

Peacock Spit Claims Human Toll

ENORMOUS CROP LOSSES CAUSED BY HEAVY FROST

MERCURY AT 49 BELOW IN FRASER, COLO.

FROSTS DO ENORMOUS DAMAGE THROUGHOUT THE ORANGE BELTS.

SMUDGE FIRES BIG AID

Situation in California Has Not Been So Bad in History—Man Reported Dead From Cold in San Francisco Last Night—Santa Barbara Lemon Crop Complete Failure Say Reports

Los Angeles, Jan. 7.—In many of the sections of California the thermometer never registered as low as it did last night. The new figures are record breakers. There was no wind and the frost was nipping all night. Practically the entire orange crop of the Corvina orchard is destroyed. This is said to be one of the most valuable orchards in the state. The San Diego lemon districts suffered heavily, and the loss will be enormous. The loss in garden stuffs is said to be in the neighborhood of a million in this district alone. Smudge fires were kept burning all night.

Orchardists Face Ruined Crops
Redlands, Jan. 7.—Orange growers face absolute ruin of the orange crop. It is estimated that more than 90 per cent of the years yield is destroyed, representing a value of \$5,000,000.

Riverside Loss Complete
Riverside, Jan. 7.—The reported loss from the frost in this section is \$3,000,000. Practically the entire orange crop is destroyed. Many of the small ranchers are entirely bankrupted.

Santa Barbara Suffers.
Santa Barbara, Jan. 7.—The cold is unbroken and the lemon crop is entirely ruined. The damage is estimated at \$200,000.

Frozen to Death in 'Frisco.
San Francisco, Jan. 7.—James Clark and A. G. LeFevre were found dead this morning, apparently the result of the cold weather. High winds have subsided and the cold is believed to be broken. Predictions from the weather bureau state another heavy frost is due in the citrus belt tomorrow.

Seattle Storms Severe.
Seattle, Jan. 7.—Crews are working day and night to clear snow and dirt from the tracks in the Cascade mountains. Several avalanches have buried the track to such an extent that traffic cannot be resumed until three or four days. The snow is melting and the rivers are swelling. A flood is expected in the mountain gorges to tear away much of the track and do immeasurable damage.
Pomona, Cal., Jan. 7.—Two hundred thousand smudge fires built last night are believed to have saved the greater part of the citrus crop in this section. The damage already done will total \$2,000,000.

Storm Headed for Vancouver.
Seattle, Jan. 7.—Southwest storm signals were ordered displayed in all seaport of Washington and Oregon by the federal weather bureau at 7 o'clock this morning.
The storm center is approaching Vancouver island and is expected to cause southerly gales.

Laws Carry Queer Points

LACK OF MONEY EXEMPTS DRUNK CHAUFFEUR

Drunk Auto Driver, Sentenced, but Escapes Sentence.

New York, Jan. 7.—That the entire lack of money and property may occasionally prove to be a real advantage even in this city in which the possession of a goodly share of means is often reckoned as a most important requisite was illustrated here in a unique manner this week. This queer state of affairs developed as the result of the arrest of a chauffeur for driving a car at excessive speed while he was intoxicated, endangering the lives of nearly 100 persons before he was gathered in by a policeman. At his trial he was convicted and sentenced by the judge to a year in the penitentiary. The chauffeur appealed and won a decision that the law under which he was convicted does not authorize a penalty of imprisonment but only of a fine. Upon coming before the lower court again he was therefore fined \$25, the judge explaining that this was the heaviest sentence he could impose and taking occasion to remark that he considered the law in question a joke since it let the offender off with a fine of \$25. The chauffeur's lawyer immediately pointed out that his client got off with less than that since he did not have \$25. Ordinarily a person who has been fined and is unable to pay goes to jail to work out the fine. In this case however, a prison sentence could not be inflicted. The man had no money and no property which could be attached, so after having been convicted twice and sentenced, once to imprisonment and once to a fine, he walked out of court scot free. Now a good many persons are wondering just what protection they have against the whims of intoxicated auto drivers.

G. D. P. STOCK HAS REVIVED

PENDING PEACE IN HIGH CIRCLES PROBABLE.

Local Postoffice Appointment May Come to Issue This Week.

Appointment of a postmaster in La Grande to succeed G. M. Richey may come at any time—even this week. Every political weather vane points to a reconciliation between National Committeeman Williams and Senator Jonathan Bourne, and there is a much greater possibility of a Republican name being sent to the senate for the La Grande postoffice, than there was two weeks ago. Assuming that Williams and Bourne are willing to carve the "pie" one with another, evidence for which statement seems plentiful, it is only to be supposed that the late friendship pact will result in something like brass tacks business. Congressman Lafferty a few days ago made sure the consideration of Mr. Richey for the appointment by the usual red tape method and it is now up to President Taft to say the word that either brings Mr.

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GRANDSTAND AND EXHIBIT HALL HARD HIT BY WINDSTORM

ROTARY CALLED INTO SERVICE WITH DRIFTS

YEAR'S FIRST RAILROAD STRUGGLE WITH STORM CURS TODAY.

MERCURY STAYS HIGH HERE

Severe Wind Blowing Over County Today Has Serious Effect in Hills Where Curts Drift Rapidly—Snow Plow at Work on West End—Number Six Caught in Mountain Storms

FAIR GROUNDS BUILDING IS WRECKED

Wind this afternoon did extensive damage to the fair grounds floral building and exhibition hall. The entire cupola, running full length of the building, is blown off, and the north gable end is wrecked. A greater portion of the windows in the cupola are broken and blown down on the west roof and damage has been extensive in other parts of the building. With the roof gone, it is no doubt probable that the main structure will be badly twisted should the present storm continue. Unverified rumors received up town this afternoon tell of damage to other buildings on the grounds.

Almost the entire north half of the grand stand roof at the fair grounds was blown off this afternoon. The wreckage was strewn about the big building, which was blown down just before the roof was originally put on. In the reconstruction the framework was built so securely it was thought that nothing less than a cyclone would wreck it. Danger of greater damage to the roof is apparent.

Mountain cuts west of La Grande are being bored this afternoon by a rotary snow plow and indications point to urgent need of help to traffic east, especially on Union hill, as the first consequence of the year's initial traffic-blocking snowstorm. On the heels of a cold snap that sent the mercury down to waterpipe-freezing figures, a gale swept over Eastern Oregon today, leaving disconcerting effects here. The rotary left, west-bound, Engineer Olson, at 11:30 this morning, with drifts between here and Meacham to contend with. This rotary, however was the old No. 60 which has been in use for several years. The new rotary which arrived a few days ago, is held under full steam ready for emergencies on the east end, it is not known this afternoon if it will be needed—if the old one can do both ends sufficient good, the new one will remain in the round house until officially accepted. Railroaders are anxious to see the new one in operation for her 90-ton weight and 12-foot cut will afford an interesting study. She is one of the largest rotaries in the world and the power needed to drive her into the drifts will not be definitely determined until experience has had its lesson.

Traffic Is Delayed.
Number 6 was delayed today by engine troubles near Umatilla and

thereby got into the storm on the Blue mountains. She was working herself into La Grande through great impediments, however, and it was considerably after noon before she reached here. Storms in Wyoming are holding westbound travel in check and schedules have to be ignored. Trainmen are wondering if today's storm will reach such proportions as last year January tieup did.

Big Drift Year Since.
It will be one year ago tomorrow since the famous drift at Union when a passenger train was stalled in the drifts away from all help of rotaries. At that time the storm was unusually severe and snow deep, the weather being a degree or two worse than today's blow and with more snow to fill with. Trainmen and officials dread the thoughts of a repetition of that drift and storm. Passengers were transposed to sledges and hauled to Union.

"Storms are severe east and west, but more especially between here and Meacham. The rotary, however, will be able to keep the tracks clear and traffic in motion unless prolonged and increased storms are the order and in that event, we will have to do the best we can with traffic."

Thermometer Stays up.
Locally the weather is not unusually bad, a heavy wind blowing dry snow about and drifting lanes badly, but the thermometer is high and no actual suffering is possible. The mercury reached 10 above last night and has been in the neighborhood of 15 and 20 above during the entire day.

Branch Service Late.
Because No. 6 was late the Joseph branch was held until afternoon. No. 17 is due about 6 o'clock tonight and what will happen to night schedules depends on the severity of the mountain storms. Little trouble is anticipated on the Joseph branch.

Medford Postoffice Robbed
Medford, Ore., Jan. 7.—Authorities are endeavoring to locate the burglars who rifled the postoffice of \$6.00 in pennies, and escaped on a hand car last night.

Americans Need Protection.
El Paso, Jan. 7.—Sixteen American residents of the mining town of Cinguilas, state of Durango, where three American companies are located today demanded protection against rebels, from President Madero. It is understood the state department at Washington will be asked to act.

TURKS GET A CURT NOTICE

GIVEN UNTIL SATURDAY TO MEET DEMANDS.

War Will Be Declared Immediately After That Date Is Report

London, Jan. 7.—Balkan envoys have given the Turks until Saturday to request the re-opening of negotiations. This was the semi-official announcement made today by one of the diplomats in the English capitol. It is the prevailing opinion among men who are conversant with the trend of things that the allies will not go to war again, because the powers are exerting their influence to prevent another clash. It is thought they will interfere before Saturday.

The Turks were exchanging telegrams with Constantinople during the entire night. Vienna reports that the commander of the Turkish fortifications in Adrianople is ready to surrender to the allies. Another report states that the Greeks drove the Turks from the fortresses of Janina. Both of the rumors are unconfirmed.

OIL STEAMER STRIKES ON SPIT, SINKING WITH 40 MEN

THREE, THEN TWO, CLING TO RIGGINGS OF SUNKEN SHIP OFF NORTHHEAD AT COLUMBIA'S MOUTH

GALE KEEPS LIFE SAVERS AWAY FROM THE WRECK

Lines Can't Be Shot Across—Pilot Signals That There Is No Hope When Ship Strikes Early This Morning—Bodies Washed to Sea and Cannot Be Recovered for Several Days.

Astoria, Jan. 7.—Peacock Spit has claimed an awful death toll if fears entertained here, at Cape Disappointment and Northhead are true. The Associated Oil steamer Rosecrans, with a crew of 40 men, Captain L. F. Johnson, sank this forenoon and so far as known none were saved. At 11:55 a special from Northhead point one and one third miles from the scene of the wreck, says two men are clinging to the rigging of the sunken vessel. The Rosecrans struck the spit early this morning and the vessel succumbed to the pounding of the furious sea at 10:30. This much is determined from Cape Disappointment which is so close that the progress of the wreck could be seen. At that time three men were clinging to the rigging but no hope was entertained for them. The outcome of the disaster is indefinite, but there is no other conclusion plausible at this time than that the entire crew have gone down with the ship and their bodies washed to sea—save the three who first sought refuge in the riggings. It is momentarily expected here that the two survivors—it is not known when the third let go his hold—have dropped off or been exhausted and washed away. At all points of lookout anxious crowds are watching for bodies. The situation is not brightened by any ray of hope for the crew and officers.

Crippled wire service into Portland and outside is another item that tends to hold back the details. Telegraphic wires between Portland and Eastern Oregon have been crippled most of the afternoon and the same is true between Astoria and Portland.

Astoria, January 7.—The Rosecrans went into the spit early this morning while trying to negotiate the Columbia river bar. en route to Portland. She left Monterey January 3. She wedged herself in tight and the waves were washing over her early in the day. The pressure on her sides was what the pilot in meagre dispatches deemed the fatal phase of the accident and his early reports were to the effect that none would be saved. The deckworks were carried away quickly as the waves washed completely over her.

Life Savers Are Felled.
A wind was blowing 60 miles an hour, preventing the life saving crew from Cape Disappointment shooting a line to the vessel. Her doom was early foreseen.

Carried Oil Cargo.
Soon after she struck the rigging went down. She carried \$18,000 in oil cargo.

Portland Gets News.
Portland, Jan. 7.—Local officers of the ill-fated Associated Oil steamer have established telephone communication with Cape Disappointment but news is fragmentary on account of the storm raging. The reported effort to launch life boats is unconfirmed.

Wreckage Going Seaward.
The wreckage is being washed seaward, say the reports from Cape Disappointment, and the bodies will not be recovered for several days. The sea is so high that it is possible for tugs, standing by, to reach the vessel. To make matters worse, the storm is increasing adding to the complete inability of life savers or tugs to aid in any way.

The Rosecrans was built in Glasgow, Scotland, 1863 and was 33 feet long. She was valued at \$200,000.

The first mate was Thomas Mullins, Chief Engineer Richard Grundell, First Assistant Engineer J. McPherson, Second Assistant Engineer Adam The other officers and names of the crew have not been learned.

DIVIDENDS DECLARED.

Surplus of La Grande National Bank Added to by Ten Thousand.

Usual dividends were declared and \$10,000 were added to the surplus of the bank, by the last monthly meeting of the present directorate of the La Grande National bank, last evening. This brings the surplus up to \$120,000 and raises the standing of the bank in the "honor roll," an honorary distinction conferred on such banks as raise their surplus to a level with their capital. "As the La Grande National now has \$30,000 more in its surplus than capital stock it brings us well up in the honor roll," declared F. L. Meyers, cashier, this morning. "Reports of optimistic financial situations in all correspondent banking circles came to the directors last evening," continued Mr. Meyers. The stockholders' meeting will be held a week hence.

Hockin Hears News.

Leavenworth, Kas., Jan. 7.—Hockin learned today that the other laborites will be released on bonds. He asked "What has been done about my release?" He was advised the international union has taken no action. Hockin had no comments to make. It is understood that Acting President McClory of the Ironworkers, left enough money to pay expenses of the laborites to their homes.

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