

DIFFERENTIAL POTATO RATES HURT SHIPPERS

FIFTEEN CENTS DIFFERENTIAL
INJURES PROFITS TO
OREGON GROWERS.

TAKING RATE INTO COURT

Fifteen Cents Per Hundred More Re-
quired of Oregon than of Idaho
Shippers to Points in the Middle
West—Local Shippers Return from
Instructive Trip East.

Hardships thrown in the path of eastern Oregon potato growers and shippers through the differential rate requirements, are to be put up to the interstate commerce commission, first by individuals and later by commercial clubs of eastern Oregon, it is said. The handicap which prevails by reason of a 15-cent differential was brought home forcibly to C. M. Humphreys and C. M. Se Cor last month when they had to compete with a 15-cent reduction in rate from Idaho points to the middle west. In a statement today on the potato rate question, Mr. Humphreys of the East Oregon Produce company had a number of things to say concerning their last shipment of 12 cars of spuds. The shipper in this section of the state is handicapped by a peculiar ruling which at this particular season and in this particular year practically excludes the potato shipper from the markets of the middle west, he says.

In going over his experiences gleaned on this trip where he was compelled to meet with just those conditions described above, Mr. Humphreys had this to say: "The differential of 15 cents over Idaho points is the one thing that spoils the market for us of eastern Oregon in the middle west. The salient point about this rate business is this, you can haul spuds 800 miles from here to Idaho points. By this I mean to say that Idaho can ship potatoes 15 cents cheaper than we can and the distance to the nearest point is only 125 miles from here. Idaho can ship to Kansas City for 40 cents a hundred and it costs us 60. If we shipped, to say, for instance, Sidney, Nebraska or any other point in western Kansas or Nebraska it would cost us 60 cents. If we had billed our produce to a point beyond the western boundary of Nebraska, any distance almost, the rate would still be 60 cents. They would haul our cars a distance of 800 miles in this instance for almost nothing. If anyone can see any particular reason for this peculiar performance, if there is any sense to it, then I still have something to learn.

"This difference is a big item when we come to sell potatoes on the market in cities like Kansas City, Joplin, St. Joe and others.

"Every commission man and every consumer who saw our spuds, declared that we had the best product on the market. Ours were non-irrigated and all of the Idaho stock was irrigated and that makes a difference with those men. An instance occurred in a grocery store in the east, which showed that the price is the whole thing. A gentleman came to buy spuds. The dealer told that he had Oregon potatoes of the very finest quality, better than anything else he could give him—but they were worth 15 cents more on account of freight than the Idaho product. "Well," said the buyer, "I realize that the non-irrigated potato is better than the other but the difference in price is too great." This man bought Idaho spuds.

"There was not a man in Kansas

MINERS BLAME CALUMET CITIZENS FOR CHRISTMAS HORROR THAT KILLED 75

Man Who Gave False Alarm said
To Be of Calumet League.
No Federal Probe

Calumet, Mich., Dec. 26.—Though it is denied, it is said that a member of the Citizens' alliance, formed to bring the miners' strike to a speedy end—gave the false alarm of fire Christmas eve and started the panic in a local moving picture theater that resulted in 75 deaths. The victims were principally children of striking miners who had gathered for a public Christmas tree in which children of the strikers were the only attendants. President Moyer of the Western Federation of Miners, as asserted today he could produce five witnesses who were prepared to swear that the man who stuck his head in at the door and shouted fire, causing the stampede which killed 75, when there was no fire, wore a badge of the Alliance order.

The supply of coffins has been ex-

hausted but more are coming from Milwaukee. The miners refused to take outside contributions but regardless of that fact, President Moyer received \$30,000 at noon today.

Relatives today claimed the bodies of 72 victims in the Christmas eve panic. Most of the corpses were those of children. Late today three unidentified bodies have been found and lie in the morgue unclaimed, bringing the total victims to 75. The funeral will be held Saturday under the direction of the Western Federation of Miners.

There will be no federal inquiry into the panic at Calumet according to a telegram sent by Secretary of Labor Wilson to President Moyer. The message stated the panic was in no way connected with the miners' strike.

OFFICIALS WILL OPEN UTAH MINE TO SEEK LOPEZ BODY

City, who did not declare, without soliciting, that our spuds were superior to anything on the market. Even Minnesota spuds had nothing on ours, but they could sell cheaper than we could, and we had to conform to their price to make the sale.

"This case is on a par with the famous Spokane rate case and shows gross discrimination. For this reason we intend to take the matter up with the interstate commerce commission for a more equitable basis. The commercial clubs of this or any other city along the line could do nothing better than agitate for an adjustment of this matter which on its face is manifestly discriminatory.

"Just think over this matter; the rate from here to Denver is 55 cents. Now the roads will haul the same product 800 miles from there for 5 cents a hundred. Idaho has a rate to Denver of 40 cents on spuds. But for the 125 miles to the nearest Idaho point we pay 15 cents a hundred.

"No one can compete with a rate like that. Portland cannot consume all the products raised in this valley and we are compelled to take our products where they will bring us the most money.

"We have written the interstate commerce commission about this matter and hope to secure the co-operation of other eastern Oregon points for a readjustment of the rate to the points mentioned. When we got into Nebraska representatives of railroads met us and solicited our business. They were keen for it and offered us all kinds of inducements and accommodations. No one here is particularly at fault but the matter is one for the commerce commission and we intend to go right to that source."

Fire Department Out.

Last Wednesday night about 7 P. M. the fire department answered a call sent in from box 31 on Sixth and O streets. When the department arrived the chimney of the A. Floyd residence was adding its quota of Christmas stars to the season. In old English the fire was "burning out," and no damage was done. A three-gallon hand chemical saved the day.

Bingham, Utah, Dec. 26.—Sheriff Smith said today he will open the Utah Apex mine on January 1, to look again into the mine for the body of Ralph Lopez, the sextuple murderer who, refusing to surrender, had been sealed up in the mine. He has been in there a month and the sheriff thinks he is now starved to death. Some still profess that Lopez is at liberty.

Admiral Dewey is 76.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Admiral Dewey, hero of Manila Bay, was 76 years young today. His years did not keep him away from his desk and duties at the Navy department, but the continuous stream of callers to offer congratulations did. Besides "best wishes" personally offered by high officials and friends in Washington, the Spanish-American naval war hero was literally showered with letters and telegrams of congratulation from all over the country.

Largest Pontoon Promised.

Prairie Du Chien, Wis., Dec. 26.—The final touches are today being put upon the largest pontoon bridge in the country, which when launched, will span the eash channel of the Mississippi river here. The big boat weighs 3,058 tons and is 210 feet long.

When in place the new bridge will support the weight of trains. Seventy thousand dollars has been spent and more than 275,000 feet of timber used in its construction.

SOUTHERN MEXICO MAURAUDERS TERRIFY CITIZENS IN NORTH

Mexico City, Dec. 26.—News of massacres by Seahatistas south of here, has created terrible fright in Mexico City. This party is expected to attack the capital and their merciless killings are everywhere known. Federals and rebels alike fear the

WIND STORMS SWEEPING THE ATLANTIC COAST

OVER A MILLION LOSS TO PROP-
ERTY IS FELT AT VARIOUS
EASTERN POINTS.

BLOCKS GOTHAM SHIPPING

Loss to Craft on Atlantic Will Be
Serious—Fashionable Homes Along
Summer Beach Resorts Topped by
Wind That Strikes New York With
Much Severity Today.

New York, Dec. 26.—A severe storm which caused damage estimated to be more than a million and made homeless at least 150 along the coast, struck New York today, menacing shipping and causing great damage.

So far as known this afternoon, no lives are lost here, but crews of several vessels are reported to be in grave danger. It is feared the loss of life as a result of the storm, before it is over will be large.

All the way along Long Beach to Highland Beach on the Jersey shore, houses were overthrown and summer homes of the wealthy destroyed.

MOVE TO NEW LIBRARY SOON

CARNEGIE BUILDING IS TO BE
OCCUPIED JANUARY 2.

Library Will Be Closed Two or Three
Days During Moving.

La Grande's public library will be closed Wednesday, December 31, and will be open again for business at the new Carnegie library building on Pennsylvania avenue; between Fourth and Fifth streets on Friday, January 2 at the usual hours: from 1:00 to 5:30 and from 6:30 to 9:00 P. M. The formal opening will not take place until later, as the furniture is not all here yet.

JUDGE KNOWLES HOME.

Will Return to Enterprise January
12 to Continue Sessions.

After having been in session to handle cases from Wallowa county, the December term of circuit court adjourned at Enterprise last Wednesday evening and Circuit Judge Knowles returned home last evening. He will go back to Enterprise on January 12. In the meantime equity cases and other matters aside from jury trials will come up here, but the regular term does not meet until February.

Judge Knowles' knee, injured some time ago, and which accident caused a delay in opening the Wallowa term, is greatly improved, though the judge affirms, he is unable to dance the tango yet.

SANTA AND STORK IN A COALITION.

John Richard Duignan, aged two, was in perfect accord with Santa Claus Christmas morning, and Santa Claus in turn, was on speaking terms with Mr. Stork, and as a result of the coalition, John Richard has a seven-pound brother as a Christmas gift. The human Christmas present came to the R. L. Duignan home yesterday morning at 4 o'clock, just in time for the Christmas tree.

FAIR BACKERS MEET DEC. 29

LAND SHOW SUCCESS A STIMULUS TO FAIR.

All Farmers and Local Citizens Are
Especially Urged to Attend.

Undaunted by the reverses of this summer the stockholders of the Union County Fair association will meet in the Commercial club rooms of the new Foley building on the 29th of December for the purpose of making plans for the coming county fair. The meeting will be called by the president of the association at 8 P. M. An invitation is extended to all residents of the city and all residents of the county to meet with the stockholders for this important meeting.

In view of the magnificent results just gained by the United States Land show in Chicago, the association is of the opinion that Union county ought to follow up with an exhibit at the fair this year which will eclipse all former performances. As many of the exhibits will be growing into prize winning shape by that time the association deems it advisable to give out some detailed information concerning the work to be done and the number of exhibits that will make this fair the best that has ever been held. The county received a goodly amount of advertising at the great land show and for that reason the farmers of the community are requested to make an appearance on the 29th of this month to lend their co-operation to the big undertaking. Evidently they are going out on the strength of the old adage that "the early bird gets the worm."

It is known that many women have begun on fancy articles to be exhibited next year and to judge by the impetus shown by the city schools, there is going to be a lively contest for prizes for school work. Many men who have been interviewed on this matter, are of the opinion that the association is doing the wise thing by getting a running start for the fair this fall.

STEAM PIPES RUN TO DEPOT

DISCOURAGEMENT TO NEW
DEPOT PLANS SEEN.

Generally Believed Present Project
Foretells Delay.

Further discouragement to hopes entertained by La Grande for a new O. W. depot in the near future, for which it is said \$90,000 has been appropriated, has been given through a project just commenced here. The present depot building is to be supplied with steam heat, and many take it for granted this spells continuation in the present building for some time to come. The boilers in the railroad shops will supply the heat needed, and workmen are now equipping the building with steam heating pipes.

ELK CHRISTMAS TREE ATTENDED BY NEARLY 700

LA GRANDE'S OBSERVANCE OF
CHRISTMAS, 1913, A RECORD
IN EVERY WAY.

POST OFFICE CLEARS DECK

Every Element of an Enjoyable
Christmas Seen in La Grande—
Poor Reached with Plenty of Pro-
visions—Seven Hundred Children
Attend Public Christmas Tree.

Christmas, 1913, is almost a matter of history, but it stands out as one of the records in La Grande. A greater number of poor people were reached, the observance of the worldwide practice was more elaborate, and all the while a perfect whiteness mantled the city and county. A more ideal Christmas day could not be imagined.

The post office department upon which a vast portion of the Christmas package trade depended, handled its work with remarkable smoothness and yesterday morning at 9 o'clock the office was ready to deliver every package in the office. The business of the office was tremendous, due to the general use of parcels post and Christmas cards.

Six hundred and sixty-seven packages containing nuts, candies and toys were distributed to children of La Grande at the public Christmas tree in the Elks' auditorium yesterday afternoon. The place was packed with children and many fond parents, who thoroughly enjoyed the fun of watching the yuletide romps on the spacious floor, were on hand. A committee of the Elks' lodge, consisting of Charles Harding, Cam Caylor, C. E. Hackman, Clint Van Fleet and W. B. Sargent, fixed the details of the Christmas charity. Great loads of provisions were hauled out the night before, and if there was an empty dinner plate in La Grande yesterday it was because the likelihood of such a fact had not been reported to the committee. The charitable giving of the pre-Christmas hours had its climax in the tree last evening. Santa Claus was on the scene in proper time, and with him came two bands—the La Grande band and the O. A. C. cadet band. The elders, the Elks, but above all the children enjoyed the annual treat immensely.

School Program Good.
The Christmas exercise at the north side school passed off very pleasantly and successfully on Wednesday forenoon, many parents and visitors being present to enjoy the program.

The pupils were all remembered by the teachers, the little people of Miss White's and Mrs. Wing's departments enjoying a Christmas tree, and Miss Smith's a Christmas box. To show their appreciation of his kindness and faithfulness to all concerned, the teachers in the building presented to their faithful and popular janitor, Mr. Lee, a very substantial and useful Christmas gift. The schools of the north side closed for the holidays with a universal feeling of harmony and spirit of Christmas cheer and "Good Will to Men."

The teachers in this building are: Mr. Conner, principal; Mrs. Dryborough, Sixth grade; Miss Bonnell, Fifth grade; Miss Wilson, Fourth grade; Mrs. Martin, Fourth grade; Miss Eleanor White, Third grade; Miss Smith, Second and First A grades; Mrs. Wings, First B grade, with an assistant teacher from the training department of the high school.

Tonight the last Christmas tree service of the week will be held in Honan hall. Yesterday the Episco-