

THE TILLAMOOK LAND FRAUDS.

Claude Thayer, C. E. Hadley, M. F. Leach, T. Coates, W. J. Smith and J. E. Tuttle Indicted by the United States Grand Jury.

(Portland Oregonian.)
The dragnet of the Oregon land frauds investigation brought up another "big fish" yesterday, when the Federal grand jury returned true bills against Claude F. Thayer, the Tillamook capitalist, son of former Governor Thayer of this state, together with several other operators indicted with him.

At 6 o'clock last evening the Federal grand jury returned a true bill against Claude Thayer, Clarke E. Hadley, G. O. Nolan, Maurice Leach, Thomas Coates, Walter J. Smith, John Tuttle, Charles E. Hays, John Doe and Richard Roe for conspiracy to defraud the United States of a portion of its lands in Tillamook County. The significance of this action is emphasized by the fact that when the indictment was returned there remained but six hours until the law would have been powerless to reach the crime alleged. It was a close call, but District Attorney Heney and his trained corps of assistants working with the method which characterizes successful prosecutor, and the jury dispatching business in the examination of witnesses and the sifting of evidence, like skillful lawyers, easily accomplished their duty and saved the day.

YEARS OF DELAY.
After years of unnecessary delay, characterized by teints and quibbles on the part of officers charged with the duty of proving this fraud, makeshift examinations, investigations that did not investigate and a disregard of instructions from their superior officers which have furnished the grounds for several peremptory dismissals from the service, the notorious Tillamook land frauds are about to feel the heavy hand of justice.

Readers of the Oregonian are familiar with the history of the case, which has filled many pages of printed matter in this paper, as well as in the records of the Land Office, which has recently been removed from Oregon City to Portland.

In September, 1899, approximately 100 persons made filings at the Oregon City land office to enter timber lands in Tillamook County. The lands are situated in the famous Nehalem Valley and are among the most valuable timber lands in the state. It is alleged that Claude Thayer, a banker in Tillamook City, engineered the scheme by which the entrymen were to be supplied with the money to make the necessary payments for the lands, and that when Thayer and his associates had secured a purchaser the net profits were to be divided, deeds being in the meantime signed in blank and placed in escrow awaiting the result. It is further alleged that to make the actual cash payments as light as possible, contests were to be initiated and maintained by every shift and device that pettifoggery could suggest, until such time as the lands could be disposed of, when the contests could be withdrawn, and lands relinquished and the desired result realized. Unfortunately for the success of this scheme, likewise many other equally damaging papers and records to substantiate the allegations of conspiracy and fraud.

The filings had no sooner been made than the proposed contests began to appear, and they have been appearing with mechanical regularity, so that the public was led to believe that the various contestants actually were contending for the lands.

The allegations of fraud in the affidavits of contest led to an order for an investigation. Special Agent Loomis was detained for the purpose. He evaded the issue by reporting that the facts would all be brought out at the hearings of the contests, and when pushed for definite action by Assistant Commissioner Richards, reported no grounds for challenging the good faith of the entries. Special Agent Stratford was directed to investigate, but disregarded his instructions and made no report.

SPECIAL AGENT GREENE'S WORK
In April, 1902, Special Inspector Green, of the Interior Department, was directed to make a thorough investigation, but these instructions were taken from the postoffice by some person in the interest of the fraud and kept out of his hands for nearly three months, when they were remailed and sent back to Washington, reaching him in August of that year. He dropped other assignments and started in to lay the case before the grand jury of that fall, and did so, but through the handling of the cases in the grand jury room the facts were never brought out and no bill was found. Then the papers were returned to Washington and remained there until Francis J. Heney became U. S. Attorney for Oregon and undertook the huge task of prosecuting the Oregon land frauds. Becoming advised of the history of the Tillamook case, he directed Mr. Greene to send for the papers and use all diligence to prepare a case for submission to the grand jury. This was impossible at the last term, owing to the volume of other business, and when the present grand jury was convened there remained just four days before the statute of limitations would intervene to prevent a prosecution.

MR. HENEY ACTS.
Seeing the importance of the case and the urgency in point of time, Mr. Heney laid aside other matters and concentrated his forces on this one, with the result stated.

This case involves more money value in its timber lands than all the cases which have been tried so far.

Bench warrants were issued for Walter J. Smith and John Tuttle, and the bonds of the other defendants were fixed at \$2,000.

CONNECT WITH BOTH ROADS.

Portland, Nehalem & Tillamook Project.
"Financial arrangements have been made in London for connection of the Portland, Nehalem & Tillamook road with both the Northern Pacific and Southern Pacific tracks," said William Reid, secretary of the company, yesterday, when asked as to whether any relations existed between that company and the Oregon Traction Company, which is having some misunderstanding with the contractors and on which construction work has stopped. Mr. Reid said further in answer to questions: "Propositions for consolidation of the interests of these lines were never for a moment entertained for the reason that the financial arrangement mentioned has been made. Such a double connection can be made under provisions of the Killingsworth law. The representative of the London bondholders while in Portland, the latter part of June, ratified the construction contract with the Atlas Company and the directors of the Portland, Nehalem & Tillamook have found these contractors strictly honorable gentlemen who have rigidly carried out their contract.

"The money is already pledged the contractors from the sale of bonds of the railway company, for the first 20 miles, and is guaranteed payable to the company in London in November next, after the first 20 miles are completed. If the contractors complete the first 20 miles satisfactorily they have the remaining 80 miles to construct both to Tillamook and Nehalem Bays during 1906, and after November the London syndicate will have in the treasury the money, realized from bond sales, to pay for each section of ten miles as completed.

"There is no connection whatever between the two companies, beyond the fact that the same contractors chance to be doing the construction work, and the steam road will never consider any proposition to do other than is now determined upon, which will give two excellent connections into Portland and afford shippers choice of routing on through business."—Oregonian.

Pendleton is Choked by Dust.
PENDLETON, Or., Aug. 27.—The worst wind and dust storm ever experienced in Pendleton struck the city at 4 o'clock this afternoon and the damage done, though large, cannot be yet ascertained. The storm came from the north and seemed to be general, Pendleton being the heart of the hurricane.

The city was shrouded in complete darkness, and for ten minutes it was impossible to distinguish objects five feet distant, even in houses well protected from the dust. For over an hour the storm raged, leaving a trail of devastation. The plateglass fronts of stores of R. Alexander, Sullivan & Bond, and C. C. Sharp were shattered while glass fronts of other stores were broken. Awnings were torn from the buildings and swept away like chaff. The scaffolding around the new Eagle's building was wrecked.

Nearly all dry goods merchants will lose heavily, as the dust collected a quarter of an inch thick in the stores, soiling merchandise. Many homes in the city will suffer greatly from the onslaught of the terrible storm.

The air was close and stifling and the dust entered homes several people narrowly escaped suffocation. It has been unusually dry this summer, having been no rain since the middle of June.

Unharvested wheat which was in the trail of the storm has been almost totally destroyed. Farmers who arrived in the city state that grain was badly shattered, that surely nothing more than straw remains. Many stacks of wheat as yet unthreshed were blown down and the grain scattered about the fields. Farmers will lose thousands of dollars.

Telegraph and telephone wires are down in many places and forces of men have been at work repairing them.

The Chicago chief of police has broken up gambling and his only prescription is: "Keep after them." It is an old prescription, but seems to be always new in times when officials are paid big money for not keeping after them.

SOUTH PRAIRIE.
The recent rain was very beneficial to the pastures and in laying the dust and dispelling the smog.

Howard Brooks met with a serious accident last Monday while working at the logging camp, getting caught between two logs, injuring him internally. Guy Vaughn is moving out from Tillamook onto his ranch.

Lloyd Powell leaves this week for McMinnville to visit relatives and friends. Alvin Johnson is on the sick list this week.

Ed. Leach will commence the erection of Charles Wells' new modern residence as soon as they can get the timber on the ground from the Tillamook Lumber Co.

Butler Ely, of California, visited his old home and friends last week. Pate Wells and family are moving into Tillamook City.

Bel Johnson, our popular road supervisor, has had a force of men grubbing and clearing up and grading the stumpy strip of road by Mr. Lowry's place, making a fine improvement.

BOULDER CREEK.
W. N. Bays and his son-in-law R. M. Dingess have gone to the Valley with a drove of cattle.

Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Myers were out from town Friday and made a visit with Mrs. Myers' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins. They were on their way to Oretown.

The hop and prune pickers have commenced to weed their wayvalley wards. Miss Ida Nicklaus visited friends at Blaine from Saturday until Friday.

Messrs. Henry Smith and John Nicklaus have each invested in a new buggy and harness. Won't the girls get lots of buggy rides now?

H. A. Chopard came in from the logging camp Saturday and went back Sunday.

H. L. Jensen expects to start to the valley this (Tuesday) morning after a load of fruit.

Fred Nicklaus has gone to work at Hadley's logging camp. While at home he went hunting and killed two bear, an old one and a cub.

Mrs. E. Mills returned from the valley Saturday after several days absence.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Bays visited friends across the river Sunday.

Mrs. Grace Chopard, Mrs. Carrie McDivitt, Miss Edna Getchell and Master Norman Chopard, visited at Mr. Nicklaus' last Monday.

R. Y. Blalock went to Cloverdale Monday to make arrangements to take out a lot of salmon.

C. A. Smith and children and Mrs. R. A. Hardin spent last Sunday at the Nicklaus home.

NEHALEM.
District No. 18 has added a number of up to date books to its school library from the proceeds of the late school entertainment.

The Gerald C. came in Tuesday and took a load of box shooks to Nestucca. News reaches us that Geo. P'ye, who was so badly injured in the Vancouver saw mill as to lose one of his eyes last spring, has recovered and was married a short time ago.

Arthur Lewis of San Francisco, lectured at Batterson's hall Thursday evening, socialism being the theme.

Ernest Worthington and Miss Lillie Tohl were married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Tohl, Aug. 25. Rev. W. J. Roelmer tied the knot that made the happy couple one.

W. S. Linkhart visited the fair last week. He calls it great.

Mrs. Clara Ferry is quite sick. Dr. Smith was in attendance Sunday.

Miss Minnie Stumpey is on the sick list.

Lon York and Geo. Ludtke came in from the Columbia river where they have been fishing. They report a poor catch this season.

The drinking men of our town boast that there is more drunkenness under prohibition than when the saloons were running. Could they see themselves as others see them they would have their heads in shame. Law breakers are anarchists. It proves, however, to the average mind that the old system is too rotten to hold the prohibition patch and calls for the hastening of the new social order.

Intimacy with Frederick A. Kribs, the Oregon land operator, who was "good to Senator Mitchell," has cost special Agent George F. Wilson his job in the general land office. Wilson has been on duty in Oregon for some time and, while there, formed the acquaintance of Kribs. The two became quite friendly and in time Wilson borrowed \$250 from the land operator for some object unknown.

Kribs had confidence that Wilson would return the money, but in this he appears to have been mistaken, for, although the loan was made many months ago, Wilson has not as yet, so far as the department and an investigation was made which satisfied the land office that Wilson had borrowed the money and had not returned it, its dismissal, however, is not made on account of his failure to return Kribs' \$250, but because he placed himself on intimate terms with a man whose operations he was expected to investigate and the man with whom, above all others, he should enter into no entangling alliances and to whom he should not become obliged.

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7:00 p.m.	depot for Astoria	9:40 p.m.
Leave	ASTORIA	Arrive.
7:45 a.m.	(for Portland and way points)	11:30 a.m.
9:10 p.m.		10:30 p.m.
Leave	ASTORIA	Arrive.
11:25 a.m.	(for Seaside Direct)	5:20 p.m.
Leave	ASTORIA	Arrive.
1:15 a.m.	(for Warrenton, Hammond, Pt. Stevens, cascade)	*10:45 a.m. 7:40 a.m.
Leave	SEASIDE	Arrive.
4:30 p.m.	(for Astoria Direct)	12:30 p.m.
Leave	SEASIDE	Arrive.
6:15 a.m.	(for Warrenton, Pt. Stevens, Hammond, Astoria)	9:25 a.m. 7:20 p.m.
10:30 a.m.		

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