

PUTER IS CAUGHT

Attempts to Secure Big Tract of Oregon State Land.

NINE MEN SWEAR FALSELY TO AID

Prospective Irrigation Scheme on Klamath Lands Would Have Been Made to Yield Profit.

Salem, Feb. 4.—S. A. D. Puter, convicted of conspiracy to defraud the government in timber land cases, and under indictment on further charges, was caught today in an attempt to secure title to 3,200 acres of state school land in violation of law, and the state land board has \$2,000 of his good money and evidence sufficient to show the fraudulent nature of the transaction.

Basil Wagner, of this city, procured the men to make the applications for the land. As each filed his application he told Clerk Brown that Wagner would call for the certificate of sale.

Applications to purchase school land near Klamath Falls were filed by nine residents of Salem, who swore that they wanted the land for their own use and benefit, and had made no contract, express or implied, to convey the land to any other person. No certificates of sale were issued, but Clerk G. G. Brown called the attention of the state land board to the suspicious applications, and an investigation resulted.

One of the applicants was taken before the governor, where he was closely cross-questioned, until he admitted that he had made the application at the instance of an agent of Puter, and made the initial payment with a bank draft furnished by Puter.

Governor Chamberlain immediately called a special meeting of the state land board to consider the matter, and Puter appeared before the board. He asked leave to withdraw the applications and receive his drafts, but the land board refused to recognize his right to have the money returned.

The drafts will be returned only to the persons who deposited them, and when these men appear, they will be brought up on the carpet and questioned as to the truth of their affidavits. Whether the \$2,000 will eventually be returned or will be held by the board as forfeited remains to be determined.

Enormous Losses in Texas.

Fort Worth, Tex., Feb. 7.—Specials from a large number of points in Western Texas indicate that the present blizzard is the worst in 10 years. The whole northern portion of the state is covered with frozen sleet. Cattle are huddled in bunches and cannot be moved to water. Stockmen estimate that losses will aggregate hundreds of thousands of dollars and that range cattle will not recover in six months from the damage done them so far. There is no sign of the blizzard abating.

Russia Wants More Money.

London, Feb. 7.—It is stated in well informed financial circles in London that negotiations have been completed for floating a new Russian loan of \$200,000,000 in Paris. The loan will bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum. The date of the issue has not yet been fixed.

Kuropatkin Tenders Resignation.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 6.—General Kuropatkin has tendered to the czar his resignation of the command of the forces in the Far East. General Gripenberg has been removed from the command of the Second Manchurian army at his own request, having declared that he had been dishonored by Kuropatkin's orders to retreat at the battle of the Hun river.

IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Salem, Jan. 31.—A bill was introduced in the senate today to suppress poolselling and poolrooms. Eleven other new measures were introduced.

Nine bills were passed, one of them appropriating \$15,000 for fish hatcheries. This bill has already passed the house.

The senate bill authorizing the Lewis and Clark fair corporation to condemn private property was passed by the house.

Ten new bills were introduced in the house, one of them being the anticigarette bill, identical with that introduced in the senate.

The house rejected the senate concurrent resolution for a joint assembly tomorrow to consider a constitutional convention. This stops any further possibilities of a constitutional convention.

Electric bells at railroad crossings is the object of a bill introduced in the house today. They are to be of sufficient weight and sound to be heard 100 yards and are to be placed at every crossing where a public road crosses a railway track where the view is obstructed either way.

The house committee on mining favors the passage of the bill relieving such mining companies of the annual license tax as have an annual output of less than \$1,000.

A new bill in the house provides that all sheep driven into the state for pasturage shall be taxed 20 cents a head and 5 cent a head shall be paid for each county through which the sheep are driven.

The Cascade county bill will appear in the senate tomorrow or Thursday.

Salem, Feb. 1.—Twelve bills were passed by the senate today and 15 by the house. Five new bills were introduced in the senate and seven in the house.

Two bills were killed in the senate today: For a constitutional convention and to permit corporations to act as administrators.

The house this afternoon voted down the bill for the appointment of a board of internal commerce commissioners and appropriating \$25,000 for the opening of the Willamette river from Portland to Eugene.

A bill of Representative Steiner's fixing the terms of circuit court beginning on the second Monday in May and the third Monday in October, passed the house this morning.

To permit district attorneys and their deputies to bid in for counties, lands sold for delinquent taxes, a bill of Representative West's passed the house today. Under the present law the county judge is required to do that function, but sometimes is not present.

A bill to empower juries to fix punishment in criminal trials was indefinitely postponed by the house this morning. The bill came from Smith, of Josephine.

Salem, Feb. 2.—The senate today passed the house bill appropriating \$1,000 for the widows of the prison guards who were killed by Tracy and Merrill at the time of the outbreak three years ago.

The senate bill appropriating \$25,000 for maintaining the portage railway was passed by the house.

The bill to exempt from annual corporation tax mining companies whose annual output is less than \$1,000 was also passed by the house.

The senate committees on counties has practically decided to report favorably on the house bill for the creation of Cascade county and the probabilities are that the bill will pass the senate.

Abolition of the Drain normal school will be recommended tomorrow by the house committee.

From five to 20 years' imprisonment in the penitentiary is the punishment allowed under the senate bill to prevent train holdups passed by the house.

The house sanctioned two appropriations of \$1,500 each for district fairs in Eastern Oregon.

The senate amended the flat salary bill today by striking out the items for justices of the supreme court and the provision that the law shall not go into effect as to the secretary of state

and state treasurer until June 1, 1907. It is probable the bill will pass.

Salem, Feb. 3.—Nineteen bills were introduced in the house today and four in the senate.

Appropriations asked of the Oregon legislature at this session aggregate \$2,340,000, but Chairman Farrar, of the senate committee on ways and means, and Chairman Vawter, of the corresponding house committee, say they will endeavor to hold them down below \$2,000,000. Bills are about all introduced, and next Tuesday is the last day allowed for presentation of new measures, if the legislature is to adjourn February 17.

Senator Miller's bill to abolish all normal schools but one and leave the selection of this one to the state board of education, was today reported adversely by the senate committee on ways and means, though there was a minority report recommending that the bill be considered on its merits by the senate. The bill was made a special order for Wednesday next at 10 a. m.

A bill to amend the initiative and referendum law, introduced by Senator Howe at the request of W. S. U'Ren, was today killed in the senate by indefinite postponement. The bill contained some features recommended by Secretary of State Dunbar, for the purpose of simplifying the procedure, but obtained other features not satisfactory to the judiciary committee.

The bill to amend the local option law was reported in the house today and will come up for passage next week.

Other important bills yet to be considered are: Those to make gambling a felony and to punish licensing of gambling by municipal authorities; to tax gross earnings of telephone, telegraph and express companies; to consolidate normal schools; to create the office of state examiner; to create a state board of control, and to establish a mining bureau.

Both houses today adjourned until Monday.

Salem, Feb. 6.—Two bills passed over the governor's veto in the senate today were made a special order in the house for tomorrow. One of the bills was that appropriating \$5,000 for a plant at the state university for testing timber and stone; the other was the bill authorizing the Lewis and Clark fair corporation to condemn lands for the exposition.

No irrigation code will pass at this session, but an act will be passed granting to the United States the power to condemn any water right that may be necessary in the prosecution of its reclamation work and an appropriation of \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year will be made for hydrographic survey work.

That the legislature will adjourn February 17 without day was indicated tonight at a conference of the leaders of both houses.

County fruit inspectors are provided for in a bill passed by the house late this afternoon. On petition of 25 fruit growers the county court shall appoint such an inspector.

The house passed a bill providing that a tax amounting to 10 cents for each child of school age in counties having less than 100,000 inhabitants shall be levied for the benefit of school libraries.

The house passed the bill appropriating \$600 for Jackson and Josephine counties for district fairs, \$1,800 is appropriated for other Southern Oregon counties and a new appropriation of \$600 is made for the fairs in Lake and Klamath counties.

The bill providing for one board of regents instead of four for state normal schools was passed by the house.

It is thought the modified Jayne bill for the amendment of the local option bill will pass the house tomorrow or the next day by a narrow majority.

Foes of Cascade county have so marshaled themselves that the bill to cut Wasco county up now seems doomed to failure in the senate.

Nineteen bills were passed by the house today and four by the senate. Eleven new bills were introduced in the senate and two in the house. Ten bills were today filed by the governor with the secretary of state.

JURY DRAWS NET.

Two Indictments Said To Be in Order for J. N. Williamson.

Portland, Feb. 7.—The last week of the present Federal grand jury is at hand. The long series of investigations which have been taking the time of the jury for the past two months is drawing to a close and will end on Saturday, if the plans of the government attorneys carry.

The present week will be a busy one, for it will bring to light some of the entanglements of those high in the confidence of the state and the nation and will show still further the extent and scope of the land frauds which have been carried on in many cases to completion and in others practically to that stage during the past few years.

During the week it was rumored that Representative J. N. Williamson will come under the notice of the Federal grand jury, not once, but twice. It is said that the next few days will see the junior representative of the state indicted for his alleged connection with various land deals in the vicinity of his home at Prineville and also for fraudulent transactions in the Blue Mountain reserve.

Just what the complaints are is a mystery which the government officials alone would be able, at this time, to tell. They have nothing to say. But in spite of this reticence, it is made known from various sources that the end of the week will see more persons implicated in the land frauds than have as yet hinted at or thought of.

In addition to the names of Mr. Williamson are mentioned those of various of the former special agents of the government, and several of the special agents who have been sent to this territory to look into the alleged irregularities of the land department. Beyond a rumor that several of the special agents are under the eye of the grand jury, nothing definite can be learned. However, it can be stated with a reasonable degree of certainty that former employes of the Interior department in Oregon will be brought to book for irregular work done by them during their terms of office. It is further safe to predict that Saturday will see the adjournment of the jury until the March term calls the men once more to the task of probing into the irregularities of the land transactions of Oregon.

READY TO FIGHT.

Warlike Talk of High British Official Causes Kaiser to Anger.

Berlin, Feb. 7.—At the foreign office it was said this afternoon that Germany would ask England for an explanation of the provocative anti-German speech made at East Leigh, February 2, by Arthur H. Lee, civil lord of the admiralty, in which he said that Britain would smash an unnamed enemy in the North sea before that enemy had time to realize that war had been declared. The foreign office said:

"We hope that nothing will result from Lee's speech. We prefer to believe he spoke more as a naval expert than as a statesman or cabinet officer. Yet it is impossible not to put a political construction upon his utterances. We shall, of course, take up the matter."

Will Fight Near Sandepas.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 7.—Military operations in Manchuria continue at a standstill. No importance is attached by the war office to the Japanese movements on the Russian center and left, which are regarded as merely demonstrations. General Heisman, a war critic, expresses the opinion that the Russians are not likely to surrender the positions captured northeast of Sandepas, and that a series of encounters there will probably continue until the weather is favorable for a general advance.