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GOV. HASKELL AND THE MUSKOGEE FRAUDS.

At last an unsuspecting innocent man has been unwittingly dragged into the mills which grind exceeding slow. The grand jury has indicted the governor along with other prominent citizens in an attempt to recover some of the lands which have been pilfered from the Creek Indians.

And this is what the Governor says: "I have just heard of the indictment for conspiracy, coupled with seven or eight of the oldest and highest characterized citizens of Muskogee, men who developed and built up that country by their unselfish effort. From now on the proceedings will be open to both sides. Hearst's crooked manipulations will be at a discount."

"I am satisfied that the Interior Department has been misled by false statements. I am confident that there has not been a dishonest act done by any of the indicted parties, and that good citizens in general regardless of politics feel the same way."

The public may discount what Mr. Hearst has to say about the matter indeed. It needs only the evidence accumulated by the department of the interior to show that Gov. Haskell and the glorious company of Muskogees are grafters of the first water. Indeed it proves nothing at all that the men can be said to be the highest characterized men in Muskogee.

This is the state of things in Oklahoma.

The Creek nation held all the land and still holds it as a tribe. No member of the tribe can give the land away nor sell it. The Creek citizen has no title, for the title is held—not by individuals but by the whole tribe. When the land in the Creek reservation was found to be good and the deposits of minerals and the oil wells were discovered "squatters and squawmen" came into the country. White girls endeavored to marry a Creek brave. For citizenship in the Creek nation means a matter of several thousand dollars and the girl who marries a Creek marries a wealthy citizen. And so the land was populated with men who had no right to the land at all. Some actually settled on the land and in due course of time the town of Muskogee was founded. In 1893 the policy of the government led to the Dawes commission which had for its cause of being the object the allotment of lands among the individuals and the extinguishment of the tribal title in the towns. This went on until it was determined that the towns and villages which were springing up should be laid out and sold under the provisions of the Curtis Act in 1898.

Whether by accident, carelessness or design the Curtis act was full of treachery to the Creeks and the Dawes commission was instrumental in the debauchery of the lands of the Indians. It is a significant fact that the Dawes commission had at least one man on it who advanced himself from comparatively little means to a millionaire. The chief of the Creek nation himself was in complicity with the grafters it afterward developed by his own confession to Secretary Garfield and he alone restored what he had defrauded from his fellow Creeks although it made him a bankrupt man. What this Curtis act was it is impossible to mention in detail except that it was provided that certain towns be laid out and the lots scheduled and sold. The squatters were treated with liberality so that the so-called owners were enabled to buy his lot at half the appraised value otherwise his lot was to be sold and he was to get the whole value of his improvements. The theory of these provisions was that although settlers had no title, yet, inasmuch as their settlement and their improvements added to the value of the real estate, they should be allowed one-half the value of any lot they wished to buy.

This was not all; it is enough to say that by the loose terms of the act any one who stuck even a piece of tin pipe in the ground was entitled to buy the lot at half its appraised value. And this is actually what happened in Muskogee on one of the lots now worth thousands of dollars which the

'improver' bought for a small figure on account of his improvement to the land. The act also was so loose in its terms that any squatter might do even this piece of rascality after the act was a law. The law spoke of "legal occupancy" and "titles" but did not describe what a "legal right" was. Moreover the occupant might pay for it in installments but no penalty was fixed to forfeit the right of the man to his land if he did not pay the installments.

The law was bad enough. But worse things were to come.

On the slightest claim the Creeks were defrauded of their land. Land-sharks made up dummy lists of owners, some were actual citizens who had never seen the land, others were minors, still others held claims for lands without being aware of the fact and others were purely fictitious names. The deeds (many of them forged) were shown by the agent to the Dawes commission and no other proof of citizenship was required. In the evidence it was brought out that the agents actually stole by forgery what they had given to men for their own purposes.

Mr. William Dudley Foulke was sent out as special commissioner in this matter, he found that the town site commissioners themselves admitted that they had no knowledge or information whether the quitclaim deeds which the agents showed them had ever been delivered and said that they had no knowledge of whom the deeds were made to. One commissioner said, "I do not know that I gave that much consideration. I thought that the nation was doing well to get some pay for them." There were thirty towns thus stolen from the Creek nation.

It is generally known in Oklahoma that Haskell had some of these lots and it seems probable that if a grand jury has found sufficient evidence to indict the governor there is something in it. One of the inspectors stated that in his opinion there were very few men who had a legal title to the land.

M. L. Mott who is the attorney for the Creek nation says:

"In the controversy last fall between Haskell and me I wrote two open letters charging him with the very frauds for which the grand jury has now indicted him. He denied those charges then. I stated then that I had in my possession the sworn statements of the 200 'dummies' that Haskell had used in carrying out his land frauds."

If all the other "high characterized citizens" of Muskogee are in the same degree innocent it may be true that these are the pick of the state of Oklahoma.

It may easily be that the grand jury being also composed of these same citizens will follow the legislature of that state in declaring Haskell guiltless but the Creeks it is to be hoped will be able to recover in the civil suits which are tried before the United States court.

The state of Oklahoma may well be proud of its governor.

WANDERLUST.

"O wisdom in the Winter,
But folly in the Springtime,
Remembering the ragged days
When the full heart overflowed:

Wisdom in the Winter,
But now for empty pockets,
Hunger, dust and sunburn—
The road! The road! The road!"

There must be an inborn longing deep down in every man's heart to shake the dust off his feet in the spring and go out to places where there are new scenes and strange cities. Perhaps it comes to many people directly as an inheritance from our marauding Saxon ancestors.

Many of our tramps and those brave spirits who have run away from home are classed as degenerates. It would be a fairer classification if many of them were put in the category of those who had never risen to what it called regeneration. What joy to walk the road alone with pack on back and dog at heel. Where would be the romance in the world; who would make the things happen if in their various stages of life there were not certain individuals who would not be bound by conventions. The little black lambs who have strayed away from home; call them soldiers of fortune or adventurers, tramps, gypsies, Bohemians, pirates, hoboes, Vikings or discoverers. They are all the same—Gentlemen of the road.

No, the foot that itches for the road is far better than the hand that itches for money. Beginning with Ulysses and the Prodigal Son and ending no man knows when, they have all been a good set, half-fellow-well-met and ready for any fate. That is a thing which cannot always be said if those who live rooted to their household goods.

It is surprising what a number of people have recently discovered that they are related to Lincoln and the number of persons who were at Ford's theater in Washington on the night of his assassination is in truth enough

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to make the box office of any theater jealous. From the number of people who have just discovered these things it would seem that the insurance tables are all wrong in regard to the length of human life, and beside this that there is use in reading Louis Conaro's Art of Long Living.

The Iowa legislature has under consideration a bill which will make a fly in restaurant soup a jail offense. Remember the Maine.

The only thing that is amusing about the billineth Lincoln story is that it is ascribed to a man with a reputed sense of humor.

There is a fine chance for the ever-ready punster to make remarks about the House and Mr. Knox.

The Lincoln story season has closed. Editors not in the cub list will be spared.

There will be no celebration of Easter day until the hens begin to lay.

The Mayflower and the Ark are back numbers.

The More Wives the Less Work.

According to the Geographical Journal of London, the marital relations among the peoples of Nigeria vary somewhat according to their state of civilization: "Polygamy is the rule, the reason given being that it is impossible for one woman to do all the work of the house, look after the children, prepare and cook the food, fetch the daily supply of water (often an arduous job), cultivate the plantation and go to market. The African is an exceedingly hungry person. It is the custom to eat several times a day when at home, and the men spend most of their day sitting in the palaver house or market place, while the women bring the food all day long. One wife could not possibly do this. Besides, the African lady encourages it, for she says, 'The more wives the less work.'"

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Need of Plant Food in Soil

Corn Expert Tells How Much Depends Upon Condition
Ground to Raise First Class Corn.

T. A. Coleman.

It has been said that he who would produce a prize winning steer must commence with its grand dam, so he who would produce a high yield of corn must begin years before to put the soil into a high state of fertility.

The most vital problems confronting agriculturists today, is the maintenance of soil fertility and at the same time produce maximum yields. No matter how carefully we may test or grade the seed, no matter with how much painstaking care the planter may be manipulated, it all comes to naught if the seed falls into a barren soil.

The process of plant growth, the taking of the good elements from the soil and the storing them up in the plant, can but deplete the soil supply unless adequate return be made. For a time, it was thought that the application of commercial fertilizer would solve the problem, but the hope was futile, as the cost was too great and the results not satisfactory. Something more than the mere chemical food elements in an available form was necessary for the proper development of plant life.

The mechanical condition of the soil needed improvement by the addition of humus, decayed vegetable matter, which is found in such abundance in virgin soils, soils which will produce such vigorous growth of vegetation with so little effort on the part of the husbandman.

The feeding of the grain to the livestock and a careful return of the manure to the land was a long step in the right direction, but even this was inadequate. By the introduction of a leguminous crop, such as clover, alfalfa, soy bean or cow peas, into the rotation, nitrogen is gathered from the air and stored up in the soil for the use of subsequent crops.

As nitrogen is the most expensive of all the food elements, the setting of a supply of this manure materially lessens the cost of the commercial fertilizers, the numeral elements, phosphorus and potash, being comparatively cheap.

So then the maintenance of an available supply of plant food with the soil in a high mechanical condition, resolves itself into the practice of feeding all the grains produced, to livestock with the return of the manure to the soil; the introduction of a legume into the rotation; and a judicious use of a fertilizer containing the needed amounts of phosphoric acid and potash.

Perhaps at no time in the history of Eastern Indiana has there been so much breaking done for the spring planting at this time of the year. The practice of fall or winter plowing has much to commend it, on land that is comparatively level or is not of too stiff a clay. A great many injurious insects, by being routed out of their winter quarters and exposed to the freezing, may be destroyed. Also, when a heavy stubble or coating of straw or manure is turned under, the action of the elements hasten the decay and restore the connection between the furrow-slice and sub-soil so that the capillary movement of the moisture stored in the sub-strata may resume its normal action.

In case of spring plowing, especially where the land has been pastured and likely to break up cloddy or where a coat of stubble, straw or manure is being plowed under, the disc harrow should be used, cross disc if necessary, before the plow. This serves to break the surface, thus preventing an undue evaporation of moisture which may be sorely needed later in the season. This discing also mixes the stubble, straw etc., with soil, hastening its decay, and serves to restore the capillary connection permitting the soil moisture to come up to aid the young plant in case of drought. Then, too the discing of the surface before plowing aids in the complete pulverization of the furrow-slice. In the case of cloddy ground, no tool will reach to the depth of the furrow-slice and pulverize the soil to the degree which is necessary

for the rapid capillary movement of the soil moisture.

After the plowing the soil should be reduced to a very fine state of tilth, for by this process we liberate the stored up plant food so that the young plant may avail itself of it readily, which condition will also permit the warmth from the sun and the air to penetrate the upper surface, and this together with the moisture from below make perfect conditions for the generation of our carefully tested and graded seed corn.

While all of this preparation of the seed bed has been planning for a dry season, it is presupposed that proper natural or tile drainage has been prepared to immediately remove the excess moisture during the wet season.

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