

LAND SWINDLERS TO PLEAD TODAY.

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS TO HAVE
MUCH MORE EVIDENCE.

of the Eight Defendants, Three, In-
cluding "Oily" Watkins, Are in the
County Jail—One, an Attorney, Un-
der Additional Charge of Unpro-
fessional Conduct.

"Oily" Watkins and his seven as-
sociates in the California Fruit Grow-
ers' Association will be arraigned this
morning in the United States District
Court. It is believed that they will
all plead not guilty. The date of trial
will probably be set.

Watkins, Ira P. Leighley and G.
Maurice Bartlett are still in the Coun-
ty Jail. James Lawrence, former pres-
ident of the association; Dr. C. P. V.
Watson, Mrs. Flora E. Peters and her
husband, George H. Peters, and Attor-
ney H. W. Hanson are out on bail.
Since the grand jury found bills
against the defendants the govern-
ment has unearthed more evidence
against them.

Attorney Hanson, of the firm of
Hanson & Heath, has preserved a dis-
creet silence since his indictment. Al-
though it was known that the firm
had transacted business for Dr. Wat-
son, no one outside of the United
States Attorney's office suspected that
the attorney would be connected in a
criminal way with the swindle con-
ducted by Watkins.

Since his arrest several stories of
the attorney's alleged unprofessional
conduct have been told. Mrs. Audrey
Nast of this city recently made a com-
plaint, claiming that he did not rep-
resent her fairly in a deal whereby
she exchanged a house at San Diego
for 10,000 shares of mining stock. Mrs.
Nast was acting for her daughter,
Agnes D. Terry, for whom she is guar-
dian and agent.

She states that about a year ago she
was induced to buy stock in the Her-

mosa mine in Sonora, Mex., from
George Cunningham, who traded it for
its par value of one dollar per share.
She gave her house in San Diego, val-
ued at \$10,000, for 10,000 shares of stock.
Finally, becoming suspicious of the
value of the mining property, she says
that she was enabled to unload the
stock for eight cents a share. She
then brought suit against Cunningham
to secure a retransfer of the realty.
Hanson and Heath were her attorneys.

She charges Attorney Hanson with
allowing Cunningham to transfer the
realty without making any effort to
keep alive a restraining order or in-
junction. The case was originally
brought in San Diego county, but was
transferred to this county. The final
hearing is pending.

A fraud order was issued at Wash-
ington, last week, against the Califor-
nia Fruit Growers' Association and
Assistant Postmaster-General Hitch-
cock has warned all postmasters not
to allow any of its literature to be sent
through the mails. The concern has
branch offices in Detroit, Denver, New
York and several other eastern cities.

The local offices of the association, in
the H. W. Hellman building, have been
closed since its ex-convict organizer
became entangled in the various crim-
inal and civil actions instituted shortly
after the exposure of the swindle by
The Times.

Another effort will be made this
week to find out what has become of
some of the plunder that Watkins ob-
tained from his victims. He is sup-
posed to have placed his profits in the
hands of members of his family.

Several civil suits against the asso-
ciation are pending in the Superior
Court, but it seems doubtful if a judg-
ment would be worth anything.

CRUISERS START HOME.

First Step Made in Transfer of Pacific
Fleet Headquarters to the
Coast.

[BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS—P.M.]

WASHINGTON, July 28.—Rear-Ad-
miral Dayton, commanding the Pacific
fleet, has notified the Navy Depart-
ment that the armored cruisers West
Virginia, Colorado, Pennsylvania and
Maryland left Che-Foo Friday for the