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SQUATTERS FAVORED ON LAND DECISION

APPEAL WILL BE TAKEN

Titles to Thousands of Acres Swamp Lands Involved in Litigation; Lake Co. Case Is Up

Title to thousands of acres of swamp lands in Lake county which have become extremely valuable on account of their desirability as sites for summer resort purposes is wrested from the county under a ruling handed down last week in favor of "squatters" by Judge Earl D. Reynolds, in the Winnebago county circuit court. The land involved in a number of swamp land suits hinging on this test case is estimated to be worth more than \$1,000,000. Judge Reynolds overruled an exception to the master-in-chancery report and signed a decree for the complainant, Mrs. Rose Gerbracht, who claimed title to about 100 acres of swamp land in the Grass Lake region.

Lake County Interested

The defendants including Lake county and individuals were allowed an appeal and 90 days in which to file a certificate of evidence to the Supreme Court.

The court did not decide the case of Frank Hatch, who claims to own 1,000 acres on Hackberry island, which is north of the Gerbracht tract, known as Blarney island.

Suits now in court involve more than 2,000 acres, which are estimated to be worth from \$200 to \$250 an acre. "Squatters" on many other large tracts are now about to start suits as a result of the action in the Gerbracht case.

Originally the government transferred the swamp lands to the state and then they were ceded to the county. "Squatters" were permitted to occupy the land by keeping up the taxes, and gave them the first chance to buy it at \$1.25 an acre. Then the county raised the price to \$50. At a recent action of the county board it was decided not to sell any more swamp lands at any price. This brought about the Gerbracht and Hatch suits. A short time before that Jack O'Connor bought the county's interest in three acres of Blarney island which Mrs. Gerbracht is suing for.

Signs Removed

The county some time ago posted "no trespassing" signs on the Hatch property. Acting on advice of his attorney, E. V. Orvis, the signs were torn down by Hatch.

Atty. Albert L. Hall representing the county has intimated that an appeal will be taken to the Supreme Court. The Gerbracht case establishes a precedent in the state concerning the rights of "squatters."

PHOTOGRAPH RECORDS TO PRESERVE THEM

State Documents Thus Saved to Posterity; Is Valuable Operation

Danger of the loss of hundreds of old state records which are crumbling away because of their age, has been averted by the establishment of a photostatic department by Secretary of State Louis L. Emmerson. All of the old records are now being photographed so that in case the originals are lost there will be at least a copy. This copy is to be used when the records are called for, thus saving the wear on the original.

The department not only is proving valuable in the preservation of records, but it is much more than paying for itself in the saving in the cost of making transcripts of records. The time of several typists, whose services have been required in the secretary's office in transcribing records to be used in court cases and elsewhere, is saved. This work is now done by the photostatic process, the copies being turned out almost instantly, thus avoiding the delay necessary when the copy is made by typewriter.

Since the copies are exact fac-simile reproductions, the likelihood of error is removed.

During the first eight months of the operation of the department, the fees for transcription of records much more than paid the entire cost of operation during that period. Between 2,000 and 3,000 sheets of copy are turned out each month.

KNIGHT TEMPLARS ANNUAL MEETING

Conclave to Be Held at State Capital Sept. 25 to 27; Preparations

Active preparations for the annual state conclave of the Knights Templars, to be held in Springfield September 25, 26, and 27, have been started by local Masons. Between 7,000 and 10,000 knights from all parts of the state are expected to attend, many bringing their ladies. An extensive program of entertainment and ritualistic events is being arranged for the three days.

A bandit who held up James Simmons, a special volunteer policeman, at Paris, added insult to the injury to the police officers' pride when he not only took the policeman's pistol but all his ammunition as well.

HUMAN ELEMENT BIGGEST FACTOR

Depends Largely on Ability, Skill and Zeal of Human Agents Employed

Success of any business undertaking depends very largely upon the ability and skill, the zeal and energy of the human agents employed therein. Deane W. Malott, assistant Dean of the Harvard Business school, says in writing for the Boston Evening Transcript. The article, based upon an exhaustive investigation, sums up the efforts of municipalities in embarking in business as follows:

"There are certain dangers arising from political causes usually inherent in municipal ownership. Wages are likely to be determined by political rather than by economic consideration. Another result of political management is frequently found in the tendency toward needless and wasteful increases in the number of employees in the case of public utilities under municipal operation. According to the United States census municipal plants hired 10.3 per cent of all the electric light and power employees in the United States, but produced only 4 per cent of the electricity sold in the United States.

Ability and Skill

"The service of any plant depends in very large degree upon the ability and skill, the zeal and energy, and the soundness of judgment of the human agents employed therein. Ability and skill in a particular field are the products of special and prolonged training, and an intimate knowledge derived from experience. Having secured these qualities a business seeks to retain and expand them by making the self-interest and ambition of officials and employees a dominant motive for the loyal devotion to the welfare of the business.

"These requisites are more likely to be lacking in an organization created by political methods to per-

form an economic function, than in a company organized entirely for economic motives. No business, whether public or private, can be operated efficiently and without great waste, under the constant injection at the top of new, untried, and often unfit executives and managers. Frequent change, with possible resulting unfitness in the upper ranks and lack of opportunity and zeal in the lower ranks, is more often a condition of municipal than of private ownership, because political expediency is nearly always the determining consideration in appointments to the executive positions in municipal enterprises. Such positions are frequently the rewards of political service; and the appointees may not be proficient business executives.

Changes Hamper Progress

"Too frequently, therefore, municipal plants are operated by temporary and frequently changed managing officials with an imperfect knowledge of their duties and often without the training necessary to efficient management; frequent disorganization of the machinery results from these changes; and at the bottom there is a group of minor employees, without the opportunity for advancement which supplies the principal motive for zeal and energy.

"In the private company, however, the management in charge does not depend upon political favors for support, and, inasmuch as the officers are usually stockholders they have a real desire to give the best of their energies to the prosecution of the business. In a private corporation each man is responsible to someone and for certain duties, which is not always the case in municipally owned properties. Furthermore, the tendency in private companies is towards consolidation into large holding companies. This condition makes possible the employment of experts in the various technical and executive phases of operation, which is obviously out of the question in the small municipal plants.

PRESIDENT ORDERS LUNCHEON MEETINGS

Representatives of Government Abroad to Gather Together For Conferences

"Examples of unsatisfactory municipal plants may be cited in every part of our country."

American luncheons are likely to become more frequent in the four corners of the earth, by executive order of the President of the United States. Nothing less than a presidential proclamation could have had such an effect. Servants of the United States have multiplied abroad. They are alike in being upon the payroll that is met from the public treasury, to which we all contribute. This connection with a common source through pay checks, however, has frequently been the only relationship they acknowledged, one to the other. The gentleman who was looking into the ways of hogs or the possibilities of marketing prunes claimed allegiance only to the Department of Agriculture, and would scarcely speak to a gentleman, likewise interested in markets for prunes, who wore the insignia of the Department of Commerce. And the gentleman from the Department of State at times formed and demonstrated poor opinions of the employees of all other departments. As for all three sets of public servants working together and pulling in the same direction,—well, it sometimes happened, but not often.

Of the situation the President has taken cognizance. He has ordered that every two weeks all these representatives of the government who engage in promoting trade and who are in a city like Naples, Tokio, or Buenos Aires, are to meet, tell each other what they are doing, and learn to pull together.

George Klemmick, Baltimore pitcher, has signed with Boston of Eastern Shore League. He allowed but one hit in his debut.

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