

FIGHT OVER SILETZ LANDS

Original Homesteaders Declare That "Squatters" Must Go.

Contestants Say They Will Await Final Decision From Land Office—Original Settlers Say if Ejectment Proceedings Fail Other Means Will Be Taken.

Newport, Or., Aug. 13.—Proceedings to eject the alleged squatters on the Siletz reservation claims of several Lincoln county residents are to be taken at once. If these are unsuccessful, the original settlers declare other means to dispossess the contestants will be taken. Serious trouble is feared.

Two of the claims in dispute were originally taken by L. W. Williams, and Frank Priest, of this city. W. S. Copeland and V. Jiffett are now on these claims. They have been ordered by the original claimants to move and have refused. They declare that they will stay until the cases are finally settled by the land office.

This, it is declared, is the attitude of all the contestants. The original settlers declare they will not permit the contestants to carry out this plan.

Homesteaders whose claims are thus threatened do not know what to make of this bold move by the "squatters." They are certain that a hundred or more of the best claims are now liable to seizure any day. They are informed by the man now squatting on their places that legal advice has been obtained and that the squatters paid large sums for the location and for protection, but the homesteaders are in a fighting temper, because they cannot see by what possible legal twist they can be deprived of their claims without a trial.

FIRES SPREAD TO BANFF.

Forests in Canada's Great National Park Burning.

Winnipeg, Aug. 13.—The forest fires which raged around Fernie have spread to Canada's national park district near Banff, in Pray valley. The fire burned fiercely on the heights of Goat mountain this week.

The government gang of men has the fire in the valley under control, but last night at several points on the mountain eight miles away fire was visible near the top.

A fire started at Castle mountain, 18 miles west of Banff last night under a strong west wind in a half hour had run over eight miles. Boats and supplies were forwarded from Banff. The wind shifted to the northeast, and with this in their favor the fire-fighters should be able to secure control.

No anxiety is felt at Banff about this last fire, as it would be comparatively easy to protect the town, even if the fire came down the valley, owing to the large area of open hay meadows to the west, on which the grass is yet green and on which water is yet standing.

RAIN FLOODS CHICAGO.

Cloudburst and Heavy Electric Discharge Sweeps City.

Chicago, Aug. 13.—No boats have been able to enter or leave the Chicago river this morning on account of the crippling of the electric power that operates the bridges, by a terrific electric storm that swept this city and vicinity last night. The entire lighting and power plant operated by the drainage canal trustees was so badly crippled that it cannot be repaired until tonight.

The storm flooded the entire city, filling cellars, destroying electrical feed cables and shutting off light and power. Lightning struck in several places. Down town the cellars were flooded with several inches of water, the sewers being inadequate to carry off the water. A city drainage pipe gave way near the Auditorium annex.

Strikers Paid and Discharged.

Winnipeg, Aug. 13.—The employees of the Canadian Pacific railway were paid in full today, and all striking mechanics were notified that they had been discharged. The officials of the company took this means of announcing that the railroad will fight the demands of the union to a finish. Vice President Whyte, of the railroad, arrived here today from the Pacific coast. He declined to discuss the strike or state what is being done to fill the places of the strikers. Strikebreakers are being imported.

Nevada to Have New Banking Law.

Reno, Nevada, Aug. 13.—Governor Dickerson is today preparing a new banking law which he will ask the next legislature to pass to protect depositors in every bank in the state. Following the recent failure of the bank of Austin, the attorney general of the state rendered an opinion that the state could not intervene in the management of private banks. Even the state bank examiner cannot examine the books of private banks.

To Modernize Land System.

San Francisco, Aug. 13.—J. W. Pratt, commissioner of public lands in the Hawaiian Islands, is in this city today en route to Washington, where he intends to visit the United States land office with the purpose of improving the system of caring for the public lands of the islands.

ORIENTALS AGAIN QUARREL.

Killing of Japanese Traitor Caught in Peking the Cause.

Peking, Aug. 14.—The killing in this city early this month of a Japanese army officer, supposed to be a spy and traitor, by Japanese soldiers attached to the Peking legation, will result in the presentation by China of a formal protest against the doing of police duty by legation guards outside of the legation precincts.

The officer in question was Captain Kyhwata. He was in the artillery branch of the Kiroshima division and he was formerly an instructor in the Chinese military college at Pao Ting Fu. He was charged with selling Japanese military secrets to a foreign power and disappeared from Japan in June.

On August 1 he was discovered disguised as a Chinaman, hiding near the war office in Peking. This knowledge was communicated to the legation guards and a detachment was sent to capture him. He resisted arrest, whereupon the guard shot and wounded the spy and he died two days later in the hospital of the legation guard.

M. Abe, the Japanese charge d'affaires, has urged lack of time and the importance of the prisoner in extenuation of the action of the guard in notifying the Chinese authorities before arresting the captain. He explains further that the resistance of the prisoner was unforeseen and that his consequent shooting could not be avoided.

The Chinese government is not satisfied with this explanation, and thinks its authority has been ignored. The incident has created a good deal of feeling on both sides.

A NEW DOCTRINE.

Harriman Railroad Attorney Claims Roads Can Give Rebates.

San Francisco, Aug. 14.—Peter F. Dunne, attorney for the Southern Pacific railroad in its defense against the charge of illegal rebating before the Railroad commissioners, today insisted strongly that a common carrier could not be guilty of unjust discrimination unless the rate complained of was made with "an evil intent." He held further that the railroad was entirely justified, the attorney general to the contrary notwithstanding, in making better terms to large shippers than to their small-fry rivals.

Mr. Dunne also touched upon the matter of competition and held, in opposition to the arguments of Messrs. Benjamin and Cushing made the day before, that it was part of a company's inherent right of contract to take competition into consideration in making freight schedules.

He also argued that the railroad had a right to consider whether it had a chance to carry the same material again in the form of a more finished product and, when there was such a chance, to make a lower rate on the raw material. If any or all of the circumstances considered made it good policy to carry freight for nothing, he could see no provision in the law to forbid it.

WANT 6,000 STEEL CARS.

Harriman Lines Will Spend \$6,000,000 for Rolling Stock.

New York, Aug. 14.—The Harriman roads are in the market for 6,000 steel cars. No orders have been placed, but the car equipment companies have been notified that this amount represents the total of an early purchase by the Harriman lines, and for more than half the cars there have been filed specifications on which the equipment companies may base their bids. Competition between the companies is said to be keen, for the orders, if filled, will be altogether the largest since the panic.

The estimated cost of the 6,000 steel cars ranges all the way from \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000. It is expected that the lower figure will prove nearer correct, for the reason that the competition between the car equipment companies may result in a cut price.

Seize Another Steamer.

London, Aug. 14.—Another cloud has arisen between Japan and China, according to a special dispatch received here from Hongkong, owing to the seizure at Chin Chou by the Chinese authorities of a steamer having on board 10,000 rifles and 2,000,000 cartridges. Japanese merchants have protested, saying that this cargo belongs to them, and they threaten to make another international question out of it. This seizure is similar to that of the Japanese steamer Tatsu Maru in February of this year.

Receivers for Big Elevators.

Minneapolis, Aug. 14.—On application of receivers for the Pillsbury-Washburn Flour Mills company, limited, Judge Purdy, in the United States Circuit court, yesterday appointed Charles Amsden and Henry F. Douglas receivers for the Minneapolis & Northern Elevator company, a subsidiary corporation. The Minneapolis & Northern Elevator company operates the 100 elevators in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Whites to Control Pacific.

Melbourne, Aug. 14.—Both houses of the Victorian parliament today voted unanimously resolutions cordially welcoming the American battleship fleet to Australian waters. The various speakers dwelt upon the close friendship which unites Great Britain and the United States, and one of the members remarked that the visit of the American battleships assured the control of the Pacific for all time for the white race.

NEWS NOTES FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL CITY

SAYS PEACE IS RESTORED.

Honduran Cabinet Minister Sends the News to Washington.

Washington, Aug. 15.—The fact that peace has been fully restored in Central America and an expression of confidence expressed that it would be maintained, is given in a cablegram received here today by Dr. Ugarte, minister from Honduras, from the minister of foreign affairs of his country. Mr. Dodge, the American minister to Salvador, will leave Salvador for Tegucigalpa on August 18 to take up directly with the Honduran government the matter of the consul and vice consul at Coiba, whose exequaturs were cancelled owing to their alleged intervention in international affairs in Honduras.

MAKE RATE DECISION SOON.

Important Ruling to be Made by Interstate Commission.

Washington, Aug. 11.—During the next month or six weeks it is possible that the Interstate Commerce commission will decide upon the question of the reasonableness of the proposed increase of railroad freight rates in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida and portions of South Carolina, in the Southern territory.

The proposed increase in the several Southern states embraces practically extensive increases proposed throughout the country at this time. The decision will have an important bearing on rates in general.

Good Job Awaits a Learned Chef.

Washington, Aug. 14.—A chef is needed at the government asylum for the insane, and a civil service examination was held today to fill the vacancy. Notwithstanding the fact that the position pays \$1,200 a year there was no overabundance of applicants for the job. The reason perhaps lies in the fact that the successful applicant must be possessed of a fund of knowledge that would enable him to hold down a chief clerkship in almost any of the departments and render it unnecessary for him to don a cook's apron.

Mystery at Oyster Bay.

Oyster Bay, Aug. 14.—The unusual activity at the government executive office here, which has been apparent for almost a week, both day and night, has become the subject of considerable curiosity. Rudolph Forster, acting secretary to the president, and the force of clerks under him recently have been the hardest worked men in the village. Their duties begin early and at times have continued far into the night. The executive office staff has been augmented by the arrival of two clerks from the Washington executive office.

Malone's Place Filled.

Washington, Aug. 12.—Dr. G. C. Bantz was today appointed assistant treasurer of the United States, in place of the late J. L. Malone. Mr. Bantz has been an employee of the Treasury department for 35 years and recently has filled the position of deputy assistant treasurer. William H. Gibson, assistant cashier of the cash room, was promoted to be deputy assistant treasurer in place of Dr. Bantz. James A. Sample, now a division chief, was appointed to be deputy assistant treasurer.

Engineers Sent to Hawaii.

Washington, Aug. 14.—The War department has issued orders to Company A, First battalion of engineers, to leave San Francisco for Honolulu, sailing on November 15, 1908. The first battalion of engineers is now on duty at Fort Mason, California. These engineers are to make a survey preliminary for the fortifications in and around Honolulu and at Pearl harbor, where the government is to construct a large naval station. After their work at Hawaii, they will return to Vancouver barracks.

Confer About the Hazers.

Oyster Bay, Aug. 11.—Secretary of War Wright and Colonel Hugh L. Scott, of the West Point academy, arrived here today to discuss the West Point hazing cases with President Roosevelt. Secretary Wright said: "I see a whole lot of trouble has been stirred up over these cases since my last visit here. I had no idea the matter was to be made of such national importance." Colonel Scott refused to make any statement whatever regarding the cases.

Pleads for American Fruit.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Ambassador White at Paris has addressed the French government with a view to the suspension of the decree prohibiting the importation of sulphured fruit, with particular reference to California dried fruits, pending the report of the American board which is to investigate the whole subject of the importation of preserved fruit and other edibles. Otherwise, it is the importations of French fruits may be seriously affected.

May Order Rectifier's Marks.

Washington, Aug. 13.—The commissioner of internal revenue has informed W. M. Hough, attorney of the National Wholesale Liquor Dealers' association, that there is ample authority of law for the government to prescribe the marking of packages of spirits and liquors in the hands of rectifiers as in the case of marking the products of distillers.

MOLOKAI LOCAL STATION.

Lepers From Mainland May Not Be Sent There.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Though virtually a part of the United States, the leper colony on isolated Molokai, cannot recruit its death-marked population from this country. It is this fact that makes it impossible for government officials to comply with the request of the territorial authorities of Arizona for the speedy removal of aged Mrs. General Warwell, whom the terrible disease has claimed for its victim. According to Dr. H. G. Geddings, assistant surgeon general of the public health and marine hospital service, the leper settlement at Molokai is strictly a territorial enterprise. There exists neither law nor precedent to warrant the removal of a leper from a state or territory, however, to the settlement, and Dr. Geddings voices the opinion of the bureau that the Hawaiian health authorities would not approve such a move.

Favors Policy of Peace.

Washington, Aug. 14.—Naturally the American government is interested in knowing what the Dutch intend to do in Venezuela, and it is not surprising therefore that the Holland government is sounding American Minister Beaupre at The Hague as to what the United States might do in the varying contingencies that are likely to arise. While the United States under certain conditions may be open to criticism regarding any prospective course in Venezuela, it is not believed that any co-operative punitive agreement with any foreign power will be sought. On the contrary an arrangement for a peaceful settlement of differences would be gladly welcomed.

Robbers Torture Women.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Three masked men entered the home of Miss Maria de Garmo in a remote part of the county yesterday morning and after battering down the door, bound and gagged Miss de Garmo and her niece, Miss Lizzie Hartman, the only occupants of the house, and robbed them of their jewelry and a small amount of cash. Carpets were slashed, mattresses ripped open and chests broken into. When no large sum of money was found, the women were tortured until the elder one fainted and the men left. Miss Hartman, bleeding and cut, at last freed herself from the ropes and released her aunt.

Hitchcock Off to Chicago.

Washington, Aug. 15.—Chairman Frank H. Hitchcock, of the Republican National committee, accompanied by his secretary, James T. Williams, Jr., arrived in Washington this morning from Hot Springs, Va., where he conferred with Mr. Taft yesterday. Mr. Hitchcock started for Chicago this afternoon to meet Eastern and Western officials of the national committee, who are to meet there and open the Western headquarters. Mr. Hitchcock had no political engagements here, but closed and surrendered the last of the rooms used as Mr. Taft's pre-convention headquarters.

Alaska Wireless Station.

Washington, Aug. 12.—A wireless station in Prince William Sound, Alaska, is to be erected by the Navy department, the exact site to be selected shortly. This will be 500 miles from the military wireless station being installed at Fort Gibson, and will form a connecting line between that station and the naval wireless station at Northend, Washington. The government will be able to maintain wireless communication up the Pacific coast to the Alaska station.

Asks Bids on Coal for Fleet.

Washington, Aug. 12.—It is expected that proposals for transporting coal to Magdalena Bay, Mexico, will be received in the bureau of equipment until noon, August 17. The proposals are to be for 15,000 tons of semi-bituminous coal for the vessels of the Pacific fleet. The bidders are required to state whether the vessels bearing the coal may be diverted from Magdalena Bay to Bremerton, Wash., if the cargoes are required there.

Colonel Hoxie Retires.

Washington, Aug. 11.—Colonel Richard L. Hoxie, one of the veteran officers of the corps of engineers and who for some time past has been in charge of the fortification and river harbor work in Baltimore and vicinity, was placed on the retired list of the army today on account of age. He is succeeded at Baltimore by Major William E. Craighill, who until recently was stationed at Mobile.

Will Do Special Service.

Washington, Aug. 15.—The gunboats Albany and Yorktown today were detached from the Pacific fleet by the Navy department for special service on the Pacific coast. These vessels were only nominally a part of the Pacific fleet, having been engaged in protecting American interests in Central America.

Bullets in Flag at Tabriz.

Washington, Aug. 12.—Dispatches from Tabriz today state that the American flag over the United States consulate was shot away yesterday. The dispatches are brief, but the authorities say they believe the shooting of the flag was accidental.

FIRES IN IDAHO.

Kootenai Falls Prey to Flames and Sand Point is Threatened.

Spokane, Aug. 12.—A Sand Point, Idaho, special to the Spokesman Review says:

With the wind blowing a gale and the adjacent town of Kootenai wiped out, it seems that no power can save Sand Point. At 6 o'clock last evening a small forest fire north of Kootenai was blown into the town and the town of 300 inhabitants was burned to the ground.

The Humbird Lumber company has a \$200,000 mill at Kootenai, which burned to the ground, and which was only partly insured. At present the fire is within 2,000 feet of the Panhandle smelter, which seems doomed.

The homeless people of the little hamlet of Kootenai have been brought here, and are being cared for by citizens. All of them lost their belongings.

Over 500 volunteers are fighting the approach of the flames. Sand Point has a population of about 10,000. An appeal has just been sent to the Spokane fire department for aid.

It was impossible at midnight to learn the extent of the damage by fire at Sand Point. The telegraph wires are down and connection is lost with the regular telephone line, but the operator of the Independent Telephone office at Sand Point, states that Sand Point is in no immediate danger. The town of Kootenai was burned, but the big mill of the Humbird company was saved.

Reports are conflicting regarding the smelter at Ponderay, near Sand Point, one report declaring that it was burned while the other states that the forest fire was near but the smelter was still safe.

THOUSANDS PERISH.

South China Scene of Desolation Following Typhoon.

Hongkong, Aug. 12.—In a report issued today from the headquarters of the government relief station it is stated that advices from Southern China give details of appalling conditions among the victims of the recent typhoon, which laid waste an immense territory along the coast and killed thousands of natives.

The report says that more than 1,500,000 refugees are at the point of death from exposure and starvation, and that many thousands have succumbed since the disaster.

The tales of hardship and destitution are pitiful in the extreme. Scores of refugees in all quarters are without shelter of any kind, forced to spend days and nights huddled together like stormbound sheep. In some districts there is only sufficient food to supply one meal a day. More terrible are the conditions in other localities, where there is absolutely no food, and the people are dying by the hundreds. The dead are piled in heaps, no burial being possible.

MEXICANS USE TORTURE.

Tear Out Americans' Nails to Secure Names of Confederates.

Pittsburg, Aug. 12.—Police officials here have received news of the torturing of William Moffatt and Edward Maloney, who were arrested recently in Mexico City on a charge of robbing a bank messenger. Moffatt and Maloney, the police here say, were well known to them before leaving for Mexico.

Two companions escaped the officers when the Pittsburgers were arrested and the Mexican police demanded their names. Refusing to betray their companions, the men allege that they were strapped by the wrists to the bars of their cells, while the officials with forceps tore the nails from their hands. Unable to bear the agony, the men gave the names of their companions.

"I suppose," said Captain of Detectives Edwin T. McGough today, "if it were not for the record of the men, their torture would mean international complications."

Allege Yankee Roads Allied.

Winnipeg, Man., Aug. 12.—Reports received here today that railroad lines in the United States, particularly the New York Central line, are furnishing strikebreakers to the Canadian Pacific and supplying equipment which the Canadian road is unable to repair in its crippled machine shops, have greatly agitated the strikers. The officials of the union declared today that if this report is found to be true, sympathetic strikes will be declared on all roads furnishing men and equipment to the Canadian Pacific.

Up Goes Price of Apples.

St. Louis, Aug. 12.—The fifth annual convention of the American Apple-growers' association opened here today with more than 100 apple growers from Central and Western states attending. Of importance to the public is the prediction of officers and delegates to the convention that apples this year will sell from \$2.50 to \$3 a barrel on the trees and that before the season ends they will be selling at \$7 with \$10 a barrel for choice ones.

Tornado in North Dakota.

Mandan, N. D., Aug. 12.—A tornado struck Mandan last evening and caused damage to the extent of \$50,000. One boy was picked up by the wind and carried three blocks. The roof of the Inter-Ocean hotel was loosened and crashed into the dining-room. The Dollar hotel was unroofed. Houses were tipped over and many windows shattered, but no fatalities occurred.

SAYS RAILROADS HAVE CONSPIRED

Texas Commission Starts Suit Against Host of Companies.

State Commission Appeals to Interstate Board, Basing Complaint on Valuation of Lines and Increased Cost to Consumers—Has Gone Into Details.

Washington, Aug. 11.—The railroad commission of Texas today filed a formal complaint with the Interstate Commerce commission against 67 railroads and other common carriers, alleging a conspiracy on the part of the defendants through the Southwestern Traffic association for the suppression of competition and restraint of trade in the recent action increasing freight rates to common points in Texas. The commission will forward notice of this complaint to all the carriers involved and will give them 15 days to reply, the usual period allowed for answering a complaint being 20 days. The commission will expedite this case as much as possible on account of its widespread importance.

The complaint undertakes to compare the alleged cost of maintenance and operation of the railroads with the actual cost, and the claimed debt which is supposed to justify the increase, with the actual debt. The railroad commission of Texas, it appears, has appraised the cost of construction and operation of the roads as well as the actual debt upon which the rates may be fairly based.

Eight freight schedules, which have recently been filed with the commission, are made the basis of the complaint and all are alleged to have been brought about by an unlawful agreement between the defendant carriers and the Southwestern Traffic association, of which they are members or whose members represent, through power of attorney, those who are not. It declares that the increased rates will fall primarily upon the commodities of daily necessity; that they will seriously disturb trade relations, causing loss to shippers and the consuming public, and that the increased tax, so far as Texas alone is concerned, will amount to \$2,653,000.

SHIP CHINESE HOME.

Large Party Smuggled Over Mexican Border Sent to China.

San Francisco, Aug. 11.—Eighty-five Chinese for deportation arrived here today and were put aboard the Siberia, which sails tomorrow for the Orient. They were brought here from the Southeast border in a special train by United States Marshals Daniels, of Tucson; Smith, of Albuquerque; and Warden, of the Northern district of Texas.

Nine Chinese from Texas were among the 18 recently discovered in a sealed boxcar. The immigration agent at El Paso became suspicious of the car and, upon having it opened, found the 18 Chinese. They had provided themselves with a cask of water and food sufficient to last for a week or two. The Chinese arriving today entered Mexico through the port of Salina Cruz, direct from the Orient.

SECOND CLOUDBURST.

Bisbee, Ariz., Again Swept by Down-pour of Water.

Fisbee, Ariz., Aug. 11.—For the second time within a week the Bisbee postoffice was put out of commission today by a cloudburst. At about the same hour in the day as before a heavy rain came up and, when a cloudburst over Mule mountain, tons of rock and dirt slid into the postoffice, piling nearly ten feet high. The office was also flooded with mud and silt.

The general delivery section was destroyed. The stamps and money were saved, being carried to a place of safety as soon as the flood grew threatening. A large force of men with a steam shovel is at work on the debris tonight.

Raise Insurance Rates.

Winnipeg, Man., Aug. 11.—Word was received here this afternoon that the Canadian Fire Underwriters' association today in Toronto considered seriously the situation arising out of the \$2,000,000 losses sustained at the Fernie fire and increased rates were decided upon. Partly for this reason and partly because the association regarded existing rates on grain in elevators in the Western provinces too low, it was decided to increase the rates 33 per cent on that class of insurance.

Main Grove of Big Trees Safe.

Stackton, Cal., Aug. 11.—The big forest fire which has been raging along the south fork of the Stanislaus river for over a week is reported today to have reached the south grove of the famous Calaveras big trees. Reports from the scene of the conflagration are meagre, as telephone lines are out of order. A brief message said today: "The fire is still burning and reached the south grove yesterday afternoon. The main grove is safe."

Chicago Gains 20,700.

Chicago, Aug. 11.—An increase of 20,700 since last year gives 2,425,000 as the population of Chicago, estimated by the Chicago Directory company, whose 1908 issue is now ready for distribution.