

POSTMASTER SAYS HE WAS FORGED TO PAY BUT \$2250

F. W. Swanton, for Six Years Postmaster at Nome, Alaska, on Trial for Illegally Disbursing Department Funds.

In the United States circuit court today Federal Judge R. S. Bean took up the civil action brought by the United States against F. W. Swanton, who was postmaster at Nome, Alaska, from 1902 to 1908. Suit is brought for the recovery of \$2250.97, which amount the postmaster is alleged to have disbursed without authorization of the postoffice department.

Many peculiar features enter into the case in which government red tape will figure largely. According to the defense, if a verdict is returned against Swanton, who for years was a politician called, he would be able to induce congress to pass a bill appropriating the amount for which the former postmaster is alleged to be liable.

Council for the defense today accepted the first 12 men empaneled, without examination. Then Walter H. Evans, assistant United States district attorney, accepted the jury without examination, except in the case of one gentleman, who was excused.

Charles A. Cram, law clerk in the auditing division of the postoffice department, was the first witness called. He was brought from Washington, D. C., to testify in the case. He kept the stand during the morning session, but his testimony was not sensational in any degree, being largely the identification of documents in the case, all of which passed through his hands.

Postoffice inspectors and other officers of the postoffice department probably will go on the stand this afternoon late. They will be asked to explain as to conditions under which the Nome postoffice was operated and as to recommendations made regarding additional clerks for the office.

Defendant Will Testify. Mr. Swanton, who was in attendance today, probably will be the first and perhaps the only witness called by the defense.

Counsel for defense, in his announcement to the jury today, made admission of the alleged fact that the postmaster expended the amount charged, but denied that the expenditure was not authorized.

According to the complaint filed by the government, Mr. Swanton is guilty of expending, during the second quarter of 1908, \$2250.97 in excess of the amount permitted. In December of that year he spent \$1500 for clerk hire in excess of the authorized amount and in the quarter ending March, 1909, spent \$450 in excess. These amounts he is accused of taking from the receipts of the office.

Worked in Isolated Nome. Counsel for the defense informed the jury, among the members of which are John F. O'Shea of the Union Meat company, and J. W. Ransom, steamship agent, that Wilson Peterson, one of the fact that for six months of each year Nome was not in communication with the outside world, the postmaster was compelled to expend money without authorization, but depended upon the oral suggestions of postoffice inspectors. He said, too, that he would work in Nome for the small salaries paid by the postoffice department, the Nome members of commerce were compelled to go to Mr. Swanton's aid and advance money for clerk hire.

CARNEGIE AND PARTY LEAVE GRAND CANYON

(United Press Leased Wire.) Grand Canyon, Ariz., March 29.—Andrew Carnegie and his party are en route to Chicago, after spending three eventful days at the Grand Canyon. The steel king expects to make a three days' halt in Chicago before proceeding to New York. Twice during Carnegie's stay here, he visited Sunset Point, with Mrs. Russell Sage, and watched the wonderful effect of changing colors as the sun disappeared. One evening as he started to return to the hotel, he turned and looked back over the great chasm. "What a great gold haze that would make," he laughed. "But I'm afraid they would have a hard time reproducing it."

Carnegie then amused himself by hurling stones into the depths. When he finally reached his hotel he remarked that he had seen wonders of nature sufficient to last an ordinary man a lifetime.

MAGICIAN LAURANT TO APPEAR APRIL 5

Laurant, the magician, who was to have appeared in the Y. M. C. A. Star course tomorrow evening, will not get to Portland until Tuesday evening, April 5. The entertainment will be given, consequently, at the deferred date in the auditorium of the Y. M. C. A. building at Sixth and Yamhill streets. Laurant is said to be an old fashioned magician who is master of new tricks. Reports of his appearance at other cities describe his unusual ability to puzzle the eye by slight of hand maneuvers.

TRIED REMEDY FOR THE GRIP.

RE-RU-NA FOR COUGHS AND COLDS. BUILDING CODE IS READY FOR INSPECTION. NINETY DAY SENTENCE FOR ASSAULTING GIRL.

GEARHART PARK SAD TO HAVE BEEN SOLD TO SYNDICATE

Clatsop Beach Property to Be Improved and Railroad Track Run Closer to the Big Hotel on the Seashore.

Gearhart Park, the Clatsop beach property which has been owned and operated for several years by Theodore Kruse of this city, according to excellent authority, has been sold to a syndicate of capitalists in which Thomas Greenough of Milwaukie, Mont., and other former stockholders in the United Railway company, are said to be interested.

The property consists of nearly 1000 acres and improvements, including an unfinished hotel on which \$75,000 has been expended. There is more than a mile of beach front, and the tract extends back to the track of the Astoria & Seaside railway.

Mr. Kruse denies that the deal has been closed, but admitted that he had received recent offers for the property. He has never offered the property for less than \$250,000, which, it is reported was the price paid by the purchasing syndicate.

Finest on the Coast. Rumor has it that the property is to be developed and made into one of the finest ocean resorts on the Pacific coast. The hotel begun by Kruse is to be enlarged and completed as quickly as possible and a large sum of money invested in transforming the beach into an ideal resort.

Several lots in Gearhart Park, which have been sold to individual owners, and which are on the right of way of the proposed new route of the Astoria & Seaside line, have recently been acquired by a Portland firm of realty brokers, who are believed to be acting for the syndicate which took over the Kruse holdings. The theory is advanced that these lots are needed to complete the right of way through the tract.

Gearhart Park was organized just 20 years ago and opened as a beach resort. The original hotel was built there in 1891, and it immediately became one of the most popular resorts on the Oregon coast. The entire property was purchased about four years ago by Theodore Kruse, who has since operated it. Two years ago Mr. Kruse began the erection of a large hotel, which has never been completed.

Wilson Peterson of Coos Bay Country Goes Insane; Wife Is Still Alive.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Marshfield, Or., March 29.—Word has been received here that Wilson Peterson, who lives on North slough, attempted to murder his wife and then committed suicide. It is thought he was crazy. Peterson shot his wife twice. Both bullets took effect but she is still alive. Among the witnesses and few particulars of the tragedy have been learned.

The Peterson home is far up North slough in the wilderness and few particulars of the tragedy have been learned.

ACCOUNTING IS ASKED OF PORT ORFORD CO.

Suit was filed in the circuit court this morning by M. L. Bowman, F. C. Wallace, Watson & Beckman and Phil Metcahan Jr., against the Port Orford tract, a land corporation and others for an accounting.

The plaintiffs allege that the Lee-Bowlder company was formed to sell the land of the Port Orford tract. They ask the court to direct that Bowman and Wallace shall be given a half interest in 400 shares of the Port Orford tract. They also want a contract entered into with L. B. Reeder and the Pacific City Improvement company on October 7, 1909, to be declared fraudulent and null, and that all money taken in by the Reeder and the Pacific City Improvement company be returned to the Port Orford company.

The plaintiffs also demand that the Lee-Bowlder company make an accounting to the Port Orford company for all moneys taken in the sale of lots and property of the Port Orford company. They also ask that the Lee-Bowlder company give an accounting of the moneys taken by him and alleged not to have been turned over to the Port Orford company. They also ask for their costs and disbursements caused by the suit.

NINETY DAY SENTENCE FOR ASSAULTING GIRL.

A 90-day sentence of 90 days and a fine of \$300 was given John McDonald this morning in the municipal court. He is 40 years old. The complaint against him was signed by the mother of a 5-year-old girl. McDonald lived in a row near Albers Milling company's dock.

BUILDING CODE IS READY FOR INSPECTION.

Copies of the proposed building code for the city of Portland may be obtained from the city auditor by any person interested in seeing revised laws which will come before the city council for adoption two weeks from tomorrow.

ELOPING COUPLE ARE DETERMINED TO STAY ELOPED

Second Attempt of 17-Year-Old Boy to Run Away With Girl Results in Posse Giving Chase; Boy Shoots.

(United Press Leased Wire.) San Diego, Cal., March 29.—It was reported at 10:30 a. m. this morning that Thomas Foreman, the 17-year-old high school boy who last night ran away with Gertrude Seifert, 15 years old, for the second time, had been surrounded by a posse headed by the girl's father at Des Canos, 40 miles from this place, and had shot at the pursuing party several times.

He took the girl away in an automobile last night. The pair tried to elope on March 21, but were overtaken at Santa Ana and were brought back before they had found a minister who would marry them.

The girl lowered herself from her bedroom last night with a sheet and joined the youth, who was waiting with an automobile. He had borrowed \$25 from his father, saying he must leave town to live down the shame attached to his first failure.

Father Is Frenzied. John R. Seifert, the girl's father, a wealthy liquor dealer, was nearly frantic late last night when he learned that his daughter had run away again. With Detective Meyers he set out in an auto after the couple.

The newspapers and the police sent fast auto out to Des Canos as soon as word of the shooting was received. The auto containing Seifert and Meyers reached Des Canos at 10:30 o'clock today.

Meyers telephoned that several shots had already been fired. Heavy snow fell at Des Canos and other points on Sunday and early Monday and it is supposed this has delayed the would-be elopers. It was bitter cold in the hills around Des Canos today.

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To Cost \$3,800,000. The total cost of the project will be \$3,800,000. It is, in fact, two separate projects combined, and the segregation of the 73,000 acres in Baker county within easy access from the main line of the Oregon Railway & Navigation company. About 40,000 acres only is government land, the rest being in private ownership. The work will go ahead as soon as the necessary withdrawals can be secured from the interior department.

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That the transfer of the vast holdings of the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain Military Road company in this state to a syndicate of Minneapolis and St. Paul capitalists will mean the opening up of thousands of acres of valuable land to settlement is the opinion of those in touch with the situation.

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