

THE QUEEN'S PARDON

Competitor Prisoners Released From Jail.

NOW ON THE WAY TO NEW YORK

There Are Four of Them—General Satisfaction Expressed in Madrid Political Circles.

Washington, Nov. 22.—Minister Woodford has telegraphed the state department that the Spanish cabinet has notified him that the queen has pardoned the Competitor prisoners. The state department announces that the Competitor prisoners were turned over to Consul-General Lee last Monday, and will be sent by him direct to New York today.

It is not doubted here that the prisoners are liberated on such conditions as were imposed in the case of former prisoners, that is, that they will not return to Cuba. It is singular that the men should have been for days in custody of General Lee without the fact having become generally known, but it is supposed that secrecy was observed in order to secure departure from Havana without exciting trouble from the extreme conservative Spanish faction. There were four prisoners, namely, Alfredo Laborde, the captain of the Competitor, a native of New Orleans; William Gildea, the mate, a naturalized citizen, Ona Melton, who claims Kansas as his native state, and who went on the Competitor in the capacity of newspaper correspondent, and Charles Barnett, of British birth, but who claimed the protection of the United States government by virtue of his sailing on an American vessel.

The conditions under which the Competitor was captured off the Cuban coast, while engaged in landing arms for the insurgents, have been often described. The defense of the men was that they were forced into the expedition against their will by the insurgent party on board. They were tried by a naval court-martial, before which they could make only a poor showing, principally because of their ignorance of the Spanish language, in which the proceedings were conducted, and their conviction and the imposition of the death sentence was not a matter of surprise.

At that point, however, the case assumed diplomatic importance. Our government, through its consul-general at Havana, Ramon Williams, and through Minister Taylor, at Madrid, interposed an energetic protest against the execution of the men, claiming they were improperly tried, in view of the guarantees held out in the famous Cushing protocol. This protest caused the removal of the case to the higher judicial authorities at Madrid, by whom a new trial was ordered. The Spanish government, however, did not, and has not yet, conceded that the Cushing protocol applies to such cases. To admit that would, in the opinion of the Spanish authorities, greatly stimulate the fitting out of filibustering parties in the United States.

The new trial had been ordered by the Madrid supreme court, on the ground of irregularities in the original trial, and by concession of the soundness of the objections interposed by the United States. It was to have begun last Monday, and it is thought would have resulted in the imposition of the death sentence again. This, however, would have provoked an explosion in this country, according to the anticipations of the department officials, that would have been hardly less violent than the feeling caused by the famous Virginia episode, so to them it is a matter of satisfaction that the Spanish queen has cut the diplomatic tangle by the pardon of the men before the second trial.

Senator Dupuy de Lome had a long conference with Assistant Secretary Day today, and it is believed the Spanish government is about to voluntarily remove another troublesome factor from the field of negotiations, in revoking the decree made by Weyler, prohibiting the exportation of tobacco from Cuba. This prohibition has worked hardships on American cigar-makers, and up to this time all efforts of the state department to secure an amelioration of the harsh conditions of the decree have been unavailing. The reason set up by General Weyler for the order was the necessity of keeping in Havana the supply of tobacco necessary to run the domestic cigar factories, and thus, by giving employment to workmen, keep them from drifting away into the insurgent ranks. It was a matter of common report, however, that another potent reason was a desire to cripple the Cuban cigar-makers in the United States, from which the insurgents drew funds.

Reports that come from Washington are to the effect that the new crop of tobacco that will be ripe in February next is of excellent quality, and amounts to four-fifths of an average crop.

Signaled for Assistance.
New York, Nov. 22.—The steamer Megantic, from London November 4 for this port, anchored outside the bar this forenoon, signalling that she was disabled and in need of assistance.

Seven Chinese Deported.
San Francisco, Nov. 22.—The steamship Coptic, which sailed today for the Orient, carried nearly 300 Chinese, including seven who were deported. These men came here about a month ago with certificates to the effect that they were merchants, members of a well-known firm in Chinatown. The firms, however, repudiated the claim.

In Meriden, Warwickshire, a stone cross on the village green marks the geographical center of England.

M'KENNA WILL SUCCEED FIELD.

The Attorney-General's Promotion Fully Decided On.

Chicago, Nov. 22.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: Attorney-General McKenna's appointment as associate justice of the supreme court to succeed Justice Field, has been formally decided upon by the president and heartily approved by the cabinet. The succession to the department of justice is still open. The president's private files contains letters from all over the country suggesting names, including those of many men who have hitherto not been mentioned publicly. Judge Waymire, of California, appears to be in the lead thus far. A number of letters from New York suggested John H. McCook. It is stated that were it not for geographical considerations, John S. Runkle, of Chicago, would have been favorably considered. It was deemed impossible, however, to have two cabinet officers from Illinois. This same attention to political surveying has prevented the active consideration of Judge Nathan Goff, of West Virginia, who is too near Maryland to receive consideration. It is believed the president will not see his way clear to leaving the Pacific slope out of the cabinet, and in that event Judge Waymire is likely to be the man.

The state department has officially notified Charles Page Bryan of his appointment as minister to China, and he is expected to come on immediately and qualify. Foreign ministers file no bonds, and hence a recess appointment is ample. They receive no commissions and formal instructions on being confirmed by the senate, and not being bonded, are not forced to wait for confirmation.

ARRAYO'S LYNCHERS.

Inspector Velasquez' Confession Read at Their Trial.

City of Mexico, Nov. 22.—A profound sensation was caused today in the course of the trial of the police officials charged with the murder of Arroyo by the production of the confession of the late inspector-general of police, Velasquez. It is a most remarkable attempt at self-justification, and states that a mob of common people lynched Arroyo. Velasquez said that no direct orders for Arroyo's killing were given, but that the populace, already strongly wrought up by the assault upon the president, were urged by suggestions to commit the deed. Said he:

"I thought I was doing right in organizing a popular manifestation to avenge an attack on the president, and give birth in the people to a profound conviction that punishment for such an act would come swiftly in the form of lynching, or whatever it may be styled."

He went on to show that others besides himself thought summary vengeance should be dealt to Arroyo. This confession, in the light of the evidence, is seen to be full of misstatements, and in no case would it have prevented Velasquez' prosecution, for the government was determined to punish the crime. The prosecuting attorney today in a strong argument pleaded for the execution of a death sentence on all the prisoners except Assistant Chief of Detectives Cabrera and one minor prisoner, who were not directly implicated in the tragedy.

TO RECOVER VALUE OF A 'TIP.'

Novel Suit That Has Been Filed Against a Wall-Street Broker.

New York, Nov. 22.—The Journal and Advertiser says J. R. McMurray, formerly of St. Paul, has filed a suit for \$3,000 damages against Edwin Barbour, formerly of Virginia, and now a Wall street broker.

It is alleged that McMurray arranged with Barbour that in return for advance information of the supreme court's decision in the Bell telephone case last May, Barbour should buy or sell 1,000 shares of Bell telephone stock, and in the event of a profit, give McMurray two-thirds and retain one-third for himself.

McMurray alleged that on May 8, 1897, he gave Barbour the information, which he says he obtained from one of the clerks of the supreme court. On May 10 the decision was handed down and Bell telephone stock went up. Barbour, McMurray alleges, refused to pay for the "tip," saying he did not use it. Hence the suit. James R. Keene, McMurray alleges, got the same "tip" and paid him \$10,000 for it.

Santa Fe Robbers' Big Haul.

Santa Fe, N. M., Nov. 22.—A merchant from Grant, N. M., where the recent robbery of the Santa Fe passenger train occurred, states that fully \$150,000, if not more, was secured by the robbers. About 100 pounds of gold coin was taken, according to the statement of Fireman Abel, given the merchant half an hour after the robbery, and "then they piled into their sack bundle after bundle of paper currency," the fireman added. United States Marshal Forsaker admits that at least \$35,000 in gold was secured by the robbers, and an unknown amount of greenbacks.

Monterey, Cal., Nov. 22.—A lumber shed, on which was piled 1,000 feet of lumber, collapsed this afternoon, falling upon the team driven by William Garner, whose back was broken in two places.

Foolish Act of a Boy.

Ashland, Or., Nov. 22.—The right hand of Harry Clawson, aged 18, was badly shattered by the accidental discharge of his rifle, near the California line, yesterday. Clawson had been hunting, and had stopped, leaning on his gun, with his hand over the muzzle, when in some manner the weapon was discharged. He was brought to Ashland on a late train last night, and it was found necessary to amputate the arm near the wrist.

GREAT LONDON FIRE.

Fifteen Million Dollars' Worth of Property Destroyed.

London, Nov. 22.—One of the most disastrous fires in London's history since the great fire of 1666, broke out in a large block of buildings lying east of Aldergate street and between that thoroughfare and Red Cross street, just after 1 o'clock this afternoon. The flames were fanned by a strong wind and fed by highly inflammable stocks of Christmas fancy goods and flimsy dress materials of every description, that filled every floor of the six-story building in the old street. Consequently, the conflagration gained headway with surprising rapidity, and was soon far beyond the possibility of being checked on the spot.

For four hours and a half the flames had their own way, and it was only after more than 100 engines had worked an hour that the chief of the fire brigade sent out the signal that the fire was under control.

At 11 o'clock tonight the fire is still the scene of great excitement. Fifty engines are playing upon the ruins; wagons are hurrying up, and tons of water are pouring into the fiery debris. Thousands of people are trying to penetrate the cordon maintained by 1,000 policemen, reinforcements for whom were sent up when at 5 o'clock an increase in the outbreak led Commander Wells to make a requisition for more engines upon the outlying stations.

The scene must occupy the fire brigade for several days, especially in view of the grave danger of the collapse of the shells of buildings, which fall now and then with a loud crash.

The latest advices indicate that nearly 100 warehouses have been destroyed, while the loss will probably exceed \$2,000,000.

The historic church of St. Giles has been much damaged, the principal damage being to the roof, the old windows, the baptismal font and Milton's statue.

"ONE TOUCH OF NATURE."

Uncle Sam's Relief Fund Feeds Thousands of Cubans.

New York, Nov. 22.—A special to the Herald from Havana says: In every town in Cuba where there are American citizens, groups of starving islanders gather every day in front of the houses of those Americans and beg for the crumbs that fall from the tables. That Americans have anything on their tables from which crumbs could fall is due to the relief fund of \$50,000 appropriated last spring by congress.

Consul-General Lee has drawn so far about \$25,000 of the total amount and has distributed it to the consuls in Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Sagua, Santiago and elsewhere. These consuls buy provisions and distribute weekly rations to distressed Americans.

There are 1,400 Americans on the relief fund list. Of these about 250 are American-born. The others are naturalized citizens and their families, who, having their citizenship papers properly registered at the different United States consulates, are entitled, if in distress, to the same relief as American-born citizens.

According to a statement made by Consul Baker, who is stationed at Sagua, about 10,000 people are being kept alive in Cuba by these rations distributed for the support of 1,400. Neighbors gather around the front door of the houses of American citizens and beg a share of the food that comes from the consulates.

Consul Brice, of Matanzas, reports that since July 1, 27,000 persons have died in his district. As he was crossing the public square one evening lately he saw a man fall to the ground within a few feet of him, and, hastening to his side, found he was dead. His body was nothing more than a skeleton. Such incidents occur daily all over the island where people are herded together.

General Blanco's orders to allow the pacificos to cultivate land outside the military lines would diminish suffering if the people had the strength and the implements with which to work, but they have neither and Weyler's scheme to exterminate the Cuban people is rapidly proving successful.

THE WORST IN YEARS.

Later Reports of the Great Storm—Damage Was Great.

Portland, Or., Nov. 22.—The fall in temperature has been the salvation of many sections of Oregon and Washington, as it turned the heavy rain to snow, and it soon ceased.

All reports agree that the storm which has just blown over was the worst in years. Rivers are swollen and are overflowing their banks, doing great damage to property. Railroad traffic is impeded. Telegraph wires were blown down and business seriously interfered with in some places.

The greatest damage is reported in Washington, though Oregon is not far behind. The Chehalis and Newaukum rivers are higher than for years. A considerable portion of Chehalis is under water. In Oregon Newport and Yaquina suffered mostly.

At Newport, fences and outbuildings were blown down, a portion of J. K. Weatherford's cottage unroofed, allowing the rain to damage the interior, and the heavy seas injured the bulkhead along the water front.

Lightship 87, which was anchored off the mouth of the Columbia river, went adrift and was only saved by the heroic work of her crew.

At Yaquina, besides the wrecking of the custom-house and the blowing away of the records, the wind slightly damaged the Oregon Central & Eastern Railroad Company's warehouse, ripped the shingles off the depot, workshops and roundhouse. The cribbing along the O. C. & E. bay track was badly washed by the rough tide.

Part of Salem is under water.

NORTHWEST BREVITIES

Evidence of Steady Growth and Enterprise.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

From All the Cities and Towns of the Thriving Sister States—Oregon.

Several thousand boxes of apples were shipped from Coos bay early last week. The real estate transfers in Umatilla county for one day last week amounted to \$7,000.

An Astoria paper says that Clatsop county warrants are likely to be at a premium within 30 days.

This year over 700 cords of wood have been shipped from Brown's spur, north of Dallas, to Portland.

A number of settlers bound for the Coos bay country passed through Roseburg last week, in covered wagons.

Wallowa county cattle have been nearly all bought up, but there are a good many hogs left in the county.

Lincoln county's outstanding warrants and the interest thereon amounted to \$25,979, on September 30 last.

Stock in Baker county is reported to be in excellent condition, and the loss this winter promises to be unusually light.

Travelers over the McKenzie road, in Lane county, report from two to seven feet of snow on the summit of the Cascades.

A band of 1,000 head of cattle was driven through Vale last week on the way to Ontario, whence they will be shipped East.

Harry Watters killed a bald-headed eagle in the sandhills near Marshfield last week. The eagle measured nine feet from tip to tip.

The financial statement of Gilliam county shows that on September 30 last there were outstanding warrants and interest amounting to \$24,301.

Several elk were seen in the vicinity of Emigrant Springs, in Umatilla county, recently, but as it was the closed season, they were not molested.

Fishermen in the vicinity of Rainier are of the opinion that the light run of salmon in that section is caused by the heavy blasting along the shore, where the Astoria railroad is being built.

The treasurer of Coos county has advertised that he will pay all county warrants indorsed prior to November 4, 1891. Interest on such warrants ceased November 15. This call will reduce the county's indebtedness about \$3,000.

The 800 Angora goats recently shipped from Boise, Idaho, to Pendleton, will be wintered near Pendleton. It is said to be the intention to ship them to the Klondike in the spring to make mutton for the miners. They are hardy and nimble animals, and can more easily be driven over the mountain passes than sheep.

The work of taking spawn is now going on at the Mapleton hatchery. Over 500,000 eggs have already been placed in the hatching troughs. The sum appropriated for operating the hatchery this year is not nearly so large as it should be, but the work has been attended to closely, and considering the expenditure a great number of salmon fry will no doubt be turned out next spring.

There will be 12 miles of American rails laid on the Astoria & Columbia river railroad beginning at Goble. The English rails were not sufficient to complete the track. This new consignment is on its way from the East. The rails are of the same weight and size as those laid, 75 pounds to the yard, 5-inch base, 5 inches high and 2 1/2-inch ball. Tracklaying at the Goble end of the line will begin when the new rails arrive.

Washington.

A carload of apples grown on Orcas island was shipped from Seattle to Omaha last week.

The state road commission has finished its work for the winter, and the working crew has been discharged.

The Hon. D. P. Thompson, ex-minister to Turkey, delivered a lecture on Turkey in Walla Walla, last week.

M. L. Weston has 5,500 head of sheep in Prosser, Yakima county, and he expects to winter them on Snipe's creek.

The six salmon canneries of Whatcom county will all be more or less extensively improved and enlarged during the next five months.

The clerical force in the land commissioner's office, in Olympia, has 200 leases of school lands to be made out on returns from county auditors.

Government surveyors say that with a little work the Snake river will be navigable from Pasco to Liparia, to which latter point boats are now running on the Upper Snake.

Suit has been commenced in the superior court of Chehalis county by the Northern Pacific Railway Company against Chehalis county for the purpose of having the taxes against the lands of the company in that county declared not a valid lien.

Richard Brown, a logger of Jefferson county, has just finished cutting a cargo of spars, valued at \$13,000, which will be shipped to New York on the bark Olympic.

Three cars of stock cattle and one of beef cattle were shipped from Chehalis last week. The stock cattle went to Yakima. Another carload was driven in from the Salkum country. Dealers say that stock cattle are becoming scarce. The hog market has slipped down a little, \$3.75 being offered now, and farmers are holding.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

[Office of Downing, Hopkins & Co., Chicago Board of Trade Brokers, 711-714 Chamber of Commerce Building, Portland, Oregon.]

No decided changes have occurred in wheat values during the week. The market has been principally noted for the absence of general speculation and the presence of several arguments that apparently warrant an advance. Crop advices in America, while showing an improvement in condition of the growing crop, most certainly indicate a decreased area seeded. The news from the Argentine crop has been sensational. General frosts have occurred, but the extent of the damage, if any, is only a matter of conjecture. The exact facts cannot be ascertained for some time yet. Reports from Russia assert the rye crop to be very short and the oat crop poor. The export demand continues unabated, and in excess of our weekly surplus. It is a matter of recent history that export countries are liable to sell more than their available surplus of breadstuffs and be forced to become importers. This is evidenced in the case of Australia and the Argentine during the past year, and should our export clearances continue at the present rate it is entirely possible that American supplies may be likewise exhausted. Receipts at primary points are large, compared with last year, and visible stocks continue to increase. When the high values are taken into consideration together with the large crop produced last year, it is a matter of surprise that the primary receipts are not much larger. Advices from the northwest indicate that the movement from first hands is decreasing. Export clearances of wheat and flour for the week were 6,653,791 bushels. Large sales for export have been made during the week, partly the result of apprehended damage to the Argentine crop.

The local speculative condition of the wheat market is very unsatisfactory. There is an absence of general speculative interest due partly to high values, but more particularly to the small stocks and the presence of more or less manipulation in the market. A large short interest exists entirely out of proportion to existing stocks. There is nothing in the general situation to warrant any decline. The result of the Argentine crop seems to be the determining factor regarding future values. Until the result is definitely known it seems that present values will be fully maintained and probably advanced.

There has been a decided improvement in the cash demand for corn, both for Eastern account and for export. The government report, estimating the crop yield at 1,892,000,000 bushels, is not credited by the trade and entirely unwarranted according to private advices.

Portland Market.
Wheat—Walla Walla, 74c; Valley and Bluestem, 76c-77c per bushel. Four—Best grades, \$4.25; Graham, \$3.50; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 34c-35c; choice gray, 32c-33c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$19@20; brewing, \$20 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$15 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$15.50. Hay—Timothy, \$12@12.50; clover, \$10@11; California wheat, \$10; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton. Eggs—22 1/2@25c per dozen. Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; fair to good, 40@46c; dairy, 30@40c per roll. Cheese—Oregon, 11 1/2c; Young America, 12 1/2c; California, 9@10c per pound. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$1.75@2.50 per dozen; broilers, \$2.00@2.50; geese, \$5@6; ducks, \$3.00@4.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10@11c per pound. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 35@40c per sack; sweets, \$1.40 per cental. Onions—Oregon, new, red, 90c; yellow, 80c per cental. Hops—8@13c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 6@7c. Wool—Valley, 14@16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@12c; mohair, 30@22c per pound. Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, \$2.50@2.60; dressed mutton, 5c; spring lambs, 5 1/2c per pound. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.50; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$4.50@5.00 per 100 pounds. Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.75@3.00; cows, \$2.25; dressed beef, 4@5 1/2c per pound. Veal—Large, 4 1/2@5c; small, 5 1/2@6c per pound.

Seattle Market.
Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 27c; ranch, 16@18c. Cheese—Native Washington, 12 1/2c; California, 9 1/2c. Eggs—Fresh ranch, 30c. Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 10c; spring chickens, \$2.50@3.00; ducks, \$3.50@3.75. Wheat—Feed wheat, \$23 per ton. Oats—Choice, per ton, \$19@20. Corn—Whole, \$22; cracked, per ton, \$22; feed meal, \$22 per ton. Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$22; whole, \$22. Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5 1/2c; mutton sheep, 6c; pork, 7c; veal, small, 7c. Fresh Fish—Halibut, 4@5c; salmon, 3@4c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4c; ling cod, 4@5c; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2 1/2@4c. Fresh Fruit—Apples, 50@75c per box; peaches, 75@80c; prunes, 35@40c; pears, 75c@81c per box.

San Francisco Market.
Wool—Nevada 11@13c; Oregon, 12@14c; Northern 11@14c per pound. Hops—10@14c per pound. Millstuffs—Middlings, \$20@22; California bran, \$16.00@16.50 per ton. Onions—New red, 70@80c; do new silverskin, \$1.35@1.50 per cental. Eggs—Store, 18@20c; ranch, 41@43c; Eastern, 27@28c; duck, 25c per dozen.

EXPIATED HIS CRIME.

Kelsay Porter Died on the Gallows at Union, Oregon.

Union, Or., Nov. 22.—In the gray dawn of an approaching day, while most of the citizens of Union were still asleep, Kelsay Porter, murderer of the Macho family in Pine valley, January 1, 1896, expiated his crime on the gallows. Including the sheriff's jury of 12 men, about 50 people witnessed the execution. It was carried out with dispatch. Seventeen minutes after Porter left the jail door to mount the scaffold, his body was in the coffin, which was waiting to receive it beneath the gallows.

It was about 5 o'clock this morning when Porter was aroused and told to prepare for the trying ordeal before him. Realizing his last moments had really come, he displayed nervousness. After dressing in a suit of black clothes provided for him, he ate a light breakfast, the first meal for several days. The appearance of his religious adviser had a reassuring effect. Rev. Mr. Shields passed an hour in the cell, preparing Porter for his death, reading Scriptural passages to him, and closing with a fervent prayer for the condemned man.

Porter, in refusing to see press representatives, stated that all he had to say would be spoken on the gallows, but before leaving the jail, he changed his mind, and from the time he passed out of the door of his cell, mounted the scaffold and was hurled into eternity, he did not speak a word. He was assisted to the platform of the scaffold, by Sheriff Phy and Deputy McLaughlin, who helped him up the steps. Rev. Mr. Shields and Deputy Sheriff Giffen were also on the scaffold.

Porter was placed directly over the trap, his legs and arms pinioned and his wrists handcuffed. While this was going on he became slightly unsteady.

The black cap was placed over his head, the rope adjusted about his neck by Sheriff Phy, and at 6:55 the trap was sprung and the body shot downward, dangling at the end of the rope. Death was instantaneous, the neck being broken by the fall. Twelve minutes later three attending physicians pronounced Porter dead, and the body was cut down and placed in the waiting coffin.

The crime for which Kelsay Porter suffered the death penalty was the killing of the Macho family—Benjamin Macho, his wife and 17-year-old son, Benjamin—in Pine valley, Union county, January 1, 1896.

LOCKS FOR THE DALLES.

Government Has Abandoned the Boat-Railway Scheme.

Washington, Nov. 22.—The probabilities are that a boat railway will never be constructed at The Dalles. Chairman Hooker, of the river and harbor committee, has made an examination of the rapids, and has interested himself more or less in several matters which will require appropriations coming from his committee. Mr. Hooker is very reticent about expressing his views, but there were other members of the river and harbor committee with him on his Western trip, and the press correspondent has been able to learn that the boat railway plan will not be approved in the next session of congress, and that the committee on river and harbors will not taken favorable action for any improvement there that does not have for its object a different plan than either a boat railway or a portage railway. It is very probable that what will be done is the authorization of a survey to be made for construction of a canal and locks, and which will secure the passage of boats of about four feet draft. It is asserted that boats of greater draft than this cannot operate successfully above the Dalles, and that boats of this draft can go far up the Columbia river, the Snake and the Clearwater. If these boats could ply between Portland and the farthest points on the rivers named, a great deal would be accomplished, freight rates would be regulated, and the wheat of Eastern Oregon and Washington and Idaho could be transported to tidewater at a small cost. It is the general belief that a canal and locks of the kind contemplated could be built at an expenditure of less than \$1,000,000, and also that they could be pushed to completion at an early day. It is not known whether the Oregon delegation will accept such a plan as this, but the general understanding is that it will be offered by the members of the river and harbor committee who visited the Columbia during the past summer.

FATE OF PROSPECTORS.

Three Men Are Drowned in White Horse Rapids.

Port Townsend, Nov. 22.—News reached here tonight of the drowning of two men belonging to the party of Colonel Will E. Fisher, of San Francisco, in the White Horse rapids November 4. No details of the accident were received. Neither could the names of the drowned men be learned.

Accompanying this news was the information that Frank Anthony, of Seattle, was drowned at the same place October 29. Anthony's boat capsized. His two companions, Murphy and Hepburn, were rescued by the Canadian mounted police.

Heavy snows are reported on the summits of the passes leading into the interior. Travel is becoming difficult and dangerous, yet people are still going back and forth over the mountains. The lakes and rivers in the interior are more or less frozen. On the Skaguay trail the snow is fully three feet deep. It is five or six feet deep on the Dyea route.

A Hog-Killing Secretary.

Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 22.—Secretary of State Porter was fined \$6.20 in the police court today for violating the health ordinance by butchering hogs within the city limits.