S. P. SUED BY U. S. TO RECOVER RICH OIL PROPERTIES

Huge Tracts of Mineral Land in California Claimed by R. R. Under Grant Authorized by Congress 50 Years Ago.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Los Angeles, Dec. 21.—The greatest suit in equity in the history of the world, involving 45,726 acres of oil lands in the Coalinga district of California, valued at $250,000,000, is on file in the United States district court here today against the Southern Pacific railroad by the United States government.

This is the first move in the government's fight to establish title to all of the oil lands in California now claimed by the Southern Pacific company. The land consists of 125,000 acres of the richest oil fields in the state, including the Kern river, Sunset, Maricopa, McKittrick, Midway, Elk Hills, Devil's Den, Lost Hills and Coalinga fields. This land is variously estimated to be worth from $5000 to $7000 an acre. It is valued at nearly $1,000,000,000. Additional suits covering the territory are expected to be filed within 18 months.

The bill was filed by T. J. Butler and B. D. Townsend, special assistants to Attorney General Wickersham. A large number of special agents also were engaged in collecting material for the suit.

Secured Best Oil Lands.

It is alleged by the government that while the Southern Pacific company was securing the lands which it claimed under its grant from congress, it had in its employ a corps of the most competent mineral experts in the United States, and this in the face of the fact that the railroad company was not entitled to any mineral lands under its grant. As a result, the government alleges, the Southern Pacific secured the very best oil lands in the state.

From an economic and industrial viewpoint the vital question is whether the Southern Pacific shall control a substantial part of the state's resources or whether these resources shall be thrown open to the general public and be brought into active competition.

Secured by Land Grant.

The Southern Pacific obtained the land by a grant authorized by congress July 27, 1866. It authorized the company to construct a railroad extending from San Francisco southeast through California to connect with the Atlantic and Pacific near the boundary line between California and Arizona. This grant was for the alternate odd numbered sections to the extent of 10 sections on each side of the line of the road. The grant, however, contained the following provision:

"It is provided further, that all mineral lands be, and the same are hereby excluded from the operation of this act." The act further provided that the term "mineral lands" should be deemed to include coal and iron lands.

The government contends that it was understood by both congress and the company when the patents were granted that the exception to these lands should be effective. When the extraordinary value of these lands developed, the government says, the company conceived the idea of repudiating this exception and claiming these rich mineral lands in the face of the exception and claiming these rich mineral lands in the face of the exception of both the grant act and the patent.

The company, it is expected, will contend that the mineral land exceptions were inserted in the patents without authority, and that the patents have the effect of an adjudication binding upon the United States; that the lands described in the patents are not mineral, despite the express statement in the patents to the contrary.

Case Heard in Los Angeles.

The suit technically was filed in the northern division of the Southern district of the United States district court at Fresno, but the complaint was filed here, because Los Angeles is the headquarters of the clerk of the court.

The government representatives, it is said, will demand that the evidence be heard in Los Angeles instead of Fresno. United States District Judge Wellborn will probably occupy the bench. Should the defendant object to hearings here, it may carry a demurrer as high as the supreme court of the United States. In this event the case probably would not go to trial for a year and a half. It is predicted here that in any event the suit will be a long drawn out affair.

ELECTRIC SIREN WILL HEREAFTER CALL OUT BEND FOLK TO FIRES

(Special to The Journal.)

Bend, Or., Dec. 21.—Bend has just purchased an electric siren fire alarm at an outlay of about $150. It will be operated by a two horse power motor and there will be boxes in various parts of town with which to turn in alarms. Heretofore the only means of giving a fire alarm has been the church bell, and often it refused to work properly, causing delays in getting the fire fighters to the burning structure and the destruction of property that could otherwise have been saved. The siren has a powerful detonation and in future only deaf and dead citizens are expected to be able to sleep through a fire.

FINDS BUSINESS GOOD SO JUST KEEPS ON GOING

(Special to The Journal.)

Goldendale, Wash., Dec. 21. — Harry Lea, an itinerant piano tuner, was arrested at Glenwood, in western Klickitat, upon complaint of a Sunnyside liveryman, from whom he hired a team November 23, saying he would be back the same day. Instead of returning the team he came over into Klickitat county where he was following his vocation. Lea admits having the team out much longer than he expected but disclaims any criminal intent. He says he found business good and just kept going, intending to return to Sunnyside with the team when he got through canvasing Klickitat county. He says he wrote the liveryman from Roosevelt December 10 that he would be back with the team in a few days.

PILES CURED IN 6 TO 14 DAYS. Your druggist will refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles. 50c.

Christmas P. O. Rush on? Just Ask Seaton! He's the Human Buffer for Excited Patrons

Forwarding Christmas Presents at the Portland Postoffice. At Top—Rushing the Thousands of Registered Packages Each Day in the Registry Division; Sitting, Left, Miss L. Chapelle; Right, Miss L. H. McDonald. Standing—F. W. Winters, Superintendent; W. T. Ogden, D. M. Henshaw. Bottom—In the Lobby—Sending Things "Home to the Folks."

George H. Seaton, the genial and stout person with the cap, on which are the letters, "U. S. P. O.," who officiates in the postoffice as officer of the lobby, is having his annual experience of being a mail box. This is the surest sign that the Christmas rush has arrived at the Portland postoffice.

Excited persons looking for the mail chutes spy Officer Seaton's cap through the lobby crowd and dash madly at him. "Here, mail this for me!" they shout, thrusting their letters and parcels upon him. They would even slip them into his pockets if he were not too quick for them.

Though he objects to being a mail box, Mr. Seaton is a question box without protest. He will answer any question you ask him. Doesn't matter what it is. There are no more new questions, anyway. Mr. Seaton says so, for he has answered them all.

Just stand in the lobby near him a minute and see for yourself. Listen to this:

"Officer, I want to mail a balloon. What's the postage?"

"A——a——did you say balloon, ma'am?"

"Yes, it's a toy balloon for my little nephew. He is 6 years old, you know."

Or a stout woman will smash a line at the stamp window to flinders in a center rush at him, as one did yesterday, her arms full of packages, and briskly direct him to have them weighed for her.

"And don't forget to stamp them, and then mail them," she adds sweetly. "Yes, charge them please—charge them to Mrs.——".

"What time's the next steamer leave New York for Berlin?" demands a perspiring citizen. "This present's late and I got to get it off by tonight's boat, I tell you."

"Say, Mister, where's the hot dog window? Gimme one with a government stamp on it," puts in a wag.

That is how it goes with Mr. Seaton all day while this Christmas rush is on. And take it from Mr. Seaton, who knows, there is some rush this year.

As for today, it will be the busiest of the season. The long lines before the stamp and register windows began to form as early as 9 o'clock.

Telling it in terms of figures, 42 extra clerks and 40 extra carriers have been put on duty by Acting Postmaster Williamson to take care of the Christmas packages, both outgoing and incoming. Twenty-one of the extra clerks are working in the registry division, under Superintendent W. T. Winters, where the Christmas business is heaviest. Ordinarily there are only 15 clerks in this division, but a big proportion of the more valuable Christmas packages are registered.

Between 3500 and 4000 of these packages are registered and sent out to other towns every day of the gift season. The flood of packages will not slacken until after Christmas.

In the neighborhood of 2500 registered packages a day are now coming in to town for Portland folks. That is one reason why so many extra carriers have been put in service.

It is interesting to note here that this is the last Christmas that packages will be registered by the postoffice. After January 1, when the new parcels post law takes effect, letters will continue to be registered, but packages will be insured.

"This insured mail will be handled with a fraction of the red tape and record keeping and receipting and at a fraction of the expense of the present registry system," says Postmaster Williamson. "I consider it the greatest forward step in the postal service in many a year. It will reduce immensely the work of the department. Under the new system, insured mail will be handled and delivered like ordinary mail."

Two Days—1-4 Off

Xmas goods—including best perfumes, domestic and imported, handbags, toilet, manicure and smokers' sets—will be sold next Monday and Tuesday at ¼ off already low marked price. Remember the days. Alder Street pharmacy, 242 Alder.

9 MILLIONS ADDED TO OREGON ROLLS

Of Assessment Increase Most Is Made Up by Multnomah County.

(Salem Bureau of The Journal.)

Salem, Or., Dec. 21.—Not including the assessments that are made by the state board of tax commissioners, the assessed valuation of the state is nearly $9,000,000 greater this year than it was last year. The greatest increase was in Multnomah county, where over $5,000,000 was added to the tax rolls this year. In a few of the counties there is a decrease in valuations. The complete summary as compiled by the state tax commission is as follows:

County.	Value, 1911.	Value, 1912.
Baker	$ 17,925,680	$ 17,794,765
Benton	10,050,481	9,954,601
Clackamas	21,943,345	22,878,985
Clatsop	8,740,027	8,924,964
Columbia	12,850,430	12,697,900
Coos	19,455,615	19,326,920
Crook	9,178,248	9,001,077
Curry	3,997,811	4,162,696
Douglas	26,875,590	27,052,145
Gilliam	6,444,995	6,408,700
Grant	5,690,381	5,717,584
Harney	7,362,835	7,343,385
Hood River	9,014,820	9,325,942
Jackson	33,411,899	32,040,145
Josephine	8,668,605	8,986,875
Klamath	14,012,775	15,682,121
Lake	8,359,299	8,931,654
Lane	34,144,090	34,538,660
Lincoln	8,842,182	8,902,613
Linn	25,353,525	26,042,295
Malheur	9,678,390	9,872,520
Marion	37,656,737	38,083,264
Morrow	8,990,773	9,176,701
Multnomah	295,538,620	303,995,165
Polk	13,040,870	13,149,100
Sherman	8,045,290	8,075,385
Tillamook	14,386,139	14,525,732
Umatilla	35,526,801	35,609,141
Union	13,842,135	13,559,215
Wallowa	10,856,770	10,210,730
Wasco	9,237,330	9,531,590
Washington	17,321,720	17,780,966
Wheeler	3,293,810	3,263,282
Yamhill	15,229,925	15,038,071
State	$784,118,857	$793,095,181

CALF BORN ON A FARM NEAR FOREST GROVE IS ABSOLUTELY INSIDE OUT

(Special to The Journal.)

Forest Grove, Or., Dec. 21.—A most peculiar freak was born yesterday morning on the farm of Thomas Williams at Hillside, three miles northwest of this city, the freak being a calf that came into the world wrong side out. By some inexplicable process of nature all the internal organs of the calf, such as the lungs, heart, liver and intestines, are on the outside, and the head, feet, and hide are inside; in fact there is a complete transposition of the normal calf.

Dr. W. B. Coon, a veterinary surgeon of this city has the freak calf at his office and will preserve it. He says he has never seen only one before, this one being in a New York museum.

COUNTY WILL KEEP COUNCIL CREST QUARRY

The rock quarry owned by the county on Council Crest will not be sold, not in the near future, at least.

This was decided by the county commissioners yesterday when they considered a petition presented by Attorney Joseph M. Healy, asking them to offer the quarry for sale. It has not been operated for more than a year.

Responding to the commissioners' request for a written explanation regarding some bills which they thought excessive, Superintendent L. H. Baker, of the Detention home, replied that the work was well done and the charges were, in his opinion fair. The bills totaled $131.15 and were incurred in repairing the heating appliances of the home, cleaning pipes, performing some plumbing work and excavating a cess pool.

FIRST TOUCH OF WINTER IS FELT AT THE DALLES

(Special to The Journal.)

The Dalles, Or., Dec. 21.—This locality is experiencing its first touch of winter. There is no snow in the valleys, but the surrounding hills are covered, and heavy frost occurred this week.

SIX FEET OF SNOW IN NORTH DAKOTA DRIFTS

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Fargo, N. D., Dec. 21.—One of the most terrific snowstorms in the history of the state has North Dakota in its grip today. Drifts from five to six feet deep are reported. The railroads in all sections of the state are hampered by the heavy snowfall.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT CLUB FOR PRAIRIE CITY

(Special to The Journal.)

Prairie City, Or., Dec. 21.—Tuesday evening citizens organized a Mutual Improvement club with W. J. Hughes as president and F. M. Kight as secretary. The routine of the club will be the discussion of live topics of the day, the members taking turn in outlining and presenting a chosen or an assigned subject, to be followed by an informal discussion by the other members. Women are admitted to membership and will take an active part in the work of the club, alternate evenings being devoted to their work exclusively. The club organized with a membership of 30. Meetings will be held twice a month.

POOR HOUSE INMATE IS HEIR TO $500,000

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Middletown, N. Y., Dec. 21.—California lawyers wired Charles Drake, an inmate of the county poor house here, that his brother, who died recently, had left him an estate valued at $500,000.

Town Wants Auto Fire Truck.

(Special to The Journal.)

The Dalles, Or., Dec. 21.—A move is on foot here to supply the fire department of the city with an auto fire truck. Petitions are being circulated asking the city council to purchase the truck, a majority of the council having signified their willingness to buy the apparatus if a majority of the taxpayers of the city want it. It is estimtaed that the new apparatus will cost $6000 and to care for and operate it will cost approximately $1500 a year.

The revised figures show that in the next congress the southern Democrats will have a membership in the house and senate together about equal to that from all other sections of the country.

Christmas trees, best trees, free delivery, open Sunday. 128 10th st.

THEATRES --- AMUSEMENTS --- ENTERTAINMENTS

Interests Children from 3 to 80 years old.

HEILIC THEATRE— Seventh and Taylor. Phones Main 1 and A-1122.
MATINEE Today All Week 2:45
TONIGHT Every Night Until Xmas 8:30
PAUL J. RAINEY'S AFRICAN HUNT MOTION PICTURES
Reserved Seats Now Selling for engagement. PRICES, 50c and 25c.

SEATS NOW SELLING — HEILIC XMAS ATTRACTION — FOUR NIGHTS Dec. 25, 26, 27, 28.
THE QUAKER GIRL — THE BIG MUSICAL COMEDY. Special Price Mat. Xmas and Sat. Eve., $2 to 50c. Mat., $1.50 to 50c.

Main 6; A-1020. Matinee Daily.
Orpheum AT THE BUNGALOW THEATRE, Twelfth and Morrison Streets.
LOUISE CALLOWAY, JOSEPH KAUFMAN AND COMPANY IN "LITTLE MOTHER"
Six More Feature Acts.
Mat. 15c, 25c, 50c. Nights, 25c, 50c, 75c.

BAKER THEATRE— Geo. L. Baker, Mgr. Main 2, A-5360. "The Baker Players in "THE COMMANDING OFFICER," an intense, interesting play, with scenes laid at a western military post. First time in Portland. Evenings, 25c, 35c, 50c. Matinees, 25c. Next week, starting tomorrow matinee, "Checkers."

EMPRESS— Sullivan & Considine. "THE MACY MODELS," A Gorgeous Musical Comedy and 12 Pretty Girls. 5—OTHER HEADLINE ACTS—5. Special Prices—Matinees, any seat 10c. Evenings, 10c, 20c. MATINEE DAILY. Home of Refined Vaudeville

PANTACES— MATINEE DAILY WEEK DEC. 9— WEEK DEC. 16—Minnie Palmer Presents the 1912 CABARET REVIEW; Holiman Bros., Jane Madison & Co., Pony Moore-D. J. Davey, Edna Madison, Don and O'Neal, Pantagescope. Popular prices. Boxes and first row balcony reserved. Curtain 2:30, 7:15 and 9.

LYRIC THEATRE— Keating & Flood Co. Presents "The Merry Maniac," the laughiest of all laughing comedies, written and staged by Chas. Alphin. Two performances nightly, 7:30 and 9:10. Matinees daily at 2:30. Sunday and holiday nights, continuous performances, commencing at 6:30. Friday night, chorus girls' contest. Next week, "Santa Claus Jr."

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An hostelry of indescribable charm, unequaled in point of service, comfort and appointments. Situated in the very heart of things. European plan.
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Only First Class American and European Plan Hotel in the City
Attractive rates for permanents furnished upon request. Unexcelled service and cuisine. An unequaled table d'hote dinner served nightly 6 till 8, seventy-five cents.
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100 rooms .....$1.00 per day
100 rooms .....$1.50 per day
200 rooms, with bath $2.00 per day
100 rooms, with bath $2.50 per day
Add $1.00 per day to above prices when two occupy one room.
VERY ATTRACTIVE PRICES FOR PERMANENT GUESTS
H. C. BOWERS, Manager. GAINER THIGPEN, Asst. Manager.

NEW PERKINS HOTEL IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

NOTE OUR RATES:
Room with Bath Privilege .....$1.00 UP
Two Persons .....$1.50 UP
Room With Private Bath .....$1.50 UP
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L. Q. SWETLAND, MGR. (Permanent Rates on Application)

RIVERVIEW HOTEL
Third and East Burnside. CENTRALLY LOCATED
Rates Lowest in the City 75c PER DAY.
PRIVATE BATH—$1.00 DAY
Limousine Bus Free to All Trains.
Special rates to permanent guests.

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Portland's Famous Hotel Noted for the Excellence of its Cuisine. European plan
R. K. CLARKE, Asst. Mgr. G. J. KAUFMANN, Manager

THE HOF-BRAU
Will serve you Christmas Dinner
Table d'Hote, a la Carte
or which ever way you desire
NONE BETTER

New Money for Christmas
Money is more attractive if new, and to enable our customers and friends to make their Christmas gifts in new money, we have shipped a supply of new gold and crisp currency for the holiday season.
Security Savings and Trust Co.
Fifth and Morrison Streets
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, $1,400,000

Holly, Mistletoe
CHRISTMAS TREES,
Ferns, Palms and Pot Plants
OUR Seasonable Offerings include the most desirable decorative and flowering plants; splendid healthy specimens, all sizes. They are inexpensive, beautiful, appropriate and always acceptable.

Just Received from JAPAN
Quaint Dwarf Trees
Rare Palms
Ornamental Evergreens
and the finest lot of Wistaria we have ever offered.
Prices are low and these unusual plants make splendid gifts.

ROSES from Ireland
A select collection of the latest "Gold Medal" Roses, including British Queen, King George V, George Dickson, Mrs. Sam Ross. As a gift nothing could be more acceptable.
Special—"Juliet." This magnificent novelty, (color rose and gold), in large two year field grown plants, at only $1.50. For complete list of Roses, see Catalogue.

Holly Trees TRUE ENGLISH, Heavily Berried
We offer the finest lot of berry-bearing Holly ever shown in Portland. Nice specimens from $1.50 up.
Call at our store or phone M. 4040, A-6015. We will be pleased to aid in selection. Make prompt deliveries. Prices are right. The best values offered in our line.
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