

RAILROAD GRANT LAND SWINDLERS TO BE PROSECUTED

United States District Attorney Clarence L. Reames and Chief of Field Division Louis J. Sharp are busily engaged in collecting evidence against persons who have been locating people upon the forfeited lands involved in the suit of the United States against the Oregon & California Railroad company. The announcement made by the district attorney's office some weeks ago to the effect that these prosecutions were to be instituted has brought to the district attorney's office scores of letters from people who have been defrauded by unscrupulous locators. Since the publication of the report that these matters were to be investigated by the department of justice, District Attorney Reames has received daily a score of letters detailing the manner in which the victims have been defrauded.

In speaking of the matter today, Mr. Reames said: "The frauds that have been perpetrated by these men cover such a wide scope that it may take several weeks of careful investigation to determine the extent of the fraud. I am receiving letters from all of the states of the middle west and many from the eastern states containing information concerning these swindles. From the information that I had on hand at the time I called the matter to the attention of the department of justice, I was of the opinion that at least \$1,000,000 had been taken from the people by these dishonest locators through fraudulent methods. From the hundreds of complaints that I am now receiving I am satisfied that the amount involved in the fraud will far exceed this sum. Every effort will be made not only to protect the public, but to detect and punish the persons guilty of these outrages."

Mr. Reames today gave to the press a letter received from the attorney general directing the prosecution of those persons guilty of fraudulent operations in locating property upon the lands involved in the grant. The letter is as follows:

"Department of justice, Washington, July 31, 1913.—C. L. Reames, United States attorney, Portland, Or.

"Sir: I have your letter of July 6 respecting the status of lands involved in the recent decree of forfeiture entered in the government's suit against the Oregon & California Railroad company et al. By this decree the railroad company's title to some 2,360,000 acres of land granted to the company by the act of 1866 is declared forfeited to the United States, and you say that unless the position of the government is given the widest possible publicity it is probable that wholesale frauds will be perpetrated upon innocent people not only in Oregon, but particularly in the states of the middle west, as designing and unscrupulous men are representing to the people that these lands can be procured by settlement thereon and, by such representations, they obtain location fees for their services; whereas in fact the lands cannot be acquired in any manner until the case has been finally decided on appeal, and in the event of the government's ultimate success not only congress shall enact legislation providing for the disposition of the lands.

"You further state that efforts are being made to prosecute those who are thus imposing upon the people, and you urge that in the meantime this department notify the public generally of the true situation.

"In reply I have to say that the department thoroughly approves of your views. The question of the prosecution of the parties responsible for the frauds has already been taken up with the other departments interested in the matter. All who have inquired here have been advised to the effect that no one can safely make any contract with the railroad company and that no department of the government has authority to make any disposition of the lands.

By the act of congress of August 20, 1912 (public No. 728, 37 Stat., 320), congress expressly declared that none of the lands reverting to the United States by virtue of any right of forfeiture shall be or become subject to entry under any of the public land laws of the United States or to the initiation of any right whatever under any of the public land laws.

"Every effort therefore should be made not only to prosecute those guilty of frauds in connection with this matter, but also to fully inform the public, to the end that the practice of such frauds may be rendered as difficult as possible. The department will endeavor to give publicity to these views and you are authorized to furnish the press with a copy

of this letter. Respectfully,
"For the attorney general,
"ERNEST KNAEBEL,
"Assistant Attorney General."

PANAMA EXPOSITION COST MILLION, 3 MONTHS

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Aug. 12.—Figures given out by Controller Nye here today show that the Panama Pacific Exposition company spent \$1,183,755 during the months of April, May and June. The state's share of this was \$387,177.

BLAMES SPIRITS FOR LOVE OF STRONG DRINK

CHICAGO, Aug. 12.—The secret is out—the Theosophists have discovered why men drink.

The spirits do it, according to L. W. Rogers of New York, national lecturer of the Theosophical society. "Death does not separate man from

his desire for strong drink," said Rogers today. "It only separates him from his physical desire. The wandering spirit may be seized with an unquenchable thirst.

"What does the spirit do? It seizes upon some convivial friend and forces him to buy. The friend may not want a drink at all, but the spirit is a selfish spirit. By suggestion he shoves the friend up to a bar and forces him to swallow what he, the spirit, desires."

CATHOLICS TO WAR ON ANIMAL DANCES

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Aug. 12.—With war against "animal dances" as one of its chief objects, the League of Catholic Women will be finally organized here today as one of the chief activities in connection with the convention here of the Federation of

Catholic societies. Not only the dances will go under the ban, but also those who indulge in them. A solemn requiem mass opened today's sessions of the Federation. Tonight an address will be given by Thomas B. Minehan of Seattle.

VAUDEVILLE AT PAGE.

The Pantages vaudeville bill at the Page tomorrow promises to be one of the very best bills yet offered at Medford's popular playhouse. Heading the bill are the eight Eng-

lish Roses, a dancing novelty act which was imported from Europe after a long and successful run in the music halls of England. The other acts on the bill will no doubt prove to be sensational and pleasing. There are 17 people in the company.

Fair Weather Predicted
PORTLAND, Or., Aug. 12.—Forecast: Oregon—Fair tonight and Wednesday, except showers tonight extreme east portion; westerly wind-



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The biggest, most marvelous and ornamental novelties ever designed! Entirely new, surprisingly different! These immense size miniature Navajo Blankets are a gorgeous riot of colors in the true Indian style, with the picturesque Indian sign-characters! They are real little blankets, soft to the touch, a feast to the eye! The ladies will go wild with delight over them! For a limited time, one of these Navajo Blankets will be given free with every package of OMAR Cigarettes.

A vast army of smokers have already discovered the new and higher standard of quality that these famous Turkish-blend cigarettes have introduced. The unparalleled success that Omar has met with everywhere is but a natural result.

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TURKISH BLEND
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"The Joy of Life"

Their superior quality is so noticeable, so immediately apparent, that every smoker who tries OMAR realizes at once that he has found the best cigarette he ever smoked! This Free Offer is made as an inducement to more smokers to try OMAR—and be convinced!

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5½ in. wide
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8½ in. long

With these Navajo Blankets ladies can make most beautiful

- Couch Covers
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