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LAND ENTRY FRAUD IS NOW LEGALIZED

LAND GRABBING CORPORATIONS MAY EMPLOY DUMMIES.

Worst Blow in History Is a Decision Which Allows the Loan of Money to "Settlers."

"The worst blow that conservation of public lands to the settler, has received in years." This is the conservationists' verdict throughout the Northwest on a decision of Judge Gilbert, of the United States circuit court of appeals, in the case of the Barber Lumber company, former Governor Steenbergh of Idaho, and others for alleged conspiracy to defraud the government of large timber land tracts in Idaho. The decision practically allows the use of "dummy" entrymen by land grabbing corporations in unlimited numbers. This use is limited only by the proviso that a corporation must not know that the entries are fraudulent. It also allows "dummies" to borrow money and to agree to sell their holdings as soon as title is perfected.

The decision came as an affirmation of the ruling of the United States circuit court in connection with the filing of applications of 210 entrymen in Boise Basin, Crooked River and Six-Four lands in Idaho in 1901-02.

Investigating the entries, the government instituted proceedings, but the circuit court ruled in favor of the corporation and other defendants, asserting lack of evidence.

Colonel C. E. S. Wood, who took part in the Oregon land fraud cases discussing Judge Gilbert's decision said:

"It is another decision upholding the predatory interests in their plundering of the people. It is not Judge Gilbert's fault. It is the law."

"As it now stands, all that is needed is a few dummy entrymen who will swear they acted as bona fide entrymen, and money."

"It gives all opportunity for fraud, and puts a premium on perjury, and the big land grabbers can operate, protected by the very law that is supposed to stop them."

Secretary of the State Conservation Commission Louis Glavis said that if Judge Gilbert's decision holds, any one can make an agreement to dispose of lands prior to filing an application and then it also conflicts with a United States supreme court decision.

DEATH CALLS HUGH McLEAN

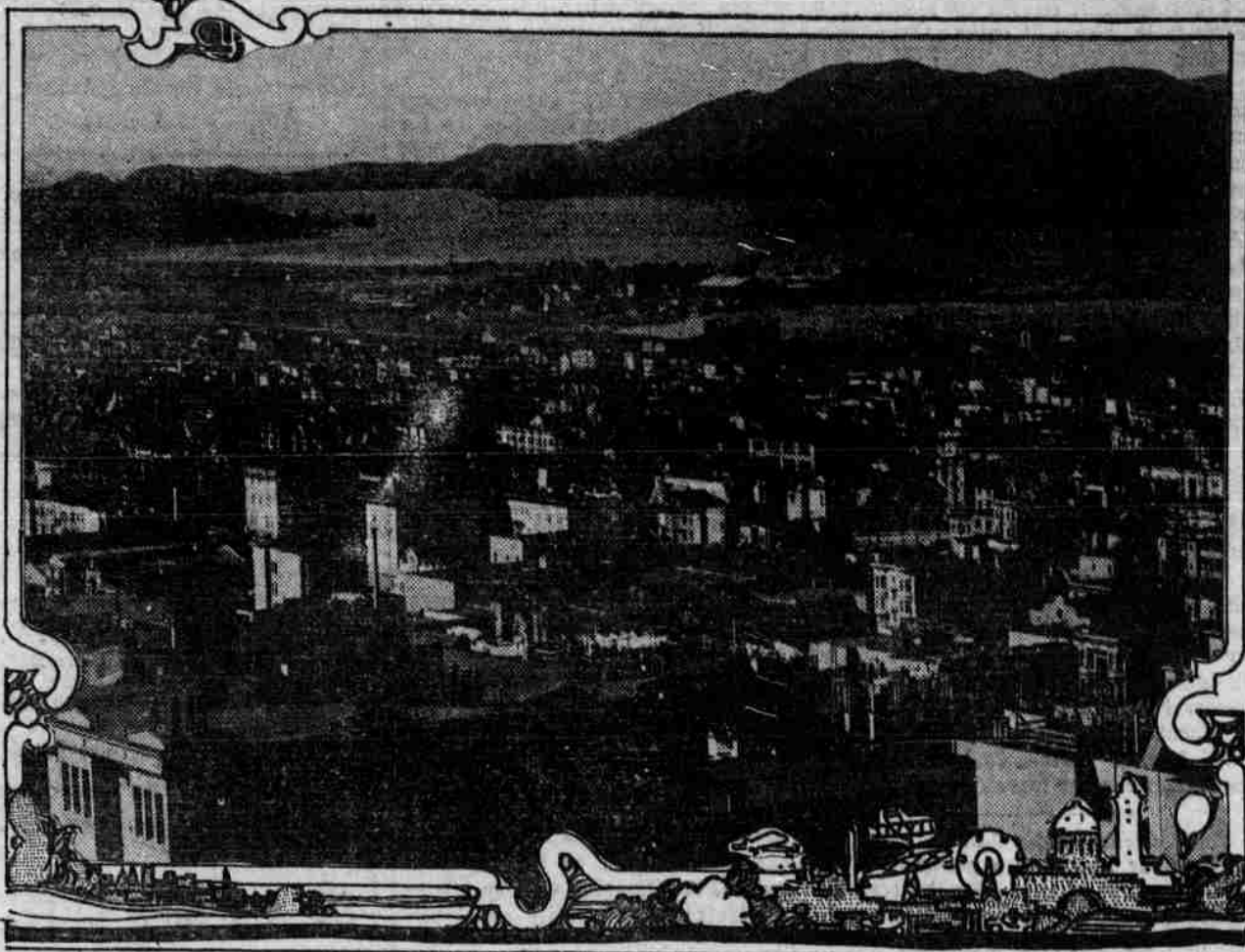
Passed at Pendleton Wednesday Morning. Funeral Here Yesterday.

Hugh McLean, mention of whose critical illness was made in the Press last week, died at Pendleton shortly before four o'clock Wednesday morning. The cause of Mr. McLean's death was due to cancer of the stomach. He had been in ill health for several months.

He formerly engaged in farming west of Athena, but in 1903 sold his farm to Frank Jackson. He then went to Portland and invested in property.

Mr. McLean was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1854. He grew to manhood there and came to Umatilla county in 1886. He was known and respected for his honesty and integrity, and as a result made many warm friends. He had never married, and his only near relative is his brother, Charles McLean. John Bell, of this city, is a cousin and the deceased has distant relatives in Canada.

He was a member of Pythian Lodge No. 29, K. of P. of this city, and for years has been an active member of the order. Funeral services were conducted in the Christian church by Rev. Payne of Weston, yesterday at 11 o'clock, interment taking place in Weston cemetery.



HARBOR VIEW SITE OF THE EXPOSITION, WHERE THE MIDWAY AND CONCESSIONS WILL BE LOCATED.

STEINER FOR DIST. ATTORNEY

Prominent Pendleton Attorney Is Republican Candidate for Office.

Frederick W. Steiner, a prominent Pendleton attorney, has formally announced his candidacy on the republican ticket for district attorney and has filed his declaration with the Secretary of State, which reads as follows:

"If nominated and elected I pledge my best efforts to the duties of the office. I will have no enemies to punish, and will favor no friends; prosecutions will be undertaken only after careful investigation and I pledge myself to the strictest economy consistent with the efficient enforcement of the law. I desire to have printed after my name on the nominating ballot the following:

"Pledged to a strict and impartial enforcement of the laws of Oregon."

Mr. Steiner is an Oregonian and received his education in the Oregon Agricultural College and at the State University. He has been a practicing attorney before the courts of Oregon for several years and for a time served as Deputy District Attorney of this district. He is opposed for the republican nomination by James P. Neal of Freewater. The East Oregonian quotes Mr. Steiner as follows:

"I did not conclude to become a candidate," said Mr. Steiner this morning, "until after a thorough investigation of the situation. I believe that there is a demand for a young man in the district attorney's office who will give close attention to the work required of the office. My record as deputy prosecutor in this county for a period of more than two years will be one of the chief reasons which I will urge in behalf of my nomination. A little later I propose to commence an aggressive campaign and will then make a formal statement concerning my candidacy."

Commercial Association Office.

At the meeting of the Athena Commercial Association held in the offices of E. L. Richards Tuesday evening, W. W. Wiley was elected president for the ensuing year; N. A. Miller vice-president; J. E. Froome treasurer and Victor C. Barka, secretary.

Four new members joined the association at the meeting. They are W. W. Wiley, principal of the Athena schools; Dr. J. E. Sharp dentist; C. O. Henry, assistant marshal and G. H. Bishop, attorney, of the firm of Peterson & Wilson.

A number of questions which are of interest to the advancement of the community were discussed, and it is evident that the Association is in a position to accomplish much good for the city during the coming year.

New Assistant Principal.

Because of the fact that he is needed in the East to assist in the settlement of an estate, Assistant Principal Turner of the Athena schools has found it necessary to resign his position here. He will leave Athena next month and his successor has been elected by the board. It is with regret that Mr. Turner finds that he must leave Athena, and in school circles his going is deplored by all. His successor is said to be a young man of recognized ability in school work, he having been principal of high schools and his credentials as an educator are said by the board to be of high character.

Permanent Road Work.

This is the season of the year when permanent road work shows up to advantage. The excessive rains and winter moisture bring out the bad spots in the county highways as nothing else will. Heretofore the Athena-Weston road has been nearly impassable at this season of the year, and the old style bridges throughout the county went out with the advent of floods and freshets. The permanent roads are withstanding the rainy season well, and the new steel bridges with concrete abutments serve as a monument to permanent improvement methods.

John P. "Jerry" Rusk.

Pendleton and Walla Walla Drop Class D With Baker and LaGrande.



Progressive Republican Candidate for Congress.

Mr. Rusk, who will speak in Athena Monday night, is making the campaign on the following platform:

More money for National good roads, less for battleships.

National and State graduated income tax.

Tariff question out of politics and a permanent non-partisan tariff commission.

More power to Interstate Commerce Commission and abolishment of new Commerce Court.

National Parcels Post.

Direct election of President, Vice President and United States Senators.

Reformation of money system with Government, no Wall Street control.

Criminal punishment of trust magnates for violation of anti-trust law—strict Federal control of all trusts.

Free tolls for American ships through Panama Canal and Government owned line of steamers, if needed, to get benefits of our money invested in the canal.

PROOF OF GENTILITY.

Sleeves That Hid the Hands Showed the Wearers Didn't Work.

The practice observed among Spanish hidalgoes of allowing the finger nails to grow into claws was to demonstrate that they had never done any manual work. The same custom exists among the Chinese for the same reason.

Among the Romans the wearing of long sleeves, which came down over the hand, was the fashion in aristocratic circles. This advertised to the world that the wearer did not engage in any labor and freedom from employment was the condition of respectability.

English boots and shoes have been designed more or less for the same purpose as that of the Chinese, who bind their women's feet in proof of their gentility. As early as the time of William Rufus "peaked toed boots and shoes" had their points made like a scorpion's tail, and a courtier named Robert stuffed his out with tow, and caused them to curl round in the form of a ram's horn, a fashion which took mightily among the nobles. It is plain that the purpose of this fashion was to show that the privileged wearer was not dependent on any kind of labor or feckness of foot for his daily bread.

The practice of wearing tight fitting boots and shoes is an old one, for Chaucer, writing of them in his day, says that it is—
Merveylylth that they sitte so pleyn,
How they come on or off again.

Later, in 1705, Horace Walpole said, "I am now twenty years on the right side of red heels."

Natural inference.
Bibbs-Nell and Belle no longer speak to each other. Bibbs—Is that so? What's his name?—Philadelphia Record.

MINOR BALL IS THE PROGRAM

Pendleton and Walla Walla Drop Class D With Baker and LaGrande.

Pendleton and Walla Walla have dropped back into the fold and will be satisfied with a four-team league similar to the Blue Mountain League of last year in which the Athena team were the pennant winners.

A meeting was held in the Garden City Sunday and the organization of the league to include the towns of Pendleton, Athena, Weston, Walla Walla and Dayton, was discussed by Walla Walla and Pendleton fans. The proposition of forming a class D league with a salary limit of \$750 per month with LaGrande and Baker was dropped at once for the reason that statistics of the past have proved an over-the-mountains league a losing game and there was no one on this side of the Blues to be found who would stand for holding the sack in such an uncertain venture.

The Walla Walla Union, speaking of the class of ball put up last year, says: "There is no question on the part of those who know baseball that the class of ball put out by the Blue Mountain league last year, at least half of the games were as good as seen in the Northwest league, and therefore another league of a similar class should satisfy all for one more season. The better the support, the better ball can be given."

Pendleton is in for it. The following is from the East Oregonian: "A four team league with Pendleton, Walla Walla, Athena and Weston combined and Pasco or Dayton each supporting a team is the latest project of Walla Walla fans and one for which certain leaders in the two cities have pledged themselves to work. Local lovers of the national sport took their first step toward providing base ball here during the coming season Sunday when they sent a delegation to the Washington city to confer with the leading fans of that place, and the four team league as announced above is the organization desired by all who attended this conference."

Talking Canaries.

Talking canaries are a great rarity, but several authenticated instances are on record. At Norwood, England, in 1858 a lady had a canary bird which began by repeating a word which its mistress had often used to it—"Kissie, kissie"—and by following the word up by an imitation of the sound of a kiss. After a time the bird repeated other words until it had a large vocabulary of phrases, one of which consisted of five words. Again, in 1863, a talking canary was exhibited in Bath, with a vocabulary such as is generally taught to parrots, and another talking canary was exhibited for a few weeks in this country, but it unfortunately caught cold and died. In Germany and the Tyrol canaries are taught to imitate the notes of other birds and whistle simple tunes, and the words which it imitates may be regarded as a mere development or variant of its musical notes.

An Odd Bequest.

The following is one of the oddest bequests ever recorded in a last testament. It appeared in the will of a Bristol mariner proved in 1705. The old gentleman ordered his executors to "pay out of the first moneys collected to my beloved wife, if living, one shilling, which I have given as a token of my love, that she may buy hazelnuts, as I know that she is better pleased with cracking them than she is with mending the holes in her stockings."

Swayed by a Bell's tones.

The Church of St. Nicolas, in the city of Rheims, is surrounded with pillars. When a certain bell in the tower is rung the top of one pillar always sways to the extent of seven inches on each side, although the base is immovable, and the stones are so firmly cemented as to seem like a solid piece of masonry. Notwithstanding that each of the four bells is about the same distance from the trembling pillar none of the others has the slightest effect on it.

COUNTY TO FIGHT TAX AMENDMENT

TO TAKE FROM COUNTY, GIVING TO STATE IS OPPOSED.

Assessor Strain Declares the Change in Public Service Assessment Would Be Unfair.

A proposed amendment to the state constitution which would take the revenue according from the assessment of railroad and public service corporations away from the counties in which the corporations hold property and give it to the state, is being vigorously opposed by Assessor C. P. Strain, of Umatilla county, who has made up an interesting list showing the effect such an amendment would have in cutting down the revenue for the support of schools and public institutions in Umatilla county communities.

The proposed amendment, says the Live Wire, was brought up for discussion at the recent meeting of the county assessors at Salem and will be one of the subjects to be submitted to the people at the next general election.

In discussing the proposed amendment Mr. Strain said: "Nearly all the villages maintaining high schools in this county are located along the lines of railroads and the revenue derived from the local taxation of railroads constitutes a very important factor in the support of these schools. The loss of this revenue would, I believe, so seriously cripple some of these schools as to lead to the abandonment of high schools in some of the poorer communities."

A list showing the apportionment contributed by railroads alone to the Umatilla county communities in which they are assessed, which Mr. Strain made up, show the following figures: Adams received \$750 from railroads in 1911, Athena \$1,080, Weston \$315, Milton \$119, Pendleton \$2,665, Echo \$3,800, Stanfield \$2,400, Hermiston \$3,170, Brix \$300, and Pilot Rock \$224. The loss of this large proportion of the entire revenue of these communities would, Mr. Strain believes, force real estate and personal property taxes to an almost unreasonable figure, and the welfare of the schools would be apt to suffer in an effort to promote economy.

Secretary Keefe of the Pendleton commercial club is corresponding with other Eastern Oregon commercial clubs, calling their attention to what is considered to be the heavy financial interests that the Eastern Oregon "cow" counties have in common, in making every effort to defeat the proposed amendment.

Mr. Keefe points out that while Multnomah county has 37 per cent of the total assessable wealth of Oregon, only 25 per cent of the public service corporations are assessable in that county and the proposed amendment which provides that the state reciprocal for taking over the entire revenue from public service taxation by reducing its proportion of the levy on local wealth, would react greatly to the benefit of Multnomah county at the expense of the poorer counties.

LOST HORSE IN THE UMATILLA

Driver Has Narrow Escape When Fordling at Thorn Hollow Crossing.

One of McBride's livery horses was drowned in the Umatilla river at Thorn Hollow crossing, Tuesday afternoon. Tom Gilkey, the driver, and a telephone lineman had a narrow escape, but reached the opposite bank of the stream in safety.

The men attempted to cross at the upper ford, and thought it safe for the reason that other teams had crossed during the day. When nearly across one of the horses stumbled and fell. The current caught the buggy and dragged the team down stream, where the rig brought up against a log. Here one of the horses broke the harness and swam out, eventually finding its way back to the Bergevin farm.

Gilkey and the lineman went to Gibbon and telegraphed news of the accident to Mr. McBride, and next morning Mr. Gilkey returned to town. He said the river was fordable but the fall of the horse was the cause of its drowning. Had the buggy cleared the tree, he is of the opinion that the team would have come out all right. As it was the rig was sucked under the log by the force of the water and held there.

The team was one of the best in the McBride stable, a span of grays, that had always been popular with the driving public.

A Birthday Party.

Miss Zola Keen entertained a number of her girl friends at luncheon Tuesday, in honor of her 12th birthday. Those present were: Lucile Taylor, Velva Mansfield, Helen Egan, Vesta Waite, Evangeline Fitz, Hazel McFarland, Hazel Sanders, Ruth Steen, Edna Schobert, Dollie White, Gladys Kidder, and Mildred and Audrey Winship.

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