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PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

Condensed Telegraphic Reports of Late Events.

BRIEF SPARKS FROM THE WIRES

Budget of News For Easy Digestion From Different Parts of the States of Washington, Oregon and Idaho—Items of Interest to Pacific Coast People.

The work of beautifying the custom house grounds in Port Townsend has begun.

Stevens county, Wash., has completed the sale of $45,000 current expense bonds at par.

The Columbia mine of Baker county, Or., has the machinery on the way from the East for a ten-stamp mill.

It is estimated that the total output of potatoes from Grand Ronde, Or., this season will reach 200 carloads.

Spokane is threatened with a meat famine. Chicago buyers have bought all the fat cattle and sheep, and shipped them out of the country.

Mrs. Mary Phinney, of Seattle, is suing the Mutual Life Insurance Company to recover $100,444 insurance on the life of her deceased husband.

Cattle buyers from the East have purchased 2,000 head of cattle in the John Day country. They will be driven to Huntington for shipment East about May 1.

A colony of Hollanders has bought 640 acres of land in Snohomish county, Wash. The colonists are planning to go into the butter-making business on a large scale.

The Whatcom county commissioners have let the contract for the improvement of the Lake Samish and Fairhaven water front road, a distance of one and one-quarter miles, for $3,070.

Two national banks of Yakima, Wash., show an increase in deposits between January and March of about $14,-878.93, and hold a total deposit of $250,-088.85 or about $62.50 per capita.

Whatcom county, Wash., is now assured of a wagon road outlet to the south, and the completion of the new road to Blanchard will connect the bay cities with one of the finest farming sections of the state.

Tacoma merchants have a grievance upon the action of some of the steamers plying between Tacoma and Seattle. They say that these steamers work entirely to the interest of Seattle and to the detriment of Tacoma.

Seattle street car companies contend that they cannot afford to light the streets along which their tracks run, although their franchises call for it, and they ask to have their franchises amended to relieve them of that expense.

John E. Hough, the fruitdealer and nurseryman, states that there will be on a conservative estimate 250,000 fruit trees set out in Grande Ronde valley, Or., this season. And all trees that are being planted are of first-class stock.

The hop acreage in Lewis county, Wash., this season will approximate about 1,000 acres, of which 300 acres is tributary to Chehalis. About fifty acres of new yards come into bearing this season, while about fifteen acres are being put out in new yards.

Everett, Wash., expects soon to see work begin on a new whaleback. Estimates on the earnings of the whaleback City of Everett show a net profit of $5,000 a month. This would provide for 20 per cent yearly dividends and pay for the boat in five years.

Corvallis, Or., people will be disappointed when the census returns are all in. Assessor Alexander has practically completed the enumeration of the city, with the exception of Job's addition, and gives it as his opinion that the total population will not reach 2,000.

The city council of Fairhaven, Wash., has concluded to connect with the Samish road at an expense of $1,800. The work will be let in sections. The Fairhaven Land Company will improve the road over its holdings, and the improvement at the Skagit end is now assured.

Hon. George Turner, of Spokane, anti-corpation attorney, has been employed by the farmers of Walla Walla and Columbia counties to conduct their cases against the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company and E. McNeill as receiver, before the interstate commerce commission, which will take testimony in the cases, commencing April 11.

J. Fritsch and Coran Watts have purchased a site at Ellensburg, Wash., and are erecting a cheese factory, using one vat and twelve thirty-inch presses as a starter. They will handle 10,000 pounds of milk, and produce 1,000 pounds of cheese daily. The building will be 20x 48 feet in dimensions and two stories high. The creamery business has multiplied so rapidly in the Kittitas valley that the number of cows is insufficient to supply the various plants.

Two adventurous residents of Puyallup, Wash., are preparing to go to the gold fields of the Yukon district in Alaska. They will not make the trip in the ordinary manner, but propose to get out of the beaten track. Instead of traveling over the Chilkoot pass to Lakes Bennett and Lindeman and there building a boat to trasport them down the streams leading to the Yukon, they propose taking their boat with them and transporting it on runners over the pass.

That the United States is importing flax seed in large quantities from Argentina is a good indication, says the West Coast Trade, that there is a home market for a considerably increased production, and that the farmers in the eastern portion of Washington who are sowing nearly all the seed obtainable are making no mistake. Argentina imports, after paying duty, are worth $1.28 per bushel in New York, and dealers who are furnishing seed to Washington growers are guaranteeing 80 cents to $1 a bushel, which is said to insure a considerably increased profit over wheat-growing. It is believed that the manufacture of flax-seed oils will soon become an industry of considerable importance in the state, while in Western Washington, where the flax fiber is equal if not superior to that produced anywhere in the world, another profitable branch of manufacture will be opened up, should flax culture assume the proportions which experiments extending over a considerable period seem to justify.

A TRUCE TO FIGHTING.

Unconditional Armistice Has Been Declared by Japan.

TOKIO, April 1.—The official declaration of an unconditional armistice with China was made public by the emperor of Japan to-day.

THE NEWS CONFIRMED.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—The news that an unconditional armistice had been declared by the emperor of Japan was confirmed at the Japanese legation, where it was stated a cablegram to this effect had been received from the home government. China made her offer of armistice, and the peace plenipotentiaries of Japan were empowered by the mikado to accept without condition. This was done in view of the attempted assassination of Li Hung Chang. The armistice, Minister Kurino of the Japanese legation said, will be effective until the peace negotiations are concluded. After the meeting of the peace ambassadors had been decided on China requested a declaration of an armistice, but Japan had, Minister Kurino said, not been inclined to stop warlike operations except on certain conditions. These conditions are not known, but it is suggested the probable occupation of Taku might have been one, Japan wishing something as a guarantee of the willingness and earnestness of the Chinese for an amicable settlement of the war. China evidently could not arrive at the conclusion to agree to the stipulations demanded by Japan, but attempt on the life of the Chinese peace ambassador solved the problem for the time being, and hostilities will be suspended. There will be no withdrawal of Japanese troops from Chinese territory, however.

The power of the Japanese government to execute the armistice will now be put to a crucial test. The military power of Japan has almost outstripped the civil power during the war. This has caused serious concern, as it was feared that the military element, backed by the war spirit among the people, would not submit to an armistice, even if the civil authorities ordered one. To meet this emergency a change of army commanders was recently made. There have been three army corps operating in different campaigns, and each under a general of supreme authority over his particular campaign. About three weeks ago, in anticipation of the armistice, Prince Komatsu was created commander-in-chief over all the armies. The object of this step was to concentrate authority in one man in close touch with the imperial household, who could thus execute an armistice by a simultaneous cessation of hostilities by the army. It now remains to be seen whether Prince Komatsu can execute the important commission given him. The splendid discipline shown by the army during the war gives assurance that there will be immediate acquiescense by the military. And yet Prince Komatsu has to contend against a war spirit inflamed by many victories. It has been said that an armistice would be so unpopular among the people and soldiery that it would assure the political retirement of two Japanese statesmen—Count Ito and Mr. Matsu—who have served as peace envoys. The full text of the cablegram received at the Japanese legation to-day regarding the armistice is as follows:

"On the opening of the negotiations the Chinese plenipotentiary proposed an armistice, which Japan was willing to accept on certain conditions. While this negotiation was going on an untoward event happened to the person of the Chinese plenipotentiary. His majesty, the emperor, in view of this unhappy occurence, commanded the Japanese plenipotentiaries to consent to the temporary armistice without conditions. This was communicated to the Chinese plenipoteniary."

Minister Kurino, in discussing the cablegram, said:

"It was immediately after the close of the second session of the peace plenipotentiaries that Li Hung Chang was prostrated by a fanatic. Up to that time nothing had been considered but China's request for an armistice pending the consideration of the terms of peace. The proposition had been met by the presentation of certain conditions from the Japanese plenipotentiaries. The discussion of the terms of final peace had not been entered upon. The emperor's command of a temporary armistice is also a refutation of the idea that Japan is disposed to humiliate China, or merely to acquire territory. Japan has gained the end of demonstrating Japanese importance in Eastern affairs."

Minister Kurino promptly notified Secretary Gresham of the armistice, and it was made known to President Cleveland.

The declaration of an armistice was most welcome news to the Chinese legation, although it was accepted with the stolidity and passive dignity which is characteristic of the race. The first word of the armistice reached the legation through the press reports. Mr. Yang Yu had received no official information from China or from the state department. Under the circumstances he asked to be excused from discussing the situation. The numerous attaches of the legation were evidently glad that the serious and discouraging struggle was at an end. There was some doubt as to the meaning of the term "unconditional armistice," though it was accepted as meaning that recent events, concluding probably with the shooting of Prince Li, had induced the envoys to agree to an armistice before agreeing exactly on the terms of peace. It is felt that the arrangement of these terms will be a difficult task. The feeling in the interior of China, where the direct effects of the war have not been felt, is very strong against a cession of territory. Moreover, the payment of a cash indemnity will necessitate the imposition of heavy taxes on the people, and consequent depression. These considerations, together with the recent losses and ravages of the war, make the future of China so problematic that the officials would not discuss it beyond the probabilities of resuming commerce.

More Morality in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 1.—The health and police committee of the board of supervisors has recommended for passage an ordinance preventing the display of indecent pictures. This ordinance is destined to prevent the publication or display of pictorial advertisements and theatrical posters, in which nude or partly nude figures are exposed and the sale of indecent literature photographs and other illustrations.

A GREAT CONSPIRACY

An Organized Gang to Forge Certificates.

PACIFIC COAST THEIR FIELD

Plan to Furnish Chinese Fraudulent Registration Balked by Arrests in San Francisco—Agencies Had Been Established in Important Cities.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 30.—Federal officers to-night caught two men in the act of forging Chinese registration certificates and arrested them. They are employes of the Oceanic Steamship Company, and are named Foss and Ciprico. These two were arrested at 765 Clay street, in Chinatown, the headquarters of the gang. Besides F. C. Ciprico and H. L. Foss, J. D. Sullivan, Max Katznaur and Moses Greenwald were also arrested. Katznaur was arrested in a saloon. He is said to be a relative of Banker Seligman, of New York. Greenwald is a cousin of Louis Greenwald, one of the Emerald opium-smuggling gang. Ciprico has an office in Wells-Fargo's building, which was also one of the headquarters of the gang. Of the other men nothing is known.

The government officials claim to have unearthed a gigantic conspiracy to forge such certificates, and that the gang had established agencies in at important points on the coast, as well as in the principal Eastern cities. Todd, who is said to be at the head, has a number of associates, who have laid their plans carefully with reference to selling the forged certificates throughout the country at a uniform price. The rate on Chinese laborers was $50 and on others $100. Robert Burns, jr., says that H. L. Foss, the freight clerk on the Oceanic dock, who has hitherto been charged with smuggling and other offenses, is one of the ringleaders of the forgers, and that Foss and a co-forger—the notorious ex-Customs Officer Ciprico—had their plans perfected to begin issuing to-day.

A photographer, formerly in the service of the government, is suspected of being one of the most skillful members of the gang, which embraced men named Wichman, Greenwald, Davis, Bates, Harvey and Devereaux. There is a probability that a great deal of the work has been done in Victoria, and that the plates from which the certificates were printed are now there, though the signature and photographs for identification have been made here. The penman is from Victoria, and is an expert of rare skill.

In laying plans to entrap the agents of the forgers the collector hired several Chinese engaged in business in China to act as decoys. A member of the band, who came from Oregon to help sell the forged instruments, stumbled upon one of the department's Chinese decoys almost at the outset of his negotiations, and it was through this blunder that the forgers betrayed themselves. For days and weeks the investigations have been pushed, and every detective's report has shown that the plans of the operators were far-reaching, their ramifications being so great as to involve several men who formerly held places of honor in this country. Some of the first evidence of the far-reaching plans of the operators came from New Mexico in December, at which time it was discovered that some of the forged certificates had been offered for sale at Santa Fe. Soon thereafter the certificates were found in Oregon.

WHO THEY ARE.

SEATTLE, March 30.—Max Katznaur is a Victoria man and reputed to be the leading smuggler on Puget Sound. Todd is said to have been collector of internal revenue at Spokane.

TO SEARCH FOR PEARY.

Efforts to Secure a Vessel for a Rescuing Party.

NEW BEDFORD, Mass., March 30.—Efforts are being made this season to secure a vessel to carry a party north to search for and rescue Mr. Peary and party, who remained in Greenland after the relief vessel last year brought down Mrs. Peary and the child born to her in that high latitude. It is stated that the cost of fitting the vessel and sending her on the rescuing mission would be $12,-000, and doubts are expressed if that amount can be obtained. It was thought that an effort would be made to secure the services of a whaling vessel engaged in Greenland or Hudson Bay whalefishing to engage in the search for and rescue of the Peary party. The only vessels known which are going to Hudson Bay this season are the barks A. R. Tucker and Canton of this port, of which J. and W. R. Wing are agents. They are whalers, and will sail about May 1. The agents of these vessels had inquiries some time ago in regard to engaging in a search for Mr. Peary, but the answer was returned that the vessels were only fitted out for Hudson Bay, which is a long distance from the icy north, where the Peary party is supposed to be, and since that time the agents have heard nothing further in regard to the search for and rescue of the explorer.

IN OPPOSITION TO PULLMAN.

A New Car, Unequaled in Point of Comfort and Convenience.

KANSAS CITY, March 30.—The Williams Palace Sleeping Car Company has been organized, with a capital stock of $5,000,000, to manufacture a new car, unequaled in point of comfort, convenience and elegance by any sleeping car now in use. The new car is the invention of a local railroad man who was formerly connected with the Missouri Pacific and Rock Island roads. The leading shareholders of the company are Eastern capitalists who are heavily interested in railroads and railroad machinery. The main feature of the car is a berth which disappears at the will of the passengers into the wall of the car, and is confined in a space of 1⅞ inches. Mattresses of air are to be used and all bedclothing can be put in lockers underneath the seats. The berths will be made of steel and aluminum.

RICH ORE OF OREGON.

A Rich Find Recently Made by a Jackson County Man.

JACKSONVILLE, Or., March 30.—Sam Lawrence, of Galls creek, recently discovered a ledge about half a mile from the Kubil & Watson ledge, from which the rich find was reported a short time since. The Lawrence discovery is in the direction of the Kubil ledge and is believed to be an extension of it. Seven tons of the late discovery were taken to the Lindley stamp mill on Sardine creek and crushed. They yielded $4,800. Much interest is manifested in this handsome working test, and development work will be prosecuted with all possible vigor on the ledge.

Work is continued with much energy on the Kubil & Watson ledge with the most satisfactory results. The company has 100 tons of rock on the dump, and estimates from actual working tests with an arastra that it will average $60 per ton.

Tim Dugan, of this place, has just uncovered two veins, located four miles from Jacksonville, in the divide between Jackson and Galls creeks, running parallel with each other, with only a thin partition between them, from which he has obtained the most flattering prospects. Seven pounds of the ore reduced in a hand mortar weighed at the bank $11. He will commence to develop the ledges at once, and other locators on extensions will also test their holdings.

More than usual interest is being taken in the mining industry this year, and a larger number of men are prospecting than ever before. Many new discoveries will no doubt be made.

YANKTON AND SILETZ.

The Proclamation Opening These Reservations Prepared.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Secretary Smith to-day gave to the president drafts of two proclamations, opening to settlement the lands ceded by the Yankton Sioux Indians in South Dakota and the Alsea and other Indians on the Siletz reservation in Oregon. The president is expected to act immediately on these and issue the formal proclamations within a few days. The Yankton reservation embodies some of the best land in the state and there are 186,000 acres of the ceded lands. The proclamation provides that the lands shall be subject to entry within thirty days of publication. Land officials do not expect a rush for the lands, such as the rush to the Oklahoma opening, and will adopt measures tending to secure equal treatment for all settlers. The agreement with the Yanktons provided for the payment for surplus lands of $600,-000 together with $20 for each male adult of the tribe. The agreement with the Siletz provides for the cession of all their unallotted lands, the total ceded territory covering 178,000 acres. The compensation paid by the government was $100,000.

There are several other reservations for which negotiations for opening to settlement are being made, and the Nez Perces lands in Idaho will probably be among those made subject to entry.

IN A STATE OF TERROR.

Condition of Affairs in the Town of Bocas del Toro.

MOBILE, Ala., March 30.—A letter dated March 20, from Bocas del Toro, the scene of the recent Garza raid and death of that leader, says that a great scare had prevailed there owing to the reports that the place was about to be attacked again by the insurgents. The populace barricaded themselves in the houses and the troops seized their arms, but nothing happened. Nevertheless, so great was the alarm that four-fifths of the population later in the day took refuge on the small islands opposite the Bocas.

Captain Ortiz has been promoted to lieutenant-colonel. He enjoys the confidence of the American residents.

Bocas is under martial law. Every able-bodied citizen is on duty, every house is required to have a light burning in front of it, no person may be on the streets after 3 P. M., and no three persons are allowed to walk abreast. The government troops have received new Lee repeating rifles.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

Opposition to European Interference in Latin-America.

CITY OF MEXICO, March 30.—Public feeling against European interference in Latin-America grows strong here. The newspapers are now discussing the possibility of an alliance between the United States and all the other republics of this hemisphere in order to present a common front against the ambitions of Europe. One influential journal says:

"In case there should be an abuse of power on the part of any European nation toward any American country, whatever, there will be an outburst of Americanism which will astonish the world."

Arms Sent From This Country.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The government has been informed that three shipments of arms have been made to Cuban insurgents from the United States within the past three weeks. In one case arms were sent from Philadelphia to Savannah and transferred from that point to Santiago de Cuba, the hotbed of the insurgents, by means of fishing smacks. The government is doing all it can to prevent these shipments, but it is said they are being constantly made. General Campos' appointment as captain-general of Cuba is viewed here as meaning a vigorous campaign against insurgents.

A Pistol Used by a Boy.

BAKER CITY, Or., March 30.—After attending prayer meeting last night two boys, Ralph Walters and George Palmer, became involved in a quarrel. After exchanging blows the former drew a 22-caliber pistol and fired at his opponent. The ball struck a steel badge which Palmer fortunately had in his lower vest pocket, and the leaden missile was flattened and split in two pieces. Walters was arrested and will answer to the charge of assault with intent to commit murder.

BACK FROM HONOLULU

Joaquin Miller Among the Australia's Passengers.

DENOUNCES DOLE'S GOVERNMENT

The Treatment Accorded Hawaii's Political Prisoners is Declared by the Aged Poet to Be Barbarous in the Extreme—Should Be Released.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29.—The Hawaiian minister of finance, Damon, and Joaquin Miller, the poet, were among the Australia's passengers. Mr. Damon has come upon private business of his own, and goes back on the next steamer. The poet left Honolulu suddenly with no other baggage than a copy of his poems. His intended departure was kept a secret, for he was afraid the officials of the government would put him in prison. Miller is very bitter against the men in control in Hawaii. He denounces the treatment accorded the political prisoners as barbarous in the extreme, and says that men are dying in prison for want of air and proper food. He predicts that a filibustering expedition will be organized to go to Honolulu and rescue the political prisoners. When asked if he were done with Hawaii the poet said:

"I have not begun. I am going to wait and see who goes down there to liberate those men. Possibly they may be set at liberty when their captors are badly scared, for they are awful cowards. But if they do not liberate them, the very last and lowest of the political prisoners, and then return the lands appropriated from the natives and the queen under the name of crown lands, I shall go to Japan. I am no stranger at the Japanese court. I think I shall only have to state the case and promise political rights to the oppressed 20,000 contract-slaves of Japan down there to get an iron-clad. There are hundreds of good men down there kept in the vilest prisons by a man who betrayed a woman and robbed her; and there is plenty of gold and a kingdom waiting for whoever will liberate those good men. The soldiers down there will not fight for Dole. They won't fight to keep those men in prison. It is not human. In fact, they are all falling out. I doubt if Dole has any friends at all who are not under pay as civil or military officers or in some way selfishly interested in his oligarchy. There has been nothing so monstrous since the reign of terror. The yard in front of the penitentiary is crowded with poor native women, waiting turns to see father, husband, son. I have often gone through without venturing to intercede. I had to be very careful for fear I might do harm instead of good. I am in possession of fearful facts. I call the attention of the world to these after waiting too long. There are too many persons in jail down there. If that prison were here the women of California would not let it stand two days."

Miller makes an appeal for books to be sent to the political prisoners as they have nothing to do and nothing to read, and unless they have something to divert their minds they may go mad. Speaking of President Dole, Miller said:

"He is perhaps the noblest-looking man to be found at the head of any government, but how he can go to church regularly as he does, breathing the fresh, sweet Sunday air of Honolulu with those hundreds of hollow eyes peering through the bars, and those living lips gasping for breath, is something I don't know."

Of the ex-queen Miller says: "Of all those who participated in her arrest and trial, and of all that was said and done, the only Christian was that poor, dusky woman in the midst of those cruel men. The only Christian act or utterance came from her."

He says that Major Seward, Colonel Ashford, T. W. Walker and other white traitors are confined in cells only five by eight feet. Two men are in each cell. They are allowed an airing two hours during the day. The average temperature in the cells is about 80 degrees.

ANOTHER BANK FAILURE.

One of Cincinnati's Oldest Banks Forced to Suspend.

CINCINNATI, March 29.—The Commercial bank to-day notified the clearing-house that it could not pay its day's clearings. The Commercial is one of the oldest banks in the city. Later the bank assigned to W. H. Campbell, who was its cashier. Charles B. Foote is president of the bank. Charles Campbell stated that the bank had but temporarily suspended, and would be all right in a few days. There had been an unusually heavy run on the bank today, and it became absolutely necessary to suspend business. He said further that the bank had ample securities to pay all depositors in time. It is reported the assets of the bank will develop badly. The bank has a paid-up capital stock of $328,000 and a surplus of $40,000. Its average deposits are $300,000. It has $900,000 bills receivable, but it is claimed that much of this paper is not good. The trouble is said to have been precipitated by the bank being compelled to make $50,000 of bad paper good yesterday. The directors are Charles B. Foote, a relative of the late Senator Pendleton; W. A. Peerrum, J. B. Specker, A. B. Ratterman and A. B. Hall, who all tried to prevent the run. The adverse report of the clearing-house to-day precipitated the trouble. It is the general opinion that the liabilities will greatly exceed the available assets.

Importing Japanese Sailors.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29.—The Shipowners' Association is beginning to bring a new element of disturbance into the sailors' strike. The boarding-masters here have just about exhausted their supply of non-union men. They are making arrangements, it is said, to import several hundred Japanese from the North to take the place of the striking sailors in the coastwise trade. Japanese can probably be secured for $25 a month, while the union men are demanding $35. Though the strikers have caused no serious trouble thus far, the importation of any considerable number of Japanese would undoubtedly stir up the lawless element on the waterfront.

ALASKA'S WILD FOWL.

Mitchell's Amendment for Their Protection May Make Trouble.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The amendment of Senator Mitchell of Oregon inserted in the sundry civil bill may lead to some interesting results and also cause further international complications, similar to those over Behring sea, as a part of the appropriation for protecting salmon fisheries in Alaska. There is a provision by which the secretary of the treasury is authorized to send an inspector to investigate and report upon the taking and destruction of the eggs of wild fowls, and the alleged wanton destruction of game birds, deer, fox and other animals in Alaska. A report is also asked as to what methods should be taken to prevent such destruction in future. It appears the Canadian poacher, not content with the destruction of seals, is playing havoc in the wilds of Alaska, where game birds make nests in the summer and rear the young. These eggs have been found valuable in the manufacture of certain articles, and are taken by thousands. While poachers are at work they kill everything that comes along. There has been a perceptible falling off in the number of game birds on the Pacific coast, and an investigation of the causes led to the discovery of this new form of poaching. It is believed by Senator Mitchell that an official report on what the people of the Pacific coast have discovered will lead to legislation to prevent further poaching.

PRICE OF MEAT ADVANCED.

Chops and Steaks Higher in Chicago Than During the World's Fair.

CHICAGO, March 29.—The Post says: Prices of all kinds of meat will be higher this summer than they have been for ten years past. Even the high prices which were made by some dealers during the world's fair period will be exceeded by the figures asked for roasts, steaks and chops from now on. It is not probable that much relief will come before the fall. Prices have already advanced about 25 per cent, and an additional advance of about the same proportion is almost certain. The cause of this is the short supply of cattle, followed by the necessary increase in value which forced dealers to raise prices to consumers. All kinds of beef, from porterhouse to hash meats, are being sold now from two to five cents more than a month ago, and pork products of all qualities, from pigs' feet to headcheese, are worth considerable more than they could be bought for on the first of the month. There is little likelihood that a reaction will come, because the conditions which enhanced values will not change for several months.

SPOKANE'S COURTHOUSE.

Its Construction Has Been the Cause of Considerable Trouble.

SPOKANE, Wash., March 29.—Affairs on the new $250,000 courthouse reached another crisis to-day, when the board of county commissioners asked Architect Ritchie to resign. Ritchie will probably refuse, and the matter will be carried into the courts. Yesterday the board laid off the superintendent of construction, and to-day made his discharge absolute. This has aroused much indignation, as the superintendent was warmly indorsed by the taxpayers' association. He had refused to approve the estimates of Architect Ritchie as excessive. The taxpayers' association will take steps to have a grand jury called to investigate matters.

SEATTLE'S CHARTER.

A Vote Will Be Taken on the Proposed Amendments.

SEATTLE, March 29.—The city council this afternoon decided to submit to the voters at the next general election proposed amendments to the city charter. The last legislature enacted a law giving the council authority to call special elections for the purpose, and the chamber of commerce and municipal leagues have requested that this be done. The council, however, deemed the cost of an election, which would reach $10,000, too much, and several members were opposed to it because several King county senators question the constitutionality of the new law.

Bogus Bullion Substituted.

CARSON, Nev., March 29.—The Tribune this evening contains a statement, claiming to be authoritative, that a bogus bar of bullion composed of some valueless composition has been discovered to have been substituted for a bar of gold bullion to cover up the mint shortage. This is one of the bars received by the present melter and refiner, Harris, from the previous administration at the stamped value. Rumors are current that arrests will soon be made, but nothing definite can be learned.

The Enormous Dividends Paid.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29.—The trial of the Wasserman-Sloss suit to-day revealed the enormous dividends made by the Alaska Commercial Company out of its sealing contract. Dividends amounting to $800 on every $100 share were paid for five years. The firm had millions on deposit acquired by the capture of seals. Sloss bought some of the shares from Wasserman for $60 each.

A Victim of Football.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The coroner of the District of Columbia held an inquest to-day over George D. Bahen, the Georgetown University football player who died from injuries received from playing football. The jury's verdict was that Bahen came to his death by foul play, for which it was unable to fix the responsibility. The testimony was that the play was most brutal.

Five Times It Has Been Vetoed.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 29.—The old Jordan claim for $70,000 for losses in building the penitentiary at Folsom will not be signed by the governor. This is the fifth time this bill has passed the legislature, and each time it has died in the hands of the governor.

Germany's Anti-Revolutionary Bill.

BERLIN, March 29.—The committee which has the anti-revolutionary bill under examination began its consideration on the second reading to-day, and rejected the proposal of Herr Hensmann to throw out the entire measure.

EMPEROR AND PRINCE

Bismarck Congratulated by the Kaiser in Person.

THE KING PRESENTS A SWORD

The Ceremonies Attending the Visit of the Emperor to the Great Ex-Chancellor, Though Marred by Showers of Rain, Were Brilliant and Imposing.

FRIEDRICHSRUH, March 28.—Emperor William, at the head of a detachment of cavalry and infantry with flags flying and bands playing, paid his respects today to Prince Bismarck, presented him with a sword of honor in behalf of the army, and congratulated him upon the 80th anniversary of his birth. His majesty was accompanied by the crown prince, Frederick William, General Bonsart von Schellendorf, the minister of war, and the officers of his military household.

The ceremonies attending the visit of the emperor to the great ex-chancellor, though marred by showers of rain, were brilliant and imposing. The crowds roamed at will through the Saxon forest and nearly 1,000 persons gathered behind a low hedge on the railroad embankment opposite the castle, while others were grouped along the roadway to Aumehile, a village not far from Friedrichsruh. He wore the uniform of a guards du corps. At Aumehile he left the train, mounted a horse, and, accompanied by his suite, rode quickly to the spot selected for the assembling of the troops detailed to do honor to Prince Bismarck. In the meanwhile the imperial train, with the crown prince, proceeded to Friedrichsruh. Soon after the latter's arrival there music in the distance announced the approach of the cavalry headed by his majesty.

There were drawn up, ready for his inspection, a squadron of Haberstadt cuirassiers, of which regiment Prince Bismarck is an honorary colonel; the Seventy-sixth regiment of infantry, and a squadron of the Fifteenth hussars, all with their regimental bands, and a battery of the Holstein artillery regiment. With the emperor at its head this force marched to an open space in Prince Bismarck's park, and upon arrival there the troops were deployed in parade order. The approach of his majesty was the signal for a storm of "hochs," which were repeated on all sides with great enthusiasm. The crown prince and his suite, including General von Waldersee, had in the meantime walked to the parade grounds, and as the emperor approached on one side Prince Bismarck's carriage emerged upon the ground from the other side. The prince wore the uniform of the Haberstadt cuirassiers.

When his majesty caught sight of the prince he spurred his horse forward, and sitting gracefully in his saddle rode at a fast canter to the carriage of the veteran statesman and soldier and cordially shook hands with him. The emperor then presented the crown prince and his suite to Prince Bismarck. Bismarck hurriedly descended from his carriage, shook hands with the young prince, and with the latter re-entered his carriage. Then, with the emperor riding behind it, and General Waldersee walking beside it, the carriage was driven down the line of soldiers. The officers saluted, the troops presented arms and the bands played patriotic airs as the prince and emperor passed.

IRISH SUPERSTITION.

An Extraordinary Case of Murder in the Emerald Isle.

WATERF[illegible], Ireland, March 28.—A most extraordinary case of murder arising from superstition was inquired into to-day by the special court of Clonmel, twenty-five miles from here. Ten persons were arraigned before the court charged with murdering Mrs. Cleary. The prisoners included the murdered woman's husband and father. The evidence shows that she was suffering from nervousness and bronchitis, and her husband believing her to be bewitched obtained a concoction from a herbist of the neighborhood. While the other prisoners held the unfortunate woman in bed he forced the concoction down her throat. After this, the suffering woman was held over a fire and dreadfully burned until she declared that she was not Cleary's wife. This torture was repeated on the following day, after which Cleary knocked her down, stripped off her clothing, poured paraffine over her body, then lighted it, and the woman burned to death in the presence of six male and two female relatives. Cleary declared that he was not burning his wife, but that he was burning a witch, and she would disappear up the chimney. The husband collected the charred remains and buried them. The prisoners, who were remanded, escaped lynching narrowly, and had to be escorted to the jail by a strong force of constables.

A Plumbers' Strike Threatened.

LOS ANGELES, March 28.—Trouble is brewing between the master and journeyman plumbers in this city. The journeymen are now receiving $4 per day for eight hours' work. The masters now announce that commencing April 1 the scale will be $3 per day for eight hours. The union has announced that the cut will not be accepted, and has given the masters until Saturday next to rescind the order. If they fail to do this, the men will strike, and it will result in calling out between 250 and 300 men. The masters say they cannot and will not yield, and the union says it is prepared for a strike, and will fight the cut to the bitter end.

A Board of Irrigation.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—By order of the secretaries of agriculture and interior a board of irrigation has been constituted to harmonize the work of the various government bureaus now dealing with this subject and to promote efficiency in developing the arid regions of the West. Chief Harrington, of the weather bureau, was chosen chairman and F. H. Newell, of the geological survey, secretary at the meeting to-day.