

DISCUSS DEFENSE OF PACIFIC COAST

Conference Called by War Department.

ADJUTANT-GENERALS WILL GO

Oregon, California and Washington Officers Summoned.

START EAST TOMORROW

Manning of Coast Fortifications by State Reserves to Be Subject of Council at Washington, Also That of General Defense.

Adjutant-Generals of the three Pacific Coast States—Oregon, Washington and California—have been invited by the War Department to go to Washington, D. C., for a conference at the earliest possible date on the subject of coast defense. Adjutant-General W. E. Finzer, of Oregon, and General J. B. Lauck, of California, are leaving for the capital tomorrow, while General Oils Hamilton, of Washington, will start East Saturday.

The request from the War Department for this conference is regarded as peculiarly significant, indicating the Government's determination to prepare for any emergency that may arise from the West. The principal topic of consideration at the conference will be that of training volunteer coast artillery reserves to man Oregon, Washington and California fortifications. The subject of perfecting the infantry regiments of the three states in coast defense operations will likewise be taken up. It is assured that the meeting will result in assignment of National Guard troops to coast artillery work. The three Adjutant-Generals will very likely return with the task ahead of recruiting new coast companies for this service.

Problem Relates to Coast Alone.

General Oliver, Acting Secretary of War, transmitted the request for a conference with the Adjutant-Generals. It is understood that the Coast officials alone are included in the conference with General Oliver, which is a fact significant of the Government's attitude concerning possible need of defending the west shore at some future date. For several months past General Oliver has been in communication with Generals Finzer, Lauck and Hamilton on the subject of coast defense. Only a few days ago he submitted memorandum from the chief of artillery recommending assignment of the Oregon troops to Coast defense maneuvers in May, as well as the permanent setting aside of certain infantry companies for heavy artillery training.

This plan was not regarded by the three Coast Adjutant-Generals as feasible. There appeared to be a distinction among infantry commanders to apportion their companies for artillery work. Concerted objection was also made to the month of May for maneuvers, as it is difficult for the average guardsman to leave his business or work at that busy time of the Spring rush. In urging the importance of the coast defense work, General Oliver submitted the following communication to Governor Chamberlain, together with memorandum from the chief of artillery:

Letter to Governor Chamberlain.

I beg to transmit herewith for your consideration a memorandum of the Chief of Artillery with regard to joint Army and militia coast defense exercises. It is of the greatest importance that as soon as practicable you should designate the companies which are to act as the coast artillery reserve and the infantry support, and to assign them permanently to those duties if practicable; and where this is not possible to try to stimulate the interest of the citizens in raising the necessary companies for the former purpose. As it is now the beginning of the drill season, it would seem to be an especially good time for laying this matter before the National Guard of your state. Whenever you are prepared to take this matter up we shall be glad to submit the number of companies required for this work. The department is much impressed with the great value of the organized militia in connection with coast defense and hopes to see it successfully developed as early as it is possible to do so.

Militiamen Readily Handle Guns.

The memorandum which accompanied this communication, set out the observations made by the Chief of Artillery during the coast defense maneuvers of last Summer. At that time the assignment of guardsmen to Coast artillery was an experiment. Shortage of men in the regular Coast service made it necessary to find a means of occupying the various fortifications with sufficient forces, and this experiment of volunteer reserves was shown to be successful coast artillery operations.

Five companies of Oregon Infantry, detailed to the batteries at the mouth of the Columbia River made an enviable record for themselves. Already organized and disciplined, the only requisite was supplementary practice in handling the big guns. The men fell in with this new work promptly, and inside of a week guardsmen were operating the finding and plotting boards, handling the mortar and all-round-fire batteries, preparing and placing submarine mines and engaging in all the other intricate details of coast artillery operation.

In the communication from General Oliver, a way was paved for establishment of a permanent artillery reserve and the problems of coast defense seemed easy of solution thereafter.

Government May Defray Expense.

It is known, however, that the War Department will find it necessary to offer more than a plan of coast defense. The carrying out of such a plan will be attended by more or less expense. That the states should foot the bills does not seem just. It is understood that the Government will be asked flatly what aid can be given in the organization of reserves or the assignment of infantry already organized.

The outcome of the conference with the three Adjutant-Generals will be anxiously awaited in Guard circles as well as among artillerymen of the District of Columbia. That there will be important developments through the conference there can be no doubt, and that the matter of coast defense is regarded by the Government as one of utmost importance is made clear.

General Finzer, after admitting that he will leave for Washington tomorrow to confer with General Oliver, was not in-



W. E. Finzer, Adjutant-General of Oregon, who has been summoned to Washington.

clined to discuss the matter yesterday. While East he expects to attend the meeting of directors of the National Rifle Association. He expects to return in the course of a month.

BREAK HARRIMAN MERGER

BONAPARTE SOON TO BEGIN SUIT IN OMAHA COURT.

Will Move to Dissolve Combine of Union and Southern Pacific Lines Within Month.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 1.—(Special.)—While not officially announced, it is understood by well-informed persons in Omaha that Attorney-General Bonaparte has decided to begin, within a month, suit in the Federal Court in this city to dissolve the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific combination. Just what date the suit will be filed is unknown, but a high authority today stated that it was expected within the present month.

Special Assistant United States General Attorney Rush is in the city, but neither he nor District Attorney Goss has had any notice of the proposed suit, according to statements made by either of them tonight. Mr. Rush said that neither he nor Mr. Goss would know of it in the ordinary course of matters, until a special messenger of the Attorney-General's office appears with the papers prepared to file them in the courts.

REFUSED ACCESS TO BOOKS

List of Policyholders Withheld by Mutual Reserve Life.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 1.—A policyholders' committee of the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Company, representing policyholders mostly in Southern States and with headquarters here, issued today an appeal to all policyholders of the company to furnish the committee with their names and addresses. The committee declares that it had been refused permission by the company to copy the policyholders' names from the books. The committee has employed counsel in New York, which has appealed to the Federal courts for a receiver for the Mutual, on the ground of insolvency.

FATAL DUEL IN KENTUCKY

Pracas May Cause Further Trouble in Mining Town.

EWINGVILLE, Ky., Jan. 1.—A. J. Ballard last night engaged in a shotgun duel with Albie and Boone Henry, brothers at Yale, a mining town. Ballard and Boone Henry were fatally wounded. Further trouble is feared. Ballard participated 20 years ago in a fight resulting in the death of two of his brothers and the wounding of other men under unusual circumstances. He had killed Peter Spencer and on trial was sentenced to life imprisonment.

BUYS TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Manitoba Will Try Government Ownership.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 1.—Announcement is made by the Provincial Government that the Bell Telephone System in Manitoba has been purchased by the government. The price paid was \$1,000,000. The government will assume control on January 15 and the system will be operated by a commission.

Famous Oarsman Near Death.

TORONTO, Ont., Jan. 1.—Edward Hanlon, the famous oarsman, is very ill, and his physicians have grave doubts of his recovery.

OLDEST OREGON WOMAN IS DEAD

Mrs. Mary Ramsey Wood Dies at Hillsboro.

AGE PROVED TO BE OVER 120

Remembered Many Statesmen of Her Day.

JACKSON HER FAVORITE

Staunch Democrat to End—Born in 1787 and Crossed Plains in 1852 on Horseback—Closely Connected With Early History.

MRS. WOOD'S LIFE.
Born in Tennessee in 1787.
Joined Methodist Church in 1799.
Married in 1804.
Moved to Alabama in 1837.
Went to Georgia in 1838.
Removed to Missouri in 1849.
Crossed the plains in 1852.
Married Leand Trim in 1852.
Died January 1, 1908, aged 120 years 7 months 11 days.

HILLSBORO, Or., Jan. 1.—(Special.)—"Grandma" Mary Ramsey Wood, who was 120 years old May 20, 1907, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. B. Reynolds, in this city, at 5 o'clock this morning. The cause of her death was general debility. Mary Ramsey Wood was the daughter of a brick mason, Richard Ramsey, and was born at Knoxville, Tenn., May 20, 1787. At the age of 12 years she joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. She married Jacob Lemons in 1804, and bore the following children: Mary Jane Lemons, born in 1806, died 1904; Isaac Lemons, born in 1809, and died 1866; Mrs. Nancy Lemons Bullock, born 1816 and died 1868; Mrs. Catherine Reynolds, born 1820, and at whose home the aged woman has resided for many years.

Crosses Plains on Horseback.

Mrs. Lemons moved from Tennessee to Alabama with her husband in 1837, and to Georgia in 1838. Lemons died in 1859. In 1849 she moved to Missouri. In 1852 she crossed the plains to Oregon, riding the entire distance on horseback on a mare she christened Martha Washington Pioneer. She settled in Washington County and on May 25, 1854, she was wedded to John Wood, who died in the sixties. Wood built the first frame hotel in Hillsboro. This was a tavern and saloon combined for some time, and Mrs. Wood frequently tended bar for the husband when he was otherwise engaged. She thought nothing of this, as it was the custom in those days, she was descended from English stock, her

ancestors settling in the Carolinas. Her mother died at the age of 116.

Remembers Andrew Jackson.

She was a great reader in her prime, and had many times seen General Washington, Thomas Jefferson and other statesmen of her younger days. Her best recollection, however, as to public men, seems to have been centered on the great Andrew Jackson, with whom she danced, as a girl, many times.

Mrs. Wood always took an active interest in National politics, and was an uncompromising Democrat to her last hours. Andrew Jackson was her ideal of a statesman. She once said: "Andy Jackson was the President for you. He knew how to fight, and he knew how to make laws, and, better yet, he knew how to enforce them."

Her Age Is Authentic.

There has been some doubt expressed as to the correctness of her

PROBABLE CHOICE OF OREGON DELEGATION FOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEY.



George G. Bingham, of Salem. George G. Bingham, who is regarded as the probable successor of United States Attorney Bristol, has been a practicing attorney at Salem since 1850 when he was admitted to the bar in Yamhill County. He is considered one of the leading lawyers in Marion County, where he is prominent both in his profession and in politics. Congressman W. R. Ellis has confirmed the published reports that Mr. Bingham is the choice of himself, Senator Fulton and Congressman Hawley. Senator Bourne, the fourth member of the Oregon delegation, continues to support Christian Schuebel, of Oregon City, for the appointment.

age, and Mrs. Reynolds wrote to relatives at Warm Springs, Mo., asking for a record of the family Bible. The answer was received and the excerpt gives Mrs. Wood's age as 120 last May. This letter, which the Oregonian correspondent saw and read, was lost, the holder not at that time (several years ago) appreciating its importance. The family moved from Warm Springs and it has been impossible again to get into communication with the writer of the letter giving the date of her birth.

Strong Dislike for Hearse.

Her Jacksonian simplicity ruled strong, even in her last days. It was her wish that Mrs. Catherine Wehrung, wife of Pioneer Henry Wehrung, should line her coffin, and she was emphatic that her remains should not be conveyed to her last resting place in a hearse. She said that it was her wish that she be taken to the grave in a hack or "democrat wagon," as she called it, and that a quilt must cover the receptacle on the way to the cemetery.

SEABOARD LINE NEAR THE ROCKS

Hurried Application for Receiver.

FINANCED BY THOMAS F. RYAN

Leading Railroad of the South Staggers Under Debt.

JUDGE HURRIES TO WORK

Carload of Lawyers Pleads With Judge Pritchard All Night—How Ryan Overloaded the Road With Bonds and Stocks.

THE SEABOARD AIR LINE.
The Seaboard Air Line Railway Company was formed in 1900 by the consolidation of the old Seaboard Air Line, the Georgia & Alabama and the Florida Central & Peninsular, and its roads aggregate 2900 miles. The main line runs from Richmond, Va., to Tampa, Fla., 842 miles via Raleigh, N. C., Columbia, S. C., Savannah, Ga., and Jacksonville, Fla., and has branches to Norfolk, Va., Durham, N. C., Wilmington, N. C., Rutherfordton, N. C., Atlanta, Ga., Chattahoochee, Fla., Montgomery, Ala., Cedar Key, Fla., and Lake Charm, Fla. Several connecting lines have been built recently. The company controls a steamer line between Norfolk and Baltimore and has a large interest in the Old Dominion line.

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—(Special.)—Affairs of the Seaboard Airline Railroad Company reached a crisis today and after a long conference of the voting trustees in this city, it was decided to make application to the courts for a receiver. Word was sent to Richmond, the headquarters of the company, to the attorneys there to put the company in the custody of the courts. Dispatches from Richmond stated that an application had been made to Judge Waddell, but that he referred the attorneys to Judge Pritchard, whom they met in Danville, Va., tonight at 11 o'clock.

Directors of the company who were seen tonight said drastic action of some sort was necessary and that the company, which has been a bone of contention between Northern and Southern capitalists for nearly three years, would very likely be thrown into the hands of receivers. Many millions of dollars of securities are involved.

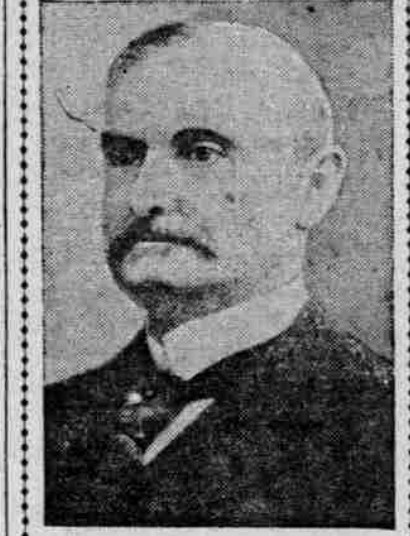
Cannot Raise Money.

The railroad is one of the most extensive systems on the Atlantic seaboard, traversing nearly 2900 miles. Its capitalization and bonded debt exceed \$180,000,000. So far as could be ascertained tonight, it appears that pro-

ceedings to place the company in the custody of the courts might have been averted if the syndicate controlling the property had advanced the necessary funds. It is understood an element of the board was not willing to make the necessary advances. Hence the serious dilemma in which the company is placed. There are interest payments, which fall due on January 1, and other obligations to meet within the next few weeks, all of which have brought the affairs of the property to a crisis. The Seaboard Airline is now dominated by a syndicate of bankers, consisting of the Blair interests as represented by Blair & Co., bankers; Thomas F. Ryan, Norman B. Ream, S. Davies Warfield, of Baltimore, and T. Jefferson Coolidge, of Boston. The stock is also owned largely by Baltimore and Richmond people.

Harriman Is After It.

In the recent money stringency the company was unable to sell its securities authorized last January, or obtain funds except at ruinous rates. At one time there was no market for its paper, a situation, however, which



Thomas F. Ryan, who financed Seaboard Air Line into bankruptcy.

many other companies of better credit also had to endure. There are definite rumors that E. H. Harriman is trying to get control of the road and is using its present embarrassment for that purpose.

COULD NOT STAVE OFF ACTION

Seaboard Officials Strove to End Par Offered for Coupons.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 1.—S. Davies Warfield returned to this city tonight from New York, but, when seen by a representative of the Associated Press, said that it would be inexpedient for him to make any statement relative to the Seaboard Air Line situation pending the application for the appointment of receivers. It is known here that conferences have been in progress, the outcome of which might possibly be the staving off of the receivership, but the Associated Press dispatch from Richmond is taken to indicate that the conferences alluded to have not had a favorable outcome. In an advertisement which will appear in tomorrow morning's papers, Blair & Co. and Landenberg, Thalman & Co., of New York, offer to purchase the coupons maturing today on a long list of securities of railroads identified with the Seaboard Air Line, and also the equipment bonds of the Seaboard that mature on the same date, these purchases to be at face value. The offer holds as to all such coupons and equipment bonds as may be presented on or before February 22 at the Morton Trust Company, New York, or the Continental Trust Company, this city. The advertisement states that the offer is

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FIREMEN VICTIMS OF JAPANESE MOB

Three Men Set Upon at Vancouver, B. C.

SLASHED WITH LONG KNIVES

One Will Die and Others Are Badly Injured.

ORIENTALS EASY TO ANGER

Canadians Accidentally Break Store Window and Are Murderously Assaulted by a Score of Enraged Armed Brown Men.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 1.—(Special.)—Allan Anderson, fireman, is dying and two other young men, also members of the city fire department, are badly wounded and in the hospital as the result of a fight they had early this morning in the Japanese quarter with an overwhelming number of the subjects of the Mikado. The fight was the worst in the city since the September riots, and indicates that the Japanese are at all times ready for trouble and eager to fight with their long knives that have blades keen as razors.

Attacked Without Cause.

Anderson, accompanied by J. Frost and T. McDonald, was passing a Japanese store, when Frost stumbled and fell hard against the plate-glass window front. The glass smashed and the fragments were still rolling on the sidewalk when a score of Japanese appeared from the inside and rushed at the trio of whites. The firemen were in uniform, with brass buttons and official caps, but the Japanese knifed them furiously.

Within three minutes there were dozens of Japanese in the fight, all trying to get at the white men. The latter were borne to the ground and cut and slashed until the sidewalk and front of the store were covered with blood. The police station is less than three blocks away, but it was a quarter of an hour before armed officers arrived at the scene of the fight. Only four arrests were made, for nearly all the Japanese scattered at the sight of the policemen.

Fight Over Prostrate Body.

His two companions thought that Anderson was dead, and had been fighting over his prostrate body for many minutes before the policemen came. Anderson was unconscious. His face was marked with many slashes, up and down, and from one side to the other. From the back of his ear to his shoulder was a cut two inches deep that had only missed the jugular vein by a fraction of an inch. His body was stabbed in half a dozen places and it is unlikely he will recover. The other two men were cut and bleeding from faces and arms and were taken together fearfully beaten. All were taken to the hospital. Three doctors worked over them for hours, sewing up their wounds.

JAPAN BUYING WAR MUNITIONS

Wholesale Purchase of Saltpetre and Material for Shimose Powder.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1.—Pamphlets who arrived by the Kosmos liner Neko today and officers on the steamer bring news of great Japanese activity at the port of Yokohama. They say that the Japanese government is buying up all the saltpetre available in China and also that great stocks of "yucca," which grows in great profusion in the Shama district, near Iquique, are being sent by every steamer to Japan. A line of fast steamers of about 6000 tons register has been put on between Japan and Iquique and, according to reports heard at ports along the coast, these steamers are taking full cargoes of saltpetre and yucca on every trip. Yucca is a stunted form of palm with a resinous grass growing in the head, the product of which contains a large percentage of picric acid, and its sole use is for the manufacture of Shimose powder, the high explosive which was used with deadly effect in the recent war with Russia.

THOUGHT LOST, IS FOUND

Boy Wanders Away From Companions Hunting on Mountain.

BELLINGHAM, Jan. 1.—Edward Hughes, 18 years old, son of City School Superintendent Hughes, who became separated from his hunting companions and lost on Chuckanut Mountain last Monday, reached at a point on the Great Northern Railway, fifteen miles south of here, this morning. Hundreds had searched the mountain and surrounding country since Monday, but no trace of the youth had been found. He had been given up for dead, and his search was continued for his remains. The searchers are being recalled.

Law Ignored in Mobile.

MOBILE, Ala., Jan. 1.—Mobile saloons, drugstores and hotels ignored the 9-o'clock closing hour tonight and practically every establishment in town remained open until midnight, on advice of counsel.

