

The Madras Pioneer

MADRAS, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1905.

NO. 7

WILLIAMSON, GESNER AND BIGGS CONVICTED

Third Trial Results in Conviction on Charge of Conspiracy to Suborn Perjury.

On the third trial in the U. S. Circuit Court at Portland, Congressman J. N. Williamson, Dr. Van Gessner and Marion R. Biggs of Prineville have been found guilty of conspiracy to suborn perjury. The indictment of Williamson, Gessner and Biggs was the result of an investigation into the timber land operations in the Prineville neighborhood, and according to the allegations of the indictment, Williamson and Gessner, who are in the sheep business in this county, induced parties residing at Prineville to file upon timber claims in that vicinity; that these persons were forced, according to the timber act, to swear that they were taking the claims for their own use and benefit and without intent to sell or transfer them to any other person, while in fact the parties were taking the claims up at the instigation of and for the benefit of Williamson and Gessner; that Gessner loaned them all the money necessary, and when patents were received the land was to be deeded to Williamson and Gessner, the claimants receiving \$75 for their share of the transaction. The case has twice before been submitted to a jury, both former trials having resulted in a "hung jury". On the third trial the first ballot of the jury showed eleven to one for conviction, and after balloting for some time, an agreement was reached. Judge A. S. Bennett and H. S. Wilson of The Dalles were the attorneys for defendants. The government's case has been prosecuted by Hon. Francis Heney, who was instrumental in securing the indictment of Senator Mitchell, Congressmen Williamson and Tierman, and others high in the public life of the state who were mixed up in the public land frauds. So far the government's attorney has not failed to make his case against those indicted for public land frauds.

Marion R. Biggs, who was a U. S. Commissioner at Prineville was the officer before whom the proofs and filings of the timber claims were made, and his activity in the Williamson and Gessner operations resulted in his indictment and conviction.

The three trials of these defendants have occupied a period of three months, and a large number of witnesses from the Prineville vicinity were called at each of the trials.

The story of the offense charged against the defendants has become familiar during the three trials. In substance they were accused of conspiring to procure a number of persons to take up timber claims, under an arrangement whereby Williamson and Gessner should provide all necessary money in the transaction, and when title to the land was acquired it was to be transferred to Williamson and Gessner. Each entryman was to receive \$75 for his "timber right". In making their filings the entrymen were obliged to swear that they had made no previous contract for the sale of the land.

NO MARKET FOR WHEAT

Farmers in Baker county are

said to be facing about the same condition which confronts the farmers of this section of the country; they have no market for their wheat. About three hundred thousand bushels of wheat were raised in the territory tributary to Baker City, but there is not a wheat buyer or a flouring mill within the city. Baker county has just begun to raise wheat. Oats was raised there principally, heretofore, but the high price of wheat induced the planting of a big crop of that cereal, and now they have no market for it. One farmer, who has 800 acres in wheat, hauled a load of the grain to town and then had to haul it home again, as he could not find a market for it. The farmers of that locality say that they will go back to raising alfalfa if the conditions do not change.

In this section of country there is some demand for wheat, and in the neighborhood of 55 cents is being paid. The market for our grain product is not as brisk as those who are interested in the welfare of this country would wish, but there seems no reason yet to fear but that this season's crop will be marketed at fair prices. The future of this country depends upon the coming of the railroad. No one knows just when we may expect better transportation facilities, but all agree that this is too good a country to be much longer without a railroad, and until it comes, we will somehow manage.

BURNING STRAW ROBS SOIL

(Spokesman review.)

"Wheatgrowers who burn the straw on their lands are robbing the soil and will have cause to regret the practice," said Jacob Ziegler of Clinton, Ill. Mr. Ziegler is a practical farmer and practices a complete system of rotation in crops. He said:

"Land is like a cupboard. You have to put something into it if you expect to take anything out for any length of time. Western people follow what might be called a chemical process of farming. The idea is this: The chemist takes the soil to his laboratory and extracts the elements, the plant food, from it at once and farmers of this type take these elements from the soil by a slower process as long as there is anything left to take.

"This is always to be expected in a new country, but any soil is bound to wear out in time. In Illinois, where we think we have some of the finest soil in the world, the land has been wearing out for a long time, especially in the uplands and now all the progressive farmers practice rotation of crops and endeavor to restore to the soil as much as they take out.

BARBER--WINDOM.

Miss Winnie Windom and Jerry Barber were married at the home of the bride near Culver on last Sunday evening, the Rev. J. K. Craig of Madras officiating at the happy ceremony. Only the relatives and a few intimate friends of the young people were present. The groom is a popular young rancher of this neighborhood, and the bride is the charming and accomplished daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Windom of Culver. Both have a large circle of friends in this section of the county, in whose congratulations and good wishes The Pioneer joins.

Mr. and Mrs. Barber left on Monday for Portland to visit the Lewis and Clark Fair, and after their return will be at home to their friends at Culver.

FOUR NEW INDICTMENTS

The federal Grand Jury in session at Portland on last Saturday returned an indictment against Charles A. Graves, county surveyor of this county, E. L. Wakefield of the former sheep firm of Williamson Wakefield and Gesner, Ora L. Parker and Robert T. Foster, all of whom are residents of Prineville. The four new defendants are charged with conspiracy to defraud the government of its public domain, by means of false and fraudulent affidavits. And it is also charged in the indictment that these defendants secured Sarah Parker, Laura Foster, Monia Graves and Laura Biggs to make false and fraudulent affidavits of filing on timber claims.

The four men against whom indictments are returned were witnesses for the government in the recent trial of the Williamson-Gessner-Biggs cases, and are said to have been unwilling to tell all they knew when questioned in these cases.

It is generally predicted by the "old-timers" that the present long dry summer will be followed by a winter of unusual severity. Many of them recall years in which there was unusual drouth, and these were nearly always followed by long winters with an abundance of snow. The heavy snow of the winter of 1884 is especially recalled, as following the driest year except the present remembered by any of the old residents of this section. The Blue mountains are said to be already donning their winter coat of white, which is unprecedented for this early in the season.

A citizen of Corvallis has invented a plow that can be operated by a gasoline engine, and with one man to direct, can plow, plant and harrow in 25 acres of wheat in a day. If the new invention proves a success it will revolutionize the farming industry, and greatly cheapen the cost of the production of wheat. A plough of that description could be operated with great effect upon some of the large level plateaus in this neighborhood.

Archie Mason, who has a contract on the construction of the Sumpter Valley road, has been in town during the week. He says that his contract will be completed some time during the present month, and that John Palmehn and other residents of this neighborhood will then return to Madras. Mr. Mason was here looking after business matters, and expects to return at once to Tipton, to remain until the railroad contract is completed.

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TABLE NO. 10.
Effective July 3, 1904.

STATION	North Bound No. 1.	Daily Pass.	Arrive
High	11:50 a. m.		
Olney	11:10 a. m.		
Rinks	11:30 a. m.		
Waco	11:50 a. m.		
Summit	12:45 p. m.		
Hay C. J.	10:40 a. m.		
Northside	10:24 a. m.		
Belton	10:05 a. m.		
Sto	9:55 a. m.		
Prineville	9:25 a. m.		
Summit	9:20 a. m.		
Hay C. J.	8:55 a. m.		
Belton	8:40 a. m.		
Sto	8:30 a. m.		
Prineville	8:00 a. m.		
Summit	8:00 a. m.		

For further information apply to
C. M. BATTLE, G. F. & P. A.
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