

OREGON MIST

Issued Each Friday

ST. HELENS.....OREGON

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

King Alfonso will visit Barcelona in defiance of bomb throwers.

Mayor Busse, of Chicago, has taken steps to keep all anarchists out of the city.

District Attorney Jerome, of New York, says the charges against him are false.

In the New York to Paris automobile race the American car is far ahead of the others.

The janitor of the Collinwood school declares he fastened the doors open at the first alarm of fire.

The incident of the seizure of the Japanese steamer Tatsu Maru by China has not yet been settled.

John F. Stevens, ex-engineer of the Panama canal, says the big canal will be of little value after it is finished.

Admiral Goodrich says American battleships are equal to those of any other country but could be made much better.

China is about to spend \$60,000,000 in naval construction. The government will also borrow large sums to be used in railroad construction.

An alarm of fire at Lees Summit, Mo., caused the 400 school children to rush out of the building in a panic. No attention was paid to the fire drill.

Hearst papers are accused of inciting anarchy.

Portugal seems to be drifting toward a republic.

Colorado has had 29 homicides already in 1908.

Black Hand leaders are meeting their match in New York.

The death list in the Collinwood disaster has reached 174.

Japan says she will use force with China only as a last resort.

The Knickerbocker Trust company, of New York, is to reopen.

Nine Chinese have been sentenced to death in Boston for murder.

The Interstate Commerce commission will enforce the 9-hour law on all railroads.

Franklin's house in Paris has been demolished to make way for a more modern building.

Professor Quackenbos, ex-professor of Columbia university, announces that he had a medicine that will make bad men good.

A part of the battleship fleet is scheduled to return by way of the Suez canal and will also visit a number of European countries.

Illinois Central directors are working on a plan to raise \$30,000,000.

King Edward is on a visit to France and called on the French president.

Two women have been arrested at Napa, Cal., for passing counterfeit money.

The Interstate Commerce commission says it is not opposed to the Fulton bill as has been stated.

Charges have been filed against Chancellor Day, of Syracuse university, for speaking ill of President Roosevelt.

Suits for the illegal cutting of timber have been filed in the United States court at Helena against several firms.

Governor Johnson will dedicate the monument erected by the state of Minnesota on Shiloh battlefield on April 10.

A monument and statue of Shakespeare will be ready for the 300th anniversary of his death and will be erected in London.

A petition signed by 40,000 persons asking pardon for Captain Van Schaick, under 10 years' sentence for criminal negligence in causing the wreck of the steamer Gen. Slocum, whereby over 1,000 lives were lost, will be presented to President Roosevelt.

The first consignment of Easter bonnets from Paris has arrived at New York.

A fire in the suburbs of Tokio burned 400 houses and caused a loss of \$2,500,000.

The house committee on expositions favors appropriating \$500,000 for the Japanese fair.

Japan threatens to use force unless China surrenders absolutely in the matter of the seized steamer.

Nine anarchist leaders have been arrested in Chicago.

BLOODY FIGHT AT PEN.

Three Montana Lifers Make a Mad Dash for Liberty

Deer Lodge, Mont., March 10.—Warden Frank Conley, of the Montana state penitentiary, was fearfully wounded Sunday morning and his first assistant warden, John Robinson, was killed, when three life convicts, George Rock, W. H. Hayes and another whose name is not given out, made a dash for liberty in the penitentiary office at 8 o'clock. It is thought the warden will live.

Robinson's throat was cut from ear to ear and the jugular vein was severed. Conley's throat was gashed and he was stabbed several times in the shoulder and groin before he was able to draw his revolver and shoot two of the assailants down. Convicts Hayes and Rock were both shot down by Conley after the latter had been wounded.

The attack on the prison authorities and a subsequent effort to escape has, according to the prison authorities this afternoon, been long planned by Rock and Hayes, who were cellmates. Both were armed with penknives, the blades of which were sharpened like razors. The three convicts were brought to the office of the penitentiary Sunday morning by Deputy Warden Robinson, to be tried for some trivial infraction of the prison rules, and Conley was waiting to sit in judgment.

The moment the men entered the office door Rock turned swiftly upon Robinson, who was closing the door behind the men, and quickly drawing a knife, he began slashing at the deputy warden's throat. Robinson was unable to retreat or move before his throat was cut wide open and he sank to the floor dying.

At the same moment that Rock attacked Robinson, Hayes also pulled out a knife similar to that of Rock and started for Conley. The latter retreated to the rear of the office before the oncoming desperado. Before Conley could draw his revolver, however, Hayes had slashed his throat, cutting him from the left ear to a point under the chin. The convict, seeing his intended victim getting away, grappled with him and stabbed him several times in the shoulder and groin.

Although bleeding terribly, Conley managed to draw his gun from his pocket and fired four times with the weapon pressed against Hayes' abdomen.

As Hayes sank to the floor, Rock rushed at Conley, who emptied the two remaining cartridges in his gun into Rock and he latter also went down. The third convict who had been called to the "carpet," took to his heels at the first of the battle, but was quickly captured and placed in his cell. The authorities refused to give out his name until they had investigated whether he was concerned in the plot or whether he had merely been called to the office at the same time as the other two.

ARE FIRE TRAPS.

Too Many Flimsy Buildings Are Constructed in America.

Washington, March 10.—In a statement made public last night, Richard L. Humphrey, engineer in charge of the structural material laboratories of the government, discusses recent fire horrors and asserts that fire traps as bad or worse than that which cost the lives of so many school children at Collinwood, O., exist in nearly every village and town and in many of the large cities.

He urges the passage of laws to prohibit the occupation of anything except a structure of the highest fire resisting type, especially when it is used as a school, theater or other structure in which people assemble in large numbers.

"It is a matter of record," he said, "borne out by statistics, that this country spends enormous sums of money in providing equipments in fighting fires, while foreign countries spend their money in building structures which offer the greatest resistance to fire. The per capita loss in this country yearly exceeds \$5, against an annual loss in 21 of the principal cities of Europe of 33 cents per capita. Estimating the population of the country at 89,000,000 the loss from fires here is \$740,000,000. If we had the same conditions that prevail in European cities our loss would be but \$26,400,000 a year."

Japan's Naval Strength.

Tokio, March 10.—Some reliable figures are now to hand showing the present strength of the Japanese navy compared with its strength when the war broke out. Details are appended, but the totals may be briefly stated, viz: One hundred and fifty seven vessels of all descriptions, representing a tonnage of 283,242 tons, before the war, and 204 vessels and 515,082 tons at the present day. Further scrutiny of the figures shows that Japan today possesses more than twice the number of battleships she had before the war.

Portugal Not Involved.

Lisbon, March 10.—Investigation instituted by the Portuguese government regarding the Tatsu Maru incident, have elicited from the Pekin government the emphatic assertion that the seizure occurred on the high seas, and that, therefore, there was no violation of the law governing Portugal waters.

SLAIN BY HUNDREDS

Nearly 200 Children Roasted in School House Fire.

FLAMES CUT OFF ALL RETREAT

Disaster at Suburb of Cleveland Desolates Many Homes—Teachers Die With Their Flocks.

Cleveland, O., March 5.—Pinned in narrow hallways, jammed up against doors that opened only inward, 170 children in the suburb of North Collingwood yesterday were killed by fire, by smoke and beneath the grinding heels of their panic stricken playmates.

The awful tragedy occurred yesterday morning in the public school of North Collingwood, ten miles east of this city. At 10 o'clock last night 165 corpses were in the morgue at Collingwood, six children were still unaccounted for, and all the hospitals and houses for two miles around contained numbers of children, some fatally and many less seriously injured. Two teachers also lost their lives in an effort to save their charges.

All of the victims were between the ages of 6 and 15 years. The school contained between 300 and 325 pupils, and of this entire number only about 80 are known to have left the building unhurt. It will be several days before the exact number of killed is known, as the ruins may still contain other bodies and the list of fatalities may be increased by a number of deaths among the children who are now lying in the hospitals hovering between life and death.

The school house was of brick, two stories and an attic in height. The number of pupils was more than normally large and the smaller children had been placed in an attic of the building. There was but one fire escape and that was in the rear of the building. There were two stairways, one leading to a door in front and the other to a door in the rear. Both of these doors opened inward, and it is said that the rear door was locked as well.

When the flames were discovered the teachers throughout seem to have acted with courage and self possession and to have struggled heroically for the safety of their pupils and marshaled the little ones into columns for the "fire drill," which they often practiced. Unfortunately the line of march in this exercise had always led to the front door, and the children had not been trained to seek any other exit. The fire came from a furnace situated directly under this part of the building.

When the children reached the foot of the stairs they found the flames close upon them and so swift a rush was made for the door that in an instant a tightly packed mass of children was piled against it.

After the fire had practically burned itself out the work of rescuing the bodies was begun by firemen and railroad employes from the Lake Shore shops. The railroad company turned over one of its buildings near by to be used as a temporary morgue, and thither the charred and broken little bodies were removed as fast as they could be dug from the ruins. Within five hours practically all had been removed. They were placed in rows in the Lake Shore shops.

Identifications were made only by means of clothing and trinkets. The fire had swept away nearly all resemblance to human features in the majority of instances. Distracted parents soon began to gather and the work of identification of the blackened and mangled corpses began.

The gruesome task of taking out the blackened torsos and bits of human remains was one of horror. A line of rescuers was formed, backed by half a dozen ambulances. As the bodies were untagged from the debris they were passed along to the stretchers, thence conveyed to the ambulances, where they were mercifully covered with blankets and then taken to the improvised morgues.

Ships Leave Magdalena Bay

San Diego, Cal., March 5.—Wireless messages from Magdalena bay today state that the gunboat Yorktown left there this morning for San Francisco direct. The remainder of the second squadron, which means all the vessels now at Magdalena except the California, will sail on Sunday for San Francisco. The California will remain at the bay for several days thereafter and the operator at the wireless station expects to hear from the battleship fleet through the big cruiser about March 10 or 11 if she remains there.

New York Spares Rod.

New York, March 5.—By a vote of 21 to 17 the board of education defeated the proposal to reintroduce corporal punishment in the public schools of the city.

REVISION ASSURED.

Extra Session to Be Called to Go Over Tariff.

Washington, March 9.—Plans for the revision of the tariff have been agreed upon by the Republican leaders, including Roosevelt, Speaker Cannon, Senator Beveridge and Representative Payne, Dalsell and Sherman, the three latter being members of the house ways and means committee, who will frame the new law.

An extra session of congress will be called immediately after the expiration of the present congress next spring and a bill will be drafted reducing some of the high schedules on steel and iron and equalizing others. If the Democrats are successful in the national election next fall, President Roosevelt will recall congress immediately after the result is known, so that the tariff can be revised by the Republicans.

Senator Beveridge, who presented a measure providing for a tariff commission, had a conference with the president today. Later he conferred with Speaker Cannon and Representative Payne, Dalsell and Sherman. It developed that the commission plan is not acceptable, and it was agreed that a resolution shall be adopted by the present congress directing the secretaries of state, treasury, agriculture, commerce and labor and director of the census to gather such data as will be useful to congress in revising the tariff.

Representative Sherman, with the approval of Speaker Cannon, is circulating a petition among members of the house which requests the ways and means committee to sit during the summer recess for the purpose of gathering data to aid the members in framing a new tariff law. Many signatures have already been procured and the committee will sit.

DEMANDS ARE MADE.

Japan's Minister Presents Ultimatum to China

Pekin, March 9.—Japan's ultimatum in the case of the Japanese steamship Tatsu Maru was presented to the head of the Chinese Foreign board today, and the board has the matter under consideration.

The Tatsu Maru was seized off Macao on February 7 by Chinese custom's cruisers on the charge that her cargo of arms and ammunition was intended for Chinese revolutionists, although consigned to a merchant of that place. The steamer is now being held at Whampoa, on the Canton river.

The irreducible minimum of the Japanese claims is the restoration of the steamer, as well as of her cargo, and the payment of a full indemnity. Action is demanded within a "reasonable time." In case of default or postponement, Japan, according to the terms of her ultimatum, will "take immediate action."

Japan expects a reply by tomorrow. She will not tolerate China's offer to investigate the case. She insists upon an apology for the hauling down of the Japanese flag on the Tatsu Maru and she will not accept mediation, affirming that China is in error and that the facts are incontrovertible.

Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to China, in delivering the ultimatum, made reference to Japan's sympathy for China in the matter of contraband traffic in arms and explained that China could not expect mediation so long as she did not admit the participation of the Portuguese.

INFECTED RATS ARE FOUND.

Citizens' Committee Authorizes Additional Expenditures.

San Francisco, March 9.—The bacteriological reports of the Federal health officers state that infected rats were found in nearly every district of the city last week, only the Sunset and Richmond districts being immune. The greatest percentage of infection is reported from the North Beach district and in the Western addition. In all buildings where infected rats were found, walls and floors were opened, and the places thoroughly fumigated. The citizens' health committee has authorized the Federal health officers to employ additional men, no limit being placed on the number. New gangs will be organized and an effort made to exterminate all the rats in the city within the next 30 days.

Bonus for Each Child.

Sydney, N. S. W., March 9.—The increase of population in the commonwealth is notoriously slow, and the legislators of Western Australia, where the inhabitants number only two to the square mile, have determined to take a leaf out of the book of the French. With a view to encouraging bigger families, an amendment has been inserted in the income tax bill by the state legislative assembly giving an exemption of \$50 for every child up to the number of five in the family of a taxpayer. Five children is evidently the limit.

Furnace Got Overheated.

Columbus, O., March 9.—That the fire in the Collinwood schoolhouse which cost the lives of more than 170 children was due to an overheated furnace is the substance of a partial report made to State Fire Marshal Creamer tonight by the three deputies who have been investigating the causes of the fire.

RUEF ACCUSES HERSELF

Makes Serious Charge of Self-nation of Perjury.

ALLEGES UNDUE INFLUENCE

Declares His Testimony Was Obtained Through Misrepresentation—Wants to Change Plea.

San Francisco, March 7.—This morning at 10 o'clock Abraham Ruef was through his attorneys, Henry A. Frank J. Murphy and M. C. Chase, present to Judge Dunne a motion to allow him to withdraw his plea of not guilty in the case known as French restaurant extortion case, support his motion Ruef will file a affidavit of a sensational nature, the substance of which was given out tonight.

In filing the motion Ruef states the plea of guilty was improperly and inadvisely tendered and that the defendant is not guilty of the charges, and that he was induced to enter the plea of guilty by virtue of agreement and understanding with the district attorney, William H. Leary, the assistant district attorney, Fred J. Heney, the special agent of the district attorney, William J. Burns, the financial backer of the district attorney in this prosecution, Ralph Spreckels, and because of the agreement and understanding of the presiding in this department of the superior court, Judge Frank H. Sawyer, that the plea of guilty should be quickly withdrawn and the plea not guilty substituted, and the case dismissed against the defendant.

The motion also will state that district attorney has heretofore consented to the withdrawal of the plea of guilty and that this plea was obtained from the defendant by fraud, concealment and false pretenses. The motion will be presented to the court March 12.

LEAVE SCHOOL WITHOUT PANIC

Singing "America" 2,000 New Children Reach Safety.

New York, March 7.—A special was sent into fire headquarters to the public school on One Hundred Ninth street, between Amsterdam and Broadway.

The children were marched from school without panic or disorder. They were assembled in the yard and at home. Parents who rushed to the building were prevented by the police from closing in the exits and rear.

The fire was on the top floor of the building, which is five stories high. The 2,000 pupils in the building engaged in their morning singing class when the fire gong rang and continued to sing "America" as they marched out of the building. There was no sign of panic at any time.

SECRETS OF TORPEDOES

Bliss Company Says Employ Stolen Brass Models.

New York, March 7.—The Bliss company, manufacturers of projectiles, secured the arrest last night of William Esser, a mechanic, of Brooklyn, who, it is charged, has stolen brass models of the principal parts of torpedoes now in process of manufacture for the government.

Detectives engaged on the case said that other arrests will be made of those who will be charged with offering for sale to other governments secret projectile manufacturers. The police authorities would be interested in how was made clear.

William Esser was held in jail when arraigned in court. No representative of the government appeared against Esser.

Petition Czar for Mercy

St. Petersburg, March 7.—M. Tselkovsky, who is awaiting trial for revolutionary utterances, was visited today by physicians, who are to determine the state of his health. Mrs. Tselkovsky will present to Premier Stolypin an English petition in favor of her husband, signed by 300 leading clergymen and members of the nobility. It is the petition that Count Benckendorff, Russian ambassador in London, declined to forward to St. Petersburg. It will be followed by a general English petition.

Illegal Fences Fined.

Helena, Mont., March 7.—United States Judge Hunt today imposed severe penalties on four well known Northern Montana stockmen and ranchers who pleaded guilty to illegal fencing. The fines and imprisonment were: Joseph and Frank Laird, \$48 hours and \$250 each; Nelson Ringland, 48 hours and \$200; James, Bligh, 48 hours and \$100.