

BLUE MOUNTAIN RESERVE

Investigation Made by Grand Jury Implicates Prominent Men

Just before adjournment the federal grand jury returned the long-expected indictment dealing with the Blue Mountain reserve and the frauds attempted to be perpetrated by its creation. In the indictment are implicated John H. Mitchell, Binger Hermann, John N. Williamson, Franklin Pierce Mays, W. N. Jones and George Sorenson. The charge is that the defendants attempted to defraud the government of the United States of the possession and use and title of 200,000 acres of land situated in various of the states and territories of the nation, and of the total value of more than \$3,000,000.

Story of the Conspiracy.

The general story of the conspiracy is that the defendants came to the conclusion that it would be of profit to gain a large tract of land which would be afterwards relinquished to the government for certificates in lieu.

In the pursuit of the scheme, therefore, the defendants, or part of them, picked out tracts of school land in Crook, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Baker, Union, Umatilla and Walla Walla counties amounting in all to more than 150,000 acres upon which they determined to file. These lands were school sections, arid and worthless, and could be purchased for \$1.25 per acre from the state government in quantities not to exceed 320 acres, provided the purchaser would make affidavit that the lands were bought by himself personally, and for his own use and benefit.

Having picked upon the lands, a man was chosen in Malheur county to circulate the petition asking for the creation of a forest reserve, under the plan that it was necessary for the conservation of the headwaters of the various streams taking their start in the districts affected by the proposed reserve. This agent was paid \$4 a day, and worked for some time in making up the list of applicants.

These applications were then sent to Washington to Senator Mitchell, who turned them over to Binger Hermann, commissioner of the general land office, and the creation of the reserve was urged by the senator to Commissioner Hermann, and was last ordered by Secretary Hitchcock. Two days before the order was made public by which the lands were to be withdrawn from settlement the fact that such action would be taken by the department was tipped off to the conspirators at this end of the line by Mr. Hermann, and they immediately sent agents in to the territory to make the filings before the order should reach the state.

Previous to this time, or about February 15, 1902, the defendants had secured 30,000 acres of school land, while Williamson, through his agents, had made arrangements to purchase 200,000 acres of poor timber land in Crook county.

Opposition Is Aroused.

After the petitions had been sent to Mitchell, and by him turned over to Hermann and the general land office, it seems that a great deal of opposition was aroused to the creation of the reserve, and remonstrances were sent into the office protesting against the setting aside of the lands. As a result of these objections, Mr. Hermann wrote S. B. Ormsby on March 11, 1902, enclosing him the petitions asking for the creation of the reserve, together with remonstrances from Geo. W. McBride and Joseph Simon, who saw that an injustice was being done. In his letter to Ormsby, Commissioner Hermann asked that an investigation

be made of the lands about to be put in a reserve, and a report sent to the office at the earliest time possible showing the conditions and stating whether or not it would be well to set aside the lands.

P. P. Mays, so it is said, was told that Ormsby was about to make an investigation of the lands, and accordingly the Portland attorney set aside two sections of land in the proposed reserve for the use of Ormsby, the claims to be put in escrow for the forest superintendent, provided he made a favorable report, and was able to secure a favorable action in the creation of the reserve.

Ormsby made a favorable report on the lands which he had been sent to look at, and the order of withdrawal was made.

About this time, however, and before the order was made, the story of a new railroad to be driven through the part of the state contiguous to the proposed reserve caused the timber locators to begin flock into the land and large tracts were taken up by them. In addition to this Ormsby went to Dan Tarpley, so it is said, and told him of the reserve plan, advising him to get in on that deal. Tarpley went to McKinley, and the latter raised the money to take 17,000 acres of the land inclosed in the proposed boundaries of the reserve.

"Timber Sharks" Rush In.

These extensive filings alarmed P. P. Mays, who wrote to Hermann advising the temporary withdrawal of the lands at the earliest moment, and before the influx of claimants would gobble up the greater part.

Williamson also, September 23, 1902, wrote to Hermann advising the withdrawal of the lands before the "timber sharks" gained too large holdings in the boundaries of the proposed preserve of the combination.

After the filings had been made the fact was brought to the notice of Secretary Hitchcock that practically all of the lands in the reserve were not worth being put into a reserve of any kind. This information was given by Gifford Pinchot, the head of the bureau of forestry, who, after conference with Secretary Hitchcock, took the map of the proposed Blue Mountain reserve and cut out of it all the school in the tract covered by the petitions for its creation. The reserve was then created according to the wishes expressed in the petitions which had been filed, but by this action of Pinchot's the conspiracy was killed almost before it was born, and no benefit was reaped by any of the men who had filed on the lands.

Had the scheme been carried through however, all of this school and other land would have been filed upon by the agents of those now under indictment, and would have been made valid as a result of the fact of the creation of the reserve, and the scrip subsequently issued for it, upon its reversion to the government, could have been sold for an advanced figure to the timber syndicates of the country, as it would have been exchangeable for the most valuable timber land in the Northwest open to filing.

Each of the men indicted will be required to furnish bonds of \$4000 for his appearance before the court in April, when the case will come to trial. This is the same sum asked of all those who have been indicted so far in connection with the land cases.

A Touching Story

Is the saving from death of the baby girl of Geo. A. Eyer, Cumberland, Md. He writes: "At the age of 11 months, our little girl was in declining health, with serious throat trouble, and two physicians gave her up. We were almost in despair, when we resolved to try Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. The first bottle gave relief; after taking four bottles she was cured, and is now in perfect health." Never fails to relieve and cure a cough or cold. At J. C. Perry's drug store; 50c and \$1.00 guaranteed. Trial bottle free.

SPRAGUE WANTS \$1532

For Being Struck by State Street Car, While Driving in Track.

G. D. Sprague has filed complaint in department No. 1 of the circuit court against the Citizens' Light & Traction Company for \$1532 damages for injuries received and damage done to his buggy when struck by the State street car January 25th.

Plaintiff claims negligence on the part of the carmen, and that when the car struck the rig that was thrown and received internal and external injuries and partially disabled and permanently maimed, injured and crippled. He claims personal damage in the sum of \$1500, and \$32 damage to his buggy.

John A. Jeffrey is attorney for plaintiff.

Will Work Streets.

Francis Murry appeared in the police court this morning on the charge of "drunk," and was fined \$5. He stated to the judge that his time was of no value, so he would lie in jail, ago and killed 12.

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The Best Cod

Liver Preparation

Delicious to the Taste.

Not a Patent Medicine.



Vinol contains ALL the medicinal elements of genuine, fresh cod's livers and their oil; with organic iron, and other body building ingredients, in a deliciously palatable and easily digested form. It is everywhere recognized as the greatest

BODY BUILDER AND STRENGTH CREATOR

known to medicine—Vinol is the only cod liver preparation which contains no oil, grease, or any disagreeable feature, and sold on a positive guarantee of "money back if it fails to give satisfaction."

For Old People—Puny Children—Weak Women—Debilitated, All Tired Out People—Nursing and Weak Mothers—To Gain Flesh—To Get Strong—All Weak People—Chronic Colds—Hacking Coughs—Bronchitis—Lung Troubles—Nothing equals Vinol.

Try it—if you don't like it, we return your money.

GEO. W. PUTNAM, Druggist.

and when told that he would have to work the streets, he studied over the matter for a few minutes, and then, showing the court a pair of calloused hands, declared that he could work for 24 days.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials.

Address: F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, Ohio.

Sold by Druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Coroner's Inquest.

Chicago, Feb. 15.—The third session of the coroner's inquest into the death of Mrs. Marie Walker Hoch, wife of the alleged bigamist, began this morning. The analysis of the contents of the stomach has not been completed and probably will not be presented before Monday. At that time the jury will decide whether to hold Hoch on a charge more serious than bigamy.

To Investigate Situation.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The house this morning passed a resolution instructing the secretary of commerce and labor to investigate the Kansas oil situation, particularly in reference to the affairs of the Standard Oil Company and its control of the market.

A Nocturnal Marauder.

A mink or some other animal entered the chicken house at Mrs. Mary Fischer's and killed 21 chickens, the entire flock. The same marauder had made a visit to that hen coop several weeks ago and killed 12.

PORTLAND POLICE SCORED

Coroner Finley Unhesitatingly Talks About Police

The coroner of Multnomah county is of the opinion that Joe Groggins had nothing to do with the death of J. W. Smith, who died in the Portland city jail Thursday night. Coroner Finley speaks in unambiguous terms of the treatment of prisoners in the Portland jail.

"I will take no further action regarding the death of Smith," said Coroner Finley this morning. "I have investigated the matter, and have found that the other prisoners are not accountable for the death. The Japanese who was in the cell with the other men says Groggins did not knock Smith against the floor."

"He says that Smith was crying for water in the night, and that Groggins kicked him in the breast. The body of Smith was examined, and we found no marks of violence on it except the bruise and fracture of the skull. It was this fracture sustained in the fall on the cement sidewalk which caused death."

"I told Chief Hunt last night that it was a disgrace to have prisoners treated as Smith was."

"Smith was in a dying condition when taken to the jail. The officers picked him from the sidewalk, where he lay unconscious. He was not drunk, but they treated him as a drunken man. I have learned that one of the officers did see blood on the man's head, but that they made no effort to secure a physician for him. They thrust him into a cell instead of placing him in the hospital ward and securing the services of the city physician. I tell you, such treatment of men is an outrage to a civilized community."

Real Estate Transfers.

The following real estate transfers were recorded at the court house this week:

Willard Espy to J. A. Jefferson, land in Marion county, \$100.

L. P. Demarest to J. A. Bernardi, land in Salem, \$600.

O. T. Storassli to A. J. Herndes, 21.9 acres, 17 s, r 2 w, \$65.

F. Joss to L. Hepburn, land in Romington's addition to Woodburn, \$500.

L. H. Penderson to D. Brumby, land in 15 s, r 1 w, \$517.

"From A to Z."



We have studied every detail of the grocery business—that's why we continue to grow and expand. Success depends not only on knowing what but how to buy. Our 211 stores are the best of the house, and we strive to give you many saving chances.

Harritt & Lawrence

Winter

Is Not Over

We will probably have some cold weather yet and you will need a heating stove. We have cut prices on every heating stove in the house. Call and examine them.

R. M. Wade & Co.

Banking Business

You have more or less of it, probably it is with us. Such being the case you know something of service. But if not a patron, we it not be well for you to become one?

SALEM STATE BANK

L. K. PAGE, Pres.

E. W. HAZARD, Cashier

Wall Paper

Latest designs in stock and good work guaranteed. We have the smallest store and small prices.

E. L. Lemmon

299 Liberty St.

Phone 2475

MADAME DEAN'S FRENCH FEMININE PILLS

A Safe, Certain Relief for Menstrual Disorders. NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL. Safe! Sure! Ready! Best! For \$1.00 per box. Will send them on trial, to be paid when relieved. Sample free. If your druggist does not have them send your order to the UNITED MEDICAL CO., BOX 74, LANCASTER, ENGLAND.

Sold in Salem by S. C. Stone

A Scotch Highball

Made from our fine old Scotch whisky, key is invigorating and bracing in cold weather. Our fine stock of whiskies are pure and the finest distillation, and is a treat to the epicure and the connoisseur to test the velvet smoothness and fine flavor of it.

E. Eckerlen

258 Commercial Street



A New Deal

We live and learn, and Eppley has not lived in vain. He has learned that by the same outlay he can give his patrons a small percentage more of Perfection Baking Powder by avoiding cost of the package. Hereafter he will give

5 ounces for 15c
9 ounces for 25c
1 pound for 40c
1 1/2 pounds for 60c
Each in an attractive glass package, useful to the housekeeper. Try it, and for once get your money's worth and a trifle more.

Ask Your Grocer For It
It's Pure

Cafe Imperial

H. E. SYMES, Prop.

The Only Firstclass Eating Place in the city.

Kegislators and all will receive courteous attention. French dinners and oysters any style. Come and see.

Fine Property at a Bargain

Choice piece residence property on principal street within three blocks business part of city. Nice large, modern home, about one acre of ground near school car line, all kinds of fruit, beautiful shrubbery, etc. All modern conveniences.

These are both extra choice buys for homes or investments.

DERBY & WILSON,
244 Commercial St.

Salem, Oreg

Catarrh

Invites Consumption

It weakens the delicate lung tissues, deranges the digestive organs, and breaks down the general health.

It often causes headache and dizziness, impairs the taste, smell and hearing, and affects the voice.

Being a constitutional disease it requires a constitutional remedy.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Radically and permanently cures catarrh of the nose, throat, stomach, bowels, and more delicate organs.

Read the testimonials.

No substitute for Hood's acts like Hood's. Be sure to get Hood's.

"I was troubled with catarrh 20 years. Seeing statements of cures by Hood's Sarsaparilla resolved to try it. Four bottles entirely cured me." WILLIAM SHERMAN, 3000 6th St., Milwaukee, Wis.

Hood's Sarsaparilla promises to cure and keeps the promise.