COULD CONVICT HIM ONLY BY PERJURY

Senator Mitchell, Before He Leaves for Washington, Issues a Statement in Which He Says He Has No Fears of Prosecution in Land Fraud Cases.

TELLS OF EFFORTS TO APPEAR BEFORE GRAND JURY

Defies His Accusers, Points to His Record in Oregon, and Says He Cannot Be Convicted of Complicity in Robbing Government Except on Perjured Evidence.

United States Senator John H. Mitchell departed last night for Washington to resume his duties in congress. He has been in the city since Friday evening, December 23, having come in response to telegrams advising him that he was under investigation by the federal grand jury for alleged complicity in the land frauds. Before going the senator gave out this statement:

"Under existing circumstances I feel that it is my duty to return to my post of duty in Washington at the very earliest possible moment, and as matters now stand, in so far as I am advised, I know of no good reason why I should not leave at once.

"On Sunday, December 19, while in Washington, on seeing the eastern papers' press dispatches stating that rumors were rife in Portland to the effect that I was implicated in land frauds in Oregon, which dispatches, or some of them, at least, stated further that an effort would be made to indict me by the grand jury that was to convene in Portland, December 20, I immediately left for this city, supposing, of course, judging from these dispatches, that testimony would be, on the convening of the grand jury on December 20, submitted to the jury tending to implicate me. I arrived in this city on Friday evening, December 23. The grand jury had then been in session five days. Before leaving Washington I had wired Hon. Francis J. Heney, special assistant attorney-general, and Hon. John H. Hall, United States district attorney, requesting the privilege of going before the grand jury to answer under oath any and all charges that might be made against me.

Wanted to Tell All He Knew.

I also stated in these dispatches I would be in Portland by Saturday, the 24th inst. On my arrival here I repeated these requests to these prosecuting officers, Mr. Heney and Mr. Hall, and I also at the same time addressed a letter to W. H. H. Wade, foreman of the federal grand jury, making a similar request. I received no answer whatever from Mr. Wade, but was told by Mr. Heney that I could have the privilege of going before the grand jury on Tuesday, December 27, at 10 o'clock. At that hour and day I presented myself at the grand jury room and was then told by Mr. Heney that the grand jury was then occupied in hearing other witnesses and would be occupied all day, and he requested me to come again at 10 o'clock on Wednesday, December 28. I then appeared at that hour and day, but was then advised by Mr. Heney that no charges of any kind had been made against me before the grand jury. Notwithstanding this statement of Mr. Heney I assured him I was willing to go before the jury, and give any testimony within my knowledge that had any bearing whatever on the land fraud matters, as I desired to see all guilty persons convicted and punished, and would voluntarily go into the jury room with his permission and submit myself to any examination desired by him or the grand jury.

Told Story Under Oath.

Mr. Heney said I could do as I pleased. I then visited the grand jury room with Mr. Heney, and submitted myself to a thorough examination under oath. After an examination of some two and a half hours, Mr. Heney said he had no further questions. I then stated to him and the jury that I was willing and ready to answer any further questions they or any of them might desire to put to me in relation to the frauds. I was given to understand that they had nothing further, and I left the jury room.

Although several days have elapsed since I was before the jury I have heard nothing further in regard to the case from either Mr. Heney or the foreman or any other member of the grand jury. And I have not up to this moment been advised by any one that any testimony whatever has been brought before the grand jury, which in anywise implicates me in land frauds or any other frauds; and now my presence in Washington is imperatively demanded.

Many things in the interest of this city and state are now demanding my presence there. As chairman of the important committee of interoceanic canals it is of the utmost importance that I should be there at the earliest possible moment, as several important measures in the interest of the speedy construction of the Panama canal are pending before that committee and are awaiting consideration as soon as congress reconvenes, which will be on Wednesday, January 4, at noon.

Important Work to Do.

It is even now impossible for me to reach the city by that hour and day, but by leaving this evening, and I have no detention on the road, I can reach the city by 3 o'clock Wednesday.

"The river and harbor bill, in which all sections of Oregon are so vitally interested, is now under consideration, and Oregon's interests demand the immediate and united effort of the whole Oregon delegation, as our personal and earnest efforts are required in order to secure for Oregon the necessary appropriations. The bill already passed the senate, providing for an assay office in this city, requires our united effort to secure its final passage, as does also the bill for the relief of settlers in Sherman county. The various Oregon irrigation projects and various other important measures, both in congress and in the several departments, make it of the utmost importance that all of Oregon's delegation in congress should now be at their post of duty, as this is a short session. Congress must, by operation of law, adjourn in just two months after reconvening on Wednesday next.

Innocent of Any Wrongdoing.

"I feel, therefore, constrained, under all these circumstances, to leave immediately for my post of duty, and shall do so by starting this evening. It is now about 12 days since my name was placarded in almost every newspaper in the United States by press dispatches from this city as being connected with the land frauds in this state. The federal grand jury has been in session every day since Monday, December 26, and is still in session. I have been here personally in this city every hour since Friday evening, December 24, and have given every opportunity to the prosecuting officers to examine me to the fullest extent in regard to the land frauds, and I have given the prosecuting officers to understand that I claim to be absolutely innocent, and I here and now again assert my absolute innocence of any criminal connection with any land frauds or with any person or persons who have been engaged in the land frauds, and now, as I have stated, I believe it to be my duty, after defending my character, to proceed to my post of duty at the earliest possible moment. What may be done in my absence, of course, I do not know, but if these charges of criminal conduct upon my part continue to be asserted in the newspapers, or should the grand jury hereafter make an accusation against me, I defy my accusers. I have lived in this state 44 years and over. I have served in the United States senate for nearly 22 years, and I defy any man to charge me successfully with any conduct that is otherwise than honorable. And I am sure I cannot be counected in any manner with any land frauds except by the grossest perjury of self-confessed and convicted thieves and perjurers.

COAST FREIGHT WAR IMMINENT

Shippers Confident That Harriman Has Chartered the Steam Schooner Nome City.

WILL COMPETE AGAINST INDEPENDENT LINES

Effort to Be Made to Drive All Lumber-Carrying Ships From the Ocean.

Shippers and transportation people generally are confident that the steam schooner Nome City has been chartered to carry lumber between Portland and San Francisco at $2.50 a thousand feet, which is $1.50 below the regular tariff. No one appears to know positively who has chartered her, but it is thought she has been engaged by the Harriman interests.

This is said to be the first step of the San Francisco & Portland Steamship company, operators of the Columbia and Elder, to drive the independent steam schooners of the run. If the Nome City will not suffice for this, it is said the Harriman people will put other vessels on and cut lumber rates so low that competitors will be forced to abandon the fight.

The independent fleet is made up of the following steamers: F. A. Kilburn, Aurelia, Bee, Acme, Redondo and Northland. Some of these have been carrying lumber for $3.50—a thousand feet. The Harriman boats do not handle lumber, and those unfamiliar with the situation are wondering why it is that Messrs. Harriman and Schwerin are in the least concerned about the lumber trade. This was explained this morning by a well-known transportation official, who gave the following statement:

"On every trip the independent vessels bring general cargoes from San Francisco to Portland. That is where they are cutting into the business of the Columbia and Elder, which formerly secured all this traffic. If the independent lines confined themselves to the lumber trade the big rate war which now seems inevitable would not be waged. On the up trip they bring at least six general cargoes to Portland every month."

By putting on a fleet of steam schooners the Harriman people will reduce the rate so low, according to shippers, that they will be assured of all the lumber trade. It is then inferred that the outside boats will be forced to retire, and the San Francisco & Portland Steamship company's vessels will get all the general cargo to carry on the down and up trips.

Coming fast upon the heels of the much-talked-of rate war the announcement was made this morning that the following vessels have been chartered to proceed to Portland and load lumber:

Barkentine Chehalis, at Cebu; barkentine J. L. Eviston, at San Pedro, and the steamer W. H. Kruger, at San Francisco. The supposition is that they have been chartered by the San Francisco & Portland Steamship company.

EXPORTS INCREASED.

Clearing of Arabia and Glaucus Has Raised Figures Materially.

Grain, flour and lumber exports from Portland for the year were increased this morning by the clearance of the oriental liner Arabia for Hongkong and way ports and the British ship Glaucus, for the United Kingdom. The total value of the exports for the past 12 months in this line is now $6,284,645, instead of $6,090,005, as published in The Journal yesterday.

The Arabia has on board 39,686 barrels of flour, valued at $168,640, and a sufficient amount of miscellaneous freight to make the entire cargo worth $222,202.62. Aside from flour, she will carry lumber valued at $30,000, and a big assortment of sewing machines, nails, machinery, apples, cotton, tobacco, etc. The vessel will sail on Monday, but cleared today.

The Glaucus is loaded with 117,513 bushels of wheat, valued at $106,000. The cargo is being dispatched by Girvin & Eyre. It is probable that the vessel will leave for the sea this afternoon.

LARGE LUMBER CARGO.

British Ship Fairport Will Carry 2,000,000 Feet to South America.

One of the largest lumber cargoes ever carried by a sailing vessel from this port will be that of the British ship Fairport, Captain Armstrong, which is receiving 2,000,000 feet of Oregon fir for Iquique, South America.

The ship is only 1,800 tons net register, but is of modern construction. A big portion of the cargo will be carried on deck, and many skippers believe this is a dangerous undertaking. Armstrong says their fears are not well founded; that properly loaded and lashed, the deckload will cause no more trouble than if the heavy timbers were in the hold.

"The Fairport," said the captain, "carried the largest cargo of coal oil ever taken from New York by a square-rigger. In 1898 she took to Yokohama from that port 85,000 cases, equal to 3,200 tons dead weight. Few ships of the Fairport's register could carry two thirds of that amount."

MARINE NOTES.

Astoria, Dec. 31.—Arrived at 8:40 a. m., steamer Rosecrans, from Monterey. Arrived at 9 a. m., schooner Borealis, from San Francisco.

Arrived at 9:30 a. m., Barkentine Geo. C. Perkins, from San Pedro.

Outside at 10 a. m., barkentine John Palmer, from San Pedro.

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Arrived at 9:30 last night, steamer Columbia, from Portland.

Astoria, Dec. 31. — Condition of the bar at 5 a. m., rough; wind, southwest; weather, cloudy.

ALONG THE WATERFRONT.

Captain Ferneaux, master of the British ship Dumfriesshire, entertained a large number of guests on board his vessel last evening. Many ladies were present and the evening was spent in dancing and singing.

Steamer Aurelia cleared for San Francisco this morning with 450,000 feet of lumber and 100 tons of wheat and will sail this afternoon.

Work of cleaning and painting the hull of the Andy Mahony was completed at the drydock yesterday afternoon. She will be brought up to the Inman-Poulsen mill to receive lumber.

Owing to the strong current the schooner S. T. Alexander, lumber laden at the Portland mill, will not be moved below the bridges for a few days.

COLUMBIA SAFE AT BAY CITY.

Owing to the storm which was raging off the coast when the steamer Columbia crossed the bar Wednesday afternoon considerably anxiety was felt about the vessel. Word was received this morning that the steamer reached San Francisco last night at 5 o'clock, not far behind her regular schedule time.

NEW YEAR SIGNALS AROUND THE WORLD

(Journal Special Service.)

Washington, Dec. 31.—Following the experiment of last year the naval observatory will tonight send time signals of the new year around the world. Four different dispatches will be sent, one at midnight and others at 1, 2 and 3 o'clock. Last year the signals traversed about 300,000 miles of wire and were heard in Alaska, Panama, Valparaiso, Honolulu, Guam and Manila. This year it is the intention to transmit the signals literally around the world, which will be possible by the co-operation of the telegraph and cable companies.

WOMAN IS SEIZED; STORE IS ROBBED

Bookkeeper Working Late Is Bound and Gagged by Burglar Who Secures $2,500.

IDENTIFIES WATCHMAN AS THE HIGHWAYMAN

Girl Recognizes Man Who Releases Her as the Man Who Committed Robbery.

(Journal Special Service.)

Elkhart, Ind., Dec. 31.—Late last night Miss Belle Reynolds, bookkeeper of the Warren Hill department store, while busy balancing her books was seized from behind by a masked man who threw her to the floor, inserted a coarse rag in her mouth as a gag and tied her to the desk, where she remained for four hours in a most uncomfortable position. The burglar then cracked the safe and securing $1,500 made his escape.

Early this morning, Paul Krohn, the night watchman employed to guard the store, found Miss Reynolds almost fainting in her bondage and immediately released her. He immediately summoned the police and a search was begun for the robber.

Something in the movements of Krohn recalled to Miss Reynolds those of the burglar, and she imparted her suspicions to the police, who gave Krohn a searching examination. The fact that he was several hours late at work, combined with his conflicting statements, led to his detention by the police.

Confronted by Miss Reynolds this morning and accused by her of the robbery, Krohn broke down and confessed. He pleaded as an excuse that sickness in his family had caused him to get badly in debt and knowing that a large sum of money was kept in the store, had seized the opportunity to rob it when he found Miss Patterson alone in it late at night, thinking that the blame would be thrown upon highwaymen.

BAD CHECK KID IS IN TOILS AT LAST

Forger Who Led Detectives a Hard Chase Is Son of Ex-Policeman Waller.

CONFESSES AND SAYS HE NEEDED THE MONEY

Known to Have Uttered Over Thirty Spurious Drafts on Merchants Here.

The "bad-check kid," who has passed about 30 spurious checks on merchants of the city proves to be Samuel Waller, aged 21 years, the son of former Policeman M. F. Waller, a veteran of the war in the Philippines. He was arrested last night by Detectives Weiner and Hartman at his home, Hawthorne and Union avenues.

Waller confesses his guilt, and says he committed the crimes because he was "hard pressed for money." His father arrived at the police headquarters shortly after the youth was arrested, and appeared grieved and humiliated. The forger's mother is critically ill.

Through a misconception District Attorney Manning allowed Waller to go on his own recognizance at the solicitation of the father. It was drawn to Mr. Manning's attention, however, that the crimes of which the young man is accused are grave, and he withdrew his order and compelled Waller to remain at the city prison last night.

The checks passed by Waller range from $5 to $12. The signatures appended to them were of Lang & Co., Allen & Lewis, Mason, Ehrman & Co., Marshall-Wells Hardware company and the Honeyman Hardware company. The list of those who have suffered by the operations of the youthful forger, though not complete, is now on file at police headquarters, and is:

East Side bakery, $5; Grand avenue cigar store, $6; G. Lindon, 342 Front, $10; Conrad Repp, 780 Union avenue, $12; A. Bingham, 61 Third, $9.50; A. P. Gran, 281 Benton, $12; Mr. Lohr, Clinton and Milwaukie, $5.85; Chindlan sisters, 111 Grand avenue, $9.45; Metchlin, 387 East Pine, $6; L. Simons, 409 Williams avenue, $9; Frank Burkhardt, 349 First, $11; F. A. Root, Forty-eighth and Hawthorne, $9; A. Munroe, 420 Washington, $7; B. Dawfawish, 103 North Sixth, $11.50; Merges, Russell street, $7; a second Russell street cigar store, $5.50.

When the first few forgeries were reported Detective Weiner was assigned to the case. He worked hard for two or three weeks, and by his request, Detective Hartman joined with him in the search for the "bad check kid."

Positive evidence that Waller was the forger was obtained yesterday. The duty of the detectives was painful as they have known Waller since he was a lad.

The forger was arraigned this morning before Police Judge Hogue. At the request of his father the case was postponed until next Tuesday.

ISLAND IS RAVAGED BY DREAD DISEASE

Extermination of Porto Ricans Threatened by Anaemia Resulting From Parasite.

PATIENTS COME FROM COUNTRY DISTRICTS

Lack of Sanitary Knowledge Is Cause of Malady Known as Uncinarisis.

(Journal Special Service.)

New York, Dec. 31.—The Herald has published today the report of Major L. L. Seaman, special commissioner of sanitary affairs at Porto Rico. Seaman says the island is being ravaged by disease that threatens to exterminate the natives. Thirty per cent of all deaths during the last year are attributed to this disease, which destroys more human lives in Porto Rico than yellow fever, malaria and elephantiasis combined, scientifically known as uncinarisis or ankylostomiasis.

Seaman's report says in part: "The dreadfully anaemic condition of the rural population of the island, embracing nine-tenths of all inhabitants, before long will be a matter of common knowledge. Microscopic examinations show that practically all sufferers from anaemia are effected by a parasite, the so-called bookworm, which is known to the scientific world as 'ankylostoma duodenale.'

"Patients suffering from the malady come from the country, as the disease rarely develops in the city, where people have more or less amenable sanitary regulations.

"A successful campaign of sanitation teaching the rural population the simplest sanitary methods in every day life will turn Porto Rico into a garden spot of luxury for the majority of the inhabitants are healthy, happy and red blooded people."

Seaman says the disease can be cured by proper treatment unless the patient has already reached the edge of the grave.

NOT A HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR THEM

Fifteen Employes of the City Engineering Department Have Been Laid Off.

ELLIOTT'S LAST DUTY WAS TO NOTIFY THE MEN

Wholesale Discharge in Pursuance of Retrenchment Policy Advocated by Council.

Eighteen employes of the city engineering department were notified yesterday afternoon that their services will not be needed after January 1. This wholesale discharge of men comes as the result of the reduction of the expenses of the department by the city council.

It devolved upon W. C. Elliott, the retiring city engineer, to notify the men. They were laid off in the inverse order to that in which they were appointed in accordance with the civil service regulations in the charter. Those longest in the service are retained.

The department now has but three crews remaining and four inspectors.

Those dismissed are as follows: Surveyors—J. W. Baker, H. L. Chandler and Winfield Chapman. Transit men—H. G. Richardson, O. P. Ramsay and C. E. Bronson. Chainmen—R. Whiting, F. H. Hackney, F. X. Sherlock, C. E. Harding, W. H. Heutis, A. C. Oliver and F. S. Walker. Inspectors—A. F. Fleming, R. W. Thompson, William Brandes and G. F. Teed. Guard—S. G. Hirsch (resigned).

This is the last day for City Engineer Elliott and Assistant City Engineer George Scoggin in the office. They have been engaged in cleaning up the work of the year, so as to leave the office in good condition for their successors.

Charles Wanzer, who was recently appointed by Mayor Williams to succeed Mr. Elliott, will take charge of the office Tuesday morning.

Although it has not been publicly announced, it is understood that John R. Hanson, an engineer in the department, will succeed George Scoggin as chief assistant. He is a very capable man, having been head draughtsman for years with the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company. He was at one time connected with the city engineering department of Chicago.

NEW MISSION SCHOOL OPENED IN MEXICO

(Journal Special Service.)

Monterey, Mexico, Dec. 31.—The largest mission school in Mexico will be dedicated here tomorrow by President W. E. Garrison of Butler college, Indianapolis. The Christian Woman's Board of Missions, whose national headquarters are in Indianapolis, has erected the new building at an expense of more than $40,000.

The building is of yellow pressed brick. It contains 14 large schoolrooms, a commodious chapel, which is used by both Mexican and American congregations, two offices, a printing office and a large reading room. In the mission printing office is printed all the Spanish literature used by the Christian church in Mexico, Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines.

Of the 600 pupils of the school nearly 500 are Mexican. The remaining 100 are Americans, the children of railroad and smelter employes of Monterey and vicinity. There are four American and 11 Mexican teachers.