Ohe Elaity Astorian.
 THE United States land office is taking steps to bring criminal and
civil suits against the land-grabcivil suits against the land-grab-
bers of California, Oregon and
Washington territory. Washington territory. The Pa
cific coast is the last district to reached in indicting the men who
have been ravaging the public and
illegally taking up the public illegally taking up the public
lands. In Nebraska, Dakota, Ne Mexico and Colorado a large num
ber of indictments have been found against these grabbers.
brought to justice is the Sierra This organization has been carryIng on its operations principally lives in San Francisco, is the pres
ident of the company, T. C. Turne is the contractor and Waverle tairley is the business manager A minute account of their opera
tions has been submitted to the department of justice. An a curate description of each sectio
of land on,which timber has bee unlawfully cut has been furnished The approximate number of tree each have been carefully estimate
by the agents. The total number 000 , furnishing $60,000,000$ feet lumber. This vast amount
wood is alleged to have been on land the
domain.

## owns large tracts of lamber land

 cut on their own territory. T ontil they had cat all the timber of their sawmills, flames and roadThe agents report that there

## timber. The estimated value

 the timber is $k 2.50$ when cut, $\%$.at the mill and 820.10 when man ufactured, per 1,000 . The stump depredations of this company were, it is alleged, carried on openly
from 1879 to 1884, and these op erations are still going on, but in land office has the names of many
witnesses who will testify to the gigantic stealing that it is alleged
has been carried on. The case hardly needs witnesses, for the
government record shows that the have been made are still part
the public domain. The devasta ted lands, with thousands of re cently bewn trees, are cevidence what it is charged this compan company has large amounts of
lumber in various parts of Tehama county. The first steps to be tak
en will be to attach that, and the second to enjoin the compary fr

## The suit against the

the Sierra Lumber company w be the first brought in Californi
or on the Pacific coast. In a shor time other suits
The land office
attention now the false entrin of timber land in the redwood beit
that stretches from Humbodd, Cal ifornia, down the coast. Commis sioner Sparks says that he had pos
itive evidence that immense tract of that fine timber land had been
fruudulently entered. The plan that has been adopted by the syndicates of timber land robbers is as fol
lows: Men have been employed to enter a quarter-section of timfor it to the syndicate, which would provide the necessary witnesses try, pay the $\$ 2.50$ per aero for it and secure the title. Sparks say that the law is plain; that such schemes are criminal, and that men who take it only for themselves The land may be sold, however, after the settier gets his
United States land office has proofs that these syndicates of robbers
I. $=$ Wiritily nosur timber land entries in California
not more than five per cent have been honest and legitimate. The
land office holds ready to be canceled fully 95 per cent of the tim
ber land entries of the Pacific

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