



GIANT LAND FRAUD

More Than \$110,000,000
Wrongfully Acquired.

MAINLY BY BIG CORPORATIONS

Some 32,000 Distinct Cases In Twenty-four States West of Mississippi to Be Investigated and Prosecuted.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Information of a startling character of alleged wholesale and astounding frauds upon the public lands has come into the possession of Secretary of the Interior Garfield through special agents in the field.

The serious allegation is made that more than \$110,000,000 worth of lands, in states principally west of the Mississippi river, have been fraudulently acquired within the past two years, mainly by corporations and also by individuals.

With a view of recovering these lands Secretary Garfield has sent letters to Chairmen Hale and Tawney of the senate and house appropriation committees respectively, asking for an additional appropriation of \$500,000, which, if granted, with that already asked for, will give the department \$1,000,000 for that purpose.

The specific purpose of the appropriation requested is for preventing deprivations upon public timber, protecting public lands, examining swamp lands, etc.

It is stated that there is reasonable prospect of recovering much of this alleged fraudulently acquired land if the appropriation is promptly made.

It is also pointed out that while a million dollars may seem large, it is not 1 per cent of the commercial value of the land which the government may hope to recover.

Secretary Garfield has a statement from H. H. Schwartz, chief of the field service, showing over 32,000 distinct cases of alleged land frauds demanding further investigation and prosecution.

The number of such cases awaiting investigation by states now pending is as follows: Oregon, 1,462; California and Nevada, 1,409; Washington and north Idaho, 1,325; Montana, 3,665; Colorado, 8,621; Arizona, 496; Wyoming, 21,155; Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, 5,894; Missouri, Louisiana and Arkansas, 1,593; Utah, 1,482; Oklahoma and Kansas, 1,012; New Mexico, 1,205, and Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, 1,960.

The additional appropriation also is required, the secretary says, on account of the increased demands on the field service of the land office, due to the transferring to that division of much work which has been done in the past by the secret service and the special service of the department of justice.

STRICT JERSEY LIQUOR LAW.

Excise Commission Submits Radical Draft to Governor.

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 19.—The excise commission appointed by Governor Fort to investigate the excise question has submitted to the governor a draft of a proposed law which contemplates a complete revision of the present liquor laws of the state.

The bill limits the number of license places to one for every 500 inhabitants. The selling of liquor on Sunday under all circumstances is absolutely prohibited.

All the essential features of the Bill-op law, including the screen provision, are enacted.

A special feature of the bill is that bartenders shall be registered. The bill also prohibits brewers being interested in any licenses.

QUICKEST ELECTROCUTION YET

Current Turned on Only Once to Kill Murderer Mellillo.

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 19.—The electrocution of Sabino Mellillo in the state prison here was remarkable for the fact that the current was turned on but once, the first time in the history of the state.

Mellillo was convicted of the murder of Alfonso Tellichio.

HARRIMAN NEAR TAFT.

But He Has No Engagement to Talk With President Elect.

Augusta, Ga., Jan. 19.—E. H. Harriman arrived here today. He is at the Campion Terrace hotel, a winter resort on the South Carolina side of the Savannah river.

He has no engagement with Mr. Taft. The president elect said also he did not expect to see Mr. Rockefeller, who has quarters at the Bon Air hotel.

FINE OF \$1,623,000 STANDS.

State of Texas Wins Ouster Suit Against Waters-Pierce Company.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The supreme court of the United States unanimously affirmed the decree of the state courts of Texas imposing a fine of \$1,623,000 on the Waters-Pierce Oil company, a branch of the Standard Oil trust, and ousting it from the state on the charge of violating the antitrust law.

The court also sustained the Texas courts in the appointment of Robert J. Eckhardt as receiver of the company and thus again decided against the company.

Dealing with the contention that the alleged conspiracy between the Waters-Pierce company and the Standard Oil company to control the price of oil in Texas was not within the jurisdiction of the Texas state courts, Justice Day said that the agreement had been executed within the state. This circumstance was, he said, conclusive with the court that the conviction was had for acts inside the state's borders.

On the point that the state's proceedings against the company had not been just the court held that state legislatures have a right to prevent unlawful combinations to prevent competition and in restraint of trade and to prohibit and punish monopolies.

Justice Day discussed the contention that the fines imposed were excessive, saying that the business done in Texas by the company was highly profitable, the property amounting to more than \$40,000,000 and its dividends as high as 700 per cent per annum.

"Assuming," he said, "that the defendant was guilty of a violation of laws over a period of years upon so large a scale, we are not prepared to say that there was want of due process of law in the penalties imposed."

TELLS HIS LOST PAST.

Remarkable Effects of Hypnotic Spell on Injured Man.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 19.—What the physicians of Grace hospital consider the most remarkable case of hypnotic influence that has come to their notice has developed there.

Following the accident, the mind of Charles Osten, whose home is in West Forty-second street, New York, became completely clouded. He had forgotten even his name, and all the events in his past life were a blank to him.

Osten's case has puzzled physicians in this city for more than a month. He was picked up wandering in Meadow street, near the Union station, on the night of Dec. 10 and was taken to Grace hospital, where after weeks he has been found unable to relate the least scrap of personal history.

Dr. Allen R. Diefendorf threw Osten into a hypnotic state, and when he was in it he wrung from him his name and life history.

ASK CENSOR FOR SHOWS.

New York Ministers and Mayor to Stop Improper Moving Pictures.

New York, Jan. 19.—Resolutions demanding the establishment by the mayor of a censorship on moving picture shows and the strict enforcement of the Sunday closing law were passed at a mass meeting of clergymen and others interested in Sunday observance.

The resolutions declare that "Christianity is part of the common law of this country" and request the mayor to appoint some person of trustworthy moral judgment without whose approval no films can be exhibited."

The committee on laws and legislation of the board of aldermen held a hearing on the proposed ordinance which prohibits children under sixteen from attending moving picture shows unless accompanied by parents.

MEETS TODAY TO BOOM TRADE

National Board of Trade in Convention in Washington.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The national board of trade, an association of the commercial bodies of the United States, opened its thirty-ninth annual convention today in the New Willard hotel.

The national board of trade was organized June 5, 1868, in Philadelphia for the purpose of promoting the efficiency and extending the usefulness of the various boards of trade and other chartered bodies organized for general commercial purposes in the United States. It aims to secure unity and harmony of action in commercial usages, customs and laws and the advancement of commercial and industrial interests of the country at large.

PAIR KEEP SUICIDE PACT.

Husband and Wife Shot Dead in Their Home in Norfolk.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 19.—Having evidently carried out a prearranged plan to die together, Schuyler C. Carskaddon and wife were found dead in their home.

Both had been shot through the back of the head, and the revolver was found on the floor.

Mr. Carskaddon was foreman of the Welworth-Navill Manufacturing plant.

MINERS' CONCLAVE

United Workers' Convention in Indianapolis Today.

DEMAND FOR NEW AGREEMENT

Eight Hour Day and Complete Recognition of Union as a Party to Negotiate Wage Contracts Also Asked.

Indianapolis, Jan. 19.—Whether the country is to have another coal strike or not will probably be decided at the convention of the United Mine Workers of America which began here this morning. The miners will again put forward the demands that have been rejected by the operators, they will be rejected by the latter, and the issue will be joined.

The demands of the miners read as follows:

First.—That an agreement shall be negotiated between the representatives of the miners and the operators of the anthracite region and all disputes arising



THOMAS L. LEWIS.

under the contract shall be adjusted as provided for in such agreement.

Second.—We demand the complete recognition of the United Mine Workers of America as a party to negotiate a wage contract and that the United Mine Workers of America shall be recognized in our right to provide any method we may adopt for the collection of revenues for the organization.

Third.—That we demand an eight hour day with no reduction of wages.

Fourth.—That all coal shall be mined and paid for by the ton of 2,000 pounds.

Fifth.—That we demand a definite and more uniform scale of wages and prices for all classes of labor at all collieries in the anthracite region and that all employees paid less than \$1.50 per day shall receive a 10 per cent advance, and all employees paid more than \$1.50 and less than \$2 a day shall receive a 5 per cent advance.

Sixth.—That the system whereby a contract miner has more than one job or employs two or more laborers be abolished.

Seventh.—That the employers be required to issue uniform pay statements designating the name of the company, the name of the employee, the colliery where employed, the amount of wages and the class of work performed.

Eighth.—That the contract shall be made for the period of one year.

The officers of the miners' unions, headed by the president, Thomas L. Lewis, the successor of John Mitchell, are insistent upon these demands. The leading operators have declared their firm intention not to grant them. As the working agreement between the unions and the operators expires on March 31 some basis of agreement must be reached at the present convention if peace is to be preserved in the anthracite industry.

The operators are willing to renew the agreement, which is the one made through the mediation of the Roosevelt strike commission five years ago, but the miners' leaders declare that changed conditions make a readjustment on more liberal terms to the workers necessary.

Woman Fights Off Five Highwaymen.

Washington, Pa., Jan. 19.—With \$400 in her shoe, Mrs. John Rosaro fought off five negro highwaymen and escaped with her money. Her husband, who came to her rescue, was knocked down and robbed.

Dutch Warships Still Patrolling.

The Hague, Jan. 19.—The government of the Netherlands has decided to keep its warships in Venezuelan waters until the dispute between Venezuela and Holland is settled.

TILLMAN CASE DROPPED.

Senate Committee After Examining Data, So Decides.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Charges against Senator Tillman by President Roosevelt will not be considered by the special committee of the senate appointed to inquire into the subject of the use of special and secret agents of the government.

This special committee, composed of Senators Gallinger, Hemenway and Clay, examined the data submitted, and it was found that the investigation would have to be of an exhaustive nature.

Inasmuch as the resolution providing for the investigation was adopted in advance of the charges against Tillman the committee decided it was not charged with the duty of taking up his case.

ROOT NAMED TODAY.

Secretary of State For Senator of New York to Succeed Platt.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 19.—As required by the federal law, the two houses of the legislature of the state of New York met here today in separate session to vote for a successor to Thomas C. Platt, United States senator from this state.

The votes today were merely confirmatory of the choice of the caucuses of the Republicans of the two houses, Ellhu Root, secretary of state. Tomorrow the two houses will meet in joint session, according to law, and vote together for Mr. Root, who will then be declared senator from New York for the six years' term commencing on March 4 next.

New York's new senator is one of the country's leading lawyers. He is a native of New York state and is in his sixty-fifth year. Mr. Root was secretary of war in the cabinet of President McKinley and has been secretary of state since July 1, 1905.

Former Lieutenant Governor Chandler was the nominee of the Democratic caucus and got the strict party vote.

At the Republican caucus Mr. Root was the unanimous choice for the six year term.

NO TRACE OF SAILORS.

Life Savers Patrol Long Island Coast Near Battered Wreck.

New York, Jan. 19.—Though coast patrols have watched the lonely Long Island shore fifteen miles east of Fire Island, no trace has been found of the skipper and crew of fifteen of the schooner Swallow, from St. John's, Newfoundland, which went to pieces on the bar in the darkness.

One or two hats and a reefer or two have come ashore, but no bodies have been found. Meanwhile the beach combers are reaping a rich harvest from the lumber, hides, deer heads and barrels of frozen herring which are constantly washed ashore.

A few hours before the Swallow struck a steamship was warned away from the bar by a patrolman, who fired a rocket when he saw the vessel headed in.

PENROSE RE-ELECTED TODAY.

He Will Again Represent Pennsylvania in Upper National House.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 19.—Boies Penrose will again represent the state of Pennsylvania in the United States senate, according to the votes of the two houses of the state legislature, cast today. He is a native and a resident of Philadelphia, a lawyer by profession and has been prominent in the public life of the state since his election to the state legislature in 1884.

His coming six years' term in the United States senate, which will begin March 4, will be his third term.

The joint election of Senator Penrose by the two houses of the state legislature will take place tomorrow, as provided for in the United States law on the election of senators.

ELECTION IN CONNECTICUT.

Brandee Again Chosen Senator by State's Two Houses.

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 19.—By vote of the two houses of the state legislature, cast today, Frank B. Brandee will again be the junior senator from the state of Connecticut. He has represented the state in the senate since May, 1905, when he was chosen to succeed the late Orville H. Platt.

The election of Mr. Brandee will be completed tomorrow by the vote in joint session of the state senate and house of representatives.

HANGED FOR AN INSULT.

Crowd Takes Negro Boy From Jail and Lynches Him.

Hope, Ark., Jan. 19.—After attacking the jail and overpowering the jailers a party of young men took George Hillard, an eighteen-year-old negro boy, from his cell and hanged him to a telegraph pole.

The negro had spoken insultingly to a woman clerk in a store.

SUICIDE OF NICK. MATHEWSON.

A Brother of Christy, the Famous Pitcher, Ends his Life With a Bullet in a Fit of Insanity.

Those who witnessed the base ball games last year and the year before on the Silk Mill grounds, between the Moosics and locals, in which young Nicholas Mathewson, brother of the phenomenal twirler of the New York Giants, (who was himself for two seasons a Honesdale player) was pitcher, will be shocked to learn that he put a bullet into his brain at his home in Factoryville on Thursday last, and died at 7 o'clock, on the following morning, in Dr. Reed Burns's hospital in Scranton.

The Scranton Times gives the following account of the sad affair:

As the result of a self-inflicted bullet wound in his right temple, Nicholas Mathewson, of Factoryville, died at Dr. Reed Burns's hospital in this city at 7 o'clock this morning. Melancholia, induced by illness and overstudy, is supposed to have been the cause.

The young man was about nineteen years old, a brother of the famous Christy Mathewson, pitcher for the New York Giants, and himself a pitcher of local fame. Last season he pitched for the Moosic team in the Northeastern Pennsylvania league, and fans who watched his work predicted a bright future for him. Although it was understood that he was to play with Nashville in the Southern League next summer, his brother Christy said this morning that he had not intended playing professional ball for another year at least.

This year he had attended Lafayette college and made a record for himself as a hard student. He studied so hard, in fact, that his health became impaired, and for the past few weeks had suffered much from indigestion and jaundice. Finally he relinquished his studies and returned home. This was about a week ago, and his enforced absence from college preyed upon his mind constantly. He was subject to fits of melancholia, and it was while in one of these yesterday afternoon that he went to the barn in the rear of his home and fired the bullet into his temple. An obscure corner in the hay mow was selected for the deed, and it was not until evening, when he was missed from the house, that his father found him. He was then unconscious.

Harry Fisk, a friend of young Mathewson, who had called to see him, was dispatched to the office of Dr. French, and as soon as the physician saw the wound he ordered the removal of the patient to this city. Dr. Burns was summoned and both doctors brought him to Dr. Burns's hospital in this city. He did not regain consciousness.

The news of the suicide has created a profound sensation, as the youth was of a good natured disposition and was well known here, particularly among the amateur base ball players who played with him in the Northeastern league games last summer. With his brother, Christy, he was a great favorite, and the coaching he received was responsible in a large measure for his success. His reason for not entering the professional ranks was that he intended playing college base ball during his four years at Lafayette.

Christy was summoned from New York, last night, and he has assumed charge of the funeral arrangements.

Besides Christy, the survivors are his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert D. Mathewson, two sisters, Jane and Christine, and Henry, another brother. The latter has gained some distinction as an amateur pitcher, also.

The remains were removed to Factoryville and the services held on Monday afternoon last, with interment in the cemetery of that village. The classmates of the young man at Lafayette College sent a delegation of his fraternity, the Phi Delta Theta, to act as pall bearers. A delegation of students from Keystone Academy, which he attended before entering college, were also in attendance.

Young Mathewson's first visit to Honesdale was on Saturday, July 16, 1907, when he pitched for the Moosic's, with Schuerholz in the box for the home club.

The game was one of the best ever witnessed on the Honesdale grounds, the score standing 0 to 0 at the end of the ninth inning. In the tenth Honesdale won out by a score of 1 to 0. Mathewson was then 17 years old. He struck out 11 men, hit 2 and allowed 4 hits. Schuerholz, his opponent in the box, struck out 9; gave one a walk on balls, and allowed but 1 hit. The game was such a well-contested one, the Moosic's agreed to return and play another on the 3d of August, the same batteries to contend for the honors, but Mathewson played with the Catsaqua club on the 2d, and didn't feel in form for the fulfillment of his engagement. Last year, however, he came here as pitcher for the Moosic's, and was again vanquished, on Saturday, August 23d, by a score of 5 to 2, Hessler being in the box for the locals. The pitchers' records then were: Mathewson struck out 10, passed 2 and allowed 5 hits. Hessler struck out 10, gave 1 pass and allowed 6 hits.

A Curious Stone.

A curious stone is found in Patagonia and Uruguay, called the waterstone. Of surpassing whiteness, it contains in its center a few drops of water, and, while these gradually dry up, they may be renewed by soaking the stone in water.

OBITUARY.

Frederick Werner, aged 49 years, a merchant of White Mills, died of apoplexy at two o'clock yesterday (Tuesday) morning. He drove home from Hawley at 4 o'clock Monday afternoon, and while alone in his store at 8 o'clock in the evening fell unconscious from an apoplectic seizure. When discovered shortly afterward he was taken to his home and Dr. Gavitt called, but efforts for his relief proved unavailing, and he died as stated. He is survived by his wife and two children, a boy and girl.

R. H. Biddlecomb, of Girdland, died at the State Hospital, Scranton, on Friday, Jan. 15, 1909, aged 66 years. About a week before his death he was taken to Scranton to receive treatment for intestinal trouble and submitted to an operation, but pneumonia supervened and was the immediate cause of his death. He is survived by his wife, a son, Frank, of Boyd's Mills, and two daughters, Mrs. George Schweighofer, of Girdland, and Mrs. Elery Bunnell, of Boyd's Mills. The remains were brought to his home in Girdland on Saturday, and the funeral was held on Tuesday afternoon, with interment at Calkins.

Henry N. Clark, of Paupack, died on Saturday last, Jan. 16, 1909, of pneumonia, aged 57 years. In 1872 he married Marilla A. Williams, who with three children, Mrs. Richard Phillips, of Paupack; Clay S., of Madisonville, Ky., and George H., of Sioux City, Indiana, survives him. Mr. Clark, whose father was long connected with the Wayne Co. Agricultural Society, was himself a director of the Wayne Co. Mutual Fire Insurance Co., and was re-elected to that position at the annual meeting on the 4th inst., which he attended. He was also a member of the Masonic fraternity. The funeral services were held at his late home in Paupack on Monday afternoon last, Rev. Walter Peterson officiating.

George M. Bidwell died of pneumonia, at his home in Salem township, at nine o'clock on Sunday morning last. He was a prominent farmer and dairyman, and a descendant of Revolutionary stock, his grandfather, Ephraim Bidwell, who fought in the war for the independence of the colonies, locating at what is now known as Bidwell Hill in Salem, in 1800. Aehbel Bidwell, son of Ephraim, and father of George M., was born in 1802. He married Polly Griffin, of Connecticut, and the result of the union was five children, of whom the youngest, the subject of this notice, was born Aug. 21, 1838. He was brought up on the farm, with such educational advantages as the times and circumstances permitted, finally, at the age of twenty-one, engaging in business on his own account. Nov. 3, 1860, he married Mary Ammerman, and seven children blessed the union. During the civil war Mr. Bidwell enlisted in Battery L, Second Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, was under fire at the battle of the Wilderness, and from that time until the close of the war was in all of the engagements in which the Army of the Potomac took part. While fighting in front of Petersburg, June 17, 1864, he was wounded and sent to the hospital, and later to his home. On his recovery he rejoined his regiment and served in Virginia for some time after the war closed, being finally discharged February 7, 1866. He was a member of Warren G. Moore Post, G. A. R., and was at one time connected with the Grange. His townsmen appreciated his ability and trustworthiness, as was made plain by the fact that he filled the office of tax collector for five years, was frequently a member of the election board and served as school director and supervisor. He was one of the charter members of the Wayne County Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co., and the first policy issued by that Association was made out to him. He was a director from the beginning, vice president for a number of years, and always an efficient agent of the corporation. Personally he was a most companionable man, of the strictest integrity, and enjoyed the confidence of all who knew him. Another illustration of the uncertainty of life is furnished by the deaths of Mr. Bidwell and Henry W. Clark, two of the board of directors of the Farmers' Insurance Company, who both attended the annual meeting on the 4th of this month, held in Honesdale, when both were re-elected. Mr. Bidwell's wife died about a year ago. The following children survive: George and Floyd, of New York; Helen, wife of James Noble, and Lulu, at home; Sylvester, of Carbondale; and Dora, the widow of Byron Simons. He is also survived by one brother, John W. Bidwell. His wife was a sister of the late Mrs. George H. Rowland, of Rowlands, Pike county, mother of O. L. Rowland, of this borough.