

# MITCHELL, BINGER AND WILLIAMSON

# CHARLES M. REED NOW A BANKRUPT

The Oregonian of this morning publishes a sensational story, to the effect that the federal grand jury in session in Portland is at work on evidence in the timber land frauds, with a view to indicting Senator Mitchell, Congressman Hermann and Williamson. The Oregonian says:

They say they are innocent, that the prosecution of the government is persecution and that time will right their wrongs and show they have been and are now the objects of a conspiracy instead of being originators or participants in one.

"But it is now definitely stated the prosecution expects to prove entirely to the contrary the declaration made by the two congressmen from Oregon. Talk has not been idle rumor, it is said, and it will be cold facts before another two weeks have passed over the waiting people.

"How, though, are the senator and representatives connected? is the common query. That is a hard question to be answered with any amount of detail. If Williamson is entangled with Mays, so is Hermann, and so is Mitchell, it is said. It has been shown by the story of Mays in connection with Puter, who is convicted of one offense, he has been more interested with Puter in his dealings. It was Mays, who, as attorney for Puter, gave the letter of introduction to John Mitchell at Washington. This much was shown in the testimony in the trial in which Puter was convicted. Mitchell

took Puter, upon presentation of the letter, to Hermann and told the commissioner Puter was one of the best men in Oregon, entirely responsible and it would be a favor if the lands in which he was interested were to be passed through out of their order; that they be taken from the list of suspended claims and made special and immediate. This much has been show at the former trial.

"But this is not all. Allegations will be made that Mitchell was a friend and helpmate of timber dealers and lobbyists; that his committee rooms in Washington were headquarters of this class of men and he shared in their confidence and helped in their benefits. This is in part, the nature of the evidence which it is reported will be brought to bear against the testimony of the senator when he enters the jury room to explain to the men there his innocence of all wrong.

"Hermann will have his turn in the jury room with the senator. His connection with the Puter-Mays deal will be shown. It is asserted, he it was who, acting as commissioner of the general land office, took the suspended claims from the table and expedited them to patents at the request and solicitation of Puter and Mays et al. Nor is this all, the ex-commissioner will be asked to explain.

"The story of the missing letter files will apply not alone to Washington but to Oregon."

Charles M. Reed, alleged millionaire, has been declared a bankrupt in the United States district court at Pittsburg, Pa. He owes nearly a million dollars, with no assets except an Oregon copper mine.

The bankrupt is the son of General Charles M. Reed, a pioneer of Erie, one-time king of finance, before the word frenzy was coined in that connection. General Reed was one of Vanderbilt's lieutenants in the building of the Erie railroad. When he died he left two million dollars to his son. The remainder of a ten million dollar estate went into better hands.

Young Reed—reared in luxury, knowing nothing but the social graces, a bon vivant, a spendthrift with tremendous capacity for costly things—went the pace. Today he is less than 40 years old; crippled from paralysis, due to high living, almost an imbecile, and bankrupt.

Young Reed, before he filtered away his fortune, financed the Northwest Copper Mining company, the Northwest Railway, and the Iron Dyke mines, located in Baker county, on Snake river, just across from Seven Devils. Later he plastered this property with a \$300,000 mortgage and hung other claims to a like amount against it. One of the claimants is Florence Shatto, of Erie, who claims one-fourth of all the Oregon property. Not long ago the mortgagees foreclosed, after sensa-

tional counter suits, at the trial of which, Cairo Reed, son of the bankrupt, turned against his father, whose sole supporter and friend was Madame Shatto, about whom there hangs a romance. Judgment of foreclosure was secured against Reed, but an injunction was granted the unsecured claimants, restraining the judgment creditors from disposing of the property until their claims could be adjudicated. The court has since decided that this injunction shall dissolve on February 15, on which date the last vestige of a princely fortune will have passed from Reed's hands.

In protection of her and Reed's equities in the Oregon property, Madame Shatto last summer filed suit against the mortgagees of the Iron Dyke mine for six million dollars. The case was filed in the federal court of Oregon. It may never come on for trial.

The judgment creditors of the mine and railway, who now own the property, are wealthy men of Pennsylvania. As an evidence of their affluence, it might be mentioned that one of them once advanced \$30,000 in cash to Reed without other securities than a verbal promise to pay. These gentlemen are arranging to reopen the mine and complete the railway from Huntington to Iron Dyke. The mine is considered a valuable holding and the railway franchise and right of way will be worth millions some day.

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## MAY GRAZE ON RESERVE

Washington, Dec. 21.—Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock, late yesterday afternoon, issued an order which will throw open the Baker City forest reserve for grazing purposes during the coming summer and fall. The importunities of stockmen ranging east from the Cascades and seeking a fall market at Baker City have been the most remarkably persistent of any applications made to get the department to change its order in regard to grazing. Congressman Williamson's constituency in Crook, Wasco and Grant counties have burdened his mail with recitals of the necessity of such a step.

Secretary Hitchcock's order places limitations upon the herds and drove and time limits for each. These details will be conveyed to Forest Reserve Overseer Terrill later on, so that owners of stock may get in touch with this and learn of the conditions imposed. It is the second grazing permit that has been made in the northwest and is looked upon by department officials as a concession of consequences.

Fine printing at the Miner office.

## CALL MASS MEETING

Next Wednesday evening efforts will be made to convene a mass meeting of Sumpter citizens to discuss needed legislation with Representative-elect A. P. Smith, who will come down from Bourne for that purpose. Mr. Smith was elected to represent Baker county in the state legislature because he was a republican, a mining man, a good mixer, and pledged to work for the repeal of the Eddy corporation tax law. One of the principal purposes of the proposed of the mass meeting is to formulate a set of ringing resolutions, demanding the erasure of this obnoxious Eddy law from the statute books.

The mass meeting will be held at the Hotel Sumpter, under the auspices of the Sumpter district branch of the Oregon Miner's Association, and the call has been issued by Secretary Anthony Mohr.

While the specific purposes of the meeting is to discuss with Mr. Smith matters relating to legislation of interest to the mining fraternity of this district, other topics will very likely come up for consideration. The question of a law to regulate freight rates operating wholly within the state—in which class comes the

Sumpter Valley line—will undoubtedly be brought before the meeting, in an effort to determine Mr. Smith's stand on this important question. In a recent article in The Miner, dealing with this matter, speculation was indulged in as to whether Mr. Smith was tied up with the Sumpter Valley, a condition of servitude in which State Senator John L. Rand finds himself, by reason of being attorney for the railway company. In this morning's Baker City Democrat, Joseph Barton, general traffic manager of the S. V. hands The Miner some fragrant bouquets, and incidentally says:

"So far as Representative elect Smith, of Bourne, is concerned, we have had the pleasure of meeting him casually, as we did many other candidates for office at that time, and our opinion is that no one has any strings on him, or will have, but that he will perform his legislative duties conscientiously, without fear or favor towards anyone in particular, but will always have in mind the public good."

It is indeed pleasing to receive authoritatively from Mr. Barton a statement of such unequivocal nature to the effect that the Sumpter Valley company "has no strings" on Mr. Smith.

At the forthcoming meeting it is not improbable that Mr. Smith will be given an opportunity to corroborate Mr. Barton's testimony.

The general public of Sumpter, as well as all the mining men in the contiguous camps, are urged to be present at the mass meeting.