

KERR TELLS OF HIS DEALS

Coquille Man Testifies In Land Fraud Case In Portland.

PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 20.—Attorneys for the United States in the Federal Court furnished testimony to demonstrate that the Pacific Furniture and Lumber Company did enter into contracts with entrymen in Curry county prior to their filing on the land in the government office at Roseburg. The exposure started when the examination of Witness Kerr was drawing to a close. District Attorney McCourt took hold of him and tore large holes in the fence which has obscured the actions of the furniture concern.

Examination of William Kerr of Coquille, former land agent for the furniture company was conducted yesterday afternoon and proved almost sensational. Prior to that time the letters which he admitted writing gave the inference that a conspiracy had existed. Before leaving the stand the District Attorney brought out the admission that Kerr had personally made contracts with Thomas D. Lane, B. W. Dean and A. J. Marsh whereby they were to enter land and turn it over to the company. This evidence was followed by statements that by instruction of Jones he had paid sums of money to Grant Porterfield, W. E. Burrows, Mrs. Coy and Mrs. Roby and was informed that they were working on the same understanding as those with whom Kerr made contracts.

On cross-examination Witness Kerr's story was not shaken in any particular. He said he quit the company as soon as he learned that their methods of handling the land entries were in violation of law, and that he pleaded guilty upon the advice of his attorney and without any promise of immunity from sentence. It was brought out that when he went into the plan with Jones he had no intention of becoming a party to a conspiracy to defraud the government.

The government has not yet developed evidence showing to what extent Defendants Hedderly, Hynes and Myers were interested in the conspiracy, but is endeavoring to make it plain that Richard D. Jones and William Kerr were working together in procuring entries to be made by illegal methods.

Jeremiah Huntley was connected with the case through the introduction of bills for services rendered under a contract with the furniture company whereby he was to receive a fee of \$25 for the first 50 claims filed. His defense will be that these fees concerned his services as an attorney, and not as United States Commissioner.

Kerr Is Blamed.
Thomas Lane, of Curry county, and a brother-in-law of William T. Kerr, was the opening witness. He said that at the solicitation of Kerr he entered a tract of land, and that Kerr supplied all the money, witness giving his note, for its repayment. The note ran to the Pacific Furniture and Lumber Company, and when he deeded the land in 1903 the note was returned to him. At that time the company seems to have been short of money, and was unable to pay Lane \$400 as his part, so Kerr gave him a note for that amount. Later he did work for the company, and he took a new note for the entire amount in payment.

On cross-examination it was brought out that he did not have any acquaintance with the defendants Hedderly, Myers and Hynes, now on trial, but that the entire business was done through Kerr as agent for the furniture company.

Dean Corroborates.
Bradford W. Dean, a Curry county farmer, followed Lane on the stand, and told a similar story. He was employed as a blacksmith and machinist at the Port Orford sawmills, and was asked by Kerr to file on a claim, for which Kerr agreed to furnish the money. He did all his business through Kerr, as agent for the furniture factory.

The last witness was I. N. Marsh, a carpenter, living at Los Angeles. He stated he bought two shares of stock in the furniture factory and that he transacted the business through William H. Smith, who promised him a job at the Port Orford sawmills, and suggested that he take up a claim which he could sell to the company. He said Smith was careful to explain that it would be a violation of the law if the company entered into a contract with an entryman before the land was filed on, but as a stockholder that difficulty would be overcome because he would

HISTORY OF NOTED CURRY COUNTY LAND FRAUD CASE

Concerning the noted Los Angeles timber land fraud case in which Frank A. Stewart of Port Orford, Wm. T. Kerr of Coquille, and John R. Miller and Ames S. Johnson of Curry, pleaded guilty at Portland the other day, but which Jeremiah Huntley is fighting, the Portland Telegram has the following story:

"The story is that of what the Federal officials claim is the third largest attempt to secure tainted fortunes by the use of credulous and often ignorant entrymen and dummies in locating Oregon's heavily timbered hills for the profit of an unscrupulous band of conspirators. It is a tale of wrecked hopes and crumbled reputations, and the scene shifts repeatedly, from Curry county to the Golden Gate, thence to eastern homes of 'little fellows' who were pawns in the game, and again back to the sawmills and hills of the Beaver State. It will reveal, it is claimed, the methods used in inducing artisans, mechanics and laborers to invest their savings from a life of toil in the stock of a company which held out no promises except the profits expected from the sale of lands which the entrymen were required to obtain by false affidavits submitted to 'fixed' agents of the government, and when the curtain falls on this act it is thought the next scene in which some of the characters will participate will be set on McNeil's Island.

The prosecution will attempt to show that Richard D. Jones and William H. Smith, who then resided in Portland, organized a conspiracy to loot the public domain in Curry county, Oregon, about 1901, and that their operations closed only with the interference of Special Agent Thomas B. Neuhausen in August of 1904. It was planned to get possession of about 30,000 acres of heavy timber in a contiguous body. The general scheme was to contract with individuals to file upon the land under the timber and stone act, with an understanding that it was to be turned over to the ring of conspirators as soon as patents were secured.

In carrying out the plan it was thought advisable to create a holding concern to which the lands would be deeded, and as a result the Pacific Furniture & Lumber Company came into existence, with Jones and Smith in full control of its affairs. It is charged that these men then interested a number of Los Angeles financiers in the corporation, as well as arranging with stockholders to come in on the ground floor as promoters. The Los Angeles men were Gillelan, Kenny and Cross, officers of the Broadway Bank & Trust Company, one of the most powerful institutions in California, and Drs. Hedderly and Goodwin, friends of the institution. Hines, Myers and Riley were to place the stock.

At this point it was decided to begin sending individuals into Oregon to locate lands. Agents of the concern picked up men wherever they could be found, but it was more difficult to find them in this state than in former years because people were becoming informed on the danger of placing themselves in the shadow of a Federal prison. Then the conspirators sent men among laborers and workmen employed at different points, many of them being lured into the plan under the belief that it was all straight.

In some instances it was found that the stoolpigeon had saved a few hundred dollars. Then they promptly sold him stock in the furniture company before sending him to Curry county to be "located." It is said that no amount was too small for Jones, Smith and the managers of the company to pass over. Letters will be introduced showing that Curry county agents of the company were notified of what men had been

still have an interest in the land after he deeded it to the company. On going to Port Orford he was not given a position, but took up a timber tract, Kerr and George Curry were his witnesses in proving up, but refused to sign the papers until he paid them for locating him on the land.

All testimony thus far introduced seems to indicate that William T. Kerr was the man who engineered the deal on Oregon soil. He claimed on the stand that he was ignorant of the law and that he had no intention of defrauding the government, but the evidence of each witness is that he either procured their consent to enter the claims or handled all those who were sent in by the officers of the company.

loaded up with stock before going into the hills.

It was such slow work along these lines that finally Jones and Smith are said to have purchased saw mills at Eureka, Port Orford, Humboldt and Frankfort, which were to be used as a blind to decoy entrymen by offering them employment. Agents were able to procure men from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and California by this means, it is said, and upon arrival they were sent on to the mills. On reaching the places they found no work, and were soon willing to listen to a proposition involving the "safe" entry of timber lands, which could be immediately disposed of for sufficient money to get the victim out of the country. The illegal entrymen were then turned over to some of the Curry county residents, whose duty was to point out the vacant lands and their corners. It is probable that Stewart, Kerr and Miller will be charged with this portion of the conspiracy.

Entries and proofs would be made with the assistance of Huntley and Johnston, who are charged with using their official positions in the certification of papers and statements which they knew to be false, for which they are said to have been paid by the Furniture Company.

Special Agent Neuhausen learned of the entry of immense areas of contiguous timber land along Lobster and Euchre Creeks, in Curry county, and with the assistance of Inspectors Jones, Watts and Meyendorff, proofs of a conspiracy were soon uncovered. One agent posed as a traveling salesman, while in that county, while others are said to have gone in as timber cruisers. Anyway, they got the proof, which will now be presented to the jury.

Of the defendants originally alleged to be implicated in this gigantic conspiracy, a number will not face the tribunal of justice at this time. Death has dismissed the indictments against Richard D. Jones, of San Francisco, and David M. Goodwin, of Los Angeles. Jones was the man who was accused of having joined with William H. Smith as the arch-conspirators of this effort to get rich quickly. David M. Goodwin was one of the prominent physicians of Los Angeles, and had built up a large fortune from the income of his practice. He was an intimate associate of the officers of the Los Angeles Broadway Bank & Trust Company.

All of the Los Angeles bankers have successfully resisted efforts to remove them to the jurisdiction of the Oregon courts for trial. Federal officers are confident of their ability to show that Warren Gillelan and R. W. Kenny, respectively president and cashier of the Broadway Bank and Trust Company, as well as Jacob C. Cross, one of its directors, invested in and financed the organization of the Pacific Furniture and Lumber Company, with full knowledge that it was to be made the holding concern for lands and timber fraudulently obtained from the government through its dupes, who would be brought from the east to be planted on Oregon lands.

George L. Stearns, a former president of the Pacific Furniture and Lumber Company, will not be prosecuted, the charges against him having been dismissed. Will D. Gould, of Los Angeles, has thus far been able to prevent extradition, but it is anticipated that the revelations of this hearing will so strongly implicate him that he can be forced to trial at a later date. Gould is a practicing attorney among the Angels and is said to have been the legal adviser of the California end of this deal.

Fred W. Dennis, a real estate dealer and stock broker of San Francisco, became alarmed when he received news of the government's investigation of Curry county land entries and skipped the country. He has not been apprehended so far as the public is advised, although it is hinted that the government may be able to place him on the stand as its witness before the case is concluded.

Those who had to face this inquisition are William H. Smith, Jeremiah Huntley, who was a commissioner for the United States for Curry county, with power to receive and approve final proofs of homesteaders; Ames S. Johnson, formerly Deputy county clerk for Curry county, with powers similar to those of the commissioner; Frank A. Stewart, merchant at Ohpjr; William T. Kerr, of Coquille; John R. Miller, of Port Orford; Dr. A. H. Hedderly, a physician of Los Angeles, Cal.; Richard Hines, M. M. Riley and Lee R. Myers, stock brokers of San Francisco.

REALESTATE TRANSFERS

Daily Real Estate Report Furnished By Title Guarantee and Abstract Co. Henry Sengstacken, Manager.

October 3, 1908.

L. D. Kinney et ux, to A. J. Stewart, deed. Lots 1 and 2, blk 15, Coos Bay Plat E. Consideration, \$200.

A. J. Stewart, to August King, deed. Lots 1 and 2, blk 15, Coos Bay Plat E. Consideration, \$10.

Belt Line Railway Co., to A. J. Stewart, deed. Lots 1 and 2, blk 15, Coos Bay Plat E. Consideration, \$100.

Homer West et ux, to Hattie M. West, deed. Lots 3 and 4, blk 39, Coos Bay Plat C. Consideration, \$500.

Thomas Vigers et ux, to Bird M. Reynolds, deed. Lots 20 and 21, blk 5, Bangor. Consideration, \$10.

I. S. Kaufman, trustee, to Thomas Vigers, deed. Lots 1 and 2, blk 16, Bangor Plat A. Consideration, \$10.

Thomas Vigers et ux, to Louisa E. Elsiminger, deed. Lots 1 and 2, blk 16, Plat A, Bangor. Consideration, \$10.00.

E. D. McArthur et ux, to Alvin Smith et al, deed. N 1/2 of NE 1/4, sec 13; E 1/2 and NW 1/4, N 1/2 and SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of sec 12; E 1/2 and SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 and W 1/2 of SE 1/4, sec 1, twp 25, R 12. Consideration, \$10.00.

R. B. Herron et al, to W. H. Kennedy et al, deed. N 1/2 of NE 1/4, sec 13; E 1/2 of NW 1/4, N 1/2 and SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of sec 12; E 1/2 and SW 1/4 of SW 1/4, W 1/2 of SE 1/4, sec 1, twp 25, R 12. Consideration, \$10.

October 5, 1908.

C. S. Winsor et ux, to J. Virgil Pugh, deed. Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, blk 14, Coos Bay Plat D. Consideration, \$10.00.

Simpson Lumber Co., to E. B. Michael, deed. Lot 6 and S 20 ft. of lot 7, blk 57, North Bend. Consideration, \$5.00.

C. A. Metlin et ux, to Chas. G. Magnus, deed. S 48 ft. of lot 13, blk 14, South Marshfield. Consideration, \$1,600.

October 6, 1908.

John S. Coke et ux, to Sarah E. Chase, deed. Lots 15 and 16, blk 7, Coos Bay Plat A. Consideration, \$500.

Thos. Vigers et ux, to Wm. McNeill, deed. Lots 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30, blk 2, Bangor Plat A. Consideration, \$10.

Thos. Vigers et ux, to Fred A. Almgren, deed. Lot 7, blk 12, Coos Bay Plat A. Consideration, \$10.00.

E. O. Schultz et ux, to Fred A. Almgren, deed. Lot 7, blk 12, Coos Bay Plat A. Consideration, \$1.00.

Ansel Collier et ux, to S. M. Collier, deed. 1/2 interest in following: Parcel of land beginning 3.14 chs. E. of 1/4 corner between secs. 5 and 8, twp. 26, R 12, 18.18 acres; NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 and W 1/2 of SE 1/4, sec. 5, twp 26, R 12; parcel of land beginning at NE corner of SE 1/4 of NE 1/4, sec. 8, twp 26, R 12, 2 1/2 acres. Consideration, \$10.00.

Crawford Point Land Co., to School District, No. 16, deed. Lot 12, blk 6, Crawford Point addition to Coos Bay. Consideration, present school lot.

School District, No. 16, to Crawford Point Land Co., deed. Parcel of land beginning 13 chs. N. of SE corner, sec 13, twp 25, R 13. Consideration, new deed.

Lee W. Culbertson, to Thos. Robinson, deed. Lot 2, blk 8, North Ferndale. Consideration, \$10.00.

October 7, 1908.

Abraham Van Zile et ux, to Nellie Weltzel, deed. Lot 9, blk 32, North Bend. Consideration, \$600.

E. L. Bessey et ux, to C. W. Tower, deed. Parcel of land in lot 6, sec 32, twp 25, R 11. Consideration, \$1.00.

October 8, 1908.

Elizabeth Condon and hus, to Geo. A. Thomason, deed; E 1/2 of lots 1 and 2, blk 24, Railroad addition to Marshfield. Consideration, \$150.

A. K. Pidgeon, to Wm. T. Totten, deed. Parcel of land beginning at 1/4 corner, between NE 1/4 and NW 1/4 sec 19, twp 24; R. 11, S and 1/4 acres. Consideration, \$10.00.

U. S. of A. to Annie M. Moon, patent; S 1/2 of SE 1/4, sec 28, and E 1/2 of NE 1/4, sec 33, twp 26, R 11.

October 9, 1908.

U. S. of A. to Edward Heydon, patent. NW 1/4, sec 12, twp 26, R 10.

D. S. Cameron et ux, to Geo. Cable, deed. Lots 5 and 15 to 21, blk 15, Edmonston First addition to Marshfield. Consideration, \$10.00.

A. T. Andrews et ux, to Geo. W. Leslie, deed. Lot 11, blk 45, North Bend. Consideration, \$10.00.

Marshfield Land Co., to Geo. W. Leslie, deed. Lots 11, 12, 13 and 14, blk 12, Bay Park. Consideration, \$10.00.

October 10, 1908.

Marshfield Land Co., to Louis Nelson, deed. Lots 5 and 6, blk 12, Bay Park. Consideration, \$10.00.

Simpson Lumber Co., to Syver Backey, deed. Lot 25, blk 36, North Bend. Consideration, \$5.00.

W. W. Graves, to Frances Z. Nichols, deed. Lots 1 to 6, blk 7, Graves addition to Marshfield. Consideration, \$10.00.

October 12, 1908.

Geo. J. Schaefer et ux, to Wm. C. Olsen, deed. Lots 16, 17 and 18, blk 3, Schaefers addition to Central Place. Consideration, \$250.

Rocco Biasca, to Antony Biasca, deed. Parcel of land beginning at corner of secs. 28, 29, 32 and 32, twp 25, R 12. Consideration, \$10.

October 13, 1908.

Lota Hines and hus, to C. J. Keane, deed. Lots 1, 2 and 3, blk 45, North Bend. Consideration, \$10.

October 14, 1908.

Jesse A. Smith et ux, to Standish-Hickey Timber Co., deed. NW 1/4 of NW 1/4, sec 29, twp 25, R 11. Consideration, \$400.

October 15, 1908.

Alice Kruse et al, by referee, to Geo. Witte, deed. NE 1/4 of SE 1/4, sec 33, W 1/2 of NW 1/4 and W 1/2 of SW 1/4 and SW 1/4 of SW 1/4, sec 34, twp 25, R 11; and lot 4, sec 3, twp 26, R 11.

October 16, 1908.

Wilhelm Dorbeck, to Paul Westsinger et al, deed. Lot 24, blk 18, Idaho addition to North Bend. Consideration, \$200.

R. L. Edmonston, to Chas. M. Ross, deed. Lots 3 and 4, blk 10, Edmonston First addition to Marshfield. Consideration, \$10,000.

East Marshfield Land Co., to Cearly Pederson, deed. Lots 12 and 13, blk 45, East Marshfield. Consideration, \$330.

October 17, 1908.

Gordon Farr, to Myrtle Farr, deed. Lots 12 and 13, blk 29, North Bend. Consideration, \$10.00.

Merchant Land Co., to Frank Flaten, deed. Lots 11, 12, 15 and 16, blk 7, Bay Park. Consideration, \$10.00.

MASQUERADE BALL at Sumner Saturday evening, October 31.

OBITUARY.

On Wednesday, October 14, our community was shocked to hear that death had again entered the home of S. B. and L. A. Cutlip and this time claimed for its own Mary Mabel, their fifteen-month-old daughter.

Six weeks ago, little Mary was stricken down with one of our dreaded enemies (diphtheria) from which she never fully recovered, paralysis setting in to stay its progress.

Just three weeks before darling Mary's death Louis Jerome, her seven-year-old brother, was taken from their home, and now she is gone also.

A short time before she was taken from us she raised her little weak hand and pointed to one side and who of us who have never crossed the valley that seems to us so dark can say what the dying eyes saw as she gazed in that direction. We only know that from that time all suffering seemed to leave her and she rested tranquilly until her spirit took its flight.

And now sweet babe, while we are passing through the shadow that hangs so dark over our way and seems at times to hide our path, still will we not grieve for thee and thy beloved brother, or wish thee back to these earthly sorrows but will toll on until we too shall be transplanted and reign with thee in God's own city, for Jesus has said, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

—A LOVED ONE.

ROD AND GUN CLUB MEETING.

There will be a meeting of the Coos Bay Rod and Gun Club, Thursday evening at 7:30 in the office of Hall & Hall, for the purpose of electing officers and transacting other important business.

J. W. BENNETT, Pres.

Better send this paper to a friend.

DUCKS

We have a complete outfit for Duck Hunters, everything you need. Guns (Double Barrel or Pump), Loaded Shells of all sizes, Hunting Coats, Cartridge Belts and Bags, Gun Cases, Leather Shell Bags, Duck Calls, Gun Cleaners, Canvas Decoy Ducks, etc., etc.

Milner's Hardware

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Sealed bids for an addition to school house in District No. 85 will be received up to 8 p. m., Saturday October 24. Plans and specifications can be seen at the office of J. D. McNeill.

M. B. SQUIRE, Clerk.

Read the Times' Want Ads.

Daintiest Lingerie

If sent to this laundry will return to you as fresh, crisp and sheer as when it was new. Laundering with us is an art—we carry it to such a degree of perfection. Our price list will show you how reasonable are our charges. One trial will convince you that our work cannot be surpassed. Phone 2291.

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Do not forget that DeWitt's Little Early Risers are the best pills made. They are pleasant little pills that are easy to take and are prompt and gentle. We sell and recommend them. Sold by LOCKHART & PAR-

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Open for Charter Nights and Sundays The Flyer Always Leaves on Time.

The plumbing on the new Hotel Chandler is being done by

J. B. RUST

The specifications call for class "A" material and workmanship throughout. Estimates given on plumbing, heating and gas fitting.
"C" Street, Opposite Hotel Chandler — PHONE 864.

DO NOT TAKE THE RISK.

When you have a bad cough or cold do not let it drag along until it becomes chronic, but give it attention and get rid of it. Take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and you are sure of prompt relief. For sale by JOHN PREUSS.

Better send this paper to a friend.