

MUCH LAND STOLEN

Government Grip Tightens on Plunderer's of Domain.

MANY HIGH OFFICIALS INVOLVED

Machinery of Law At Work Against Men Who Ruled Land Office To Rob Nation.

Salt Lake, Nov. 29.—The grip of the government and of justice is tightening slowly about the organized gangs which, it is alleged, have for years, with the connivance of the land department, robbed the public domain of coal, mineral and timber land valued at many millions of dollars. In the end, it is stated, every member of these gangs, whether he be a plain citizen of the United States or occupies high official position, will be made to answer in the criminal courts for his complicity in the most gigantic frauds said ever to have been perpetrated on the United States government.

Every agency of the government, including the Interstate Commerce commission, the secret service, the Federal grand jury and the court of equity, has been set in motion to accomplish the end desired. While the Interstate Commerce commission is taking testimony here tending to show that the Rio Grande railroad and its allied companies, the Utah Fuel company and the Pleasant Valley Coal company, have been securing by fraudulent means all of the coal land in the state of Utah and consequently building up their monopoly in this line, the Federal grand jury here is awaiting the outcome of the hearing with a view to gathering all of the guilty ones into its net.

The speculations of which the government complains have been perpetrated in Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, California, Oregon and possibly in other states. The robberies of the public domain have been almost as extensive, it is charged, in timber land as in mineral land.

That such enormous frauds, extending through a long period of years, could not have been perpetrated without the complicity of the land department is said to be a patent fact.

During the hearing here yesterday a glimpse of the real power behind the throne was given when it was stated by government land agents that they had been compelled to see Senator Francis E. Warren regarding official business of the land department. Senator Warren is charged with having ruled the land office for a number of years. It was his influence and that of Senator Clark which secured the appointment, during President McKinley's administration, of Willis Vandevanter to be assistant attorney general for the Interior department. Vandevanter was the legal conscience of the land department, and Vandevanter had been attorney for the companies charged with stealing the land. It was Warren who made Congressman Frank W. Modell assistant land commissioner, who later put Ringer Hermann in the position of commissioner, and who succeeded him by present Commissioner Richards. It is Warren, it is claimed, who still controls the land offices from Nebraska and the Dakotas to California and Alaska.

CALL FOR OIL TRUST PAPERS.

Texas Wants to Know All About Its Dealings With Bailey.

Austin, Tex., Nov. 29.—Attorney General R. G. Davidson and counsel associated with him in the prosecution of the suit of the state to oust the Waters-Pierce Oil company from Texas yesterday served on former Attorney General George Clark, one of the attorneys for the oil company and filed with the clerk of the court a demand for the production of the books, records, vouchers, etc., of the oil company, showing agreements with other companies, correspondence between the attorneys of the oil company and J. W. Bailey, and purporting to show payments of money by H. C. Pierce and said oil companies on divers dates.

Copies of all letters passing between J. D. Johnson and George Clark, counsel for the oil company, or written by them to J. W. Bailey and to parties in New York during 1900 relating to the settlement of the cases pending in Waco, Tex., against said oil companies, letters written by or to said parties are called for. The other matters called for are copies of the original trust agreements, agreements with the Eagle Refining company and the Texas Oil and Gasoline company, agreement as to the division of territory and agreement with Attorney General Hadley of Missouri as to ownership of Waters-Pierce stock by the Standard Oil company.

Plans for N. W. Sugar Trust.

New Orleans, Nov. 29.—Plans to form a \$25,000,000 merger of Louisiana sugar plantations and sugar houses are announced by a committee in charge of the project.

EVIDENCE OF MORE CRIME.

No Influence Can Protect Plunderers of Coal Land.

Salt Lake, Nov. 30.—Powerful influence is being brought to bear at Washington to prevent threatened prosecutions of corporations and individuals in connection with the land frauds which have been disclosed by the Interstate Commerce commission. These efforts, however, have been unavailing and the course which the government has mapped out will be pursued unflinchingly.

When the Interstate Commerce commission resumes its hearing here today, evidence will be produced by J. T. Marchand and E. E. Thomas to prove that the Utah Fuel company, ever since its organization six or seven years ago, has received rebates from the Denver & Rio Grande and Rio Grande Western systems. It is expected to prove this by William O. Williams, auditor for the Utah Fuel company, and it will be shown, it is said, that by means of these rebates the fuel company, and also the Pleasant Valley Coal company, were better able to maintain the monopoly, which they are charged with having, of the coal business in Utah. It is alleged that both of these coal companies enjoyed a blanket rate of 1/2 cent a mile per ton on all of the commodities which the railroad company mentioned transported for them. These preferential rates were enjoyed upon both state and interstate traffic.

BRING GRAFTERS TO JUSTICE.

Stolypin Starts Vigorous Inquiry Into Famine Fund Scandal.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 30.—Prompt steps have been taken by Premier Stolypin to deal with the famine relief contract scandal in which Lidval and M. Gurko, assistant minister of the Interior, are involved. The premier has called a special meeting of the council of ministers for tomorrow to discuss the affair.

M. Gurko has resigned. When he presented his resignation, the premier told him he should not quit office, but that, for his own sake at least, he must face the court.

The premier is expected to appoint an inter-ministerial commission composed of assistant ministers to investigate the case. He will then bring it before the first department of the senate in public session. Orders have been given to collect evidence and cross examine all persons connected with the affair, and General Fredericks, governor of Nizhni Novgorod, has been summoned to St. Petersburg to answer to the charge of standing sponsor for Lidval. A certain Sotskikh, an assistant of Lidval in buying grain in the provinces, also has been summoned by the minister of the Interior, but has failed to answer and is thought to be in hiding.

GREAT FIND OF EXPLORERS.

Fragments of Gospel and Many Other Ancient Writings.

Chicago, Nov. 30.—A cable dispatch to the Tribune from London says: It now is possible to give further details of the remarkable find of papyrus as a result of the efforts of Drs. Grenfell and Hunt, of the Greco-Roman branch of the Egypt Exploration Fund at Oxyrhynchus. The find consists of no fewer than 130 boxes of papyrus, ranging in date from the second century, B. C., to the sixth century, A. D. They comprise all classes of literature, many fragments of the lost or even unknown classical works, and some most important fragments unknown to Christian literature.

The most important find is a vellum leaf containing 45 lines of gospel which has a variation from the authorized version. The subject is the visit of Jesus and his disciples to the temple of Jerusalem and their meeting there with the Pharisees, who rebukes them for their failure to perform the necessary ceremonial of purification. In the dialogue which follows, which resembles in some respects Matthew xxiii:25, the Pharisee describes with considerable fullness and detail the formalities he has observed, whereupon Jesus delivers an eloquent, crushing reply, contrasting outward with inward purity.

Send Colony to Africa.

London, Nov. 30.—A report was current in this city today that the South Africa company has offered the Salvation Army 1,000,000 acres of land in Rhodesia for colonization purposes, with the stipulation, however, that in the event of the colonizing scheme proving a failure, the land should revert to the company. General Booth said tonight that the plan had been prematurely disclosed. He declined to commit himself to any statement of details, because he said the plan might still fall through.

Czar Fixes Twelve-Hour Day.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 30.—The emperor has approved the resolution introduced by the council of ministers fixing 12 hours as a working day, including two hours for meals, in all industrial and other circles. This law will become operative six weeks after its promulgation.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

STATE LAND SALES LESS.

Ninety Per Cent Decrease During the Last Two Years.

Salem—Sales of state land during the years 1905 and 1906 amounted to only 47,037 acres, or about 11 per cent as much as in the preceding two years, when the sales aggregated over 233,000 acres. This decrease of nearly 90 per cent is due chiefly to the act of the legislature in raising the price from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre, but is also due in part to the course of the State Land board in beginning prosecution of speculators who were purchasing state land in violation of law.

The decrease in receipts is not so great, however, for those who bought land prior to the advance in price have been making payments from time to time. The total receipts for the two years ending September 30, 1906, were \$475,898.90, as compared with \$676,904.58 for the preceding two years. The great decrease in receipts resulting from the diminution of sales will be apparent in the next two or three years, when deferred installments on previous sales will have been paid and there will be little money due on sales made during 1905 and 1906. Nearly all sales of state land are made on the installment plan, the purchaser taking three or four years to make his payment.

The falling off in business in the state land office in the last two years is evident not only from the decrease in acreage sold, but in the number of certificates of sale and deeds issued. During 1903-04 there were issued 1,745 certificates of sale and 1,912 deeds. During 1905-06 there were issued only 226 certificates of sale and 987 deeds. The amount now due on outstanding certificates of sale of school land is \$469,212.70, or only about half the amount due two years ago.

Elk Protected by Law.

Salem—Overlooking an act of the special session of the Oregon legislature in 1903, quite a number of people have gained the impression that after January 1, 1907, it will be lawful to kill elk, and it is known that several hunters are planning to go to the mountains elk hunting after that date. But the legislature of 1903 anticipated a lapse in the law protecting elk by enacting a law which extends the protection until September 15, 1907, and after that time elk may be killed only from September 15 to October 15, and only one in a season by any person.

Spraying Decision Satisfactory.

McMinnville—Nothing recently has given the conscientious fruit raisers of this county more real joy than the decision of the courts giving to fruit inspectors the right to compel spraying. Yamhill has many fine orchards that are kept in excellent shape, but the old time moss covered orchard is also here in great numbers and the wormy product of the latter spoils the good name of the former. The big red apple will grow to perfection in the rich soil of Yamhill if only given a chance.

Test Barley in Valley.

Salem—In order to raise brewing barley of a higher standard and to encourage farmers to raise it more extensively, the officials of the bureau of plant industry of the department of Agriculture have outlined a series of experiments with at least 10 different varieties of high grade seed, to be carried on in different sections the coming season. The Willamette valley has been selected as one of the most likely spots where the grain can be grown to perfection.

Linn Men Sell Timber Too.

Albany—A timber deal whereby 5,000 acres of splendid timber land in Linn county is to be transferred to John A. Merritt, of Niagara, N. Y., and Eastern associates, is said to be practically consummated. Merritt, who was third assistant postmaster general under President McKinley, is now in this county inspecting the land and its outlets.

Light and Power for Vale.

Vale—The city council has granted a 20-year franchise to M. G. Hope, I. W. Hope and R. E. Fulton, to put in an electric light and water system for Vale. The work is to commence on the electric light plant within four months and to be completed within one year. It is understood that the company is ready to expend \$100,000 on the enterprise.

Shut Down From Lack of Cows.

Astoria—The Central Door & Lumber company, of this city, has closed down its plant temporarily. The cause of the shutdown is the inability to secure cows in which to ship the product, and the ruling high prices for logs. The mill will probably resume operations shortly after the first of the coming year.

REFORM SCHOOL'S NEW NAME.

Superintendent Looney Renews Recommendation to Legislature.

Salem—That the name of the State Reform school should be changed to State Industrial school is the recommendation made by Superintendent N. H. Looney of that institution in his biennial report. This recommendation has been made before and two attempts have been made in the legislature to secure a change in the name, but in each instance the effort failed. Mr. Looney also recommends the establishment of a state school for wayward girls and the construction of a cottage for small boys so they may be kept by themselves and not be thrown into association with larger boys. He asks for an appropriation of \$60,800 for the ensuing two years. The appropriation for the past two years was \$53,600. The number of boys in the school is 106.

Chaplain E. W. St. Pierre recommends that the maximum age of such boys may be committed to the reform school be raised from 16 to 18 years, so that some boys now being sent to the state penitentiary may be sent to the reform school and their reformation made more probable, but he would first provide buildings in which the older boys may be kept separate from the younger. Speaking of the proper scope of the institution, he says that "the reform school should never be made a convenience to anybody. Criminally negligent parents should not be accommodated by being relieved of their children's support and care without being made to pay for it."

Good Showing of Athena Mill.

Athens—An idea of the magnitude of the business done at the flouring mills of the Preston-Parson Milling company at this place may be had from the records of the company's office, which show that 396 cars were shipped over the Washington & Columbia River railroad from January 1 to November 1 of this year. Up to October 1 290 cars were shipped over the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company's road, making a total of 686. This mill turns out about 650 barrels of flour every 24 hours when running full capacity.

Oregon Goat Show at Dallas.

Dallas—The eighth annual Oregon angora goat show will be held in Dallas Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 9, 10 and 11, 1907. These dates were decided upon by the goat breeders at a meeting held in Brown's hall last week. A large number of farmers were in attendance and an enthusiastic meeting was held. It was decided to hold a three days' show this season, instead of a two days' exhibition as heretofore.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Fruits—Apples, common to choice, 2.00 to 7.00 per box; choice to fancy, \$16 to 2.50; grapes, 60¢ to \$1.25 per crate; pears, 75¢ to \$1.25; cranberries, \$1.00 to 1.25 per barrel; persimmons, \$1.50 per box.

Vegetables—Cabbage, 1 1/2¢ to 1 3/4¢ per pound; cauliflower, \$1.25 per dozen; celery, 70¢ to 90¢ per dozen; lettuce, head, 20¢ per dozen; onions, 10¢ to 12 1/2¢ per dozen; bell peppers, 5¢; pumpkins, 1 1/2¢ per pound; spinach, 4¢ to 5¢ per pound; tomatoes, 30¢ to 50¢ per box; parsley, 10¢ to 15¢; squash, 16¢ to 18¢ per pound; turnips, 90¢ to \$1 per sack; carrots, 90¢ to \$1 per sack; beets, \$1.25 to 1.50 per sack; horse radish, 90¢ to 1.00 per pound; sweet potatoes, 25¢ to 30¢ per pound.

Onions—Oregon, 75¢ to \$1 per hundred.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, 75¢ to \$1; common, 60¢ to 70¢.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 25¢ to 27 1/2¢ per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 35¢ to 37 1/2¢ per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 11¢ to 11 1/2¢ per pound; mixed chickens, 11¢; spring, 11¢; old roosters, 7¢ to 8¢; dressed chickens, 12¢ to 14¢; turkeys, live, 17¢ to 18¢; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20¢ to 22¢; geese, live, 18¢; ducks, 14¢ to 16¢.

Wheat—Club, 64¢; bluestem, 66¢; valley, 66¢ to 67¢; red, 61¢ to 62¢.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$24.50 to \$25.50; gray, \$23.50 to \$24.

Barley—Feed, \$21.50 per ton; brewing, \$22.50; rolled, \$23.

Rye—\$1.40 to \$1.45 per cent.

Corn—Whole, \$25.50; cracked, \$26.50 per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$11.60 to 12 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$14.60 to 16; clover, \$7.68; chest, \$7.50 to \$8.50; grain hay, \$7.50 to \$8.50; alfalfa, \$11.50; vetch hay, \$7.50 to 8.

Wool—Dressed, 3 1/2¢ to 3 3/4¢ per pound.

Reef—Dressed bulls, 16¢ to 20¢ per pound; cows, 4¢ to 5¢; country steers, 5¢ to 5 1/2¢.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 8¢ to 9¢ per pound; ordinary, 6¢ to 7¢.

Pork—Dressed, 6¢ to 8 1/2¢ per pound.

Hops—\$11 to \$14 per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13¢ to 15¢ per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20¢ to 21¢, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 26¢ to 28¢.

COAL TRAIN HELD UP.

Mob of Law-Abiding Citizens Take Measures to Relieve Famine.

Ontario, Or., Nov. 28.—The coal famine was temporarily relieved here by a mob of about 250 men, among them some of the best citizens and business men of the town, who held up a west bound freight train on the Oregon Short Line, containing 35 cars of Rock Springs coal consigned to the O. R. & N., and demanding that four cars be sidetracked. The train was a through train and was flagged by members of the hold-up party. The officials of the company were notified by wire that the train could not leave until the request was complied with. They in turn telegraphed the train crew and station agent to consign four of the cars to J. H. Farley, a local coal dealer. The four cars were sidetracked at Farley's coal bunkers and the train proceeded to Payette, Idaho, the next station, where it is reported a similar hold-up occurred. There was not a ton of coal in town at the time the hold-up occurred here. The train was stopped at Nyssa, Ore., 12 miles east of here, the previous evening and two cars were taken from the train. There had not been a car of coal shipped to Nyssa since last May. The mobs at each town were orderly and well behaved, but determined.

SUGAR TRUST FINED.

Rebates Received From New York Central Prove Expensive.

New York, Nov. 28.—The American Sugar Refining company was fined \$18,000 today for accepting rebates from the New York Central. The railroad was fined the same amount last week for giving rebates to the company.

The claims for a rebate of 3 cents a hundred pounds on all sugar shipments to Detroit were made out in the office of Lowell M. Palmer, traffic manager of the trust. They were sent to the Buffalo office of the First Freight lines operating over the Vanderbilt roads. They were not paid openly by check. The cashier of the Buffalo office would go to the Bank of Buffalo and buy a draft on the Chemical National bank of New York. This draft, which on its face bore no mark of the railway corporation or any of its officials, was mailed to Palmer, who deposited it to the credit of one of the sugar trust accounts.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Will Touch Every Phase of the Panama Canal Question.

Washington, Nov. 28.—President Roosevelt, brained and invigorated in health from his long sea trip to Panama and Porto Rico, was in his office early today. Secretary Loeb took to him a large amount of correspondence, which had accumulated since the president's departure, and was with him until the time of the cabinet meeting, at 11 o'clock.

The president's special message on the Panama canal, it is now said, will be sent to congress probably about a week after it convenes on Monday. It will deal with every phase of the question and give a graphic and detailed description of conditions on the isthmus as the president found them. There will be recommendations for the betterment of conditions, which suggested themselves during his visit.

DOUBLE-DECK BRIDGE.

Disgraceful Scenes at Rush Hours Call for Relief.

New York, Nov. 28.—The daily crush of the Brooklyn bridge is receiving the earnest attention of Mayor McClellan and other city officials. At a conference yesterday important plans for temporary and permanent relief were discussed. Longer trains and increased headway, it is expected, will bring temporary relief.

Plans for permanent relief include an almost entire rebuilding of the bridge. Double decking will probably be resorted to in order to make room for additional lines of railroad tracks. The engineers have informed the mayor that the stress on the anchor bars is only a third of their capacity and that the double decking of the structure is entirely feasible. This form of relief, however, will be a matter of years.

Demand Witte's Expulsion.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 28.—The Monarchists and Reactionists, finding that their threats have not driven Count Witte out of Russia, telegraphed to the emperor, asking for his expulsion from the empire. Count Witte's revival of the publication of the Slovo is said to indicate that he intends again to become a potential factor in the situation. According to a dispatch from Sochi, the report that he will become a candidate for election to parliament was received with great enthusiasm. This is his home town.

Keeping Up Its Record.

Wilburton, I. T., Nov. 28.—With a record of 19 horrible deaths during the past year, the Deegan & McCannell mine No. 19 at Wilburton blew up with frightful force last evening. Six men in the shaft miraculously escaped. It cannot yet be determined whether any lives were lost.

FIVE ARE INDICTED

Union Pacific Railroad, Coal Company and Officials.

SENATOR'S BROTHER IS IMMUNE

Government Charges That Men Were Hired To File On Land for Railroad Company.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Dec. 1.—It is understood that the Federal grand jury now hearing testimony concerning the gigantic grab of coal and timber land by railroads and coal companies, has voted to return indictments against the Union Pacific Railroad company, the Oregon Short Line, the Union Pacific Coal company, and two officials of these companies will be included when the indictments are returned. It is said the bills would have been reported out before now, but the government officials are waiting to hear additional evidence at Pueblo and Denver last week.

The indictments will charge the defendants with fraud in obtaining government land by subornation of perjury in hiring persons to swear that they were making entry upon the land for their own personal use, and then turning them over to the companies.

A brother of a United States senator, who, it is said, was implicated in these dealings, was unwittingly permitted to testify, thereby securing an immunity bath.

CONTROL OF RAILROADS.

Issue Raised in Oklahoma Convention—State Rights Revived.

Guthrie, Okla., Dec. 1.—The actual formation of a constitution for Oklahoma was inaugurated this afternoon when propositions were introduced in the constitutional convention of two planks providing respectively for railway regulation and separate schools for whites and negroes.

The railway regulation bill, introduced by Delegate Clint Graham, is summarized as follows: Railroad, express, sleeping car and pipe line companies shall be declared common carriers; to provide for stock inspection; to prevent consolidation and prohibiting free passes.

The "Jim Crow" resolution was offered by Judge Ledbetter, of Ardmore, I. T. Both propositions were referred to the committee on railroads.

A feature of this morning's session was the address of Delegate Ledbetter, who opposed the adoption of a resolution recognizing the Federal constitution as paramount to that of the state of Oklahoma. Mr. Ledbetter reiterated his view that state sovereignty should be strictly observed.

BONDS BY THE TON.

Frenchmen Purchase Securities of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

New York, Dec. 1.—Fifty million dollars in bonds was unloaded at the French line pier yesterday and at one point aboard the La Provence, of the French line, for shipment to Paris. The bonds filled 140 mud-plashed boxes and furnished loads for 12 trucks.

The shipment consisted of Pennsylvania railroad bonds covering a loan to the railroad taken by Paris investors. A special express train bearing the bonds left that city at 9 o'clock and arrived in Jersey City at 10:30. Thirteen special service men acted as guard. In all there were 400,000 bonds of 5,000 franc denomination and 230,000 of 2,500 franc denomination. The issue required for execution 1,200,000 signatures and the affixing of 1,200,000 seals, 10 specially appointed secretaries having continually signed their names each day for two months. If the total number of sheets in this issue were laid lengthwise in one continuous line they would reach 206 1/2 miles. The bonds weighed 14 1/2 tons.

Croscoe's Island Lives.

Mexico City, Dec. 1.—Eugenio Mela, Chilean consul to Mexico City, received an official notice from his government last night to the effect that the report circulated last August, at the time of the disastrous earthquake, saying that Juan Fernandez island had sunk into the ocean, was untrue. The doctor said that the report of the disappearance of the island was at first credited everywhere. A short time ago, however, warships were sent out by the Chilean government, and the island and its inhabitants were found uninjured.

Will Not Pay American Claims.

Tangier, Dec. 1.—The American minister, Mr. Gummere, is said to have left Fez, the capital, without obtaining satisfaction from the sultan in regard to the claims for indemnity made by citizens of the United States for alleged outrages, or assurances regarding the safety of American citizens resident in Morocco.