

# THEY CAN FIND HOMES

## Victimized Poles to Settle In Lewis County.

### SOME HAVE RETURNED TO TEXAS

#### The Balance Will Be Taken Care of By Their Countrymen In This State.

The Seattle papers of last week contained an account of the swindling of a number of Polish families who had been induced to move to that place from Texas by a slick tongued rascal who claimed that he held options on any quantity of rich farming lands adjacent to Seattle, which were open to location by settlers. The swindler was a Polish Jew with an unpronounceable name, who caught his game by finely worded advertisements in Polish papers. From each family he collected the sum of \$10, in consideration for which they were to be allowed first selection from the lands.

It is said that the wily "agent" succeeded in obtaining about \$600 from prospective settlers in this manner, and while the loss of the \$10 by each family was not a very serious matter, the worst feature of the case was that he succeeded in beguiling 20 families to leave their homes in Texas and start for the wonderful country he had pictured to them. These families arrived in Seattle last week, and the most diligent search refused to reveal the whereabouts of the agent who had induced them to come there. Nine of the immigrants were any too well supplied with cash and some of the families were in almost destitute circumstances. None of the 20 families immediately started back for their old homes to warn other prospective settlers, but the balance of them determined to at least look around a little before returning.

It now turns out that those who have decided to stay in Washington may not have made so bad a bargain after all. At Pe-Ell, in Lewis county, there is a considerable Polish settlement, and as soon as the Poles at that place learned of the predicament of their countrymen in Seattle one of their number, Thomas Naler voja, who has acted as a sort of agent for the Northern Pacific lands at that place, was sent over to see what could be done to assist them. This man and one of the colony of 11 families now at Seattle arrived in this city this morning on their way to Lewis county, and spent some time at the rooms of the state board of horticulture looking at the specimens of Washington products and interrogating the secretary in regard to the resources of the different sections of the state.

It is now probable that the families at Seattle will be induced to settle in the neighborhood of the Polish settlement in Lewis county. At Pe-Ell, as the agent explained, there is a Polish church and the prospective settlers are naturally in favor of attaching themselves as nearly as possible to that settlement, although some of them may go to other parts of the state. Along the railroad to South Bend in that county there is a large amount of Northern Pacific land, for which it is thought satisfactory terms can be arranged.

A meeting of Poles from many parts of the state has been called at Seattle on the 29th of this month, at which ways and means will be devised for the assistance of those who are in need among the families from Texas and also to attempt to set forth the advantages of the state to prospective settlers both in this country and in Poland. This meeting will also result in warning as far as possible the settlers of that nationality all over the country against the working of such a scheme as was played upon them by the Seattle agent. It is thought that this action will result in a large immigration of the best class of Polish settlers to this state during the coming season.