

# BIG LAND FRAUDS LAD BARE IN THE RECORDS OF COURT

### Amazing Story of Looting of Oregon's School Lands by Timber Dealers Is Exposed.

### LARGE FORTUNES ARE MADE Advantage Taken of Tip From Federal Officials and Big Profits Are Made.

H. S. Hyde, a capitalist of Wisconsin, secured, through deeds based on assigned applications to purchase and certificates of sale, a total of 12,368 acres of Oregon school land according to the official records of the stand land office.

Here is now he got the land, according to another official record, the transcript of the testimony in the Jones-McKinley-Sorenson conspiracy case in the United States court.

Dan W. Tarpley was a dapper young man who sat on the witness stand and he had "had considerable experience," having for five years "devoted most of his time to the land business, especially school lands."

**Receipts Officially Tipp**  
Tarpley was a friend of Merritt Ormsby, who, in turn, was the son of Captain B. B. Ormsby, the forest superintendent. One day Tarpley, pursuant to his business of dealing in school lands, was passing a few minutes in the office of the forest superintendent. Young Ormsby showed him an official letter from the office of the commissioner general of the land office at Washington, asking for his recommendation as to the creation of the Blue mountain forest reserve in Eastern Oregon.

When Tarpley saw the letter he made a map of the proposed reserve, went down the hall to the office of the state land board, looked up the vacant school lands within the boundaries, found that there were some 22,000 acres of vacant school land within the lines of the proposed reserve, and took the train for Portland.

**Money Easily Obtained**  
"I came down the next day after making this map," Tarpley told the jury in the Jones-McKinley-Sorenson case, "and met McKinley for the purpose of raising the money to purchase the lands. He told me of a party from Wisconsin by the name of Hyde, who had told him it was, who was stopping here at the Portland hotel, and McKinley called on Hyde and had a conversation with him, and he furnished the money for the amount of \$10,000, and on the evening of the same day McKinley and Hyde's son, Robert Hyde, and I went to Salem, and the next day, April 18 and the 19th, I think, two days, we purchased 12,900 acres of the lands."

The purchase was made, Tarpley testified, by filing applications, each covering 320 acres of land, which were secured in blank from people picked up here and there to sign them, and the assignments, both in blank; the assignments being signed even before the applications had been filed.

**Secret Let Out in Saloon**  
"What became of the certificates?" Tarpley was asked, and he answered: "Why, I think the majority of them were left in Hyde's hands as security for the money he had advanced."  
"Altogether Tarpley 'purchased' in the manner described 17,600 acres," explained Sorenson, another "expert" dealer in state school lands, "explains—in part, at least—why Hyde did not get more than 12,368 acres. He felt that Tarpley, McKinley and Hyde were 'butting in' on his game."

"I found it out one night," he told the jury. "There was a friend of Mr. Hyde's, who was in a saloon down in Portland. He came to Tarpley and McKinley and Tarpley is buying a lot of school lands up in Strawberry mountain. I says, 'How many acres did they buy?' Oh, he says, 'they bought about 20,000 acres,' he says; 'buying all the mountain.'"

Then the evidence shows that May made a demand on Tarpley and McKinley for half of the certificates, telling them that it cost money to "create a reserve." Tarpley refused to meet the demand, though he afterwards returned in a bunch of certificates, agreeing to contribute at the rate of 50 cents an acre towards the expense of having the reserve put through to final creation. This was the manner in which 12,868 acres of the state's school lands were taken from the common school fund by fraudulent and unlawful means. It is only one of the smaller chapters in the history of the looting of the state lands for the benefit and financial aggrandizement of the timber speculators. It is another incident that leads to the belief that the state could, if it proceeded energetically, recover the lands, or their value, for the school fund.

## THREE HUGE SYSTEMS IN STRUGGLE FOR WORLD

(Continued From Page One)  
opinion exists among the allies concerning the necessity of action in this matter. All realize that a famine breeds

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# SENATORS APPEAR IN OPPOSITION TO M'ADOO PROGRAM

### Director General Clings to His Demand for Five Year Test, Despite Attacks by Solons.

### POLITICAL ISSUE IS LOOMING

#### Democrats in Senate Committed Voice Opposition Along With Republicans Who Ask Action.

By Raymond Clapper  
Washington, Jan. 4.—(U. P.)—Despite Director General McAdoo's earnest plea that government control of railroads be extended five years, members of the senate interstate commerce committee tonight appeared firmly set against the plan, after two days of testimony. McAdoo's plea to his demand for a five-year test period against the fire of a hostile committee determined to break him down on it. Bombaraded from every angle, the director general repeatedly summarized his views: "We need a five year test period under normal conditions."

**Cummins Sees Political Issue**  
Senator Cummins struck the climax toward the ending of the hearings, today by declaring that the railroad question would inevitably become a political issue in 1920.

"The railroads of the United States must be kept out of politics," McAdoo said. "If the railroads are held only 21 months, employees would become objects of political solicitation. I have religiously tried to keep politics out of the railroad administration. I have appointed officials without regard to politics. If, for political reasons, railroad men might see that there is to be a change of masters, it would work for inefficiency of operation and would be taking a risk not only with the lives of people who travel but with the commerce of the country."

**Democrats Among Objectors**  
Democratic senators, chiefly Gore, Bomerans and Underwood, revealed an antagonistic attitude toward the five year plan, though their questions were not so sharp as those of the Republicans. Objecting senators declared that McAdoo's plan would merely postpone the difficulty instead of settling it. "What we want is a speedy settlement of the question," Senator Cummins, Iowa, said after the hearing. This matter cannot be permitted to drag along indefinitely. The country wants to know where it stands."

## PRESIDENT TO SPEND TWO DAYS YET IN ITALY

(Continued From Page One)  
ian, which was translated by Monsignor O'Hearn, rector of the American university. The pope shook hands with each of the president's party. He was asked to bestow his blessing. "Very well," he said. One member of the party asked how many of those present were Catholics. The pope evidently understood the question, for he replied, in Italian, "that makes no difference. The bless-

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**Visit Garibaldi's Statue**  
When the president and his party departed, the ceremony attending their arrival was repeated.  
During the forenoon, the president and Mrs. Wilson visited several points of historic interest. Their first visit was to the Pantheon where the president placed a wreath on King Humbert's tomb. A curious crowd followed them. Later the president went to the Lincoln Academy, where he was tendered a membership. In a brief speech he said he hoped the scientists will now study for the purpose of creating a new heat-friendship of humanity, in order to blot out the stain resulting from science developing engines for the destruction of humanity.  
An unexpected addition to the day's program was the visit to Garibaldi's statue and a tour of the poorer section of the city.  
President and Mrs. Wilson spent the remainder of the forenoon visiting the Palais and the Forum, under guidance of Giacomo Boni, the archaeological expert who is in charge of excavations in those places.  
London, Jan. 4.—(U. P.)—President Wilson will leave for New York on February 4th, but probably will return before the inauguration. The conference of the Exchange Telegraph company declared today.

# Widow of Late Charles Sweeney Dies at Spokane

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 4.—Mrs. Emeline Agnes Sweeney, widow of the late Charles Sweeney, died Friday morning at the home of her son, Frank Sweeney. Mrs. Sweeney was born October 13, 1857, in San Francisco.  
Mr. Sweeney, the husband, was a millionaire mine owner, and his holdings was placed in the Sweeney Investment company, which owns property in Spokane, Portland and other cities of the Northwest.  
Mrs. Sweeney was the mother of 13 children, six of whom died in infancy. A son, Lieutenant Sweeney, was killed in action in France, and another son, Captain Charles Sweeney, U. S. A., was formerly with the French Foreign Legion.

# Farmers Opposed to Selling Jute Mill

Walla Walla, Wash., Jan. 4.—(U. P.)  
That Walla Walla farmers will oppose the recommendation of Warden Henry Drum to sell the jute mill and grain bag making machinery at the state penitentiary and substitute cloth making machinery for it, is the opinion of many of the farmers in the county. The jute mill is one of the largest in the Northwest. It was built by the state in 1876, and was sold to the state in 1910. It is now owned by the state. The farmers are opposed to its sale because they believe it would be a loss to the state and a benefit to the manufacturers who would buy it. They also believe that the sale would result in the loss of many jobs in the county.

## Colonel Young Is Ill With Influenza

Colonel George S. Young, some years ago commandant at Vancouver barracks, and who was in charge of recruiting in Oregon during the early days of the United States participation in the European war, and more recently in command of student officers training at Willamette university, Salem, is at Vancouver barracks hospital, convalescing from an attack of Spanish influenza. Colonel Young is still seriously ill.

# Club Presidents to Speak at Ministers' Meeting on Monday

Portland ministers are going to put heads of Portland's various organizations of business men on the stand Monday morning and let them tell for themselves what they think of weekday matters in general. Dr. W. W. Youngson, chairman of the committee on arrangements of the Portland Ministerial association, has secured the promise of these men to attend the session of the association at the Y. W. C. A. at 11 o'clock Monday morning.

# Quite Extraordinary, Is This January Clearance Sale of \$18.50, \$19.50 Wool and Fibre Bungalow Rugs At \$13.95



- \$2 Cash
- \$1 Week
- No Interest
- SIZES:  
—9 x 12 Feet  
—8 1/2 x 10 1/2

—They're of good weight, too; all are reversible and may be worn on either side. These rugs are NOT culls or poor patterns—they include every wool and fibre rug up to \$19.50 that has been on display during the past three months.


—Blues, Browns, Reds, Greens, Tans, in pleasing combinations; indeed there are—splendid living and dining room patterns!

# These 4 Rooms Full of Quiet Elegance \$25

Sent to Your Home on the Small Cash Payment of..... \$25

—Both Living and Dining Suites are finished to match in that aristocratic "Hand-Rubbed Golden Wax." You may select any single piece from either suite if you like.

"You're jolly right! The balance will be arranged to fit your individual convenience."



You're Right, It Is "Solid Oak" NEVER WAS THERE A GREATER MISTAKE! It has been said that "hand-rubbed, wax finished" furniture was hard to keep clean. Quite to the contrary! It is the easiest and say what you will, "Hand-Rubbed Wax" is the aristocrat of all finishes. Four pieces, similar to illustration, at..... \$49.75

This Suite Made to "Match It" OH, YES! The dining-room is "an every-day, all-the-year-round" place—not merely a Sunday room or a visiting hall. Here is a big six-foot table and six solid oak chairs, all finished to match the living-room pieces. The seven pieces, as illustrated, for only..... \$44.90

"Loveliness" in All Her Glory Charming! distinctively "Lustered Old Ivory" Bedroom Suite, hand decorated with a delicate spray of moss roses and green foliage. This is an exclusive Edwards design and is on display in the Bedroom Section. Five pieces, as illustrated, at..... \$89.85

"YES! Even the Kitchen Sparkles" It's left to you to decide if this is not the clearest ever at the price. English Breakfast Table; has white enamel base and golden polished top. Four chairs in white enamel and very sturdily built, too. Fried special..... \$21.85

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