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CONGRESSMAN WILLIAMSON DEMURS TO CHARGES

His Partner and Associate File Abatement Pleas. To Expose Unusual Proceedings of Grand Jury.

Portland, April 15.—There was a change of program in the defense of those indicted for alleged complicity in the Oregon land frauds, when Congressman J. N. Williamson, his partner, Dr. Van Gesner, and Marion R. Biggs appeared before Judge Bellinger to plead this morning. Congressman Williamson departed from the plan adopted by Senator J. H. Mitchell, and entered demurrers on the ground that the allegations do not constitute crime, and other grounds. Van Gesner and Biggs followed the Mitchell plan in the main, but improved upon it by meeting District Attorney Heney's claim that it is too late, by the statement that they filed pleas in abatement at the earliest possible moment. Hearing will be had Monday (today).

Now comes the above-named defendant, J. N. Williamson, in his own proper person, and H. S. Wilson and A. S. Bennett, his attorneys, and demurs to the indictment in the above entitled case, and says:

"That the said indictment, and the matters and facts therein contained, in manner and form as the same are stated, are not sufficient to constitute a crime, and are not direct and certain. And that the said indictment does not set forth with sufficient or any certainty the character or nature or circumstances of the alleged intended fraud upon the United States, or identify or describe the land as to which said fraud is claimed to have been directed, and of which the United States, as claimed and alleged, was intended to be defrauded, or of the lands which were intended to be transferred to the United States by said defendant.

WALLOWA COUNTY'S DOUBLE TRAGEDIES

Elgin, Or., April 12.—News reached here last night of a double killing Sunday in the isolated northwestern portion of Wallowa County, 35 miles from this place, in which J. H. McBain, a homesteader, shot and killed two brothers named Stran, whom he accused of trying to "squint" on a quarter section he had surveyed for himself in that district. McBain came to the Wallowa from Colorado several weeks ago, and is a homesteader claim. He found what he wanted in what is known as the Grosman neighborhood, where no Government surveys have been made. He surveyed his own claim, intending to put up a shack and hold "squatters" right until an official survey would give him prior right to file and full title.

missed and discharged from answering the same." Heney Objects "I object to the filing and consideration of these pleas in abatement," said District Attorney Heney, "upon the grounds first, that they came too late; second, that they contain matters which contradict the record or which are, if true, only provable by testimony of the jurors or of the United States Attorney, who must be permitted to disclose what the terms of their oath or the general rules of law require them to keep secret, in order to contradict the same, and the effect of which matters is to impeach their verdict; and that such matters cannot be set up or considered in a plea of abatement."

Williamson, together with his partner, Dr. Van Gesner, and Marion R. Biggs, formerly a United States Commissioner, were indicted Feb. 11 on a charge of abatement of perjury in having induced a number of persons to locate Government lands in behalf of Williamson & Gesner, who own an immense sheep range in Eastern Oregon. Biggs took the affidavits of the alleged fraudulent entrymen.

CLAIMS X-RAY DID \$10,000 DAMAGES

Portland, Oregon, April 14.—As an example of the havoc which X-rays will work on a child's face, lawyers for the plaintiff in the case of Helen Ball, a minor, vs. Drs. Alva D. Walker and Ralph C. Walker, exhibited the burned, scarred and disfigured face of Helen Ball to a jury in Judge Frazer's court today. Both sides of the child's face are disfigured as if boiling water had been poured on them, while her head is almost bald, with the exception of the top scalp, where there is a luxuriant growth. One eye is twisted out of shape. This disfigurement, the plaintiff claims, was caused by the unskillful application of X-rays to the child's face by the defendants in an effort to cure her of eczema. The little girl is about 7 years old, and the suit is brought by her mother Mrs. C. A. Ball. They ask for \$10,000 damages.

"TEDDY" LEADS COWBOY RAID

Heads Band of Horsemen Who Dash Through Frederick, Okla., Swinging Hats and Yelling

Texline, Tex., April 14.—Yesterday evening at Frederick, the President made a fitting final event of the day of fun. At the head of some 50 horsemen, he dashed through the streets of the little town, all swinging hats and yelling like madmen. After thanking the people for their consideration in letting him alone to enjoy himself, the president retired to his car, where he detailed his exploits with the wolves to the newspaper men. It was announced this morning that the Colorado headquarters of Secretary Loeb and others of the party who do not hunt will be at Glenwood Springs.

The President arrives at Colorado Springs at 7:30 p. m. and leaves at 9:30 o'clock for the west. He will be escorted to the residence of H. B. Stewart for the purpose of selecting his hunting outfit. President Roosevelt will become owner of the monster Colorado Midland mogul engine No. 15, which has been selected to haul his train to Newcastle. The locomotive weighs 210,000 pounds and is valued at \$20,000. The presentation will be made by John Hopkinson on behalf of the Colorado Midland and the train crew, so that when he returns from Newcastle he will be hauled by his own engine.

There has been a fresh snowfall and the roads to camp Roosevelt are impassable. Everything is reported in good order and there will be no dearth of game. Four bears have already been located and are being watched and trapped. The dispatch does not go into details, and while it is believed by naval men here that there is a possibility of truth in it, it is not supposed that the heavy battleships of either fleet have been engaged. The fighting, if any has occurred, will probably prove to have been between scouting cruisers of the two fleets. Japanese scouts have been sighted in that locality within the last few days, and the fact lends some color to the report, as it is generally believed that the Russian fleet has anchored temporarily in some harbor in that vicinity in order to coal up and make other preparations before proceeding farther north.

Another report is that the fleet met off Nipper Shoals. Japanese cruisers are known to be near that point. The Tokio News received here suggests a delay in the conflict. A semi-official statement is made that Togo will not fight until he has the Russian fleet in the sea of Japan.

Roosevelt Begins With a Bear. Newcastle, Colo., April 15.—President Roosevelt has killed his first bear, a 600-pound brown animal. He was brought down with one shot with a rifle of the army type, four hours after the hunt began. The skin tonight is stretched in front of the president's cabin and Jack Frye will have the choicest bear steaks ready for breakfast in the morning. The bear's trail was struck 12 miles from Newcastle, about half way to the camp. The leading dog gave the alarm and the whole pack of hounds was unleashed. Eight dogs came up with the game after a chase of about two miles. The bear took to a tree without fight. President Roosevelt and John B. Goff were right behind the dogs. The president took steady aim and brought the animal tumbling down with a shot through the shoulder and lungs. The rest of the party came up, the bear was skinned, the best parts of the meat cut out and the march again taken up to the camp. Penny's ranch was reached at 5 o'clock.

SENSATIONAL NEWS FROM RUSSIAN FLYING SQUADRON

Said to Have Fired on British Cruisers—Renewed Rumors of an Engagement—Communication Cut Off.

St. Petersburg, April 16.—It is rumored the Baltic squadron met and engaged two British cruisers in the China Sea under the impression they were Japanese, and sank them.

Paris, April 16.—The correspondent of the Petit Journal at Haifong, French Indo-China, cabling under date of April 15, says: "I am informed that the Russian fleet, 40 vessels strong, running at 12 knots and without lights, was sighted in the 17th degree of latitude, steaming in a northerly direction."

Hongkong, April 15.—A cable dispatch has been received here from Manila saying that fighting has begun between the Russian and Japanese fleets near the Palawan islands, part of the Philippine group.

The dispatch does not go into details, and while it is believed by naval men here that there is a possibility of truth in it, it is not supposed that the heavy battleships of either fleet have been engaged. The fighting, if any has occurred, will probably prove to have been between scouting cruisers of the two fleets. Japanese scouts have been sighted in that locality within the last few days, and the fact lends some color to the report, as it is generally believed that the Russian fleet has anchored temporarily in some harbor in that vicinity in order to coal up and make other preparations before proceeding farther north.

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BOMBS VERSUS THE BALLOT BOX.



Two ways of disposing of unfit public servants. —Washington Star.

BOYS PLAN BANK AND TRAIN ROBBERY

Grants Pass, April 14.—Plans to rob a local bank and hold up a Southern Pacific train, in addition to perpetration of seven bold robberies, were disclosed at the preliminary hearing of Fay, Durham and Belcher, the three youthful Grants Pass boys, who left here last night in custody for the Reform School.

Young Belcher is a law student in the office of H. D. Norton, a local attorney. There, where he had apparently been studiously reading law, was found powder enough to blow up the block. It was the discovery of miscellaneous booty, looted from stores, residences and even a church, that led to the arrest of the trio, and the exposure of the organized "gang" that has stirred the town. In the attic of the opera-house was found one cache of stolen goods, while more was discovered in the law office, together with tools for carrying on their crooked avocations.

Last Sunday the Durham boy joined the Bethany Presbyterian Church. That night the White House grocery store was robbed by the trio. The Belcher boy was committing the catechism for admittance into the Episcopal Church. All the boys, in addition to their prominent connections, were quiet, well behaved, and by no means of the "rowdy" sort.

Nearly all the articles taken in seven robberies have been produced. The boys broke completely down when first questioned, and tearfully begged that all knowledge of their crimes be kept from their parents.

PARTHENA DOWNS BURNED TO DEATH

Cottage Grove, April 15.—After twelve hours intense suffering from the burns received on her body, from her waist to her head, and from inhaling flames of fire, Miss Parthena Downs, aged 25 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Downs, residing on Mosby creek, east of Cottage Grove, died Wednesday night and was buried in Mosby Creek cemetery yesterday.

The young woman, who was almost blind, having been left in that condition by sickness in her youth, was at her home alone with her 10-year-old brother Wednesday morning when the little boy discovered that the grass near the house was afire, having caught from a burning log, and was rapidly spreading toward the fence. The young woman attempted to check the blaze but her clothing caught fire and in an instant they were a mass of flames. In terror she ran screaming to a water trough 100 yards away and lying flat in the trough she extinguished the flames, but not before she inhaled them into her lungs and her body was fearfully burned. She managed to walk to the house, however, and her father, who had been working in a nearby field, and her mother, who was at a neighbor's house, were called. A messenger was sent post haste to Cottage Grove for a physician and in a short time Dr. Job arrived. He found the girl beyond human help and she died twelve hours after she was burned.

Whole and cracked corn for sale by the Douglas County Flouring Mills.

A CO-OPERATIVE GROCERY STORE

Articles of incorporation were filed with the county clerk in Roseburg last Friday by the Roseburg Rochdale Association, the co-operative grocery company. The capital stock is placed at \$5000, divided into one hundred shares at \$50 each. The incorporators were Robt. Robertson, W. F. Anderson, F. A. McCall, C. W. Martyn and F. E. Caven-der. The company has leased the old postoffice quarters in the Abraham building and expect to open for business with a line of groceries about May 15. A manager for the store will be selected in the near future.

BIG DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE CONVENTION

To Be Held at Portland on Wednesday and Thursday April 26 and 27

A convention of the state Development League is called to meet at Portland Wednesday and Thursday April 26 and 27. The Oregon Development League is composed of 52 regularly organized commercial and industrial bodies. A large number of delegates from all sections of the state are expected to be in attendance. The program for the meeting is partially arranged as follows:

Wednesday April 26 Convention called to order at 9:30 a. m. delegates to arrive at 9 if possible and receive badges. A local reception committee will be on hand to welcome delegates. Address of welcome, Hon. George E. Chamberlain, governor of Oregon. Response by E. L. Smith, president Oregon Development League. Report of League's work, Tom Richardson, secretary.

Address by Messrs. H. W. Goode, president of Lewis and Clark Exposition; J. R. N. Bell, Baker City; Frank I. Vawter, Medford; B. H. Worthington, general manager S. P. and O. R. & N. Co.; Portland; Chas. V. Galloway, of McMinnville. Brief discussion of papers. Adjournment at 12:30. In the afternoon the convention will meet in sections devoted to the various industries of the state, enabling delegates to discuss subjects in which they are particularly interested. The Willamette Valley Agricultural section will occupy the Marquam Grand theatre.

Good Roads section, Judge John H. Scott, of Salem, chairman, tower room of Portland Commercial Club. Dairy section, J. W. Bailey, Portland, chairman, ladies' dining room, Portland Commercial Club. Fruit section, Wilbur K. Newell, Dillie, chairman, Chamber of Commerce rooms. Mining section, W. S. Newberry, Sumpter, and C. C. Beekman, Jacksonville, joint chairman, back room of Commercial Club.

At these sectional conventions a condensed but comprehensive report will be made for presentation at the general session Thursday morning.

In the evening reception in rooms of Portland Commercial Club from 8 to 11 o'clock, for delegates, their families and friends.

Thursday, April 27 Convention called to order promptly at 9 o'clock. Reports from sectional conventions, in order named above.

Reports of vice presidents of the league. Addresses by Hon. Jefferson Myers, president Oregon State Commission of Lewis and Clark Exposition. Reports from all delegates represented.

All delegates will be guests of the Lewis and Clark Exposition the afternoon of the 27th, leaving for the grounds at exactly 2 o'clock, as per announcement to be made in the convention.

Special Rates by the railroads for this occasion insure the convention's success. On the O. R. & N., La Grande and points east, will be one fare for the round trip; points between La Grande and Portland, one and one third fare. Tickets on the Southern Pacific will be sold at one fare for the round trip from Glendale and points south. Between Glendale and Portland fare will be one and one-third. Rate on the Northern Pacific is one and one third fare for round trip. These rates will apply on the O. R. & N. and Southern Pacific for trains arriving in Portland on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning April 25th and 26th. On the Northern Pacific delegates may arrive either Wednesday or Thursday morning, April 28 is the limit of tickets.

MOUNT SHASTA IN ACTIVE ERUPTION

Sisson, Calif., April 14.—Is Mount Shasta active again? Torn open by some powerful internal disturbance is the condition of a vacant lot adjoining A. Koletka's livery stable here. Great jagged cracks have opened, from which constant streams of dark-colored, oily mud are flowing in great quantities. About the same time the upper side of a big fill across Big canyon sank 40 feet.

This phenomenon occurred at 10:30 o'clock Thursday morning. The fill across Big canyon was built about six years ago by the McClond Railway company, and was considered one of the safest fills on the entire road. The sinking of the fill and the upheaval at Sisson at the same time gives ground to much speculation as to the probable cause. Many of the older citizens are inclined to favor the theory that Mount Shasta is on the verge of an upheaval. When the mud first began flowing from the lot above the livery stable Mrs. Koletka was at the barn alone. She saw that the mud would flood the town if left to its own course, so gave the alarm and soon had men at work digging trenches from the barn to the main sewer ditch. The trenches, however, cannot carry the volume of flowing mud and the streets below are gradually filling.

Some of the mud was thrown into clear water and an oily substance soon covered the top of the water, which indicates the presence of much oil. It is reported here that the mesa above town is gradually sinking in several places.

BEEF TRUST OFFICIALS FLEEING TO CANADA

Their Wives Summoned to Tell About Plans. Many Officials Are Indicted—Names of the Fugitives.

Chicago, April 15.—The federal grand jury today made special efforts to secure evidence sufficient for more indictments. Two women heavily veiled were taken before the jury and examined at length. Every effort was made by the Government officials to keep their identity secret, but it is said that they are Mrs. Irving Vant, wife of the assistant secretary of Swift & Co., and Mrs. Richard W. Howes, wife of the head of the casing department of the same firm.

The husbands of both are in Montreal in company with several other employes of different houses in the combination. It is said the testimony of the ladies today had to do with a European trip that was being planned by them and an attorney of a packing firm for themselves and their husbands. One man was also examined at some length. His identity was not learned. The jury then adjourned until next Wednesday.

Names of Fugitives. Among the important Chicago department officials who have been located at the Windsor Hotel in Montreal are T. E. Jones, traffic manager for Armour & Co.; Richard H. Lane, manager of the provision department of Armour & Co.; A. E. Fay, traffic manager for Swift & Co.; F. A. Spink, traffic manager of the National Packing Company; T. Filbur, manager of the hog, tallow and casing department of Swift & Co., and C. Coffin, one of the general managers of the National Packing Company.

The motion to quash the indictment against Superintendent T. J. Connors, of Armour & Co., was continued today by Judge Landis until next Saturday. Although indictments on the charge named have been returned against five persons, it is claimed that efforts are still being made to interfere with Government witnesses. It is reported that the first intimation of the alleged interference with another witness was gathered from the testimony of E. B. Fish, on whose testimony four employes of

Schwartzschild & Sulzberger were indicted Thursday. Six Women are Summoned. Subpenas have been issued for six women, wives of men employed by various packers. All of these men are now in Canada, and the subpenas for the women have been issued in connection with the disappearance of their husbands. They are: Mrs. Irving A. Vant, wife of the assistant secretary of Swift & Co.; Mrs. E. A. Allen, whose husband, now with the National Packing Company, was formerly secretary of the Hammond Packing Company; Mrs. James Brennan, whose husband is a department manager for Swift & Co.; Mrs. A. R. Fay, wife of the traffic manager for Swift & Co.; Mrs. Frank A. Spink, wife of the manager for the National Packing Company; Mrs. Frol Wilbur, wife of the manager of the hide, tallow and casing department of Swift & Co. It could not be learned tonight whether or not any of the subpenas had been served.

MEDFORD, CRATER LAKE RAILROAD

The requisite rails for the building of the Medford & Crater Lake railroad to Eagle Point, have been procured, President Whitehead reports. The Medford Oregonian says that Contractor Ewing has a small force engaged in grading, which he will increase in a short time. Chief Engineer McCall, W. H. Parsons his first assistant, and their party are engaged in completing the work they began some time ago. The survey itself was finished as far as Big Butte Falls and grade stakes set several months since, but many of the details were incomplete.

CARRIE NATION RECEIVES SENTENCE

Wichita, Kan., April 14.—In the District Court today Carrie Nation, Myra McHenry and Mrs. Lucy Willbert were found guilty of destroying property and sentenced by Judge Wilson. Mrs. Nation was fined \$250 and given four months in jail; Mrs. McHenry, two months and a fine of \$150, Mrs. Willbert 25 days and a fine of \$150. Sentence was suspended on good behavior. The offense was committed September 30 last, when the three women broke the windows of a wholesale liquor house. Four miles of new streets were graded and graveled at Eugene last year.

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