# GUANO IS A MINERAL.

## So Says Secretary of the Interior Bliss, in a Ruling on a Utah Case.

### GUNNISON ISLAND WAS IN CONTROVERSY

**Today's Proceedings on the Exchange—Mercur and Tintic News—Miscellaneous.**

A decision meaning much for the guano industry of this state was handed down from Washington, D. C., yesterday when Secretary Bliss made a ruling in the case of Albert Richter et al vs the state of Utah, holding that guano was a mineral and directing the general land office to allow the state sixty days in which to file evidence as to the character of the land on Gunnison Island, in the Great Salt Lake—the area in controversy is the one southwest.

Readers of the "News" will doubtless recall the history of the case in question. January 22, 1896, Richter et al filed mineral locations on Gunnison island. February 25th of the same year a desert entry was filed by Lorenzo Cummings, but at the instigation of Richter and associates who claimed that the land was mineral and could not be settled upon as agricultural, the matter was taken into court, and on April 4, 1896, in the Fourth district court at Ogden, Judge King issued an order restraining Cummings from carrying out the requirements of the desert entry filed by him. In order prosecute the land, Richter et al filed claim upon the land February 9, 1897, on the date mentioned Albert Lambourne filed a homestead entry on the island, and on August 7th of the same year relinquished his claim to the land, the latter selecting the land and contracting to sell to Lambourne.

At this time, it is alleged, Lambourne represented to the State land board that the tract in question was agricultural, and could be so located upon, these representations causing the board to take the action which they did. The matter was referred to the land department for a ruling, and yesterday's news from Washington is the result of R. Richter et al filing a Lambourne contest, in which they state that the land was vacant and unappropriated when the facts appear to be that the mineral deposit has been at work on the island since February, 1896, handling the guano deposit, and that he has built a cabin thereon and ever since exercising said lands under and by virtue of their mineral locations.

While Friday's ruling does not exactly settle the controversy, it is believed it will have that effect, as the lands can be shown to be none other than mineral. This being the case, Richter et al will resume operations on the island and prepare to carry out the orders on hand for the shipment of guano to the seaboard for fertilizer. The Utah Guano company, as it is known, has a 500-ton 2-masted schooner, the John Dick, partly built for the handling of the product, and if the matter is agreeably settled this will be completed and an industry opened up that will give employment, it is thought, to at least 200 men. There will another of Utah's mineral deposits be brought right to the front.

### ON THE EXCHANGE.

**Figures Generally Were Low, but Sales Reached a Good Aggregate.**

The tropical temperature of the pit this morning seemed to militate against the presence of the people, and the brokers did business only in a few stocks, although the trading indicated it seemed up time to do some shorting with a selling value averaging a little less than a cent a share.

Four Aces was the first to take a part in the trading, this security selling at 7 and 7½ cents. Grand Central stood stationary and unchanged with a bid of $[illegible], while Geyser-Marion was wanted at 27½ cents, Deadwood Terror dividend, and Mammoth also showed signs of a midwinter slump-tide. Mercur Gold was bid at $1.40 a share, but did no business, and Northern Light, which followed, continued to drop, although the trading indicated it seemed up time to do some shorting with a selling value averaging a little less than a cent a share.

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Bullion-Beck