

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

EXCURSION RATES.

Many Oregon People Expect to Visit Fleet at San Francisco.

Portland—Many Oregon people expect to go to San Francisco to see Admiral Evans' squadron upon its arrival in the city by the Golden Gate. So many inquiries have been made of the Harriman passenger officials that a special rate will be made to San Francisco and return from Portland to permit Oregon people to assist in welcoming the fleet to the Pacific coast. A first-class rate of \$25 for the round-trip to San Francisco will be named, with a ten-day limit, and passenger officials expect the low figure will be popular and that many will take advantage of it. The present roundtrip rate is \$40. The dates on which the reduced special tickets will be sold have not yet been decided, as this will depend upon the movements of the fleet. As soon as it is definitely settled just when the fleet will arrive at San Francisco, the Southern Pacific will announce the dates.

"We expect to take 700 people from Portland alone to see the fleet," said Assistant General Passenger Agent Scott yesterday. "We have had a very large number of inquiries from all over the state in regard to the possibility of fixing rates to permit Oregon people to visit the fleet on its arrival in San Francisco. In response to this widespread desire to see the fighting ships that make up the squadron, we have decided to put in the low rate."

FREE OF SCAB.

Eastern Oregon Sheep so Healthy That Dipping Will Be Omitted.

Pendleton—At a called meeting of the board of sheep commissioners held in this city, a proclamation was issued declaring the annual dipping for the spring of 1908 unnecessary and that it need not be observed.

According to the report made by State Sheep Inspector Lytle and Dr. S. W. McClure, head of the bureau of animal industry in the northwest, the state is practically free from scab. A few cases were reported in the Willamette Valley early in the winter, but these have all been attended to. In Umatilla county, where two years ago there were 60,000 head of scabby sheep, there is not a single case of scab today. The only case reported lately in Eastern Oregon was a band of 176 bucks in Lake county, and these have now been dipped.

The commission made a regulation requiring railroads shipping sheep into the state to notify the secretary of the board of sheep commissioners so the animals can be inspected. A resolution was also passed favoring a bounty law for the state of Oregon, holding that it is necessary for the protection of the sheep industry. The commission will use its best endeavors to secure the passage of such a law at the next session of the legislature.

All the members of the commission were present at the meeting, President T. F. Boylen having arrived from Denver a couple of days ago, and W. H. Steusloff coming in from Salem this morning.

Objects to High Rates.

Salem—Complaint has been made to the railroad commission by H. S. Gile & Co., of this city, that the Southern Pacific company has unwarrantedly raised the rates on citrus fruits from San Francisco during the past year from 40 cents to 69 cents, and from Portland for the same commodity from 16 cents to 25 cents, and on sweet potatoes from 10 cents to 19 cents. Gile & Co. claim these increases have practically ruined their trade in California citrus fruit.

More Fruit in Douglas.

Roseburg—At a meeting held here of the Douglas County Fruitgrowers' Association, the capital stock of the association was increased from \$6,000 to \$12,000. This association is one of the most active and progressive in the state, and has been the means of securing much larger prices for Douglas county fruit than had heretofore been received. A large acreage is being set to orchards in Douglas county and a few years will see this section one of the largest fruit producing countries in the state.

Harriman in Harney.

Burns—P. A. Worthington, representing the Oregon Eastern railroad, is here filing at the United States land office the amended maps of a railroad survey and location through Malheur and Harney counties. While he claims to know nothing of the intentions of the Harriman company, his presence gives rise to much talk of early construction.

More Water for Vale.

Vale—The newly elected members of the city council were sworn in Monday night. The city irrigation system was investigated and a new steel flume across Bully Creek ordered. The new flume is to be 48 inches in diameter and will carry sufficient water at all times for the proper supply of the city's needs.

FIND FILTHY PUS IN MILK.

Startling Report After Analysis at State College.

Corvallis—Samples of milk received for analysis during the past week at the bacteriological department at the college have been unusually noticeable for filth. Seven of them from various parts of the state contained pus. One held the foreign matter in such quantities that it is estimated to have contained one-tenth of 1 per cent. Professor Pernott's attention was attracted by the unusual amount, and he made inquiries of the owner of the animal and ascertained that there was a large lump several inches in diameter on the body of the cow, near the udder. It was supposed to have developed from an injury received from the horns of another cow, and had developed into an abscess. It was, of course, the explanation of the pus in the milk. The milk was in use when the sample was sent to the laboratory. Of the six other samples in which pus developed, the quantity was much smaller. In these the history of the cases was not learned.

Some time ago at the laboratory samples of cream offered at an Oregon creamery were analyzed. They had a strong smell that was carried into the butter product. Analysis disclosed that the foreign substance was barn filth, due to probable uncleanness in milking. A report resulted in changed conditions in the dairies from which the cream was shipped.

Telephone Company Loses.

Portland—Oregon and the initiative and referendum law has won the first round in the fight being made by the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph company, and the Sunset Telephone company, to declare the constitutional amendment permitting the initiative invalid and contrary to the constitution of the United States. Judge Cleland in the Circuit court has sustained the demurrer of the state in the case of the state against the Pacific States company, thus upholding the contention of the state. Notice of appeal was given and the case will be taken to the Supreme court at Salem as soon as possible. From there it will be taken to the United States Supreme court, it being assumed, in view of former decisions by the Oregon court, that the ruling will be for the state and against the company.

Colonists From East.

Baker City—The West bound trains are beginning to be heavily loaded with colonist travel from the Middle states and the East. The regular trains are unable to carry the loads and extra sections are run. It is not uncommon for a train comprising 16 coaches to pull through Baker on its way to the Coast. This section is getting its share of the homeseekers, it is thought, but the railroads have given Portland and other Coast points the same rate that Baker and Eastern Oregon points receive, and this of itself has a tendency to make the colonist go through to the Coast, because it costs no more.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 83c; bluestem, 85c; valley, 83c; red, 81c.
Barley—Feed, \$26 per ton; rolled, \$22@30 per ton.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$28; gray, \$28 per ton.
Corn—Whole, \$32.50; cracked, \$33.50.
Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$17@18 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$20@21; clover, \$14@15; cheat, \$15; grain hay, \$14@15; alfalfa, \$12@13; vetch, \$14.
Fruits—Apples, \$1@3 per box, according to quality; cranberries, \$8@11 per barrel.
Vegetables—Turnips, 75c per sack; carrots, 65c per sack; beets, \$1 per sack; asparagus, 25c per pound; cabbage, 1½c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.75@2; celery, \$4.25@4.75 per crate; parsley, 20c per dozen; peppers, 17½c per pound; radishes, 30c per dozen; rhubarb, 5c per pound; spinach, 10c per pound; sprouts, 10c per pound; squash, 1@1½c per pound.
Onions—Oregon, \$2.50 per hundred.
Potatoes—40@60c per hundred, delivered Portland; sweet potatoes, \$3.50@3.75 per hundred.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 30@35c per pound.
Poultry—Average old hens, 14@15c per pound; mixed chickens, 13@13½c; spring chickens, 16@18; turkeys, live, 14@15c; dressed, choice, 16@17c; geese, live, 9@10c; ducks, 15@16c; pigeons, 75c@81; squabs, \$1.50@2.
Eggs—Fresh ranch, 17@17½c per dozen.
Veal—75 to 125 pounds, 9@9½c; 125 to 150 pounds, 7c; 150 to 200 pounds, 5@6½c.
Pork—Block, 75 to 150 pounds, 7@7½c; packers, 5@6½c.
Hops—1907, prime and choice, 4½@6c per pound; olds, 1@2c per pound.
Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 18@20c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 18@20c per pound, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 29@30c.

COMMUNITY STOCK BREEDING

Director French, of Idaho Experiment Station, an Ardent Advocate.

By H. T. French, Director Idaho Experiment Station, Moscow.

The stock breeder is often seriously handicapped in his work by the more or less complete isolation of his work. This is especially true in the West where many sections are not as thickly settled as the older portions of the country. Sometimes this condition is due to a mistaken attitude on the part of the breeder—a tendency which is quite natural to men who are not accustomed to organized effort in accomplishing a given object. I refer to the quite prevalent whim that if several men engage in the same business the work will be over-done, and the market for the products destroyed or seriously impaired. In no department of agriculture is this condition less likely to prevail than in the production of pure bred or even well bred live stock. The more animals of merit produced in any given locality, the greater likelihood of a better market, owing to the fact that often a few superior animals, even, are not sufficient to attract the interest of the prospective buyer. The buyer which the stock breeder wishes to interest is the man who is looking for several head, a car load, or perhaps several carloads, of animals at one time. Any one who has attempted to look up a carload of cattle of any particular type or breed, can well understand how difficult it is to find the desired number of suitable animals in any one locality; and in case the animals have to be selected from remote herds what a vexing problem it is to assemble the animals at any given point for shipment. Now if a number of farmers in any given locality would all agree to breed the same kind of livestock, then it might be possible for a buyer to get the entire lot desired from that particular section.

Another important point in favor of community breeding would be the opportunity offered for comparison. When a breeder is isolated from other men who are handling the same kind of stock, he may not have the opportunity to check up his stock to see if the desirable points are being brought out as they should be. Some important characteristics may be overlooked unless there is some standard of excellence available, with which to compare his own results.

One of the most serious hindrances to the improvement of the breeds of live stock in the West, is the difficulty in securing new blood when it should be introduced. Several individual cases have come under our observation where a splendid foundation was allowed to run out, through too close breeding, which could not be avoided, except at a great expense and trouble in securing new blood from remote sections of the country.

The question of feed and care could be much better solved in any given community if a dozen men were handling the same kinds of live stock, rather than a dozen different types and breeds.

These ideas are being put into actual practice in some sections of the Mississippi valley, and if needed there, where the country is densely populated, it is doubly important in the Pacific Northwest, where farmers have not many of the conveniences of transportation and rapid communication that are enjoyed in the more densely populated sections of the country.

POTATOES FOR ALCOHOL.

President of Washington State School Gives Interesting Facts.

By J. L. Ashlock, Washington State College, Pullman.

The newly organized Commercial club of Pullman, Wash., is now perfecting arrangements for the installation of a denatured alcohol plant in that city. President Bryan, of the Washington State college, who is chairman of the committee on denatured alcohol, is conducting the negotiations for the purchase of a large "still," and if the plans of the organization are carried out, the plant will be in operation by the time next season's potato crop is taken from the field. Discussing the prospects for denatured alcohol, President Bryan said:

"For the past year the state experiment station has had in hand the matter of gathering information relative to the practicability of utilizing this important crop in the manufacture of denatured alcohol. Careful analyses have been made to determine the amount of alcohol that potatoes of this region will yield. We have found that one hundred pounds of potatoes will produce eighteen pounds of starch; that eighteen pounds of starch will produce nine pounds of alcohol, which, I believe, sells at from 50 to 55 cents per gallon. At this rate, the alcohol from one ton of potatoes would sell for about \$18.

"Alcohol can be made from the small potatoes as well as the large ones, and in this fact lies a source of considerable saving to the farmers. Also, waste fruit can be used, and considerable success has been reported from the use of corn, and even the stalks. This denatured alcohol industry should be taken seriously by the farmers and business men of the Northwest; for it means the utilization in a profitable way of a vast amount of produce, such as small potatoes, off grade wheat, waste fruits, etc., which are now simply a source of dead loss."

DOINGS OF THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

Saturday, March 14.

Washington, March 14.—Representative Burton, of Ohio, submitted to the house his minority report as a member of the banking and currency committee, dissenting from the majority report, which recommended the passage of the Fowler currency bill. Mr. Burton's report concerns itself wholly with the Fowler bill and his reasons for opposing it, and makes no reference to either the Aldrich or the Williams bill, the latter measure having been recommended by the Democratic members in a minority report.

In his report Mr. Burton says that he does not regard the passage of the Fowler bill as either practicable or desirable at this time.

Washington, March 14.—After several weeks' consideration, a postal savings bank bill has been drafted for presentation by the senate committee on postoffices and postroads next week. The sub-committee appointed to decide upon the measure held its final meetings Saturday afternoon. Postmaster-General Meyer participating in an advisory capacity. The measure decided upon is a composite of the bills introduced by Senator Carter of Montana, chairman of the sub-committee, by Senator Burkett of Nebraska and Senator Knox of Pennsylvania. The Knox bill was introduced by request, and was known as the Meyer measure, having been drawn under the direction of the Postmaster General.

Friday, March 13.

Washington, March 13.—Senator Fulton today introduced a resolution discharging the interstate commerce committee from further consideration of his bill regarding increased railroad rates, having become satisfied that Chairman Elkins is deliberately trying to smother the measure by refusing to bring it to a vote. Elkins, in retaliation, had read in the senate a letter from Commissioner Knapp, which he contended was hostile to Fulton's bill, but his report, which was inclosed, and which was favorable to the bill as amended.

Further debate was cut off when 2 o'clock arrived, as that hour had been fixed for a set speech on the currency bill, but Fulton will present the commission's report and continue his fight.

Elkins is not playing fair. His unfairness will help Fulton, who is determined to fight to the last ditch to get his bill before the senate. He had an assurance tonight, however, that the subcommittee will report his bill tomorrow.

Washington, March 13.—The fortification appropriation bill, which will soon be reported to the house, will make adequate provision for increasing the efficiency of the coast defenses along the Pacific coast. It is stated that the entire appropriation, save what is necessary for maintenance of defenses on the Atlantic coast, will be devoted to the enlargement and improvement of the Pacific coast and insular defenses, several million dollars in all. It is the intention of congress to make the fortifications on the Pacific coast in every way equal to the defenses of the harbors on the Atlantic.

Thursday, March 12.

Washington, March 12.—The Lilley submarine boat inquiry was begun in earnest today by a special house committee. Beginning at 10 o'clock the committee continued its work during the greater part of the day. Representative Lilley was heard at length. He began his testimony by reading a long typewritten statement, a part of which was in the nature of an affidavit in which he outlined his charges in detail. When he had completed this formal presentation he was questioned at length by Representative Olmstead of the committee, who was designated by Chairman Boutell to perform that service.

During the afternoon session, Representative Richmond P. Hobson testified that he had been approached by a man representing the Electric Boat Co., who told him that, if he would support the claims of that company before congress, the company could bring influence to bear upon Speaker Cannon to have him (Hobson) appointed on the committee on naval affairs.

Washington, March 12.—By a tie vote, a motion was lost today in the house committee on military affairs to report favorably the Dawes bill creating a roll to be known as the volunteer retired list and placing thereon, with retired pay, the surviving volunteer officers of the army, navy and marine corps of the civil war. Estimates indicated that the first year's operation of such a law would cost the government \$11,000,000.

Washington, March 12.—The senate committee on military affairs today reported favorably a bill authorizing extra officers for the army. The bill reported would add 651 officers to the army distributed as follows among the grades: Thirty-six colonels, 54 lieutenant-colonels, 90 majors, 162 captains, 144 lieutenants and 126 second lieutenants.

Wednesday, March 11.

Washington, March 11.—President Roosevelt today, in a special message to the senate, calls attention to the

fact that the senate committee has found that the charges of participation in the Brownsville riot, which caused him to dismiss companies B, C and D of the Twenty-fifth infantry, were substantiated, and asks the senate to pass a special law extending for one year the time within which those who establish their innocence may be reinstated. Such a bill will be introduced.

Senator Heyburn today secured the passage through the senate of his bill providing for the survey of all public land, reserved and unreserved, in Idaho, Oregon, Montana and California. Under the present system, the government only surveys land upon request of actual settlers. Mr. Heyburn says this system tends to retard development, and also retards surveys, as settlers don't like to go on unsurveyed land.

Washington, March 11.—Determined and persistent assaults on the postoffice appropriation bill in the house today resulted in amplification of that measure in many important parts, despite the protests of Chairman Overstreet and the committee.

The letter carriers finally won their long fight for \$1,200 salaries, when an amendment by Goebel, of Ohio, granting the same was adopted. The house also allowed an additional \$25,000 for clerks in third-class offices where the salaries of the postmaster range from \$1,200, and \$15,000 additional for contract stations.

Altogether the appropriations carried by the bill were increased to the extent of \$1,355,000.

Tuesday, March 10.

Washington, March 10.—The senate today ratified and made public six of the 13 treaties negotiated at the international conference at The Hague. The conventions adopted are those to which no opposition had been made.

The final reports of the committee on military affairs, in relation to the Brownsville affair, will be made to the senate tomorrow. Senator Warner will present the report of the majority of the committee sustaining the action of the president in discharging without honor a battalion of the Twenty-fifth infantry on the ground that the negro soldiers had done the shooting.

Washington, March 10.—Consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill was resumed by the house of representatives today. Although amendments were in order, the bill, when it was laid aside for the day, with 11 pages disposed of, had undergone no material change.

A noteworthy speech by Hamilton, of Michigan, upholding the right of the Federal government to control corporations and sustaining the president in his attitude toward them, was the feature of the day's proceedings.

Other addresses were made by Small, of North Carolina, and Finley, of South Carolina, each of whom attacked the proposition to increase the pay for ocean mail service on the ground that it was but a subterfuge for a ship subsidy.

Build Submarines on Pacific.

Washington, March 17.—F. W. Hibbs, of Seattle, one of the constructors of the battleship Nebraska, accompanied by Representative Humphrey, called on Secretary of the Navy Metcalf to urge that some of the submarine torpedo-boats provided for in the pending naval appropriation be constructed on the Pacific coast. They explained to the secretary that the cost of construction of these vessels on the Atlantic coast, added to the cost of their transportation to the west where they will be commissioned for service, would greatly exceed the cost of construction on the Pacific coast. Mr. Metcalf agreed with the presentation made by Mr. Hibbs and said that he would endeavor to have at least four of the eight vessels built in western yards.

American Ships to Carry Supplies.

Washington, March 14.—The bill to require the transportation of material and supplies to be used in the construction of the Panama canal in ships of American register was passed by the senate today. As amended the bill exempts from the restrictions ports in which no American vessels are to be secured for such transportation. Another amendment provides that bids for supplies shall be accepted, naming alternative prices for shipment in American or foreign ships. Senator Bacon claiming that such an amendment was necessary in order to allow the bidders for furnishing lumber to compete successfully.

Pension Bill Before House.

Washington, March 17.—Below is given the full text of Senator Borah's bill authorizing the use of not to exceed 50 per cent of the receipts from town lots on government irrigation projects, for the erection and equipment of schoolhouses, construction of sewer and water systems, etc. Mr. Borah believes that this bill will meet with general approval, as it has already been approved by the Reclamation Service. It differs from the Heyburn bill in that it makes an absolute donation of the money,