

BACK FROM THE TOUR OF STATE

Leave Smiling Valleys of the South.

PLEASED WITH THEIR TRIP

Pay Glowing Tribute to Southern Oregon.

WHOLE-SOULED WELCOME

Cities of the Willamette, the Rogue River and the Umpqua Prove Their Attractiveness to the Men of Portland.

They're back. After completing another tour, made solely in the interests of a Greater Oregon, the Portland business men returned home last night. The special train bearing the 81 enthusiastic Oregon boosters, who have made a tour along the lines of the Southern Pacific in this state, visiting more than four score of cities, arrived in Portland at about 10:45 o'clock in the evening. It was a tired lot of men who disembarked from the special train last night after it had pulled into Portland, but from all appearances all were fresh and hearty as their enthusiasm over their splendid and successful journey was so great as to hide all signs of fatigue. Not until they had separated and gone to their respective homes did they realize how exhausted they were from the long and arduous trip.

Getting Acquainted in Oregon.

Up until almost the very last minute, the Portland business men were busy getting better acquainted with their Oregon neighbors, the last stop being made at Hillsboro, where they were given a rousing and soul-stirring reception by the citizens of that thriving town. As the train steamed out of Hillsboro and they were given time to reflect upon the incidents of the trip, the magnitude of the success of the excursion dawned upon them. From one end of the train to the other they journeyed mingling with one another and talking over the many pleasurable events.

All Were Enthusiastic.

Everyone was enthusiastic and all were glad that they had made the trip. Just before the train reached the suburbs of Portland the excursionists gathered in the day coach to have a final meeting and to say good-bye to one another. H. M. Calk, president of the Commercial Club, made an address to the assemblage in which he took occasion to thank H. L. Pittcock, manager of the Oregonian, and chairman of the excursion. In eulogistic terms for the great aid he had given in organizing the party he called upon the assemblage for resolutions of thanks to Mr. Pittcock, which were unanimously adopted. Mr. Pittcock responded in a short address in which he said he had good will towards everybody and that his great purpose and desire was to serve the business interests and the people of Portland and of Oregon at large. Other informal addresses were made and several other resolutions were passed, among which was one thanking the great aid he had given in organizing the excursion to a successful and a brilliant issue.

Give Final Handshake.

There was a final and general handshake as the train stopped at Fourth and Yamhill streets, where most of the passengers left it. Although they were delighted to get home, it was with a feeling of regret over the breaking up of such a happy and jolly family that the excursionists left the coaches which had carried them through the cities of Southern and Western Oregon. It was with evident pleasure that various members of the party consented to talk when approached by an interviewer, so anxious were they to say something good about the trip. There were many of them who voiced the sentiment that this excursion had been so eminently successful that similar excursions should be taken in the future.

"The kindness and good will with which we were received at every place was evidence that the slogan 'United Oregon' had preceded the coming of the party and that the spirit of the movement met the hearty concurrence of the communities visited," said A. L. Craig, general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific lines in Oregon. "I certainly believe that a good start has been made for a 'United Oregon,' and that repetition of similar trips at reasonable intervals cannot fail to induce that unity of action which is so essential to the welfare of Oregon."

Tom Richardson Delighted.

"Oh, it's fine; it's simply great," remarked Tom Richardson, secretary of the Commercial Club, with his customary wealth of enthusiasm, when asked as to his opinion of the trip. "At every place we visited we were met by the representative business men of the community, and at times it looked as though the whole town was down to bid us welcome. We must have seen more than 10,000 school children on the trip down at the various depots, to take part in the receptions given us. The kindest feeling was in evidence and was expressed everywhere. The excursion cannot be otherwise than vast-

ly beneficial to Portland and Oregon, and moreover, it is of such character as to be of lasting benefit."

"The excursion has unquestionably been of great good to Portland and Oregon," said H. L. Pittcock. "In fact, it has been tremendously successful, and surpassed my most sanguine expectations. I think we some time ought to make a trip to Astoria, and a trip to Baker City and other Eastern Oregon cities. These splendid excursions should be repeated each year."

Just a Neighborly Visit.

"There were no Portland men transacting business on the trip, as before we left it was thoroughly understood that it was for the purpose of socially meeting our Oregon neighbors," said Samuel Connel, president and manager of the Northwest Door Company. "We approached them that way, and were received in the same spirit. It has been a greater success than any of us anticipated. We have learned a good deal about Oregon and they have learned a good deal about Portland. The business men we met at the other towns and ourselves are convinced that our interests are mutual."

"The expression is that the excursion has been of great and permanent benefit to Oregon, and of course Portland is included in it," said Dr. Andrew Smith. "It has done much to dispel the unfounded impression many cities have had that Portland is disposed to appropriate everything to herself, which is entirely foreign to our business men. Portland knows her future depends upon the increased population and prosperity of the other Oregon cities. The increase of population and capital, if properly disseminated, will result secondarily in the increase of the size and wealth of Portland."

JEFFERSON IS NEAT CITY.

City Has Well-Kept Streets and Tasteful Houses.

JEFFERSON, Or., Nov. 17.—(Special)—The stay of the Portland business men's excursion was for only 15 minutes. The Jefferson band turned out and everybody in town was at the station. Many Portland business people said that they had a better impression of Jefferson than of any other small town they had seen. The neat appearance of the public streets and the tasteful and well-painted houses attracted favorable comment from all. Jefferson is in line with the scheme for a greater Oregon.

The train spent only ten minutes at Turner, but it was long enough for the business men here to show that they were very glad to see the Portland people.

SCHOOL CHILDREN LINE WAY

Lebanon Paper Mills Are Objects of Interest to Pilgrims.

LEBANON, Or., Nov. 17.—(Special)—The Portland business men's excursion came to this city at 9:30 o'clock this morning, having made the run from Albany on schedule time. Hon. C. B. Montague delivered an address of welcome, which abounded in witty-sallies and humorous comment. H. M. Calk and C. W. Hodson responded in eloquent terms for the visitors. The arrival here of the excursionists was made a great occasion. The citizens turned out en masse, school was dismissed, and everybody made it his business to see that the guests felt at home and were duly informed as to the present healthy condition of all of Lebanon's industries. The visitors marched to the town from the station between files of cheering school children. Among other things that made a special object of interest was the Lebanon paper mill. The stay was only for 45 minutes, but during that time there was opportunity to show that Lebanon accords with Portland in the great purpose of building up the State of Oregon.

STUDENTS STEAL THE YELL

Corvallis Welcomes Business Men With Their Own Slogan.

CORVALLIS, Or., Nov. 17.—(Special)—A "United Oregon" was the keynote and

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TAKES NEW VIEW OF UMATILLA

Hitchcock Prepares to Approve Rejected Irrigation Projects.

HAD TAKEN BAD ADVICE

Walcott Removes Objections to Umatilla, Okanogan and Sunnyside Schemes—Malheur Plan Is Called a Steal.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 17.—Secretary Hitchcock is preparing to reverse himself and approve the Umatilla irrigation project in Eastern Oregon, as well as one or more projects in Washington. This, at least, is the inference to be drawn from an authorized statement made at his office today to the effect that action on the Umatilla project would be taken some time next week which would be satisfactory to the people of Oregon, and that similar action was to be looked for on one or more Washington projects. It is not known at this time what Washington projects will be approved, further than that the choice will lie among the Tieton, Okanogan and Sunnyside schemes, all of which have been favorably recommended by the Reclamation Service.

This announcement from the Secretary's office was made after a conference between Mr. Hitchcock and Director Walcott, of the Geological Survey, who is the intermediary between the Secretary and the Reclamation Service. This afternoon Mr. Walcott returned to the Secretary all papers bearing on the Umatilla, Okanogan and Tieton projects and, in addition to the original recommendations, submitted unanswerable arguments showing that all these projects are not only feasible and desirable, but that there is no feature about them to which objection can legitimately be raised.

No Ground of Objection.

As far as the Umatilla project is concerned, Mr. Walcott not only pointed out where money was available for its immediate construction, but showed that there was no ground whatever for the Secretary's objection to allowing the Maxwell Land & Irrigation Company to hold 300 acres with water rights out of 12,000 acres which it proposes to sell. It was demonstrated beyond a question of doubt that such a concession can legally be made to this company, inasmuch as its rights are vested and it is willing to relinquish to the Government the major portion of its land and improvements. This showing completely demolished the Secretary's objection. As to the Tieton and Okanogan projects, which the Secretary refused to approve simply because there was no money available, Mr. Walcott was able to make an equally effective argument, showing that in fact there is ample money on hand in the unexpended Palouse appropriation to build not only these two projects, but the Sunnyside project as well, and Mr. Walcott, it is understood, went to the extent of recommending to the Secretary that he approve all three projects.

Precedents Against Rejection.

Mr. Hitchcock sided against the Sunnyside project for the same reasons that he declined to approve the Umatilla project in Oregon, the owners of the Sunnyside canal having insisted upon retaining a small portion of their property with water rights attached. It was pointed out to Mr. Hitchcock that he himself had approved several big irrigation projects in which owners of private irrigation systems were permitted to retain more than 100 acres when they came in under the Government project. In one instance the Secretary, though he had forgotten it, recognized vested rights of one such company to the extent of allowing it to hold 12,000 acres with water under one Government project. Such arguments were unanswerable and Mr. Walcott left nothing on which the Secretary could base further objection, and the official announcement, which followed this conference indicates that results are as follows.

Acted on Bad Advice.

In point of fact, Mr. Hitchcock, shortly after taking adverse action on the Umatilla, Tieton and Okanogan projects, saw that he had acted on bad advice, and realized that his position would become untenable. He saw that he had made a blunder which would have to be rectified, and he has cautiously been feeling his way back to solid ground. He is not yet ready to take the final leap, but is preparing for it, and, when he does, Oregon and Washington will benefit. Incidentally it might be mentioned that the men who gave the Secretary bad counsel have heard from it, and have been warned to display more intelligence and common sense in the future.

Calls Malheur a Steal.

Just what plan will be evolved when the Secretary approves the Umatilla and other projects is not known. Inasmuch as he styles the Malheur project a "steal," it is to be presumed he will divert a portion of the Malheur allotment for use in constructing the Umatilla project. He may also divert money from the Palouse allotment for use in constructing whatever new projects may be authorized in Washington.

Notwithstanding that Mr. Hitchcock early this week gave interviews in which he denied that the Tieton and Okanogan projects had been held up because of shortage of money, that was the real reason for refusing to approve both projects, and was part of the reason ascribed for adverse action on Umatilla. Notwithstanding statements made to the contrary, there has never been any question as to the feasibility of any of these projects since they were recommended by the Reclamation Service.

NO HURRY TO FILL VACANCY

Lewisland Land Office May Be Closed for Some Time.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 17.—Indications are that Secretary Hitchcock will not hurry the appointment of a successor to Register West of the Lewisland Land Office, who was removed yesterday. There has been so much fraud in the Lewisland land district, which has passed under the very noses of the officials, that it is believed no injury will result if land business in Northern Idaho is held up for a time.

Senator Heyburn has not been requested to recommend any one to succeed West and may not receive such request immediately.

Major Langfit's New Duty.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 17.—Major W. C. Langfit, ex-district engineer at Portland and now on duty as assistant to the chief of engineers, was today assigned to additional duty as instructor at the Army War College in this city.

Reid Coming Home for Christmas.

LONDON, Nov. 17.—Whiteley Reid, the American Ambassador, will spend the Christmas holidays in America, leaving England early in December. Mrs. and Miss Reid will accompany Mr. Reid.

NOTE TO DECIDE FATE OF STRIKE

Russian Workmen Will Determine Question by Referendum Vote.

FORCES OF ORDER RALLY.

Reds Strive to Hold Men in Line, While Moderates Form Law and Order Party—Moscow Refuses Its Aid.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 18.—(U.S.A. M.)—Though, according to surface indications yesterday, the outlook for the speedy ending of the strike was gloomy, the revelations made at a meeting last night of the Council of Workmen's Delegates showed that a large portion of the workmen were breaking loose from the control of the leaders and were anxious to return to work, and a plebiscite, which will be taken today in the various factories, probably will result in a decision to abandon the strike Monday.

At the meeting of the council, which was held in the hall where Father Gapon, Maxim Gorky and other leaders denounced the Emperor on the evening of January 22 ("Red Sunday"), delegate after delegate from different factories arose and reported that the workmen, under the influence of the ultimatum issued by the employers, announcing that the factories would be shut down indefinitely unless work was resumed on Monday, and with the pleading of their wives and of the conservative workmen ringing in their ears, were demanding that the strike should be ended.

Hot Debate Between Factious.

This precipitated a hotly-contested debate between the moderates, who declared that the strike in the first instance was a strategic mistake and that it would be a grave error in tactics to attempt to force the men to remain in line, and the "last ditch" faction, especially the unattached delegates who are members of the council by virtue of their membership in Socialist organizations. One fiery speaker, who, in order to be better seen and heard, mounted the balcony from which Father Gapon in disguise had delivered his last address in that hall, thundered his denunciation of those who wished to discontinue the struggle.

"Even if we cannot continue the strike until the purposes for which it was called are attained," he said, "let us not abandon it without inflicting a real blow on the government. A three-day strike is a mere pin-prick in the hides of the crafty fox, Witte, and his followers, so let us keep it up for a fortnight. The men in other factories of St. Petersburg are daily joining us; our delegates are closing the pharmacies and the railroad tie-up is complete. What a figure we will cut in the eyes of our brothers outside of St. Petersburg if, before they have had the opportunity of acting on our appeal, they hear that we have laid down our arms!"

After a long discussion, a motion to call off the strike was rejected, and it was decided to call meetings of workmen in the factories today for the purpose of laying the situation before them and to abide by their decision.

The leaders, however, were determined not to permit the strike to die without a final great demonstration of their power

BUDD AND CLUNIE ARE INVOLVED

Insurance Inquiry Touches California.

IMPOSSIBLE DEMANDS MADE

Equitable's Lawyer Settled With Two Officials.

DEPEW FORGETS FRIEND

Can't Recall Name of "Rambunctious" Man Who Came Around Once a Year—Jordan Is Still Missing.

NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—With the end of the morning session today, Senator Armstrong's committee on insurance investigation finished a week's service which has not been eclipsed since the investigation was inaugurated. The witnesses have been the most important, including the "big guns" in the financial world, as well as in the insurance business. Early in the week James H. Hyde was examined and made charges against E. H. Harriman and Governor Odell, who successively appeared and denied Mr. Hyde's statements and Mr. Hyde, being recalled, affirmed his testimony. Then Senator Chauncey M. Depew was heard and, when the session opened, it was expected that before the day was over, Senator Platt would be called. He is wanted to testify as to the collection of contributions to political funds by the insurance companies. Mr. Odell having testified yesterday that Mr. Platt collected all such moneys up to last year. It is now expected that the Senator will be heard early next week, possibly on Tuesday, when the session will be resumed.

Helped Up in California.

Samuel S. McCurdy, assistant registrar of the Equitable and not related to the McCurdys of the Mutual Life, said he had charge of the vouchers for legal services. From him was gleaned a story of trouble in California in 1897, when the Insurance Commissioners of that state demanded an investigation. Thousands of dollars were spent by the Equitable in this matter, as recounted by Mr. McCurdy, and he justified the expenditure on the ground that it would have cost the Equitable about \$40,000 had no defense been made, hence the expenditure for counsel. He seemed to think the demands of the California Commissioners were exorbitant.

Mr. Depew was called to give any information he might possess as to a number of vouchers for legal services, but his knowledge in the matter was rather limited and many of the expenditures and signers of these vouchers he had never heard of. One voucher to John A. Nichols for legal services was accompanied by a letter to Mr. Depew, referring to "our friend who comes around once a year" and "your rambunctious friend up the river." The Senator said he knew Nichols had been retained at different times by the Equitable, but he did not know in what connection. Mr. Nichols, he said, was once quarantine commissioner and used to be active in politics.

Gage E. Tarbell was on the stand when adjournment until Tuesday was taken.

Jordan Still Among Missing.

Frank B. Jordan, son of the ex-controller of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, was the first witness. He had testified at a previous session that he did not know the whereabouts of his father or mother, and that he did not know whether they were living or dead. Today he said, he had not since learned of his father's whereabouts. He had received a letter from his mother, who is in Canada. She said nothing about his father. As to his profits from fire insurance written on properties mortgaged to the Equitable, he said his father received none of them. He had no idea what proportion of his business the Equitable furnished him.

Samuel S. McCurdy, assistant registrar of the Equitable Society, was next called. He had formerly been secretary to Secretary William Alexander, of the Society. As assistant registrar, he had custody of vouchers for money paid out for legal expenses. He produced the vouchers for such expenses for the last ten years. On the vouchers for 1896 was a letter to James W. Alexander from Robert H. McCurdy, of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, which accompanied a bill for the Equitable's share of salary and expenses of George S. Batcheller as "temporary legal representative" of the Equitable Society, the New York Life Insurance Company, and the Mutual Life Insurance Company. The salary of Mr. Batcheller from this combination was given in a statement as \$77,700. It was brought out that Mr. Batcheller's duties took him abroad.

Services Rendered in Missouri.

The packages of vouchers for payment for legal services in various State Legislatures were gone through by Mr. Hughes, who asked as to the legal services rendered by the signers of the various vouchers.

A voucher from James M. Lewis, dated January 27, 1898, was for \$1000, "in full

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YESTERDAY.—Maximum temperature, 53 deg.; minimum, 28. Precipitation, 0.21 of an inch.

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MANY NOTABLES, AMONG THEM THESE, GREETED THE BUSINESS MEN FROM PORTLAND

