

Hepner Gazette

Issued Thursday of Each Week

HEPPNER OREGON

RESUME OF THE WEEK'S DOINGS

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Comprehensive Manner for Busy Readers—National, Political, Historical and Commercial.

A member of the kaiser's cabinet is accused of grafting.

It is reported that Russian bankers will aid the revolutionists.

A St. Petersburg paper says General Treppoff is to be minister of war.

Harriman is believed to be secretly buying up St. Paul railway stock.

Heat in Chicago is oppressive. Deaths and prostrations are quite numerous.

An Italian anarchist has been captured with a quantity of dynamite intended for the king.

Sarah Bernhardt has been refused a decoration of the Legion of Honor by France because she does not pay her debts.

All South America, as represented at the Pan-American conference, is lined up for arbitration and the peace of the world.

Many witnesses are being called before the grand jury at Chicago to tell what they know of Standard Oil business methods.

Two electric cars collided head on near Vermillion, Ohio. Two persons were killed, another fatally injured and scores more or less seriously hurt.

A mutiny in all Finnish forts has been called by the Reds.

E. A. Gage, a son of Lyman Gage, committed suicide in Seattle.

Rear Admiral Train, commander in chief of the Asiatic squadron is dead.

A fund of two and a half million dollars is to be raised to build cottages for the homeless of San Francisco.

The forts at Sveaborg, Russia, are almost in total ruins as the result of fighting between mutineers and loyal troops.

San Francisco is threatened with an epidemic of typhoid, which the health board says is being carried by the common house fly.

The state law of New York restricting the labor by women and children to 10 hours a day has been declared unconstitutional.

The state auditor of Kansas says he will cancel the policies of all insurance companies who do not pay their San Francisco losses in full.

Provision contractors on the isthmus have formed a trust and raised the prices 100 per cent. The canal commission has ordered supplies of \$500 and over bought under the open bid system.

Brigadier General William Bolton is dead.

Mayor W. H. Moore, of Seattle, is seriously ill at Los Angeles.

The business of the Lewis and Clark exposition has been wound up.

T. W. Davenport, of Silverton, Oregon, father of Cartoonist Davenport, is dead.

Fifteen hundred copper miners at Calumet, Michigan, have had their wages voluntarily raised \$2 per month.

Four men were killed and two wounded in a battle between a sheriff's posse and bandits in Knott county, Kentucky.

It has been charged that General Wood is drawing two salaries, one as governor and one as his regular pay in the army. The president says this is not so.

A San Francisco woman has just secured a divorce on the ground that her husband had not spoken a word to her for eight years, although living in the same house.

A Porto Rican merchant has sued Federal Judge Hunt, of Montana, for \$100,000 damages. It is claimed that at the time the judge was governor of the island he was instrumental in ruining the merchant's business.

The National Sculpture society is to establish an old age home for its members.

The St. Paul is laying steel for its new Pacific coast extension. The work is being done in South Dakota.

Judge James F. Tracey, of the Philippine Supreme court, will likely be the next vice governor of the islands.

John D. Rockefeller says there is more good than bad in the world, and that everything is for good in the end.

Fire in a Buffalo, N. Y., planing mill destroyed \$170,000 worth of property.

Truck workers in San Francisco have struck for more pay and shorter hours.

The Pennsylvania railroad has cut passenger rates to 2 1/2 cents per mile. Mileage books will be issued at the rate of 2 cents per mile.

Vast frauds have been unearthed in San Francisco's municipal affairs. Examination of public records show that there has been an extensive graft in letting contracts and that city payrolls have been padded.

MANY TO MEET AT BOISE.

Interest High in Coming Session of Irrigation Congress.

North Yakima, Wash., Aug. 7.—During the first week of September the National Irrigation congress will be in session at Boise Idaho, with an attendance of several thousand delegates. Exhibits of fruit and honey are being prepared by different localities and states. The premiums are liberal. It is expected that the governor of Washington will appoint 25 delegates, that each commercial club will appoint ten, and that each board of county commissioners will appoint five. It is believed that if a full delegation attends the convention it will be able to secure the next national congress at some point in this state. It is hoped that the various fruitgrowers' associations and the State Beekeepers' association will have on exhibition products of the orchard and apiary which will take silver cups and other premiums. The Yakima County Horticultural union is arranging to send elegant exhibits of fruits and honey. The delegation from that county will ask the convention to pass a resolution memorializing congress to appropriate \$300,000,000 for reclamation of arid lands in the West.

The State Beekeepers' association has secured a Bigelow observatory hive, stocked with pure bred Italian bees, for the purpose of giving object lessons in the apiary. It will be used at the monthly meetings of the association to teach the farmers and high school classes. It will be one of the interesting features of the display at the Washington State fair. The secretary of the fair has agreed to set apart one of the prominent corners in the main pavilion for the apiary exhibit, and \$200 has been appropriated for premiums in that division.

The three days' midwinter convention of the State Beekeepers' association will be held at the Agricultural college at Pullman next January, and the observatory hive will be in full operation to instruct the students of that college. The students of the Idaho Agricultural college, which is only nine miles from Pullman, are also invited to be present at that meeting.

The business of beekeeping is an adjunct of the orchard, bees being the best friend of the fruitgrower, for the reason that these insects cross pollinate the blossoms and increase the yield. These two industries go hand in hand, and are rapidly becoming valuable sources of income. As an example of what organization does, a few years ago the Yakima County Horticultural union incorporated and sold its shares of stock at \$10; the past year the dividends were 70 per cent, a warehouse 50x180 feet has just been completed, the material being stone and the structure two stories and full basement, one front being on the Northern Pacific railroad and the other on the North Coast road. The shares are now selling at \$20, and it is anticipated that the capital stock will have to be increased in order to accommodate the demand.

Fruit Inspector Brown, of Yakima county, says that in five years from now he calculates that 12,000 cars per year will be shipped from the warehouse at North Yakima. To Duplex Alaska Cable. Washington, Aug. 7.—The Signal corps headquarters in this city has been advised that the cable duplexing apparatus sent to Seattle for use on the Alaskan cable has been a complete success. As soon as the cable ship Burnside completes its work of laying cables between the forts defending the entrance to Puget sound, which probably will be in about a week, it will go to Alaska and install duplexing equipment at the Alaskan end, thus giving the Alaskan cable, which is now overtaxed, twice the present capacity.

Americans Caused Trouble. Mexico City, Aug. 7.—The impartial charges that the recently circulated handbills, warning foreigners to leave the country by September 16, were put out by an unknown American, who went from station to station distributing and posting the pretended proclamation. The impartial also asserts that certain railway camps in Texas and California have taken part in promoting the circulation of false and sensational reports.

Dooms Opium Using. London, Aug. 7.—In a dispatch from Pekin in which he discusses the opium trade the correspondent of the Times expresses the belief that China will ask India to consent to an annual reduction in the import to China which would have the effect of extinguishing the trade in ten years. As an evidence of good faith China will issue an imperial edict condemning the use of opium and forbidding the employment in the government service of any opium eater.

Raise the Price of Bread. San Francisco, Aug. 7.—As a result of the demands made by the union bakers for an increase of \$3 a week in their wages, which has been granted by the master bakers, the latter will raise the price of bread in this city. The manner in which it will be done has not yet been agreed upon, but it is said that most of the bakers favor a loaf just a trifle larger than one-half the size of the present loaf.

Commerce Outstrips Population. Washington, Aug. 7.—The foreign commerce of the United States has grown more rapidly during the last decade than its population. Completed figures for the fiscal year 1906 just presented show that while the population has grown since 1896 but 20 per cent, imports have grown 57 per cent and exports 109 per cent.

NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR EQUITABLE TAX.

State Commission Proposes Revision of Present Law.

Salem.—With a view to securing a more equitable assessment of property in this state, the Oregon Tax commission has recommended a revision of the law governing the equalization of assessments by the county board. In this connection, the commission gives its flat disapproval to the plan often agitated of having the assessment rolls published in the newspapers in the locality in which the property assessed is located.

The proposed revision of the law relating to equalization of the assessment is largely based upon inconsistencies in the present law, but also upon a laxity in the law by which wealthy property owners have been able to coerce county courts into allowing an inequitable assessment to stand. The commission proposes a law which seems to have "teeth in it," and which will be effective if county officers are disposed to do their duty.

The inconsistency in the present law lies in the fact that the county board of equalization is required to meet on the last Monday in August, while the assessor is given until the first Monday in September to file his roll, or until the first Monday in October if the county court makes an order to that effect. At the same time there is no authority of law for an extension of the time of meeting of the county board of equalization.

Assessors usually take the full time to prepare their rolls, and very frequently ask for and are granted the extension of time. Commenting upon this condition of the law, the commission says that "the board of equalization is thus required to meet perhaps six weeks before the assessment roll is completed, and as its functions lapse when it has been in session a week, it must have passed out of legal existence at a date before the assessor is required to have the assessment roll ready to equalize."

"Under the present system we have practically two boards of equalization," says the commission, "one meeting after the other, and having full power to undo the work of its predecessor. The county board of equalization continues in session one week, and if it does not complete its work within the week, the county court, at its next regular session, completes the examination and correction of the roll.

The new law is to do away with this, making provision for the board meeting after the roll is completed. This proposed law contains several provisions that seem to be an improvement upon the existing law. In the first place, a taxpayer will not go before the county board of equalization unless he has a real grievance, for the court has power to raise his assessment, and his formal petition will serve to call the attention of his neighbors and the public generally to the representations he is making governing the value of his property. Placing the matter of equalization entirely in the hands of one board instead of two will centralize the responsibility and give time and opportunity for careful and well advised work.

Fire Precautions at Asylum. Salem.—Lest friends and relatives of the 1,420 patients confined in the insane asylum may be unduly concerned as to their welfare on account of the recent fire at that institution, an official of the asylum says that none of the patients were in danger, and would not be even in case of a fire serious enough to destroy a considerable portion of the building. The facilities for getting patients out of the building are such that a disastrous fire need not cause the loss of a single life. In this particular the building could scarcely be improved.

Umatilla Canal Contract Let. Washington.—The secretary of the interior has awarded the contract to the Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging company, of Seattle, for the construction of the storage feed canal of the Umatilla irrigation project. The work of the contract involves the construction of 25 miles of canal from the Umatilla river, near Echo, to Cold Springs reservoir, and consists of 700,000 cubic yards of earth excavation, 6,000 cubic yards of rock excavation, 2,300 cubic yards of concrete and 2,600 cubic yards of rip-rap. The bid was \$161,388.

Fire in the Cascades. Albany.—A timber fire in the Cascade mountains near Detroit is spreading rapidly, threatening heavy damage. The fire started near the Santiam river and spread into heavy timber. Two hundred acres of the finest forest in the Cascades is now burning, and the wind is driving the flames into the heart of the mountains, where, if not stopped soon, immense damage will result. Everything is extremely dry and the flames are spreading rapidly.

Wheat Yield About Normal. Pendleton.—The harvest in all parts of Umatilla county has commenced. The threshing up to this time has been too limited to make a very close estimate of the yield, but from what has been threshed on the reservation, and around Athena it is thought the yield in those districts will be about normal, and had it not been for the hot winds the yield would have been at least 25 per cent above the average.

Flour Mills Closed Down. La Grande.—The flouring mills of La Grande, Island City and Union have closed down, having utilized all the old supply of wheat.

LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Household Goods Not Entitled to Exemption, Says Supreme Court.

Salem.—By holding, in a decision just rendered, that the householder's tax exemption is unconstitutional, the Oregon Supreme court has declared void a statute that has been in force in this state almost continuously since 1859. Householders' exemptions have been allowed every year except 1904, when the exemption law had been repealed. It was re-enacted by the special session of 1903, but went into effect too late to be applicable to the assessment of 1904.

Approximately \$8,000,000 had been exempted from taxation in this state from year to year, and legislators, county officers and the people generally have recognized the exemption as valid. Now the Supreme court has declared all these exemptions invalid. This decision will make it necessary for county assessors in many counties to make a reassessment of property in their counties for 1906, for it is the practice of many assessors not to list property that is exempt. In some and perhaps most of the counties the assessors list the exempt property and make the deductions afterward.

Clackamas Farmers Are Happy. Oregon City.—There is an abundant yield of all hay and grain crops in Clackamas county this year that surpasses the average in quality. Early fruits and vegetables yielded heavily, while the vineyard, field and orchard with maturing crops, give the producer every assurance of increased prosperity with the harvest. In celebration of the large and satisfactory crops, a number of harvest festivals have been held and others are being arranged. It has been years since Clackamas county farmers were as prosperous and contented.

Raise Railroad Assessments. Salem.—That railroad property in Oregon was assessed at only \$10,815,915.41, when it had a commercial value of nearly \$70,000,000, is one of the important and interesting features of the report of the Oregon Tax commission, which will be presented for the consideration of the next legislature. These figures relate to valuations in 1904, which was the latest year for which the commission could secure reliable information.

Yields 90 Bushels an Acre. Weston.—A remarkably heavy yield of barley has just been harvested on the farm of O. C. Turner, two miles north of this place. The yield from 14 acres was 529 sacks, or 1,267 bushels, an average of 90 3/4 bushels to the acre. Turner Bros. were expecting a good yield, but did not look for more than 70 bushels to the acre, which is a big yield.

Half Million to Clackamas Roll. Oregon City.—By the decision of the Supreme court on the tax exemption law, Assessor Nelson reports that there will be added to the Clackamas county assessment rolls about \$400,000 additional on which next year's tax levy will be made. Revision will delay the task of completing the rolls which were received from the state authorities ten weeks later than the usual time.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 71c; bluestem, 73c; red, 69c; valley, 71c; new club, 70c; new bluestem, 72c; valley, 71c. Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$30; gray, \$29 per ton. Barley—Feed, \$23.50 per ton; brewing, \$23.50 per ton; rolled, \$24@24.50. Rye—\$1.50 per cwt. Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$11@12.50 per ton; clover, \$8.50@9; cheat, \$6.50@7; grain hay, \$7@8; alfalfa, \$11.

Fruits—Apples, \$1.50@2.25 per box; apricots, \$1.25@1.35; cherries, 6@10 per pound; currants, 9@10c; peaches, 75c@1.10 per box; plums, \$1.25; Logan berries, \$1.35@1.40 per crate; raspberries, \$1.40@1.50; blackberries, 8c per pound; gooseberries, 8c. Vegetables—Beans, 5@7c per pound; cabbage, 1 1/2@2c; corn, 15@20c per dozen; cucumbers, 40@50c per dozen; egg plant, 10@15c per pound; lettuce, head, 25c per dozen; onions, 10@12 1/2c; peas, 4@5c per pound; radishes, 10@15c per dozen; rhubarb, 2@2 1/2c per pound; spinach, 2@3c; tomatoes, \$1.25@3 per box; parsley, 25c; squash, \$1@1.25 per crate; turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack.

Onions—New yellow, 1 1/2@1 1/4c per pound; new yellow, 1 1/2@2c per pound. Potatoes—Old Burbanks, nominal; new potatoes, 75c@1.25. Butter—Fancy creamery, 20@22 1/2c per pound. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 21@21 1/2c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 13@14c per pound; mixed chickens, 13@13 1/2c; springs, 16@17; roosters, 9@10c; dressed chickens, 14@15c; turkeys, live, 15@17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20@22 1/2c; geese, live, 8@9c; ducks, 11@13c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, 11@12c; olds, 9c; 1906 contracts, 12@15c per pound. Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 16@20c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@22, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 28@30c per pound.

Veal—Dressed, 5 1/2@8c per pound. Beef—Dressed butts, 3c per pound; cows, 4 1/2@5 1/2c; country steers, 5@6c. Mutton—Dressed fancy, 7@8c per pound; ordinary, 5@6c; lambs, fancy, 8@8 1/2c. Pork—Dressed, 7@8 1/2c per pound.

THREE HUNDRED DROWN.

Italian Immigrant Ship Strikes Reef Off Coast of Spain.

Cartagena, Spain, Aug. 6.—A terrible marine disaster occurred Saturday evening off Cape Palos. The Italian steamship Sirio, from Genoa for Barcelona, Cadiz, Montevideo and Buenos Ayres with about 800 persons on board, was wrecked off Hormigas island. Three hundred immigrants, most of them Italians and Spaniards, were drowned. The captain of the steamer committed suicide.

The bishop of San Pedro, Brazil, also was lost and another bishop was for a time among the missing. The remainder of the passengers and the officers and crew got away in the ship's boats to them from the shore. A number of fishermen who made attempts at rescue were drowned.

Those rescued from the vessel are now at Cape Palos, in a pitiable condition, being without food or clothing. The Sirio struck a reef of rocks known as Bajos Hormigas, and sank soon afterward, stern first. Hormigas island lies about two and a half miles to the eastward of Cape Palos.

The Sirio, owned by the Navigazione Italiana, left Genoa August 2. All the ship's books were lost. It is impossible at present to ascertain the full extent of the disaster. Nine-tenths of the passengers were Italians, and the remainder Spaniards. All the survivors have been landed at Cape Palos. The inhabitants provided them with clothing and nourishment. Thirty were landed at Hirmagas island, about one mile from the tragedy. Fishermen brought in the first news of the foundering of the Sirio, and it created consternation here. Boatloads of the shipwrecked passengers and crew began reaching shore shortly after the news became known.

All the stokers went down with the ship. They were unable to reach the deck in time to save themselves. Among the survivors at Cape Palos are many mothers who weep and write their hands for lost children, while there are also a number of children, who are unable to find their parents. These have been admitted to the city founding asylum.

JONES AND POTTER TO JAIL

One Year and \$2,000, Six Months and \$500 Respectively.

Portland, Aug. 6.—Willard N. Jones and Thaddeus S. Potter, convicted at midnight October 15, 1905, under an indictment returned by the Federal grand jury charging them jointly with conspiring to defraud the government of its public lands, were given their sentences by Judge Hunt in the United States District court Saturday.

Jones received a fine of \$2,000, in addition to a term of one year at the government prison on McNeill's island. Potter fared somewhat better, as Judge Hunt took several points into consideration, which, coupled with the fact that Francis J. Heney made a strong plea for leniency in his case, prompted his sentence of six months in the Multnomah county jail and a fine of \$500. The attorneys for both were given ten days to perfect any legal action looking to an appeal, and in the meantime Jones was required to give \$8,000 bail, double the amount of his former bond, while Potter was permitted to go upon his original security.

The particular offense for which the two men were convicted consisted in inducing a large number of Grand Army men to file soldier homesteads in the Siletz Indian reservation, under agreement to transfer title to Jones. Ira Wade, county clerk of Lincoln county, was tried under the same indictment, but in his case the jury returned a verdict of acquittal, the evidence not being considered sufficient to convict. John L. Wells, adjutant general of the G. A. R., was also involved in the scheme of conspiracy, his influence being exercised in the direction of securing locators among the old soldiers. Wells confessed his share of complicity in the fraudulent undertaking before the grand jury and was made a witness for the government. A general shake-up in the local G. A. R. was the result of the exposures, and Wells was compelled to resign.

Coal Companies Merged.

Scranton, Pa., Aug. 6.—It was reported today on the best authority that one of the largest deals in the history of the bituminous coal business was consummated last week, whereby a corporation known as the Pennsylvania, Seach Creek & Eastern Coal company, with a capital of \$8,000,000, acquired by a 999-year lease all the property and business of the Pennsylvania Coal & Coke company, the Beech Creek Coal & Coke company and the North River Coal & Wharf company, and a number of electric light and water companies.

Says Trust Contro's Trade.

Chicago, Aug. 6.—John Hill, Jr., has reopened his war on the owners of public warehouses in Chicago with the declaration that the grain trade is in the clutches of a trust. Mr. Hill says he now has evidence of the existence of an illegal combination among the warehouse men, and that he intends to fight it to its death. The Interstate Commerce commission will meet here next month, and Mr. Hill says he expects to see an investigation started.

Goes to Isthmus in November.

Panama, Aug. 6.—General Magoon this afternoon informed President Amador that President Roosevelt will visit the canal zone in November. Senor Amador, through Mr. Magoon, extended a formal invitation to Mr. Roosevelt to visit the city of Panama.

SIGNS POINT TO A DICTATORSHIP

Grand Duke Nicholas to Lead Fight Against the Reds.

Order for General Strike Has Been Heeded by 20,000 in St. Petersburg—City in Darkness—Revolt Breaks Out in Warsaw—Big Fire in Woodyards.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 4.—St. Petersburg is in darkness tonight. The employees of the electric lighting plants, always the earliest barometer record of political conditions, ceased work during the afternoon in obedience to the call for a general strike. This call already has been obeyed by 20,000 factory hands in the capital. It will be impossible, however, to predict the success of this universal political strike until Monday, as the workmen in St. Petersburg and the provinces have two holidays—Saturday, which is the fete day of the dowager empress and a great religious feast, and their regular holiday of Sunday.

The pickets of cavalry and infantry were the most conspicuous features on the streets of St. Petersburg last night. Business houses generally have boarded up their windows as they did in the days of the great October strike. Practically all of the street cars in the city have stopped running, and the cab drivers are threatening to cease work.

In the meantime the fate of the Stolypin cabinet sways in the balance and Russia is upon the verge of disorders which may lead to the reign of either the military or the proletariat. It can be stated definitely that the steps toward a dictatorship may be taken Sunday or Monday by the nomination of Grand Duke Nicholas to the chief command of all the troops in Russia. This would virtually place him in control of all the disturbed districts of the empire where martial law has been proclaimed.

Artillery in Open Revolt.

Warsaw, Poland, Aug. 4.—A portion of the troops in the Summer Rembertoff, near here, mutinied yesterday and are in open revolt today. The artillerymen have driven their officers out of their quarters. A squadron of Cossacks sent to overpower the mutineers was received with grape-shot. Details are lacking, as extraordinary precautions are being taken to prevent the facts becoming public.

Rebels Fire Big Woodyards.

Harkov, Aug. 4.—Fire broke out in several large woodyards in the vicinity of the prison today. This evidently was a device on the part of revolutionists, who hoped to free political leaders during the confusion. The authorities are apprehensive of a renewed effort to the same end.

PUT OUT OF BUSINESS.

Insurance Commissioner Gives Body Blow to Two Companies.

San Francisco, Aug. 4.—Insurance Commissioner Wolf sent notice today to the president and directors of the Fireman's Fund Insurance company and the Home Fire & Marine Insurance company, both of San Francisco, that unless they made good their deficiency in capital stock in four weeks he will request Attorney General Webb to proceed to ascertain why their licenses to do business in California be revoked.

Both companies have been known to be in financial trouble since the fire. The Home Fire & Marine has announced that it will do no more business. The Fireman's Fund has reinsured its risks to the amount of \$372,584,750, carrying premiums amounting to \$4,471,117 with the new Fireman's Fund corporation, which has been organized since the fire. Both companies have thus confessed failure.

Wolf's order, it is expected, will permanently close their doors.

Subpenas for Standard Men.

New York, Aug. 4.—Forty or more subpenas for officers and employees of the Standard Oil company have been forwarded to New York from Chicago. Several of the officials of the Standard Oil would not say whether they had received the subpenas from Illinois. Inquiries were referred to M. F. Elliott, general counsel for the company, who said so far as he knew no attempt had been made to serve any of the officials. Mr. Elliott would not say what attitude the officials would take in case the subpena servers put in an appearance.

Investigation in Philippines.

Washington, Aug. 4.—An investigation of alleged irregularities in the Philippine islands is now being conducted by order of Major General Wood, the inquiry being in charge of Colonel Wood, inspector general. At the request of General Wood the War department has made a special detail of officers familiar with the methods of business and conditions in the Philippines to assist. No result has yet been reported to the department.

Stamped by Windy Arm.

Seattle, Aug. 4.—Rich strikes reported in Southeastern Alaska have attracted the longshoremen of Skagway, Juneau and other towns. The men who work along the front have stamped by Windy Arm in such numbers that the sailors on the coastwise fleet have to unload their own boats.