

DESERT LAND BREAKS LANCE WITH WEST

Desert Land Board Officials Tilt and Split Seems to Be Imminent.

SECRET SESSIONS TROUBLE

Governor Charges Attorney-General With Trying to Hide Faults Behind Benson's Tomb and Lawyer Comes Back.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—Political exchanges passed between Governor West and Attorney-General Crawford today which apparently mark the opening wedge for a split in the Desert Land Board.

The Attorney-General issued a formal statement for publication relative to "star chamber" sessions of the board and to difficulties which have arisen relative to the reclamation of arid lands. This communication came to the attention of Governor West, who likewise issued a statement in response to the declarations of the Attorney-General.

Mr. Crawford saw in statements which have been given out to the press condemning "star chamber" sessions remarks disparaging to the memory of Governor Benson.

Commenting on this assertion of the Attorney-General Governor West said today in a formal statement:

West Says No Slur Intended.

The Attorney-General is attempting to hide his own delinquencies behind the tombstones of ex-Governor Benson.

Personally I had the highest regard for Governor Benson and know if it had not been for his illness these matters would never have been allowed to drift into the unfortunate condition we found them. But, owing to his illness, he was obliged to leave these matters almost entirely to the Attorney-General and the other members of the board. Had he given them the attention that he would have given them had his health permitted, the many settlers would now be harvesting bountiful crops instead of being stranded in the desert, praying for water and reading opinions of the Attorney-General.

Attorney-General Crawford in his formal statement which was issued this morning says:

Closed Sessions Recent.

Relative to the statement in the papers recently, insinuating, if not directly asserting, the proposition that meetings of the Desert Land Board in the past were of the "star-chamber" type, I wish to state that I have never been a member of the board since May, 1909, no closed sessions were held, until recently I was not a member of the board and the time when Governor Benson became Acting Governor of the state, and cannot speak with authority for the previous administration, but during his incumbency no secret meetings were held.

"I was for many years intimately acquainted with ex-Governor Benson, now deceased, and while, like many of the rest of us mortals, he may have had his faults, he was a man possessed of many noble qualities and always courted the widest publicity in all of his official acts as did all the other members of the Desert Land Board during his administration. I very much regret that it is deemed necessary for any one, either officially or privately, to in any way disparage his memory or unjustly criticize his official acts.

"During his incumbency no closed-door sessions were held, and if such sessions were held, as in the past, it was prior to his incumbency or the practice has been inaugurated since he ceased to act as Governor.

Protection Alleged Given.

"I wish, further, to say that during his incumbency everything possible was done to protect settlers on irrigation projects and to procure the actual reclamation of the arid lands of the state. The policy of requiring \$1 an acre for every acre of land or water right sold, the money to be deposited with the Desert Land Board, to be expended to remedy any defects which might be discovered in irrigation systems prior to their being turned over to settlers, was inaugurated during his administration, and the board now holds many thousands of dollars applicable to such purpose. Also, the policy of confining sales of land to an area which could be provided with water regardless of whether the reclamation company succeeded in its entire project has always been advised by the State Engineer and carried out as fast as old contracts could be amended to provide therefor, or a particular company be persuaded that it was the safest and best course for them to pursue.

Policies Are Followed.

"Neither of these policies have been approved by the board, and both are being strictly followed and enforced, and wherever possible new conditions tending to the better protection of investors in irrigated lands and to their actual reclamation and settlement are adopted. No new policy or method of handling the reclamation enterprises of the state has been presented by anyone. However, I am confident any new method which would promise better protection to settlers, greater assurance of actual reclamation and consequent benefit to the state would be gladly hailed and welcomed by everybody.

"Further, I wish to say that there never has been a rule of the board providing that so-called secret or executive sessions might be held, and I know of no instance of ever holding one, unless it was in pursuance of any action of the board, or the wish of the majority of its members, that such request was made. In the past the attendance of members of the press was always welcomed to any and all meetings of the board."

TOWN MAY BUILD ROAD

White Salmon Raises Money for North Bank Spur.

WHITE SALMON, Wash., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—Property holders of this place are pledging themselves in various amounts to an attempt to raise money that will enable them to commence within 30 days

the building of a railway from the North Bank road up a 4 per cent grade along the divide to the town of White Salmon on the bluff overlooking the Columbia River, a distance of a little over two miles of trackage. The engineer's calculation of the cost of this short line is \$24,000, but if \$20,000 be raised immediately the balance will be forthcoming from sources known to the Mount Adams Electric Company promoting the road.

The Mount Adams Company is a local corporation that has already spent \$3000 in surveys and in acquiring a power site for an electric line from White Salmon to Snowden, thence to Camas Prairie and Trout Lake, 20 miles north and back by Husum, a distance of 30 miles, and the building of the short line up the hill will be only the starter for this system. The line is almost a necessity, as thousands of tons of freight are carried by team up the station and dock roads at an expense that amounts to considerable in the course of a year, and travelers have complained about the long climb to the town.

The Mount Adams Company is spurred by the Northwestern Electric Company, which is developing a costly power plant on the White Salmon River three miles from this place. That company promises a contract for carrying at least 20,000 tons of material for its dam, as well as take \$40,000 in stock, but if the road is not built it contemplates construction of a road up the river from Underwood, to be turned over later to a company that may continue it on to Trout Lake and thereby cut much territory from White Salmon.

White Salmon residents at a big meet-

PHONE GIRLS AND PATRONS STRIKE

Subscribers in Wallowa and Union Counties Angry at Advance in Tolls.

TELEPHONES TAKEN OUT

Adding to Discomfiture of Home Independent Company, Operators Quit Switchboards When Higher Wages Are Demanded.

JOSEPH, Or., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—The fight between the Home Independent Telephone Company and its sub-

scribers over the recent increase in telephone rates, reached an interesting stage today when in fulfillment of pledges signed several days ago, virtually every farmer and business man in this vicinity ordered his phone taken out.

In addition to this the telephone company also has a strike on its hands, and as a result all service has been discontinued. When their demand for raises in wages was ignored, all the exchange operators resigned and quit their switchboards. Feeling on all sides is very bitter against the company, and this in spite of the interesting situation caused by the fact that many of the subscribers are stockholders in the telephone corporation.

At Elgin, Enterprise, Wallowa and Lostine and other towns in Union and Wallowa counties, the same conditions prevail. Angry subscribers, almost as one man, have directed that their telephones be removed until the company consents to restore the tolls that existed before the present corporation bought out the Pacific States Telephone Company, and in addition give a full 24-hour service. This united action by the subscribers had its inception at Elgin last month, when the Farmers' Union of Union County took up the matter and passed resolutions of protest, at the same time pledging all members to quit unless their demands were met.

At Enterprise, there has been a steady stream of visitors to the central office all day, leaving orders to have their telephones taken out. Every business house in the city has stopped its telephone service.

Unless some answer to their protest is received quickly from the manager of the company, who is stationed at La Grande, the Farmers' Union will form a company and build a co-operative telephone system of its own.

EXPERIENCED TEACHERS ARE APPOINTED EDUCATIONAL SUPERVISORS FOR JACKSON COUNTY.



D. C. Henry, of Eugene.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—D. C. Henry, of Eugene, and G. W. Ager, of Talent, have been named as supervisors under the County Educational Board for Jackson County. For the last three years Mr. Ager has been principal of the Talent school, resigning that position to become supervisor. Mr. Henry has also had much experience in educational work.

Both are at Eugene taking the supervisor's course preparatory to beginning their work for the next school year. J. Percy Welles is County Superintendent of Jackson County.

RECALL PETITIONS FULL

MOVE AGAINST SEATTLE OFFICIALS NEARING FINALE.

Enough Signatures Secured to Insure Election on Mayor and Four Councilmen.

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—Locked away in two safety deposit vaults are enough signatures to insure an election to recall not only George W. Dilling, Mayor, but also as many more as will be required for the recall of Max Wardall, President of the City Council, James Y. C. Kellogg and E. L. Blythe, is the announcement today by the Citizens' Recall Association.

The petition for the recall of Councilman F. S. Steiner, who has been included by the association in the recall at the request of residents of Ballard, Queen Anne and Fremont districts, is still lacking 1000 names, because his recall was not begun until after the others had started.

Approximately 10,425 names each were required, under the city charter, to recall the Councilmen.

Saturday last when a checking was made, it was found that the Councilmen ran about 7000 or within 3000 of the required number.

The petitions that have come in since that time, have swelled the number more than what was necessary.

BUTTE FALLS IS CITY NOW

By Majority of Only Six Votes Residents Move to Incorporate.

MEDFORD, Or., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—By a majority of only six votes the people of Butte Falls have decided to incorporate. William Colvig, of Medford, spoke in favor of incorporation and C. F. Watson, of Ashland, argued against it. The railroad company and the timber holders were the interests behind the opposition and it is alleged that the Pacific & Eastern delayed a work train an hour to prevent the workmen from voting for the measure. Of 56 votes 38 were for incorporation.

This is the second time that incorporation has been considered by the people of Butte Falls. The first time the incorporators tried to take in a large amount of raw timber land and their attempt was a failure. This time only 90 acres of land and 300 people were involved. According to the laws of Oregon, which do not provide for the incorporation of towns as distinctive from cities, the village of Butte Falls is now a city.

E. E. Smith was elected Mayor, A. L. Marcy, Recorder; George W. Barber, Treasurer; N. S. Erie, Marshal, and H. B. Dodd, E. Watson, F. J. Carson, A. M. Ford, Charles Obenchain and E. Wheeler, Aldermen.

FISH LAW ERROR IS FOUND

Cook County Affected by Conflict Over Salt Water Crabs.

SALEM, Or., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—Another error has been discovered in the fish and game laws, this one affecting Cook County. Section 5380, of Lord's Oregon Laws, limits the catching of salt water crabs to 50 in any one day, provided, however, that the law shall apply to canning products.

The original law on file in the office of the Secretary of State provides that the law "shall not" apply to such products. This error is in the code, the session laws of 1907, and in the compiled game and fish laws. In compiling the laws relative to railroads the error was found.

Beaverton Burglars Foiled.

BEAVERTON, Or., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—Burglars tried to force an entrance to the house of Walter Van Kleek last night, but night locks prevented an entrance.

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- \$3.00 Wash Dresses \$1.49
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 - \$20.00 to \$25.00 Wool Suits \$10.00

New Fall Exhibition of Sample Dresses, Samples and Models Only, specially priced for this sale: \$9.95, \$12.95, \$14.95 up to \$400.00. The greatest values that you ever saw. Come.

New Fall Suit Sale

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- All New Up-to-Date Suits for Fall on Exhibition, \$15.00 to \$85.00

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TWO GANGS ARE AT WORK

Prediction of City of Destiny Is That Northern Pacific Tracks Are to Be Abandoned and Old Road Revived.

PORTLAND MAN CHOSEN

C. FRANKLIN KOCH HEADS COLUMBIA LUTHER LEAGUE.

Eight Annual Convention at Vancouver Wash., Marked by Election and Big Programme.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Aug. 2.—(Special.)—C. Franklin Koch, of Portland, was elected president of the Columbia Central Luther League, here today, at the eighth annual convention, being held in St. Paul's English Lutheran Church.

He succeeded W. S. T. Derr, who has held this position since the league was organized in 1903.

The other officers elected are: Secretary, Caroline Albers, of Chehalis; statistical secretary, Miss Esther-Larsen, of Astoria; treasurer, Melvin Thompson, of Vancouver.

A big programme was carried out during the two days' sessions of the convention, which closed tonight. More than 200 persons were in attendance at some of the sessions.

One of the musical features was the singing of the vested boys' choir, of The Dalles, Or. Among those who gave addresses tonight were: Rev. P. M. H. Fredericks, of Portland; Rev. J. Allen Leas, pastor, of St. James Lutheran Church, in Portland; Professor Karl F. Miller, president Oregon-Washington Hi-State Luther League, of Chehalis, Wash., president-elect.

The rally hymn was sung by the combined choirs under the direction of Professor Streiffeller, of Portland.

W. S. T. Derr, who has been president of the league for eight years, and who attended the National convention in Philadelphia, last winter, gave an interesting report, taking the work of the league for eight years, and who was generally believed here. It is known that west of the Milwaukee and O'Brien, of the Harriman roads, and Mr. Elliott, of the Northern Pacific, met here sometime ago to talk over the use of the new Northern Pacific depot, that a quarrel ensued, and that they were unable to come to any permanent terms.

Signs of Pact Seen.

In connection with this activity on the part of the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company, it is reported here that a pact has been entered into between the Harriman road and the Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound, whereby the latter road will use new Harriman tracks to Portland.

It is also said that the Milwaukee road will establish terminals in East Portland on land at present occupied by the Oregon Water Power Company, south of Hawthorne avenue.

Confirmation of this cannot be obtained at the offices of Vice President Ingersoll, of the Milwaukee road, though it is there admitted that the new East Third street franchise in Portland, recently granted to the Southern Pacific road, has a common-user clause, and that this East Third street franchise would be ideal for reaching the Oregon Water Power Company property.

Vice President Ingersoll has said, however, that "the Milwaukee can get to Portland whenever it wants."

Joint Road Rumored.

That there is an understanding between the Harriman and Milwaukee roads, and that they may build a joint and independent line to Portland, is generally believed here. It is known that west of the Milwaukee and O'Brien, of the Harriman roads, and Mr. Elliott, of the Northern Pacific, met here sometime ago to talk over the use of the new Northern Pacific depot, that a quarrel ensued, and that they were unable to come to any permanent terms.

The Harriman officials said they would not enter into any deal adopting the Northern Pacific as a permanent passenger terminal here until the Northern Pacific built its Point Defiance cut-off. So warm was the debate on this subject that the gentlemen departed their seats, and without even formal courtesies, a big O.-W. R. & N. locomotive blocking the private train of Mr. Elliott until the Harriman special train had left the yards. Since then the Northern Pacific has done nothing on its proposed cut-off and new entrance to the city. It is said that the Milwaukee road has delayed building its depot pending an agreement to use a joint depot with the Harriman road.

NOTE The steamer Bayocean will leave Portland at 5 o'clock tomorrow morning instead of 6:50 A. M. Those wishing to sleep aboard Friday night should reserve accommodations at once.

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