

THE MEDFORD MAIL

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A CRYING NEED.

Medford has no official weather observer. Meteorological data are not only not gathered scientifically, but no record is kept. We are obliged to rely on cheap, common thermometers—and everybody knows how widely different thermometers of the cheap class vary. As a result there is no reliable data as to temperature, precipitation, direction and velocity of the wind in this community.

This is radically wrong and Medford and the Rogue River valley suffer from the lack of this data. It is a well-known fact that a good many people, when they cast about for a new location, are moved by climatic reasons when they make their choice. To find out what they consider the truth of the matter, they consult the governmental publications for the facts. Alluring panegyrics descriptive of the climate of a community, no matter how well printed and presented in glowing booklets, count for naught with these people. Therefore, it is almost imperative that Medford should see to it that there is an observer stationed here in order that the truth about the Rogue River valley climate may be published in such a way that the seekers after climatic information can get it, and in such a way that it will bear all the authority of the government as a guarantee of its accuracy and reliability.

The best thing, of course, would be to have a local weather office stationed here, and the Commercial club could undertake no more worthy and creditable work than an effort to secure such an institution here. But that will require time, and in the end it might prove impossible.

However, there is another thing that can be done, which, while not as satisfactory as the getting of an office here, yet would to a large extent serve the same purpose. That is to persuade some person to act as a voluntary weather observer. The United States government stands ready to equip voluntary observers with the proper instruments, such as maximum and minimum thermometers and rain gauges. This is done in exchange for a monthly report to the director of the weather bureau, the observer being obliged to take the readings daily from his instruments. Uncle Sam will even furnish the observer with a pencil.

Surely the Commercial club can find someone who will take the trouble to make a note of the daily registration of the instruments furnished by the government.

Medford has nothing to lose and considerable to gain by giving the figures relative to her climate the impress of governmental authority. There is no climate in all the world that excels ours.

Italy has no sunnier skies than those that overarch us; the south of France is not lulled in gentler zephyrs than are we; the lands beneath the Southern Cross are not vaulted by a more beautiful sky at night than is the Rogue River valley.

We escape the monotonous sameness of climate that afflicts Honolulu, nor are we sapped of energy by the enervating climate of Southern California, and we escape entirely the wintry blasts of the middle west.

By all means let us have at least a voluntary weather observer.

That old puzzle, "What is the matter with Kansas?" has outlived its usefulness, according to the report of the state bureau of agriculture. Fifteen years ago, when the query was propounded, Kansas was almost bankrupt of hope. This year the value of its crops is placed at \$75,000,000, corn leading, with a yield valued at \$33,000,000. This explains the decadence of populism.

A Minneapolis woman telegraphed to her brother that Pat, her husband, was drinking and to come at once, but the message read "dying," and a horde of relatives, notified by her brother, came from far and near to attend the wake, and she had the expenses to pay, so she has sued the telegraph company for damages. If Pat is drinking yet he no doubt regards it all as a fine joke.

During the year ended October 1, 724,112 aliens came to this country and 717,814 went away. Those coming brought about \$100 apiece, and those departing took about \$1000 apiece. Figure it out.

CUT RATES IN PROSPECT.

Advertising Matter Boosting Oregon in the Eastern States.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 11.—Six tons of advertising matter, and the highest possible grade of advertising matter at that, was forwarded to the east by the Portland Commercial club last week. This remarkable addition to the enormous advertising Oregon is already receiving tells of all the resources of the state in picture and text, and comprises 5,040,000 full newspaper columns, certainly

a great accomplishment, and one which five years ago would have been considered impossible.

We are rich and happy in this world only by comparison and contrast. For years Oregon has had ideal weather. For instance, during 1908, 25 degrees above zero was the coldest weather experienced at Portland, and our little shiver of a few days, disagreeable as we may consider it, is from 20 to 50 degrees warmer than it has been at the same time in the sections that most of us came from.

The Retail Grocers and Merchants' association of Oregon had a splendid convention at Portland last week, and they adjourned to meet in Eugene in 1910, and this will be the largest meeting in their history, because it is now the Retail Merchants' association, and this means one of the most important gatherings of the year. The Manufacturers' association, the Portland Commercial club and individual manufacturers participated in the entertainment of delegates this past week.

Rev. J. Whitcomb Brounger, pastor of the White Temple at Portland, is absent on an extended eastern trip, including Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago and other cities, in behalf of the Northern Baptist convention, which is to convene in Portland on June 25, and will bring from 2000 to 5000 prominent Baptist laymen and preachers. Dr. Brounger includes a description of Oregon and the Pacific northwest in all his addresses.

The legislative committee of the Oregon good roads conference held their closing meeting last Saturday in Portland and decided upon the bill they are to present to the legislature.

The Peck-Judah company one of the foremost tourist bureaus in the United States, with the Pacific coast as their exclusive field, have opened headquarters in Portland. This company handles many millions of pieces of advertising matter during the year, and they have in charge competent people thoroughly familiar with the attractions and resources of Oregon.

There's a difference of opinion among trans-continental railroads as to the rates to be made to Oregon during 1909, but there is assurance that the regular rate is to be cut so as to make travel very heavy, and every indication that the one-way colonist ticket will cost less than at any time during the past two years.

Washington county has just issued a splendid booklet emphasizing particularly their wonderful dairy advantages.

Northwest Passage Again.

CHRISTIANIA, Norway, Jan. 9.—The meteorological institute has received a letter from Soerco, Denmark, stating that a buoy, driven ashore on November 3, contained notice that the buoy was set adrift July 24, 1900, near Cape Baturst, about 284 miles northeast of Mackenzie river. Cape Baturst is in British America, on the Arctic ocean. It is believed here that the buoy which thus drifted more than eight years was carried through the polar seas between Greenland and Spitzbergen. If this is so it would seem to support the conclusion on which Captain Ronald Amundsen has based his future expedition on the Fram. Amundsen's expedition on the Fram will start from San Francisco in 1910.

Father of 300 Dies.

OGDEN, Utah, Jan. 12.—Loren Farr, a pioneer of Utah and among the first converts to Mormonism, the first mayor of Ogden, husband of seven wives and progenitor of 300 children, grand children and great grandchildren, and one of the best-known men in the west, was drowned today at Utah Hot Springs. The body was found floating in one of the pools of the sanitarium where the aged man had daily gone for his bath. He was 87 years old and in vigorous health for that age. It is supposed that he was overcome by heat or fell in a faint.

Contest Hearing.

The contest case of the United States vs. Frank S. Gould was heard yesterday before United States Commissioner W. H. Canon. The evidence of a number of witnesses was taken. The government alleges that the homesteader, who took up a homestead in 1892 on the Big Mitten, has failed to comply with the requirements of the law as to residence.

THE MEDFORD NATIONAL BANK

SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES FOR RENT

JEANETTE J. PERCY

JOHN'S ORTH

WE 31 PER PAY 32 CENT ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED

WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE

EFFORT TO BEAT CHAMBERLAIN

SALEM, Jan. 12.—That heavy pressure is being brought to bear in opposition to the candidacy of Governor Chamberlain, the popular choice for United States senator is generally believed here, and street gossip in connection with the senatorship is of an ugly nature. It is the general impression that none of the signors of "Statement 1," the pledge to support the popular choice, have been induced to abandon their pledge to the people. As an additional inducement for securing the Liberty Bell for Portland's rose festival next June the senate today passed a resolution memorializing the Pennsylvania legislature and Governor Stuart of that state urging that their influence be used with the mayor and council of Philadelphia. Among the measures introduced in the legislature today was one providing that in all jury trials except in cases for treason or murder in the first degree, five-sixths of the jury may bring in the verdict.

Epitomized, the message recommends the following legislation:

SALEM, Or., Jan. 12.—Quoting from his message of 1907 in which he recommended the ratification by the legislature of the people's choice in Bourne and Mulkey for United States senators, Governor Chamberlain in his message to the twenty-fifth legislative assembly recommends that the voice of the people be again obeyed.

The fact that a majority of this legislature subscribed to pledges promising to vote for the people's choice for senator," continued the governor, "supplemented by the law

to be considered. He asks for careful consideration of the entire subject, which will deal with all the existing water rights and make a basis for issuing new rights.

Save Water Power.
"The unappropriated water-powers of the state ought to be reserved for the use of the public," he continues. "Many of the most valuable water-powers have been appropriated by corporations and individuals, not for present aid, sometimes not even for future use, but for the purposes of speculation. There is some evidence that a deliberate purpose has been formed by persons of other states who understand and know the future uses to which those powers may be put, to acquire, under the laws now in force, the unappropriated powers of the mountain and other streams."

For the second time he calls the legislators' attention to the need of an employers' liability law, and outlines one much more comprehensive and rigid than in his message of 1907.

The unique feature is the recommendation for legislation to prevent the carrying of concealed weapons, asking that a law be enacted to prohibit the sale of firearms to any one not carrying a hunter's license and not provided with a permit to purchase weapons, to permit to be issued by the sheriff or circuit court.

He asks consideration of the bill for a non-partisan judiciary, suggesting the arrangement of the candidates on the ballots without disclosing their party affiliations.

Bank Guaranty.
He mentions the bank guaranty plan, suggesting that a law similar to that of Oklahoma, would be salutary, but urges caution in passage of a bill which might work hardship on the bankers.

The governor asks the legislature to carefully consider the plan to increase the number of supreme judges by two or to re-enact the law provid-

ent and officers of the legislature Jay Bowerman for president of the senate and C. N. McArthur for speaker of the house, and they were elected this afternoon by a practically unanimous Republican vote. This action places the Fulton supporters in possession of the organization of both houses. The Republicans are pledged to Statement No. 1, and made practically no opposition. On the face of it, this action of the two houses might be construed as an unfavorable one to Governor Chamberlain, Democrat, the popular choice for senator on Statement 1, to be elected by the Republican members who pledged themselves to it before the June election.

The organization by the opponents of the statement or pledge cannot, however, be taken as decisive of the senatorial contest. The general opinion still is that the Republican members, though extremely reluctant, will yet vote for him in sufficient numbers to give him the election.

Many subjects of legislation will come before the Oregon legislature this session. Appropriations promise to pass the \$3,000,000 mark and far exceed those of any preceding legislature. The ways and means committee will be confronted with increased demands from every department of the state government. The most important matters of legislation will be the following:

State control of unappropriated waters.

More stringent regulation of banks and bank guarantee.

Branch insane asylum in Eastern Oregon and \$250,000 appropriation therefor.

Renewal of Normal school fight. Increase of Oregon Agricultural college appropriation.

Amendment of Statement 1 so as to designate only party choice for United States senator.

Enlargement and curtailment of

EARTHQUAKES IN THE NORTHWEST

SEATTLE, Jan. 11.—Reports of slight earthquakes come from Vancouver, Victoria, Sumas, Tacoma, Everett, Bellingham and Port Townsend. The same temblor was felt here and lasted from seven seconds to half a minute, according to reports from various parts of the city. No damage was done here, but the people in a number of instances rushed from buildings.

BELLINGHAM, Wash., Jan. 11.—Bellingham was shaken by an earthquake. Buildings in all parts of the town were jarred, but no damage was done. Hundreds of people rushed into the streets. The duration of the shock was about ten seconds. Some brick buildings were so badly damaged that the plaster fell to the floor and in some places there was almost a panic, as it was thought the structures were tumbling to the ground. Reports of the temblor came from all parts of the county. Only one shock was felt.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 11.—At 3 o'clock in the afternoon a distinct earthquake was felt in Vancouver. The shock was felt in many other cities on the coast. The quake appears to have lasted 10 to 20 seconds. No damage was done here. At Cedar Cove and Grand View people rushed from the houses into the streets. The shock was felt heavily at Fairview.

TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 11.—A distinct earth tremor was felt here at 3 o'clock this afternoon. It lasted between 10 and 15 seconds. Loose furniture on the upper floors of office buildings were jostled about.

PORT TOWNSEND, Wash., Jan. 11.—An earthquake shock caused considerable damage here at 3 o'clock, lasting from 10 to 15 seconds. The tremor took the form of a vibratory convulsion, swaying buildings and breaking many windows. In many places where water pipes had been frozen the force of the quake burst them and flooded the houses. For a time it was feared that the city's entire water supply must be shut off, so great was the damage being done.

Reports from localities tributary to this place show that the tremor extended over an area of country at least 50 miles square, and in several districts two distinct shocks were felt, separated by more than a minute.

Officers at Fort Worden state that so far as investigations show, there was apparently no damage to the fortifications, although both Port Worden and Fort Flagler experienced a bad shake.

Officers stated that the Alaska cable parted several hours before the shock, and an investigation will be made to see whether there is any connection between the event and the quake.

BELLINGHAM, Wash., Jan. 11.—There is a report that immediately after the shock smoke was seen arising from Mount Baker, an extinct or dormant volcano. Several buildings were slightly damaged at Blaine by the temblor.

EVERETT, Wash., Jan. 11.—Two distinct earthquake shocks were felt at 3 p. m. in Everett and vicinity, traveling east to west. Buildings were shaken, but no damage was done.

Mine Explosion.

BLUEFIELDS, Jan. 12.—An explosion of gas in the Lick Branch colliery today snuffed out the lives of between 60 and 80 persons. In the same mines two weeks ago to a day 50 miners were killed by a similar explosion.

A sound like thunder reverberated among the miles of corridors and air passages crowded with those at work in the mine. From the mouth of the mines belched forth great volumes of flame, dust and debris. Terrified women and children rushed to the mine's mouth and implored those there to allow them to aid in the effort to save their loved ones who might still be alive within.

They rushed into the mines and tried to rescue the miners who had been hurt. They were driven back by the deadly fumes of gas and compelled to leave the unfortunate men to their fate. Debris from the explosion of two weeks ago has not been cleared away and 20 men were engaged in this work. The explosion was in a different part of the mine from that of two weeks ago. Since that catastrophe the mine had been inspected by government officials and by the most experienced men in the region, and all, it is said, pronounced it safe.

Send Governor Greeting.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 12.—Governor Mead announced today that Frank M. Daltam, Jr., would resign tomorrow as the governor's secretary and that Howard Cosgrove, son of the governor-elect, will become secretary to the governor.

Meeting in joint session this afternoon to canvass the vote for state officers, the house and senate in-

structed Speaker Meigs to send the legislature's greetings to Governor-elect Cosgrove. Later the speaker sent the following message:

"The legislature of the state of Washington, in joint session assembled, extends you their greeting, the best wishes of the people of the entire state and to further announce to you that the canvass of votes having been completed your election to the office of governor of the state of Washington has been verified."

The legislature will meet in joint session tomorrow afternoon to hear Governor Mead's message.

REAP A HARVEST.

Freezing Spell Provides Work for the Plumbers.

Frozen water pipes, the result of the past two days of cold weather, have given the local plumbers a taste of the plumber's heaven. It is only a taste so far—the real feast is to come later. When old Sol has again asserted his supremacy and the pipes begin to thaw, then the breaks and leaks will be discovered and the man of solder will reap his harvest.

Inquiry at the local plumbing shops yesterday revealed the fact that a large number of water pipes had frozen, shutting off the water from a number of homes.

From the fact that freezing weather is a rare thing in Medford, the houses are built in such a manner that but little protection is afforded water pipes from the cold; in most instances they are left without any covering whatever. This results in the pipes freezing in weather which in other places would not touch the pipes. This works all right most of the time, but when a spell of cold weather does come along it makes business for the plumber.

A good many pumps have also frozen up. When the householder awoke and found his pump frozen he immediately hiked for the kitchen, seized the kettle and poured the contents down the pump. This sometimes thawed the pump and in nine cases out of ten it caused the leather in the plunger to wrinkle up, with the result that the man who deals in pumps and their supplies did a good business yesterday.

Last evening showed no signs of let-up in the cold. The oldest resident is in his glory, telling about other cold snaps back in '79. All agree that this is one of the coldest winters the valley has experienced.

Blue Ledge Suffers Loss.

Yesterday morning fire destroyed the office building of the Blue Ledge Mining company near Elsie. The fire started from a defective flue.

Very few of the contents of the building were saved, and for a time the adjoining buildings were threatened. The building was valued at \$7000. The amount of the insurance is not known.

Mid-Winter Sale

ALL Millinery

GOING AT COST

MRS. W. I. BROWN

101 W. 7th St.

Farm Wanted

If you have one to sell send full particulars to HAYES & REED

Anaconda, Mont.

CLASSIFIED ADS.

FARM WANTED—If you have one to sell, send full particulars to Hayes & Reed, Anaconda, Mont.

FOR SALE—100 acres near Eagle Point; 20 acres under ditch; \$30 acre; rare bargain. Address Box 671, Medford.

FOR SALE—A good orchard team and heavy double harness with breeching; weight of team about 2400. Address P. O. box 724, Medford, Oregon.

FOR SALE—Saw mill and timber for sale. One double circular saw mill, nearly new, with capacity of about 20,000 feet daily; 45-horse power engine; also about 2,000,000 feet choice fir timber for sale at reasonable price. Mill stands on timber land. Enquire at the office.

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