

BOOKS NOT ALL GONE

Loss at Baker City Not so Great as Feared.

ONLY GENERAL LEDGER BURNED

City Officials Severely Criticized for Their Gross Negligence—Canceled Warrants Disappeared Before the Fire—Blame Incendiary.

BAKER CITY, Or., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—The destruction of city records by the fire which burned the city hall last Sunday night was not so extensive as at first reported. The Treasurer's and Auditor's books were not touched. The only serious damage was the almost total destruction of the general ledger in the office of the Superintendent of Water Works. This book contained the entries of the receipts of money from the individual water renters for the years 1922 and 1923 up to date. The receipts from this source range from \$1800 to \$2000 per month. It was this book that the experts were working on when the fire occurred. It is claimed that it was left open on the desk of the water superintendent and of all the large books in this office it is the only one that was almost totally destroyed. Mr. Clark, one of the experts admitted today that the loss of this book precluded a conclusive and satisfactory examination of the receipts and disbursements of the Water Department. He said that it was possible to make a fairly accurate report from other data, but admitted that the actual facts and figures could not be given.

There is no abatement of the severe criticism of the gross negligence on the part of the city officials in not providing a safe receptacle for the city records. The electric light company is being held responsible for the fire. The fire did not start from a crossed wire. One man has been found who says he passed the City Hall about 15 minutes before the fire broke out and he saw a man come out of the water office and run upstairs. Everything tends to show that the building was set on fire purposely. It was learned today that a temporary City Hall has been built in an old barn on the City Hall Square with wooden cells and that no night watchman is kept on the place. The fire of Saturday night would have been made to appear as if it were a fire that started in the City Hall and spread to the barn, but it was not. One of the City Councilmen said that objection had been made to the hiring of a watchman at \$60 per month to watch the jail and City Hall, also to the erection of a temporary vault for the records.

At a special meeting of the Council this afternoon the committee on the Councilmen and citizen was appointed to investigate and report on the cause of the fire. A watchman was employed to stay at the City Hall at night. It is developed this afternoon that a portion of the records which the experts had to use were stored in a barn and that a lot of cancelled warrants which the experts were using had disappeared before the fire occurred.

NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS.

Temporary Organization of Society at Oregon City. OREGON CITY, Or., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—Preliminary steps were taken at a meeting held in this city Saturday for the organization of the Native Sons and Daughters of Oregon residing in Clackamas County. The meeting was held pursuant to a petition that had been circulated and to which 75 signatures had been affixed. The committee on the formation of such a society. The following named committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws to report at an adjourned meeting to be held Wednesday, October 23: H. J. Starkweather, Millwaukie; Warren Greenwell, Damascus; E. C. Hackett, Parkville; M. A. Magone, West Oregon City; W. E. Fitch, Logan; R. A. Miller and O. D. Eby, Oregon City. Temporary organization was effected by naming Mr. Starkweather, of Millwaukie, president, and O. D. Eby, of this city, secretary. The purpose of the society is in any way affiliated with the fraternal organization bearing the same name. On the contrary, it is formed for the direct benefit of the natives of Oregon who may reside in this county and also the pioneers of this section of the state.

It will be the purpose of the society to hold semi-annual meetings that shall be attended by the members and also the pioneers of the county who will probably be made honorary members of the organization.

M'LEOD AND MACKAY FREE.

Circuit Court of Appeals Orders Their Release.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 12.—The decision of the Circuit Court of Washington in the case of Charles Mackay and Archie McLeod, in the denial of action of a writ of habeas corpus, was argued in the Circuit Court of Appeals today, which reversed the judgment and ordered the defendants discharged. Charles Mackay and J. Archie McLeod were arrested in July, 1926, on the Nez Perce Indian reservation, Idaho, and charged with firing a revolver and a shotgun in attempting to resist Indian Agent Stranahan, who was searching their quarters for spirituous liquors unlawfully introduced there. The men sued for a writ of habeas corpus and were taken before United States District Judge DeHaven who was then sitting in the District Court of Washington of the Western District. The men claimed they were arrested on the wrong charges, but Judge DeHaven denied the writ and remanded them to prison. Today the United States Circuit Court of Appeals ordered that the prisoners be freed, declaring that the act under which they were arrested related solely to smuggling and referred to customs officials, their deputies or persons assisting them to carry out their official duties.

SWINDLER WIDELY KNOWN.

Alleged Representative of Morgan, Arrested at Seattle, Is Identified.

SEATTLE, Oct. 12.—J. B. Matthews, the self-styled representative of J. P. Morgan & Co., who was arrested last Friday on a warrant charging him with obtaining money from A. A. Segrave, of the Occidental Hotel, by means of bogus checks, is believed to have been fully identified by the following telegram received from New York, as a swindler of national reputation. The message reads: "Your man Matthews' real name is John B. Locke, formerly on Governor David B. Hill's staff. He got several hundred dollars on checks cashed in San Francisco last Spring by the St. Nicholas Hotel, Colonel F. S. Charbonneau, 121 Montgomery street; Senator Smith, of Los Angeles and others. Will write particulars."

Matthews, as he is known here, is in the county jail in default of \$100 bonds for his appearance for hearing in court October 21.

GREAT TRACT WITHDRAWN.

Action Follows Sensational Report by Special Land Agent.

GREAT FALLS, Mont., Oct. 12.—By an order received the Secretary of the Interior and Receiver of the land office today all lands in Cascade County south of the Missouri River that are in the Great Falls land district and two townships in the vicinity of Highwood are withdrawn from entry under the desert land law; all desert entries upon such lands, for which patents have not been issued, are suspended pending investigation. Embraced in the withdrawal is nearly all the land in this county that lies south and east of the Missouri. It is estimated that the order of withdrawal affects about 1,150,000 acres, and that within that area there have been filings under the desert land law upon about 200,000 acres. The area embraced within the suspended entries is probably 60,000 acres.

At the request of United States Senator Gibson, who reported to the Interior Department that gross frauds had been and were being committed in this district under the desert land laws, Special Agent Chadwick was recently sent to this city to make an investigation and report. His report was a sensational one, sustaining the practically every charge made by Senator Gibson, and the Commissioner of the General Land Office, acting upon that report, made the order of withdrawal and suspension.

GREATEST LIAR HE EVER SAW.

Untruthful Schmelzer Gets 14 Years in the Penitentiary.

WEISER, Idaho, Oct. 12.—(Special.)—Judge Stewart, of the District Court, today sentenced Ed Schmelzer and Charles Boyle, convicted of grand larceny. Schmelzer was given 14 years and Boyle three. The judge, in sentencing Schmelzer, said he was the most colossal liar that he had ever had experience with in the course of his life. He told Boyle that he believed that he had been led into what he had done by Schmelzer, but, owing to the fact that he had lied on the witness stand, he would give him three years. Schmelzer enticed a man from Oregon to Council, on the pretense of showing him some government land, and then robbed him of all he had.

Gus Hotchkin charged with assault with a deadly weapon in striking Liverman Frank Johnson with a heavy brick bit, fracturing his skull, was found guilty. He will be sentenced Wednesday.

IDAHO WOMEN'S CLUBS.

Second District Federation Opens Convention With Banquet.

NAMPA, Idaho, Oct. 12.—(Special.)—The fourth annual convention of the Second District Federation of Women's Clubs of Idaho, opened this afternoon at the most happy conditions, there being many members of the various clubs present from all over the district. An elaborate banquet, given by the Nampa Century Club this evening. The address of welcome was delivered by Mrs. Frank Estabrook, of Nampa, president of the Federation, and Mrs. W. H. Mansfield, of the Nampa Leader, acted as toastmistress at the banquet. Governor Morrison is expected to be here tomorrow when the regular work of the Federation will begin.

TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS.

Combination of Washington County Lumbermen.

FOREST GROVE, Or., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—A mass meeting of lumbermen of Washington County met in the Council Chamber Saturday afternoon in Forest Grove, and organized the "Washington County Lumbermen's Association." Mayor F. T. Kane was elected chairman and M. W. Patton secretary, and a committee was authorized to appoint a committee, of which he is to be the head, to prepare articles of incorporation. He named Ferdinand Groner, of Klinton; M. W. Patton, of Cornelius, and William E. Johnson, of Forest Grove, as the next meeting will be held here October 31.

The organization is not a pool but in the advance of a combination to protect and advance the lumbering interests. This year's crop of timber is large and the arrangements already made insure a still larger output next season.

MISSOURI RIVER THAT ARE IN THE GREAT FALLS LAND DISTRICT AND TWO TOWNSHIPS IN THE VICINITY OF HIGHWOOD ARE WITHDRAWN FROM ENTRY UNDER THE DESERT LAND LAW; ALL DESERT ENTRIES UPON SUCH LANDS, FOR WHICH PATENTS HAVE NOT BEEN ISSUED, ARE SUSPENDED PENDING INVESTIGATION.

EMBRACED IN THE WITHDRAWAL IS NEARLY ALL THE LAND IN THIS COUNTY THAT LIES SOUTH AND EAST OF THE MISSOURI.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE ORDER OF WITHDRAWAL AFFECTS ABOUT 1,150,000 ACRES, AND THAT WITHIN THAT AREA THERE HAVE BEEN FILINGS UNDER THE DESERT LAND LAW UPON ABOUT 200,000 ACRES.

AT THE REQUEST OF UNITED STATES SENATOR GIBSON, WHO REPORTED TO THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT THAT GROSS FRAUDS HAD BEEN AND WERE BEING COMMITTED IN THIS DISTRICT UNDER THE DESERT LAND LAWS, SPECIAL AGENT CHADWICK WAS RECENTLY SENT TO THIS CITY TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION AND REPORT.

HIS REPORT WAS A SENSATIONAL ONE, SUSTAINING THE PRACTICALLY EVERY CHARGE MADE BY SENATOR GIBSON, AND THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, ACTING UPON THAT REPORT, MADE THE ORDER OF WITHDRAWAL AND SUSPENSION.

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BORING FOR BURIED GOLD

VAST TREASURE CONCEALED IN CORNUCOPIA MOUNTAIN.

Gigantic Mining Enterprise to Be Carried Out With the Aid of Eastern Capital—Deed Filed.

BAKER CITY, Or., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—The deed of the Cornucopia mines property was filed for record with the County Recorder of this county today. It is given by George D. Beatty as trustee in bankruptcy of the John E. Searles estate. The trustee is acting by authority of the United States Court for the Western District of New York, and transfers the property, which includes some 25 claims, to the Cornucopia Mines of Oregon Company for a consideration of \$1,000,000. An attorney in fact, filed the deed for record. Mr. Johns has recently been appointed attorney in fact for this new corporation.

This is destined to be one of the most important deals ever brought to a close in Eastern Oregon, and in a mining way will

started from spontaneous combustion of coal dust, and assumed such proportions that all the miners had to fly for their lives and the job was flooded.

Another job fire of greater proportions broke out here this morning from the same cause. This conflagration is difficult to approach, owing to a large number of caves. All the miners have been warned to get out of the mine as soon as they can. This is very dangerous work, owing to the deadly gases thrown off by the refuse pile.

Interstate Fair Attendance.

SPOKANE, Wash., Oct. 12.—Notwithstanding the fact that the past week has been a bad one for fairs, on account of the rain, the attendance at the Interstate Fair has been remarkably good, nearly equalling that of a year ago, when the weather was fine throughout the week. The exhibits are far ahead of anything seen here before. The remnants of the Jahour Carnival Company are holding forth at the fair, but Mr. Jahour has shaken the dust of the city from his feet. He left early Saturday morning over the Northern Pacific for the East, leaving all of his paraphernalia in the hands of the railroad companies, which hold claims against it amounting to \$5000.

Brilliant Meteor Falls.

ASTORIA, Or., Oct. 12.—A brilliant meteor darted across the Northern sky here Saturday night and struck the earth at a point north of Port Columbia. The meteor seemed about twice the size of a street light and had a tail apparently 12 or 14 yards in length. As it darted across the heavens balls of fire fell from it, flickered for a moment and then were lost in the night. The brilliant phenomenon was remarkable in the extreme.

Long Terms for Robbers.

LA GRANDE, Or., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—J. H. McNamara, who robbed a man in broad daylight in La Grande a few days ago, was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary by a jury at Union yesterday. William Jones, a negro, who robbed Cardiner's residence at La Grande a few months ago, was sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary.

All Bids Rejected.

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Small Delinquent Tax List.

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They Lose, but Are Satisfied.

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Penitentiary Quarterly Report.

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"Bonnie Johnson" May Recover.

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High Court of Foresters Assembles.

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Steward Accused of Forgery.

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Hotels at Milton, while she fled hurriedly to a train. Of the young man with her she refuses to make any mention. The whole case is mysterious, but so far the police have found nothing to warrant them in holding the pair, whom they believe to be eloping.

The woman says her reason for deserting Cutts is that he has twice beaten her severely since their marriage.

Colfax Bowlers Win.

COLFAX, Wash., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—Colfax won the bowling match with Palouse City last night by a score of 2940 to 2361. The Colfax team took four games straight, and allowed Palouse the fifth and last game of the series. The match was watched with interest by a large crowd. The Colfax team was composed of Davenport, Baker, Reid and Markwell. The Palouse team consisted of Boone, Johnson, Patton and Flint. A return game at Palouse will be played in the near future. The highest score was made by Jesse Markwell in the third, when he secured 199 points. There was but 60 between the highest and lowest scores of the four Colfax bowlers.

Coal Mine Burning.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Oct. 12.—A serious coal fire broke out in No. 4 Long Wall Cumberland collieries Sunday night. It started from spontaneous combustion of coal dust, and assumed such proportions that all the miners had to fly for their lives and the job was flooded.

Another job fire of greater proportions broke out here this morning from the same cause.

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Deserter Escapes.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Oct. 12.—(Special.)—Last night, Private Frank M. Miller, a general prisoner from unassigned cavalry, held at this post for desertion, escaped from the guardhouse by cutting a hole in the roof and then lowering himself to the ground by using his bedding as a rope. No trace of the escape has been found.

Whateam and San Juan Teachers.

WHATCOMB, Wash., Oct. 12.—Three hundred teachers from this and San Juan Counties are here in attendance on the 42d annual county institute. Professor Richard Boone, principal of the Cincinnati public schools and editor of Education, is the leading instructor.

A Bandmaster, a Bottle and a King.

Recently a curious incident occurred at Weingarten, on the shore of Lake Constance. An infantry regiment was in garrison there, and one evening the bandmaster, finding time hanging heavily on his hands, strolled down to the lake in search of adventure. The first thing he saw was a bottle, and, picking it up, he placed in it a leaf which he had torn from his pocketbook and on which he had written a few words. Then he corked the bottle and threw it into the lake. What he had written on the leaf was a request that any one who might find the bottle would send him a postal card, notifying him of the fact.

Some days later a postal card reached him, and on it were these words in German: "I found the bottle and gladly comply with your request.—William II, King of Wurtemberg."