

Prominent Figures in Oregon Land Fraud Cases



HORACE G. MCKINLEY
Chief of the Defendants in the Land Fraud Cases.

Beginning May 18 and continuing probably throughout an entire month, the famous land fraud cases, involving the possession of thousands of acres of timber and grazing lands, valued at over a million dollars, will be heard before Judge C. B. Bellinger of the federal court. Prominent and wealthy people of Oregon have been enmeshed in the net of evidence which federal officers claim to have secured, revealing what is said to be a gigantic and sensational conspiracy to defraud the government out of the most valuable public lands in the state.

At the time named will begin the trials of Horace G. McKinley, S. A. D. Puter, Marie Ware and Mrs. Emma L. Watson. The case against Charles Cunningham, the wealthy sheep king of eastern Oregon, will begin within a few days. An army of attorneys has been retained by the defendants and one of the most bitterly contested legal battles ever heard before the court is expected. The prosecution will be conducted by District Attorney Hall and W. W. Banks, assistant district attorney.

Clever Plan of Operation.

Almost beyond belief is the story of the sudden acquisition of great wealth said to have been accomplished by the McKinley-Ware-Puter-Watson quartet who were indicted by the federal grand jury on the charge of conspiracy to defraud the government. As a result of only a few years of operation in the forests of Oregon, it is said, they have acquired enormous possessions.

Ten years ago Puter emigrated to the coast from a small town in Wisconsin. He was followed shortly after by Horace G. McKinley. It is said that neither made the trip in a private car. Puter began operations in timber lands and has operated along the coast from the Sound to San Francisco. In the course of his operations in this state he met Marie Ware of Eugene. She was born at that place 24 years ago and is the daughter of the late Joel Ware, who for 20 years was clerk of Lane county. For a number of years before his death he was United States commissioner for that district. His daughter was a clerk in his office and at his death received the appointment as commissioner. She held the office until April, 1902, when she was allowed to resign under charges. Previous to her resignation she had been notified by Judge Bellinger that she would be dismissed from

the service on a certain date, but at the solicitation of a number of friends in this city she was permitted to resign.

Investigations Continued a Year.

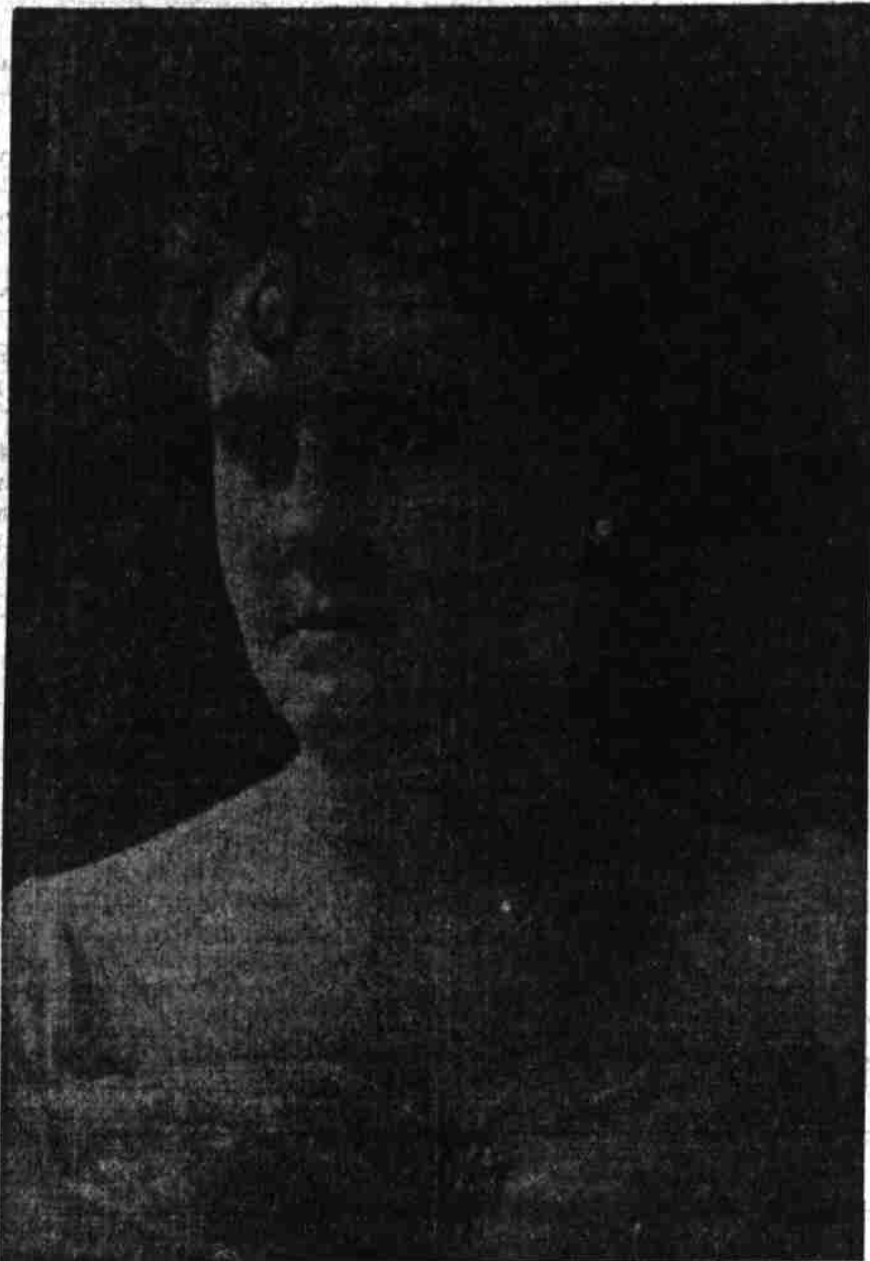
The direct cause of her resignation, it is said, were the efforts of Colonel A. B. Greene and E. T. Linsen, special government inspectors of the interior department, whose attention had been directed to certain irregularities which were said to have been practiced in the Eugene office. The investigation had



UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
BELLINGER
Before Whom the Land Fraud Cases
Will Be Tried.

been quietly under way for a year prior to her resignation.

The officers claim to have learned that Miss Ware had been certifying falsely in the matter of homestead proofs taken before her. It also developed, the officers assert, that McKinley, Puter, Mrs. Watson and others had been engaged in manufacturing homestead entries and final proof papers, using fictitious names for the entrymen. The officers further assert that the final proofs had been made before Miss Ware, as United States commissioner.



MRS. EMMA L. WATSON
Who Led the United States Officers a Merry Chase.

who is accused of having forged the names of the fictitious entrymen to the papers as occasion required.

So cleverly was the alleged fraud perpetrated, the officers say, that they passed the local land office and the general land office at Washington without question. After having secured title to the lands in that way, the prosecution will attempt to prove, the conspirators transferred their holdings by again forging the names of the entrymen to Emma L. Watson. After that, it is said, transfers to apparently innocent purchasers were comparatively easy.

Work of Inspector Greene.

The original papers in the nine homestead entries involved in the first trial were returned from Washington, and upon examination and comparison of the handwriting in the signatures with writing in numerous letters and papers found amongst the correspondence of the defendants, the alleged forgeries were traced. The ceaseless and unremitting efforts of Colonel Greene in the arduous task of tracing the forgeries have been the cause of congratulations on the part of those who are interested in the prosecution.

Following the discovery of the supposed forgeries a thorough and exhaustive search was made to discover the whereabouts and identity of the entrymen. The efforts were fruitless; no one was found who bore the names which had been entered. As a result of the failure to discover the identity of the entrymen, the case was presented to the federal grand jury and indictments followed.

McKinley, Puter and Miss Ware were apprehended and arraigned before the federal court, where they were released on bonds to appear for trial May 4. Mrs. Watson, however, developed a sudden desire for travel and is said to have gone east. Federal officers pursued, and in the chase which followed she traveled through many states and cities. During the course of her travels she is said to have been forced to use many aliases, among which were Mrs. Puter, Mrs. Potter and others.

She was finally apprehended in Chicago and returned to this city, where she was placed under bonds. She has been in the city since that time, and



MARIE WARE
One of the Defendants.

declares that she is willing and anxious to face the charges.

Secured Holdings Worth \$1,000,000.

Officers allege that the four have defrauded the government out of over 100,000 acres of valuable timber lands. The lands are estimated to be worth at least \$10 per acre, making an aggregate of something over \$1,000,000 which those under indictment are accused of having obtained by fraudulent means.

Mrs. Watson, as well as the others under indictment, declare they have no apprehensions as to the result of the trials, saying that they will have no difficulty in establishing their innocence of any crimes. Their attorneys express similar confidence as to the outcome.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

From the Chicago News.
Many a man falls in love with a work of art and marries it.

After a man has been married about so long he becomes acclimated.

No, Cordelia, Joan of Arc wasn't the wife of Noah, the ark builder.

Some men get under a cloud for the purpose of wiping the silver lining.

It's all right to love at first sight, but before marrying take a second look.

A married man's idea of real enjoyment is to do things his wife disapproves of.

Is a man financially embarrassed if he has more money than he knows what to do with?

Many a man imagines he will be able to pass through the golden gates on his wife's church certificate.

ONE GAMBLER ESCAPES A FINE

Through an official blunder the proprietors of the Maze cafe are enabled to congratulate themselves upon being \$100 richer than they expected. Every gambler indicted by the recent county grand jury was fined \$100, but by an oversight only A. Shapiro was named as proprietor of the Maze instead of Shapiro & Lake, the former having sold a half interest. As a result Shapiro was fined \$100, which came out of the firm funds, and Lake escaped.

How the error occurred is plain. District Attorney Manning drew up the indictments. He was ignorant of Shapiro having taken a partner. None of the jurymen knew of the fact. This is taken as showing that none of them gambles. The Portland club had to pay over \$200 to the county, two names being given in the indictment, as did also the Gem club and Blazier Bros.

Putting On Airs.
From the Indianapolis Sun.
"Old Bill got real tony last summer after he visited his city relations, didn't he?"
"Yes; the old fool 'ud wait till after dark an' then go out an' take his bath in the waterin' trough."

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP

has been used by Millions of Mothers for their children while teething for over Fifty Years. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea.

WENTY-FIVE CENTS A BOTTLE.

Don't Be a Ready-Made Man

There's no reason why you should be, and a hundred good ones why you should not be. Much of our success in life depends on our personal appearance, and our personal appearance on the clothes we wear. COME TO NICOLL for your made-to-order garments. Costs you no more to have your garments tailored to please than to buy "hand-me-downs." All the latest weaves and colorings, in fine foreign and domestic suitings, overcoatings, trouserings, and white fancy vestings to select from.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
IN ALL CASES

Garments to order in a day if required. Samples mailed. Garments expressed.

Nicoll the Tailor

108 Third Street

What Horrible Teeth!



DR. W. A. WISE.

You hear that expression every day, not once but many times a day, but the person who caused you to make the remark can avoid having remarks made about them by coming here and having their teeth fixed. We do all kinds of dental work at very reasonable prices.



DR. T. P. WISE.

WISE BROS. Dentists

208-213 FAILING BUILDING
Corner Third and Washington Streets

THE OREGON DAILY JOURNAL
A NEWSPAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

Pay Us \$1.00 Down

And take your choice of any of our New Tailor-Made

LADIES' SUITS

Up to \$30—then pay the balance at the rate of

\$1.00 A WEEK

UNTIL YU HAVE PAID FR YUR PURCHASE

This opportunity to buy your Spring Suit at such astonishingly easy terms is good for this week only—it will positively cease Saturday, May 7th.

Cash-Store Prices—Elegant Styles—First-Class Qualities
And no additional charge if bought on these easy payments

Eastern Outfitting Co.

The Store Where Your Credit is Good

390 WASHINGTON STREET



JOHN HALL
United States District Attorney Who Will Prosecute the Land Fraud Cases.