



LAND SHARKS GET THOUSANDS BY FORGED CERTIFICATES

S. A. D. Puter and H. G. McKinley Are Central Figures in New Wholesale Timber Frauds

FULTON WILL NOT BLOCK BRISTOL'S CONFIRMATION

"A Good Man" His Expression Concerning the New U. S. District Attorney—Silent as to the Roseburg Appointments.

HE FEELS VERY KEENLY SLIGHT PUT UPON HIM BY PRESIDENT

Honey Renamed Special Assistant to Attorney-General and Will Finish Land Fraud Cases After the Holidays.

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.) Washington, Dec. 2.—"I do not intend to make any effort to prevent the confirmation of Bristol as United States attorney. He is a good man, and while I have not been consulted concerning his selection, I will not endeavor to hinder his confirmation by the senate. As to the other appointments I do not care to say at this time what I will do."

While Senator Fulton would not express any opinion of the action of the president in going over his head in making the Oregon federal appointments, it is evident to his friends that he feels the situation keenly and that he is of the opinion that great injustice is being done the state of Oregon by this refusal to recognize its representative in congress.

Although Senator Fulton would not indicate his course of action in relation to approval or rejection by the senate of the nominations of Eddy and Lawrence, for the Roseburg land-office places, it is believed he will not undertake to prevent the confirmation. That he could prevent the confirmation is not doubted. He is a member of the public lands committee, which primarily will pass on the nominations and could doubtlessly secure from this committee an unfavorable report on the nominations.

Will Not Resent Slight

Senatorial courtesy would enable him to at least tie up the nominations throughout the entire time of the coming session, and force another recess appointment at its close. It is believed Fulton will not do this, but will allow the slight which has been put upon him to go unresented, by the adoption of dilatory tactics, and will permit both nominations to go to confirmation.

The administration executed an unexpected coup in Oregon appointments just prior to the assembling of congress. The appointments are the result of a conference held Wednesday evening last in which President Roosevelt, Secretary Hitchcock and District Attorney F. J. Honey took part. The conclusions of this conference were confidentially kept from the public until 11 o'clock last night when announcement was made through the medium of a press association that William C. Bristol had been appointed United States attorney, Benjamin L. Eddy, of Tillamook register and James M. Lawrence, of Bend receiver of the land office at Roseburg.

M'CALL SAILS TO GET HAMILTON

Secretary of New York Life Will Bring Back Hamilton If His Health Will Allow.

(Special Dispatch by Leased Wire to The Journal.) New York, Dec. 2.—John A. McCall, secretary of the New York Life Insurance company, sailed on the Cunard liner Lucania today for Paris to induce "Judge" Andrew Hamilton to return and explain to the Armstrong investigating committee what he did with all the thousands that were sent to him at Albany by the company's officials.

COLLEGE ATHLETES SHOULD BE PAID

Dr. Albert L. Sharpe Advocates the Doing Away With Rules Governing Amateurs.

(Special Dispatch by Leased Wire to The Journal.) Annapolis, Md., Dec. 2.—In an address before the Convention of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States, which is in session here, Dr. Albert L. Sharpe, one of the best known athletes that Yale ever produced, and now physical examiner for Penn Charter school, Philadelphia, advocated the doing away with rules which prohibited one who had received an athletic emolument from any source representing his college in a contest and the substitution of simply tests based on the player's work as a student.



LOCAL OPTION BILL SO FULL OF JOKES IT'S ONE LONG LAUGH

FAMOUS BANK CASE IS DECIDED

Circuit Court Gives Judgment Against Wells, Fargo & Co. in Old Suit.

Judgment for sums approximating \$25,000 in cash which had involved the handling of \$1,500,000 of money and property was given in favor of the plaintiffs yesterday against Wells Fargo & Co. by Judge A. F. Sears, Jr. of the circuit court.

Wells Fargo & Co. purchased the majority of the stock of the Commercial National bank then existing in Portland, after which the capital stock was increased at the suggestion of Wells Fargo & Co. from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

The Portland stockholders, among whom were the plaintiffs, protested against the assessment, claiming that it was an abuse of Wells Fargo & Co. to freeze them out. The resolution of the directors, however, was sent to the controller of the currency and he notified the bank to make the assessment. The board of directors met and levied the assessment. The plaintiffs in this case refused to pay it, the stock was sold and Wells Fargo & Co. bought it. Shortly after this stock was sold Wells Fargo & Co., being owner of practically the entire stock issue, liquidated the Commercial National bank, taking over the entire assets, which amounted to \$1,500,000 face value, and commenced business under the name of the Wells Fargo bank.

Hidden Points in Proposed Amendment Which Liquor Dealers Are Urging.

TRICK TO COUNT BLANK VOTES FOR RUM CAUSE

Wholesale Selling in Prohibition Quarters Permitted by New Measure—Double Negative Destroys the Meaning of One Vital Paragraph.

The liquor dealers of the state are seeking to secure an amendment of the local option law, professing that the law is unjust in its operation and that it does not give real local option. A bill amending the law is to be submitted to the voters at the general election next June, for enactment by means of the initiative, providing the necessary number of signatures is obtained in the mean time.

The conspicuous features of the bill are, first, the substitution of precinct local option only, for local option by a group of precincts or a county, as provided by the present law; and second, the raising of the number of votes necessary to call a prohibition election from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. Advocates of the bill direct attention to these two features, and other provisions have hitherto escaped public notice. They certainly deserve consideration.

A Wholesale Joker.

Under the present law when the majority of voters in a district have voted in favor of prohibition, it shall thereafter be unlawful to sell or give away intoxicating liquor within the district, either in large or small quantities, except for sacramental and medicinal purposes. Under the proposed law only the retailing of liquor is prohibited, and intoxicants may still be sold and delivered by wholesale after the majority of the voters have declared themselves in favor of prohibition. Absolute prohibition of the liquor traffic would therefore be unobtainable under the proposed law.

SMART SET PROVED EASY MARKS

Four Hundred Mulcted Out of Thousands for Privilege of Being in Fads and Fancies

(Special Dispatch by Leased Wire to The Journal.) New York, Dec. 2.—"Choke 'em and take it away; they dassent yell," is the way "Chuck" Connors would describe the methods revealed in police court today by the topmost members of the 400 who were mulcted of thousands of dollars for the privilege of appearing in that triumph of frenzied literature, "Fads and Fancies."

Mr. "Chuck" as yet has issued no official statement, however, on the evidence pro and con in the suit for libel brought by Colonel W. D. Mann, publisher of Town Topics, against Peter F. and Robert Collier and Norman Hapgood. Among other things heard was the following section of a letter:

"General Fitzgerald is a very pompous and vain man and very rich and I think if approached in the right way can be captured. You did not go to Boston, but Thayer Henry has Higgins and H. K. Bigelow ought to be a good victim."

"Spencer Trask of this city is rich and vain. You must pounce on William S. Cromwell the minute he returns from Paris."

"Nedringhaus of St. Louis was at the Waldorf-Astoria yesterday. He is the great tinplate manufacturer; very rich and a very able man. Go after him. Bernard Baker of Baltimore, if you do not mention Dr. Emerson to him, and if you do show such men as Griscom, Morgan, J. M. Woodward, Pembroke Jones, etc., I think you can get him, notwithstanding he declined it."

EASTERN BANKERS FOOLED BY CLEVER COUNTERFEITS

Swindlers Borrow Large Sums on Spurious School Land Paper Bearing Imitated State Seal Signature of W. H. Odell

INVESTIGATION BY LAND AGENT OSWALD WEST EXPOSES FRAUDS

Capitalists Investigated Lands and Paper, Found Both Apparently All Right, Then Had No Hesitancy in Making Loans

Wholesale forgeries of state school land certificates, whereby eastern bankers have been defrauded of immense sums of money, have been unearthed by State Land Agent Oswald West. S. A. D. Puter and Horace G. McKinley, who were convicted only a year ago in the federal court on the charge of conspiracy to defraud the government of public lands, were the central figures and moving spirits in the extraordinary operations which have now been brought to light.

By duplicating genuine school land certificates issued by the state board, counterfeiting the signature of W. H. Odell, the former clerk of the land board, and the state seal, the swindlers were able to borrow large sums of money from bankers in Wisconsin, Minnesota and other eastern states, using the counterfeit as collateral.

One of the chief victims of the fraud was Hiram Goddard, a lumberman and partner of La Crosse, Wisconsin, Horace McKinley's native state. Goddard has already forwarded to the state land agent forged certificates for nearly 1,000 acres of school lands, on which he loaned a large sum of money. He is supposed to have still more of the forgeries in his possession, though full information on this point has not yet been received. H. M. Delaney, a Minneapolis banker, was another victim and holds a number of the counterfeit certificates.

Extraordinary care was taken in making the fraudulent instruments correspond as closely as possible in appearance to the genuine ones. But there are evidences which clearly show that the certificates are counterfeit, aside from the fact that they are duplicates of genuine instruments, covering the same land.

It is impossible to estimate the extent of the frauds, for hundreds of the bogus certificates may be scattered through the banks of the eastern states. Puter and McKinley usually employ agents to hypothecate the paper, and appear to have been careful to hide their own tracks as far as possible. The names of other persons who were concerned with them are in the possession of State Land Agent West, though whether these were accomplices or merely tools cannot now be stated positively. Some of them figured as codefendants with Puter and McKinley in their trial last year. One man who placed large numbers of the forged certificates in eastern banks left

for Canada about two months ago and is now in the Northwest territory, beyond the reach of the state authorities. "Innocent May Test Be Gauged."

The most unfortunate feature of the business is that it is utterly impossible to ascertain the number of bogus certificates that are now afloat, or to warn the public adequately against them, so that many innocent persons may be induced to loan money on them. The state land agent has written to some of the bankers known to have been victimized and has urged them to commence criminal proceedings. Inasmuch as the frauds were committed outside of this state it seems that the Oregon authorities are powerless to proceed against the swindlers.

The method by which the frauds were accomplished was simple and the risk of immediate detection was almost nil. State school lands were formerly sold at \$1.25 an acre, payable one-fifth down, one-fifth in one year, one-fifth in two years and two-fifths on demand, with interest of six per cent. Large buyers of school lands usually prefer to make only the first three payments, letting the last installment run at six per cent since by so doing they escape the payment of taxes on the land. They do not make final payment and take their deeds until ready to dispose of the land, for so long a time remains in the state the land cannot be taxed.

Lists of school lands which had been sold and on which only the final payment of 60 cents an acre was due, were easily obtainable at the state land office, where the records are all open to the public. Oswald West had not been long in office when his attention was attracted to the fact that Puter and McKinley were having numerous lists copied from the records, but though his suspicions were aroused he was not then able to discover their purpose. Later he learned the nature of their business.

Much of the school land covered by these outstanding certificates contained valuable timber and was worth far more than the price asked by the state. The real holders were content to turn over the part to wait for the still greater values which the future will bring, and so there was little danger that the genuine certificates would be sent in to the land office.

Procuring a genuine certificate, the counterfeiters caused it to be photographed and a zinc printing was struck from which prints were then made off. These prints bore an exact facsimile of the signature of W. H. Odell, the former clerk of the land board.

But there were some points in which

ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF PRESIDENT

Missile is Hurlled Through Car Window at Man Who Resembles the Executive.

(Special Dispatch by Leased Wire to The Journal.) Washington, Dec. 2.—What appears to be an attempt on the life of President Roosevelt by some unknown person occurred today while the president's special train was speeding through Philadelphia. The train was whirling along at about 30 miles an hour, bound south, when there was a crash of glass and one of the windows of the coach was smashed with a loud report, and a dark object about the size of a pound shot was hurled into the car, landing upon the other side of the vehicle.

CAN'T FORCE THEM OUT OF SENATE

Platt and Depew Deny That They Have Any Intention of Resigning Their Seats.

(Special Dispatch by Leased Wire to The Journal.) New York, Dec. 2.—Senator Chauncey M. Depew, on the eve of leaving for Washington, D. C. this afternoon, denied that he had resigned from the United States senate or contemplated doing so. Mr. Depew was told of a report to the effect that he had resigned and said:

"There is absolutely no foundation for the report. There is no reason, logical or visionary, why I should resign. I am going to Washington now and will take my seat in the senate next Monday and hope to serve my term."

Since the insurance disclosure with regard to Senator Depew it has been repeatedly reported that he would resign his seat in the senate, but he was not the man to resign under fire. His own denial today, however, is the first authentic declaration upon the subject.