

CROWS NEST REGION IS AN ASHEN WASTE

Six Towns Fed to Flames Raging in Forest.

THOUSANDS MADE HOMELESS

Loss of Life Believed to Be Greatest Since San Francisco Disaster.

PROPERTY LOSS \$10,000,000

Whole Country From Fernie to Michel Seething Furnace.

CANADA'S GREATEST FIRE

Death List May Reach Far Into Hundreds—Strong Wind Fans Flames—Human Hands Fight Against Them in Vain.

63 DEAD IN ONE CAMP.
VANCOUVER, B. C., Aug. 2.—(Special.)—A report from Cranbrook, the first station west of Fernie, says that 61 men and 2 women were killed in the No. 4 logging camp of the Elk River Lumber Company. The camp was surrounded by fire and not a single person escaped. Hundreds of refugees are being sent through from Fernie to Cranbrook tonight.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Aug. 2.—(Special.)—Fire between 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and darkness tonight burned for 40 miles along the Elk River Valley, in what is known as the Crows Nest region of East Kootenay. Loss of life has been heavy. Some reports make the death list between 70 and 100. Property damage has been estimated at from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000. Fernie has been wiped out and the towns of Hosmer, Elko, Sparwood, Olson and Cokato are reported burned. Michel is threatened unless the flames are checked. The fire is still raging. **Towns Hemmed in by Flames.** The disaster is unique in the history of Western Canada. For an entire section of country, towns, railways, bridges and forests were swept away. Hosmer, the new pet town of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and Michel, 28 miles east of the point where Fernie stood yesterday afternoon.

LOSES MILLIONS BY TECHNICALITY

AGED HEIRESS CANNOT COMPLY WITH GERMAN LAW.

Wisconsin Woman Unable to Recall Remote Ancestor's Name and Produce Heirlooms.

APPLETON, Wis., Aug. 2.—(Special.)—Because she cannot remember the name of her great-grandfather, and because she cannot produce a silver buckle and a silver knife and fork gifts from the King of Prussia to her great-grandfather, tailsmans required by the will, Mrs. Frederika Lorenz.



Robert A. Booth, Ex-State Senator, Acquitted of Conspiracy Charge.

aged 95 years, a pauper supported by the town of Ellington, Wis., will lose an estate worth many millions—fifty millions, according to the attorneys. There seems to be no doubt of the woman's identity, but the German laws relating to inheritances take nothing for granted. The will requires that she give the full name of her great-grandfather, who was an immensely wealthy brewer, and produce the articles specified in the will. These were buried under a stone fireplace, but were stolen by other relatives. All the children of the third generation were born in this country and have had no opportunity of knowing what was being done with the estate, or what was required of them. It is said the money, which has been tied up for 50 years, will soon pass to other relatives and to the Prussian government.

WIRELESS SETTLES STRIKE

Steamship Crew Ratifies Agreement From Lake Michigan.

CHICAGO, Aug. 2.—(Special.)—Wireless telegraph was called into requisition today to settle a strike. This, it is said, is the first time the method ever was used. It was imperative that the committee on shore, who had settled the strike, should get into communication with the captain of the steamship Theodore Roosevelt, then in the middle of Lake Michigan, apprise him of the action and have him verify the settlement before his ship touched port, in order to avoid trouble. He was finally picked up by wireless and the negotiations were completed. His seamen and firemen were instructed by the same method to stand by the ship, and passengers were saved from trouble at the docks on the other side and possibly from being marooned on the sand dunes at Michigan City.

Heretofore the chief service of the wireless here in connection with lake navigation has been to transmit racing odds to boats which put out beyond the three-mile limit in order to avoid the police.

SOLDIERS IN CAMP AT AMERICAN LAKE

Joint Maneuvers Will Open Today.

CITY OF TENTS IS A MODEL

All Regulars and Washington Guardsmen Under Canvas.

OREGON TROOPS ARE NEXT

Soldiers of Two States and Uncle Sam's Men Will Participate in Field Work of the Coming Ten Days.

TACOMA, Wash., Aug. 2.—Regular Army and National Guard troops from Guard stations and Army garrisons throughout Oregon and Washington are arriving with almost every train at the American Lake district, south and west of Tacoma, for participation in the joint maneuvers, which open tomorrow morning. Tonight all Regular Army troops, and the Washington National Guard are under canvas, and with the arrival tomorrow of two regiments of infantry from Oregon, the entire force assigned to the first maneuver period of ten days will be ready to take the field.

Regulars numbering 2584 enlisted men and 113 officers are now in camp at Murray Station, eleven miles from Tacoma. The National Guard of Washington is represented by a full regiment of infantry and one troop of cavalry. The Regulars comprise the First Infantry, 10 companies, 25 officers, 695 men, Major T. W. Moore, commanding; the Third Infantry, 10 companies, 27 officers, 622 men, Colonel T. C. Woodbury, commanding; Sixth Infantry, 9 companies, 25 officers, 675 men, Lieut. Col. W. E. Mann, commanding; Fourth Cavalry, 4 troops, 8 officers, 246 men, Captain H. E. Hope, commanding; Fourth Field Artillery, 2 batteries, 7 officers, 244 men, Major F. E. McLaughlin, commanding; battalion Second Infantry, 3 companies, 7 officers, 163 men, Captain P. A. Shuttleworth, commanding; Ambulance Company, 11 officers, 90 men, Captain A. E. Truby, commanding.

Establish Model Camp.

In addition to these troops, which will represent the actual fighting force, are the engineers and signal corps men, and the cooks and bakers. To Company B, of the engineer corps, Lieutenant L. I. Watkins, commanding, has fallen the work of laying out the big camp, in which the entire force is being assembled. Perfect sanitary arrangements have been perfected. The construction of a model camp has required endless work, as well as skill, experience and intelligence. One of the most important things in connection with the maneuvers is the health of the troops engaged, and to this the engineers and medical department must attend.

Baking Made a Science.

Cooking and baking have likewise been reduced to a fine art, and 41 men under Captain H. T. Ferguson, will bake bread for the entire camp, and bake bread which will be nutritious and digestible, a result not always attainable by haphazard company cooks and bakers who

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ERA OF PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY IN NORTHWEST

Portland's Remarkable Record for First Seven Months of 1908.

It is gratifying in the extreme to note the great progress which Portland is making in all lines of industrial effort. Record-breaking building permits, real estate transfers and Postoffice receipts all point to a degree of prosperity that six months ago even the most optimistic would not have dared to predict. In view of this remarkable recovery it is interesting to note some of the features that have contributed to this prosperity and that have inspired our people with confidence in the future. Among these features having such an important influence on our prosperity and not in evidence a year ago are:

The North Bank road, opening to our merchants a territory nearly equal in extent to that on which we have been dependent for years.

The Lewiston-Riparian road, making tributary to Portland the rich Lewiston-Clearwater country, from which Portland has been barred for nearly ten years.

The Oregon Electric system, opening up a nearby territory in which poor transportation and no transportation have retarded development for years.

An increased steamship service to Coos Bay.

Preliminary work on a number of important industrial and transportation enterprises.

Positive assurance of greatly increased depth of water at entrance of Columbia.

Those are some of the features which inspire confidence in the future of the city. Here are a few that have actually brought prosperity with them:

For the first seven months of 1908, Portland shipped 9,222,233 bushels of wheat. For the same period of 1907, 3,205,153 bushels.

Foreign lumber shipments this year to August 1 were 67,822,056 feet; last year, 41,253,089 feet.

For the seven months this year Portland cleared 414 vessels of 548,132 tons net register; last year, 327 vessels of 466,677 tons net register.

The value of wheat, barley and lumber shipped by water from Portland for the first seven months of 1908 was more than \$7,000,000 in excess of that sent out in the same period last year.

An increase of more than \$1,000,000 per month in water shipments of grain and lumber alone offers some explanation of an increase in real estate transfers, Postoffice receipts and building permits, especially when it is known that the average of gain will be exceeded during the remaining five months of the year.

All things considered, Portland real estate is cheaper today at \$5000 per front foot than it was a year ago at \$4000.

BOOTH CASE JURY VOTES ACQUITTAL

Separate Verdicts for Three Defendants.

RETURNED EARLY IN MORNING

Robert A. Booth Is Exonerated on First Ballot.

HEAR RESULT IN TEARS

Defendants Are Greatly Affected When Agreement Is Reached After Juror Gibson Had Held Out for Hours.

Separate verdicts of acquittal were reported in the United States Court at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning against each of the three defendants in the Booth-Singleton conspiracy case, Robert A. Booth, ex-State Senator; James Henry Booth, ex-Receiver of the Roseburg Land Office, and his brother-in-law, Thomas E. Singleton.

The jury retired at 2:40 P. M. Saturday and agreed on verdicts in favor of all three defendants at 9:15 o'clock Sunday morning. Judge Wolverton was notified and the verdicts were received and read shortly before 10 o'clock. Robert E. Davis, of this city, was foreman of the jury.

Friends Hear the Verdict.

It was a glorious Sunday morning for the three defendants and the members of their families and several intimate friends, who were in constant attendance during the three weeks' tedious trial. Patiently and confidently did they loiter in the courtroom waiting for the message "not guilty" from the jury room until midnight Saturday night, when Judge Wolverton ordered the jury locked up for the night. Early yesterday morning they were back in the courtroom apprehensive lest the jury should fail to agree.

This feeling of uncertainty was dispelled about 9:30 o'clock, when it was announced the jury had a report to make. When the jurors entered the courtroom the interested group, from an inspection of the 12 men, was convinced that only good news was to be expected.

Give Way to Tears.

Tears mingled with hearty congratulation when Clerk Marsh finished reading the verdicts, which declared the innocence of the three accused men. It was not until the acquittal of his two alleged co-conspirators was assured from the reading of the verdicts that Robert A. Booth surrendered to his emotions, and with tears rolling down his cheeks, joined with the other defendants personally in thanking each of the jurors.

The verdict acquitting Robert A. Booth of any complicity in the alleged conspiracy amounted to a complete vindication. It was apparent to those attending the trial that the Government failed to connect him with the transaction and that the jury so regarded the case was confirmed by the fact that it voted unanimously on the first ballot for his acquittal.

Only Two for Conviction.

But it was in considering the cases of James Henry Booth and Singleton that the jury failed to agree for several hours. But at no time did more than two of the 12 men vote for conviction as against either of these defendants. For the first

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NO CONSOLIDATION, SAYS HARRIMAN

ERIE DEAL MADE TO SAVE BAD SITUATION.

Roads Will Not Be Abandoned, Declares Magnate in Chicago on His Way to Oregon.

CHICAGO, Aug. 2.—(Special.)—"There's not going to be any abandonment of railroads, nor is there to be any combination or consolidation of railroads over night. What has been done has been done to save a bad situation, financially speaking."



J. H. Booth, Ex-Receiver Roseburg Land Office, Acquitted for Second Time in Federal Court.

by Edward H. Harriman tonight, discussing the deal whereby a syndicate of bankers paid in effect \$8,000,000 for \$2,000,000 worth of Wheeling & Lake Erie stock term notes.

Mr. Harriman, accompanied by his family and large retinue of servants, stenographers, telegraph operators and other assistants in a special train of five cars, arrived here this evening on his way to Oregon. Important conferences are scheduled for tomorrow and number of men prominent in railroad and financial affairs here got into communication with Mr. Harriman shortly after his arrival. Among his callers will be representatives of the J. Osden Armour interests.

Julius Kruttschnitt, director of maintenance and operation of Union and Southern Pacific systems, joined Mr. Harriman here and will accompany him on his Western trip. J. C. Stubbis, traffic director for the Harriman lines, it is thought, will also be one of the party.

SHOT BY CLAIM JUMPER

California Man Killed and Companion Dangerously Wounded.

RANDESBURG, Cal., Aug. 2.—Two men were shot, one being killed and the other dangerously wounded, six miles west of Garden station this morning. The news was brought in by J. N. Witt, who did the shooting. There had been trouble over the action of Witt and a man named Chesborough in jumping a claim owned by M. S. Tarkington and Bradford Peck, Jr. Witt says Peck and Tarkington came into his yard and began driving a stake. He ordered them off and went toward them, carrying a Winchester rifle. When within a dozen feet Peck he shot him through the heart, then turned the gun on Tarkington, shooting him in the face and neck.

Tarkington begged him not to shoot again and struggling to his feet, started for a railroad camp several miles away. Word was received that after reaching the camp he fainted and it is feared he is mortally wounded.

Witt took his family to Johannesburg, then came here to give himself up.

GIVING ODDS 10 TO 1 ON TAFT

Betting Like Lobsters, Says Wellman.

WALL STREET AN EASY MARK

New Yorkers Know Little of National Politics.

GOOD TIMES ARE COMING

Hopeful Over Bright Business Outlook—Usual Reprising Influence of Presidential Election Hardly Felt at All.

By Walter Wellman, to Chicago Record-News. NEW YORK, Aug. 2.—(Special.)—Down Wall street they are living in a fool's paradise, so far as the election is concerned. They think Bryan has no earthly show to win. They can't see even a possibility of his success. They talk about odds of 10 to 1 and 8 to 1, and 5 to 1 against him, and even at that no one has the courage to take the Bryan end of it. Almost everyone will be willing to concede that this early in the campaign and as matters now stand, Taft's chances must be considered better than Bryan's. But talk of odds of front 6 up to 10 to 1 is simply ridiculous. Two to one would be more like a fair sporting proposition.

Good Risk at Three to One.

If there are any men in the West who think Bryan's chances are as good as one out of three, and that is my judgment, they can get a nice mathematical equation in their favor by sending their money down to New York to be placed. Betting on election or anything else is, of course, a foolish business, especially the way they do it here, that is, without any sense or knowledge.

I call attention to the betting odds in Wall street only to illustrate the point I have in mind—the utter, the well-nigh inexplicable inability of the average New Yorker to gain even a small glimmer of the true values in the National game of politics.

Every other sort of game he understands, and plays a pretty good hand at that, but in National politics he is a child, a foreigner, an outsider, a tenderfoot, a chump, a rube, a jay, a soft one, an easy mark, a lobster. He gets his general ideas from the New York papers, and the people he talks with are his own kind, the men who believe just the way he does.

These Wall-street oddsmakers know nothing whatever about the rest of the country. The West, to them, is a sort of terra incognita, which they indicate, if they deign to consider it at all, with a vague sweep of the hand in the direction of Hoboken. They know and care nothing about some of the peculiar things going on in the minds of the people in all that region, "out West"—things which may give Bryan a better chance than most people think he has.

Jubilant Over Good Times.

In one respect the Wall-street people appear to be right; at least it is to be hoped they are. Over the business outlook they are more than hopeful—they are optimistic, confident. They believe real prosperity is near at hand and that the disturbing or repressing influence of the Presidential election is not going to be great enough to do much harm.

There is a gradual, steady improvement in business and employment, more noticeable in the East than in the West, because in this part of the country the depression was much more severe than farther west. Down town they feel so sure of the election of Taft that they are already discounting the outcome on the stock exchange.

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