



## BOOTH-KELLY MILL BURNS; LOSS HEAVY

Springfield Fire Eats Up \$250,000 Property.

## FOUR CITIES IN DARKNESS

Shifting of Wind Saves Town; Water Supply Gone.

## ENTIRE PLANT DESTROYED

Fire, Which Starts in Main Mill, Sweeps Over 20 Acres With Great Rapidity, Wiping Out Everything in Its Path.

SPRINGFIELD, Or., July 28.—(Special.)—Fire, installing a loss which will total more than a quarter of a million dollars, tonight destroyed the Booth-Kelly Company's sawmill, planting mill, dryer and 5,000,000 feet of lumber.

Only a sudden change of the high wind, which shifted the flames then rapidly sweeping toward the city, saved Springfield from what, for a time, looked like total destruction.

As a result of the conflagration Springfield, Eugene, Halsey and Brownsville are without electrical power or light tonight and Springfield is without any water supply.

That Springfield had a close call to destruction is evidenced by the fact that just before the wind shifted the flames had reached within 50 feet of a Southern Pacific oil tank containing 1000 gallons of oil, which was within 150 feet of a larger tank containing 250,000 gallons of oil.

Flames' Heat Intense.

The fire was within 150 yards of the business section of this city, and so hot on Main street that it was necessary to shield the face hundreds of feet distant.

The new \$150,000 Oregon Power Company fireproof power plant stood intact with the fire within 30 feet on three sides and heat so intense that the metal window frames were red-hot. In-1000 gallons a minute on the fire to prevent its spread. When the mill dam burned, the source of the water was cut off and the city was entirely without fire protection.

As a result of the fire a pay roll of \$12,000 a month stops.

The men in the power plant proved heroes with the blowing heat on all sides. A. J. Valentin, engineer, stuck to his engine throughout the fire, while Claude Washburn, a 20-year-old boy, stayed in one place holding cloths about a leak in the only pipe furnishing water. Three thousand cords of fuel for the power plant were destroyed. Wood will be shipped in the morning from Wendling, and power service will be resumed.

Insurance Not Heavy.

The sawmill and planer were insured for \$165,000. The 5,000,000 feet of lumber was insured at \$50,000. The fire started from an overheated bearing in the northeast part of the main mill near the engine-room. In less than 70 seconds the whole mill was in flames.

The rapidity of the spread of the fire that the watchman had difficulty in making his way about the main portion of the structure before it was entirely asphyxiated. Black smoke went up in huge blast as if by an explosion. Within 10 minutes the entire plant was burning, with the fire covering over 20 acres. The heat was intense. Light was sufficient to read the page on a watch face three and one-half miles distant. The Southern Pacific depot, 200 feet from the mill, was covered with water and protected from destruction. A switch engine removed 30 cars from the railroad yards without loss.

A. C. Dixon, general manager of Booth, Kelly Company, arrived on the scene in an automobile from Eugene within 10 minutes and saved 20 horses in the company's barn which was destroyed but a few moments after the animals were taken to a place of safety.

Pumps for the protection of the mill were located in the mill proper and of course were soon out of commission.

The Oregon Power Company had just installed a new pump to supply the city water system, but as soon as the full pressure was put on the pump broke and from that moment burning brands could be seen almost within reach, and then when the pump was ready to start it was found that the suction pipe had not been placed.

The fire started at 8:30 and at midnight was burning fiercely, although danger of spread had passed.

City's Escape Miraculous.

The escape of Springfield from destruction was miraculous. The wind, blowing directly toward the city for a time, drove the flames through the dry lumber with terrific heat. The railroad oil tank was smoking with the

## MINER'S GUN WINS LIFE AND FORTUNE

LAST SHOTS KILL MOOSE AND BRING OTHERS TO SCENE.

Starving Alaska Prospectors Give Marksman \$1800 for His Game, Which Ends Long Fast.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 28.—(Special.)—How William R. Wills, a merchant and miner of Juneau, Alaska, made a modest fortune out of two cartridges that he kept in his rifle for three days while he was starving is a story brought back by George L. Berg, secretary and director of the Washington State Art Association, who has just returned from a four months' tour of Northland.

Wills was prospecting in the Mount McKinley country. His supply of food had run out. For three days he had nothing to eat but roots and a few berries.

He had two loaded shells in his Winchester, and he saw lots of birds and small game, but he was unwilling to waste the last bullets on anything that did not promise a good supply for a long time.

Suddenly, he was confronted by two enormous bull moose. He shot them both and immediately heard a shot in the distance. There were two prospectors who had found gold within a mile of him.

He struggled in the direction of the sound. He was able to tell the miners about the two bull moose. They had been looking in vain for days for game. So they gave Wills \$1800 in gold nuggets for the two carcasses lying where they were killed.

Wills rested in the camp until he was able to "mush" into Juneau.

## FISHER PROMISES VISIT

Plea Made for Recognition of Oregon in Reclamation Work.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, July 28.—Secretary Fisher's previously announced intention to inspect, if possible, the Umatilla irrigation project on his way back from Alaska, received further confirmation today at a conference of Secretary Fisher, officials of the Reclamation Service, and Representatives Hawley and Laffey at the White House. The Oregon Representatives urged that greater consideration be given to Oregon in the apportionment of reclamation funds. Oregon now contributes four times as much to that fund as is expended within its borders.

Mr. Fisher promised that he would go to Oregon and inspect the project in person. He will leave tomorrow as a member of the Commission to inspect possible purchases of forest land under the Weeks bill. He will address the Forestry Convention at Bretton Woods, N. H., Wednesday, on the objects of the Weeks Commission and the progress made thus far.

## ELECTIONS COST \$31,313

Initiative and Referendum and Corrupt Practices Pamphlets Costly.

SALEM, Or., July 28.—(Special.)—After having been delayed for several months owing to the press of work, State Printing Expert Harris finally computed for the benefit of Secretary Olcott figures on the cost of initiative, referendum and corrupt practices pamphlets both for the primary and general elections.

The total cost of these is shown to be \$31,313.42. For arguments, \$2284.38 was paid, and for books for candidates in the corrupt practices pamphlets, \$2890 was paid for the primaries and \$1790 for the general election. This left a total cost to the state of \$23,249.06, or a cost of 19.7 cents per voter. It is understood that the following: Paper, \$2058.86; printing, \$12,239.41; postage, \$6857.41; binding, \$3396.69; envelopes, \$1524.19; labor, \$1614.88; rubber stamps, \$5; express, \$21.75; telegrams, \$16.74.

## BANK CLEARINGS BIGGER

Portland Only City in Northwest to Show Bulge Over Last Year.

Portland was the only city in the Pacific Northwest, according to Bradstreet's report, whose bank clearings for the last week showed an increase over the corresponding week in 1910. With clearings aggregating \$9,754,900, Portland's gain for the week was 14.9 per cent.

Seattle was credited with total clearings of \$9,467,000 but failed to equal its record of 1910 by 16.1 per cent. Tacoma and Spokane both showed a falling off in clearings, those of Tacoma being 21.1 below its record of a year ago, while Spokane showed a falling off of 4.4 per cent. The same report showed an increase of from 3 to 37 per cent in the clearings of San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles.

## LOAN CONCERN IN STRAITS

Colorado Creditors Say Wife of ex-Official Got \$66,000 Unduly.

DENVER, July 28.—Involuntary proceedings in bankruptcy have begun in the Federal Court here against the Star Loan Company, which operates a string of offices in Colorado and the West.

The petitioners are S. J. Cox, of Cranford, N. J., and H. S. Harron and Gilbert A. Easterly, of Denver. They affirm that the company has transferred contracts and negotiable papers from the Denver office to auxiliary offices, and that it paid to Minnie E. Stratton, wife of Charles E. Stratton, a former president of the concern, \$61,000 as a preferred creditor.

## FRANCE CALM, BUT ASSEMBLES ARMY

Forts on Frontier Receive Supplies.

## CAVALRY BEING MADE READY

German Foreign Secretary Modifies First Programme.

## CONGO PARTITION ASKED

Conditions Such That France Will Find Acceptance Difficult, If Not Impossible—Statesmen Are More Sanguine.

PARIS, July 28.—France, though outwardly more placid than yesterday is omitting no precautions.

The army is being reorganized and assembled, while statesmen profess themselves as sanguine of a peaceful solution. War preparations today included orders to the cavalry to be ready for the field at the first signal, the heavy provisioning of the forts on the eastern frontier by special supply trains run out of Paris at night, and the mustering of all regiments to their full quota.

## Cabinet Announces Plan.

The Cabinet met at Rambouillet today and at the conclusion of its meeting announced the decision to reorganize the army, accompanying the announcement with the careful explanation that this action was occasioned by the resignation of General V. Michel as Commander-in-Chief because of differences with his colleagues over the programme of National defenses. The Superior Council of War, composed of Generals of the army, continues, but the Vice-Presidency, which was held by Michel, will be abolished. A chiefship of the general staff, carrying practically the supreme command in time of war, is created instead, and General J. J. C. Joffre will be appointed to the latter post.

The Superior Council of National Defense, which is presided over by the Premier and composed of most of the Ministers, remains, with the addition of a permanent bureau of study, composed of three officers, one each from the departments of war, marine and colonies.

## Instant Efficiency Is Aim.

Many other changes have been decided upon, all designed to make sure a systematic machine, capable of instant and effective action in time of war. It is understood that Baron von Kiderlin Waechter, the German Foreign Secretary, who is conducting the negotiations with Jules Cambon, the French Ambassador at Berlin, has modified his original programme and is now asking for a partition of the whole coast of French Congo, but at the same time naming other conditions which France would find difficult, if not impossible, to accept.

## BRIDE RESTORED TO HER LOCHINVAR

STERN FATHER UNLOCKS PATERNAL PRISON.

Indignant Man Invites Son-in-Law to Dinner; Is Won Over and Couple Departs for Portland.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 28.—(Special.)—Kenneth McAlpine, the San Francisco automobile man, who eloped with Miss Florence Alma Smith, daughter of James P. Smith, of Burlingame, several weeks ago, and whose conjugal bliss has been interrupted by a series of thrilling incidents, the most serious of which was the imprisonment of his bride in her father's home, has at last obtained the blessing of the father-in-law and with Mrs. McAlpine is speeding to Portland to spend a belated honeymoon.

McAlpine is now convinced that only arbitrary methods will prevail in dealing with a recalcitrant father-in-law, and Smith is equally as fixed in his conviction that an impetuous and impotent wooer of one's neighbor must always be dealt with summarily.

At any rate, all are now happy, including the young bride, whose tender years were the cause of a Lochinvar fight, subsequent arrests, many unkind epithets, copious tears and finally capitulation on all around.

The first compromise came when Smith, the indignant, angry father, after having held his daughter in duration vile, defying McAlpine and all his clan, invited the cheated bridegroom to dinner. McAlpine went, saw and conquered.

He and Smith talked it over and at length reached an agreement by which the couple were to be united, go to Portland on their honeymoon and return later to reside in San Francisco.

## \$10,000,000 ISSUE SECURED

Trust Deed Filed on Coos Bay and Oregon Central Road.

MARSHFIELD, Or., July 28.—(Special.)—In the office of the County Clerk there has been filed a trust deed securing a \$10,000,000 bond issue on the Coos Bay and Oregon Central Railroad. This is the road formerly known as the Coos Bay-Boles, and which was promoted by Francis H. Clarke. There is nothing in the document to indicate who is back of the road.

The trust deed is signed by Clarke as president, and William A. Bantz, of Portland, as secretary. The trust deed is a mortgage on all properties now owned by the company or which may be acquired by it later.

The only property named in the trust deed is survey rights-of-way and maps. The trustee named in the trust deed is the Commonwealth Title Insurance & Trust Company, of Pennsylvania.

## COAL FAMINE IS ACUTE

Canadian Railway Officials Urge Suspension of Tariff.

WINNIPEG, Man., July 28.—Coal famine continues all over Saskatchewan and Alberta. Even were the mines where strikes are on opened tomorrow the famine could not be dispelled by Winter.

Railway officials agree that relief must come from across the line, and this is only possible through suspension of the tariff.

## WILDE TRADED FOR '15 FAIR, HE SAYS

Banker Holds Himself as Sacrifice.

## HE STARTS FOR OREGON TODAY

San Diego Employes Show Confidence in ex-Chief.

## THEY MAKE HIM PRESENT

Man Wanted on Embezzlement Charge Mentions Prominent Citizens to Prop Statement He Saved Depositors Their Coin.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., July 28.—(Special.)—"I have been traded for the San Francisco Exposition," said Louis J. Wilde. "There are on file in the office of Governor Johnson more than 1000 letters and telegrams from Oregon people threatening to boycott the San Francisco Exposition in 1915 unless I was extradited."

Wilde repeated that he would prove that he, and no one else, was responsible for the success of the depositors in the Oregon Trust & Savings Bank in getting their money.

## References Are Given.

He mentioned the following names as those to whom he would refer to substantiate his statement: A. E. Reames, of Medford; State Senator Haines, Jefferson Myers, Jay Bowerman, Warren E. Thomas, C. E. S. Wood, T. C. Devlin, J. G. Mack, W. J. Clemens, Mr. Hume and many other prominent Portland people, who are familiar with the facts in the case.

Employes of the American National Bank of San Diego, the presidency of which Wilde resigned yesterday, today presented him with an ebony-mounted traveling set, accompanied by a letter of confidence which reads:

"Dear Mr. Wilde—We learn with much regret you find it necessary to go to Portland, Or., to clear yourself of the unjust and malicious charges brought against you.

Friendship Is Shown.

"Each and every one of us believe you innocent of any wrongdoing whatever and that the charges are a result of a blackmailing conspiracy. We hope and believe that you will meet with little delay in getting justice, which will be not alone the wiping out of the charges against you, but bringing the offenders to count.

"We have not forgotten your many acts of kindness to each and every one of us and are looking forward to the pleasure of having you with us again very soon."

The letter is signed by Cashier Williams and 12 other employes of the bank.

Wilde, who was extradited to Oregon (Concluded on Page 2.)

## STATEMENT NO. 1 CRAZES RICH MAN

POLITICAL FIGHT WRECKED HENRY J. MILLER'S MIND.

One of Willamette Valley's Wealthiest Hopmen Placed in Asylum. Patient Puzzles Alienists.

SALEM, Or., July 28.—(Special.)—Statement No. 1 dementia proved to be the undoing of Henry J. Miller, of Aurora, one of the wealthiest hopmen of the Willamette Valley, who was committed to the state asylum for the insane today.

This is the first instance that this species of insanity has developed, but according to his friends who have known him for years, alienists should brand his insanity with no other name.

During the first campaign, when Statement No. 1 was originally heard of, Miller was a candidate for a seat in the House of Representatives in the Legislature. His whole activities were in the Statement No. 1 direction, and he was one of the most active and vitriolic campaigners ever witnessed here for voice in the Legislature. Regardless of this, he failed to be elected.

Since that time his mentality has been falling visibly. To many of his friends his position on the question of Statement No. 1 has been apparent as the reason for his mental falling.

He has accumulated over \$100,000 dealing in hops, and has displayed peculiar aptitude in that direction. He is also decidedly popular throughout the county, regardless of the fact that his mental affliction has been developing steadily during the past few years.

## ORIENT LINER TOTAL LOSS

Empress of China Was to Have Been Superseded, Officials Say.

TOKYO, July 28.—It is believed there is no hope of saving the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's steamship Empress of China, which struck on a submerged rock off Awa Peninsula while trying to make the port of Yokohama yesterday.

SEATTLE, July 28.—At the Canadian Pacific offices today it was said that the Empress of China and the Empress of Japan were to have been superseded by two steamships of 18,000 tons and faster than the present boats. The steamships are now being constructed in England and will be completed in a year. Another steamship will be on the run at once to replace the lost Empress. The Empress of China was built in 1904 and had a gross tonnage of 15,576 tons and had a gross tonnage of 5000 tons.

## RARE TIMBER FORMS TIES

Panama Railway to Lay Rails on Valuable Cabinet Woods.

WASHINGTON, July 28.—The Panama Railway will lay its tracks over the rarest and most valuable cabinet woods. The road is now being re-located incidental to the construction of the canal over part of the old line and it has become necessary to replace the old soft wood with the hard woods of the Columbia. Most of these ties are hewn from guayacum, or lignum vitae, but there are also many cedars, cortega and balsam.

These hardwoods should last indefinitely, even in the tropical climate of the isthmus, but they can be laid and cut only by the use of special machinery, which bores holes for the screw bolts and chisels out faces to form the rail seats.

## SASKATCHEWAN NEEDS MEN

Grain Crop of 200,000,000 Bushels Awaits Help in Harvesting.

MINNEAPOLIS, July 28.—Canada wants 20,000 men from the United States to help harvest the crops of Saskatchewan. E. Hendley Auld, special labor commissioner of the province of Saskatchewan, appointed to secure the men, has arrived in Minneapolis.

"Saskatchewan will harvest 200,000,000 bushels of small grains this fall and summer, but they can't get the men to help in the work," said Mr. Auld. "We want men from the United States and special inducements have been made by the railroad companies and immigration authorities to allow them to go to Canada. We can assure them 10 weeks' work, starting about August 10. Wages are from \$2.50 a day up."

## 15 KILLED IN COLLISION

Many Injured and More Believed to Be Beneath Wreckage.

BANGOR, Me., July 28.—Fifteen persons were reported killed in a head-on collision late tonight between a head-crowded excursion train on the Bangor & Arrostook Railroad and the midnight train from Van Buren to Bangor. Thirty or 40 persons are known to have been injured and it is thought several others are beneath the wreckage.

It is reported here that the two trains met head on as a result of confusion of orders and that the excursion train was running on the time of the regular passenger train.

The smoking car of the excursion train next to the engine was telescoped by the tender.

## Glacial Streams Again Hit Valdez.

VALDEZ, Alaska, July 28.—Renewal of the hot weather has caused a resumption of the disintegration of the glaciers and the glacial streams that flow through Valdez are again doing damage. However, the torrent has dug a deep channel and less water is overflowing into the town than during the previous hot spell and flood. Several small houses have been swept away, and others rendered unsafe. A gang of men is at work diverting the water to a new outlet.

## PARTISAN AIM OF INQUIRIES SEEN

Lack of Sincerity Defeats Purpose.

## DEMOCRATS MAKING CAPITAL

Twenty-Three Investigations Are Now in Progress.

## REAL REFORM NOT SOUGHT

Few Members of Prominence Are on Committees, and These Are Overshadowed by Men of Lesser Consequence.

BY HARRY J. BROWN.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, July 28.—The so-called "investigations" being made by special committees of the House of Representatives are for the most part fakes, conducted solely for the manufacture of campaign material, and not with any view to correcting alleged abuses in the Federal service. These investigations are not thorough, and were not intended to be; they are not fair, they are not consistent, and some of them are decidedly vicious in their manner of conduct.

In this one particular the House of Representatives appears to have made a decided political blunder. Aside from this, the Democrats have made the most of their opportunity. But their investigations, unless they be improved upon, will prove a boomerang, and come back to smite the party investigating them.

## Mark Is Overshot.

Assuming that the Democratic House authorized its numerous committees to conduct a series of investigations for the purpose of making political capital and putting the Republican Administration "in bad," poor judgment was shown by the leaders who have permitted 23 separate investigations to go on at one time. Yet that is the present programme. Such a vast amount of evidence is being gathered that little of it reaches the public, and with 23 investigations running simultaneously, the public will confuse much that is shown, and the desired result will not be attained.

Various committees of the House of Representatives are now investigating the Steel Trust, Sugar Trust, Controller Bay land affair, Indian land scandals, "trust-busting" expenditures, effort to remove Dr. Wiley, threatened extinction of the Prifiloff seal herd, government of the District of Columbia, irregularities at the Washington Navy-yard, general extravagance, alleged persecution of the Lewis publications of St. Louis, railway mail service, charges against Mayor Ray, of the United States Army, Army extravagance, Alaskan charges involving Attorney-General Wickersham, parcels post and other postal service matters, fire protection in Government buildings, violation of civil service regulations, creosote undervaluations, Government rental of Union building in Washington, recovery on sugar frauds, irregularities in the customs service, and, lastly, the Weather Bureau.

## Investigators Merely Fishing.

Charges have been made against the Republican Administration in each one of these cases. In many instances the allegations are based merely upon wild rumor. In other instances the charges are made by irresponsible persons. The Controller Bay case is built upon pure perjury, and the Weather Bureau investigation grows out of accusations filed by a man with a grudge. In some cases there is probably abundant evidence justifying investigations, as, for instance, the investigation of the Steel Trust and the Sugar Trust, but more than half the investigations are without ample justification, and are being pushed "in the hope of stumbling onto something crooked."

A second blunder of the Democratic House in the investigations was made when the unimportant committees on expenditures were placed in charge. These expenditures committees are made up of seven members each, four Democrats and three Republicans. The Democrats, being in the majority, can control each committee and frame any sort of report that seems best to serve their political purpose. But it is to be noted that on the ten expenditures committees not a single Democrat of prominence has been placed, and but for the notoriety some of them have attained in the investigations now under way, none of the chairmen would be known outside their own districts or states, if their names were published.

## Momentaries, Mostly, Chosen.

And, for that matter, few Republicans of prominence are members of these committees, for up to the present time the expenditures committees have been of no consequence; have seldom held meetings, and have transacted no business. Active members have avoided being assigned to these committees, and the consequence has been that these committees have been

(Concluded on Page 3.)

THAT TOUGH MARS BOY FOOLING 'ROUND AGAIN.

