

FAIR CHANCE FOR AN ASSAY OFFICE

Senator Fulton has Convinced the Treasury Department of Its Advisability.

REPORT TO BE FAVORABLE

Letter to Chairman Aldrich, of the Finance Committee, Gives a Clear Presentation of the Necessity for Passing Bill.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 11.—Senator Fulton is working to secure to secure passage of his bill to establish an assay office at Portland. This is not a new bill in Congress; the late Senator Mitchell had similar bills in practically every Congress of which he was a member, but little progress was ever made, because the Treasury Department has been opposed to it.

Senator Fulton, however, has convinced the department that it is advisable, from many points of view, to establish an assay office at Portland, and he has promise of a favorable report on his bill, something that has never before been obtained. Such a report will do much to aid in the passage of the bill, but it will be necessary to enlist the support of Congressmen from neighboring states in order to get the bill through the House.

Letter to Chairman Aldrich.

Senator Fulton, in a letter to Chairman Aldrich, of the finance committee, pointed out the necessity for passing his assay office bill. In this letter he said:

Referring to the bill "to establish an assay office at Portland, Or.," now pending before your committee, I wish to present to you briefly the reasons why I think the bill should be favorably reported and passed. It will probably be less convenient to you and the committee for me to present my reasons in writing, rather than appear before the committee in person, and I therefore adopt the former course.

At present there are assay offices for the Western states at Helena, Mont.; Boise, Idaho; Seattle, Wash., and Carson City, Nev., with branch mints where gold is received, as at assay offices, in San Francisco and Denver.

"The production of the precious metals in a few of these states for the year 1904 was:

	Gold, ounces.	Silver, ounces.
Montana	248,600	18,877,520
Idaho	10,800	1,140,000
Washington	15,833	1,432,570
Oregon	1,600	150,000

The Helena, Mont., assay office received in 1904 but 13,374 ounces of gold and 26,464 ounces of silver, the total being valued at \$1,200,000. The Boise assay office received during that time 27,464 ounces of gold and 13,500 ounces of silver. The Seattle, Wash., office received during the same period 1,062,235 ounces of gold and 13,323 ounces of silver.

Receipts From Home Territory.

The receipts at the respective assay offices from local or home territory in 1904 are claimed by the director by the following: Helena's office received but 33,344 ounces from the state of Montana and 20,425 ounces of silver; Boise's office received from Idaho mines but 2,111 ounces of gold and very little silver; Seattle's assay office received from Washington mines but 475 ounces of gold and 26 ounces of silver. All of the remainder of the bullion received at these offices was shipped from outside the states in which the offices are situated, and nearly all of the difference between 475 ounces of gold (the home product) and 1,062,235 ounces (the total bullion handled) at Seattle came from the Alaskan country.

All of the Oregon territory would naturally ship bullion to an assay office at Portland, because of the convenience in time and distance and the arrangement of transportation lines. A Portland assay office also has equal access to the Puget Sound country in securing the gold and silver from Eastern Washington, and Northern Idaho, as the Oregon city in the shipping port for much of the products of the country. All of the Western Oregon district at present has to ship bullion 400 to 600 miles whereas the distance would be 100 to 200, if a Portland assay office were established in the Eastern Oregon district is able to reach Portland in nearly as short a route as its gold now traverses in reaching Boise. There is another gold-producing section of importance which may properly be classed as much Portland territory as it is any other, namely Shasta and Siskiyou Counties, the principal gold districts of Oregon. The distance from these districts to Portland with a less railway haul than to San Francisco.

Business for Portland Office.

As stated, a Portland assay office would naturally receive the Oregon production of gold and silver bullion, the total of which in 1904 was 63,888 ounces of gold and 1,313,375 ounces of silver. This would insure the new office 6000 ounces of gold and 100,000 ounces of silver more than were handled at the Boise assay office from all sources in 1904, and within 50,000 ounces as much gold and 1,000,000 ounces more silver, than were received at the Helena office in the same period. The Seattle office, by receiving all of the local production, can get from this source but a total of 13,323 ounces of gold and 26,526 ounces of silver.

LONGWORTH IS ON MEND

Finance of Miss Roosevelt Will Probably Be Out Today.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Representative Longworth, of Ohio, who has been suffering from an attack of tonsillitis, was much improved today. Tonight he attended a dinner with the members of the household. He will probably be able to go tomorrow if the weather continues favorable.

Gift From King of Italy.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Of rare value and beauty is the gift of the King of Italy to Miss Roosevelt upon the occasion of her marriage. It is a table of Italian mosaic work, showing designs from Italian cities and towns. The table was made in Florence and was personally selected by the King.

ARMED TROOPERS TO KEEP ORDER

Pennsylvania Provides Body of Picked Men Against Time of the Coal Strike.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 11.—(Special.)—When the great coal strike comes on April 1 the miners will find themselves confronted by a new kind of foe.

VERY LIKE ROUGH RIDERS

Americans Only Are Chosen Who Can Ride Like Centaurs, Shoot Straight and Are Trained for Task Ahead of Them.

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EVENTS OF THE COMING WEEK.

Assembling of Parliament.

The coronation attendant upon the assembling of the new British Parliament will be somewhat clouded by the fact that the court is in mourning for King Christian of Denmark, whose burial is to take place Sunday, February 12.

Funeral of King Christian.

An almost unprecedented gathering of the crowned heads of Europe will be present at the burial of King Christian. The deep sorrow at his death has found expression in every language, and the nations will send representatives to pay their last respects.

Insurrection of French President.

Charles Armand Fallieres, eighth President of the third French Republic, will take over the reins of government, becoming the ruling executive in France February 18.

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