

BAKERS OF EAST FINANCE COMBINE

Big Sawmill Merger in Pacific Northwest Aided by Eastern Money.

WICKERSHAM HOLDS BACK

Conference of Millmen to Be Held in Portland Early Next Week, Declares H. J. Pierce—Spokane Backing Deal.

SEATTLE, Dec. 15.—Henry J. Pierce, of Spokane, who plans a merger of sawmills in Oregon and Washington, having a capacity of more than 50 per cent of the total output of sawmills at tide-water, announced today that he will finance the consolidation scheme through a large New York banking house.

Mr. Pierce, who has just returned from New York and Washington, recently laid before Attorney-General Wickersham the draft of articles of incorporation for the Pacific Coast Lumber Company, the proposed merger corporation, and asked for an official ruling on its legal status. On the ground that if his office established the precedent of guaranteeing the legality of new corporations, the Attorney-General would be asked by thousands of similar petitioners, Attorney-General Wickersham refused to give an opinion on the Coast Company.

A conference with the more prominent Grays Harbor, Willapa Harbor and Puget Sound lumbermen interested in the merger was held by Mr. Pierce in Tacoma yesterday, and the details of his Eastern negotiations were laid before them. The millmen approved the plans of Mr. Pierce, and a meeting will be held in Portland early next week with the millmen of Oregon.

Backers Big Firm. Pierce's backers are the New York banking house of Laidlaw, Thomson & Co., who, with the City National Bank, recently financed Santo Domingo and who for years have been a controlling factor in the Pacific coast and Pittsburgh street railway systems.

Although Attorney-General Wickersham refused to give an opinion on the Coast company, the interviewers have been satisfied to Mr. Pierce and to ex-United States Senator S. H. Piles, his attorney, as is indicated by the fact that immediately thereafter Mr. Pierce concluded his financial arrangements in New York.

It is probable a few changes in the plan of organization will be made as a result of Mr. Pierce's Eastern arrangements. The original options given by mill men on their plants, timber holdings and lumber leases, called for a comparatively small outlay of money beyond the amount necessary to take up outstanding obligations and carry on the business of the merger company. By the new arrangements with Eastern financiers big cash payments in purchases of plants will be made to those mill men seeking representation.

The first draft of the merger agreement carried with it a proviso that not less than 50 or 65 per cent of the capacity of the Coast mills should be represented in the company. The banking arrangements by Mr. Pierce permit a minimum of 50 per cent, though it is claimed by the Spokane promoter that his agreement with mill men indicates that more than 60 per cent of the mills will be represented.

A deal for timber sufficient to guarantee the 16 years' negotiations which the merger company wants to have in sight before starting business, is under way and may be brought to a head before the first of the next year.

Mr. Pierce denied today that any railroad corporation was interested in the merger plan either as stockholder or bondholder. He said that the purchase of railroad timber had been intimated the story was current that railroad money would be behind the deal. Mr. Pierce says it is not necessary nor desirable and that there will be no railroad affiliations.

OLCOTT IS GOOD TO WEST

Acting-Governor Will Turn Over \$400 Salary to Executive.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 14.—(Special.)—Governor West, of Oregon, will not be so unfortunate in making his trip to the East as was Governor Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, in making his trip to the West.

Governor Wilson was deprived of his salary by the Secretary of State during the absence of Wilson from the state. Acting Governor OLCOTT, of Oregon, who is also Secretary of State, will not be so unkind to Governor West, however.

Hearing his master's voice in the East, he will see that Governor West is granted that \$400 and some odd dollars which will accrue during the absence of the Governor.

It would be difficult to even enjoy the Secretary of State from paying over the money, for if the court decided that Governor West was not entitled to it, the Acting Governor would be entitled to it himself, and consequently can turn it over, as he intends to do.

BELLINGHAM PAPERS UNITE

Herald, American and Revelle Now Under Same Management.

BELLINGHAM, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Articles of incorporation for the Bellingham Publishing Company were filed yesterday, giving \$500,000 as the capitalization.

The new company will consolidate the Herald, the American, and the Revelle, Bellingham dailies.

The incorporators stand for S. A. Perkins, E. B. Deming, J. J. Donovan, Glen Hyatt, George Wright and E. W. Purdy, the five being the purchasers of the Bellingham interest.

Perkins is said to control 60 per cent of the stock in the new corporation. After the first of the year the Evening American will be discontinued, the Herald published as a six-day evening paper and the Revelle throughout the entire week.

COUNTY MAY AID FRUITMEN

Tax is Favored to Carry on Work of Orchard Studies.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Hood River County probably will support the work that is at pres-

ent done by the Hood River Fellowship Association, an organization employing Professor W. H. Lawrence and conducting experimental work for the improvement of orchard culture and the prevention of disease pests. A petition is being circulated here, this week asking the County Court to levy a tax not to exceed one-half mill for the purpose of defraying the expenses of such work.

The movement is meeting with almost universal approval. While the system of having the work done by the Fellowship Association has accomplished good, one of the features of which was the eradication of fire blight from the Valley, it is declared that by making the levy a county interest, the system will be greatly simplified and movements of orchard culture and assessments, which were formerly raised from each member of the organization on a basis of so much per acre of orchard land. The members of the association have been the leaders in the movement to have the work transferred to county supervision.

VANCOUVER IS REBUKED

STATE BUREAU REPORT CRITICIZES LOOSE METHODS.

No Comprehensive Scheme of Making Improvements and Keeping Check on Them Followed.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Loose methods of handling local improvements are charged against the city of Vancouver by the State Bureau of Inspection. The bureau's report, covering the period between January 1, 1908 and October 1, 1911, indicates that no comprehensive or methodical scheme of making improvements and keeping check upon them has been followed, and that property-owners who are overcharged have difficulty in getting redress.

"It is impossible to make an accurate check on the cash for local improvements," says the report, "as the records have been lost or destroyed and part of the receipts show in the general fund and part have been paid out to contractors, and as far as we have been able to discover no records of such payments exist.

"The entire system of local improvements is so intricate as it is possible to make it. No assessment rolls are made out; but the advertisement, covering the district included in the improvement, showing owners, lot and block and amount, is certified to the treasurer, who proceeds to collect from said notice.

No Payment Dates Shown. When an account is paid, a receipt is drawn through the property on which the payment is made. No date of payment is shown and in numerous cases the property has changed hands and of course the taxpayer's name does not agree with the name on the account list.

"The amount of the contract covering the district does not show on any records we have been able to discover; nor is there any data whatever in regard to the district.

"Another fact that looks bad is that the general fund is used as a balance for each district and should properly be over-assessed the amount over and above what is required by the district goes into the general fund and it is a hard matter for the average taxpayer to get relief."

City Expenses Heavy. The report shows that the city has expended an immense sum in making improvements. It has 7.41 miles of paved streets, costing \$22,699; 7.84 miles of sewer costing \$124,500 and 41.51 miles of sidewalks, costing \$102,500. The assessed valuation in 1900 was \$794,440 and at that time the tax levy was 7 mills. In 1911 the valuation was \$4,302,812 and the tax levy 14 mills.

The total assets are \$1,187,500 and are \$216,000 in excess of the liabilities. In the list of assets the streets, sewers and alleys are credited with \$249,500 and local improvements with \$249,500. It is shown that the valuation is a large proportion of the local improvements are liabilities, and to this item is credited \$251,716.77.

The bureau yesterday completed the report on Yacolt in Clark County, finding that the town has assets of \$21,497.56 and liabilities of only \$10,425.30, leaving a net excess of assets of \$11,072.26. The town's water system is valued at \$20,000 and is listed as the greatest asset. The town has had no police force since 1908, and 20 fines have been imposed since the town was incorporated in 1908.

WILLIAM M. CLINE DEAD

Journey Made From Council Bluffs in Pioneer Days.

GERVAIS, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—William M. Cline, who died at his home, one mile west of Mount Angel, December 11, born in Bond County, Illinois, September 20, 1832.

In the Spring of 1852 he left Greenville for Oregon in company with John K. Gentry, T. and Richard Wait and Samuel Blanchard. This party made the entire trip from Council Bluffs, Ia., to Oregon City, Or., in 62 days. Continuing from Oregon City to Marion County, Mr. Cline settled on 200 acres of land six miles northwest of Silverton on the banks of Pudding River. For several years he taught school in and around Silverton.

Mr. Cline was married in 1854 to Miss Orinda Fuller, a daughter of Joel Fuller, a pioneer of 1853. Of this union 19 children were born, seven of whom survive him—George T. Cline, Fort Bidwell, Cal.; Mrs. M. E. Bozarth, Seattle, Wash.; William M. Cline, Jr., Portland; Alfred T. Cline, Mrs. Jennie Ann Tromp; Mrs. Luia Wlesner and Mrs. Anna O. Haynes, all of Marion County.

ROAD ENGINEERS WANTED

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Announcement is made through the department of good roads at the Oregon Agricultural College that examinations will be held by the Civil Service Commission for vacancies in the Government Good Roads Department. The examination is to fill a vacancy which has occurred in the position of specialist in rural engineering in the office of the Experiment Station in the Department of Agriculture at Washington. The examination will be held on January 2, is open to men of some practical experience only, and will be given to the candidates directly at any place which they may designate. The limit is 22 years or over and only those who have lived a year or more in the United States are eligible. A salary of from \$1500 to \$1800 a year.

DRAVY LOAD OF PLUNDER FOUND

CENTRALIA, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—What is believed to be a well-organized gang of youthful thieves have been rounded up by the Centralia police department. Marion Craig, Joe Caron and James Raymond were arrested this morning, and the police are searching for a fourth member of the gang. The arrests followed a raid on a vacant house where the gang had hidden their plunder, and over a drayload of various articles were confiscated that had been stolen from numerous homes and stores throughout the city.

UNIFORM PLAN FOR FAIR GROUNDS AIM

State Board Will Employ Architect to Suggest Proper Rearrangement.

BETTER FACILITIES WISHED

Officials Decide That Permanent and Satisfactory Plans Shall Be Drawn Up for Submission to Legislature.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Besides re-electing J. H. Booth, Roseburg, president, George Chasler, Baker, vice-president, and Frank Meredith, Salem, secretary, the State Board of Agriculture today entered into plans for a prospective complete new State Fair.

An architect will be secured to lay out plans for permanent and uniform plans for buildings and grounds to be used for a working model, so that all future improvements will be built up to it.

The general proposed plan will also be used in submitting to the Legislature requests for appropriations.

Heavy rains throughout practically all of State Fair week resulted in a deficit of \$2398, according to the report of Secretary Meredith, filed at the annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture today. Although a record-breaking crowd was predicted, it was held down to a disappointing number of people and larger appropriations had been made for the races and free attractions.

In touching on conditions at the fairgrounds and recommendations for betterments, the secretary says in his report: "I am pleased to report the farm land in a much better condition than last year, by reason of the fact that the grain sowed on the roughest part of the fields has for the past two seasons, been cut for hay, thus preventing the French pink from going to seed. This year there was harvested 64 tons of hay, 1798 bushels of oats and more than enough straw to bed down all of the stock barns. All of the tillable land is now sown to either wheat or oats, which is growing nicely. The grounds were further improved by the addition of large beds of hydrangea and roses, as well as the planting of evergreens. These, together with the plantings and beds of flowers, have greatly enhanced the appearance of that section.

"Fraternal Row" Proposed. "The Woodmen of the World have erected an attractive log cabin on the grounds, which will be used to entertain as headquarters for the entertainment of the members of the order and their friends during fair time. The Women of Woodmen propose to erect a similar building. I predict that other orders will wish to follow the example, and it will be but a short time until the Oregon State Fair grounds can boast of what might be termed a 'Fraternal Row.' Shade trees have been planted on the newly acquired land, which a few years should make a beautiful grove, desirable for camping purposes.

"The rainy weather incident to the recent fair demonstrated conclusively the fact that new buildings and paved roadways are essential to the successful conduct of the fair under adverse weather conditions. Were a few more large buildings where the crowds could be entertained, and roadways sufficient to permit the public to move about the grounds with the necessity of having to wade through the mud, good attendance would be assured, although some parts of the programme might have to be postponed. The Legislature of 1911 also appropriated \$50,000 for the erection of a brick pavilion, but on account of excessive appropriations, the Governor saw fit to veto the bill.

Permanent Structures Wanted. "I would suggest that the State Architect be employed to draw plans and specifications for permanent buildings to be erected on the grounds, together with a block plan and birdseye view of the premises, showing the distribution of buildings to be erected from time to time.

"The poultry exhibit has grown to such an extent that the building has become inadequate. More room and more light are badly needed. At present there was more than 1500 fowls exhibited, and notwithstanding the fact that additional coops had been provided, it was necessary to crowd the birds in order to accommodate all. I would suggest that a new addition be built and skylights provided for the old poultry building.

"W. H. Weir, secretary of the National Playground Association, suggests that a playground be provided for the children during fair week. This feature could be provided with but very small cost.

"The question of lighting the grounds still remains a problem, and some service other than that now employed should either be established or else the company now furnishing light should furnish a better service.

"Notwithstanding the fact that W. M. Smith, superintendent of the educational department, has worked very hard during the past two years and made some progress, the number of entries in this particular department have not been as large as they should be, and there is apparently a lack of interest manifested by the educational workers throughout the state. I have come to the conclusion that the matter of entrance fees imposed has something to do with the case, and therefore recommend that hereafter no entrance fees be charged in the educational department.

AN INDIAN TRADER

is Displaying a Fine Collection of Navajo Blankets and Pillow Tops at Peter's Big Co., 289 Alder street, opposite O. W. & K.

SPECIAL ROAD TAX FAILS

Newport Residents Vote Down Two-Mill Proposition, 51 to 43.

NEWPORT, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Residents of Newport and the surrounding road district, who own property, voted down a special road tax of 2 mills at a special election yesterday. The vote was 51 against and 43 for the proposition.

Nye Creek district voted against the tax, as the roads to be improved apparently do not affect them. Others complain that the present County Court has been unfair and they are unwilling to put up more money until a change in the highest county office has been effected.

The roads leading into Newport are in an almost impassable condition. The roads leading into the county seat, Toledo, are graded, rock-ballasted and kept in good condition. Residents here say that when Newport wants its share of road improvement, like Waldport,



This coat turns winter's cold to summer comfort.

From neck to ankle here's perfect protection; warmth minus weight, because it's all wool.

Your pocketbook is also protected by our blanket guarantee—your satisfaction or we buy back the garment.

Priced today, special, at \$20.00.

Hats in the new cloth patterns or in fuzzy felts, or flexible derbies. "The Beaver," none better at \$3.00.

LION CLOTHING Co. Gus Kuhn Prop. 166-170 THIRD ST.

Seal Rocks and Yaquina, she is told that there are bridges to be repaired and that work on the Siletz-Indian-Toledo road must not be stopped at a critical period. However, a good road to Toledo has been started.

BAN PUT ON FREE LIQUOR

Intoxicants Can't Be Given Away in "Dry" Towns.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—In a ruling on the Washington local option law today the Supreme Court held that it is unlawful to give away intoxicating liquor in dry territory, except in private dwellings or apartments.

The case came before the Supreme Court on an appeal by the state from the Whatcom County Court, which sustained a demurrer to the complaint charging W. C. Jones, of Perouse, which is in dry territory, with violating the law in giving away liquor on the street.

The chief ground for the demurrer was that the Legislature did not intend to prohibit any gifts in a dry unit, except where such gifts were made to the purpose of evading the law. The Supreme Court holds that if this contention were given effect "any person within a dry territory could load a dray with liquor and stand on the street corner and give to all who would receive."

"Such a construction," says the decision, "would make the law a farce and the dry unit an abomination."

CADETS GET PROMOTIONS

Commandant at Agricultural College Announces Appointments.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Special order No. 4 has been issued by the commandant of the Agricultural College, announcing the following appointment of officers:

Cadet C. H. Thompson was appointed Regimental Commissary; Cadet E. D. Grimm to be Captain; Cadets G. W. Morris, C. L. Smith and S. H. Hodgson to be First Lieutenants; Cadets H. E. McLean, A. Hersey and A. E. Voth to be Second Lieutenants; Cadet R. T. McFarlane to be Law Clerk; Cadet W. C. Miller, U. S. A., to be First Sergeant; Cadets H. B. Lamb, F. M. Larrison, W. W. Howard, J. E. Phillips, P. A. Ellensburg, C. F. Allison and F. Plympton to be Sergeants; Cadets C. C. Jones, H. W. Armstrong, E. C. Brownley, W. B. Gardner, H. K. Hansen, D. B. Chapin, F. W. Schrieber, G. F. Darringer, C. E. Dickey, H. H. Hard, H. Dunham, C. C. Baynard and J. A. Chamberlain to be Corporals.

MURDER CHAIR KEPT FULL

Mewhinney Trial Closely Follows Conviction of Elmer Dewey.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 15.—As Elmer L. Dewey was led from the courtroom, a convicted murderer, C. H. Mewhinney, charged with a similar crime, was led in today. Mewhinney, with Sam Kirkpatrick, who is awaiting trial, is charged with killing C. L. Erickson, a mining engineer, in a hotel. Erickson was shot when he went to the rescue of a woman who had been kidnapped by whom, it is alleged, Mewhinney and Kirkpatrick were attempting to rob. Mewhinney pleaded not guilty and took the seat just vacated by Dewey, while his aged mother occupied the chair from which Dewey's mother had just risen.

TOILET SETS AND SHAVING STANDS TODAY

—500 quadruple silver-plated and German silver toilet sets for women in eight carefully-selected designs. Floral, figured and conventional patterns. The mirrors are extra large and fitted with heavy beveled French plate. The brushes are large and have extra quality bristles. The combs are heavy and durable.

REGULAR PRICES \$6.00 TO \$8.50

Removal \$4.95 TODAY

—The average man does not appreciate the majority of the Xmas gifts given him. A fellow generally wants something that is useful—something from which he can get service—something he needs—best pleases him.

—Why not a silver-plated shaving stand fitted with sanitary mug, a good badger-hair brush and with a lotion bottle? A stand fitted with an extra quality mirror. He will enjoy a gift of this character.

\$8.00 Silver-plated Shaving Stands; removal \$6.95 \$6.00 Silver-plated Shaving Stands; removal \$4.95 We have others from \$1.50 to \$3.00.

Beginning Monday Store Open Evenings Until 9

Lipman, Wolfe & Co. Merchandise of Merit Only.

Advertisement for The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company. Features a large illustration of a telephone and text promoting Christmas suggestions and services.

ENGINEER NOT BLAMED

CHANDLER EXONERATED IN EXPLOSION AT LA GRANDE.

Coroner's Jury Returns Verdict at Conclusion of Joint Hearing With State Railroad Commission.

LA GRANDE, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Engineer Chandler today was exonerated of any responsibility for the explosion of engine No. 352 yesterday at Hilgard, when A. D. McKinley, of Twin Falls, was instantly killed and Conductor B. E. Hancock, of this city, terribly injured.

The coroner's jury returned its verdict tonight at the conclusion of a joint hearing participated in by the Coroner and State Railroad Commission. Members of the three-engine train were the principal witnesses before the Coroner, but the investigation carried on by the Commission was continued from the morgue to the roundhouse, where the engine was inspected.

Chairman Clyde B. Atchison and Commissioner Miller intend to leave tonight for Portland, but Commissioner Engineer W. C. Earl remains here until the Interstate Commerce Commission decides when and where the Federal investigation of the cause of the boiler explosion will take place. The time and place is undetermined.

Conductor Hancock has already lived 24 hours longer than the most sanguine anticipated. There continues a remote possibility of recovery. His lungs are cleared by ribs and his entire scalp is flayed off, his shoulder broken and his hands and face scalded.

That the engine was well supplied with water and that the soft plug was gone after the explosion, were the material developments at the inquest. No Commission findings are announced. The O-W-R. & N. investigation will be announced tomorrow.

Rate Meeting to Be Held Tuesday.

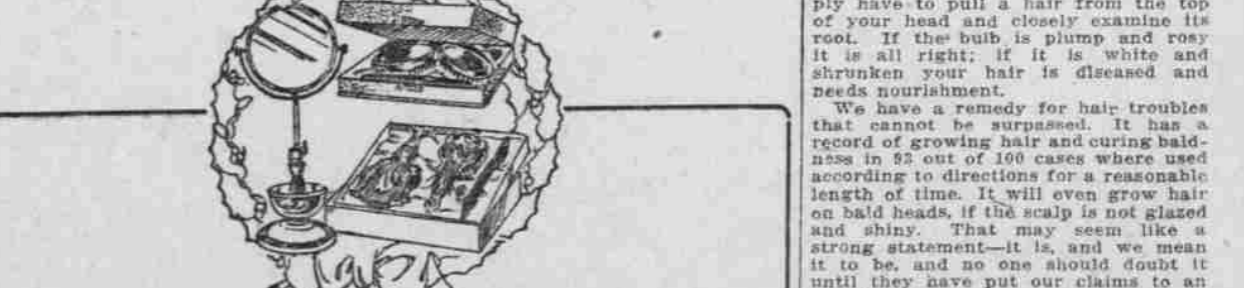
OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 15.—Next Tuesday the State Public Service Commission will hold a final conference here on distributing freight rates in this state. To the conference all of the railroads and the commercial bodies of all the jobbing centers of Washington are asked to send representatives.

Oregon City to Have Poultry Show.

OREGON CITY, Ore., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—There are prospects that a big poultry show will be held here in January. These are the plans of the publicity department of the Oregon City Commercial Club. This department has charge of the booster day given in this city in April. O. D. Eby is chairman and M. J. Lazelle manager.

Smallpox Spreads; Malady Light.

BAKIER, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Smallpox has spread in the Eagle Valley so that there are now 75 cases in the vicinity of Richland. Every effort to check it has been futile, for the entire valley seems to have been exposed. The malady is in a very light



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NO DIRT CAN RESIST IT.