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JURY CONVICTS

WILLIAMSON.

The Williamson-Biggs-Gesner case has been before the Federal Court three times, the juries at the first two trials not being able to reach a verdict. The first trial began on Friday, July 7, and the charge was given to the jury on July 18. The jury was discharged by Judge De Haven on July 20.

The second trial began on Friday, July 21, and the case was given to the jury on Tuesday, August 1. The jury was discharged by the court without an agreement on Thursday, August 3.

The trial just ended was commenced on Tuesday, September 5. Judge Hunt, of Montana, presiding. At the outset, M. R. Biggs was sick, which delayed the case for a couple of days, the jury being completed on September 7. The case was given to the jury at 5:20 o'clock on September 7.

The long and tiresome third trial of the case has passed into history, but unlike the first and second, it has been productive of a decisive result. The decision of the twelve men drawn to decide upon the guilt or innocence of the defendants was not easily reached. The jury wrestled with the decision for 6 hours before finally agreeing. It was said that the first few ballots stood 11 for conviction and 1 for acquittal. The verdict of the jury read: "United States of America vs. J. N. Williamson, Van Gesner and Marion Biggs.

"We the jury in the above-entitled case, find the defendants J. N. Williamson, Van Gesner and Marion Biggs guilty as charged in the indictment, and recommend them to the leniency of the court on account of their previous good character."

JOHN BAIN, Foreman.

Judge Bennett, counsel for the defendants asked to be allowed to make a motion for a new trial. Judge Hunt stated that he would give them 10 days in which to prepare a motion.

Secretary Hitchcock, when informed that the jury in the Oregon Federal court had convicted Williamson, Gesner and Biggs, seemed well pleased, but on commenting upon the recommendation of leniency by the jury, he said the defendants were not deserving of leniency. He said they should be given the extreme sentence. Hitchcock has no sympathy for any of the defendants in any of the land fraud cases in the west.

The Jones-Potter trial will probably be the next trial, and after that, which District Attorney Henev says might not to consume more than a week, will come Ringer Hermann's case.

The Oregonian of Sept. 28, published the following brief history of the three defendants in the case just closed:

"The defendants in the Williamson-Biggs-Gesner case are three well-known men of the state. One, the representative of the State in Congress, one a United States Commissioner of the General Land Office, the other one of the best-known physicians of Central Oregon, where he has lived and practiced for years.

John Newton Williamson was born in Lane County, November 8, 1835, and went to Crook County in September, 1870, being 20 years old at that time. He has resided there since that time, until about five years ago, when he moved with his family to

The Dalles, in order to educate his daughters. He still retains his residence at Prineville, however. Mr. Williamson began his career in Crook County as a shepherd, and has worked his way up until he is now one of the largest sheep-owners in the state. In 1886 Mr. Williamson was elected Sheriff of Crook County, and in 1888 was sent to the lower house of the State Legislature from Crook County. He was again sent to the House of Representatives in 1898, and in 1900 was sent to the State Senate. He was elected to Congress on June 6, 1902, still holding that office, though he has not appeared upon the floor of the House since his indictment.

Dr. Van Gesner was born in Salem in 1852, and studied medicine in Willamette University, and later in Philadelphia in 1882. He went to Crook County about 25 years ago, where he practiced his profession a number of years. He became connected with the sheep firm of Williamson, Wakefield & Gesner in the Fall of 1901.

Marion R. Biggs, the third defendant, was born in Pike County, Missouri, in 1864, and studied law in that state. He went to Burns, Harney County, in the '80s, and in 1894 moved to Prineville, where he has since resided. He qualified as United States Commissioner on June 3, 1902.

Ministers Assigned Pastorates.

The annual Oregon Methodist Conference, made the following pastoral assignments in the Eugene district:

Presiding elder, M. T. Wire; Ashland, E. F. Zimmerman; Brownsville, A. J. Hollingsworth; Canyonville, C. M. Bryant; Central Point, G. L. Burbank; Coburg and Wendling, W. H. Myers; Coquille and Bandon, W. R. F. Browne; Cottage Grove circuit to be supplied; Crawfordville, to be supplied; Creswell, J. L. Stafford; Drain, E. B. Lockhart; Elkton, W. B. Petter; Eugene, L. E. Rockwell; Gardiner, W. S. Gordon; Grants Pass, C. O. Beckman; Halsey and Harrisburg, J. H. Skidmore; Jacksonville, Ari J. Armstrong; Junction City, H. J. Harbit; Marshfield, J. L. Beatty; Medford, C. F. McPherson; Monroe, E. C. Alford; Myrtle Point, W. F. Rogers; North Bend, Amos P. Boyd; Roseburg, W. C. Reuter; Shedd, D. L. Fields; Springfield, W. M. Erskine; Ten-mile, J. M. Sweney; Tillamook circuit to be supplied; Wilbur, B. A. Bristol; Wilderville and Althouse, George Clark.

There were also these assignments: Klamath Mission district—R. E. Dunlap, presiding elder and pastor at Klamath Falls; Lakeview, Sanford Snyder; Fort Klamath to be supplied; Paisley, D. L. Shroude; Bonanza to be supplied.

Missionary to Nevada, A. S. Mulligan; superintendent to Alaska Missions, John Parsons; missionary to Alaska, L. H. Peterson; superintendent of Utah Mission, H. T. Talbot; secretary of Japanese City Missions on Pacific Coast, A. N. Fisher; agent of Oregon Anti-Saloon League, Geo. L. Tufts; superintendent of Kallispel, Montana Mission, C. E. Cline.

Modoc County Fair.

From all reports the Modoc county Fair was a grand meeting, and one that was deserving of a much larger attendance from neighboring counties, although it was well attended by those in easy reach. The New Era issued a daily during Fair week, giving the program for each day's events and the results of the contents.



THE DUKE AND HIS SECRETARY.

The full report of the races was not given in the last papers, hence we cannot give them correctly, however, it is said the races were good, and the ball games, though not so great in number, furnished considerable amusement for visitors. The exhibits were good, and take the affair as a whole, Modoc county should be proud of her achievement; some counties don't even try to have fairs because they don't pay big dividends to the promoters.

May Send for Hunters' License.

Attorney-General Crawford of Salem, in an opinion rendered on request of County Clerk Smith, of Crook County, says that it is not necessary for a person to appear in person before the clerk to obtain hunters' license. The law says the clerk shall give description of license holder in license. Many clerks have insisted on applicants appearing in person. This works hardship in large interior counties.

The Attorney General says the manner of obtaining descriptions is optional with the clerk, and suggests that clerks have printed blanks covering requirements which applicants can fill out and forward to the county seat.—Telegram.

Stock News.

Mr. Johnson, the horse buyer, has bought several bunches of good horses and mules in this county the past week. S. T. Colvin sold him ten head of fine mules, and W. Z. Moss 65 head of horses and 40 head of fine mules. The T. T. company traded him 25 head of horses for a fine stallion.

S. T. Colvin expects to start for California soon with about two car loads of horses.

Walter Sherlock bought 2000 head of sheep from Geo. Hanking this week. He will drive them to Montague where they will be shipped to Willows and fed this winter.

W. Z. Moss has bought the J. A. Morris horse brand, about 100 to 150 horses.

Horsebuyers this week bought 13 head of horses from Harry Riggs. They went up to the Currier ranch after more.

C. W. Withers bought 2800 head of sheep from Lee Thomas last week.

It is said that the regular semi-annual round of the grippe in the East and middle states, is taking a very peculiar and severe form.

Vacant Lands in Northwest.

A table recently compiled by Commissioner Richards of the general land office shows that there are 126,161,257 acres of vacant lands in the northwest—namely, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana—and 821,872,377 acres of unappropriated and unreserved lands in the country at large.

There are more public lands in Montana than in any other state or territory in the union, with the exception of Alaska and Nevada, there being 56,455,435 acres of such unappropriated lands. Of this total 18,409,023 acres have been surveyed.

Idaho has the next largest area of unappropriated and unreserved lands. This state is recorded with 39,668,636 acres, of which 10,848,849 acres have been surveyed.

Oregon ranks third among the western states in this respect, with 20,174,254 acres of vacant land. Of this, 14,527,289 acres have been surveyed. It will be seen from the foregoing figures that Oregon has the greatest per cent of surveyed lands.

Washington, a close second, is credited with 8,862,932 acres of unappropriated lands, of which total 4,008,954 acres, or about a half, have been subjected to survey.

Northern Stock News.

From the S. L. Oregonian.

Charles Horton drove his cattle, about 150 head, from Klamath marsh to his ranch on Lost river, last week.

Alex Davis, Zed Harris, Horace Dunlap and Frank Harris will start 900 head of bees to Klamath Falls Saturday.

Cattlemen on Klamath marsh have finished riding and will soon start all the beef in that country on the road to market.

Jas. Hayes will start with his beef cattle in a few days to Scotts valley, Cal., where they will be fed this winter.

Jack Partin and Emil Egli sold something over 300 head of beef cattle to W. O. Smith, of Bly, and another man, whose name could not be learned.

Mort Ward turned the Lane sheep over to Claud McCall this week, who will drive them to Horsefly for Lewis Gerber.

Joe Howard bought a bunch of beef from Walter and Wm. Kittridge last Sunday.

RAILROAD MEN

BANQUET.

A magnificent banquet and reception was given to J. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern, and Howard Elliott, president of the Northern Pacific railroads, by the Lewis and Clark Exposition officials at Portland on Monday evening, last, when Mr. Hill officially announced that his railroads would be extended to Oregon.

President Goode of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, invited many representative men of the state to meet Mr. Hill, in order that the railroad necessities of the different sections of Oregon might be presented. He sent the following telegram inviting Dr. Daly to be present, but the dispatch was received too late for him to attend:

Portland, Ore., Sept. 28

DR. B. DALY, Lakeview, Ore.

You are cordially invited to dinner to James J. Hill, president Great Northern railroad and Howard Elliott, president Northern Pacific railroad, in honor of building of those roads in Oregon, at American Inn, World's Fair grounds, next Monday evening. Please wire if you can come. H. W. GOODE, President L. and C. Exposition.

In reply to this invitation Dr. Daly wired President Goode the following message:

Lakeview, Ore., Sept. 29.

HON. H. W. GOODE,

President Lewis and Clark Exposition, Portland, Oregon:

Thanks for invitation, but owing to the great distance from a railroad, it will be impossible to reach Portland Monday evening. However, Lake county with five million acres of splendid timber, grazing and alfalfa lands; with an income for this year, from livestock alone, of more than \$300 per capita, but still 100 miles from the nearest railroad, sends greetings to Messrs. Hill and Elliott, guests of the evening, and commends the extension of their railroads to Oregon.

B. DALY.

It was unfortunate that no representative from this place was at the meeting, but while Dr. Daly's telegram contained less than one hundred words, it was a magnificent advertisement for Lake county. It told as much as could possibly be stated in the same number of words, and must have produced a favorable impression, when read, upon the gentlemen assembled at the banquet board. "Lake county with five million acres of splendid timber, grazing and alfalfa lands, with an income for this year, from livestock alone, of more than \$300 per capita," is a wonderful record. One that cannot be surpassed by any county on the Pacific Coast.

A county with such vast resources as Lake, cannot remain long isolated from railroads.

Water Protection from Fire.

An agreement has been made and entered into between the City Dads of Lakeview and the Lakeview Water Co., by which the City is to have the use of the water in case of fire for any part of town, with a guaranteed pressure by paying the Water Co. \$12.50 per month and allowing the company the use of the big tank on the hill for storage purposes. The agreement has several details, but the main points are set out in this article. It is stipulated that at any time when the warning of fire is given by a number of taps of the fire bell, all hydrants must be shut off all over town, in order to all the full pressure and supply to go to the fire fighting apparatus.