

REPORTS FILED WITH GOVERNOR Oregon Railroad Commission Makes Its First Annual Statement. HAS NO RECOMMENDATIONS Resolves to Withhold Suggestions Until Legislative Year—Interesting Statistics As to Construction and Operation Given.

Fifty-five and one-half miles of new railroad was built in Oregon during the year closing last night. The longest piece of new track is 14.24 miles, built by the Malheur Valley Railway Company from Malheur to Vale. The remainder of the new construction consists of small pieces of track, part of which was built by logging roads. The total railway mileage in the state is now 2120.2 miles.

No recommendations are made in the report, the Commission deeming it best to withhold recommendations until the next legislative year. The report says in this connection: "In view of the fact that there will be no regular session of the Legislature until the fall of 1908, and also that the Railroad Commission act has been in effect a comparatively short time, we think it advisable not to make recommendations as to amendment of the railroad laws of the state until our next annual report."

However, under the heading of depots, the report has the following to say: "We wish to call especial attention to the generally run-down and inferior condition of the depot buildings at most of the important stations in this state. The contrast between the fine, new depots erected by the Oregon Short Line Railroad Company, at Nampa, Caldwell, Ontario, Payette and other points, and the depots at other lines in the state is almost painful."

Of railroad accidents during the year the report discloses that this state has had its share. Eleven collisions, seven derailments and 99 accidents from other causes are reported, resulting in the killing of 48 people, of whom only two were passengers, and the serious injury of 100 others. Nine persons were killed who walked on railroad tracks and there were nine more fatalities from trains and cars. The report says: "Careful analysis shows that the great majority of all the casualties scheduled were due directly to the want of care on the part of the person injured or of some railroad employe. The 11 collisions, resulting in seven deaths and 16 injuries, it would seem, could have been prevented had the rules of the railroad company been observed."

Despite the belief, at the time the law was passed, that the reciprocal demurrage act would prove a long-expected remedy for the annual car shortage on Oregon roads, the report shows it has not been resorted to a single time by individuals anxious to obtain cars, through the failure of the railroads to supply cars.

Complaints filed during the year with the Commission numbering 174. Thirty matters docketed as complaints were investigations undertaken by the Commission on its own initiative. The railroads filed 23 applications during the year for permission to make rate changes effective on less than the statutory period of notice, and six being requests for rulings on provisions of the Commission act. Of the 23 matters docketed during the year, 204 have been disposed of, leaving 23 pending.

MAKE CHEAP FARES TO SALEM Complete passenger tariffs have been made over the Oregon Electric Railway, the new interurban line between Portland and Salem. Attractive rates for commuters have been established that will make a fare of \$1 between the two points. This ticket will be a family one, good for a certain number of rides and may be used by any member of a family within 30 days, providing a 2-cent fare for the 50-mile ride, and one cent for the remainder. Week-end tickets will also be provided, good going Saturday night and returning Monday at the same point on the line on a 2-cent basis. Thousand-mile mileage books will be sold, good for one year, on a 24-cent a mile basis.

One-way rates between Portland and Tigardville will be 25 cents, to Tualatin 35 cents, West Woodburn \$1, Salem \$1.50. Round-trip tickets to Tigardville will be 45 cents, to Tualatin 65 cents, West Woodburn \$1.80, Salem \$2.25. The new passenger rates will be effective today. It is General Manager Talbot's plan to maintain an elastic schedule of rates so that when the line is put into full operation rates may be adjusted as the traffic demands. The rates all along the line are considerably less than those maintained by the Southern Pacific.

Ten trains a day in each direction will be operated over the new line as soon as the roads are down to a good running basis. Part of these trains will be limited and the others local.

New Trade Territory Opens Today. An entirely new trade territory will be opened today to Portland business interests by the putting into effect of a new tariff from Portland stations to points on the Spokane International Railway, to Yank, B. C., where it connects with the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. This is a general class and commodity tariff naming new rates between Portland, East Portland, Albina and St. John and the Spokane International railway, via the O. R. & N. The basis of rates is lower than applies to that territory from Puget Sound and offers an attractive field for Portland jobbers. It is expected that Portland interests will do a fine business in this new field.

Held on Assault Charge. S. E. Evans, a farmer well known east of the Sandy River, charged with assault by his daughter, Mrs. Edith Wade, was bound over to the grand jury yesterday afternoon in the East Side Justice Court in the sum of \$10,000. Mrs. Wade told her story on the witness stand in a straightforward way,

and could not be shaken by the rigid cross-examination to which she was subjected by J. A. Logan, attorney for Evans. Her story was a shocking recital. A diary kept by Evans, showing his unnatural relations with his daughter, was submitted by the prosecution. No testimony was submitted by the attorney for defense. Mrs. Wade is 26 years old and has two children. Her husband left her some time ago. Evans could not give bail and was locked up.

PIONEER WOMAN EXPIRES Mrs. A. Scherneckan, Aged 88, Dies From Heart Trouble.

One of Oregon's pioneer women was added to the roll of the absent yesterday through the death of Mrs. A. Scherneckan at St. Vincent's Hospital, where she had been ill for the past month with heart trouble. Of late years Mrs. Scherneckan was a resident of Astoria with her husband, who survives her, and they were well known throughout the state by the town of Shaniko, in Wasco County, having been named after this family.

Mr. and Mrs. Scherneckan were both natives of Germany. They married in their native land in 1863, coming to the United States in 1870 and settling near The Dalles in 1871. Later they moved to Shaniko, which was then known as Cross Hollows. In later years when the Columbia Southern Railroad came through, the station was named after Scherneckan, which was commonly called Shaniko and has since given the phonetic spelling it now has.

In 1889, after a successful career as a merchant and stock raiser, Mr. Scherneckan retired from business and the family moved to Astoria, where they have resided ever since. Mrs. Scherneckan had nearly completed her 88th year. She leaves no children and has no relatives in this country. She was a daughter of the Relief Corps of the Grand Army, her husband being a veteran of the Civil War. Funeral services will be held tomorrow at Hoffman's chapel.

VICTIM OF HIGH FINANCE On Kee Bounced in Laundry Deal by His Cousin.

On Kee, a Chinaman, arrested yesterday afternoon for violation of city ordinance 14663, by running a laundry without a license, at 311 Couch street, told a tale of confidence betrayed. "Wing Ching him runned laundry but him heep avevay hi Melican finance. Him sellee one laundry. Tellee me gottee licen for fee months. Him say heep good fend to me clause in his cousin of mine, now me heep gottee stung. Gottee pay fine, gottee pay licen too. Me gettee Wing Ching allested."

Wing Ching was formerly proprietor of the laundry and the warrant had been made out in his name but when the officer came to the place On Kee said he had just bought it so he was arrested. Complaint was made against Wing Ching and the police will try to locate him thought On Kee said he feared that he had skipped away.

STEAMER BREAKWATER Will Not Sail Tonight. The steamer Breakwater will not sail on regular schedule Wednesday, January 1st (tonight) but will be delayed one week, leaving Oak street dock January 8th, at 8 P. M.

Steamer Montara Arrives. The steamship Montara, under charter to the San Francisco and Portland Steamship Company, has arrived in the city from San Francisco. She will begin loading at the Alsworth dock tomorrow. The Montara has been chartered to help out the Senator, the Costa Rica and the City of Panama, which have been handling the work for some time. The Montara was formerly the old collier Willamette.

One Out of Five Mistif. ALBANY, Or., Dec. 31.—(Special).—For every five marriage licenses issued in Lane County during 1907, one divorce complaint was filed. There were 19 permits to wed granted and 36 suits for divorce were instituted.

BREAK ALL RECORDS December Exports of Wheat Set a New Mark.

INCREASE IN SIX MONTHS For First Half of Fiscal Year Exports Are in Excess of Any Similar Period in the History of Portland—Waterfront News.

December ended yesterday and with it closed the first half of the cereal year. For the month of December the record for wheat and flour exports was broken and for the six months of the fiscal year the showing made was far in advance of anything so far recorded for the Port of

Table with 4 columns: Month, Flour, Wheat, Lumber. Rows for 1907-1908 and 1906-1907.

Portland. Total exports for the period amounted in value to \$3,128,448 and the quantity of wheat ran considerable in excess of 5,000,000 bushels. Over a corresponding period of last year the increase in value amounts to \$2,448,797 and the excess of grain amounts to more than 2,000,000 bushels. December 1907 beat the corresponding month of last year in all exports. Flour shipments are in advance by a large figure. Since July 1 the number of vessels which have cleared foreign with cargo, numbers 67 crafts. The percentage of steamships is considerably greater than during the same period of last season and the tonnage of all class of vessels is larger. During the first six months of the season of 1906-7 less than 60 vessels cleared foreign and the tonnage was less by several thousand tons than for this season.

Portland's shipping has broken the record in more ways than one. The amount of tonnage enroute and listed by far the largest the port has ever known. The number of vessels in port has been a record breaker for more than six weeks past. During the latter part of November there were 43 sailing crafts in the harbor with an aggregate tonnage in excess of \$5,000. All vessels were under charter. At the present time the number of grain carriers in port is so great that anchorage at St. John is now a necessity.

Table with 3 columns: Name, From, Date. Lists ship arrivals and departures.

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Had it not been for the freshet in the Willamette River, the December shipments of grain from Portland would have reached a figure far in excess of the 3,000,000 mark. Two cargoes have finished but did not clear. They would have raised the export figures for wheat to

a point well past the 3,000,000 figure. They are the French bark Marthe Roux and the British ship Windsor Park. Shipping from Portland has, not suffered as much this season as last from car shortage, coal famine, etc. The railroad companies have supplied all the grain possible and exporters have had no cause to complain. In the harbor at the present time there is a large number of vessels and there is sufficient wheat in sight to warrant quick dispatch of every one of them.

A number of vessels were diverted to Puget Sound, which were on the route to Portland. This was due to the crowded condition of the local harbor. In a large measure this detracted from the outward records of Portland and added to those of the Sound.

SEATTLE SERVICE CUT DOWN Steamer President Is Laid Up for Repairs at San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—A weekly service from this port to Seattle is to be inaugurated by the Pacific Coast Steamship Company and will remain in force during the remainder of the winter. The service is to be in place of the more frequent movements of the company's steamers to the coast. The sailing of the City of Puebla will be postponed until Friday and thereafter that steamer and the Governor will be employed on the route, leaving every Friday morning at 11 o'clock. The steamer President, now undergoing repairs, will, it is said, be laid up indefinitely. W. H. Allison, the newly appointed marine superintendent of the company, will enter upon his duties tomorrow.

Annie Comings Total Wreck. At an early hour yesterday morning there was not a vestige of wreckage from the steamer Annie Comings, which was sunk Monday night by collision with the French bark Europe, above the surface of the water. The after end of the disabled craft is reported to have gone adrift and proceeded down the river, bottom up.

Marine Notes. The steamship Breakwater will sail for Coos Bay points this evening. The steamer Costa Rica is scheduled to sail from San Francisco at noon today for Portland. The Glenelvan began loading yesterday afternoon. She was moved from the O. C. Walnut St. Columbia No. 1. The steamer Senator sailed for San Francisco last night with a full cargo of freight and a number of passengers. The British ship Claverdon shifted from the Southern Pacific dock to Montgomery yesterday afternoon and will begin loading in the morning.

Arrivals and Departures. PORTLAND, Dec. 31.—Arrived—Steamship Hanael, from San Francisco; steamship San Pedro, from San Pedro; steamship Rosanoke, from San Pedro. Sailed—Steamship R. D. Inman, for San Francisco; Astoria, Dec. 31.—Condition of the bar at 2 P. M.—Moderate snow wind, 20 miles; weather, cloudy. Arrived at 8:25 A. M. and left up at 11 A. M.—Steamer Hanael, from San Francisco. Arrived at 8:30 A. M.—Steamer San Gabriel, from Umpqua River. Arrived at 9:45 A. M. and left up at 1:50 A. M.—Steamer Montara, from San Francisco. Arrived down at 12 noon—British steamer Herm.

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Arrived at 11 P. M. last night—Steamer Geo. W. Elder, from Portland. Brisbane, Dec. 31.—Arrived previously—Aorangi, from Vancouver, via Honolulu, for Sydney. Fremantle, Dec. 31.—Arrived previously—Bramley, from Portland, via Newcastle, etc. Kobe, Dec. 31.—Arrived—Wanzard, from Tacoma and Seattle, via Yokohama. Auckland, Dec. 31.—Sailed—Den of Ruthven, for Vancouver. San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Arrived—Steamer Pina, from Newcastle, Aus.; bark Edwars, from Newcastle, Aus.; bark Edwars, for Hongkong and Yokohama, via Honolulu. Tacoma, Dec. 31.—Sailed—Steamer Fitzclarence, Br., for Port Pierre.

Tides at Astoria Wednesday. High. 10:25 A. M., 9.6 feet; 1:18 P. M., 3.1 feet. Low. 11:50 P. M., 9.6 feet; 1:30 P. M., 9.8 feet.

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