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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Following is a summary of the main points of President Taft's message to the Sixty-first congress, which convened Tuesday, Dec. 7, 1909.

To the Senate and the House of Representatives—The relations of the United States with all foreign governments have continued upon the normal basis of amity and good understanding and are very generally satisfactory.

Pursuant to the provisions of the general treaty of arbitration concluded between the United States and Great Britain, April 4, 1908, a special agreement was entered into between the two countries on January 27, 1909, for the submission of questions relating to the fisheries on the North Atlantic Coast to a tribunal to be formed from members of the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague.

In accordance with the provisions of the special agreement, the printed case of each government was on October 4 last submitted to the other and to the arbitral tribunal at The Hague, and the counter case of the United States is now in course of preparation.

Negotiations for an international conference to consider and reach an arrangement providing for the preservation and protection of the fur seals in the North Pacific are in progress with the governments of Great Britain, Japan and Russia. The attitude of the governments interested justifies me in hope for a satisfactory settlement of this question as the ultimate outcome of the negotiations.

The question arising out of the Belgian annexation of the independent state of the Congo, which has so long and earnestly preoccupied the attention of this Government and enlisted the sympathy of our best citizens, is still open, but in a more hopeful stage. This Government was among the foremost in the great work of uplifting the uncivilized region of Africa and urging the extension of the benefits of civilization, education and fruitful, open commerce to that vast domain, and is a party to treaty engagements of all the interested powers, declared to carry out that great duty to humanity.

A convention between the United States and Germany, under which the nonworking provisions of the German patent law are made inapplicable to the patents of American citizens, was concluded on February 23, 1909, and is now in force. Negotiations for similar conditions looking to the placing of American inventions on the same footing as nationals have recently been initiated with other European governments whose laws require the local working of foreign patents.

Under an appropriation made at the last session of Congress, a commission was sent on American cruisers to Monrovia to investigate the interests of the United States and its citizens in Liberia. Upon its arrival at Monrovia, the commission was enthusiastically received, and during its stay in Liberia was everywhere met with the heartiest expression of good will for American Government and people, and the hope was repeatedly expressed in all sides that this Government might see its way clear to do something to relieve the critical position of the republic arising in a measure from external as well as internal and financial embarrassments.

The Liberian government afforded every facility to the commission for ascertaining the true state of affairs. The commission also had conferences with representative citizens, interested foreigners and the representatives of foreign governments in Monrovia. Visits were made to various parts of the republic and to the neighboring British colony Sierra Leone where the commission was received and conferred with the Governor.

It will be remembered that the interest of the United States in the Republic of Liberia springs from the historical fact of the foundation of the republic by the colonization of American citizens of the African race. In an early treaty with Liberia, there is a provision under which the United States may be called upon for the service of good offices. Pursuant to this provision and in the spirit of the moral relationship of the United States to Liberia, that republic last year asked this Government to lend assistance in the solution of certain of their national problems, and hence the commission was sent.

The Norwegian government, by a note addressed on January 26, 1909, to the Department of State, conveyed an invitation to the Government of the United States to take part in a conference which, it is understood, will be held in February or March, 1910, for the purpose of devising means to remedy existing conditions in the Spitzbergen Islands.

This invitation was conveyed under the reservation that the question of altering the status of the islands as countries belonging to no particular state, and as equally open to the citizens and subjects of all states, should not be raised.

His Majesty Mehmed V, Sultan of Turkey, recently sent to this country a special embassy to announce his accession. The quick transition of the government of the Ottoman empire from one of retrograde tendencies to a constitutional government, with a parliament and with progressive policies of reform and public improvement, is one of the important phenomena of our times. Constitutional government seems also to have made further advance in Persia.

These events have turned the eyes of the world upon the near East. In that quarter the prestige of the United States has spread widely through the peaceful influence of American schools, universities and missionaries. There is every reason why we should obtain a greater share of the commerce of the near East, since the conditions are more favorable now than ever before.

Today more than ever before American capital is seeking investment in foreign countries and American products are more and more generally seeking foreign markets. As a consequence there are American citizens and American interests to be protected on occasion by their government. These movements of men, of capital and of commodities bring peoples and governments closer together and so form bonds of peace and mutual dependency, as they must also naturally sometimes make passing points of friction.

The resultant situation inevitably imposes upon this Government vastly increased responsibilities. This Administration, through the Department of State and foreign service, is lending all proper support to legitimate and beneficial American enterprises in foreign countries, the degree of such support being measured by the National advantage to be expected. A citizen himself cannot by contract or otherwise divest himself of the right nor can this Government escape the obligation of his protection in his personal and property rights when these are unjustly infringed in a foreign country. To avoid resentment, vexations it is proper that in considering whether American enterprise should be encouraged or supported in a particular country, the governments should give full weight, not only to the National, as opposed to the individual benefits to accrue; also to the fact whether or not the government of the country in question is in its administration and in its diplomacy faithful to the principle of moderation of equity and justice upon which alone depend international credit in diplomacy as well as in finance.

The Pan-American policy of this Government has long been fixed in its principles and remains unchanged. With the changed circumstances of the United States and of the republics to the south of us, most of which have great natural resources, stable government and progressive ideals, the apprehension of which gave rise to the Monroe Doctrine, may be said to have nearly disappeared and neither the doctrine as it exists nor any other doctrine of American policy should be permitted to operate for the perpetuation of irresponsible government, the escape of just obligations or the insidious alienation of domineering ambitions on the part of the United States. Besides the fundamental doctrines of our Pan-American policy there have grown up a realization of political interests, community of institutions and ideals and a flourishing commerce. All these bonds will be greatly strengthened as time goes on and increased facilities, such as the great bank soon to be established in Latin-America, supply the means for building up the colossal intercontinental commerce of the future.

My meeting with President Diaz and the greeting exchanged on both American and Mexican soil, I hope, to signalize the close and cordial relations which will bind together this Republic and the great republic immediately to the south, between which there is so vast a network of material interest.

I am happy to say that all but one of the cases which for so long vexed our relations with Venezuela have been settled within the past few months and that under the enlightened regime now directing the government of Venezuela, provision has been made for arbitration of the remaining cases before The Hague tribunal.

On July 30, 1909, the government of Panama agreed after considerable negotiation to indemnify the relatives of the American officers and sailors who were brutally treated, one of them having been killed by the Panama police this year.

The sincere desire of the Panama government to do away with a situation where such an accident could occur is manifest in the recent request, in compliance with which this Government has lent the services of an officer of the Army to be employed by the government of Panama as instructor of police.

The sanitary improvements and public works undertaken in Cuba prior to the present administration of that government, in the success of which the United States is interested under the treaty, are reported to be making good progress and, since the Congress provided for the continuance of the reciprocal commercial arrangement between Cuba and the United States, assurance has been received that no regulations injuriously affecting the situation will be undertaken without consultation.

Many years ago diplomatic intervention became necessary for the protection of the American claim of Alsop & Co. against the government of Chile. The government of Chile has frequently admitted obligation in the case and had promised this Government to settle it. There had been two abortive attempts to do so through arbitration, which failed through lack of jurisdiction. Now, happily, as the result of the recent diplomatic negotiations, the government of the United States and Chile, actuated by the sincere desire to free from any strain those cordial and friendly relations upon which both set such store, have agreed by a protocol to submit the controversy to definitive settlement by His Britannic Majesty Edward VII.

In the Far East this Government preserves unchanged its policy of supporting the principle of equality of opportunity and scrupulous respect for the integrity of the Chinese empire, to which policy are pledged the interested powers of both East and West. By the treaty of 1903 China has undertaken the abolition of the likin, with a moderate and proportionate raising of the customs tariff, along with currency reforms. These reforms being of manifest advantage to foreign commerce, as well as to the interests of China, this Government is endeavoring to facilitate these measures and the needful acquiescence of the treaty powers.

When it appeared that China's likin revenues were to be hypothecated to foreign bankers in connection with a great railway project, it was obvious that the governments whose bankers hold this loan would have a certain direct interest in the question of the carrying out by China of the reforms in question. Because this railroad loan represented a practical and real application of the open-door policy, through co-operation with China by interested powers, as well as because of its relations to the reforms referred to above, the Administration deemed American participation to be of great National interest. Happily, when it was as a matter of broad policy urged that this opportunity should not be lost, the indispensable instrumentality presented itself when a group of American bankers of international reputation and great resources agreed at once to share in the loan upon precisely such terms as this Government should approve. The chief of those terms was that American railway material should be upon an exact equality with that of the other nations joining in the loan in the placing of orders for the whole railway system.

After months of negotiation, the equal participation of America seems at last assured. It is gratifying that America will thus take its share in this extension of these great highways of trade and to believe that such activities will give a real impetus to our commerce, and will prove a practical corollary to our historic policy in the Far East.

The Imperial Chinese government, in pursuance of its decision to devote funds from the portion of the indemnity remitted to them to sending students to this country, has already completed arrangements for carrying out this purpose, and a considerable body of students have arrived to take up their work in our schools and universities. No one can doubt the happy effect the associations formed by these representative young men will have when they return to take up their work in the progressive development of their country. The results of the opium conference held at Shanghai last Spring, at the invitation of the United States, have been laid before the Government.

The report shows that China is making remarkable progress and admirable efforts toward the eradication of the opium evil, and that the governments concerned have not allowed their commercial interests to interfere with a helpful co-operation in this reform. Collateral investigations of the opium question in this country lead me to recommend that the manufacture, sale and use of opium and its derivatives in the United States be, so far as possible, more vigorously controlled by legislation.

In one of the Chinese-Japanese conventions of this year there was a provision which caused considerable public apprehension, in that upon its face it was believed in some quarters to seek to establish a monopoly of mining privileges along the South Manchurian and Antung-Mukden railroads, and thus to exclude Americans from a wide field of enterprise, to take part in which they were entitled by the treaty with China. After a thorough examination of the conventions of the several contextual documents, the Secretary of State reached the conclusion that no such monopoly was intended or accomplished. However, in view of the widespread discussion of this question, to confirm the view it had reached, this Government made inquiry of the Imperial Chinese and Japanese governments, and received from each of them assurance that the provision had no purpose inconsistent with the policy of equality of opportunity to which the signatories, in common with the United States, are pledged.

Under a provision of the act of August 5, 1909, I have appointed three officials to assist the officers of the Government in collecting information necessary to a wise administration of the tariff act of August 5, 1909. As to questions of customs administration, they are co-operating with the officials of the Treasury Department and as to matters of the needs and the exigencies of our manufacturers and exporters with the Department of Commerce and Labor in its relation to the domestic aspect of the subject of foreign commerce. In the study of foreign tariff treatment they will assist the Bureau of Trade Relation of the Department of State. It is thus hoped to co-ordinate and bring to bear upon this most important subject all the agencies of the Government which can contribute anything to its efficient handling.

As a consequence of section two of the tariff act of August 5, 1909, it becomes the duty of the Secretary of State to conduct diplomatic business necessary to him in a position to advise me whether any particular country unduly discriminates against the United States in the statute referred to. The great scope and complexity of this work, as well as the obligation to lend all proper aid to our expanding commerce, it may accomplish by the expansion of the Bureau of Trade Relations, as set forth in the estimate for the Department of State.

I regret to refer to the fact of the discovery of extensive frauds in the collection of the customs revenue at New York City, in which a number of subordinate employes in the weighing and other departments were directly concerned, and in which the beneficiaries were the American Sugar Refining Company and others. The fraud consisted in the payment of duty on underweights of sugar. The Government has recovered from the American Sugar Refining Company all that it is known to have been defrauded of. The sum was received in full of the amount due, which might have been recovered by a civil suit against the beneficiaries of the fraud, but there was an express reservation in the contract of settlement by which the settlement should not interfere with or prevent the criminal prosecution of every one who was found to be subject to the same.

Criminal prosecutions are now proceeding against a number of the Government officers. The Treasury Department and the Department of Justice are exerting every effort to discover all the wrongdoers, including the officers and employes of the companies who may have been privy to the frauds. It would seem to me that an investigation of the frauds by Congress at present, pending the probing of the Treasury Department and the Department of Justice as proposed, might, by giving immunity and otherwise, prove an embarrassment in securing convictions of the guilty parties.

Perhaps the most important question presented to this Administration is that of economy of expenditures and sufficiency of revenue. The deficit of the last fiscal year and the certain deficit of the current year prompted Congress to throw a greater responsibility upon the Executive and the Secretary of the Treasury than had heretofore been declared by statute. This declaration imposes upon the Secretary of the Treasury the duty of assembling all the estimates of the executive departments, bureaus and offices, of the expenditures necessary in the ensuing fiscal year, and of making an estimate of the revenues of the Government for the same period; and if a probable deficit is thus shown, it is made the duty of the President to recommend the method by which such deficit can be met.

The report of the Secretary shows that the ordinary expenditures for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, will exceed the estimated receipts by $34,075,620. If to this deficit is added the sum to be disbursed for the Panama Canal, amounting to $38,000,000, and $1,000,000 to be paid on the public debt, the deficit of ordinary receipts and expenditures will be increased to a total deficit of $73,075,620. This deficit the Secretary proposes to meet by the proceeds of bonds issued to pay the cost of constructing the Panama Canal. I approve this proposal.

In order to avoid a deficit for the ensuing fiscal year, I directed the heads of departments in the preparation of their estimates to make them as low as possible consistent with imperative governmental necessity. The result has been, as I am advised by the Secretary of the Treasury, that the estimates of the expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911—that is, for the next fiscal year—are less by $53,063,000 than the total appropriations for the current fiscal year, and less by $94,000,000 than the estimates for that year.

So far as the Secretary of the Treasury is able to form a judgment as to future income and compare it with the expenditure for the next fiscal year, ending June 30, 1911, including the payments on account of the Panama Canal and the public debt, there will be no deficit in the year ending June 30, 1911, but a small surplus of $712,000.

In the present estimates the needs of the departments and of the Government have been cut to the quick, so to speak, and any assumption on the part of Congress, so often made in times past, that the expectimates have been prepared with the expectation that they may be reduced, will result in seriously hampering proper administration.

Most of the great industrial corporations and many of the well-conducted railways of this country are coming to the conclusion that a system of pensions for old employes, and the substitution therefor of younger and more energetic servants, promotes both economy and efficiency of administration.

I am aware that there is a strong feeling in both houses of Congress, and also in the country, against the establishment of civil pensions, and that this has naturally grown out of the heavy burden of military pensions, which it has always been the policy of our Government to assume; but I am strongly convinced that no other practical solution of the difficulties presented by the superannuation of civil servants can be found than that of a system of civil pensions.

The business and expenditures of the Government have expanded enormously since the Spanish War, but as the revenues have increased in nearly the same proportion as the expenditures until recently, the attention of the public and of those responsible for the Government has not been fastened upon the question of reducing the cost of administration. We cannot, in view of the advancing prices of living, hope to save money by a reduction in the standard of salaries paid. Indeed, if any change is made in that regard, an increase rather than a decrease will be necessary; and the only means of economy will be in reducing the number of employes and in obtaining a greater average of efficiency from those retained in the service.

Two features of the new tariff act call for special reference. By virtue of the clause known as the "maximum and minimum" clause, it is the duty of the Executive to consider the laws and practices of other countries with reference to the importation into those countries of the products and merchandise of the United States, and if the Executive finds such laws and practices not to be unduly discriminatory against the United States, the minimum duties provided in the bill are to go into force. Unless the President makes such a finding, then the maximum duties provided in the bill—that is, an increase of 25 per cent ad valorem over the minimum duties—are to be in force.

Fear has been expressed that this power conferred and duty imposed on the Executive is likely to lead to a tariff war. I beg to express the hope and belief that no such result need be anticipated. The discretion granted to the Executive by the terms "unduly discriminatory" is wide. In order that the maximum duty shall be charged against the imports from a country, it is necessary that he shall find on the part of the country not only discriminations in its laws or the practice under them against the trade of the United States, but that the discriminations found shall be undue; that is, without good and fair reason.

The generosity of Congress has provided in the present naval observatory the most magnificent and expensive astronomical establishment in the world. It is being used for certain naval purposes which might easily and adequately be subserved by a small division connected with the Navy Department at only a fraction of the cost of the present naval observatory. The official board of visitors established by Congress and appointed in 1901 expressed its conclusion that the official head of the observatory should be a eminent astronomer appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, holding his place by a tenure at least as permanent as that of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey or the head of the Geological Survey and not merely by a detail or two or three years' duration. I fully concur in this judgment.

The platform of the successful party in the last election contained the following:

"The Republican party will uphold at all times the authority and integrity of the courts, state and Federal, and will ever insist that their powers to enforce their process and to protect life, liberty and property shall be preserved inviolate. We believe, however, that the rules of procedure in the Federal courts with respect to the issuance of the writ of injunction should be more accurately defined by statute and that no injunction or temporary restraining order should be issued without notice, except where irreparable injury would result from delay, in which case a speedy hearing thereafter should be granted."

I recommend that in compliance with the promise thus made appropriate legislation should be adopted.

The second subject worthy of mention is the Postoffice Department is the real necessity and entire practicability of establishing postal savings banks. The successful party at the last election declared in favor of postal savings banks, and, although the proposition finds opponents in many parts of the country, I am convinced that the people desire such banks and am sure that when the banks are furnished they will be productive of the utmost good. The postal savings banks are not constituted for the purpose of creating competition with other banks. The rate of interest upon deposits to which they would be limited would be so small as to prevent their drawing deposits away from other banks.

Following the course of my distinguished predecessor, I earnestly recommend to the congress the consideration and passage of a ship subsidy bill, looking to the establishment of lines between our Atlantic seaboard and the eastern coast of South America, and as well of lines from the west coast of the United States to South America, China, Japan and the Philippines.

The year 1913 will mark the 50th anniversary of the issuance of emancipation proclamation granting freedom to the negroes. It seems fitting that this event should be properly celebrated. Already a movement has been started by prominent negroes, encouraged by prominent white people and the press. The South especially is manifesting its interest in this movement.

I have thus, in a message compressed as much as the subjects will permit, referred to many of the legislative needs of the country, with the exceptions already noted. Speaking generally, the country is in a high state of prosperity. There is every reason to believe that we are on the eve of a substantial business expansion and we have just garnered a harvest unexampled in the market value of our agricultural products.

The high prices which such products bring mean great prosperity for the farming community, but on the other hand they mean a very considerable increased burden upon those classes in the community whose yearly compensation does not expand with the improvement in business and the general prosperity. Various reasons are given for the high prices. The proportionate increase in the output of gold, which today is the chief medium of exchange, and is in some respects a measure of value, furnishes a substantial explanation of at least a part of the increase in prices. The increase in population and the more expensive mode of living of the people, which have not been accompanied by a proportionate increase in acreage production, may furnish a further reason.

It is well to note that the increase in the cost of living is not confined to this country, but prevails the world over, and that those who would charge increases in prices to the existing protective tariff must meet the fact that the rise in prices has taken place almost wholly in those products of the factory and farm in respect to which there has been either no increase in the tariff or in many instances a very considerable reduction.

WILLIAM H. TAFT.

The White House, December 7, 1909.

Rebels Defeat Big Force.

Colon—A wireless dispatch received from Bluefields says: After five hours of fighting yesterday 600 revolutionists under General Matuty defeated 1,000 government troops under General Zasquez in the mountains above Rama. Several standards and a quantity of arms and ammunition fell into the hands of General Matuty when the government troops withdrew. The Zelayan troops lost 80 men killed and many wounded, while the revolutionists, who fought behind boulders and other protections, lost 20 men killed.

Child Ordered Released.

Fresno, Cal.—By a writ of habeas corpus Mrs. Minnie Spring today regained possession of her 4-year-old daughter, Ruth, held by Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Holland for debt. The Hollands claimed $50 for the care of the child. Judge Church, who issued the writ, said that in this civilized age the holding of a child under lien or chattel mortgage was not to be thought of. The charges were brought under an old territorial law. The officials say the arrest was a case of persecution and not prosecution.

Exchange Seat, $94,000.

New York—A price within $1,000 of the record was paid today for a seat on the New York Stock exchange. It brought $94,000 as against the record figure of $95,000 paid for a seat several years ago. The late E. H. Harriman's seat was sold to Robert H. Loeb for $85,000 only two weeks ago. Since then another seat has sold for $92,000.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

MODEL ORCHARD.

Scientific Apple Culture Will Be Applied in Marion County.

Salem—The Salem Fruit Growers' union is promoting a plan of developing a model orchard of 100 acres near Salem. The orchard is to be devoted to apples and the trees are to be reared under modern scientific methods. The company will invest in suitable land and have it put in the highest state of cultivation by early spring, when it will be planted in the best varieties of apples under the supervision of one of the ablest horticulturists obtainable.

Since this project has been agitated it has also become known that a large eastern syndicate is quietly taking options on several thousand acres of land within 10 miles of Salem. If the necessary quantity can be secured and this fact is now practically certain, these lands will all be similarly treated. The fruit, however, will not be confined to apples, but the land will be planted to whatever fruit it is best adapted to.

This movement is one of the most important in the history of the fruit development in Marion county, and will do much toward advancing the fruit interests in the Willamette valley. The method of this syndicate is to sell the orchards in small tracts to eastern buyers.

GOOD ROADS FOR MARION.

Big Mass Meeting Will Convene at Salem for This Purpose.

Salem—Marion county is to have good roads. A movement has been started to interest the people of the entire county in a campaign for better highways. To secure the widest co-operation, a mass meeting has been called for December 8, 9 and 10, when farmers and business men will seriously consider the advancement of the county, the building up of the rural communities and the gathering of funds to further the work.

Already eight road districts are making special levies of taxes for road building. They are scattered well over the county, showing something of the interest in the movement.

It is believed that the coming year will see an unparalleled development of good road building in Marion county. For this reason a good start is desired, and the co-operation of every man in the county is earnestly sought.

The principal business of the meeting will be to devise methods of securing funds for the promotion of permanent road work. This is an all important topic in connection with the movement, and it is probable that there will be ideas advanced which will be of wonderful value to every one.

There are 50 road districts in the county. Each of these districts has a supervisor, and it is probable nearly all of the supervisors will be here. The meeting is for every man, no matter what his occupation or his standing in the community, so long as he is interested in road building.

Jones Will Be Receiver.

Independence—Benjamin Franklin Jones, member of the legislature, mayor of Independence, chairman of the school board, friend of the normal schools, sponsor for the opening of the Oregon City locks, conserver of the tide lands, and possessed of other notches in his record, is to be receiver of the Roseburg land office, beginning December 18. Through the favor of Senator Bourne, and the acquiescence of President Taft, Mr. Jones will assume the reins of the office as soon as his certificate of appointment reaches him, which will be on December 18, unless some unforeseen delay comes.

Notarial Commissions.

Salem—Notarial commissions have been issued to Ben M. Patterson, Cornucopia; Joe M. Flaherty, Lebanon; T. J. McClary, Gates; A. C. Morgan, Morgan; John W. Oliver, G. L. Webb, Isaac Sweet, M. A. M. Ashley and Alice Agler, Portland; M. Langley, Forest Grove; T. T. Bennett, Marshfield; J. L. Campbell, Glendale; Bartlett Cole, H. F. Conner and D. J. Forbes, Portland; Walter J. Logus, Nehalem; Samuel G. White, Cove; E. D. Whiting, La Grande; LeRoy Park, The Dalles; E. W. Haines, Forest Grove; C. W. Corby, Newberg, and Lot L. Pearce, Salem.

First Bank for Curry County.

Port Orford—Curry county is to have a bank, the first institution of the kind that has ever opened its doors to the patronage of that wealthy section of Oregon, says the Coos Bay Harbor. A county nearly as large as the state of Rhode Island and without a bank is an item of more than passing interest. The bank will be at Port Orford. George D. Wood, of Appleton, Wis., who made an inspection of the county early last fall, is the prime factor in the enterprise.

New Telephone Line Ready.

Ontario—The new independent line connecting Ontario with Burns, Drewsey and Harney, a distance of 150 miles, is now completed, and Manager E. A. Fraser, of the M. M. company, was the first man at this end of the line to talk over the long distance line. This new new line now gives direct communication between Ontario, Vale, Westfall Beulah, Drewsey, Harney and Burns.

Warehouse Planned.

Hot Lake—The farmers union is planning to build a large warehouse here early next spring to handle the grain crop of its members. This will be the first warehouse to be erected by the new organization in this part of Union county.

Picking Out Debating Teams.

University of Oregon, Eugene—Tryouts for the interstate debating teams are being held at the University of Oregon, in which 40 men are participating. Eleven men are to be chosen for the teams.

SEARCH FOR OIL KEEPS UP.

Malheur County May Be Largest Oil Field in West.

Union—J. P. Wilbur, director of the Union National bank, of Union, stated that he is quite certain that oil will be discovered in paying quantities in Malheur county, where he has just been to look into the oil prospecting going on there.

"Seven out of 22 incorporated oil and gas companies in Malheur county," stated Mr. Wilbur, "are drilling steadily day and night at depths varying from 500 to 1700 feet. After a recent thorough examination by Chester Washburn, United States oil geologist, he stated positively that, in his estimation, Malheur county would in time be the largest oil-producing field in the West."

If oil is found in the quantities expected by Mr. Wilbur, he thinks it will be piped to Portland, and will thus aid in developing this part of the state, as well as the place where it is discovered. The discovery of oil, Mr. Wilbur declares, will aid in the reclamation of much arid land in Eastern Oregon and Idaho, as cheap fuel for pumping the necessary water will then be available.

Schools Get More Money.

Ashland—Taxpayers of Ashland, at a special school meeting, voted to raise over $20,000 by special tax for the support of the free public schools of the city for the ensuing year. This is in addition to nearly $10,000 estimated receipts from the state and county fund, and includes a provision for the installation of departments of manual training and domestic science in the schools for the coming year. The total taxable property of the district is nearly $3,000,000. One additional grade and one more high school teacher are provided for in the estimates for next year.

New Corporations.

Salem—Articles of incorporation were filed in the office of the secretary of state as follows:

Astoria Lodge, No. 180, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; incorporators, R. J. Pilkington, J. C. Clinton, W. C. Laws, F. J. Carney and F. C. Fox.

Bijou company; principal office Portland; capital stock, $5000; incorporators, G. A. Metzger, I. L. Cohen and Helena F. Adamson.

Portland Stationery & Woodenware company; principal office, Portland; capital stock, $150,000; incorporators, C. D. Bruun, T. Wallace Buist and Charles C. Duncan.

Less Rain at Eugene.

Eugene—During the month of November, just passed, the total rainfall, according to the records kept by the local weather observer, was 9.15 inches, which is more than three inches less than fell at Portland and four or more inches than at Tacoma. The average at Eugene is about three inches and a half, although there is no official record for the past years, as there has been no weather observer here until the past two years.

Governor Benson Returns.

Salem—Governor Benson and Dr. R. E. L. Steiner, superintendent of the state asylum for the insane, at Salem, arrived at the capitol from the south, where both went early last week to enjoy a short duck-shooting trip on the coast at Winchester bay, at the mouth of the Umpqua river, in Douglas county.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem, $1.15; club, $1.04; red Russian, $1.01½; valley, $1.02; Turkey red, $1.04; 40-fold, $1.04.

Barley—Feed and brewing, $28.50@29 per ton.

Corn—Whole, $33.50; cracked, $34.50 perton.

Oats—No. 1 white, $31.50@32.50 per ton.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, $15@19 per ton; Eastern Oregon, $18@21; alfalfa, $16@16.50; clover, $15@16; cheat, $15@16; grain hay, $15@16.

Butter—City creamery extras, 39c; fancy outside creamery, 33@37c per lb.; store, 22½@24c. (Butter fat prices average 1½c per pound under regular butter prices.)

Eggs—Fresh Oregon extras, 43@45c per dozen; Eastern, 31@38c per doz.

Poultry—Hens, 15½@16½c; springs, 15@16c; roosters, 9@10c; ducks, 15@16c; gese, 11@12c; turkeys, live, 20c; dressed, 25c.

Pork—Fancy, 10½@11c per pound.

Veal—Extras, 11@11½c per pound.

Fresh Fruits—Apples, $1@3 per box; pears, $1@1.50 per box; cranberries, $9@9.50 per barrel.

Potatoes—Oregon, 50@70c per sack; sweet potatoes, 1¾c per pound.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 75c per dozen; cabbage, 1¼c per pound; celery, $3.75@4 per crate; hothouse lettuce, $1.50 per box; garlic, 10c per pound; horseradish, $1.50 per box; pumpkins, 1¼@1½c; sprouts, 8c per pound; squash, 1@1¼c; tomatoes, 75c@$1.

Sack Vegetables—Turnips, $1 per sack, carrots, $1; beets, $1.50; parsnips, $1.50.

Onions—Oregon, $1.50 per sack.

Cattle—Best steers, $4.50@4.75; fair to good, $4@4.25; medium and feeders, $3.50@3.75; best cows, $3.50@3.75; medium, $3@3.75; common to medium, $2.50@3.75; bulls, $2@2.50; stags, $2.50@3.50; calves, light, $5.25@5.50; heavy, $4@4.75.

Hogs—Best, $8@8.25; medium, $7.50@7.85; stockers, $4@4.75.

Sheep—Best wethers, $4.25@4.75; fair to good, $3.75@4; best ewes, $2.75@4; fair to good, $3.50@3.75; lambs, $5@5.35.

Hops—1909 crop, 18@23c; 1908 crop, nominal; 1907 crop, 12c; 1906 crop, 8c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 16@23c per pound; mohair, choice, 25c per pound.

Cascara Bark—4½c per pound.

Hides—Dry hides, 18@19c per pound; dry kip, 17@18c per pound; dry calfskin, 19@21c per pound; salted hides, 10½@11c; salted calfskin, 15@16c per pound; green, 1c less.

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