

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

LINN FARMERS HIT HARD.

Late Spring and Long Dry Spell Have Cost Much.

Albany—Rain, which was general over the Willamette valley last week, came too late to be of great benefit to farmers. Had the showers come two weeks earlier, thousands of dollars would have been saved for the farmers of Linn county. As it is, the crops are far below the average for Linn county farmers, in many instances are a total failure. The only benefit the farming community will derive from the rains will be in the way of gardens and the very late sown spring oats, of which there is a small acreage.

For two months not a drop of rain fell on the grain fields of the county. This is drought almost unprecedented here. Its evil effect was aggravated by the late spring rains. Farmers generally were depending upon putting in a greater acreage than usual in spring sown grain, and the unusually bad weather of the late winter seemed to assure some good working days in the early spring. Instead of this, the rain held on until almost too late to plant the spring grain at all, and when good weather did come, it developed into a drought.

The result is that spring grain is heading a few inches from the ground, and much of it will not be bound at all. That which is threshed will yield poorly. The heads are small and very poorly filled. Nor is the fall sown grain of its usual standard of excellence. That part of the fall grain that was sown on low ground will be fair, in some instances making three-fourths of a crop rarely promising a full crop. The hay crop has not averaged more than half what it was in years gone by. The haying season is about over, and the general report is half a crop.

This will put farmers in Linn county in hard circumstances this fall. Already many of them are buying feed for their stock, and but few will have enough to last the winter through. The price of feed is rising in the county, and the mills are selling it every day to the farmers who were never compelled to buy feed at any season before. There are some who will have to buy wheat for their own family consumption before the year ends.

Coming Events.

- Spiritualists' campmeeting, New Era, July 2-25.
- Willamette Valley Chautauque assembly, Gladstone Park, July 12-24.
- Southern Oregon Chautauque assembly, Ashland, July 13-22.
- North Pacific regatta, Portland, July 22-23.
- Grand lodge, I. O. R. M., Seaside, July 23-24.
- Oregon Development association convention, Portland, August 2.
- American Mining congress, Portland, August 22-27.
- State Medical society, Portland, August 30.
- Annual reunion of Southern Oregon pioneers, Jacksonville, September 1.
- State fair, Salem, September 12-19.
- Fair, Portland, September 19-24.

Directory of Oregon Officials.

Salem—Secretary of State Dunbar has issued an official directory containing the names, addresses and official positions of the state and county officers. The directory is in the form of a small pamphlet. Copies have been sent to all officers and others desiring copies can secure them by applying to the secretary of state. In this publication the political affiliation of each county officer is shown by a letter following the name. Many of the states publish an official "blue book" containing several hundred pages and giving complete information concerning the careers of public officers. The pamphlet issued by Oregon contains but 18 pages and contains the information most frequently desired by persons transacting business with public officers.

Laborers Needed at Oregon City.

Oregon City—Labor of all kinds was never more plentiful nor were wages ever better than they are in this city this season. It seems impossible to find available men to perform the many improvements that are being made. The Willamette Pulp & Paper mills has been advertising for additional men to assist in the building of their new mills where 200 laborers are already employed. The management of the local woolen mills is finding it next to impossible to engage a sufficient force of operatives.

Big Loss By the Frost.

Hillsboro—Reports from all parts of the county show that the frost last week blighted vegetables on all beaver dam lands, and it is estimated that the loss by the freeze will reach \$50,000. One vegetable grower on the Tualatin lowlands places his loss at \$1,000.

Rich Strike in Bohemia.

Cottage Grove—Two rich strikes are reported just made in the Golden Rule and the Great Eastern. These strikes are in the Bohemia district. The ore is oxidized, and very rich in free gold.

HUNT PASS OVER CASCADES.

John Minto Believes Stock Can Be Driven Over Mountains.

Albany—John Minto, of Salem, one of the pioneers in the Santiam mountain district of Oregon, will in a few days head a party from the end of the Corvallis & Eastern railroad, on the north fork of the Santiam river, in quest of a shorter route to connect the railroad with the Deschutes country in Eastern Oregon.

Mr. Minto has long entertained the idea that there is a pass through the Cascade mountains at this point where it would be possible to construct a trail for driving stock overland from the Eastern Oregon ranges to the eastern end of the Corvallis & Eastern line. He has interested Manager Edwin Stone, of the Corvallis & Eastern, in the work, and an effort to lay out the route of the proposed route will be made in a few days.

The old Minto trail, which extends from the end of the old railroad grade to the Eastern Oregon country, has been used for years by those who know the short cuts that connect the western and eastern parts of the state. But Mr. Minto is satisfied that there is a shorter cut yet, and that it could be made of great service to the stockraisers of Eastern Oregon in shipping their stock to market.

Developing Lime Deposit.

Roseburg—Messrs. Greenley and Strand, of Portland, have 10 or 12 men at work building a tramway and furnace for the manufacture of lime on the farm of Hon. Plinn Cooper, seven miles south of this city. They have bonded 100 acres of land containing rich limestone deposits and expect to develop same on an extensive scale. The modern continuous furnace system will be used. A railway spur track, about three miles long, will probably be put in from the main line of the S. P. R. R., at Green's station.

Ore Specimens From Douglas.

Roseburg—Hon. A. Le Roy, of the Oregon Information bureau, of Portland, was here last week and procured a quantity of fine mineral exhibits from this county which will be placed in the bureau headquarters in Portland before the opening of the sessions of the American Mining congress to be held in Portland in August.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 66c; blue-stem, 75c; valley, 78c.
Barley—Feed, \$22 per ton; rolled, \$23@24.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.22½; gray, \$1.17½ per cental.
Flour—Valley, \$3.90@4.10 per barrel; hard wheat straight, \$4@4.25; clears, \$3.85@4.10; hard wheat patents, \$4.40@4.70; graham, \$3.50@4; whole wheat, \$4@4.25; rye flour, \$4.50.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$19 per ton; middlings, \$23.50; shorts, \$21; chop, \$18; linseed, dairy food, \$19.
Hay—Timothy, \$15@16 per ton; clover, \$8@9; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$11@12.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 17½@20c; store, 13@13½c per pound.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 20c.
Cheese—Full cream, twins, new stock, 12@12½c; old stock, 7@8c; Young America, 13@14c.
Poultry—Fancy hens, 13c per pound; old hens, 12½@13c; mixed chickens, 12@12½c; old roosters, 10c; young roosters, 12@13c; springs, 1½ to 2-pound, 18@19c; 1 to 1½-pound, 19@20c; dressed chickens, 13@14c; turkeys, live, 14@16c; do dressed, 15@16c; do choice, 18@20c; geese, live, 6@7c; do dressed, 8@9c; ducks, old, \$6@6.50 per doz; do young, as to size, \$2.50@4.
Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1.50; beets, \$1.25; parsnips, \$1.25; cabbage, 1½@1¾c; lettuce, head, 25@40c per doz; parsley, 25c; tomatoes, \$1.75 a 2; cauliflower, \$1.75 @2; celery, 75@90c; asparagus, 50c; peas, 4@6c per pound; beans, green, 4 @5c; wax, 4@5c; squash, \$1.25 per crate; green corn, 60c per doz; onions, new, red, \$1.30 per cwt; yellow, \$1.75.
Honey—\$3@3.50 per case.
Potatoes—Fancy, old, \$1.25@1.40 per cental; new Early Rose, 2c per pound; Garnet Chile, 2½c.
Fruits—Cherries, 4@5c per pound; gooseberries, 6c; raspberries, \$1.25 per crate; apples, new, \$1@1.50 per box; apricots, \$1@1.35; plums, 80c@81; peaches, Yellow Crawford, 85@90c; others, 50@75c; cantaloupes, \$2.50@2.75 per crate; watermelons, 2c per pound; prunes, \$1.25 per box; grapes, \$1; Bartlett pears, \$1.75@2.
Beef—Dressed, 5@6½c per pound.
Mutton—Dressed, 4@5c per pound; lambs, 6c.
Veal—Dressed, 100 to 125, 6@7c per pound; 125 to 200, 5@5½c 200 and up, 3½@4c.
Pork—Dressed, 100 to 150, 7@7½c; 150 and up, 6@7c.
Hops—1903 crop, 21@24c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 19@20c per pound Eastern Oregon, 10@17c mohair, 30c per pound for choice.

LION LIES IN WAIT.

Warships Will Compel Russia to Give Up Oriental Liner.

London, July 21.—It is believed by leading naval officials here, who are cognizant of certain sweeping orders issued yesterday by the admiralty, that the British government intends to compel Russia to surrender the Peninsular & Oriental liner Malacca, seized as a prize of war by the Russian cruiser St. Petersburg, and en route to Libau under a prize crew. It is also generally understood in naval circles that no other British ships will be stopped by the Russians after the British cruisers reach the scene.

The orders to commanders of the latter vessels are declared to be short, but explicit, and provides that British vessels shall be free to navigate Eastern waters, without recognizing the warships of any other power, or the right to search them for contraband.

One of the developments yesterday was the detachment by Admiral Dornville, commanding the Mediterranean fleet, of his two swiftest cruisers to proceed at full speed to Port Said, which is at the northern end of the Suez canal. It is understood that these two vessels will arrive at Port Said before the Malacca, and be there when the latter emerges from the canal. It is considered likely that they will compel the Russians to give up their prize, although, of course, their future action is carefully guarded, and laymen can only conjecture and reason from the attitude of the naval chiefs.

Naval officers generally agree that such action can be confidently expected, and they are for the most part now discussing the probable attitude of Russia when the Malacca is taken by force.

FLEET ON RAID.

Vladivostok Ships Enter Pacific and Take Japanese Steamer.

Tokio, July 21.—The Vladivostok squadron has overhauled a Japanese steamer eastward of Tsugar straits. The name of the vessel captured and her fate has not yet been learned.

The Vladivostok squadron, unaccompanied by torpedo boats, entered the Pacific ocean today at 7 o'clock. Its destination is unknown, but it is suggested it possibly plans to raid the east coast of Japan and then either return to Vladivostok, or attempting to form a junction with the Port Arthur fleet.

The squadron was discovered in the straits of Tsugar at 3 o'clock this morning, steaming rapidly eastward.

At 3:30 A. M. it was reported off Tappicape, and at 7 A. M. observers at Hakkodate discovered and reported to Tokio that it was then steaming east. Warnings have gone out to shipping along the eastern coast of Japan and merchantmen are hurriedly seeking cover. It is expected that most of the shipping will be warned before the Russian ships can inflict serious damage, if a raid is intended.

Ordinarily, a lack of coal would prevent an extended cruise, but it is possible that the Russians possess a collier at a rendezvous in the Pacific ocean.

ARMIES MEET NEAR TONG-SCHU.

Russian Losses Put at 2,100, Japanese Losses at 1,200.

Chicago, July 21.—A special to the Daily News from Niu Chwang says:

Hard fighting has been going on for several days in the neighborhood of Tong Schu, eight miles east of Ta Tehe Kiao. It is rumored that the Russian loss in last night's engagement was 2,100 and the Japanese 1,200. The Japanese also have been in active contact with the Russians east of Hai Cheng, where there have been many minor actions.

All along Kuropatkin's flank and front the Japanese are moving into position but the general attack is being postponed until supplies and reinforcements come to the front. Progress along the muddy roads and mountain passes is slow.

Liao Said to Be Sealed.

London, July 21.—The Times' Tokio correspondent, cabling under date of July 19 says: "Japanese military critics anticipate renewed efforts by General Kuropatkin to recover the Mo Tien positions, which are essential to the security of his army if it remains in the present position." The correspondent adds that it is rumored in Tokio that three Japanese torpedo boat destroyers have sealed the Liao river, where the Russian gunboat Sivouch and a Russian torpedo destroyer are anchored.

Russia Is Pleaced.

St. Petersburg, July 21.—The United States has informed Russia that she will be glad to join Great Britain in the protection of the seals at the Kommander islands. This act will doubtless make the best impression. It is understood that Russia will communicate her answer in a few days.

Another Russian Cruiser Passes.

Constantinople, July 21.—A Russian cruiser has just passed through from Odessa with several guns covered with canvas on her deck. She also carried torpedo tubes.

RUSSIA IS BOLD

Stopping of Steamers in Red Sea Must Cease.

GREAT BRITAIN SENDS A FLEET

Czar May Find That He Cannot Use the Dardanelles Again—Fleets Are Being Mobilized.

London, July 20.—Two naval orders were issued today by the British admiralty, which are believed to indicate a determination on the part of Great Britain to protect British shipping from acts of aggression at the hands of the Russian navy.

The first order directs the Mediterranean fleet to sail at once from Gibraltar and proceed to Alexandria, Egypt, near the mouth of the Suez canal.

The second order directs two of the fastest British armored cruisers to proceed through the canal and take up stations in the Red sea at points where several British ships have been held up the last few days by the vessels of the Russian volunteer squadron.

While the fact that these orders were issued was carefully guarded, and no public statement of their scope is procurable, there is no doubt that the British foreign office has decided that the time has come to act promptly in protecting British shipping, and to put an end to any aggression on the part of the Russian cruisers. Well informed naval officers believe that the dispatch of this powerful Mediterranean fleet to the vicinity of the Red sea, and the stationing of two of the crack vessels of the squadron directly in at the points where the Russians are carrying things with a high hand, means that no further molestation of vessels flying the British flag will be permitted.

LOST 1,000 MEN.

Russians Attack Japanese at Mo Tien Pass and are Repulsed.

St. Petersburg, July 20.—General Kuropatkin reports that Lieutenant General Keller lost over 1,000 killed or wounded in the attack on Mo Tien pass, July 17.

The following dispatch from General Kuropatkin to the emperor, dated July 17, "on our Eastern front," was given out tonight:

"After the occupation by General Kurcki's army of the passes in the Fenshui mountain chain, our information concerning his disposition was, in general, inadequate.

"According to some reports his army had been reinforced and had even extended his forces toward Saimateza. Other reports said that a displacement of his troops had been made in the direction of Ta pass and Siujien. There were even indications that Kuroki had transferred his headquarters from Tahahekanan to Touinpu.

"At about 5:30 on the morning of July 17, the Japanese, in considerable strength, and with numerous guns, occupied Wa Fankwan pass, and on the mountainous bluffs to the south, on the flank of General Kastalinsky's column. From this position and from the crest of the mountains to the east of the heights surmounted by the temple, the enemy directed a very heavy rifle and artillery fire.

"General Kashtalinsky advanced to occupy the bluffs, sending forward at once one and then three battalions, but the attempt failed, notwithstanding the support given by the horse mountain battery, as our field guns could not be brought into action on account of the nature of the ground.

"Our losses have not yet been exactly ascertained, but General Keller reports that they exceed 1,000.

Two More Steamers Held Up.

London, July 20.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Aden says that the British steamers Woodcock and Dalmatia were held up by the Russians in the Red sea and detained for three hours. The correspondent says the captain of the Russian volunteer fleet steamer St. Petersburg has notified the British residents at Aden to wire the British consul at Suez and Port Said that he would seize any British steamers bound for the Far East, if the contents of their packages were not clearly shown on their manifests.

To Prevent Mosquito Invasion.

Washington, July 20.—General Davis, governor general of the Panama canal strip, has advised the Panama canal commission that he wants 100,000 yards of wire gauze to prevent mosquito invasion in the zone. General Davis says that this will be perhaps the largest order for mosquito netting ever given. He recommends the use of steel wire screens not coarser than 17 meshes to the square inch, galvanized.

Ammunition Factory for Ottawa.

Ottawa, July 20.—Sir Frederick Borden, minister of militia, has under way a contract with the English firm, of which Sir William Armstrong is head, for the construction of an ammunition factory in Ottawa, capable of turning out 20,000,000 rounds of ammunition a year.

ALARM IS KEEN.

British Press Sees Peace Hanging in the Balance.

London, July 23.—The authoritative assurances that the Malacca will be released, cabled by the Associated Press from St. Petersburg to the United States, do not appear in the British morning papers. Special dispatches to a somewhat similar effect from St. Petersburg do not allay the alarmist views of the leading organs which construe Premier Balfour's post-midnight announcement that the government had received no confirmation of the reported release of the Malacca to mean that the incident remains unsettled.

Another cause for great apprehension is the broader question of Russia's right to send vessels of her volunteer fleet through the Dardanelles. A striking evidence that the danger of the situation has not been mitigated in the least, so far as British official and public opinion is entertained, is afforded by the Daily Telegraph, which, under a large heading, "An Acute Affair," declares that "relations between Great Britain and Russia have reached the state of an acute crisis, but behind the incident of the Malacca is the far larger question of the status of the so-called volunteer fleet.

"It has, we believe, been made clear to the czar's government that the transformation of merchant vessels passing through the Dardanelles into armed cruisers cannot be recognized under any pretext whatever as justifying Russia's interference with British shipping. It is not impossible that as a concession to Russian dignity, the government may offer to permit the Malacca to put into some neutral port where her cargo may be examined and the statement verified that whatever munitions she carried were intended for the use of the British China squadron."

TRY TO DRAW TOGO AWAY.

Vladivostok Fleet Hopes to Weaken Squadron at Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, July 23.—The news of the first appearance of the Vladivostok squadron in the Pacific since the outbreak of the war, telegraphed from Tokio, causes no surprise at the admiralty here, although it is said Vice Admiral Skrydoff purposely has not notified them of the squadron's departure in order to prevent the possibility of the information leaking out.

Vice Admiral Bezobrazoff's action in giving the slip to Vice Admiral Kamimura and passing Teugar straits is regarded as evidence of the insufficiency of the Japanese naval forces. It is probably the purpose of Admiral Bezobrazoff to raid the coast towns of Japan, capture merchantmen, make a naval demonstration off Yokohama, and generally create a panic among the population, in order to compel Rear Admiral Togo to reinforce Admiral Kamimura, and thus weaken the fleet off Port Arthur.

The idea that Admiral Bezobrazoff would seriously attack large ports of Japan is, however, rejected, owing to the danger from submarine boats, mines, torpedo boats and shore batteries.

The report is current that the Vladivostok squadron is homeward bound under orders to effect a junction with the first division of Vice Admiral Rojstvensky's Baltic squadron, which is ready to go out on a trial trip in the Baltic.

ON TO MUKDEN.

Japanese Break Into the Enemy's Left Flank.

Liao Yang, July 23.—News was received from Ta Tehe Kaio yesterday that the Japanese had broken through the Russian left flank between Lieutenant General Count Keller's position and that of General Rennenkampf, and that they were marching on Mukden.

The rumors to this effect are persistent, but there is no official confirmation of them.

Confirms Japanese Victory.

London, July 23.—According to a special dispatch from Moscow, the Rusky Listok of that city confirms the Associated Press report from Liao Yang that the Japanese have broken through the Russian left flank and are marching on Mukden.

More Men Charged With Outrage.

Cripple Creek, July 23.—Information charging Pearl Skelton with murder and complicity with the Independence depot outrage on June 3 was filed in the district court today. It was announced that information making similar charges will be filed against William A. Akreman, F. H. Mulaney, A. L. Nugent and William Gaffney later. Frank J. Hanks, local attorney for the Western Federation of Miners, said today that none of the men arrested for the killing of Roxie Magee on June 6, in the Victor street riots, was guilty.

Hears She Will Release Ships.

Paris, July 23.—Information reaching government quarters here leads the officials to believe that Russia will release the British and German merchantmen seized in the Red sea, as a means of averting international complications.