

SWINDLED THOSE WHO WANTED LAND

Journal Correspondent Exposes Scheme to Obtain Money From Unsuspecting Farmers.

(Journal Special Service.)

OREGON CITY, Dec. 1.—With a United States Land Office and a dozen or more lawyers, whose specialty is Land-Office business, within a few hours' ride of their homes, and against the advice of some of the latter, not more than 30 Clackamas County farmers have been skinned out of cash amounting to between \$3,000 and \$4,000 by one of the smoothest grafters that ever caught a bunch of suckers. Even though the well-worn, get-rich-quick plan did pan out, the government would have to be settled with, for the scheme is one of the rankest land frauds imaginable. As the matter stands now those farmers connected with the swindle will probably have a few sleepless nights before the matter is ended.

Piece by piece the story has been gathered from unwilling mouths, and is as follows:

About three weeks ago a young man with agreeable manners and a smooth tongue appeared at Molalla and made himself at home in the house of one of the farmers. Just because he liked the host, and to show that he was a good fellow, he very generously explained to the farmer that he had struck a good thing by which he was going to clean up \$700 in 10 weeks. Of course the farmer was a first-class timber claim, provided the land was cleared and the wood was cut. The farmer gave him \$100 cash. As between 30 and 40 people left their happy homes for the south, he must have cleared at least \$3,000. Most of the timber is of the third class and can be used for cord wood only. After the settlers had remained the required 10 weeks on the claim they

would have been entitled to acquire full title upon the payment of \$400 at the Land Office. This is where a local land company comes into the deal. This concern was to advance the money and then when the title was clear was to give each and every man \$1,200 for his timber land. Another batch of Molalla farmers was to have gone last week, but they were too shrewd. They wished to take along a surveyor, who is also something of a timber expert, but the capter objected, giving for his reason that a surveyor would attract attention and then every one would rush to take up the long-looked-for chance of getting something for nothing. That excuse did not set well with the suspicious men and they staid at home. Now those who did bite are wondering.

What or who this land company is can not be ascertained, but they probably know the law on such swindles, as no documents are handled in the deal. In filing on a timber entry the applicant must swear to the following:

"I do solemnly swear that I do not apply to purchase the land above described on speculation, but in good faith to appropriate it to my own exclusive use and benefit and that I have not directly or indirectly made any agreement or contract, in any way or manner, with any person or persons whatsoever, by which the title I may acquire from the Government of the United States may inure in whole or in part to the benefit of any person except myself."

More will be heard of this matter, as it is for just such swindles as this that Oregon has received so much publicity the past month. The Oregon City Land Office while not under suspicion, as are some of the other Land Offices over the state, has received instructions from Washington ordering that no more final proofs or titles be allowed until alleged frauds are cleared up.

NEW TELEPHONE FRANCHISE ASKED

Council Petitioned by He Expects to Become a U. S. Senator.

W. E. Thomas this afternoon petitioned the Common Council for a franchise to place in the City of Portland a new telephone system. In the petition Mr. Thomas states that the plant will be incorporated in the manner in which the street work of the company will be executed, naming those streets on which underground work will be done.

JEWISH WOMEN

Baltimore the Scene of a Notable Gathering This Week.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 1.—Many delegates are arriving from the third triennial convention of the Council of Jewish Women, which will be held in this city this week. The leading Jewish families of this city have issued invitations to the delegates, and each will be entertained at the home of some one of the families. Besides this arrangement a general entertainment and reception committee has prepared for the comfort of the guests. The convention will open tomorrow and continue one week, with two sessions daily.

The Council of Jewish Women has been in existence since the World's Fair at Chicago. The president is Mrs. Hannah Solomon of Chicago, and the secretary Miss Sadie American of New York City. Reports to be presented to the coming convention show that the council now has a membership approaching 10,000, distributed over the 35 states, each with a vice-president. The articles of the organization cover a wide field and embrace literary, charitable and religious work.

MANY KILLED

The Macedonians Driven in Rout by Victorious Turks.

VIENNA, Dec. 1.—Die Information, the leading paper at the Austrian capital, today reports a fierce battle between the Turkish troops and Macedonians. The fight occurred at Platan near the Bulgarian frontier. After a stubborn fight that lasted several hours the Macedonians were repulsed and driven from the field in disorder. They lost 302 in killed and 140 wounded. The loss sustained by the Turks was also heavy, being 250 killed and 600 wounded.

COMMITTEE WILL MEET.

The joint committee for the purpose of arranging for an exhibit at Osaka will meet this evening at 746 Washington street. The committee is composed of the following members:

A. H. Devers, Lewis and Clark Fair Corporation; Paul Weisinger, Chamber of Commerce; T. H. Townsend, Board of Trade; W. H. McInnes, Manufacturers Association.

Going to St. Louis? If so learn about the new tourist service inaugurated by the U. S. R. R. via Denver and Kansas City. City ticket office, Third and Washington.

LEVY ANKENY ON PROSPERITY

He Expects to Become a U. S. Senator.

Talks Unreservedly on the Growth of Washington and Oregon.

Levy Ankeny, candidate for United States Senator from Eastern Washington, is registered at the Imperial Hotel today. Mr. Ankeny was in excellent spirits when he was interviewed. He said that he had reserve on the prosperous conditions of Washington in general and his part of the State in particular. Oregon was not slighted in any sense. Mr. Ankeny spoke of the political complexion of his State, but would not be drawn into conversation touching political affairs in Oregon.

"You are as active in politics today as you were before the State elections, are you not?" Mr. Ankeny was asked. "I am safe in saying my chances are excellent. The complex conditions in Washington make it difficult to forecast, but I am confident in saying my chances are excellent."

"As King County is pledged to Harold Preston you will probably rely on Pierce and Whatcombs delegations for some strength, will you not?" "Yes, Pierce County is all right, and I believe the Northern end of the State is not unfavorable, and I can only reiterate that I will go to the Senate if I can."

At this point Mr. Ankeny swerved off to commercial subjects. He said that the State of Washington was never more prosperous, and that he believed that the Western section was improving and developing more rapidly than the Eastern portion.

"There never has been so prosperous a year in Eastern Washington as the one about to end," continued Mr. Ankeny. "Never have such crops of wheat and other grain been grown. Two thousand homesteads from the East filed homesteads in Franklin and Douglas counties this year. These counties are practically undeveloped and you know what it means to have so great a number of homesteads recorded. The future of Washington and Oregon is assured. I believe that this State has advanced this year as it has never done before. We are self-sufficient. We have the goods and people in the East are coming after them."

Mr. Ankeny spoke on educational matters, and said the schools of Walla Walla, his home, were full to overflowing, and that Whitman College was never so popular as now.

In conclusion Mr. Ankeny said that he had a warm spot in his heart for Portland, and that he never visited the city without being surprised to note so many improvements.

Mr. Ankeny's sojourn in Portland is in no way connected with business, as he is spending a day or two with his young daughter who is attending school here.

GRIN TO BE DEPORTED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Simon Grin, a Russian who has been fighting extradition in San Francisco on a charge of embezzling \$5,000, is being held in the Supreme Court of the United States today and will be sent back to Russia.

CAITRON MAY NOT GO.

WALLA WALLA, Dec. 1.—It is not generally believed here that J. B. Caitron will be dismissed from the position of superintendent of the state penitentiary. Mr. Caitron refuses to make any statement.

HOW THE JOURNAL BEAT THE TRUST

MEETS TONIGHT

Chief McLachlan Will Tell What He Saw in San Francisco. Usual Police Court Grist.

The board of police commissioners will hold their regular meeting this evening. At this session it is anticipated that some time will be given to the discussion of the gambling question. Chief McLachlan will make some suggestions for the improvement of the department from the information secured while making a study of the San Francisco system. Mayor Williams will not be in attendance as he is out of the city.

RED TINED BO. W. H. H. Reed was on Saturday afternoon tried before Justice of the Peace Reed for trespass. He was found guilty of intruding on the premises of Mrs. Jennie Lawton and fined \$50. He will serve 15 days in the county jail.

A SHOOTING SCALPEL. At the Miramonte, a notorious North End resort, on Saturday evening, John Johnson fired a number of shots at J. H. Bolden, one of which took effect in the face. All of the principals in the fracas are colored. The row was over the possession of a \$50 gold piece. Johnson was taken to the city jail and later released on a bail of \$100.

FIRE IN THE AIR. Gus Hainsberger was arrested last night for firing a revolver inside the corporate limits of the city. He claimed he was doing a little target practice to improve his aim, as he suspected that he had an enemy, that was waiting for a chance to kill him, and he desired to be in the game when the mix-up took place.

FOR KILLING CHICKENS. Mrs. Tilly Epstein, of Second and Mead streets, swore out a warrant this morning for the arrest of Roy Richardson for killing some of her chickens with a .22-caliber rifle. The woman caught the boy in the act and took the gun away from him.

POLICE COURT TRANSCRIPT. The docket at the police court is today one of unusual length. Drunks, James Johnson, J. Holt, Robert Jim, James O'Donnell, John Tiponey, David Clark, Mike McPhelan, Harry Young and Frank Bernard, C. O. Sigelin, keeping saloon open after hours, Gus Hainsberger, discharging firearms, George Lane, selling liquor to minors, William Reed and Pansy Young, vagrancy.

STATE CASES. John Johnson, assault with a dangerous weapon, H. Hastings and William Smith, larceny.

TRADE SCHEME. The docket at the police court is today one of unusual length. Drunks, James Johnson, J. Holt, Robert Jim, James O'Donnell, John Tiponey, David Clark, Mike McPhelan, Harry Young and Frank Bernard, C. O. Sigelin, keeping saloon open after hours, Gus Hainsberger, discharging firearms, George Lane, selling liquor to minors, William Reed and Pansy Young, vagrancy.

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ALL FAVOR THE BIG OREGON FAIR

Washington Commissioner Enthusiastic.

Other States Wait for Us--The General Sentiment Strong With It.

Col. Frank Parker of Walla Walla, Wash., and chairman of the Washington commission of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, is in Portland on business relating to the commission.

When seen at the Imperial Hotel this morning Col. Parker said: "Before the commissioner meets and confers I am not at liberty to say all I would like to on the subject of Portland's Exposition. This much, however, is certain: Everywhere in the State of Washington I find the people most favorable to the proposition. In Idaho and Montana the same conditions exist. It means a great deal to the commercial interests of the Northwest and its citizens know it. It means a vast number of visitors from Eastern states who by no other inducement would ever visit us."

WAITING FOR OREGON! "I want to say this," continued Col. Parker: "We are waiting for Oregon to act. The matter of appropriation will come before the Washington Legislature in January, and the Governor will incorporate the subject into his message. Now, I believe that Oregon should come out first with her appropriation of \$500,000. If this is done there could be no occasion for Washington lawmakers to say 'We don't know what to give until we hear from Oregon.' The same question will arise in Idaho and Montana. Therefore, I say that Oregon should be quick and act, and then you will see that the other three states will come up handsomely."

Col. Parker concluded by saying that the opportunity for an exposition was never greater.

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