

AS TO RAILROADS

Situation, Opportunity and Hopes of Boise, Idaho.

A TOO-CONSERVATIVE ELEMENT

How Personal Spite Lost Boise a Railroad Connection—A Unique Heating System—Social Aspects.

By a Staff Writer.

BOISE, Idaho, Jan. 19.—Twenty years ago Boise made the mistake of permitting that her strength and importance were such that they could compel the Oregon Short Line Railroad, then building into Idaho, to bring its main line to her door. It is said that at one time the road could have been secured for a bonus of \$12,000, and that this petty sum was denied as a matter of pride. At a later time the citizens of Boise pledged the sum of \$200,000 to secure such changes in the route as would have brought the main line through the city, but it was too late. The railroad people admitted that a mistake had been made in the original location, that a better and shorter line could have been made by the Boise route, but the change would cost something over \$1,000,000—a sum so great as to put the matter out of the question.

The original fault appears to have been made by the locating engineers working in cooperation with a ring of railroad officials in a scheme of townsite speculation. It was imagined that if the road were located at a distance from Boise a new town would grow up to take the business and that Boise would fall into the character of an interior village. It has not worked out that way: Boise has held its place and Nampa has made small progress; but there can be no doubt that the interest of Boise was given a serious blow, and that the interest of the whole of Central Idaho, business-wise, whether it be the business of an individual or of a city—can never be carried on as successfully under difficult physical conditions as under favorable conditions. Boise does the business of the country; but there would, I think, be more of it to do if the city were in a position where it was easily get-at-able; and there would certainly be greater assurance on the part of outside investors in the geographical and transportation situation of Boise were it impragable, and its future unquestioned certainty. As it is, strangers invariably hesitate before committing their capital, and even old-timers, when the talk grows confidential, confess doubts as to the ultimate future. If the mines which have always been a large part of Boise's dependence, should peter out, it might be difficult to hold the business of the agricultural country, for the town was located for the convenience of the miners and not for the farmers. The history of Salt Lake gives much comfort. That city, like Boise, lies away from the main line of the railroad, and it has not been destroyed by the rivalry of Ogden, but it is admitted that it has suffered from it, and that Ogden's "flour" grows stronger as time goes on.

MISSOURI WILL BE HERE

Governor Dockery Promises to Use Appropriation for the 1905 Fair.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Jan. 20.—The Senatorial question which has been the all-absorbing and dominating one here, being now removed by the election of Hon. William J. Stone at noon today, it is expected that the Legislature will get down to business at once in true and ancient Missouri fashion. In an interview regarding a representation of the State of Missouri at the Portland Exposition this morning, Governor A. M. Dockery promised his inability to do anything this session, but insists that he is perfectly friendly to Oregon's best interests and those of a half-city; it makes no claim to be anything but a mountain town, but self-respect is manifest in every local aspect. A. H.

School Tax of Salem District.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—The taxpayers of Salem school district, at an annual meeting tonight levied an 8-mill tax for school purposes. Seven mills will be devoted to current school expenses and 1 mill to the debt service on the bonds of the district for the year. The levy will enable the district to apply about \$3000 to the debt. The taxpayers ratified the recommendation of the board of directors, granting a slight advance in the salaries of principals, teachers and janitors.

Will Remove Salem's Chinatown.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—The City Council tonight ordered a special election to be held in the city to vote on steps to secure the condemnation of the dilapidated frame buildings in Salem's Chinatown in the business district of the city, with a view of accomplishing their removal. Mayor Bishop tonight announced the standing committees of the Council for the ensuing year.

Favor State Board of Health.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 20.—(Special.)—The Oregon State Board of Health, at a banquet this evening in honor of the physicians who are members of the Legislature. The subject of the creation of a State Board of Health was discussed at some length. The sentiment was expressed in favor of the measure creating such a board with full quarantine powers.

Japanese and Cowboys Fight.

HAVRE, Mont., Jan. 20.—In a fight between a Japanese and three cowboys at night, K. M. Mui, a Japanese, was killed and Tom Corrigan, a cowboy, mortally wounded. There has been bad feeling between the Japanese and whites for some time.

Jewish Council at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 20.—The 18th annual council of the American Council Hebrew Congregations convened here today with more than 100 delegates present from most of the principal cities. At a meeting of the executive board it was decided to recommend the work of raising a memorial fund of \$100,000 for the endowment of the Hebrew Union College, at Cincinnati. The question regarding the rights of Jews as Americans in the cities of Russia and other foreign countries will be thoroughly discussed.

Special Franchise Tax Void.

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 20.—The appellate division of the Supreme Court today ruled that a special franchise tax on utility franchises is unconstitutional. The main point upon which the law is declared unconstitutional is that it violates the home rule principle of the constitution in giving the State Tax Commission power to assess local franchises, taking that power from the local tax boards. The case will be carried by the state to the Court of Appeals.

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NEW YORK, Jan. 20.—While entertaining 30 children in his home in the Borough of the Bronx, by singing the intermezzo from the opera, "Cavalleria Rusticana," a 5-year-old boy, Muller, fell from a table, and died almost immediately. An autopsy showed that he had ruptured a blood vessel while trying to maintain a high note.

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WHOLE CREW IS MANGLED

TWELVE MEN KILLED IN COLLISION ON GREAT NORTHERN.

Snowplow Telescopes Freight Cars Loaded With Workmen—Only Two Escape Injury.

LEAVENWORTH, Wash., Jan. 20.—Twelve men dead and as many more injured in the result of a rear-end collision that occurred on the Great Northern, five miles west of Chlawaquam, at 5 o'clock this morning. An extra from Skykomish loaded with lumber and three cars containing laborers ran into a rotary snowplow, killing or injuring all of the 25 workmen. Ten cars are piled up in a heap, with nine victims of the wreck still under the snow. The names of the dead are not obtainable.

The injured are: Charles Dahl, back and hip injured. Peter Tong, cut on back. Elias Moberg, head and face badly. James Pearce, head and face cut. William Donnelly, foot and spine injured. Sam Benson, hip and spine injured. Calvin Meyer, teeth knocked out. Lewis Becker, arm scalded. L. E. Adams, arm scalded, face cut. Daniel Cunningham, foot cut, fractured. John Glover, right leg badly bruised. The engineer, L. E. Adams, and fireman Lewis Becker of the freight, escaped only by a miracle. The box cars that were derailed were carrying a couple of tons of lumber following, and when the crash came the lumber telescoped the box cars with the human freight, killing and mangling the crew crew. Only two escaped, and they were thrown bodily into the air, landing 20 feet upon an embankment.

ASSESSORS WILL PROTEST.

They Object to Being Deprived of Work on Corporate Property.

OLYMPIA, Jan. 20.—(Special.)—Two conventions were in session in Olympia today. The assessors of the state, who meet once a year organized this morning by electing John W. Peter, of King County, president, and Edward Meath, of Pierce County, secretary. Prior to opening the convention a caucus was held for the purpose of discussing the railroad commission bill, and the majority expressed disapproval of the plan to take out of County Assessors' hands the fixing of valuations on railroad or other corporate property. No action on the subject has been taken in convention, however, but a committee has been appointed to recommend assessments on railroads, ferries, boats and telegraph and telephone lines.

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