



99

Men who think, ONE who doesn't. Matter enough all through the house. Instance—Derby Hats, formerly sold from \$2.50 to \$4; they're good hats, but odds and ends, broken sizes. There's one hat for each of the 99 men, and \$1 cash from each man gives us \$99 a HEAD.

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A Cure That Cures. FREE I have cured thousands, and can cure you of Rheumatism, Nervous Debility, Varicose and Strained Parts

MUSTANG LINIMENT RHEUMATISM, AND BEAST. Stiff Joints.

THE TALE OF SQUATTER HUNTINGTON.

Being the Narrative of How a Very Wealthy and Powerful Old Gentleman Deeded to Himself the Choicest Portion of the Federal Military Reservation on San Pedro Bay, and Afterward Seized the Whole Tract, Fenced It, and Leased It Out to a Poor Man for \$100 a Year.

This is the tale of Squatter Huntington. It is a true tale, and like all narrations of simple fact, is stranger than many fictions and more romantic in parts than some romances.

It relates the true story of a very rich and powerful old gentleman who deeded to himself a 22-acre strip in a 40-acre military reservation that the United States government had formally set apart for coast defenses at San Pedro harbor.

It tells how this multi-millionaire, bereft by unkindly nature of all right and title to this federal military reservation—so needless to his selfish plans and ends, so essential to his gaining the best of the water front property on the shore line of the proposed outer harbor of San Pedro—did employ most peculiar methods to secure a false title to the right of way for his railroad tracks over this military reservation.

It gives the history of a blind incorporation, known as the San Pedro Harbor and Docks association—"having its chief place of business in San Francisco," and having no existence in reality, and being dispossessed of all possible or tangible title in the reservation—that deeded over to its master and creator "for and in consideration of the sum of \$1," a certain portion of that which it never owned.

And then the story tells how this eminently respectable old gentleman ran his railroad tracks over the acres of government land that he had deeded to himself. And how, finally, in his years of selfishness and greed and his poverty of honest means, he squatted thereon, fenced it in from the outer world and claimed it all as his own.

And it tells, too—and it is the very truth—how this very wealthy and very powerful old gentleman increased the surplus of his many millions by leasing out this military reservation that he did not own to honest men of small means and moderate ambitions, who tilled the soil and planted and reaped upon it, and then paid to the unlawful owner the sum of one-third of all the harvest.

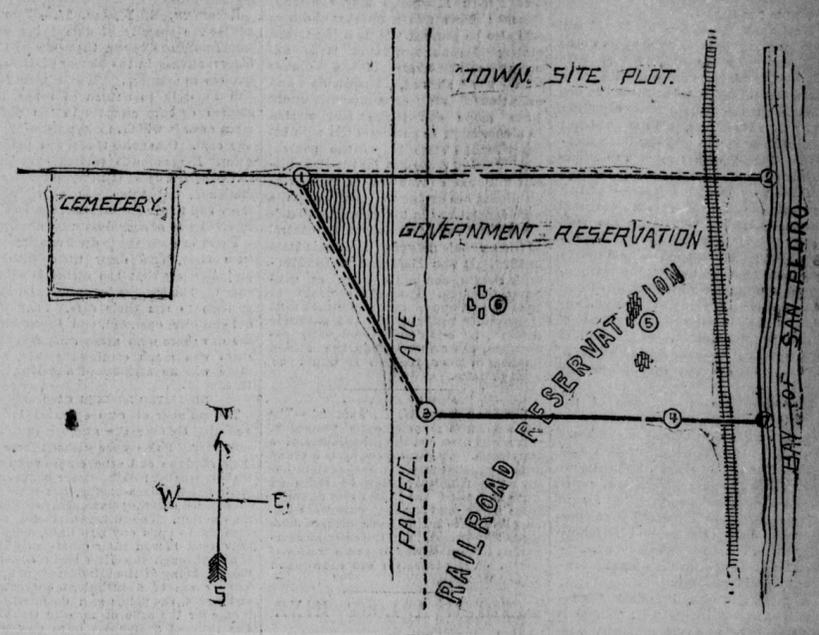
And it does not tell this tale of Squatter Huntington—that this wealthy and prominent old gentleman ever covered into the public treasury even a penny of the \$400 he had distrained from the fruits of another's toil upon land which he himself is a public trespasser—a squatter upon land that was not squatted upon lawfully and with the consent of its rightful owners, the whole people.

And the name of this unlawful squatter, this greedy old gentleman who has fenced in a military reservation, is Collie P. Huntington. And the name of the railroad whose tracks he laid across the government reservation is the Southern Pacific company of Kentucky.

It is a strange, strange tale, but it is true. The Old Stone Monuments on the Rancho Los Palos Verdes.

Once upon a time, in the good old days of Mexican rule in California, a valuable land grant was made. It was not an unusual thing in those days, but the fact makes a good starting point for this tale of Squatter Huntington. It was in the year of 1827. The grant was to Eobandia, then governor of the California. The beneficiaries were Dolores Sepulveda and heirs. It was a provisional grant and in some ways a restrictive grant. What the provisions were is unnecessary to this tale. The restriction was that a certain 40-acre tract contained in the grant should be reserved by the Mexican government for a military post.

In 1845 the grant was confirmed by Figueroa, then governor of California and acting as judge arbiter. In his confirmation the 40-acre military reservation was again set aside to the uses of his government. Then Pio Pico, in 1846, confirmed the grant to the children of Dolores Sepulveda and again made the restriction to the 40-acre military reservation. It is with this military reservation that the tale of Squatter Huntington has mainly to do. Who were the site for a government's command—decided good judgment. A boundary is in location. It is



MAP OF THAT PORTION OF RANCHO LOS PALOS VERDES SHOWING THE MILITARY RESERVATION THAT HAS BEEN SEIZED BY THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY AND LEASED OUT FOR \$100 A YEAR.

- 1. Stone monument. 2. Stone monument. 3. Stone monument. 4. Stake. 5. Ruins of adobe house built by the Mexicans—where the Author Dana landed for hide. 6. The structures left by Squatter Woodworth.

the war department. If you ask him to prove his assertion—you will need proof to disbelieve the sworn statement of Squatter Huntington—he will produce the following documents:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, GENERAL LAND OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., OCT. 9, 1888. Register and Receiver, United States Land Office, Los Angeles, Cal. GENTLEMEN:—Enclosed herewith for the files of your office is a copy of an executive order, dated September 14, 1888, setting apart as a military reservation a certain tract of land on San Pedro bay, California (in township 5 south, range 13 and 14 west, S. B. M.), locally known as a public reservation by cession from Mexico. A copy of the letter of the acting secretary of war, dated September 27, 1888, relative to said reservation, is also enclosed.

You will make the necessary notation as to said reservation on the records of your office. Very Respectfully, T. J. ANDERSON, Acting Commissioner, WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, AGE 31, 1888.

To the President: SIR: Upon the recommendation of the chief of engineers and the suggestions of the commissioner of the general land office, I have the honor to request that the following described tract of land in the state of California, held to be a public reservation by cession from Mexico, may be duly declared and set apart by the executive as a military reservation, viz:

Commencing at a stone marked U. S. on San Pedro bay and running south 70 deg. 7 min. west, 20.94 chains to a stone marked U. S.; thence north 19 deg. 22 min. west, 4.97 chains to a point 16.29 chains due north from the intersection of sections 19 and 20 of township 5 south, range 13 west, and sections 24 and 25 of township 5 south, range 14 west, San Bernardino meridian; thence north 19 deg. 22 min. west, 15.82 chains to a stone post with illegible marks; thence north 70 deg. 18 min. east, 20.05 chains to the shore of San Pedro bay; thence by the meanderings of the shore of San Pedro bay to the place of beginning. Variation of the compass, 14 deg. 30 min. east. A sketch of the reservation is enclosed herewith. I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant, R. MACPHERY, Acting Secretary of War, ENDORSEMENT, EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Sept. 14, 1888.

The within request is approved and the reservation is made and proclaimed accordingly. The secretary of the interior will cause the proper notation to be made in the general land office. GROVER CLEVELAND.

"There is but one way in which a railroad can acquire right of way through a government reservation, and that is by special act of congress," says the chief clerk at the United States land office in this city, when you ask him how it comes that the Southern Pacific's tracks run through this military reservation. "And," he adds, after looking over the records, "there is no such record in this office to show that a special act of congress gave the Southern Pacific or any other corporation the right of way or any privileges on this tract. And if there had been such an act or any privileges accorded, this office would surely have some record of it.

"This land has never been free to entry, and no individual or corporation can hold a title to it, so far as there is anything in our office to show. On May 19, 1890, the Southern Pacific company filed application for the right of way over a portion of the southeast quarter and the southwest quarter of section 18, but this does not affect or touch the government reservation in any way."

"I can tell you how the Southern Pacific company acquired its right of way over the government reservation," said C. C. Grove, the searcher of records who made the abstract of title for all the right of way the Southern Pacific owns or pretends to own at San Pedro bay. "They deeded it to themselves."

And in this way Squatter Huntington secured his wrong of way over the government military reservation. But there is more to tell. Squatter Huntington Fences in and Leases Out Military Land. Squatter Huntington was not content with bestowing upon himself merely the most valuable 22 acres of the entire 40-acre military reservation. His palm still itched for the remaining 18 acres. They are fair acres. A previous squatter named Woodworth had been located on these for about four years and built himself a home thereon. No one thought to dispossess him—no one but Squatter Huntington—because he did no harm to the land, because he was poor and it gave him a living, and because he made no great pretensions about owning it in fee simple. When the government was ready to use the land he would turn it over, the better for his having used it. The Southern Pacific realized that in Woodworth it had a dangerous rival. Should it forcibly eject him from the coveted acres he would be likely to raise such a hue and cry that the department might come to hear some echo of it and be moved to point to both contestants the proclamation of the president.

So Squatter Huntington, by his left hand, the San Pedro Harbor, Dock and Land association, or by his right hand, the Southern Pacific Extension company, decided to buy off Squatter Woodworth. Everybody in San Pedro knows that the greater squatter paid \$500 to the lesser squatter to induce him to vacate the land that belonged to the war department. Squatter Woodworth pocketed his \$500 about four years ago and then left the country. No one appears to know where he went. The tract was never on the land office maps and plots as anything but a military reserve, yet when the first squatter left it the second squatter stepped in and took full possession. Squatter Huntington, by his servant J. W. Pierson of Oakland, fenced in the 40 acres and then sold the buildings left by Squatter Woodworth to the Buena Vista hotel people. During the period that elapsed between the leaving of Woodworth and the fencing in of the tract by the Southern Pacific James H. Dodson, the present postmaster of San Pedro, stepped in, cleared the land and planted barley on it. Then came the Southern Pacific fence and Mr. Dodson was given notice to get off the earth. "And I thought I might as well go," says Mr. Dodson. "I knew they had no more title to the land than I had, but they were all-powerful and I had no money to waste in trying to fight them. I went away. Then they laid their tracks and leased out the entire tract to Edouard Amar, who has planted it ever since and paid the Pacific Improvement company at the rate of \$100 a year for the privilege, which is about equal to one-third the tract."