

LAND SWINDLES.

THERE is probably no one thing more important to our people who live in the settlements and on their farms, than the securing of the title to the land they cultivate. To know how to proceed correctly in this matter is precious to them, as one false step, however well intended, may subject them to great inconvenience, delay, expense, and perhaps in the end a total loss of the land from which they draw their subsistence, and without which they would be "poor indeed."

During the last few years these western Territories have been invaded by a class of people who, while they have no objection in common with farmers, are always looking out for a piece of good land, which may become an easy prey to their cunning, through the lack of knowledge or watchfulness on the part of the settler. A case lately came to our notice in a neighboring Territory where a certain "land shark," claiming to be an attorney, on being refused the exorbitant fee of \$50 for making out final proof papers, threatened "to track the settler till he'd wished he had paid it." On the party presenting his proof at the Land Office the Register and Receiver informed the applicant that an affidavit was filed for a contest against him for abandoning his entry. The proof was consequently refused, and a day set for hearing. The victimized settler was compelled to employ a lawyer to conduct his case, and to introduce some seven or eight witnesses to substantiate his claim and impeach the testimony brought against him. It was found that the disappointed "attorney" who wanted \$50 was the lawyer for the contestant, and that the names of these same parties were attached to nearly every suit for abandonment against "Mormon" settlers, who are looked upon as suitable "game" for such iniquitous proceedings under color of law.

The above shows how easy a matter it is for our people to lose their hard-earned possessions, some of which have cost their owners years of toil, and are very valuable in permanent improvements. A simple failure to regard some legal technicalities, a day too late in making a filing, a slight dereliction in some particular may cost a man, as in this instance, hundreds of dollars, and not being able on the trial to thoroughly substantiate his claim under the laws, and regulations of the Department, the decision might be rendered against him, when he would lose his property.

We would recommend our friends under these circumstances to obtain proper advice how to proceed, and to seek such advice from one of our own people, one having an interest in common with themselves. An advertisement will be found in our columns, from one who has made a practice of imparting such information as may be needed, free of charge, simply asking compensation for services rendered. His residence has been long established in Salt Lake City, and he proposes to continue here, and employ his talents in this direction. Those who entrust their land affairs to his care may have a reasonable expectation that the business will be attended to with promptness and fidelity.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE PACKING OF JURIES.

In considering the course pursued by the prosecuting attorney in regard to the organization of his grand jury, there will be many reflections and considerable criticism; but it may be asked also of those who are selected, are they not very indifferent in far too many cases, as to serving in that capacity, is it often considered as a trust imposed by society, through law, to be exercised for the common weal and in favor of right and justice? Have not the accused a legitimate claim upon the intelligence and fair dealing of those so selected? And when a man is ready to shirk this responsibility, to be glad when from unrighteous ruling or other cause he can evade or be discharged or released from this service, is he worthy of the great duties and responsibilities involved in citizenship? The right of challenge was originally meant for the mutual protection of society and the supposed criminal, and any subterfuge or ruling which gives preponderant influence to either side, is vicious and subversive of the institution of trial by jury.

In this view all challenges should be honorable, legal, and without prejudice, and officers should, if in any way rather lean to the accused (real or prospective) than to the prosecution, in this respect "the quality of mercy is not strained, but droppeth as the gentle dew from heaven." It appears to be time that some one of moral courage should resist the encroachment of a different rule; if society impose this duty, call men to act as jurors, there should be no bar to their readiness and willingness to act, save legal and legitimate disqualification; and for a selected individual to insist upon filling such calling, unless legal disqualification could be proved, would only be to do what men in every voting precinct do when irregular or illegal challenge comes to curb the duty and responsibility of voting. Yet men tenuous in the one direction, will yield in the other where issues are involved of far more importance than are involved in ordinary elections. Yet, will any juror venture to ask the attorney whether he is within the line of his duty in his methods of challenge? Will any juror ask of his authority to make religious faith a test of qualification, not a

shadow of inferred authority, but a real tangible, legal statute for his position? No, men, ordinary men, qualify before an assumption of authority, and from early training and tradition, yield to the supposed authority of the machinery of courts.

But some say the inspiration of these officers comes from Washington, if so it is none the less damnable, illegal and unconstitutional, none the less subversive of justice, none the less calculated to inspire resistance, none the less proscription and leading to the regions of contempt for official maladministration and even law itself, than as though it all originated in the chambers of the legal fraternity of Salt Lake City.

So every man would or should protest against this action which may, under the guise of zeal for law, of anxiety for right, drag himself, his family, his friends, his pocket citizens before a tribunal packed to convict, by having eliminated from it all that is conservative, all that is just, and all that is constituted the essential glory and safety of the jury system.

Those who retain their standing on a jury as purged by inquisitorial presumption must realize that they in no sense are such a body as the law contemplates, and if fine, lofty patriotic feelings could inspire such an element, they would pray the court that they might be disbanded or reorganized without prejudice against an accused person as much as against a packed jury entirely in the interests of a prisoner, or suspected criminal, or violator of the law.

With the merits of the anti-polygamy law we have no present controversy, but our Attorney should give the statute conferring authority for rejecting jurors for faith alone, thus practically creating a packed working body not so anxious for the right as one anxious to convict.

[For the Deseret News.]

EVARTS vs. MORMONISM.

It was said of the celebrated John Randolph, of Va., that he was so persistently opposed to the Mormonism of the north, that on one occasion he remarked in the halls of Congress, he so hated them that he would go a mile out of his way to kick a sheep. Secretary Evarts has gone several miles out of his way to kick a sheep. This passing strange that an accomplished gentleman and a lawyer should allow himself to be made a cat paw for party purposes as to coolly sign that very thin tissue paper circular to exhibit to the courts of Europe an unaccountable lack of statesmanship in its originator and a lamentable degree of weakness in the party that employed him. The circular is a very flimsy fabric to cover other party issues from sight, entirely too thin to attain its object. But there is an object attained that probably did not enter Mr. Evarts' plan of operations, that is to introduce "Mormonism" to the courts of Europe and the world, placing "Mormonism" on equal footing with the government of this great and glorious republic, and acknowledging "Mormonism" to be worthy of its steel. No doubt the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches would be delighted to receive such marked tokens of honor presented by such dignified hands to the nations of Christendom. This attention to the "Mormons" by the Secretary of State will at once call the attention of the potentates of Europe to a subject they would not otherwise have dreamed of, and will lead once to investigate, first, how many of their loyal loving subjects are induced, every year, to abjure their allegiance to them and emigrate to a land of freedom and equal rights; secondly, they will inquire what inducements are offered by these famous "Mormon" missionaries, whether to the men is offered the old patriarchal order of plural marriage, or whether to the single ladies is offered the assurance of the rich boon of honorable marriage, and lastly, without divorcing the next week.

Now if the Hon. Secretary had not been so exclusive in recommending the "Mormon" Church to the notice of the diplomatic officers of the United States he might have extended his instructions to his diplomatic agents to solicit the influence of the several European powers, and their earnest attention to "prevent the departure" of any of their subjects, who might, "under whatever specious guise," be induced to associate their names with the Plymouth Church. Mr. Evarts, no doubt, has the notes of the long, tedious trials in Brooklyn, and would therefore have considerable data to start from. Where, as he seems to think he has struck a new lead with the Mormons, as if their immigration from Europe, Asia and Africa was of quite a recent date, and did not extend back for forty years or more. We would like to know what his notions of crime may be, as to adultery, perhaps he may think that crime not unconstitutional, or that it has not been decided upon by any "recent decision of the Supreme Court."

As Mr. Evarts seems bent on moral reform, and we cannot think it but highly commendable, we could suggest that when foreign governments send their envoys to select among ministers plenipotentiary, charge d'affaires, and diplomatic agencies to Washington, that they pay particular attention to selecting such whose antecedents guarantee them to be of undoubted pure moral character, that when they arrive in our national capital they may not contaminate the pure atmosphere of Washington, nor soil the immaculate robes of cabinet or other high officials of the government, more especially as Congress will soon convene, and we regret to have to say that "Cain's wife" is not entirely without reputation, as Mr. Evarts, "that every consideration of our national honor should prevail to prevent the territory of a friendly State from becoming a resort of refuge for the crowds of misbegotten men and women whose offenses against morality and decency would be intolerable in the land from whence they come."

The Vice Patriarchal of Constantinople, having arranged the difference with the Porte, will shortly arrive in Rome to coincide a favorable convention for the regulation of the rights of the Roman Catholic church in Turkey.

The Emperor William, having completed at Metz, the tour military inspection begun at Berlin on the anniversary of the battle of Sedan. To-day he will leave for Sedan for a short period of repose.

The Debate, Paris, asserts that Queen Victoria has written to the Emperor of Austria, expressing her indignation at the appointment of Baron Haymerle as ambassador to Vienna, and at the consolidation and good relations between Austria and Germany.

The Federalist, Russian, reports that Gen. Tergouloff's expedition will not go to Merv. It will merely occupy the districts at the base of Kopet Dagh, which separates Persia from the country of the Tekke Turcomans. Merv is unimportant, and Herat can be approached from Bokhara.

Field Marshal Sir William Rown, is dead.

The French government has received direct communication from the Austrian government regarding the proceedings at Vienna, and the reply made by France is most satisfactory.

A radical difference still exists between Germany and the Vatican, and while the latter is ready to make concessions in the application of the May laws, Bismarck firmly adheres to the principle of State authority in church matters as established in those lands. This is a principle which the Vatican cannot allow.

CANADA.

M. N. Accident.

QUEBEC, 26.—Two freight trains on the Grand Trunk Railway, collided four miles east of this station to-day. Both engines and 12 cars were wrecked. Eight of the latter were laden with coal oil, and were burned. The train hands escaped by jumping, but a tramp was killed. Reinforcements have been sent to Orsova, as it is feared fighting will be renewed. Navigation on that part of the Danube is temporarily unsafe.

SERBIA.

Fighting on the Danube.

BRISGARD, 26.—An affray has occurred on the Danube, between Orsova, in Austria, and Tekla, in Serbia, between Austrian smugglers and Serbian custom house officers, in which ten men were killed. Reinforcements have been sent to Orsova, as it is feared fighting will be renewed. Navigation on that part of the Danube is temporarily unsafe.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

Short time and low wages are causing great distress to the working classes in Great Britain.

Several Russian journals, within the last few weeks, have made attacks upon the government respecting the Turkoman expedition and cession of Kuldja to China. A great caution has been given the Russian press.

It is reported that a new four and half per cent. Russian loan of about 20,000,000 is to be offered in London.

The Supreme Court, Providence, R. I., has appointed Robt. Thompson, trustee of the property of Mrs. W. M. Sprague.

The person recently arrested for attempting to enter the palace of the Sultan of Turkey, has been secretly assassinated. It is believed to have been at the instigation of an influential person who feared his own position insecure, believed the only means of averting his dismissal was to awaken the Sultan's wrath, and, in so doing, might make some disclosures which would be disastrous to him.

Several prominent persons, among them W. E. Long, of San Francisco, yesterday made an examination of the pneumatic street cars run by compressed air, on the up division of the Second Avenue Railroad, New York City.

The cars are now running on schedule time, and from the impressions of the gentlemen present, the motive power is there, and will be utilized. A car can be sent by compressed air over a route of 16 miles. The air is compressed at the depot, and is placed in reservoirs on the cars, out of sight. The cost of the power is only 1 cent per car per mile, against 2 cents per car per mile, by horse power. Its success has been proven on the Second Avenue road.

Fire at Centerville.—Last night about 9 o'clock, a fire broke out on the premises of Thomas Wadsworth, Centerville, and burned up a haystack, hog pens, and a number of sheds. Cause of fire unknown.

Call and Get It.—There is a message at the Western Union Telegraph Office for F. Payver.

LAND CLAIMS!

DARIES about to make final proofs, or who have failed to do so, and are about to lose their claims, will do well to call on the office of W. E. Meyer, south of Z. C. M. I., Salt Lake City, for advice. He will give information how to proceed, free of cost.

ESTRAY NOTICE.

I HAVE in my possession the following described animal:

One black and white spotted COW, about 6 years old, branded on left shoulder.

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