

THEY HAVE BEEN INDICTED

SENATOR MITCHELL AND REPRESENTATIVE HERMANN.

Are Charged With Conspiring With Puter, McKinley, et al., to Defraud Government out of Public Lands.

A Portland dispatch of last Saturday says: United States Senator John H. Mitchell, Representative in Congress Binger Hermann and George Sorenson, formerly a deputy sheriff of Multnomah county, were jointly indicted today by the federal grand jury. The indictment alleges that John H. Mitchell and Binger Hermann did in January, 1902, unlawfully and feloniously conspire together and with S. A. D. Puter, Horace G. McKinley, N. W. Tarpley, Emma L. Watson, Salmon B. Ormsley, Clark E. Loomis, and William H. Davis and others to defraud the government of the United States out of a portion of its public lands, situated in township 11 south of range 7 east by means of forged and false affidavits and fictitious persons, and that in the furtherance of such conspiracy S. A. D. Puter did on March 9, 1902, pay to John H. Mitchell the sum of \$2000 to secure his influence with Binger Hermann, then commissioner of the general land office at Washington.

It alleges that acting upon the suggestion and the wish of Senator Mitchell and influenced by him, knowing that the transactions were unlawful and felonious, Binger Hermann used his power as commissioner of the general land office to expedite 12 claims in township 11-7 and had them passed to patent when he knew them to be illegal and not according to the requirements of the law.

The indictment also alleges that on March 28, 1903, George Sorenson offered to John Hall, district attorney for the United States in Oregon, the sum of \$5000 which the intent to influence the said John H. Hall in his official capacity when acting on the indictments returned against S. A. D. Puter, Horace G. McKinley et al., to defraud the government of land in township 11-7 south of range 7.

The alleged connection of Senator Mitchell and Representative Hermann with the alleged conspiracy dates back, it is said, to the time when Mr. Mitchell received the letter from "a prominent attorney in Oregon," introducing S. A. D. Puter, as "a responsible business man in Oregon." The government will it is said, attempt to prove that Puter Mitchell and Hermann were well acquainted, that Puter was an ardent supporter of Mitchell in the senatorial campaign of 1898 and that all of them have been personally acquainted for years.

In 1902, the government alleges, Puter went to Washington on business connected with the land of 11-7 in which he was at that time interested. The lands were held up in the general land office and Puter thought that it would be of benefit to himself and his fellows to go to Washington and see what could be done to expedite them to patent.

Before he left Portland, the government will attempt to prove that he went to F. P. Mays and secured from him a letter to Senator Mitchell, though in fact, according to the government he was already well known to the senator. Arriving at Washington the land speculator went, so evidence will be offered, to the office of Senator Mitchell and conversed with him in regard to having his claims taken from the suspended list and put through to patents as soon as possible. He told the senator, it is alleged, that he has already sunk a large amount of money in the claims and that Emma L. Watson, a hard working honest girl, had also invested in them at his suggestion. It was necessary for him to have some influence with the commissioner of the general land office to secure favorable recognition of his claims, and he therefore would like to have the help of Senator Mitchell. The government will attempt to prove that he promised to make it right with the senator in the event that he could secure the good will and assistance of Mr. Hermann.

Buy More for Mutton.

As an indication of eastern sentiment on the future of the mutton market, the following interview from an Ohio stock trader in the

Livestock World, is significant:

"Naturally, the high price of finished muttons, present and prospective, is accentuating the already lively interest in feeding," he says. "Those who are finishing this year will be in the market for feeders next year; those who failed to fill feed lots will be equally eager to buy, and in addition to these the rapidly swelling army of novices must be taken into consideration. Unlike cattle feeding the thing cannot be overdone, for the obvious reason that there is likely to be a dearth of feeding stock. The country has been devoting its attention to the production of hogs and cattle lately, neglecting sheep until the flocks of the country have been depleted. That is why there is not likely to be an overproduction of wool and mutton for several years to come.

"Experience this year shows that the feeder who bought early made the most money. As a rule, this is good policy, especially when grass is abundant and good. Range muttons; finished on grass and grain, are very profitable. Summer feeding beats winter operations, anyway.

"My opinion is that we must make up our minds to give the rangeland more for the raw material we need in our feed lots. He cannot produce lambs at 34 and 44 cents, the price he has been getting in recent years, and unless we get a constant supply from him, we must go out of the business. That's all there is to it."

Want to Divide Grant County.

At a meeting held in the town hall last Monday, at which most of the business men of Long Creek were present, the subject of dividing the county on or near the line proposed last spring was discussed pro and con, and it was the expressed belief of every one present that this part of the county should be cut off, unless we wish to have an everlasting increase in our county debt and an increased tax to go with, as the county's outstanding debt was increased about \$17,000 during the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 1905.

Taking Wheeler county as a basis, it was conclusively shown that this part of Grant county had sufficient taxable property to sustain the proposed new county, besides paying interest on our share of the present county debt and having a balance to apply on the debt.

A committee was named to take the necessary steps to get the subject properly placed before the people and the legislature. T. F. Hall, Allen Porter, and Ira G. Boyce were the committee above mentioned.—Long Creek Ranger.

Sheepraising Depends on Pasture.

"Sheepraising in Eastern Oregon will depend in future on the number of sheep that can be pastured in the summer," said Charles Hilton, a well-known sheepman, today. Mr. Hilton, although a resident of Portland, has 10,000 head of sheep now doing well near Lost Valley, in Wheeler county.

"Summer range is becoming limited each succeeding year," he continued, "and there is no telling how long sheepraising can be followed in Eastern Oregon at a profit. The country is settling up with farmers, even in the mountains, where we have been ranging our sheep for 20 years or more, in the summer season, and there is no telling how long we can continue to drive our flocks up into the John Day Valley, although as yet we have had no trouble there. I think sheepmen should be reasonable and respect the rights of settlers and cattlemen, so that all may continue in harmony. I do not think the wholesale killing of sheep in that portion of Oregon has been perpetrated with the consent of cattlemen or of any one who has property at stake in any extent. The killing has been done by irresponsible parties, as crimes are committed in Portland by irresponsible parties. We have such people in every community and they cannot be entirely suppressed."

Mr. Hilton's winter range is fortunately situated, not being in the wheat belt of Eastern Oregon, he says, and so his pastures have not been encroached upon to the extent that others have.—Telegram.

See the line of good substantial shoes at Miller & Thompson's if you are looking for bargains.

J. H. MITCHELL SWEARS OUT LOUD

Very Angry on Train When Told of His Indictment.

"If anybody says Puter ever paid me any money in connection with land matters or anything else, he is a d—d liar."

This statement was made by Senator John H. Mitchell, who passed through Spokane on his way to Washington. A brief telegram which he received before he arrived here informed him of his indictment, but he was unacquainted with the details until informed by the Associated Press correspondent here.

"I never saw Puter in my life," said Mitchell, "until he called on me in Washington with a letter of introduction from F. P. Mays, a friend of mine in Portland. In helping him before the land office, I did what I have done for a thousand other citizens of Oregon. He told me he had been employed by Mrs. Watson, as I recall it now, to look into her matters for her. Never in the slightest degree was the matter of compensation mentioned between Puter and myself."

"I think I am exempt from arrest on this indictment while congress is in session, notwithstanding that, I am willing to return to Portland any time the prosecution officers assure me an immediate trial."

Senator Mitchell denounced the indictment as a conspiracy and said the principal conspirators were Secretary Hitchcock and Special Prosecutor Henny.

Job printing—The Times Herald

Try for Health

222 South Peoria St., CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 7, 1902.

Eight months ago I was so ill that I was compelled to lie or sit down nearly all the time. My stomach was so weak and upset that I could keep nothing on it and I vomited frequently. I could not urinate without great pain and I coughed so much that my throat and lungs were raw and sore. The doctors pronounced it Bright's disease and others said it was consumption. It mattered little to me what they called it and I had no desire to live. A sister visited me from St. Louis and asked me if I had ever tried Wine of Cardui. I told her I had not and she bought a bottle. I believe that it saved my life. I believe many women could save much suffering if they but knew of its value.

Surgis Dinkler

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