

MEET TO DEFEAT

Yamhill Will Invoke the Referendum

ON BIG APPROPRIATION

Large Sums Saddled on State Unfairly, It Is Said.

PETITION TO BE PREPARED

Enthusiastic Gathering of Citizens Organized at McMinnville and Appoints Committee to Carry Out the Plans Proposed.

LESSON FOR LEGISLATURE. The argument generally advanced by those opposing the referendum on the \$1,000,000 appropriation bill, is not that the state would save any considerable sum of money thereby, but that it would teach the legislature a lesson and prevent the normal school appropriations from being saddled upon the necessary appropriations for state institutions in order to secure their passage. If the referendum should be demanded it will be because the normal schools were not provided for in a separate bill.

McMinnville, Or., Feb. 27.—(Special.)

Ever since the adjournment of the Legislature there has been talk in Yamhill County of circulating a petition asking for the referendum on House bill No. 370, which carries an appropriation of over \$1,000,000 for state penal, reformatory and charitable institutions at Salem, the State University, Agricultural College and the Normal Schools. Interest in the movement has continued to grow and tonight culminated in a citizens' meeting, at which an organization was perfected for the express purpose of urging the defeat of the appropriation bill by the people. The meeting was held in the Court house, and on motion M. B. Hendrick was chosen permanent chairman and H. L. McCann, secretary. An executive committee consisting of representatives from each of the political parties was appointed and instructed to urge voters in all legitimate ways to work for the defeat of the bill. This committee consists of: M. B. Hendrick, chairman; H. L. McCann, J. C. Cooper, William Vinton, David Stout, W. C. Hagerly and B. T. Asbury.

Discussion of the Subject.

Following the appointment of the committee, the meeting was opened for discussion of the step under consideration. W. C. Hagerly in response to a request from and in the behalf of Dr. J. C. Calbreath, of the state insane asylum, stated that if the appropriation bill should be killed, it would be a hardship upon and a positive detriment to that institution. G. O. Holman then defined the financial situation of the state if the requisite number of petitioners should be secured. He also stated that, although such condition might and probably would cause temporary inconvenience, it would be an effectual way of eliminating a system of biennial appropriations which are considered by many to be unjust. W. W. Mickley, a farmer from the Bellevue section, also made a petition speech in behalf of the petition. W. T. Vinton stated that he considered the matter of making appropriations unjust and would support a petition for referendum on House bill 370, and would do all he could to further the movement.

Petition to Be Drawn Up.

Before the meeting closed, it was agreed that the executive committee should meet at the call of the chairman. At the coming meeting a petition will be drawn up and an outline of campaign made. There will be no expense of circulating the petitions, for volunteers are plentiful. It is the opinion of the committee that the requisite number of petitioners can be secured by simply reading the petition in stores and public places.

As far as known there is no express opposition to the movement and the opinion of the Yamhill County taxpayers is summed up in the reply of ex-District Attorney James McCain to a telephone message from B. S. Mulkey, asking who was back of the movement, to which McCain replied: "We are all in it."

NORMALS CHIEF SUFFERERS.

Popular Vote Could Cut Off All Money for These Institutions.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—Agitation in favor of demanding the referendum upon the \$1,000,000 appropriation bill, passed by the last Legislature has caused considerable discussion in Salem in the last few days and great interest is being taken in the progress of the movement. Salem people are generally opposed to the referendum, for if the appropriation bill should be held up no warrants could be drawn for services or supplies at the state institutions and it would probably be necessary for employes and furnishers of supplies to discount their

certificates showing the amount due them.

The amount of the appropriation bill was about \$1,049,000, of which sum \$500,000 was for the University, Agricultural College, Normal Schools, new buildings, etc., not authorized by existing laws. If the appropriation bill should be held up by referendum petitions, the asylum, penitentiary, reform school, blind school, mute school, Soldiers' Home, University and Agricultural College would continue to operate as they have in the past, except that certificates of audit would be issued in payment of expenses instead of warrants. These certificates would not draw interest, unless the next Legislature appropriated money for interest, but the amount of the certificates would be paid.

The University and Agricultural Colleges have standing appropriations and all that would be cut off from these institutions by the referendum on the appropriation bill would be the additional sums allowed for new buildings and increased maintenance. With the appropriation bill held up, the Normal Schools would receive neither certificates of audit nor warrants, for they exist by no authority of law.

Stated in a general way, the effect of demanding the referendum upon the appropriation bill would be to prevent the incurring of expenses of about \$300,000 in the next two years, while necessary authorized expenses to the amount of \$150,000 would be evidenced by certificates of audit. Should the next Legislature allow 6 per cent interest on these certificates, the accumulated interest would amount to about \$4,000.

Superintendent Calbreath, of the insane asylum, says that holding up the appropriation bill would probably also have the effect of raising the price of wheat 5 to 10 per cent, or bidders would take discount into consideration in making prices.

APPLICANTS ARE POURING IN

Office of State Engineer Carries a Very Good Salary.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—Applications for appointment to the office of State Engineer are pouring into the Governor's office, notwithstanding the fact that the salary is not vested in the Governor and the law authorizing the appointment will not be made for 90 days yet. The salary of \$200 a month and expenses is what makes the office attractive to men qualified for the position. The Governor is suggesting to applicants that it might be well for them to apply to the director of the United States Geological Survey, technically qualified and holding a license as a hydraulic engineer, shall be appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the director of the United States Geological Survey and confirmed by the Senate. He shall hold office for four years unless sooner removed by the Governor for cause and until his successor shall have been appointed and qualified.

The duties of the State Engineer are to have general supervision of all the measurements and records of appropriation of waters of the state and all surveys and engineering work in which the state may be interested, and to perform all work in connection therewith which funds are provided, and to perform all work in connection therewith which funds are provided, and to perform all work in connection therewith which funds are provided.

PUSH ANTI-STANDARD FIGHT.

Kansas Will Sell Refinery Bonds—House Passes Gas Bill.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 27.—It was decided today that the bonds for the state oil refinery will be issued within ten days. As soon as they are sold, work on the refinery will begin at once. Miss Ida M. Tarbell, the magazine writer, will be here this week. She will thoroughly investigate the Kansas oil fields and the events leading up to the fight on the Standard Oil Company, and from the material thus gained write a series of articles for an Eastern publication. The House today passed the Holden anti-pumping-of-gas bill. It will now become a law. The bill prohibits the use of pumps on gas wells, but permits compressors on pipe lines. The anti-discrimination bill will probably be considered by the House tomorrow.

ANTI-TRUST LAW SUSTAINED

Cotton Oil Trust Finally Driven Out of Texas.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The Supreme Court of the United States has decided the case of the National Cotton Oil Company vs. the State of Texas, involving the Texas anti-trust law. The state court found the company guilty under that law and held that it had forfeited its right to do business in the state. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court on constitutional grounds. That court, however, in its opinion today, which was delivered by Justice McKenna, held that the claim was untenable and sustained the verdict of the state court.

Anti-Salt Trust Measure Killed.

TOPEKA, Feb. 27.—A House concurrent resolution calling for an investigation of the salt trust was defeated by a vote of 27 to 19. It was necessary for the resolution to receive a two-thirds vote, or 53 votes.

Appointed by the President.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The President today sent the following nominations to the Senate: Consul-General at Panama—Joseph W. Lee, Maryland; Postmasters—George L. Morgan, at Mackay, Idaho; Charles H. Grets, at Silver City, Idaho.

AIM AT MUKDEN

Japanese Striking Decisive Blow.

HAVE CAPTURED TALING

That Pass Is Pronounced Gateway to the City.

OYAMA ORDERED TO ADVANCE

Must Act Before Snow Melts—Positions He Has Taken Are Important, Despite Denials by the Russians.

SPECIAL CABLE

TOKIO, Feb. 28.—Following the custom of the Japanese government, the officials at the War Office refuse to discuss the present movements in Manchuria, but there is a general air of confidence among the higher officers, who are absolutely posted on the situation, which is believed to indicate that General Kuroki has again scored a complete success and that official announcement may be expected very soon.

Up to midnight Monday no particulars of the fighting had been given out, but it was stated that, so far as was known, only the right and center of Marshal Oyama's army had been engaged and that the conditions on the left are unchanged.

Regarding the announcement from St. Petersburg that only a comparatively small force of Russians have been engaged and that the capture of Tainketchen was of no consequence, an officer of the general staff said last night:

Lost Position Was Important.

"That is not so. General Kuroki certainly would not have spent two months fortifying a temporary position, if he had intended to abandon it at the first attack. It is hard to reconcile the views of the Russian staff with the report of their commander at the front, who stated that the Japanese were only able to occupy the position after desperate bayonet charges and after the Russian position had been shelled for hours. That hardly sounds to me like the report a man would make of the loss of a position of minor importance. "For obvious reasons I, of course, cannot say why the position was necessary to our troops, but if you wait a few hours you may learn."

Mukden May Be Captured.

It is the general opinion among the best-informed experts in the Japanese capital that the present movement, before it ends, will result in the capture of Mukden. It is known that orders have been sent to Field Marshal Oyama, telling him that the time is ripe for taking the Russian main position, as, if the action is postponed much longer, the Spring thaws, with their resultant floods, will be upon him and it will be impossible to do any fighting until the roads dry up.

The weather at the front, which had been somewhat mild for a fortnight, has again changed, and the mercury is hovering near the zero mark, while heavy squalls of snow are causing great suffering to the troops. Medical officers declare that the large percentage of killed reported from unofficial sources is due to the fact that the weather is so bad, and say that the sufferings of the wounded must be terrible in the extreme.

Vladivostok to Be Cut Off.

There is, of course, a possibility that the present movement may have for its object, as well as the capture of Mukden, the isolation of Vladivostok. In view of the recent reports that the port was being blockaded by sea by a Japanese squadron of torpedo-boats and protected cruisers, there can be little doubt that, if Kuroki crushes the Russian left, such troops as can be spared will be assigned to a special campaign against the Siberian stronghold.

A report was in circulation late last

night that the Japanese had routed the Russians and entered Bomsapud. As yet this is not confirmed.

SECOND LINE IS MAINTAINED

Russians Repulse Japanese Attack in Desperate Fight.

SPECIAL CABLE. ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 28.—Several reports have been received from General Kuropatkin since Monday noon dealing with the fighting in Manchuria. Only a small portion of them have been made public, but these demonstrate that the fighting still continues and that the Japanese have scored some small successes. The Russian commander-in-chief insists, however, that the Russians are holding their own and have in several instances repulsed the Japanese attacks.

Moving from Tainketchen, which they captured late Saturday, the Japanese advanced against the front of the secondary Russian position, which was held by a strong force, among which were several regiments of the Siberian division. The Japanese first shelled the Russians with heavy siege artillery, following this up with an infantry attack. This was of a most desperate character, but was repulsed and the Japanese were compelled to retire, leaving many dead and wounded behind. The Russian loss was not great. Among the wounded is Colonel Gorsky.

Japanese attacks were also repulsed at Tangu, Bridaling and Bomsapud, but were renewed against the latter place, and the fighting was still in progress at last accounts. It is reported at the War Office, but not officially confirmed, that General Kuropatkin has been compelled to withdraw some of his troops from the right center to reinforce those who are opposing the Japanese turning movement.

PASSES TAKEN BY JAPANESE

They Capture Taling, Which Is Gateway to Mukden.

MUKDEN, Feb. 28.—The Russians report that the Japanese are in possession of Taling, and also the pass between Taling and Katouling. The possession of Taling threatens Fusharik, Tiepling and Hlegway.

Taling is regarded as of the same consequence to the Japanese in their operations against Mukden as was Motienling in relation to Liao Yang.

In case the Japanese push on to the southeast, their operations will be among the hills.

JAPANESE CROSS THE SHAKHE

Advance Is Checked by Russian Support—Attack on Center.

MUKDEN, Feb. 27.—The Japanese crossed the Shakhe River last evening, having driven in the pickets of the Russian vanguard. Russian supports came up and stopped the Japanese advance.

On the right flank all is quiet, but movements of the Japanese indicate an intention of attacking the Russian center, at least in the way of a demonstration. Heavy firing continued today to the eastward.

The soldiers of the Tainketchen division are in good spirits, in spite of the heavy losses they have sustained and the necessity which compelled them to retreat. They are encouraged by the execution they wrought upon the Japanese, whose bodies were piled in heaps outside the redoubts at Beresneff Hill and the trenches at Tainketchen.

SHELLS DROPPING IN MUKDEN

Japanese Execute Turning Move Far to the North.

NIU CHWANG, Feb. 27, via Tien Tsin (6 P. M.).—According to a person who has just returned here from the front, the Japanese are shelling Mukden with 11-inch mortars. The bombardment which was recently commenced is further reported to have caused great damage far behind the Russian lines.

Advices from Chinese sources say that a general engagement is in progress all along the line. The heaviest fighting is reported to be occurring on the Japanese right, and General Kuroki is said to be sweeping far north and threatening to crumple the Russians back on the railroad.

A special force is reported to be moving from the south and east, with the intention of cutting off the Russians' communication by railroad from Vladivostok.

Russians Still Bombarding.

TOKIO, Feb. 27 (P. M.).—The only announcement made today from the headquarters of the Japanese armies in Manchuria, was a brief statement to the effect that the Russians continued a bombardment, Saturday and Sunday, that the weather is very cold, and that it is snowing.

ON FIRE AT SEA

Listing Steamer Seen Off Crescent City, Cal.

PROBABLY THE OREGON

Passengers Are Transferred to Collier and Tug.

CANNOT MAKE PORT AT NIGHT

Vessel Was at First Supposed to Be The Columbia, but She Arrived in San Francisco Harbor Late at Night.

CRESCENT CITY, Cal., Feb. 27.—Late this afternoon two steamers, supposed to be the steamer Columbia, and a collier, arrived off this port.

The vessel, which is supposed to be the Columbia, had a heavy list and presented the appearance of being on fire.

The passengers were transferred to the collier and to the steamer Del Norte, which went out from this port.

The collier put to sea today and will probably be followed by the Columbia. The Del Norte will come into this harbor in the morning when particulars will be obtainable.

COLUMBIA ARRIVES ON TIME.

Passed into Port at San Francisco at 9 in the Evening.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 27.—The steamer Columbia passed into port at 9:15 o'clock tonight. Her arrival places another phase on the dispatch from Crescent City, Cal., tonight and shipping men are endeavoring to discover the identity of the steamer reported to be in distress off that harbor.

BELIEVED TO BE THE OREGON

Vessel for Northern Ports Due Off Crescent City About Same Time.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 27.—It is believed at the Merchants' Exchange in this city that the steamer reported in distress at Crescent City this afternoon is the steamer Oregon, which left here yesterday at 4 P. M. for northern ports.

The Oregon was due off Crescent City at about 1 o'clock this afternoon. She resembles in many ways the steamer Columbia and might readily be mistaken for that vessel.

It is thought that the collier mentioned in the Meteor, coming here from Oyster Bay, Alaska, and due here tomorrow. It has been learned that the transfer of passengers took place some distance outside of Crescent City harbor, hence the inability of the people ashore to ascertain the identity of the disabled vessel.

MUNITIONS HAVE GONE ASTRAY

Steamer Carlisle, Bound for Port Arthur, Interred at Manila.

MANILA, Feb. 27.—The British steamer Carlisle, which was chartered by the Russian government and which, when 800 miles out from Vladivostok, lost her propeller and resorted to sail, which carried her by contrary winds and currents to the Philippines, where she anchored in San Miguel Bay, off the south end of the island of Luzon, February 20, was towed into this port today. At the time of her arrival in San Miguel Bay the vessel was 85 days out from Vladivostok with supplies for Port Arthur.

A Russian supercargo is now in charge of the Carlisle, the cargo of which consists of powder, shells and other munitions of war. The customs

authorities here have sealed down the hatches and the Carlisle will probably be detained until the conclusion of the war.

ATTACKS ON PASSES REPULSED

But Japanese Have Gained Advantage at Several Points.

MADYADANI, Manchuria, Feb. 27.—After fighting of the most desperate nature, the Russians remained Sunday evening in possession of Che and Da Passes, against which the Japanese had been flinging themselves madly from noon until dark. The Russians, who were greatly outnumbered, sustained repeated attacks, some units losing as high as 70 per cent in killed or wounded in hand-to-hand fighting with the bayonet, to which they were reduced owing to their having fired their last bullets. In order to hold Da Pass, the last reserves were sent to the firing line.

The Japanese turning operations in the region of the Caxto Pass were checked by a battalion of Russian infantry and several squadrons of cavalry, who repulsed the Japanese with heavy loss. The Japanese also tried to advance on Nangou and Vanupudai, but were repulsed.

The present operations commenced February 19, when the Japanese made a night attack on Haba Pass, seven miles south of Tainketchen. February 20 they attacked Vanze Pass, seven miles southeast of Tainketchen, positions which themselves are far in advance of the general front of the army. The Russians made a counter attack February 21, and temporarily gained ground, but in the evening of February 22, the face of superior numbers they were flanked and retired on the fortified line at Tainketchen.

The Japanese stormed Bomeff Hill throughout February 23, simultaneously enveloping the Tainketchen position with artillery, and outflanking the Russian infantry. The Russians evacuated Tainketchen February 24, and retired fighting a stubborn rear-guard action, halting at Da and Che Passes.

JAPANESE ADVANCE GOES ON

But Kuropatkin Says He Repulsed Them at Several Points.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 27 (P. M.).—A special dispatch from General Kuropatkin, dated February 26, says: "The enemy is continuing the offensive against the front of our Tainketchen detachment, and has turned both its flanks."

The Japanese have also advanced against Kantle Pass, turning our left flank, but all his attacks on Tangu and Beldyng have been repulsed. His offensive movement against Bomsapud has also been repulsed. At some positions our riflemen forced the Japanese outposts to retire.

"Colonel Gorsky was severely wounded."

Japanese Cannonade the Passes.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 27.—General Kuropatkin, in a dispatch dated February 26, announced that the Japanese have commenced cannonading in the direction of Gauto and Wanfun passes.

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YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 64 deg.; minimum, 49. Precipitation, none.

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Chamber of Commerce will see that the law is enforced against unsightly billboards and rubbish piles. Page 10.

GIVES UP CORNER

Gates Causes Sudden Tumble in Wheat.

MAKES LARGE PROFITS

Panic Averted by Intervention of Armours.

GATES WILL CORNER CORN

Wild Stampede to Sell Follows Announcement That Gates Has Abandoned Corner—Great Slaughter of Lambs.

FACTS ABOUT GATES' WHEAT CORNER.

Corner begun in October, 1904. Collapsed February 27, 1905. Total holdings (estimated), 30,000,000 bushels. Total profits (estimated), \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—(Special.)—The

Gates corner in May wheat collapsed today with a terrific bang. Millions of bushels of the cereal were thrown on the local market by the clique houses, causing prices to fall with a crash. The slump caused a panic among smaller holders, who had been following the bull leaders with the innocent faith of the lamb being led to the shearing pen.

The price of May wheat fell to \$1.14 1/2. Less than two weeks ago it sold at \$1.24 1/2. The closing price Saturday was \$1.15 1/2. The trade was caught unawares by the severe break, and wheat bought by outsiders at fancy prices was sold out at a tremendous loss.

Gates Starts Stampede.

Word went out at the close last week that the Gates party was ready to throw up the deal, having even at that time disposed of a large portion of its line. However, brokers were skeptical, and when the market opened a trifle higher this morning, the belief generally prevailed that such reports were without foundation. Trade proceeded in the usual way for about half an hour, when without warning the market suddenly started to tumble.

"Gates has thrown up the sponge," brokers shouted, as they saw prices giving way, and some of the bears gave vent to their enthusiasm by frantically waving their hats in the air. The demonstration, however, soon took a more serious turn. Commission-houses were loaded up with wheat on which margins were fast disappearing, and selling on stop-loss orders threw the market into a fever of excitement, which quickly spread to all parts of the floor, then to commission offices throughout the down-town district.

It is