

FARM COMMISSION AT WORK ENROUTE

American Investigators Hold Preliminary Sessions on Board Steamship.

INTERESTS WIDELY VARIED

All Intensely Interested in Problems of Agriculture - Production, Marketing, Country Life and Credits Studied.

BY HECTOR MACPHERSON. ON BOARD STEAMSHIP SAXONIA, Near Gibraltar, May 7.—The steamship, bearing the members of the commission on a tour of investigation of methods of European agricultural co-operation, sailed from Gibraltar today and is now pushing with free head of steam toward Genoa. At that point the commission will disembark and hasten by train to Rome in order to be there for a reception to be tendered by the King of Italy.

Meanwhile, it may be of interest to the readers of The Oregonian to get a glimpse of the commission on board the Saxonian, learn something of its makeup and hear how the time has been spent.

First of all, it will be news to many to learn that there are two separate and distinct commissions on their way to Europe to study co-operation. There is the American commission, composed of representatives of the different states and Canadian provinces, and there is also a United States commission, directly representing the Federal Government and appointed by the President of the United States. A word of explanation will make this clear.

The American commission was assembled through the efforts of the Southern Commercial Congress, an organization with headquarters at Washington, and aiming at the promotion of the general economic well-being of the Southern states. The movement began more than a year ago, when the Southern Commercial Congress called a conference on rural finance at Nashville, Tenn.

At this conference David Lubin, American delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, was present. He had been called to this meeting by the Department of State, on the urgent request of the Southern Commercial Congress, to lead the discussion of rural finance, which was the topic of supreme interest to the conference. After hearing Mr. Lubin's lucid analysis of the work of the co-operative credit associations among European farmers, the delegates present, representing 27 states, passed a unanimous resolution to send an American commission to Europe to study those associations on their own ground.

The work of assembling the commission was assigned to the Southern Commercial Congress, and the project was endorsed by Congress. On March 4, 1912, Congress passed a resolution that the Secretary of State be authorized and requested to bespeak for the proposed American commission to investigate the European systems of rural credit and to report to the committee of the various European governments.

In order, however, to give sufficient ground for the expected diplomatic courtesies, the Secretary of State is in the hands of the investigation. An appropriation of \$25,000 was provided to send a United States commission to represent and report back to the committee of the various European governments. The act expressly states that the Federal commission is to co-operate with the American commission in its work of investigation.

The United States commission consists of seven members. They are Dr. Kenyon L. Butterfield, president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, Dr. John Lee Cook, director of the Department of Agriculture at Washington; Duncan U. Fletcher, Thomas P. Gore, Ralph W. Moss, Colonel Harvie Jordan and Dr. Clarence J. Owens, director of the Southern Commercial Congress. These are all board of the Saxonian with the exception of Senators Fletcher and Gore, who will hasten to join the commission as the smoke of the tariff conflict has begun to clear away.

The presence of the United States commission will be of the greatest assistance to us in our investigation of European conditions. The men composing it are of outstanding ability. As representatives of the United States, they will secure for the Commission fuller recognition and greater facilities for investigation than would otherwise be accorded. Besides, they come much better equipped for the work in hand than the American Commission. They have on board, besides the five official members, four other experts who are already familiar with the ground to be covered in Europe, and a stenographic staff which is now doing duty for the two commissions.

Varied Interests Represented. Let us now turn to the work of the Commissions on shipboard. There are in the party 181 members, of these, 37 are either women traveling along with their husbands, or visiting members who are taking the tour, but are not official delegates to either of the Commissions. Other official delegates will join us in Europe, some of whom are already on the ground, while others will follow as soon as home duties will permit.

I have worked carefully through the list of 64 working delegates on board the Saxonian, and have roughly classified them on the basis of their principal occupation. Most of the delegates, I find, have several strings to their bows. In fact, it would be difficult to get together another group of men of more varied interests and experience than are represented in these 64 Commissioners.

I find that 25 members are signed up as farmers, but of these, more than half are farming merely as a side line or for recreation. I submit the following classification as a fair indication of the makeup of the Commissions: Bankers, 12; farmers, 12; business men, other than bankers, 11; college professors, 11; newspaper men, 6; professional men, other than teachers; 6; representatives of Government departments, 5.

In accepting this classification, however, the reader must remember that it gives an imperfect idea of the multitude of interests represented. To take only one illustration: A Georgia delegate was boasting of being one of the most experienced farmers on the commission. On questioning him I found that he began as a farmer, took over a store, opened a bank, became director in a fertilizer company, joined a corporation to build a local railway and still remains a farmer. Probably more than half of the Commission are just as versatile as the gentleman from Georgia.

Work Begun on Shipboard. But notwithstanding the manifold interests of the delegates, there is not one of them but is intensely interested in the problems of agriculture, and a

WOMAN OF 103 WHO ADDRESSES CHURCH GATHERING AT EUGENE.



MRS. SARAH TODD.

majority of those on board are men who have been champions of the "farmers' cause" in their respective localities.

From the first day, the Commission got down to the work of organizing itself for business. It is now divided into four sections, each of which is to specialize in one of the four grand divisions of the investigation: Production, marketing, country life and farm credit. Exhaustive questionnaires have been worked out to serve as guides in the study of each of these fields of investigation; and both questions and method have been tried out in an investigation of conditions actually existing in Canada and the United States.

Probably no part of our Summer's work will prove more illuminating than this discussion of country life and institutions as they exist in the 27 states and three Canadian provinces represented on board of the Saxonian. It has been brought out that the co-operative movement in America is far more widespread than most of us are aware of. We find, for example, that Quebec, Massachusetts and Texas have already passed statutes governing the establishment of co-operative banks, and that there are close on 200 of these organizations in operation. There are also many private institutions modeled partly upon the European systems, which are granting both short-time loans and mortgage credit to farmers upon reasonable terms. We have numerous creameries, cow-testing associations, egg marketing societies, elevators, warehouses, bread stores and various other enterprises, owned and worked co-operatively upon American soil.

In the prairie provinces of Canada, co-operative elevators and creameries are established by means of government aid, the province lending the association 85 per cent of the cost of the plant. These same provinces, as well as several states, have the process of lending on real estate much simplified by the Torrens system of registration of land titles.

The commissions aim at a systematic collection of reliable data on all the institutions working for rural betterment in the United States and Canada. This should prove a valuable part of their service.

We have been at work every day, holding morning, afternoon and often evening sessions as well.

CHURCH CONFERENCE ENDS. Congregational Association Has Successful Meetings.

THE DALLES, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—A successful conference of the Mid-Columbia Association of Congregational Churches came to a close here Thursday night. The association includes Eastern Oregon Congregational churches from Hood River to Huntington.

Among the interesting addresses were the following: "The Sunday School and the Rural Community," by Rev. J. Herschner, of Hood River; "The Outlook," Superintendent H. N. Smith, of Portland; "World Conference of Humanizing Agencies," Dr. J. B. McGaw, of Portland; "Home," Mrs. L. M. Schilling, of Condon; "Reminiscences of Pioneer Days," Mrs. Camilla Donnell, of the Dalles; "Women and the Kingdom," Mrs. W. C. Kastner, of Portland; "Residual Religion," Rev. John M. Lowden, of Portland; "The Opportunities of Today and Tomorrow's Results," Dr. George Paddock, of Portland.

In the afternoon the delegates to the conference were guests of the Business Men's Association on an automobile ride to the beautiful orchards of the surrounding country.

PUPIL OF 103 TALKS

Grandma Todd, of Eugene, Says God Is Good.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETED

After 84 Years in Church She Still Continues an Active Worker. She Is Called Oldest Sunday School Pupil Alive.

EUGENE, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—Grandma Sarah Todd, aged over 103 years, leaned on the arm of Superintendent Leroy St. John at the First Christian Church this morning and through him addressed the school. Grandma Todd's voice was not strong enough to fill the auditorium, so she had written her message for Mr. St. John to read. It follows: A Bible and have found it my help and my strength all through life. I came into the church when I was 19 and have never regretted it. I'm not righteous by a long way, but I love to please God.

"I praise him every day for the loving friends he has given me to look after me in my old age. I have lived over 103 years and yet the time has not seemed very long and I know it will not be long till Jesus will take me to be with him.

"I want to ask God's richest blessing upon these children who are here and ask you all to pray for me. I don't crave to die; I love this old world, for God has made it so beautiful. I love my friends and don't want to have to leave them. May God bless you all."

Grandma Todd is the oldest "home department" member of the Christian denomination in America, and is believed to be one of the oldest Sunday school pupils in the United States.

216 CONVICTS SEE MOVIES

Eugene Levy Treats McNeil's Island Prisoners to Picture Show.

SEATTLE, Wash., May 25.—(Special.)—Two hundred sixteen convicts in the McNeil Island penitentiary sat for two hours Friday in the big dining-room while Eugene Levy exhibited for their special benefit eight rolls of the latest photo-drama releases, including the weekly review of world's news events. In the audience were men who had never before seen a moving picture and others who were suddenly and unexpectedly transported to their native land.

Mr. Levy, accompanied by John Siefert, manager of the Melbourn Theater in Tacoma, one of the Levy houses, and Adolph Cahm of Seattle, conveyed all of the machinery that constitutes a moving picture theater operating room, going to the island in a launch furnished by Warden Halligan. The party returned here today.

Only once before in the history of the McNeil institution has a moving picture entertainment been given, and that was one year ago, with Mr. Levy as the host.

PIONEER OF 1847 PASSES

Yamhill Banker and Merchant Dies at Age of 89 Years.

CARLTON, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—"Uncle" Lee Laughlin, a pioneer of 1847 and a veteran of the Indian war of 1851-55, passed away at his home in North Yamhill this morning at the age of 89 years, celebrating his last birthday on January 17 of this year.

He was, at the time of his death, the head of the Bank of Yamhill and was the pioneer merchant of that town, running a general merchandise store there for a number of years when the town was first settled. He was married twice, his first wife dying about 12 years ago. About 10 years ago he was married to Mrs. Ama Brown, who, with one 7-year-old boy, survive him. He also has a brother, William, of Yamhill, and a sister, Mrs. Nancy Capps, of Portland, living.

The funeral will be held at Yamhill at 10 o'clock tomorrow and the body taken to Portland for cremation.

Short Line Branch Soon Open

ONTARIO, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—Announcement has been made that June 1 is the Home Dale extension of the Oregon Short Line Railroad from Nyssa will be opened to traffic, train service being placed in operation between this point and Home Dale.

WAGES DECLARED NOT TO CONTROL

Redfield Says Best Paid Industries Meet Competition Most Successfully.

OTHER COSTS CONSIDERED

Secretary Says People Will Insist That Manufacturers Correct Errors of Method Before Reducing Pay Scale.

NEW YORK, May 25.—The rate of wages is not the controlling factor in the cost of production and there are manufacturers who should employ more efficient methods before attempting to reduce wages on account of the proposed reductions in the tariff, William C. Redfield, Secretary of Commerce, said last night. He was speaking at a dinner given in honor of Secretary of War Garrison by the Hudson County Bar Association.

"The cost of labor is, in many industries, but a minor part of the total cost and rarely the controlling element therein," Mr. Redfield said. "The difference in wages between America and Europe often, therefore, affects but a small part of the total cost of manufacture and is itself so modified by many other conditions affecting cost as to have small value as a basis for argument. The chief controlling factor in production is the rate and quality of output. Differences in cost may have no relation to labor.

Better Wages Meet Competition. The industries in our country which meet foreign competition best are those which pay the highest rate of wages, such as machinery, steel and shoe industries. The industries in America which profess the least ability to meet foreign competition are those which pay the lowest wages among us, such as the textile manufacturers.

"It is frequently true that the industries with the highest protection from the tariff pay the lowest wages (wool and cotton), while those with the smallest tariff protection (shoes) pay higher and sometimes the highest wages. The products of American factories are often as cheap or cheaper in the labor cost per unit than are foreign ones.

"While it is true that some of our industries and many individual manufacturers in our industry are highly efficient and being so and finding it profitable, do not advertise it, it is unfortunately the fact that there are many more of whom the same cannot be said.

Correction of Methods Demanded. "I believe and affirm that public opinion requires that manufacturers in whose plants the latter is true shall correct their methods before they undertake to reduce the wages of operatives.

"The men and women in our factories are endowed with 'reason, imagination and memory.' Has a deliberate effort been made to try what the responsive force of these powers is to the smallest tariff protection? Has it not been rather true that men have been considered a kind of producing merchandise to be hired at the lowest rate and that poverty would force them to work, rather than at such a rate as would inspire their highest productivity? Is not the whole question of wages as a means of a distortion of the greater truth that they should be a remunerative investment? Has not the man been taken at his mathematical value rather than his human one?"

BOISE MAYOR ON TRIAL

FAILURE TO CURB "RED LIGHT" DISTRICT IS CHARGED.

Complaint Says Liquor Is Sold in Houses of Ill-Fame and Prostitutes Allowed to Operate.

BOISE, Idaho, May 25.—Mayor Hodges of this city, is on trial in the District Court, charged with failure to perform the duties of his office and to enforce the ordinance prohibiting prostitution and the sale of intoxicating liquors in houses of ill fame in this city. In his answer to the complaint Mayor Hodges denies knowledge of disreputable places in Boise.

The case is one that has caused an upheaval in local municipal circles. Due to the fact that the charges behind the charges made against the Governor have invoked a provision of the general laws in an attempt to remove Mayor Hodges instead of acting on the recall provisions of the commission form of government act, under which Boise is operating.

The original complaint preferred by J. I. Mills, a business man, charged the Mayor with failure to enforce the ordinances during his last term of office. Mayor Hodges had in the meantime been elected by a handsome majority. Permission was then granted to file an amendment complaint. The amendments made in the complaint are contained in the Mayor's present term in office.

Mayor Hodges is confident of a complete vindication. The restricted district in this city has been for years a subject of municipal discussion and has caused every incoming administration trouble.

Regardless of the outcome of the present trial in the District Court an appeal probably will be taken to the Supreme Court of the state.

SALES AGENCY PROTESTED

Meeting Will Be Held at Hood River Saturday to Take Action.

HOOD RIVER, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—The temporary fate of the North Pacific distributors rests with the decision that the trustees of the central selling agency, formed at Spokane last Fall, will render here next Saturday.

The attitude of the Wenatchee growers, who declare that the selling agency should not be used this year as a distributing agency but merely as an organization to advertise and exploit the box apple industry in general in the Northwest, resulted in an expression from J. H. Robbins, of Yakima, that the distributors should abandon their original plans of a selling agency for the time being and merely maintain their identity for the purpose of holding meetings at which general problems might be discussed.

Advertisement for Wrigley's Spearmint Gum. Includes text: "Let's Get Wrigley's SPEARMINT Before Going in the Show", "I love it all the time but most of all in the theatre.", and "BUY IT BY THE BOX".

Army of the Republic and the Woman's Relief Corps. The old soldiers and their wives will march to the opera house in a body, where the principal address will be delivered by Representative E. E. Blanchard. A special invitation has been extended to all the school children to attend the exercises. Business houses of the city will be closed during the afternoon. The Sunday sermon was delivered by the Rev. William Riley Jeffrey, Jr., of the Methodist Church.

TEACHERS' JOBS IN DOUBT

Prairie City School Controversy May Be Long-Drawn-Out Affair.

PRAIRIE CITY, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—Owing to the uncertainty hanging over the fate of the Union High School of this place and the fact that, whichever side wins in the preliminary contest now in the Circuit Court, the case will be carried to the higher courts and thus a decision be kept in abeyance for an indefinite time, the teachers are undecided as to their course for next year. It is rumored that former Principal Hoche has applied for other positions, being entirely uncertain as to his fate in connection with the Union High School.

Grants Pass to Observe Day.

GRANTS PASS, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—Memorial day will be observed here under the auspices of the Grand

Before you form an opinion on paving, look over Portland's well-paved Bitulithic streets and judge for yourself the value of this noiseless, durable paving material.

INFLUENCE OF WOMEN

The influence of women, glorious in the possession of perfect physical health, upon men and upon the civilization of the world could never be measured—but what about the silling, nervous, depressed woman who is a danger to all joyousness in the home such woman should remember that the one great American remedy for woman's ills is Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and give it a trial at once, and thus put herself in the way of restoring that perfect physical health which is hers by birthright.

Advertisement for Great Northern Railway Summer Excursions to the East. Includes text: "Great Northern Railway Summer Excursions to the East", "Tickets on sale daily, May 28th to September 30th.", and a list of routes and fares.