

HITCHCOCK DEFENDS PRESIDENT'S POLICY

Secretary of Interior Presents a Remarkable Plea to Prove the Sincerity of Administration in Prosecuting the Land Frauds.

Campaign attacks upon President Roosevelt's administration, and especially upon the policy adopted in the prosecution of the land frauds, are the reason assigned for a rather remarkable statement given to the public by Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock. The secretary reviews briefly the familiar facts of the huge conspiracy which has for its object the stealing of vast areas of timber lands in the Pacific coast states, the indictments against the Benson-Hyde ring and the pending prosecutions of Thomas McKinnon and his co-conspirators. The public is assured that further indictments will be forthcoming as soon as the evidence can be submitted to federal grand juries and the secretary makes the assertion that less than 40,000 acres have been fraudulently patented up to the present time, so that the government is in no danger of further loss of its public lands through the conspiracy.

Secretary Hitchcock's statement comes opportunely, for it will undoubtedly be used as a campaign argument by the Republicans. Like other members of the president's official family, he seems to have been called upon to do his part in securing the reelection of Roosevelt and to make the selection of Roosevelt from the tenor of the statement, which in several important points is lacking in the frankness which has characterized some of the secretary's past utterances on the same subject. There is an attempt to minimize the loss of public lands which must result from the frauds that have been practiced, and the secretary is prosecuted until the big criminals are brought to justice is likely to be received with some incredulity.

As to the size of the frauds, Secretary Hitchcock admits that "hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands" were involved in the operations of the land and timber thieves, but intimates that the government cannot lose any more than it has already. The reason for this is that the government has been suspended, if the government could prove fraud in all cases where the regularity of the entries is under suspicion, and if it did in fact make such proof and definitely refuse to grant patents, the secretary's conclusion that the government is in no danger of further loss of its public lands would be justified. But as a matter of fact, actual proof of fraud, in court, is yet to be made. If the government fails to secure convictions in the large number of cases, the strongest cases chosen for the first indictments.

In these prosecutions, Charles Cunningham, Asa Rayburn, Dallas O'Hara, Glen M. Saling and Shelley Jones have been placed guilty, and sentence has been imposed upon all except O'Hara and Jones. The other cases were set for trial at the May term, 1904, of the federal court at Portland, Or., but owing to the fact that one of the principal witnesses for the government had absconded, the cases had to be continued and are now set for trial at the November term, 1904, of the court.

The absconding witness has been arrested and is now under bail for his appearance at the November term. An able attorney, skilled in the conduct of criminal prosecutions, has been appointed by the government to assist the United States attorney in the trial of these cases, and convictions in all of them are confidently expected.

"The investigation is still being carried on and further indictments are expected as soon as the cases can be prepared for proper presentation in grand jury. In so far as indictments have not yet been found, it should be apparent to everyone that secrecy must be maintained, otherwise all efforts to accomplish beneficial results would be futile.

"There is not now and never has been any desire or effort on the part of the secretary of the interior or those engaged under his direction to keep from the public the results of the investigation except in so far as absolutely necessary to prevent a failure in the endeavor to accomplish the desired end, to wit, the conviction and punishment of guilty parties."

Secretary Hitchcock then mentions the indictment by an Oregon grand jury of Horace G. McKinnon and the D. P. Puter, Marie L. Wade, Emma L. Watson, Guy Huff, Maude Witt, H. Walgamot, Harry C. Barr, Dan W. Tarpley, Charles Cunningham, A. A. Rayburn, Dallas O'Hara, Glen M. Saling, Shelley Jones, Mark Shakerford, Kate James and Henry Meldrum, and says:

"In these prosecutions, Charles Cunningham, Asa Rayburn, Dallas O'Hara, Glen M. Saling and Shelley Jones have been placed guilty, and sentence has been imposed upon all except O'Hara and Jones. The other cases were set for trial at the May term, 1904, of the federal court at Portland, Or., but owing to the fact that one of the principal witnesses for the government had absconded, the cases had to be continued and are now set for trial at the November term, 1904, of the court.

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Secretary Hitchcock says that "the leading spirits in the fraudulent transactions brought to light were mostly men who have occupied positions of influence and high station, both socially and politically, and many of them are men of large wealth." The statement is undoubtedly true, but the only men of the class described who have thus far been indicted are Benson and Hyde. There are many others whose names go on the list of those indicted in the land frauds but who have thus far escaped prosecution. Some of them have escaped indictment through the statute of limitations. There are others whose names are on the list of those indicted in the land frauds but who have thus far escaped prosecution. Some of them have escaped indictment through the statute of limitations. There are others whose names are on the list of those indicted in the land frauds but who have thus far escaped prosecution.

Secretary Hitchcock makes no reference to the rottenness in the United States land office during the administration of Blinger Hermann and administration and there is no mention of the investigation now in progress.

The statement of Secretary Hitchcock given out in Washington, D. C., is in part as follows:

"Charges are being made and freely circulated by the opponents of the administration to the effect that the investigation of the land frauds by the interior department is not being seriously conducted; that criminal prosecutions connected with the investigation are not being pressed with such vigor as to manifest a determination to bring the guilty parties to speedy justice, and that an air of secrecy pervades the department, making it difficult to obtain information as to the progress and present status of the investigation. The charges are utterly without foundation in fact. The investigation has been in the hands of competent officers of the government from the beginning and has been conducted under the direction of the secretary of the interior with the utmost possible speed consistent with thoroughness, the prosecutions, where indictments have been made and are being vigorously pressed, and at no time has there been any attempt to deprive the public of the fullest information as to the progress or status of such prosecutions, or as to any matter in connection therewith.

Men of High Station.

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Robbed the Grave.

A startling incident is narrated by John Oliver of Philadelphia, as follows: "I was in an awful condition. My skin was pale, my eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in back and sides, no appetite, growing weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Then I was advised to use Electric Bitters; to my great joy, the first bottle made a decided improvement. I continued their use for three weeks, and am now a well man. I know they robbed the grave of another victim, and no one should fail to try them. Only 50 cents. Guaranteed at Red Cross Pharmacy, sixth and Oak streets, on the way to the postoffice."

RODGERS PLACED ON THE RETIRED LIST

Washington, D. C., Oct. 1.—Rear Admiral Frederick Rodgers, who was placed on the retired list today for age, donned the naval blue when but a very young man, in fact, a boy, for he was only 15 when he went to Annapolis. He graduated in 1847, just in time to witness and be a participant in some of the most stirring events of the civil war. He was assigned to the West Gulf squadron and was present at the bombardment of Fort Fisher and other notable engagements. As a result of his meritorious services at the battle of Mobile bay he was advanced to the rank of lieutenant commander. After the close of the war he spent several years on the European station. Later he commanded the old warship Michigan on the great lakes and the next decade saw him in service first in the South American squadron and later in other parts of the world. On his promotion to rear admiral he went out to Manila to command the American fleet there, and when he returned it was to take command of the Brooklyn navy yard.

COOKMAN ASSUMES COMMAND.

Moins Pennant at Brooklyn Navy Yard and Proceeds to Europe.

New York, Oct. 1.—Rear Admiral Joseph B. Connelley hoisted his pennant at the Brooklyn navy yard today and took command in succession to Rear Admiral Rodgers, who has been placed on the retired list by operation of the age limit. The usual formalities attended the transfer of command, including a salute of cannon and a muster of the marines.

AGED RESIDENT OF CORVALLIS EXPIRES

Corvallis, Or., Oct. 1.—Mrs. Rhoda Taylor, aged 84 years, died last night. She was an old and respected resident of Corvallis.

The funeral will be held Tuesday at 2:30 o'clock in the morning at the Presbyterian church. Interment will be in Pine Grove cemetery, near Peoria.

COMMISSION MEETS AT OREGON CITY

WILL DENY PROPOSED GRANTING OF FRANCHISE TO S. P. COMPANY WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF RAILROAD—UNLIKELY THAT IT WILL BE GRANTED.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Oregon City, Or., Oct. 1.—A meeting of the city council, a representative of the Southern Pacific Railroad company and the committee appointed at the citizens' mass meeting last week will be held in the council chamber tonight for the purpose of discussing the proposed franchise. Since the mass meeting of citizens the matter of a franchise has been pretty thoroughly discussed with the result that some of the councilmen are not so enthusiastic for the proposition as they were, and it is not likely that the proposed franchise could muster enough votes to pass.

It is perfectly safe in the opinion of the citizens' committee will at once secure an injunction from court, restraining the council from passing the franchise.

After this joint meeting and securing the injunction no doubt the different representative bodies will get down to a business proposition and a franchise will be drawn and passed giving the railroad company all the rights and privileges that it needs and at the same time affording the city some protection. From the amount of freight handled at this point there is no doubt that there is need for more railroad accommodations at this place.

Yesterday there were 30 trucks loaded and unloaded at the depot, and during the month of September just 2,407 were handled, as compared with 1,800 for September, last year, and other business is increasing in proportion.

Slaughter of Birds.

Passengers arriving on the overland train from the south last evening report a great slaughter of Chinese pheasants and quail through the valley. Almost every station numerous hunters boarded the train with well-filled bags, and scores of hunters and dogs could be seen from the train in the different fields, and it is doubtful that many of the sports went the limit.

Death of Mrs. Williams.

Mrs. Grace Williams died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. J. Wilson on Fifth street at 2 o'clock this morning, after a long illness of 10 months. She was born in Wales in 1824; was married to Isaac Williams in 1840, and came to Oregon in 1876. She leaves a daughter, Mrs. W. J. Wilson of this city, and three sisters, Mrs. A. A. Roberts of Oregon City, Jane Singer of Portland and Margaret Thomas of Minnesota.

The funeral services will be held at the Presbyterian church on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The interment will take place immediately following in Mountain View cemetery.

CLARK MONUMENT AT ST. LOUIS UNVEILED

(Journal Special Service.) St. Louis, Oct. 1.—Five generations of the Clark family witnessed the unveiling yesterday of an obelisk erected in memory of Gen. William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The monument stands in the Clark section of Bellefontaine cemetery. It was built by the estate of James Kearney Clark, young son of the explorer, who provided for it in his will. The monument was unveiled with the official flag of the Lewis and Clark expedition, furnished by Col. Henry E. Doach of Portland, Ore., and the unveiling was presided over by President Francis of the Louisiana Purchase exposition, Gen. James H. Wilson, Gen. Pleasant Porter, chief of the Creek Indians, Mayor Wells of St. Louis and Right Rev. Frank Millsbaugh.

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Three chapters of the Epworth League were addressed at their meetings by Rev. W. H. Selleck, L. F. Belknap and S. E. Meminger, respectively.

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Rev. F. L. Moore of Corvallis. Christian church—11 a. m., Rev. W. H. Heppie of Salem, 7:30 p. m., Rev. D. L. Rader of Portland. Presbyterian church—11 a. m., Rev. J. H. Wood of Oregon City; 7:30 p. m., Rev. W. H. Selleck of Portland. Baptist church—11 a. m., Rev. C. L. Hammet of McMinnville; 7:30 p. m., Rev. W. S. Grim of Astoria.

SPokane MILLINERS TRY TO SMASH LAW

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Spokane, Wash., Oct. 1.—The milliners of this city will try to smash the law by attacking the statute which protects the birds. The case was to come off in Justice Stocker's court Friday, but in view of the fact that there is a question of law to be argued touching the constitutionality of the statute, a continuance was granted until October 15, when the defendants will not be allowed to appear, but their attorneys will argue the law points.

Attorneys for the defendants have filed formal demurrer, alleging that the acts complained of are not sufficient to constitute a crime. These demurrers will be taken as a basis of the arguments to show that the law under which the complaints were filed is unconstitutional.

The defendants are Margaret Gannon, L. Keschoff, A. Bremner, Mrs. J. P. Buckley, R. Well, E. Beitenbach, E. G. Davies, George W. H. Taylor, M. McKenna, M. G. Mattheson and B. Patterson, M. F. Hennessy and Antoinette Hellman.

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BOYS' STURDY SUITS AND REEFERS, \$2.15, \$2.85 and \$3.35. Every popular fall style.

YOUNG MEN'S LONG PANTS SUITS, \$5.35, \$6.35, and \$7.50.

MEN'S ALL-WOOL OVERCOATS AND SUITS. Same styles as our highest grades. Very special at \$7.85 and \$10.

A. Steinbach & Co.

Men's all-wool Trousers Exceptional Bargains at \$1.95

LARGEST CLOVERES IN THE NORTHWEST. Southwest Cor. Fourth and Main.

The largest Trunk and Valise Dept. in the Northwest. Any Traveling Requisites Found Here at Lowest Prices.

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SPELLMEYER WILL DELIVER ADDRESS

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Willamette University, Salem, Or., Oct. 1.—The formal opening exercises of the university will be held in the college chapel tomorrow morning.

Bishop Spellmeyer, the president of the annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal church in the northwest, will deliver the address of the occasion.

Debatting Club Organized.

The Philodan Debating club reorganized and elected the following officers: President, Burges Ford, '04 of Eugene; vice-president, Roy Hewitt, '08 of Hopewell; secretary, Edward Wyman, '07, Salem; assistant secretary, Murray Shanks, '08, Brooks; treasurer, Ralph Matthews, '08, Salem; censor, Ronald Glover, '07, Albany; sergeant-at-arms, Ray Marcomb, '08, Roseburg.

Girls' Literary Society.

The Girls' Philodan Literary society held its first meeting and elected the following to be its officers during the present semester: President, Alma Hales, '07, Pendleton; vice-president, Mable Glover, '08, Albany; secretary, Mary Solomon, '07, Prineville; assistant secretary, Sylvia Jones, '08, Gervais; treasurer, Mable Robertson, '07, Salem; sergeant-at-arms, Clara Holmstrom, '08, Salem.

THE DALLES EXPECTS BIG CROWD AT FAIR

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) The Dalles, Or., Oct. 1.—Tomorrow the fair begins here and lasts until next Sunday. For some time the race track has been undergoing improvement, and the pavilions are ready to receive exhibits.

Vaudeville entertainment will be provided to entertain the crowd at the Vogt theatre, and music will be given by Birgitte's orchestra at the pavilion. The weather here is perfect and big crowds are expected in to attend the fair.

SEVERAL SALOON FIGHTS.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Rockford, Wash., Oct. 1.—There was a big row in a saloon here yesterday between William Kendrick, Otto Klack, Hilbert Hansen and three strangers. Two men were hit in the head with rocks, and the others were badly slashed. All were placed under arrest.

THREE NEW TEACHERS AT DRAIN NORMAL

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Drain, Or., Oct. 1.—The Central Oregon State normal school is now nicely started on the year's work. One thousand dollars were spent in making improvements around the buildings, this summer, and the boarding hall has been newly papered and painted, making it more comfortable for students. There are three new teachers here this year. Prof. A. L. Briggs, of the chair of mathematics, has been in school work in Oregon for the past 17 years. He is a graduate of Monmouth normal class 1891. He also spent four years at Willamette university.

Prof. Melvin B. Signs, of the chair of history and literature, is also a new arrival. He is a graduate of the Michigan Central normal school; also has the degree of A. B. from Olivet college, Olivet, Mich.

Miss Bertha P. White, the critic teacher added this year to the training department, is a graduate of the Monmouth normal and also has had several years' work in the University of Oregon.

FOUR MEN ARRESTED IN MERCHANDISE CAR

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) The Dalles, Or., Oct. 1.—Yesterday as one of the freight trains was coming from Portland to The Dalles one of the train crew noticed two of the box cars were open, although they were closed at Portland. When Mosier was reached, and while the engine was taking water, the conductor and brakemen closed the doors and brought the train on to this city.

The authorities were notified of the circumstance and when they arrived at the cars and opened them four men were discovered and taken, and are now in jail here, where they will remain until given a hearing. They had got in the cars between Viento and Mosier. The men will be given a hearing today.

STORE IN SOLD.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Corvallis, Or., Oct. 1.—The Arcade, the leading store in this city, has been sold to Moses Bros., formerly business men of Philomath. W. P. Lafferty gives possession as soon as the invoice is completed.

INJURED BY FALL.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Dayton, Wash., Oct. 1.—The four-year-old daughter of W. B. Brockman fell from a porch yesterday, injuring her spine, causing paralysis of the bowels. She cannot live.

EVERY EMPLOYEE MUST REGISTER AND VOTE

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Seattle, Wash., Oct. 1.—Seattle's registration for the November election, to date, is 20,887. Additions to the present have been made at the rate of 100 a day and between now and the close of the books it is estimated that at least 5,000 will be added.

All the large corporations in this city have issued instructions to their foremen to see that every man is registered and they will also attend to it that they cast their votes. Crews from the Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Pacific Coast company and allied railroad interests will crowd the registration offices during the noon hours this week.

On the figures given by foremen the estimate of about 25,000 registration in Seattle is made.

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The Columbia Graphophone

REGULAR PRICE \$7.50

Guaranteed to be a Perfect Talking Machine

The Columbia Phonograph company guarantees this graphophone to be a perfect talking machine—in fact they will allow a credit of \$5.00 on it toward the purchase of any other machine that they make at any time within a year, the subscriber to have the full use of the graphophone during that time.

The Journal's Extraordinary Offer

By special arrangement with the Columbia Phonograph company, 128 Seventh street, The Journal is enabled to make the following extraordinary offer:

"Journal" Graphophone Agreement

PORTLAND, OR. \$10.00

NEW OLD Signed

NOTE—The Columbia Phonograph Company will allow a credit on any Columbia machine to the amount of \$5.00 at any time during the year in exchange for this graphophone and their office, 128 Seventh street, N. E. Note of all future records on this contract. See instructions they will send each.