

quently passed to the present owners.) This bill was referred to the Committee on Public Lands with the Sparks report and favorably recommended from the Secretary of the Interior, but it died in a pigeonhole.

On page 26 of Prof. Gustavus Myers' "History of the Great American Fortunes," appears the following:

"In his annual report for 1885, Commissioner Sparks of the United States General Land Office told (House Executive Documents, 1885-86, Vol. II) how, by 1885, the Portage Lake 'canal' was only a worthless ditch and a complete fraud. What had the company done with its large land grant? Instead of accepting the grant as intended by Congress, it had, by means of fraudulent surveys, and doubtless by official corruption, caused at least one hundred thousand acres of its grant to be surveyed in the very richest copper lands."

In the same volume Prof. Myers states that the St. Mary's Falls Canal Company stole large areas of rich copper deposits in similar fashion; a fact which he gleans from official reports and particularly the disclosures made in the suit of Chandler vs. Calumet and Hecla Mining Company (U. S. Reports, Vol. 149, pp. 79-95).

This suit discloses the fact that the mines of the Calumet and Hecla were located on part of the identical alleged swamp lands granted by Congress in 1852. The copper company, as might be expected, won the suit and it appears in the official report of the case that "Mr. Justice Brown, being interested in the result, did not sit in this case and took no part in its decision." Mr. Justice Brown was appointed to the Supreme Court from Michigan.

There is abundant precedent for reopening this question of title to these mineral lands by the bringing of suits for the canceling of these old patents and the restoration of these mineral lands to the public domain. The Department of Justice is now prosecuting suits of this character

against the Southern Pacific Railway involving the title to very valuable oil lands in California, which were granted to the company with an identical restriction excepting mineral lands from the grant.

In the congressional investigation of this matter which now appears probable this question of underlying land titles must necessarily be thoroughly sifted.

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### MAN MAY DIE OF PECULIAR POISONING—QUEER CASE

Jacob Chapman, a Wells-Fargo Express Company driver, who may die in terrible agony before the end of another week, smoked a cigar at the Iroquois Hospital today and joked with physicians in consultation on his case.

Chapman carried an express package, partly opened, to the city health department Wednesday morning and handed it to E. W. Sweeney, a clerk. Sweeney opened the package and found it contained tissues of a cow's lungs sent to the department for analysis. The analysis showed the presence of deadly anthrax germs, and Sweeney was promptly vaccinated.

A search was made for Chapman. He had taken a day's vacation and was not found until last night, when physicians say they discovered symptoms of virulent poisoning. An anti-toxin serum was injected into his blood early today.

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Washington. — Amendment to Alaska railroad bill introduced providing that \$50,000,000 of proceeds, from sale of public lands in West be used for construction of irrigation system.

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Sophia (sentimentally)—I dearly love to listen to the ticking of a clock. It seems to be that a clock has a language of its own. Mr. Smart—Yes, Sophia, the clock has a language—you might say a dial-ect.