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REVIEW OF BENSON-HYDE LAND FRAUDS

A Washington correspondent gives the following excellent review of the Benson-Hyde land fraud cases now on trial in Washington:

After repeated delays and postponements, John A. Benson, J. H. Schneider, Henry P. Dimond and Frederick A. Hyde, real estate operators of the Pacific coast, are finally to face the bar of justice and answer to charges of conspiracy to defraud the United States out of valuable timber concessions in nearly every state west of the Mississippi river.

These four defendants, according to the government officials, are the ring leaders of the most stupendous land frauds ever brought to light in this country.

Their cases were called for trial today before Justice Stafford. The trial is expected to consume nearly three months, as more than 200 witnesses may be examined. Congress recently authorized the expenditure necessary to conduct the prosecution and directed that the entire cost, approximately \$50,000, be borne by the government and no portion charged against the District of Columbia, in whose courts the trial is to take place. The case of the prosecution will be handled by United States Attorney Pugh and Francis J. Heney of San Francisco, special counsel for the United States in the prosecution of land frauds. The defendants have engaged eminent counsel, including Attorneys S. A. Worthington, R. Golden Donaldson and A. A. Birney, with three assistants.

The cases against Benson, Dimond, Schneider and Hyde have been dragging along for the past four years. John A. Benson is regarded as the principal in the alleged conspiracy. For many years he has been a prominent figure on the Pacific coast. Early in life he went from Ohio to San Francisco, where he established himself as a surveyor, land agent and real estate operator.

From 1876 to 1879 he held the office of United States deputy surveyor. Then he proceeded to organize the Benson land ring, seeking to control contracts for surveying government lands. For the next six years he and his crowd controlled all contracts for surveying government lands in California and the neighboring states.

Reports of Benson's operations finally led to an official investigation as a result of which 76 indictments were returned against Benson and his associates. In 1885 and 1886 Benson himself was indicted no less than 74 times. Wealth and influence were employed to prevent the trial of the cases. Meanwhile special agents of the government were sent to San Francisco to make a thorough investigation of state and federal officials who had protected Benson.

They found that the Southern Pacific railroad as well as a number of prominent officials were interested in the Benson contracts. Although the special agents completed their evidence the cases were repeatedly postponed and never came to trial.

From 1887 to 1895 the Benson cases dragged through the United States courts. In the latter year Benson and his associates, having amassed a large fortune in California, widened their field of operations to include Oregon, Washington and other states. Then came the investigation started by Secretary Hitchcock in 1903, resulting in charges involving Senator Mitchell, Representative Binger Hermann and others of prominence.

As a result of the evidence brought to light in these trials Benson was convicted at San Francisco, in August, 1907, of conspiracy to defraud the government out of 12,000 acres of land, and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. He appealed the case and has been at liberty under \$30,000 bond. Now, with a fortune estimated at \$20,000,000, he and his associates must again stand trial on charges of alleged wholesale swindling.

Notice to Poultry Raisers.
The hatching season is now open and I am prepared to furnish settings of full blood, single comb white leghorn eggs, to the trade in any quantity desired. \$7 per hundred. For further information phone Main 88. A. Nolte.

Three are dead and two will die from the effects of injuries sustained in a boiler explosion in a small shingle factory at Everett, Wash.

KILLING OFF DOGS.

La Grande Policeman Roping in Strange and Ownerless Curs and Using the Ax.

Empowered with special authority from the city council and provided with a screened wagon and a sure roping arm, Deputy Policeman James Peppers starts out tomorrow morning after dogs. Owners, generally, grin on hearing of the proposed canine destruction and some of them even believe the ultimatum is half-hearted in its intent. They will evidently think different hereafter, says the La Grande Observer.

The dogs must wear the tags. Any dog seen without the tag will be roped, caged and impounded, there to be advertised. Hence, an owner who has a tag in his possession, but not attached to the animal, and the animal is impounded, will be required to pay the relinquishment fees before "doggie" again gains his liberty. Chief of Police Walden stated today that this fact should be borne in mind. The system to be followed is, briefly, that the untagged dogs will be taken into pound and there advertised. If not claimed and removed, the dog will be killed.

Eighteen have already been given the ax.

Death Was On His Heels.
Jesse P. Morris of Skippers, Va., had a close call in the spring of 1906. He says: "An attack of pneumonia left me so weak and with such a fearful cough that my friends declared consumption had me, and death was on my heels. Then I was persuaded to try Dr. King's New Discovery and after taking two and a half bottles I was a well man again. I found out that New Discovery is the best remedy for coughs and lung disease in all the world." Sold under guarantee at Tallman & Co.'s drug store. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

Notice to Public.
Having disposed of my implement store in this city, all parties knowing themselves indebted to me please call and settle their accounts.
FRED WEBER.

The American gunboats at Port au Prince are preparing to land troops on the island.

INDIAN LEGEND OF POCATELLO

PLACE WAS NAMED FOR
INDIAN CHIEFTAIN

Hot Spring on Site of Pocatello Was Famed Among Indians for Its Medicinal Qualities—Old Chieftain Was Finally Thrown Into the Spring and Disappeared.

A writer in the Mining West, a well known publication, takes a long draw at the pipe of fancy and indites the following legend about Pocatello:

Nearly every traveler over the Overland route to the coast passes through the town of Pocatello, one of the thriving cities of Idaho. This place is among the historical spots of the intermountain country.

The site of Pocatello long before it was made a white man's town was the camping ground of the Bannock Indians. And even down to the present time, it is one of the favorite places of the red man. Within short distances of the town are numerous hot springs.

The place was named for a once well known Bannock chief—Pocatello. This particular spot was his own hunting grounds and one well known hot spring he claimed as his own.

This spring was near the base of Bannock mountain and the wily old chief no doubt, copying after white men with whom he had experience, exacted from the Indians of his tribe and from others as well, tribute whenever they saw fit to use the wonderful waters of the spring. Among the Indians the spring was noted for its great medicinal qualities. It was accredited with being a sure panacea for cramps, colics, rheumatism and other complaints too numerous to mention.

Each Indian using the waters of this spring for bathing purposes was required to pay to Pocatello one beaver tail for each bath, and if the bathers desired to enjoy the waters to the fullest extent "from sun to sun," he could soak himself in the waters of the spring for an entire beaver skin.

Years rolled on and Pocatello became old and decrepit. It was claimed by some that he lived for more than a hundred years. When he became almost helpless and the Indians found that the wonderful spring water did not renew his youth they became dissatisfied with the exactions in the way of tribute that he had so long demanded from them. They decided to make him test the efficiency of the celebrated spring. They placed him astride his horse and taking him to the spring they threw him bodily in, determined to give him a long, good soak that would cure him of his feebleness.

The details of this last bath of Pocatello are clouded in the misty and obscure legends of the remaining Bannocks, but it is said that after he was placed in the spring he was deserted and a few days later when the spring was sought no trace of him or his remains could be found, nor has he appeared since then.

Pocatello, the city which perpetuated the name of the noted chief, is one of the liveliest western towns. It is in the center of a rich agricultural district, the resources of which are fast being developed.

Mrs. Annie Ferrier of New York, is dead as the result of laughing at a joke told at a dinner party of which she was a member.

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