GOVERNOR MAY MEDIATE

GAGE IS STUDYING CONDITIONS OF SAN FRANCISCO STRIKE.

Municipal League Is Trying to Arrange a Peace Conference—Union Boxmakers Walk Out.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 6.—The only development of importance in the labor situation today, so far as the extension of the strike is concerned, was the walkout of more than 400 union boxmakers, who had been employed at the various box factories of the city. The men claim that they were so often urged to sign an agreement which meant their resignation from the union that they decided to brook the attitude of their employers no longer and to join the forces of the idle.

Mayor Phelan declares that as far as he is concerned, peace negotiations are at an end, he having done all that he could to bring about a conference.

Andrew Furuseth, secretary of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, and one of the strike managers, says that for the present at least the strike will not be extended beyond San Francisco and San Francisco Bay.

Tomorrow morning the sand teamsters, some 500 in number, will refuse to work, having been ordered out on a strike. This will tend to cripple the building industry of the city, as materials cannot then be hauled.

The Building Trades Council claims that there are only 150 idle union painters this afternoon and that in a short time the Master Painters' Association will be brought to terms.

The Municipal League is hopeful that a conference may yet be arranged, and it has been suggested that Governor Gage be urged to assume the role of mediator. He has been in the city for two days watching the progress of events, gathering information at first hand, and has interviewed the labor leaders. He came to San Francisco expressly to be on the ground in the event of an emergency arising requiring his presence.

There were the usual daily assaults on nonunion men. Two came very near ending seriously. Samuel Cole, a striking teamster, was shot in the breast and badly injured by Henry Davis, a nonunion teamster. According to Cole's story he was arguing with Davis, who drew a revolver and shot him. J. Watt, a nonunion teamster, when going to work was met by a union man who tried to dissuade him. On Watt's refusal the union man struck him in the neck with a rock. Watt drew his pistol and shot at his assailant. While Watt was watching the man run, two shots were fired at Watt by some one in the crowd on the other side of the street. The bullets lodged in a door just above Watt's head.

About the only incident out of the ordinary on the water front today was a short strike on the part of the nonunion men employed on the Oceanic dock. The men at work loading the Australia and the other vessels of the Spreckles line have been receiving 50 cents an hour since the tie-up was inaugurated. This morning they were informed that the company would return to the regular rate of 40 cents an hour and they declined to commence work until they were assured of being paid 50 cents. A delegation called on Captain Howard and stated the demands. After a short discussion their request was granted and the men commenced work.

The loading of the Australia is practically completed, and she will get away tomorrow for Tahiti upon the arrival of the French mails. There were more men at work on the docks today than at any time since the strike began. It is expected that the Umatilla might sail for Victoria and other Puget Sound ports tomorrow. Captain Wallace stated that the Pacific Coast Steamship Company has secured 60 additional men.

The office clerks of the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company are still at work on the Geo. W. Elder, while the stevedores and longshoremen are completing the loading of the Columbia, which may possibly get away tomorrow. Steamship managers claim that they are solving the labor problem.

WORKMEN FROM NEW YORK.

Union Iron Works People Are Seeking Mechanics There.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—Representatives of the Union Iron Works of San Francisco are in the city to engage machinists, boilermakers and molders for the company's employ. These representatives, however, apparently wish the nature of their business kept as secret as possible, and will say nothing about their movements. It was learned from one of the few men who answered an advertisement, says the Tribune, that the company's representatives have a lot of contracts, one of which the applicant for the place is obliged to sign. The purport of this contract is that the company agrees to pay a second-class mashinist 30 cents an hour for all work done from the date of his arrival in San Fransisco. It furthermore sets forth that none but sober, industrious men will be engaged. What seemed to be the stumbling block to those who applied was that the applicant was asked to deposit a guarantee of $35 to help defray expenses of transportation from here to San Francisco, this sum to be refunded to the employe after six months of faithful service. Several of the leading laboring men among the iron trades in the city thought it highly improbable that the company could get men to engage with them under the conditions imposed.

WILL TRY TO DODGE TARIFF.

French Growers Propose to Ship in Condensed Wines.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 6.—Representatives of California agricultural interests have learned that French exporters propose to enter into active competition with the winemakers of this state. It is asserted that in the Perigord district of France the grape crops have been so enormous that wine has fallen to less than 1 cent a gallon. The French growers, according to the Chronicle, do not intend shipping wine to this country, owing to the tariff, but they propose to send over condensed must. This is unfermented juice of the grape, which can be quickly converted into fair wine by the addition of water. The duty on must is only 20 per cent ad valorem, it coming under the head of "unenumerated articles" in the tariff schedules. The wine interests of California will at once take steps to have the omission of must from the tariff rectified by Congress, and it is likely that the measure to that effect will be placed in charge of Representative Kahn on his return from the Philippines.

KILLED BY HIS WIFE.

Drunken Rancher Shot Through the Heart in Self Defense.

SAN JACINTO, Cal., Aug. 6.—Frank P. Wellman, a cattle rancher of the San Jacinto Mountains, was killed by his wife, Clara A. Wellman, in self-defense, according to the verdict of the Coroner's jury. While under the influence of liquor he threatened to kill the woman and their babe, when she procured a rifle and shot him through the heart. He died instantly.

Suicide by Inhaling Gas.

ALAMEDA, Cal., Aug. 6.—Dr. Charles Hampden Field committed suicide today by inhaling illuminating gas. He was formerly a surgeon in the United States Army at Fort Wayne. He was also a former surgeon of the Pension Bureau and at one time surgeon for the Union Pacific Railroad.

Veterinarian at Berkeley.

BERKELEY, Cal., Aug. 6.—Dr. Archibald R. Ward has arrived in this city from Ithaca, N. Y., under appointment as veterinarian of the Agricultural College of the University of California, a new position recently created by the Board of Regents. His work will be closely associated with that of Leroy Anderson, head of the dairy school, buildings for which are now in course of construction.

Flood of River at Randsburg.

RANDSBURG, Cal., Aug. 6.—There was a tremendous rain at this place yesterday, accompanied by terrific thunder and lightning. Half the houses in town are flooded and the streets are badly washed out. Two and a half inches of rain fell in three-quarters of an hour.

BENEFITS OF SUMMER FALLOW

Substitute for Rotation of Crops in the Wheat Sections.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—Summer fallowing is a topic which never fails to arouse interest in the Department of Agriculture. In the report now in preparation on wheatgrowing and general agricultural conditions in the Pacific Coast States this subject is treated briefly in the following language:

Summer fallowing is generally practiced all over the entire region, largely owing to the fact that there is practically no feasible rotation. On a considerable portion of the area devoted to wheat in this section it is also impossible to grow a fertilizing crop to plow into the ground, as is the custom in the more humid sections of the country, as there is barely sufficient moisture for the staple crop.

The soil on the Summer-fallowed land derives great benefit from the disintegration of its otherwise insoluble ingredients by the action of the air, but the chief benefit derived is from the rain of two seasons falling on the land on which one crop is to be produced. The greater portion of the wheat land of this district is capable of absorbing all the rain that falls, and the maintenance of a loose, clean surface, as presented by the Summer fallow, prevents evaporation. In addition to this, early sowing gives the land a long growing season, with the result that a good crop is nearly always raised on land which has been treated in this manner, even though the rainfall during the growing season is scant.

Summer-fallowed land is frequently sown in May of the season following its period of idleness; where pasture is needed, the cattle are allowed to graze on the young wheat during the entire Summer season, and in the Fall the final growth of wheat is allowed to start. Probably half the wheat land of the entire Pacific Coast region is Summer-fallowed each year. This gives one crop on an average every two years, but if a sufficient amount of rain falls immediately after harvest, it is possible to raise two crops in three years by reseeding promptly.

No fertilization of the wheat fields other than by Summer fallow has been attempted, except by individual farmers or in an experimental way by the state bureaus and experiment stations, the results of which experiments have not as yet been made public.

WAR ON MOSQUITOES.

Campaign Begun by New York Health Officials.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—Dr. A. H. Doty, health officer of the port, and his assistants have at last commenced the war of destruction on the mosquitoes of Greater New York and vicinity. They have at last taken their paraphernalia, which consists largely of kerosene oil, to the pond near Concord, Staten Island, and forced barrels of oil under the surface of the water. It was expected that while the fluid is making its way to the surface it will destroy all the embryonic mosquito life therein. Dr. Doty said he cannot be positive about the success of the experiment for a month to come, but believes that it will work well.

Dr. Eugene Monaghan, sanitary superintendent of the borough of the Bronx, says he believes the malaria at Fordham is caused by the mosquitoes. The experiments of Dr. Doty are being watched and if they are successful the scattering of oil on the swamps and low places in Fordham will be begun. Dr. Monaghan said that the malaria-bearing mosquitoes do a great deal of damage, but he does not believe that they cause so much sickness in this climate as they do in the tropics.

In discussing the prevalence of malaria in Fordham, Health Commissioner Crosby said the same steps will be taken to destroy the malaria-bearing mosquitoes there as in other parts of the city.

Appointments by the President.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—The President today made the following appointments:

War—Frank B. Baldwin, Colonel of infantry; James Regan, Lieutenant-Colonel of infantry; Frank B. Jones, Major of infantry; Frank H. Whitman, Captain of infantry; Henry D. R. Phelan, assistant Surgeon of volunteers, rank of Captain; First Lieutenants of cavalry, James Longstreet, Jr., Harry N. Cooth, Theodore Schultz, James E. Shelley, Duncan Elcat, Charles H. Boyce, John J. Ryan; Second Lieutenants of cavalry, Selwyn D. Smith, William Overton, Gordon N. Kimball, Walter F. Martin, O. S. Lusk, Philip Mowry; First Lieutenants of infantry, Lindsay P. Rucker, Mack Richardson, Cleveland Wilcoxson, Albert B. Sloan; Second Lieutenants of infantry, W. H. Clendennin, William Bonham, Albert J. Bright, Robert B. McConnell, Harry E. Comstock, H. Clay Supplee, Charles B. Morrison, Christian A. Bach, Alexander B. Coxe; First Lieutenants of artillery, Stanley D. Embick, Ralph S. Granger, Henry B. Clark, Francis H. Cooke; Second Lieutenants of artillery, Roy H. Taylor, Fred L. Perry, Donald W. Strong, Tilman Campbell, John N. Dunn, Homer B. Grant, Garrison Ball, Jean S. Sakes; Thomas J. Dickson, to be chaplain.

Navy—Frank H. Clark, Jr., a Lieutenant; Albert C. Dillingham, a Commander.

Italian Parochial Schools.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—Monsignore Scalabrini, Bishop of Piacencia, Italy, who is in this country in the interests of the St. Joachim Italian Mission, in an interview explained his programme. He said:

"The main object of my mission here is to ascertain the conditions prevailing in the various Italian missions and parishes throughout the country. It is my desire to see established a system of parochial schools in which Italian boys and girls may be taught their father's tongue, together with the English they are now taught so well. It has been our experience that the immigrants who come here, especially the children, are more likely to obtain a stronger grasp of the rudiments of their religion if it be taught them in their native tongue.

"I shall stay in this city until after the retreat, which is to be held for the Italian priests at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, for eight days, beginning August 19. After that I shall attend the dedication of the orphan asylum now building in Newark, and afterwards I shall go to Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Columbus and New Orleans. In all of these cities I am to take part in ecclesiastical duties and shall try to start movements toward the building of parochial schools of the kind I have outlined."

Relaying Wireless Messages.

BOSTON, Aug. 6.—Wireless telegraphy by a relay system is to be tried in the vicinity of Boston. The system is the invention of Edgar S. Gray, and it was tried in Vermont a short while ago. The apparatus consists, generally speaking, of two kites. One transmits the message and the other charges it with more force and sends it on. The inventor says he is able to send a message 50 miles overland, and then pass it through the relay apparatus, which he can manipulate from the starting-point. He believes that such stations could be established at intervals of 50 miles, repeating and forwarding the messages almost indefinitely.

UNDER ARID-LANDS ACT

NEARLY 8800 ACRES IN HARNEY TO BE RECLAIMED.

Portland Company Will Dig Four Big Wells and Put in an Elaborate System of Ditches.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 6.—The Portland Company, a corporation, by W. E. Burke, its president, has taken the first decisive action in order to secure arid lands under the act of the last legislature. This company has applied for 8793.47 acres in Harney County. The location of this land will be more clearly understood by reference to the accompanying map, by which it will be seen that the tract lies about six miles north of Malheur Lake and about 18 miles southeast of Burns, in a region known as Harney Valley.

The act passed by the last Legislature has for its purpose the acceptance of 1,000,000 acres of Government land proffered to the state upon the condition that it shall be reclaimed. There are vast areas of arid land in Eastern Oregon and if it can be demonstrated by practical efforts that a large portion of this can be reclaimed under such conditions as are proposed by the Carey act, the results will be of incalculable importance to the eastern part of the state. This first attempt at securing land under this act will therefore be watched with no small degree of interest.

It was first proposed that the State of Oregon should undertake at its own expense to reclaim arid lands and depend for reimbursement upon selling the land to settlers or speculators. It was readily apparent that to carry out this project would involve the state in an expenditure of large sums of money, creating a debt which could not be paid off in many years. This plan was then abandoned and the present act passed, under the terms of which the reclamation of arid land is left entirely to private enterprise, the state simply making the selection from the general Government and conveying the land to the applicant when he has complied with the Federal requirements.

The applicant must reclaim the land before he secures title to it. Under this act numerous persons and companies contemplate reclaiming arid land, but the Portland Company is the first to make a beginning by getting its application before the state and the United States Land offices.

The land for which application has been made is particularly described as follows: All of sections 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, the N. E. quarter S. E. quarter, S. half of S. W. quarter, N. E. quarter of the S. W. quarter, S. E. quarter of the N. W. quarter, and lot 3, of section 4, the S. W. quarter, W. half of S. E. quarter, S. E. quarter of S. E. quarter of section 5, and S. E. quarter and S. W. quarter of section 6, all in township 24 S., Range 33 East, of Willamette meridian.

From the application on file the following description of the land is taken: "The land is situated in Harney Valley, at an elevation of 4400 feet. The tract lies practically level, with a slight fall towards the South. The soil is sandy loam, the only growth being what is known as black sage brush, and occasionally a little grease wood. Harney Valley is surrounded by hills out of which flow very few living streams. In the Springtime, however, there is a large amount of water which empties out of the canyons surrounding the valley and finds its way into Malheur Lake. Some of this water is used for irrigating purposes, but will not thoroughly irrigate the land until reservoir systems are adopted for holding the water back until the proper season.

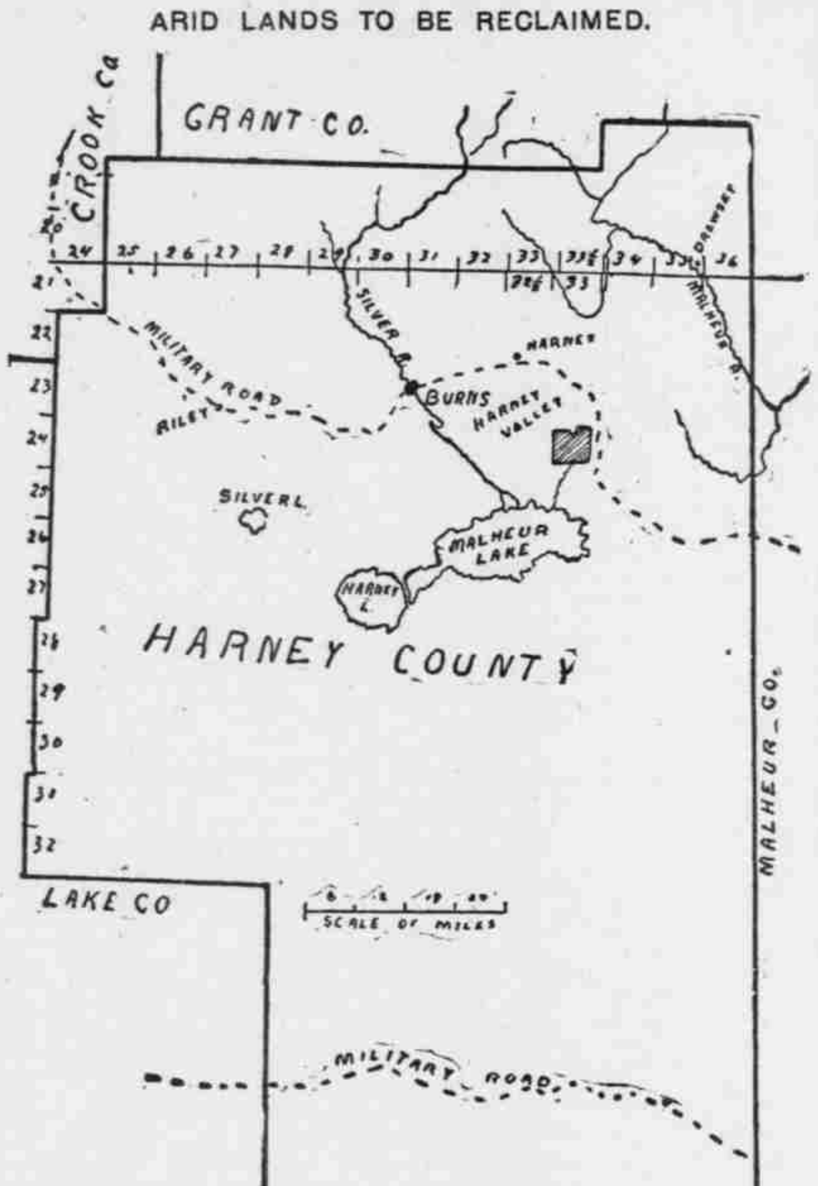
"At present the rights for the use of this Spring flow of water are claimed by various individuals, and to determine the rightful owner would necessitate a great deal of litigation and a considerable length of time. . . There is an abundant underground supply of water at a depth of 7 to 15 feet. This condition exists throughout the valley."

The company proposes to dig 4 wells, each not less than 50 by 100 feet and deep enough to secure the necessary water supply. These wells will be located on the higher ground. The water will be pumped by steam power and distributed to the land in ditches 8 feet wide and 2 feet deep. The estimated cost of the proposed system of irrigation is $87,534 70, or $10 per acre. The annual cost of maintenance is estimated at $1 50 per acre.

The company reclaiming land under the provisions of this act does not secure absolute title to the land, but has a lien upon the land and may charge for the use of the water from its system. The amount of the lien and the rate to be charged for the water are to be fixed by the board. The company is entitled to the possession and use of the land until the lien has been discharged. Any person desiring to purchase any quarter section of reclaimed land may purchase the same from the State after first satisfying the lien of the person who reclaimed the land. The satisfaction of the lien is the only price specified for such land.

As this law for the reclamation of arid land is new in the United States, the State Land Board can find no precedent to guide its proceedure, and it is to be expected that there will be some delay in securing land under this act.

ARID LANDS TO BE RECLAIMED.



TRACT IN HARNEY COUNTY ON WHICH PORTLAND COMPANY WILL PUT IN AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

UNPAID COUNTY TAXES.

Amounts Still Owed on Account of State and Scalp Taxes.

SALEM, Aug. 6.—All the counties in the state, except Tillamook, Union and Yamhill, have paid their state taxes for 1900 in full. Tillamook is the only county that has made no payment on either state or bounty tax. All the others have either paid in full or have made partial payments. Washington County has paid nothing on her bounty tax. A number of counties owe balances on their bounty taxes. The following list shows the amount of unpaid state and bounty taxes for the year 1900 at the present date:

County.	State Tax.	Bounty Tax.
Clackamas	....	$1,030 28
Jackson	....	2,144 60
Klamath	....	834 24
Lane	....	1,405 06
Multnomah	....	9,873 54
Tillamook	$7,488 22	1,313 72
Union	8,706 24	817 23
Wallowa	....	601 71
Washington	....	2,870 94
Yamhill	5,503 60	2,305 67
Total	$21,698 06	$23,196 45

Report on Fishing Licenses.

In the office of the State Treasurer Master Fish Warden H. D. Van Dusen yesterday filed his report of the collection of fishing licenses for the months of June and July, accompanied with a remittance of $907 30. The report covers the following items:

172 individual fishermen's licenses	$172 00
91 gill-net licenses	227 50
23 set-net licenses	23 00
5 pound-net, trap or weir license	75 00
Seine licenses (all sizes)	259 80
15 fish dealers' licenses (first-class)	150 00
Total	$907 30

Supreme Court Vacation.

The Supreme Court will adjourn August 16, in order to permit the Justices to take a short vacation. Court will probably remain adjourned three or four weeks. Justices Bean and Moore will spend their vacations in the East, while Justice Wolverton will visit Oregon Summer resorts. Finley Perrine, bailiff of the Supreme Court, will also go East during the recess.

Opposed Appointment of Guardian.

Mark S. Skiff has appealed to the Circuit Court from the order made by County Judge Scott, declaring William Joseph a spendthrift and appointing Joseph Albert his guardian.

Judge Scott ruled that Skiff is not a party having an interest sufficient to entitle him to be heard on the question of guardianship. Albert alleged that William Joseph is a spendthrift and has failed to look after his property. He sought to have a guardian appointed to look after some property sold or about to be sold for taxes. Skiff claime dto be the owner of the property under a tax purchase, and sought to oppose the guardianship proceedings.

Thrown From Wagon and Killed.

LEWISTON, Idaho, Aug. 6.—Word was received here tonight that C. O. Bishop, a farmer on the Nez Perce prairie, 25 miles east of Lewiston, had been killed Monday on the long grade leading to Clearwater near the big eddy. He was hauling a load of hay when the horses became frightened and ran away. The wagon was overturned and Bishop thrown on rocks far down the hillside, suffering internal injuries which caused his death. He was found an hour after the accident, alive but unconscious. He died half an hour later.

Big Forest Fire Near Baker City.

BAKER CITY, Aug. 6.—A special to the Democrat, of this city, says that a forest fire broke out in the mountains back of the North Pole mine, near Bourne, this afternoon, which is now burning fiercely. It threatens the mine property and a large body of fine timber. It is supposed to be the result of carelessness on the part of campers. If it is not got under control before it crosses to the summit, the result will be serious.

Lucky Boy Clean-Up.

EUGENE, Or., Aug. 6.—The clean-up of the Lucky Boy mine was brought down yesterday by F. C. Sharkey, who took the treasure to Portland. The amount was a little more than $13,000, and represented the product of the 15-stamp mill for 26 days. This is the largest month's run yet made, but they now have 15 stamps running, whereas they have heretofore had only 10.

Avoid baldness, gray hair, dandruff and thin locks, by using PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM. Greve's Ointment makes a healthy skin, 50c.

WEEKLY CROP BULLETIN

PAST WEEK WAS THE WARMEST OF THE SEASON.

Temperature of Western Oregon Ranged From 76 to 100 Degrees —General Rains Needed.

United States Department of Agriculture, Climate and Crop Bulletin of the Weather Bureau, Oregon Section, for the week ending Monday, August 5.

EDWARD A. BEALS,
Section Director, Portland, Or.

General Summary.

The past week in Oregon has been the warmest of the season, and it averaged nearly 6 degrees warmer than the previous one. The maximum temperatures during the week in Western Oregon ranged between 76 and 100 deg., and the minimum temperatures between 50 and 68 deg. In Eastern Oregon the maximum temperatures ranged between 80 and 102 deg., and the minimum temperatures between 52 and 70 deg. Numerous small showers occurred in Southern Oregon during the first days of the week, but they were not general or heavy enough to be of much benefit, and no rain of consequence has fallen elsewhere since the latter part of June. General rains are now badly needed for corn, hops, potatoes, gardens and pastures. The second crop of alfalfa is being cut in Southern Oregon, and the yields are about the average. The second crop of clover in the Willamette Valley is not as promising as usual, on account of dry weather.

The grain harvest is well advanced, but threshing in the western sections has not yet become general, although well begun east of the Cascade Mountains. The following threshing yields have been reported: Washington County, wheat, 22 bushels; oats, 25 bushels. Yamhill County, wheat, 24 bushels; oats, 30; Linn County, wheat, 12 to 30 bushels; Winter oats, 20 bushels, and one acre of barley threshed 75 bushels. Douglas County, wheat, 6 to 30 bushels; oats, 40. Jackson County, wheat, 12 bushels; oats, 15; barley, 20. Josephine County, wheat, 14 bushels; oats, 25; barley, 30. Wasco County, wheat, 30 to 40 bushels. Sherman County, volunteer wheat, 12 to 20 bushels; Fall wheat, 15 to 25; Umatilla County, wheat, 35 to 40 bushels, and some fields have threshed 55 bushels; Spring barley, 40 bushels, and Fall barley, from 40 to 70; oats, about 50; Spring wheat, from 18 to 20. The wheat crop in Umatilla County is turning out much better than expected and the grading will be good.

Some lice are reported in the hopyards, but they are not causing any damage of consequence, and the weather is unfavorable for the spread of this pest, and the hop outlook continues favorable. Corn is making good progress, and early potatoes are maturing rapidly. The potato crop, although needing rain, is doing fairly well, and there are no complaints of blight. Pasturage is getting poor, and there is a slight shrinkage in the milk supply reported from Curry and Coos Counties.

The weather has been favorable for fruit, which is making good advancement. Tame blackberries are plentiful, and plums, peaches and early apples are in the market.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY.

Highland, Clackamas County, Marie Harrington—The past week was very dry and warm. Grain is ripening fast, and early wheat will be harvested next week; the wheat crop is good and oats promise an abundant yield. The grain aphis has again appeared and is on the grain; the hoplouse is here, and spraying will commence immediately. The vegetable crop is good. Potatoes will yield an immense crop. The fruit crop is very poor; apples and prunes will be only half a crop.

Carlton, Yamhill County, D. W. Laughlin—Cutting Fall wheat in progress; a great many are done, and the yields promise well; no threshing as yet, but most of the threshers start next week. Spring oats are ripening too fast to fill well, the weather being too hot. The afternoon temperatures are between 80 and 90 deg., with wind from the north.

Centerville, Washington County, A. Reverman—The hot sunshine and strong winds have been very trying to Spring crops. Oats are ripening, or rather drying up, too fast. Threshing of Fall grain began Wednesday. One field of 80 acres of wheat that looked like 30 bushels, gave 20 bushels per acre, and a field of Fall oats 32 bushels.

Gervais, Marion County, W. B. Brown—Fall grain is about all cut, and threshing will begin the coming week; the outlook is promising for a good yield. The second crop of clover never looked better. The fruit crop is very good. Weather dry and hot; temperature about 86 deg.

Alsea, Benton County, C. P. Fullerton—The week has been warm and dry, but not hot enough to push grain too fast. Wheat and oats look well, with promise of good yields. It is getting very dry. Haying about done. Some oats cut, but no threshing done yet.

COAST DISTRICT.

McKinley, Coos County, W. H. Bunch—Weather continues hot. Grain is thought to be ripening too rapidly for best results, seemingly drying out in spots. Corn and potatoes will be short crops if rain is much longer delayed. Early pears and apples ripening.

Olney, Clatsop County, J. E. Johnson—The weather is good. Haying is nearly done in this vicinity; all report a good hay crop; better than last year. Oats are green yet; all will be cut for oat hay. Potatoes are looking well. No blight reported by anyone; indications so far are good; some cutworms have been seen, but they appear to be doing no damage.

COLUMBIA RIVER VALLEY.

Adams, Umatilla County, C. S. Ferguson—Weather good for harvesting; nights cool, days warm and dry. Wheat and barley are good grades. Corn, fruit and gardens are needing rain. The yields of wheat thus far have been 35 to 45 bushels per acre; Spring barley, the same as wheat; fall barley, 40 to 65 bushels per acre.

Boyd, Wasco County, B. Havely—Weather very warm. Heading progressing nicely. Some threshing being done. Fall wheat yielding 30 to 40 bushels per acre, good quality. Spring wheat filling well.

Biglow, Sherman County, A. V. Underwood—Warm weather continues. Spring wheat ripening; volunteer wheat yields 12 to 20 bushels per acre; Fall-sown wheat, 15 to 25. No Spring grain threshed yet. Wheat will grade No. 1 and No. 2. Range stock doing well. Apricots ripening on high land.

SOUTHERN OREGON.

Beagle, Jackson County, M. A. Houston—Hay all housed; the second and third crops of alfalfa light, but of good quality. Threshing commenced; yields so far: Wheat, 12 bushels; oats, 15; barley, 20. This will be below the average, as only the crops on light, dry soil have been threshed. Weather hot and dry.

Kerby, Josephine County, E. F. Meissner—Grain harvest is nearly finished. Spring-sown grain is light, owing to excessive dry weather. Threshing will commence next week. Crops are in splendid condition where there is water to irrigate. Rain is needed badly.

PLATEAU REGION.

Baker City, Baker County, W. C. McGuiness—Grass on foothills drying; pasturage upon that portion of ranges very poor. Hay being mown and stacked. Very little, if any, threshing being done. Wheat and barley crop will be short. Irrigated hay and pasture are as good as in any season.

Narrows, Harney County, C. A. Hanlis—The weather has been very warm and the range has dried up very fast. Haying in full progress; average crop. There was a light shower Wednesday night.

Washington Notes.

The Everett oil discoveries are said to have originated by a decayed stump deeply buried in the ground.

Andrew Evans, 19 years of age, was seriously injured while working with a thresher on the grounds of the Walla Walla penitentiary. He accidentally caught his foot in the cylinder, crushing and mangling it so badly that amputation was found necessary.

The well of the Colville Oil Company is now down 550 feet. The drill is now in a limestone formation, which makes boring easy. Were it not for the great amount of water with which the drillers have to contend, the well would be sunk at a much more rapid rate. No startling indications of oil have been discovered, but otherwise everything is satisfactory.

Idaho Notes.

A gang of burglars committed several small robberies in Wallace last Saturday.

The Rocky Mountain Bell telephone people have completed the line through to Decorah, the new town in the Seven Devils district. The distance from Boise is about 200 miles.

About 100 Chippewa Indians are camped on the meadows below the Ross Fork agency. They are from the vicinity of Butte, are not under the care of any agency, and have been eating, drinking and making merry for several days.

Two sheepherders made a lucky find in a draw off Quigley Gulch, about two miles east of Hailey, Saturday afternoon. One of them picked up a stone to throw at the sheep, and found it too heavy to throw. Breaking it up, he discovered that the rock contained galena; picking up others, he found that they also held ore. The two bought some tools and went to work in the ground, and in two days have taken out 1500 pounds of ore that assays, by two different tests, $84 per ton.

The first flax marketed from the reservation this reason was raised in the vicinity of Peck, and came from a 100-acre field that yielded 22 bushels an acre. The flax brought the owner $1 53 per bushel, or $3366 for the entire crop. The cash return per acre was therefore $33 66, and the cost of production about $9 an acre, leaving him a net profit of $25 66 an acre. The market value of land in the Peck section is about $20 an acre, and in the instance above cited the owner secured from a single crop the value of his farm.

NORTHERN CROPS ARE GOOD

President Hill Says They Promise Better Than Last Year.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway, who has returned from the Northwest, said today that the wheat, barley, flax, hay and most of the crops along the Great Northern and Northern Pacific roads are looking extremely well, and promise to be much ahead of last year.

"To show the growth of our general traffic," said Mr. Hill, "I need only to call attention to what we have accomplished in spite of a partial crop failure last year along the Great Northern and Northern Pacific. The loss was 40,000,000 bushels of grain. In transportation and purchasing power, this meant a loss of $5,000,000 to the Great Northern Railway, all of which loss was made up within $430,000 with increase in our traffic and retrenchment of expenses."

"How will the Burlington do with so great a falling off in the corn crop?" Mr. Hill was asked.

"That is a question that nobody can answer definitely at this time," returned Mr. Hill, "but I expect the Burlington will give a good account of itself—as good as the Great Northern and Northern Pacific have following the partial failure of the Spring wheat crop of last year; may be better."

Right of Way Litigation.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Aug. 6.—An action has been commenced in the Superior Court by Annie T. Parkhurst and husband, A. L. Parkhurst, against the Washington & Oregon Railroad Company, enjoining it from building its road across the plaintiffs' land unless it shall comply with the conditions imposed upon the Portland & Puget Sound Railroad Company by the plaintiffs at the time the transfer of the right of way was made. The chief condition referred to is that the company agreed to provide undergrade crossings on the road when built on the plaintiffs' land, for the convenience and benefit of plaintiffs.

It appears that the Parkhurst land is considerably below grade where the company's right of way crosses it. It was the announced intention of the Portland & Puget Sound Company at the time the right of way was acquired to build a trestle across the land in question. The Washington & Oregon Company, however, desires to cross the land on a filled grade.

Condemnation proceedings for right of way for a logging-road branch of the Portland, Vancouver & Yakima Railroad have been begun by Huston & Aldrich against Theodore Buckman and wife. The branch road is being built by the plaintiff from a body of timber owned by it to the main line of the Portland, Vancouver & Yakima road, in order to reach which it will be necessary to cross the defendants' land.

Landslide on the Southern.

SALT LAKE CITY, Aug. 6.—All trains on the Southern Pacific Railroad are reported tied up by a bad landslide at Avenet, Nev., 290 miles west of Ogden, where it is said the tracks are covered with hundreds of tons of earth and rock for a distance of fully 500 feet. A large force of men is at work clearing away the slide, but it will probably be 20 hours before the damage is repaired sufficiently to allow trains to move.

Philadelphia & Reading Dividend.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 6.—The directors of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Company today declared the regular semi-annual dividend of 2 per cent on the preferred stock of the company.

CONCERNING PENSIONS.

Mr. Caukin Questions Figures of Boston Transcript.

PORTLAND, Aug. 3.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian for July 30 appeared a short article credited to the Boston Transcript, entitled "Spanish War Pensions," which, after mention of claims for pensions for the war with Spain, filed up to date, proceeds to mention Civil War pensions as follows: "May 1, 1865, three weeks after Lee's surrender, the total strength of the Union Army was 1,000,516 officers and men. June 30, 1901, there were on the pension rolls the names of 997,854 pensioners. In other words, the army of pensioners today is within 3000 of the strength of the army of soldiers we had in 1865." It is quite evident that the author of the above extract intended to convey the impression to the mind of civilians that 1,000,516 was the whole number of Union soldiers pensionable in event of disability on account of the Civil War, and that all but 3000 of them constitute the 997,854 now on the pension rolls.

The figures given above are correct, and it is often said that "figures cannot lie"; but when used in a manner and for the purpose of deceiving, or tell but half or less than half of the truth for the same purpose, they sometimes come so near to lying that it is quite difficult to detect the difference, and a fair-minded, truth-loving public may feel interest in a presentation of the whole truth.

First, as to strength of the Union Army. The records in the War Department give the total number of enlistments in the army during the Civil War as 2,778,304, and after very careful corrections and deductions for re-enlistments, gives the total number of persons in the service as 2,300,000. Add to this the number in service in the Navy during the same period, 132,554, and we have a total of 2,432,554 persons in the Military and Naval service on account of the Civil War, and pensionable under the several pension acts now in force. It will be seen that much less than half the truth was told on this side of the subject.

Next, as to the constituents of this pension roll of 997,854, and I will name them in somewhat the chronological order of the service from which the right to pension arose, beginning with the War of 1812, there being a few surviving widows of soldiers of that war, and a larger number from each succeeding war until our own time:

Early wars—Surviving widows of the War 1812; survivors and surviving widows of the Black Hawk, Creek, Cherokee and Seminole Indian wars; survivors and surviving widows of the Mexican War; regular Army and Navy, other than engaged in Civil War.

Civil War—Army nurses and employed in general hospitals; widows and minor children, children of defective mind, and other dependent relatives of deceased soldiers and sailors; surviving soldiers and sailors of the Civil war.

I have no data by me by which to give the number of pensioners in each of the above classes, but they constitute no inconsiderable portion of the whole number, especially the class including widows, minor children, children of defective minds, and dependent fathers and mothers of deceased soldiers and sailors of the Civil War. Deduct all others except surviving Union soldiers and sailors from the 997,854 now on the rolls and it will be seen that but a half truth was told on this phase of the subject, and it is quite probable that the number of veterans of the Civil War now on the pension rolls will not exceed 30 per cent of the 2,432,554 borne on the rolls of the Army and Navy during the Civil War.

It is the consensus of opinion of surviving veterans that, eliminating all pensions granted by special acts of the congress, cases of fraudulent pensions would be very hard to find, and that the Administration of the Pension Bureau is as free from fraud against the Government as any other department of the public service.

I have no argument to make on the justice of the pension laws, nor criticism of the Administration of the Pension Bureau, but I do wish to protest in the name of my comrades, whom I esteem and love, against such a perversion of facts and figures as would not only belittle them, but also the great cause to which they gave the best that any man can give to his country. Give us fair play.

G. E. CAUKIN.

Law's Contempt Case.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—Tomorrow, before Judge Fitzsimmons, will be heard the case of Dr. Richard S. Law, who is now held upon a charge of contempt of court. According to the Herald he failed to answer in supplementary proceedings growing out of the litigation of the Golden Scepter Gold Mine, of Colorado. The charges were preferred by Mrs. Elizabeth Walling, wife of the Rev. W. A. Walling, until recently pastor of the Delaware-Avenue Baptist Church, of Wilmington, Del. Dr. Law, who is 73 years of age, was a friend of the late Henry George, and acted as a pall-bearer at the funeral of the distinguished single-taxer. He claims that he acted in good faith in his mining transactions.

To Double-Deck Brooklyn Bridge.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—As a result of the recent breaks, plans for increasing the strength and practically doubling the carrying capacity of the Brooklyn bridge have been prepared by William Hildenbrand, superintendent of the John A. Roebling Sons Company. His idea is to erect another structure above the one now in use, and similar to it. The work of construction, he says, could be carried on without interruption to traffic, and would cost about $3,500,000. Edwin Duryea, the engineering expert, appointed by District Attorney Philbin to investigate the cause of the recent breaks, has not yet made his report.

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