

THE TIMES LEANS TO CRIMINALS

Unless Colonel Blethen with his Times forms a partnership with Big Bill Morris, the criminal lawyer of the Northwest, the Times to do the publicity end in the defense of the "higher ups" charged with crime, then it begins to look as if the Times will not have as much money to its credit for its year's earnings next Christmas as it had last Christmas.

That the Times has begun to lose ground financially and otherwise is plain to be seen and it is impossible to find one person in ten, who believe a word they read in it, and ninety-nine out of every hundred believes that a great deal of the revenues of the paper come from sources that neither the editor nor the business manager would like the public to be cognizant of.

Within the past four months it has leaked out from the business office of the Times that the pa-

per has lost 5,000 subscribers and ten times that many inches of advertising space, but it continues to put up a bluff at how it is coining money, in other words whistling to keep up its courage.

Speaking about the Times becoming the publicity partner in a law firm that make a specialty defending wealthy persons accused of crime is probably stretching a point, but if the readers of the Times will whet their memories a bit they will realize that the the Times has championed the cause of every man of means or prominence in the Northwest that has been charged with crime within the past two years. The Times defended Sam Nichols and J. H. Schively, charged with high crimes and misdemeanors, and even after Nichols resigned rather than stand an impeachment trial, the Times declared him innocent. Schively was not

impeached and the Times gloated over it despite the fact that Schively's own evidence was to the effect he had grafted, if not from the state from individuals.

In its defense of Wappenstein the Times was so obstreperous that it rendered itself ridiculous and so much so, that, the citizens came to the conclusion that either the Times was being paid fabulous sums for the space it was giving to Wappy's defense or that the editor had been sharing equally in Wappy's alleged ill-gotten gains. The voters turned his offspring out on the cold charities of a hard hearted world, and not satisfied with turning him out has caused a grand jury to be called to open the way to send him to state prison, and may perhaps, the Times is hollering "run, thief," to protect itself.

The latest man of money and prominence charged with, if not

actual crime, gross criminal official carelessness, is E. W. Ross, Washington's state land commissioner, and the Times is branding the state senate as almost a band of highbinders because it voted to take from Ross his power to dispose of the state's lands. While it has not openly championed the cause of C. D. Hillman, the millionaire real estate man, charged with crime and now on trial, its news columns have shaded the reports in Hillman's favor, and to such an extent that the reading public can read between lines that the Times is for Hillman, though he may be guilty of all that he has been charged.

Now as to the Times losing advertising contracts on account of the stand it has taken on all public questions, that is common property as many of the leading business houses have discontinued advertising with it, but that

might be a personal matter and the paper might not particularly suffer from such a slump. In the past, however, the Times has been considered a rather good medium for political advertising, and persons seeking official preferment used its columns very liberally, but in the primaries just closed none of the candidates seeking office would put their cards in the Times and the excuse all of them gave for not doing so, was, "to have my card in the Times was a serious handicap as the people suspected every one who adverted in the Times were of the same stripe as the Times. In other words the Times just now is in bad and it is so on account of its seeming alliance with the criminal and vicious elements of the city. Slowly but surely the Times is reaching the end of its row and sooner or later its editor will leave Seattle just as he did Kansas City and Minneapolis, the most despised man in the whole community.

STATE OF WASHINGTON VS. E. W. ROSS

Affidavits were filed in the senate of the state of Washington a few days ago as a part of the findings of the legislative investigating committee that reflected very severely upon the official integrity of E. W. Ross, state land commissioner, but he has violently denied the truthfulness of the affidavits. The committee sticks to the report. It may be however, that there are persons so hostile to Mr. Ross, for personal reasons, that they would not hesitate to do him a grave injustice in order to impede his progress, but we cannot believe that an organized effort has been made to head Ross off from either being governor or United

States senator, and if his contentions be true, the governor and the eleventh and twelfth legislatures were expressly elected to tear him down. While he is quite a factor in the body politic of the state of Washington, he is by no means so important a one as to require the politicians of the whole state to organize to prevent him from acquiring title in fee simple to the state of Washington.

Where there is so much smoke there is bound to be some fire, and the investigating committee would have hardly laid itself open to the pain and penalty of perjury to prevent a fellow man from getting an office, and es-

pecially so where the fellow man is as devoid of personal popularity as is E. W. Ross.

There are, therefore, grounds for the committee's report, and the four-flushing of Mr. Ross adversely to the report is only what one who is stung would be expected to do. Some body, some time, somewhere has robbed the state out of property real and otherwise, worth millions of dollars, and, according to the report of the investigating committee, the bulk of the robbing has been committed since Ross has been land commissioner, and, if he were not an actual party to the wholesale robbery, then he is too ignorant to be state land

commissioner or anything else in an official way.

Persons who were at Olympia two years ago when it was proposed that the legislature create an investigating committee to go over the affairs of the various state offices, will remember the frantic state of mind Mr. Ross worked himself into in opposing the creation of an investigating committee. His sobs and appeals against it were so pitiful that they were painful. Nothing that he could have said or done would have more thoroughly convinced the public in general and the legislature in particular, that he, Ross, was stung than his actions on that occasion. In

our opinion every session of the legislature since E. W. Ross has been state land commissioner has been inclined to investigate his office; one did so and it is common rumor that, on account of outside influence, it was most beautifully whitewashed, and among the whitewash artists Hon. Edward B. Palmer, of Soap Lake fame, is said to have played an interesting role. Now, as said above, where there is so much smoke there must be some fire. Perhaps Mr. Ross, did not personally profit from the difference of a four million feet cruise of timber lands and a twenty-two million feet cruise, but more is the pity, for if he did not, it would show that he is either being used by the underlings in his office or that he has been criminally careless as an official.

Summing it all up there are altogether too many dark and foreboding suspicions lurking about the workings of the land commissioner's office for the good of the taxpayers, and the house of representatives of the twelfth legislature should lose no time in doing as has the senate, and place such safeguards about that office that neither Mr. Ross or those employed by him, will be permitted to sit idly by while the state is being robbed of her valuable real estate.

No other office at the state capital has had a hundredth part the official suspicion of wrong doing about it as that of the land office except the office of secretary of state under Sam H. Nichols, and he resigned rather than be investigated, and it is the private opinion, publicly expressed, of a majority of the tax payers of the state that Ross should resign, and if he does not, then the office should be abolished to take immediate effect, and once for all stop the everlasting bickering that that office has caused.



Seattle Looking South from the new Washington Hotel

The above is a picture of a section of Seattle that has become a part of the business center within the past two years. This picture was taken early in last year, when a number of the buildings were in the course of construction that have since been completed, making it one of the finest business sections of the city. The White, the Henry, the Cobb and other sky scrapers are seen. Chief Seattle, the city's patron saint and whose name she bears, overlooks the whole.