

# THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT LAND FENCERS WEEP.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1906.

## Pettijohn and Tucker Arrested in Land Cases

### One Charged With Three Kinds of Frauds and Other With Complicity.

### Kansan Also Taken in Custody.

Upon a complaint filed by Special United States Attorney Rush through direction of the department of justice, J. C. Pettijohn, the receiver of the Valentine land office who was recently removed from office, has been arrested by Deputy Marshal Allan.

Pettijohn is charged with subornation of perjury, conspiracy in securing fraudulent homestead entries and unlawfully inclosing government land.

Attorney Tucker of Valentine has also been arrested for alleged complicity in the land frauds.

Other arrests are expected to follow.

Word has also been received by the federal authorities that Edward Letson, a son of Mayor Letson of Horton, Kas., has been arrested. Papers were served on the prisoner at his home in Horton where he was taken into custody by United States Marshal Mackay of Kansas.

Letson is charged with subornation of perjury in securing fraudulent homestead entries for ranchmen known as Margrave Brothers whose range lies in Sheridan and Cherry counties, Neb. It is alleged that he induced soldiers and soldiers' widows to file on homesteads and then to lease the land to the cattlemen.

The case against Letson has been worked up through the federal secret service men and the warrant was given the marshal to serve. The prisoner was taken before a commissioner and gave bond to appear in federal court in January.—World-Herald, Dec. 29.

### DEPUTY MARSHALS

### Return After Making Important Arrests in Land Fraud Cases.

Deputy Marshals Moore and Allan returned from the western part of Nebraska, where they made several important arrests in the land fraud cases.

At Rushville Deputy Moore arrested Wm. C. Smoot and H. C. Dale, both prominent citizens. Allan arrested at Valentine J. C. Pettijohn, former register of the land office; his brother Carlton Pettijohn; J. Tucker, James Gallagher and Jerome J. McNellis.—Omaha Daily News, Jan. 1.

A salutary lesson for striking laborers is afforded by the conviction and sentencing to prison of five officials of a Chicago labor union for performing or directing acts of violence against non-union workmen during a strike in that city. In the excitement attending such struggles striking laborers have too frequently acted upon the theory that any act tending to bring about a desirable result were justifiable even though men's lives were involved. In the course of the

teamsters' strike in Chicago lasting from April 7 to June 20 of the present year eighteen men were killed during strike riots or in assaults, two were killed in attacks indirectly due to the strike, and 415 were injured in the course of the rioting that took place. Such conditions are not to be borne. If we must have labor wars it is at least essential that they be conducted under the laws of war, which in this case forbid violence and murder or conspiracies that lead to violence and murder. Only by obeying the law, however great the provocation, can the labor unions retain the public sympathy that is necessary to their ultimate success.—State Journal.

### Roosevelt's Warning.

"Either they (the great corporations) will have to submit to reasonable submission by the national authorities or else they will ultimately have to submit to governmental action of a far more drastic type."

Thus said President Roosevelt in his Chautauqua address. It is a fair warning.

And timely. Judged by their actions the men who control the great monopolies of the country are proceeding on the theory of the French Bourbons—"After us the deluge."

They are reckless in their out-laws. They not only oppose the passage of laws legal and just, but they grossly violate the laws we have.

And they are laying up wrath against the day of wrath.

Popular feeling is resentful and impatient. They have made it so. Therefore the president warns them of the drastic legislation public sentiment will demand.—Omaha Daily News.

### Resolutions.

Resolutions of respect and condolence adopted by Valentine W. C. T. U. of Valentine, Neb. which has suffered the loss by death of one of its most worthy members, Samuel W. Holsclaw.

Whereas God in his divine providence has called from our union below, a most worthy member to join his celestial hosts above and whereas we deeply mourn his loss and keenly feel his absence, yet we bow in humble submission to the will of our Master, fully realizing that we have lost a true and faithful member, the community a loving neighbor, and the family a kind father, therefore be it

RESOLVED; That we, as a union, extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved family in this the hour of their great sorrow, commending them to the God beloved and served, and be it further

RESOLVED; That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the bereaved family and that a copy be published in each of the Valentine papers and be spread upon the records of this union as a tribute to his memory.

JENNIE PETTIJOHN, }  
LILLIE A. ARCHER. } Com.  
BINA CRAMER, }

Stetter pays 9½ cents for hides.

## Get a Little Heavier Dose in Minnesota Than in Nebraska.

A scene and a confession occurred in the United States circuit court at St. Paul one day this week, recounts an Omaha paper, in connection with land frauds, that will be of interest in Nebraska at this time, when the Richards and Comstock cases are fresh in mind. Both of the offenders, who were convicted at St. Paul, had been held in high respect in the section where they resided.

The men up for sentence before Judge Amidon at St. Paul were Royal B. Stearns and William T. Hornshell, who had been found guilty by a jury of conspiring to defraud the government by securing possession of homestead lands in South Dakota through misrepresentation.

Numerous witnesses testified to signing applications in St. Paul which they never saw again. They were told, they said, that they were to get \$100 for signing the papers, and that their expenses for two trips to South Dakota would be defrayed.

When asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed, Stearns said:

"What I have to say, your honor, can be said in very few words. It is this: Soon after I was arrested in this matter I came to St. Paul and with two of my friends went to see the district attorney. At no time would I have not been willing to plead guilty to have fenced these lands for pasture. I never tried to get the lands for any other purpose. Sixty other men who have been doing the same thing that I have been doing have come before the district attorney's office and have been allowed to go free.

"Special Agent Moore has made reports to the land commissions that he knew to be false, and the government officials all through South Dakota have been hoodwinking the government in matters of this sort.

"In South Dakota county judges, county attorneys and clerks of the county courts have been years signing papers they have known to have been false and worthless, and this sort of thing has been going on for years. I myself once had the honor to be elected county judge—"

Here Stearns broke down and wept bitterly, being unable to go on with the remarks.

With an effort he managed to get control of his feelings and continued his remarks.

"Yet never, while I was in the position, did I ever sign a false paper for any of the many people who came daily to my office in order to induce me to do so. Down there, your honor, it has been generally believed for years that there was no harm in doing these things. Everybody did them and nobody thought any thing about it."

Stearns finished and stood before the judge with bowed head, tears flowing from his eyes.

Judge Amidon moved some papers on his desk and looked over at the clock.

"Mr. Stearns, how old are you?" asked Judge Amidon.

"I am 53 years old," replied Stearns.

"Have you any children?" said the court.

"I have one daughter 23 years old, and a wife," was the reply.

"It is a sad duty that falls to me to be obliged to sentence you," began the judge, "but something must be done by way of an example. There is no doubt that much you say regarding the unlawful and wicked practice in that part of the country is true. You are the most guilty in this case and I sentence you to serve one year and six months in the Minnesota state prison at Stillwater, and pay a fine of \$1,000."

Stearns walked slowly back to his seat beside his attorney and sat down.

Judge Amidon called the name

of Wm. T. Hornshell, and a tall dark man walked before the bar and stood facing the judge.

"Have you anything to say," asked Judge Amidon.

"Nothing except what has been said for me," was the reply in a low voice, and suddenly Hornshell began to weep bitterly.

"I am 59 years old and have one daughter," he said between his sobs. "My wife his dead."

He leaned his head upon the desk in front of him and wept aloud.

"You are the lesser offender in this case," said Judge Amidon, "but you are not altogether free. Therefore I sentence you to serve six months in the Ramsey county jail and a fine of \$500."—O'Neill Frontier.

### I Am Grateful.

When this issue of the paper reaches the homes of its readers, my term of office will have expired. This will conclude seven years and nine months of service in the clerks office. During this time I have become very generally acquainted with the people of our county, a relation that is very pleasant to me; the memory of which will go with me wherever my lot may be cast. I know of no person at the conclusion of this public service for whom I entertain anything but the most hearty good will. It is my wish for you that your homes and lives may be as pleasant as the years I spent in your service have been to me. I will return at once to my ranch near Simeon where I expect to make my home. I have ever been proud to claim Nebraska as my home. I know of no better place and Cherry county is good enough for me.

In the clerk and deputy for the coming term, we may safely look for efficient and careful service.

In the years that are to come, problems and circumstances will arise that will affect the welfare of our country. It is my desire that my influence, however humble, may be for all that will be helpful in meeting those conditions and for all that will develop the highest degree of the prosperity and happiness of the people whose many kindnesses have made them dear to me. With a heart full of gratitude and good will I wish you, the citizens of Cherry county, a most happy and prosperous New Year.

Very respectfully,  
C. S. REECE.

### Two Surprises.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year was spent at the home of Grandpa and Grandma Barnes near Lake, Neb.

Christmas 19 guests were invited to partake of a grand dinner prepared by Grandma, consisting of chicken pie and numerous other other dainties which everyone enjoys on that day. The grandchildren enjoyed themselves with a bountiful supply of candy and nuts. After these were disposed of, a program of 7 recitations and several songs were rendered by the grand-children.

Grandpa and Grandma seemed to enjoy entertaining the guests, so it was decided to have a New Year surprise dance at their home, to which everybody was invited and everyone came. Grandpa and Grandma were as surprised as a little boy would have been to see Santa Claus come down the Chimney with his pack.

This was their 69th Christmas and New Year and the time spent on both occasions will never be forgotten by those present.

A GUEST.

Strayed from my place in Valentine, Nebr., Friday, Dec. 8, 1905, one bay mare, 10 years old, with a small bunch on left hind foot, caused by the calk of a shoe. Any information leading to her recovery will be liberally rewarded.

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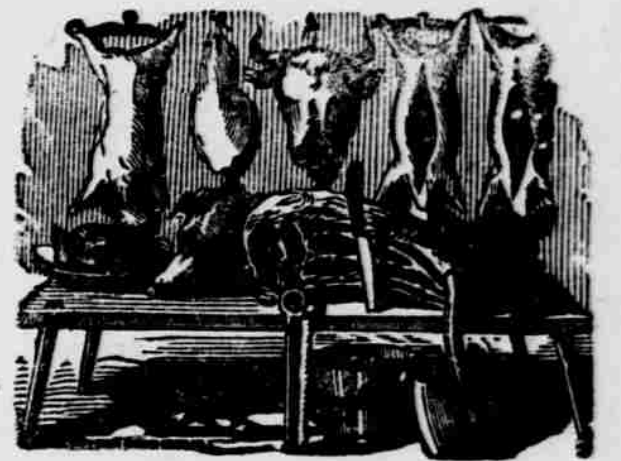
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