

EXAMINES FOR ITSELF

NORTHERN PACIFIC IGNORES SURVEY OF COLUMBIA VALLEY. Proceeds With Original Investigation, Though Much of the Data Has Been Compiled by Others.

The Northern Pacific Railroad does not seem disposed to grant any recognition to the Columbia Valley Railroad Company, which was organized about four years ago to build a road down the north bank of the Columbia from a point opposite Wallula to Ilwaco.

Western Maryland's Mortgage. BALTIMORE, Dec. 29.—The Western Maryland Railroad Company today filed in the Recorder's office a mortgage to the Bonding Green Trust Company of New York to secure an issue of \$600,000 of general lien and general mortgage 4 percent 10-year gold bonds.

Railroad Briefs. Superintendent J. P. O'Brien, of the O. R. & N., who, with his family, is spending the holiday season at his old home in the Columbia valley, is expected home about January 10.

W. F. Groh has resigned his position at Tacoma as district baggage agent of the Northern Pacific and on January 1 will come to the Columbia valley as a baggage agent at the Union Depot, succeeding B. A. Farrar, who has resigned this position.

Editor LeBaron, of the New York Central's Four Track News, announced that the leading article in the January number of the magazine is entitled "The Mazamas," and is from the pen of W. G. Steel.

Already railroad men are wondering who will take the place of F. A. Bancroft, when he shall resign to become postmaster. There is no official intimation of what will be done, but unofficial rumors are being spread.

While the water at Ilwaco does not afford much inducement for establishing a lumber mill there, the fact that the points along the lower river where deep draft ships can be accommodated, and that the Northern Pacific will improve the grade of them, is a factor.

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Ex-collector of Customs J. W. Ivey, of Alaska, has asked the Portland Chamber of Commerce to urge upon the National Government the necessity of an American telegraph cable to Alaska.

South of Borings about 19 miles of grade have already been completed, the work being easy through that country. It will not take long to lay the track there when the intervening grades are in condition to transport materials over.

Tracing the Smugglers. Evidence Against Lieutenant Decker, Who Refuses to Testify.

SAJUAN, Porto Rico, Dec. 25.—The hearing of the smuggling case before United States Commissioner Anderson was resumed today. The session was devoted to the charges against Lieutenant Commander George W. Meats, U. S. N., Supervisor of Elections Benjamin Butler and James Brennan, an employee of the Customs.

Repairs to the Umattila. Upon her return to Puget Sound the steamship Umattila will be withdrawn from the San Francisco route for repairs and repairs aggregating \$7,000. The contract has been awarded to a Seattle firm. It provides for four new boilers, a remodeling of her engines and general overhauling.

Norma Has Contagion Aboard. ASTORIA, Dec. 29.—(Special.)—The British ship Norma, which arrived here yesterday from Honolulu, shipped several of her crew at that port, and these will be paid off here today.

Fire at Braddock, Pa. PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 29.—Three buildings were burned to the ground and two hotels and the postoffice were damaged by fire at Braddock, Pa., today.

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NO ENGINEER CHOSEN

SUCCESSOR TO BLACKWELL NOT YET APPOINTED BY PORT. Willamette Iron Works' Bill for Dredge Engines—Other Matters Considered at Meeting.

The Port of Portland Commission held yesterday when the members believe will be the last meeting of the year. A number of routine matters had come up that required consideration before the next regular meeting is held. It was expected that an appointment would be made of an engineer to superintend the construction of the sectional drydock at Vancouver in place of Mr. Blackwell, who recently resigned, but beyond a general discussion of the matter nothing was done.

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Foreign and Domestic Ports. ASTORIA, Dec. 29.—Arrived down at 10:30 A. M.—French bark Lamont, for Astoria. Arrived at 11:30 A. M.—British ship Ventura, sailed at 12 M.—Scholar, for Astoria, sailed at 1:30 P. M.—Merrill, for Astoria, sailed at 2:30 P. M.—Merrill, for Astoria, sailed at 3:30 P. M.

COMPLETES WORLD CIRCUIT. Mexico & Orient Closes Deal With Hamburg Line. KANSAS CITY, Dec. 29.—A contract for service with the Hamburg-American Steamship Line was ratified today by the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient Railway, at a meeting of the directors of the latter company held in this city.

The Hamburg Line will extend its service and will have a close traffic arrangement with the Orient at Port Stillwell, the terminus of the road on the Mexican Coast, and the new line of steamers will, it is announced, be in operation by the end of the year.

Wiley Shuts Out Humorists From His Chemically-Fed Boarders. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Hereafter the chemically-fed boarders, on whom Dr. Wiley, of the Agricultural Department, is trying the horac acid tests, will not be allowed to talk about the progress of the experiments.

RUSHING GRAIN CARGOES. Ships That Must Finish Loading Before the Year Ends. As the year draws to an end and the stevedores are rushing things into the grain docks, as several of the vessels will be loaded before the New Year.

ABERDEEN'S SHIPPING. Eighteen Million Feet of Lumber Loaded in December. ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Within the past two weeks more vessels have reached this port than ever known before in this season.

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HUMBERTS REACH PARIS

POLICE GUARD THEM CAREFULLY FROM THE CURIOUS. Eva, the Youngest of the Party, Wishes to Share Her Mother's Prison, but is Dismissed.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—The members of the Humbert family, who were recently arrested in Madrid in connection with the great safe frauds in this city, arrived at Orleans this morning, where at 7:40 o'clock this morning. There was no demonstration. The prisoners were conducted to the Congregacion Prison.

The arrival of the fugitives was devoid of sensational interest, as the French police had chosen an hour for their return here when Paris was only half awake. The crowd at the railroad station was comparatively small, but a large force of police and soldiers, mounted on foot, was drawn up in front of the station and guarded all the street approaches in order to prevent the possibility of a popular demonstration.

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PERSONAL MENTION

W. D. Hofus, of Seattle, a prominent dealer in iron and steel, is at the Portland office of the Columbia Valley Railroad Company.

A. Geiser is registered at the Portland office of the Columbia Valley Railroad Company. Mr. Geiser is a prominent mining man and banker of Baker City.

Louis Glass, general manager of the Pacific States Telephone Company, arrived from San Francisco yesterday.

County School Superintendent R. F. Robinson, who is now in Southern Oregon, is expected to return home Wednesday.

Genar Mayer, a resident of Portland, who has acquired some extensive interests in Alaska, arrived from Juneau yesterday.

Colonel I. N. Peyton, a millionaire mining man of Spokane, is guest of the Portland office of the Columbia Valley Railroad Company.

John Woods, of the Macadam road, who was injured December 11 in a collision between his team and a train near the Columbia valley, was able to be moved yesterday from the North Pacific Sanitarium to his home, and is progressing as satisfactorily as can be expected.

S. M. Meares, president of the Chamber of Commerce of this city, returned last week from the East. His train was delayed 24 hours in Wyoming by snow. Mr. Meares is strongly in favor of the proposed reduction of the tariff on goods imported from the Philippines.

Attorney Earl Sanders, a second Oregon boy, formerly of The Dalles, but now in Portland, is expected to return to the Portland office of the Columbia Valley Railroad Company.

Thomas G. Farrell has returned from a three weeks' trip to Southern California. He was very favorably impressed by what he saw of that state. He says that the streets in California towns are kept in better order than they are in Portland, as when a hole is worn in the surface it is repaired at once, and not left to grow larger, as is the case here.

Mr. Frye owns too many interests in Seattle, said Mr. Thomson. "To be able to transfer his business to Portland without sustaining a very heavy loss, the City Council of Seattle is insisting that all abattoirs be removed beyond the city limits, but it would be far cheaper for the City Council to insist that the city be gracefully with this regulation than to attempt to move their great business to any other district. No, I do not see how it could be accomplished at all."

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Governor T. G. Orr arrived in Roseburg from Salem yesterday, and is a guest of Commander Shipley, of the Oregon Soldiers' Home.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—(Special.)—From Portland—A. Solomon, at the Albert Stricker Hotel, Wash.—T. H. Cavanaugh, at the Herald Square.

From Seattle—F. Lusk, at the Astor; F. W. Hicks, S. B. Weeks, at the Manhattan; O. Mackellar and wife, at the Imperial.

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BILL FOR A FIREBOAT

Drafted by J. C. Flanders, and Approved by Chamber of Commerce. A Legislative bill has been drawn up to authorize Portland to buy a fireboat. It was drafted by J. C. Flanders, and has been approved by the fireboat committee of the Chamber of Commerce and by the Taxpayers' League.

The bill will empower the city to raise a tax of \$50,000 for the purpose of purchasing a fireboat. The measure provides for the immediate purchase or construction of a boat. The bill follows:

Section 1. The Council of the City of Portland is hereby authorized and empowered, in its discretion to assess, levy and collect a special tax not exceeding 1 1/2 mills of each dollar of valuation upon all property, real and personal within the City of Portland, and not exempt from taxation.

Section 2. The Council of the City of Portland is hereby authorized and empowered to issue bonds to the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of purchasing a fireboat, and to issue and sell such bonds, and to pay the interest thereon out of the proceeds of the sale of such bonds.

Section 3. The proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized by this act shall be used for the purchase of a fireboat, and the balance thereof shall be used for the purpose of purchasing a fireboat, and to pay the interest thereon out of the proceeds of the sale of such bonds.

Section 4. The Council of the City of Portland is hereby authorized and empowered to make and execute all contracts, and to do all things necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

Section 5. This act shall take effect and remain in full force and effect after its approval by the Governor.

The new charter does not give the city power to raise money for a fireboat by a special tax. At one time the instrument did authorize the city to do this, but in the revision of the charter by its framers this authority was taken away.

Work on Morrison-Street Sewer. Work was begun yesterday on the sewer to be laid in Morrison street from the river to Fifth street. A trench was dug twenty feet across front street, with the traffic from the bridge at Portland, through Front street, a crowd and a jam which made things very interesting for teamsters stung about the intersection of Front and Morrison at day. The laborers and the public will be very busy when the sewer is laid across Front street and the street is down and paved again. Some impatient person suggested that this

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It is pure. It is gentle. It is pleasant. It is efficacious. It is not expensive. It is good for children. It is excellent for ladies. It is convenient for business men. It is perfectly safe under all circumstances. It is used by millions of families the world over. It stands highest, as a laxative, with physicians. If you use it you have the best laxative the world produces. Manufactured by CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. Louisville, Ky. San Francisco, Cal. New York, N. Y. FOR SALE BY ALL LEADING DRUGGISTS.

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