

CONTINUED FROM SECOND PAGE.

In the first report of General Jones, 1887-88, he earnestly recommends that the State Land Register should be empowered to cancel all applications for lands for which there is no prospect of approval and the necessary steps taken to return the money to the applicants etc.

After all the approvals made by the General Land office at Washington, and after all the urgings made to the General Land Commissioner by the States' agent, there remains up to and including the 1888 account, 89,800 acres, divided among 390 applicants, the selecting fees of which have been paid into the hands of the U. S. Registers and Receivers who certify that "no valid or conflicting right is known to exist." The applicants—some wealthy, the majority poor—can neither get their land nor fees which have been paid to U. S. Land offices. Of the 89,800 acres above referred to there is no probability that more than 15 per cent will ever be approved to the State, and while the state is using, for many years, the first payment made, the fees are all swallowed for all time by the gentlemen who recline in State at the Government buildings. It is for the purpose of refunding fees to applicants entirely, that any monies are retained in this department, there being no provision of law whereby they could be paid into the State Treasury, and being in small amounts and many parties, would be a source of continual inconvenience.

Mr. Expert Witherell further says: "For example in list 176 in 1893, Eureka Land District, 4 forty-acre tracts were applied for by 4 different applicants, each paying \$2 U. S. selection fees. At the end of the month this 160 acres was selected in the U. S. Land office as one selection and \$2 paid to that office and \$6 retained by the State Land Register."

Why did not this unbiased expert refer also to Carson list No. 101, of 1893, (the year he examined) and report there were 4 forty-acre tracts applied for by four different applicants, each paying \$2 U. S. selection fees, and at the end of the month Messrs. Gallup and Clarke certified the same to the State and to Washington as 160 acres for which the legal fees of \$2 had been paid by the State, when they actually did receive \$8 for the 4 forty-acre tracts. It is a question of taste in whose hands these four applicants would prefer their money should be in event of their non-approval by the General Land office. As the other portions of this expert's report are duplicated in the editorial or the editorial duplicated in the report (all the same thing) due consideration should be given to the leader.

The public is first informed that the editor of the News is not an expert accountant. To say the least this is a strange admission, for one who for a number of years enjoyed the distinction of being one of the most capable and successful teachers in the Carson Public Schools. Some three days prior to the departure of General Jones, the writer, meeting the editor of the News on the street, urged her to call at the State Land office accompanied by whomsoever she chose, assuring her of courteous treatment, and every facility possible given for an examination of any and all matters pertaining to the office. The invitation was accepted, and the same day at four o'clock agreed upon as the hour. Particular effort was made to have the office tidy and neat; the Surveyor General himself with the employes of the Land Department vacating at an earlier hour than usual for the purpose of giving the lady editor the fullest freedom in her researches, or those whom she chose to bring. The moments and hours passed, and so did the day and so did other days and to this date she has been a stranger. Some days subsequent however, two gentlemen appeared who were as familiar with Land office work and records as a "school-boy is with his alphabet." They were experts, and although the one who had been a deputy in the office for more than eight

years and should know something, yet his eyes opened with astonishment when the one who had never been in the State Land Office unfolded the peculiar methods in force at the Carson U. S. Land office. There have been seven land districts in Nevada and not one, except the Carson office, have received or thought of receiving more than their legal fees. The assertion by the Editor that a balance of \$1742.40 in selection fees alone remains unaccounted for, is an absurdity, and the averages made would have been more amusing had they been brought to weeks, hours and minutes. There is not a dollar unaccounted for, only it is not placed where it could never be seen again.

The law requires the State Land Register to take "prompt measures at the United States Land office, to select for the State, etc." The idea is intended to be conveyed that the State Land office, upon the receipt of a non-mineral affidavit, should immediately seize the document, rush to Messrs. Gallup and Clarke, and throw down the fees, whether it be for 40 acres or a number of 40 acres (anything so long as the U. S. gathers them in) and the selection is completed. How much land would the State get on a non-mineral affidavit? How much could an applicant get in the State Land Office with an affidavit alone? Nothing in either case. In the U. S. Land office, a list made in quadruplicate and signed by the State selecting agent, must be presented and filed before the selection is complete. Ever since the State Land office has been in existence these lists have been made monthly, the last day of the month or the first day of the succeeding month, and thus far in the history of this office, it was never contemplated that a quadruplicate list should be made a dozen times a day if occasion sometimes required as is intimated in the paragraph referred to.

The extreme solicitude expressed for the State's applicants is of very recent date, since the consolidation of the land offices in fact, and may be answered by their own words, to-wit: "These officers, meaning the Register and Receiver of the U. S. Land office, have from time to time complained that the state selections were not being made as the law required, and that they in consequence were not getting all of the fees to which they were entitled." Why on earth do they certify on their receipts that the State has paid the legal fees thereon, if they do not get all to which they are entitled? Further than that, they are so interested in the States' applicants as to cloud the entire selections offered on the lists of June and July of this year, one for 4049 acres, the other for 7062 acres, by subjecting the same to preferred rights, when there are but 1800 acres on the former and 919 acres on the latter that preferred rights can reach.

Quoting again from the editorial: "About May 25th, 1894, the Surveyor General through his deputy, in order to establish amicable relations between the two land offices, proposed to compromise the matter by dividing these surplus fees with them, this offer was not accepted." Any unprejudiced person can see readily the reason of this offer. The land districts had been consolidated and should all fees be collected be paid to the Carson office, the fund would soon dwindle and nothing be left to return to applicants who would get neither land nor money. It is humiliating to confess that the State is entirely at the mercy of the whims and caprices of the Federal officials in the U. S. Land office, and whose rulings of today may be changed to-morrow. No they did not accept the compromise and would take the whole or nothing.

As before stated, the quadruplicate lists which are selections, have been from the time the State Land Office was created made monthly with some exceptions between dates, in cases where the lands were mineral and a hearing was to be had. At any time and in any Land office if the applicant has so desired, the lists have been made and forwarded without delay.

The writer has been connected with the State Land Office for the past twelve years, almost continuously, and has yet to hear of an applicant losing his land except in the case of Hon. T. B. Riekey. The records show that Mr. Riekey made his filing on the 28th day of May 18-

88—the close of the month—also that an entry was made at the U. S. Land Office on the 31st of May 1888, this being the time when the Surveyor General was vainly attempting to establish amicable relations.

\$500 is a large sum of money to pay to get a U. S. Land Office filing canceled, as this office has often done the same for nothing, and if Mr. Riekey believed this office at fault it would have cost less to have had the matter tested in Court, besides had it been proven against this office, it would have certainly prevented the re-election of General Jones as Surveyor General on the Republican ticket, but nothing is heard of this awful dereliction of duty until Mr. Jones re-appears six years later as the nominee for Governor by the Silver Party.

THE ITEM OF FEES IS A SORE SPOT. "Messrs. Day and Witherell make no report for the reason that no record has been kept."

How is it known that no record is kept? Did either of the gentlemen ask to be shown such records? Mr. Day would not ask for it—as he well knew that such was a private matter, nor did Mr. Witherell make such request. Quoting from the editorial, "Any person who desires a copy of any map or plat in the Land Office or copy of Patent issued may procure the same, but he is charged a fee therefore." It is taken for granted that the price charged is \$5 or \$6 for a copy of a map, and it is asserted that they are made by a draftsman for whose services the State pays a stated salary. The margin allowed on price of copies of maps is wrong. The price ranges from \$1 to \$7 according to the labor expended thereon. They are not all made by the draftsman for whose services the State pays—and who is accordingly bound to serve the State and make maps at all hours of the day and night. The law requires that office hours in all the State Departments shall be from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. It has been the custom for the past 8 years for General Jones to reach the office at 8:30 a. m. and depart between 4 and 5 p. m. The Deputy reaches the office at 9:30 a. m. and departs at 5:30 p. m., if the day's requirements are completed, which frequently is not the case until much later. The draftsman reaches the office at 9 a. m. and leaves at 4 p. m. The time between the hours named is devoted to State work in which no fees are paid or charged. Were the hours computed it would show that the State is not defrauded as to time. Is it presumed that none shall eat or sleep or enjoy social life or does the State demand the body and soul of its employes. This immense array of maps, on which so many thousands of dollars of fees have been collected, have been made in the hours in which neither the State or any private individual would demand of its servants. It is untrue that the State material was used for private work. The maps are on vellum bought by the draftsman, paid for by him and the number made will average about two per month. Neither the State time or material is used, and the money so earned, is at the disposal of the one making the map. Great stress is placed on the copies of patents. That being a personal matter of my own, report can be made authenticated by oath if necessary. During the past twelve years the total number of copies of Patents made in this office will not exceed 37. Of this number 34 were made by myself, for which a charge of \$2.50 each was made and payment received for 26, and the money put in my own individual pocket. These copies were not made during office hours, but State blanks were used, and the State Land Office seal placed thereon, as most were to be used in Court. I have also made one map in the twelve years for which the sum of \$10 was paid into my hand for my use and benefit. Also I made abstracts of papers between the hours of 7 p. m. and 4 a. m., working all night to accommodate patrons, for which I received the sum of \$20.

For all this robbery of the State, nearly half a column is devoted by the News. Any one familiar with the Land Office will bear me out in asserting that there are no bills moments there.

The charges made by a citizen of Douglas county that he paid 25 cords of wood to rectify an error is too ambiguous. I know nothing of the matter. Never heard of it until published—but if true there should be no trouble in substantiating the same by affidavit.

There is in this State a corporation known as the Silver State Land and Loan Company.

Yes, there is quite a number of corporations in this State, but this particular one, composed of some of the best known and influential citizens of Ormsby County and elsewhere had the misfortune to make General Jones its treasurer, having implicit confidence in his honesty and integrity. The corporation to express its horrors of his methods of business promoted him to the Presidency. If the great wickedness as charged by the News is continued he may in time become one of a Board of Directors of a Bank. The lands of this company could and can probably be bought at any time at the State rate with the expense of the non-mineral affidavit added.

The assertion that at about the time (1889 or 1893) Hon. F. G. Newlands proposed the construction of a series of storage reservoirs, Jones, Noteware and others formed a company to take up land in Carson Valley—is mere bosh. The two have no connection whatever and there is ample proof of record that General Jones has but 200 acres of land in Carson Valley, located in September 1887, before Mr. Newlands dreamed of reservoir sites. Is it a crime that after holding the land for 2 or 3 years paying taxes and interest he should ask some sort of an advance if it ever became valuable?

The whole paragraph and the inferences drawn from its reading are untrue in all particulars. The paragraph concerning Hon. H. H. Springmeyer desiring to take up some land, when about 2000 acres were vacant is very queer and hard to understand. When an applicant, be he whom he may, applies to purchase land the township plat is laid before him, the lands already taken are marked plainly in red pencil and all that are not so marked are open for entry. Any one of most ordinary mind can see what is open and what taken. If 2000 acres or thereabout were open or vacant as stated, what was there to prevent Mr. Springmeyer from taking what he wanted.

It is with some timidity that the next most solemn and awful paragraph is approached. In it we are informed that C. A. Witherell, O. H. Gallup and Willis G. Clarke reside at Carson City. Some people would call this a cheap way of advertising, but why insult the few others who make their homes in Carson City. It has been a rule of the State Land office and is so printed on its receipts, that when one changes his P. O. address, the office should be notified, and from present appearances, this office will be prepared to receive such notices from two of the above named parties by the close of the year.

A complete history of our State Land office and its attendant circumstances would make a book" so says the News. True enough, it would make a book and if in that book were recorded all the kind acts of the present Surveyor General, all the action he has taken to protect the homes of the smaller settler, at least it would be read with extreme pleasure and friendly feeling towards the man who stood between them and wrong, while on the other hand, it would be read with cursings by the vultures who thrive upon the misfortunes of their fellow man.

And now one bright spot appears among this mass of sophistry and misrepresentation. The Surveyor General has on file a good bond. Even his revilers admit that. A gilt edge bond, and all honor be to the gentlemen on that band, that with all the pressure brought to bear and all the accusations made, not one has to this date, intimated his intention to withdraw.

Respectfully,  
W. T. HANFORD,  
Depty. Sur. Genl.

THE RACES.

A Large Attendance and Good Sport.

There was a large attendance at the races yesterday, larger than any day at Reno. Gold Cloud won the running race. You Bet the quarter dash. The third race will be finished today. B-zero has two heats to his credit. Today there will be a running dash, 2 of a mile, Purse \$99.00 Bobo, Lou Land Drummer are entered. No. 5, Four and one half furlongs, running, Purse \$80. Kit Carson, Renwick, Banjo and Silver State are entered.

No. 6, Running, One-mile dash, Purse \$110. Alcatraz, Ereta, Vanity and Albatross are entered.

No. 7, Trotting and pacing, 2:30 class, 3 in 5, Purse \$120. Daisy K Estemalda and Alpha will contest.

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