

# Scam marketed territories for 'patented' wire fence

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It was apparent that Powell had accomplices, when Dillman traveled to Mitchell to complete the bargain. The other men pretended they, too, were there to make payments to Powell. The *Telephone* did not indicate what aroused Dillman's suspicion about the deal, but after he had returned to Bloomington, he apparently decided to take a

closer look at the business dealings of Powell.

What the farmer discovered was that "Powell misrepresented the whole matter, and the states that he bought had already been sold to other parties, therefore he got nothing whatever for his notes and mortgages." After hearing Dillman's story, the grand jury indicted Powell for securing money under false pretenses.

The *Telephone* did not explain how the court knew that Powell was in Putnam County, but the legal piece of paper quickly found its mark, even though the accused had been operating under an assumed name. He arrived in Bloomington accompanied by an attorney and was checked in at the Monroe County jail for safe-keeping until his case could be processed. A *Telephone* reporter got little infor-

mation from Powell or his lawyer, the latter professing that while he had known his client for some time, his business affairs were not part of their acquaintance. Colliver, the lawyer, did admit, however, that there had never been any "crooked work" done by Powell.

In court Dillman was confronted with the fact that he had somehow failed to file necessary papers with the county clerk before he began

his selling of territorial rights—the papers being "authenticated letters of the patent."

All things considered, Powell got more than a fair deal in the Monroe court. Dillman's attorney, Joe Henley, withdrew one charge, when the accused returned the farmer's notes. When Powell pleaded guilty to the other charge—presumably failure to file the papers—he was fined \$1 and dismissed.