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Eubonic Plague in Hawaii. WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—Three cases of eubonic plague are reported at the town of Hiale, a small place on the western coast of Hawaii, where the plague prevailed last spring. Precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the epidemic have been taken.

Frohman Gets New Musical Comedy. LONDON, Aug. 18.—A contract between Charles Frohman, George Edwards and Owen Hall for the production of Mr. Hall's new musical play founded on the French comedy "Bouffe," was signed today. The play will be put on the stage simultaneously in New York and London.

BUSY MEN MEET

Commercial Congress Session at Seattle.

NEW SOUTH MEETS WEST

Welcomed by Governor and City's Mayor.

HILL'S NAME BRINGS APPLAUSE

John Barrett Is There, and Tells All the Delegates of the Glories of the Lewis and Clark Fair to Be.

The 14th annual session of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress opened in Seattle under the most favorable circumstances, and the leaders say the session promises to be the largest and most productive of good since the organization of the association. The sessions are held in the big pavilion at Leschi Park, overlooking the waters of Lake Washington, and the weather ever since the delegates began to arrive has been most pleasant. The 900 or 800 men who are in attendance from all the states of the West assemble at the pavilion after a cable ride across the city, and are entertained at luncheon in the pavilion. Various excursions and other entertainments are planned for the pleasure of the visitors during their stay of several days in the city.

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 18.—(Staff Correspondence.)—The fourteenth annual session of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress was called to order this morning with a fairly large and decidedly enthusiastic list of delegates in attendance. The greatness of this land of magnificent distances was exemplified in the widely separated regions from which the different delegates came. From Louisiana, Texas, Alabama—in fact, from all through the Sunny-Southland—came a full representation not of the men who have been pictured to us by Optie Read and other writers of lesser note of the old days "befo' the war," but active, energetic hustlers—men of the new South. They trooped into the big hall at Leschi Park and shook hands and rubbed elbows with the men of the new West, who gathered from every state this side of the Mississippi.

Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Indian Territory—all were well represented, while for the Pacific Coast, California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho joined in showing the visitors how much more kind nature had been to us than to some of the states lying farther to the east. And Alaska, numerically shy on delegates, made up in quality for what she lacked in quantity, and Major Strong, of Nome, painted in glowing colors the wonderful resources of his new country. If there is anything of value that Alaska does not produce, it must have been unintentionally omitted from the Major's notebook, for that land, which he assured the Congress was the "brightest pearl in Columbiadom," would have blushed a pale salmon pink could it have heard all the nice things that were said about it.

J. J. Hill's Name Applauded. Overshadowing all other names connected with the development of the great West, that of James J. Hill seemed pre-eminent in the minds of the commercial congress. Every time his name was mentioned, and nearly every speaker mentioned it, it was the signal for applause, and had the Great Northern magnate, who is not displeased with this sort of tribute, known that an attraction he would have proven, he would have undoubtedly dropped in on an inspection tour.

His enthusiastic admirers, in their glowing tributes to his prowess, made a number of ridiculous statements regarding his transportation feats, but the universal knowledge of the man and the road he has built on Puget Sound was ever in evidence, and both had a good, strong hold on the affections of the congress. The State of Washington was well represented, not only by a regularly credited delegation, but by a large number of prominent citizens. Ex-Governors McGraw and Semple chatted with the present chief of the Evergreen State, while waiting for the crowd to arrive in the morning. Ex-Senator John L. Wilson discussed the weather and other timely topics with Harold Preston and other political friends and adversaries. Congressman Cushman, who has never been a firm believer in river improvements, listened with a pleased expression to the hot air which interspersed some of the more carefully worded speeches, and a number of other prominent Washingtonians of lesser importance aided in keeping things moving.

John Barrett's Effulgence. A prominent figure at the afternoon session was the Hon. John Barrett, who kept up an active circulation among the visiting delegates and dazzled their eyes with the alluring brightness of the colors in which he painted the forthcoming Lewis and Clark Centennial. Most of the Portland delegation arrived this morning, but a few of the stragglers will not be here until tomorrow. Those already registered are: A. H. Devers, W. A. Laidlaw, M. M. Shillock, J. E. Lathrop, S. C. Beach, H. R. Lewis, J. W. Cook, George W. Hazen, G. W. Allen, I. Lang,

Hot Shot at Thurber. "The political questions in Mr. Thurber's paper," said the Judge, "are beyond the purposes of this convention. He read a paper, New Orleans three years ago in defense of the ship subsidy; in Washington, D. C., he defended the sugar trust, and he was charged with being in the employ of the sugar people; at our meeting in St. Paul last year Mr. Thurber bobbed up with a carefully prepared paper defending the beef trust, and now he comes at us with another paper attacking organized labor. It has no place in the records of this Congress."

C. H. Brown, of Stockton, Cal., took issue with Mr. Thurber on the truck question. Dealing particularly with the Standard Oil Company, for Mr. Brown comes from the oil regions. Mr. Thurber made no reply to the caustic remarks that he called forth with his paper, but sat quietly smiling until the storm blew over. The session adjourned about 5 o'clock, and this evening the visitors were entertained with a steamboat excursion around Lake Washington. Between sessions

C. J. Brown, W. E. Brown, R. L. Darrow, Emil Waldman, D. Beakey and L. R. Simpson. The Portlanders had no regular place on the speech program today. But during impromptu remarks called for by the chair, Mr. Hazen gave the delegates an intimation that there was such a place as Portland on the map, although there had been nothing in the previous speeches by Washingtonians and Californians to warrant such a supposition. Mr. Hazen invited the delegates to corroborate his statements by visiting the metropolis of the Northwest and seeing for themselves. The attention of the Congress will be formally called to Portland and the Lewis and Clark Centennial by a resolution which will be introduced at the morning session tomorrow.

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OREGON AT BEST

Land Entries Break All Records.

RECEIPTS ARE IN KEEPING

Year Just Ended Four Times Over the Leader.

IRRIGATION MAY BE BOOMED

Great Increase Likely to Hasten Government Work East of the Cascades—Business for Nations Also Reaches a New Mark.

The year just ended also established a high-water mark in the history of public land business in the United States. In that year not only were more entries recorded, but many more acres of public domain passed into private ownership than in any preceding 12 months. More than this, there was a phenomenal increase in the receipts from cash sales, fees and commissions, the returns of the year just closed almost doubling those of the year preceding. To be exact, there were in the past fiscal year 307,732 entries made under the several public land laws, embracing in the aggregate 11,742,679 acres of land. This is an increase of 11,621 entries and 368,935 acres over the showing made in the year 1902. The total receipts from cash sales, fees and commissions, amounted in 1903 to \$10,557,530, or \$4,577,440 more than the receipts of the previous year. Three years ago Ellinger Herrmann, then Commissioner of the General Land Office, in making his annual report, which showed the disposal of 12,463,887 acres of land and \$4,066,812 in cash receipts, predicted that the public land business had reached its maximum limit, and would thereafter show a gradual decrease. He based his opinion on the fact that the returns of that year were greatly in excess of those of the year before and former periods.

Money for Irrigation. Under the National Irrigation law the net receipts from the disposal of public lands is diverted into the reclamation fund, for use in building Government irrigation systems. About 25 per cent of the gross receipts are deducted to meet expenses and to pay the 3 per cent for educational purposes. This means that the reclamation fund will be swelled to the extent of \$3,000,000 as a result of the land office business for the year, for the receipts, as heretofore given, will later be augmented by nearly, if not quite \$300,000 derived from fines, timber sales and various funds not yet reported.

Tacoma Customs Official Resigns. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Aug. 18.—The Secretary of the Treasury today received and promptly accepted the resignation of Special Agent J. W. Linck, of the customs service, stationed at Tacoma. In doing so the Secretary explained that in all the charges brought forward there had been not the least reflection on Linck's character, but he apparently failed to come up to requirements as an inspecting official.

Destroyers at New London. NEW LONDON, Aug. 18.—Four torpedo-boats destroyers arrived here today, and are at anchor tonight in the lower harbor. Their names have not yet been announced. It is expected that they will go to the naval coaling station at Groton tomorrow and after coaling proceed eastward.

Contents of Today's Paper. National. Oregon land entries for year just ended break all records. Page 1. Army officers urge appointment of some General on Philippine board when Wright becomes Political. Page 2. Massachusetts Democrats may run General Miles for Governor. Page 2. Nebraska Republicans endorse Roosevelt for second term, and bring out candidate for Vice-President. Page 2. Pacific. San Francisco civic societies and many military organizations give great parade in honor of the G. A. R. Page 2. Eight negroes who had kidnaped a young white girl at Fort Smith, Ark., are on posse which rescues her, and one man is killed. Page 3. Four-year-old Detroit boy is murdered by a "Jack-the-Ripper." Page 3. Foreign. Christians at Ulukut are in constant fear of being massacred by the Turks. Page 3. Band of Bush-Brazons cross the Bulgarian frontier, kill three gnomes and fire several rounds. Page 3. Congress of British Chambers of Commerce urges nation to extend commercial treaties and reorganize consular force. Page 3. Kaiser will ask Reichstag to provide for increase in army of 20,000 men. Page 3. Sports. Reliance must give Shamrock III 1 minute and 45 seconds on 30-mile race. Page 1. Score of Pacific National League: Spokane 3, Little L. Page 11. Portland seamen who will contest in Astoria regatta. Page 11. Ma'nimah Fair Association organizes for September races. Page 11. Tommy Ryan must abandon the ring because of cancer of stomach. Page 11. Butte and Spokane object to new clubs in 'Lucas' League, and wish to drop California teams. Page 11. Scores of Pacific Coast League: Los Angeles 4, Oakland 2. Page 11. Pacific Coast. The Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress commences its 14th annual session at Seattle. Page 1. Scrappers have their chance in the rejection of Oregon land lands. Page 4. Hillsboro, Or., citizens give an objectionable citizen a coat of tar and feathers. Page 4. Distinguished regatta visitors are met by a Boston boat race. Page 4. Commercial and Marine. Oregon and Eastern crop reports. Page 12. Improved tone of stock speculation at New York. Page 12. Wheat weak and lower at Chicago. Page 12. San Francisco produce quotations. Page 12. Fallow farmers expect 15-cent wheat. Page 12. Canadian Pacific liner sinks a Chinese cruiser. Page 12. Consul Laidlaw scores the sailor boarding-house men. Page 12. Portland and Vicinity. Judge Bellinger sets aside \$22,500 verdict of Birdie McCarty. Page 10. County may raise Morrison-street bridge rental of City & Suburban Company. Page 10. Amelia Blingham tells of avenging Lily Lang-tray's snub. Page 7. History A to go into camp for target practice. Page 7. Bay drowned while fishing in Columbia Rough. Page 7. Kansas lawyer in search of domestic servant who is believed to be a fortune. Page 8. Fred Foster's body found in Columbia River, six weeks after he was drowned. Page 5. Policeman Roberts accused of grafting on divers-keepers. Page 14.

Showing Indeed Remarkable. Remarkable as is the showing made by Oregon in 1903, it is the more remarkable in view of the damper that is thrown over the land affairs of the state as a result of disclosures of extensive frauds by inspectors of the department. These inspectors took unusual care in examining all entries to establish their validity, and of which tended to retard the public land business. Enormous withdrawals were made both for forest reserve and irrigation purposes, which caused an outcry that the Government was interfering with the settlement and development of the more desirable sections of the state. The facts and the figures seem to confirm the declaration of the Interior Department that temporary withdrawals do not interfere with legitimate land entries.

New Settlers Credit to State. Although figures, so far as available, do not classify the entries made in Oregon, the fact that over 18,000 new entries are reported is the best evidence that Oregon is attracting settlers in no small numbers, and home-builders and citizens of the desirable class are seeking out the state where they can establish homes under the most favorable circumstances. There is a guarantee that the new settlers are desirable citizens from the very fact that all entries, particularly those of the first half of the year, were most carefully examined to determine whether the entrymen were acting in good faith and in their own interest, rather than in the interest of others.

May Hasten Irrigation Works. The fact that Oregon has now contributed \$2,500,000 and \$1,900,000 to the reclamation fund will no doubt serve as an incentive to the Interior Department to hasten its examination of proposed irrigation projects east of the Cascade Mountains, in order that the state may soon receive some practical benefit from its otherwise active land business. Certainly no state is entitled to more recognition than Oregon. Once the Government completes an irrigation system in the state, the lands opened up thereby will contribute to the reclamation fund direct, as the law provides that the settlers shall repay to the Government in ten annual installments the actual cost of the construction of storage reservoirs and canals built by Government aid. This

FIGURES THAT TELL THE TALE. Oregon— 1903. 1902. No. entries 357,732 311,792 No. acres 11,742,679 12,707,099 Collections \$10,557,530 \$5,982,091 United States— No. entries 207,743 190,161 No. acres 18,741,070 18,372,335 Collections \$19,537,539 \$3,988,088

(Continued on Page 4.)

HELP TO LIPTON

Reliance Will Give Shamrock Time.

SAIL SPREAD IS LARGER

One Minute and Forty-five Seconds on Course.

HER OWNERS NOT ALARMED

Both Vessels After Being Measured Return to Moorings to Await the Calling of the First Race Tomorrow.

RULES GOVERNING RACES. The first of the five races scheduled for this season, in the contest for the famous America's cup, will be sailed tomorrow. This race means the 12th challenge from British yachtsmen since the schooner America captured the cup, off the Isle of Wight, in 1851. Three races out of the five will be sailed at Sandy Hook lights. The course will be either over a triangle, each side of which is 10 miles in length, or a boat to windward of 15 miles and return, depending upon the direction of the wind. The time limit for each race is 24 hours. Each boat measures 90 feet on the water line. Shamrock III will be sailed by Captain Robert Wring, and Captain Charles Barr will be the sailing master of Reliance. Eleven o'clock in the morning is the hour announced for the start in the race.

NEW YORK, Aug. 18.—The Reliance and Shamrock III were measured today in Erie Basin by C. E. Mower, the official measurer of the New York Yacht Club. As the result of his measurements and calculations, it was announced tonight at the yacht club that the Reliance would allow the challenger one minute and 45 seconds over a 30-mile course. It was found that the Shamrock III was slightly longer on the water line than the American boat, but the latter proved to have nearly 300 more square feet of sail area than the challenger, and it was this enormous sail spread that taxed the American boat so heavily.

The announcement of the time allowance in favor of the challenger caused little surprise at the yacht club, as it was the very general belief that the Reliance would prove considerably larger all around than her opponent. The Reliance and Shamrock swung lazily at their moorings inside Sandy Hook tonight, ready for the international contest for the America's cup, the first race of which will be sailed on Thursday. The Shamrock III merely returned to her old moorings, the Reliance coming there for the first time.

The water was let in the dock where Shamrock III lay at 12:30, and the challenger was floated at 12:40. Five minutes afterward the water was turned in the Reliance dock. Measurer Mower at once began his work on the Shamrock. Apparently the spinnaker pole was longer than the base of the forward triangle, for after the measurement an eight-inch piece was sawed off the end of the spinnaker pole. After completing his work on the Shamrock, Mr. Mower started to work on the Reliance.

YET HOPE FOR CANAL. Colon People Take Heart on Hearing Colombia May Reopen Case. COLON, Aug. 18.—The statement made in a despatch from Foreign Minister Rizo to Senator Herran, the Colombian Minister at Washington, announcing the rejection of the canal treaty, and which was published here today, to the effect that the Colombian congress may probably furnish a basis for a resumption of negotiations with the United States, has caused a more hopeful feeling in some quarters with regard to the ultimate fate of the treaty. The whole country is anxiously awaiting the future action of the United States.

GIRLS IN PANIC AT FIRE. Many Trampled Upon in Bad Blaze Due to Gasoline Explosion. BOSTON, Aug. 18.—The explosion of a tank of gasoline in the basement of a six-story block occupied by several manufacturing concerns on Wormwood street, South Boston, today caused a fire which, inside of 30 minutes, completely destroyed the building, meantime precipitating a panic in which scores of employees received injuries. The monetary loss is \$120,000, covered by insurance. Immediately following the explosion, a dense volume of smoke enveloped the building and 20 girls employed by William Ryer, manufacturer of lace curtains on the sixth floor, stampeded for the stairway, his work on the Shamrock. Apparently the spinnaker pole was longer than the base of the forward triangle, for after the measurement an eight-inch piece was sawed off the end of the spinnaker pole. After completing his work on the Shamrock, Mr. Mower started to work on the Reliance.

HALSTEAD DENIES IT. Not Chosen Dean of the Pulitzer School of Journalism. PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 18.—Murray Halstead today requested denial of the published statement that he had been chosen dean of the School of Journalism endowed by Joseph Pulitzer.