

Local Historical Society

# The DesChutes Echo

VOL. II.

DESCHUTES, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, JUNE 20, 1903.

NO. 4.



**O.R.&N.**  
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### TIMBER LAND NOTICE.

#### READVERTISEMENT.

United States Land Office, Lakeview, Oregon April, 29, 1903.—Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington territory," as extended to all the public lands states by act of August 4, 1892, Lina M. Hale, of Arlington, county of Gilliam, state of Oregon, has this day filed in this office her sworn statement No. 709 for the purchase of the Lots 7-8-9 & 10 sec. 11 p. 28 s. r. 12 e. w. m. and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber and stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before W.A. Bell U. S. Commissioner, at Prineville, Oregon, on Saturday the 18th day of July, 1903.

She names as witnesses: Francis J. Devine, Thomas H. Watkins of Albany Oregon; Benjamin F. Morris of Prineville, Oregon; Donald F. Steffa of Deschutes, Oregon.  
Any and all persons claiming adversely the above described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 18th day of July, 1903.

E. M. Brattain Register.

### TIMBER LAND NOTICE.

#### READVERTISEMENT.

United States Land Office, Lakeview, Oregon May, 8, 1903.—Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the states of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the public land states by act of August 4, 1892, Ida Meredith of Prineville county of Crook, state of Oregon, has filed in this office her sworn statement No. 922 for the purchase of the el<sub>2</sub> se<sub>1</sub> sw<sub>1</sub> se<sub>4</sub> se<sub>4</sub> sw<sub>1</sub> of sec. 26, in tp 28 s. r. 9, e and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before M. R. Biggs, U. S. Commissioner at Prineville, Oregon, on Tuesday the 4th day of August 1903.

She names as witness: Joseph P. Hunsaker, John Combs, of Prineville, Oregon; Joseph Marceau, of Rosland, Oregon; F. J. Devine, of Albany, Oregon.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 4th day of August, 1903.

E. M. Brattain Register.

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## JURY DISAGREE.

The case of the United States vs A. C. Palmer recently tried in the U. S. Circuit Court at Portland resulted in a disagreement of the jury by a ballot of eight to four in favor of acquittal. The defendants bail was reduced to \$250 and the case continued for the term. On the trial the prosecution failed to produce a syllable of testimony tending to show that Mr. Palmer acted as commissioner after the expiration of his commission knowingly or with any intent to defraud either the Government or any person, and as these facts must be proven in order to make his acts criminal there is little likelihood of the case coming to trial again. Every witness for the prosecution swore that he had not been defrauded and that he had no reason to believe that Palmer knew that his commission had expired or that he had any intention to defraud them. The following extracts from the Telegram and Journal express the generally accepted view of the matter as it appeared to those who heard the evidence on the trial:

The trial of A. C. Palmer, charged with impersonating a government officer, ended in the U. S. Circuit Court yesterday afternoon shortly before 6 o'clock, when the jury announced it was unable to agree, and was discharged.

Palmer was formerly U. S. Commissioner at Prineville, having been appointed on Oct. 3, 1898, for a period of four years. He continued to act in that capacity for several months after the expiration of his term on Oct. 3, 1902, and executed a large number of homestead and timber filings and proofs. Receiving an intimation that the Federal authorities had decided to proceed against him he came to Portland on Jan. 3, last and gave himself up. A number of witnesses were called by both sides, Palmer's defense being that he overlooked the fact that his commission had expired, and was acting in good faith, still believing himself to be acting within the scope of his authority. He underwent a searching cross-examination by District Attorney Hall, but his testimony was not materially shaken. He was represented by C. M. Idleman, of Portland.—Oregonian.

Palmer's commission expired Oct. 4, 1902, and the charge is that he continued to execute homestead and timber filings for which he received fees until Jan. 3, 1903. Several witnesses were introduced by the prosecution yesterday to prove that he had continued to act as commissioner and to accept fees for his services during the time mentioned. When called to the witness stand Palmer admitted having so acted, but contended that it was without knowledge that the time of his appointment had expired and that his actions were in innocence of the fact that he was violating the law. Palmer this morning denied the report that he had ever been arrested. U. S. District Attorney J. H. Hall is conducting the prosecution and Attorney Idleman of Portland, and Hedges & Galloway of Oregon City, represent Palmer. The accused man is master of the situation on the witness stand. He told a long story and made the best of his case. The case was submitted to the jury late this afternoon.—Telegram.

## WINKING AT SCRIPPERS.

The records of the land office show that more timber lands are being taken as lieu lands, generally spoken of as being "scripped", than by individual claimants under the timber act. Against the taking of these lands by individuals the cry of fraud has been raised and the government is making strenuous efforts to unearth something to justify the cry. In all these cases the government receives full value for the land under the law and the thousand of claimants realize a profit from their purchases, but because they choose to exercise their right to purchase timber land, 160 acres each, they are denounced as thieves whose sole aim is to defraud the government. The man or woman who has struggled along for years and by economy and

thrift managed to save the price of one hundred and sixty acres desires to invest in land that he has reason to believe will at some future time return him a profit of a few dollars which are not acquired by the sweat of his brow. He buys the land and by that act becomes, in the eyes of the land department, a thief and a robber.

Secret agents are set upon him, his applications to purchase is suspended and he is immediately included in the category of those whom the public press denounce as rogues and swindlers. Suppose that, after having obtained title to his land, he sells it realizing a sum over and above the cost which is to him as much as thousands of dollars are to his more wealthy and fortunate neighbor. Has he violated any law? Was not the land taken for his own benefit and has he not profited thereby? How long must he wait before he is at liberty to sell that which he has a clear and indisputable title to direct from the government, without being chargeable with bad faith? The land he is allowed to purchase must be valuable only for its timber. Does it follow that the purchaser must shoulder an axe, go into the timber, fell the trees, build a sawmill, a railroad to the nearest market and manufacture and market his own product? If it does sawmills will be numerous in Oregon some day. Government officials of the fawning, sycophantic stripe and writers for the press who know little of law and less of sense attempt to put this construction upon the law. Its utter absurdity is too apparent for discussion. Public lands are the heritage of the citizen of the United States. A price has been set upon them. A limit has been placed upon the amount that can be purchased at that price by any one person. This is done to give every citizen, be he rich or poor, an opportunity to profit at the public expense. So long as this right is exercised only at rare intervals no objection is heard, but let a common impulse actuate any considerable number to take lands at the same time in the same locality and every thing is changed. They are timber thieves.

By the same process of reasoning, the thousands who during the past four years have gone to the gold fields of Alaska and obtained mining claims are thieves. So are those who years since flocked to the states west of the Mississippi and changed the "Great American Desert" into a garden.

But while this cry of fraud reverberates over the country, not a whisper is heard about the thousands and tens of thousands of acres of virgin forest that the government is bestowing upon the capitalists in exchange for barren, worthless tracts in some Arizona or New Mexican desert or for lands within some railroad grant already denuded of timber or like land within some forest reserve. Not one word about this wholesale depletion of the people's heritage by the gangs of organized timber speculators whose influence is strongly felt within the halls of congress, reaches the ear of the land officials and causes the temporary withdrawal of lands until such time as they are prepared to take the same with more scrip.

The intent of the law is to prevent the centralization of lands in the hands of speculators, but no course could be adopted that would more speedily accomplish it than discouraging the taking by private individuals while winking at the "scrippers."

The dissension in this school-district was not lessened by the meeting on Monday last but rather seems to have increased it. This is a very unfortunate matter and we refrain from publishing the different versions, believing that the less said the sooner mended.

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