

BENSON AND PERRIN GUILTY

Federal Court Convicts Land Graffers of Obtaining 12,000 Acres Fraudulently

JURY IS OUT HALF AN HOUR

Penalty—Fine and Imprisonment—Sentences Will Be Passed Today by De Haven.

San Francisco, Aug. 21.—John A. Benson and Dr. Edward B. Perrin were today convicted of conspiracy to defraud the United States government in securing 12,000 acres of land in Tehama county.

The verdict, which means a fine and term of imprisonment, was returned by a jury in the United States District Court after being out about an hour. Only two ballots were required before the jury arrived at a decision to find the aged defendants guilty.

Retain Liberty on Bail.
Benson and Dr. Perrin were allowed to retain their liberty on bail. Judge De Haven set Thursday as a day for passing sentence.

J. C. Campbell made the closing argument for the defense at the morning session, and in the afternoon United States District Attorney Devlin closed for the prosecution, summing up the case in a forcible manner. In his charge Judge De Haven instructed the jurors that if they found from the evidence that Dr. Perrin had at any time subsequent to October 31, 1903, taken advantage of the contract with Benson, he should be found guilty as charged.

After the jury had been out half an hour they filed back into court and asked for a reading of letters Perrin wrote from Washington, Snell's reply and that part of the charge relating to Dr. Perrin's liability in connection with the Benson contract. A verdict was returned within ten minutes after the request of the jury had been granted.

Hard Hit by Verdict.
Dr. Perrin took the verdict very hard and was comforted by his two sons. Benson appeared to be dumb-founded at the result.

The punishment provided by the statute is a fine of not less than \$1000 nor more than \$10,000 and imprisonment for not less than two years.

EASTERN OREGON WHEAT IS DAMAGED

Umatilla Growers Say Grain Suffered From Rain More Than Was Anticipated.

Pendleton, Aug. 21.—That Umatilla county's immense wheat crop, which is less than half harvested, sustained more damage as a result of last week's rain than was at first suspected became manifest yesterday when the work of harvesting was resumed. It was found that the berry had been bleached and that it is testing about two pounds less than before the rain. Wheat from the same field was testing 62 before the rain is now testing 60.

Fortunately for the growers of the county, the grain this year was exceptionally heavy, and it is not thought that the growers will receive any lower price because of the wettling which it received. Of 70 samples received by one buyer only two tested below 60 and as 58 is the standard for first grade it will be seen that practically the entire crop of the county will stand the falling off of two pounds and still make the test. The samples received by this buyer corresponded with those received by every other buyer in the city.

It has also been found that the Athena and Weston mountain sections are not the only ones who have suffered losses by reason of "falling straw." Throughout a large part of the reservation, and in fact every part of the county where the wheat was particularly tall, the heads have proved too heavy for the straw when softened by the rain and have started toward the ground.

While the loss on this account will not be considerable, probably not more than five bushels an acre in any instance, yet a few bushels to the acre, with wheat the price it is now, will be grudged by the growers. Harvesting is now being carried on under some difficulties, as the grain is not thoroughly dried out yet and is very tough to thresh. The chaff clings to the berry and if enough wind is put on to blow it out the grain is carried over.

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