSEBURG NEXT

It is Said the Federal Grand Jury Will Take Up Investigation Early in March.

HENEY IN WASHINGTON

Federal Grand Jury Will Convene in That City to Investigate Herman Charges.

Portland, Feb. 14.—It is planned by District Attorney F. J. Heney, who in company with Secret Service Agent Burns, Attorney E. O. Pugin and Stenographer Rittenhouse, left for Washington, D. C., today, that when the Federal grand jury convenes in Portland the latter part of March, the Roseburg district land frauds investigation will be taken up. Many more indictments are expected. During Mr. Heney's absence the work of secret investigation in Oregon will continue.

Before the Federal grand jury of the District of Columbia is to be called in special session at the request of District Attorney for Oregon Francis Joseph Heney, Congressman Binger Hermann will be called to explain what became of certain records known to be missing from the General Land Office, of which Mr. Hermann was Commissioner General. It will be the effort of Mr. Heney to secure indictment of Mr. Hermann on a charge of having destroyed these documents and records, supposedly to conceal his own guilt or the guilt of confederates in connection with the Oregon land frauds. This investigation must be carried on in Washington, D. C., because it was there that the records disappeared, and the alleged crime was committed.

Gray's Gambling Bill.

Salem, Feb. 14.—Representative Gray's bill making gambling a felony was favorably reported to the House this afternoon by the House committee on health and public morals, composed of Calvert, Munkers and West. The bill provides that any one operating a gambling game, nearly every known game device being specified, shall be deemed guilty of committing a felony. The punishment is from one to three years in the Penitentiary. Players are not named in the bill.

Anyone knowingly permitting a game to be operated in a building owned by him shall be considered equally guilty with the manager of the game.

Impersonation, fine or both are the punishments prescribed for conducting a gambling game by Gray's bill which passed the House tonight. The original bill made gambling a felony, and most of the members thought they were voting upon such a measure, so only 33 voted aye. Violations of the act are to be punished by imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or by fine ranging up to \$500.

Truck garden ground is being prepared.

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They are experts in their line and carry a full line of plumbers hardware, bath tubs, sinks and everything for the kitchen and bath room in the way of plumbing. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Prices Reasonable.

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