

BIG STICK GROWING, KRUTTSCHNITT SAYS

Railway Executive Declares Government Management of Enterprise Is Failure.

UNMERGING IS OPPOSED

Wickersham's Effort to Force Sale of Central Pacific Declared to Be Intended to Help Union Pacific Sell Stock.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 11.—In terse epigram, Julius Kruttschnitt, chief executive of the Southern Pacific Company, testifying again today in the Central Pacific-Southern Pacific dissolution suit, voiced his opinion of the government's attitude toward railroads. He said: "The government is a great big man wearing a great big stick, and the stick is getting bigger and is being used offener."

"The Interstate Commerce Commission is one man choking another man to death." "Government management of enterprises is a failure." "The ideal condition for the railroads, he asserted, would be "a single private control of all railroads in the United States, not exposed to governmental regulation."

Wickersham Charges Retracted. These were answers given by Mr. Kruttschnitt to questions put by Edward F. McClennen, counsel for the government, in the course of six hours of rapid-fire cross-examination. Mr. Kruttschnitt, giving direct testimony, was on the stand five hours yesterday. Under pressure the witness refused to retract the charges made yesterday, in which he accused Attorney-General Wickersham of having forced the Southern Pacific Company into a tentative sale of the Central Pacific to the Union Pacific.

"I will admit, however," he said, "that in my heat and exasperation I overstepped the mark when I said we were being robbed of the Central Pacific. This present suit and all of the unmerger litigation are unnecessary and the separation of the two roads is so monstrous that I am exasperated when I even think of it."

Sale Would Help Union Pacific. "The whole suit was conceived as a good way of helping the Union Pacific to unload a large block of stock. It seems to be the desire of the government to force us to sell the Central Pacific."

"It was evident to me and to any man who followed the unmerger attempts of the Southern and Central Pacific roads that the Attorney-General's (Wickersham's) aim in forcing the sale of the Central Pacific was to help the Union Pacific to dispose of its \$125,000,000 of Southern Pacific stock."

"Then you think that the government is behaving badly generally," asked McClennen. "I decline to answer. I won't commit lese majeste," was the reply.

In the closing hours of the cross-examination McClennen pressed Kruttschnitt for an admission that at present there is no competition between the Central and Southern Pacific roads, and that their strife for business would ensue if the lines were unmerged. Witness and counsel matched wits for nearly a half hour, but the witness refused to answer yes or no.

Management Retracted. "If the Union Pacific acquires the Central Pacific," Mr. Kruttschnitt said, "the Union Pacific will exercise the most monumental control of transcontinental trade in the history of railroading in America."

Mr. Kruttschnitt reiterated repeatedly that an unmerger of the two roads would not affect transcontinental rates.

"The railroads once had something to say about rate-making, but they no longer have any liberty left them. The control of the interstate and the state commissions has become absolute. Our only way of getting business now is showing a sweet temper to the public," he said.

"Did you ever know of any other way?" asked McClennen. "I have heard of other ways," was the reply.

Mr. Kruttschnitt, in his morning testimony, told the government's counsel that the idea of railroads of what constituted competition had changed radically with the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Union Pacific merger in 1912. "The Supreme Court wouldn't adopt our views, so we adopted theirs," he said.

DEBATE SERIES TO BEGIN

Caldwell, Payette, Nampa, Emmett and New Plymouth Teams Enter.

PENDELTON AFTER TOURIST

Pupils to Begin Letter-Writing Campaign as School Work.

ROAD BONDS INDORSED

Multnomah and Other Precincts to Work for Proposed Issue.

MULTNOMAH, Or., March 11.—(Special.)—The proposed \$1,250,000 bond

Issue for hard surfacing of county roads is popular among the residents of Multnomah, West Portland, Ryan Place and adjacent communities. A special meeting of the Commercial Club was held in Praeger's hall last night to circulate petitions calling for a special election. The large crowd was enthusiastic over the proposal and nearly 100 signatures were obtained. This likely will be increased to more than 1000 by tomorrow night. The Commercial Club will exert every effort to bring out the maximum favorable vote for the project in this and neighboring precincts. A special "good roads" committee, composed of Dr. G. H. Douglas, Ben Ritsland and C. L. Gardiner, has been appointed. It is proposed to hold joint meetings with the improvement clubs of Capitol Hill, Ryan Place, Maplewood and other points soon, when the bond issue will be fully discussed and a series of lan-

MARSHFIELD'S NEW POSTMASTER DEMOCRAT MANY YEARS.



Hugh McLain. MARSHFIELD, Or., March 11.—(Special.)—Hugh McLain, recently appointed postmaster of Marshfield, has been active in Democratic politics for many years. He is president and an active worker in the Marshfield Chamber of Commerce, and was one of six men sent to Washington two years ago to plead for improvement of the Coos Bay bar and harbor. He was recently re-elected head of the Chamber of Commerce after holding the office one term. Senators Chamberlain and Lane are close friends of Mr. McLain and favors they have done for Coos Bay are attributable to Mr. McLain's influence. Mr. McLain is a contractor and has had most of the big sewer contracts in Marshfield and North Bend.

H. F. DAVIDSON MAY GO

PROSPECT OF FRUIT DISTRIBUTORS SILENT AS TO FUTURE.

Re-election Not Sought or Expected, Says Official, Who Emphasizes Need of Organization.

HOOD RIVER, Or., March 11.—(Special.)—While H. F. Davidson, president of the North Pacific Fruit Distributors, declared yesterday as he was leaving for Seattle to attend a convention of the Shippers' League that he would not sever his connection with the big central agency during the term of his presidency, he would make no statement as to his relations after the termination of that period. "I intend to be with the distributors until May 1, when the annual election will be held," he said. "I shall not seek re-election, nor do I expect to be re-named."

"I will say that I think the Distributors just as essential for the welfare of the Northwestern fruit business as the organization ever was. It seems to be the opinion of many that the recently formed Growers' Council will make it possible for independent shippers to market their fruit with as great facility as the large concerns. Those who have this idea rest under the erroneous impression that the executive committee of the Growers' Council will furnish information that will assist them in selling. Nothing is further from the truth."

"The Growers' Council and the Distributors are as separate and distinct as the O. W. R. & N. Company and the United States Interstate Commerce Commission."

Mr. Davidson thinks the formation of the Growers' Council should lead to a concentration of selling machinery instead of bringing about a condition whereby every independent shipper will be assisted in selling fruit.

MEDFORD HAS MANY FIRES

Six Have Occurred Since Saturday and All Are Disastrous.

MEDFORD, Or., March 11.—(Special.)—Medford has had a series of fires. Since Saturday night six fires have occurred in different parts of the town and in each case the building was burned to the ground. The total loss is estimated at \$15,000.

Saturday the Walter Erskine and D. C. Cole residences burned, Sunday the Vierbeck grocery on East Main street was gutted and Monday the Gates garage was scorched and a vacant house in North Medford burned to the ground. Members of the fire department are inclined to scout the firebug theory and declare the epidemic of conflagrations to be merely a coincidence.

HEARING MOVED TO BAKER

Valuation of Eastern Oregon Light & Power Property Under Way.

LA GRANDE, Or., March 11.—(Special.)—Having heard the testimony of local real estate men, contractors and others regarding the valuation of buildings, ditches, water power and other property in Union County now owned by the Eastern Oregon Light & Power Company, the Railroad Commission today adjourned and moved its rate hearing to Baker, where the hearing will be concluded tomorrow.

The Commission's schedule of valuations is averaging less than the company's figures. Egin La Grande and Baker attorneys will follow the Commission to Baker.

Wilkeson Has Incendiary Fire.

TACOMA, Wash., March 11.—A fire believed to be incendiary at Wilkeson, 20 miles from Tacoma, early yesterday, destroyed a store, Union Hall, the postoffice and two residences. The loss is estimated at \$15,000.

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BORAH HALTS ACTION

Senator Reads Riot Act on Attempt to Repeal Primary.

CONVENTION PLAN FAVORED

Friction Engendered at Caucuses but Proponents of Measure Are Not Routed Until National Leader Announces Views.

BOISE, Idaho, March 11.—(Special.)—United States Senator Borah was largely responsible for blocking the attempt made at the recent session of the Legislature to repeal the direct primary law. He gave support to those members of the assembly who were against repeal, but favored amendments seeking to strengthen the act.

Some of the party leaders wanted the primary law stricken from the statutes and the old convention system substituted. It was in Senate bill No. 77 that the repeal of the primary law was expected to be accomplished. This measure was introduced in the upper house by the state affairs committee and by its terms the direct primary was to be eliminated so far as the nomination of state officials and Presidential electors were concerned and even the election of delegates to the state convention was to be accomplished through the primary plan. Legislative and county candidates, however, were to be nominated at a primary.

As soon as the bill was introduced opposition developed within the majority wings of both houses. Numerous caucuses were called to discuss the bills with a view of procuring caucus approval. At these caucuses conflict developed. During the latter days of the session it was urged that final action be taken on the pending primary bill. It was at this caucus that a letter from Senator Borah played so prominent a part.

While the caucus was deliberating just after several Senators had made an attack on the primary law a member asked permission to read a letter and proceeded to give the views of Senator Borah on the proposed action of a Republican Legislature to repeal the direct primary law. This letter is said to have handed the situation without gloves.

Idaho's senior Senator declares himself unequivocally in favor of the direct primary law, its intents and purposes, and asserted that he would not care if every man, woman and child in Idaho was against the direct primary, he would be for it and would be prepared to go before the people and tell them why.

Collapse of the attempt to push the primary repeal act through the Legislature followed. The present law, however, was not strengthened.

S. WELLS KILLS SELF

Former Pendleton Councilman Is Survived by Son.

PENDELTON, Or., March 11.—(Special.)—Walter S. Wells, a resident of Pendleton for 40 years, a former member of the City Council and an employee of the water department for many years, committed suicide last night. Drink caused his fall within a few years from a prominent citizen and caused domestic troubles resulting in a divorce from his wife within less than a week of his suicide.

He was more than 50 years of age. Besides his son, he is survived by a brother, Will Wells, of Seattle, and three sisters—Mrs. William H. Evans, of Pilot Rock; Mrs. Frank Zeigler, of Moscow, Idaho, and Mrs. Mattie Simmons, of Tumtum, Wash.

Former Judge Sent Victor.

PASCO, Wash., March 11.—(Special.)—Judge Bert Linn, of Prosser, has been holding court in Pasco for the past two days. Several important cases were heard, one in which ex-Judge W. W. Zent, now of Spokane, was plaintiff in an action against J. C. Lewis, of Benton City. The case was won by Judge Zent.

WHITMAN Y. W. C. A. ELECTS

Miss Margaret White to Head Association During Year.

WHITMAN COLLEGE, Walla Walla, Wash., March 11.—(Special.)—At a recent meeting of the Young Women's Christian Association of Whitman College, Miss Margaret White, daughter of Rev. F. N. White, of the First Congregational Church of Walla Walla, was elected president. Miss Martha Luginbuhl was chosen vice-president, and Miss Mabel Gite and Miss Effie Duff were elected treasurer and secretary, respectively.

It also was decided that Mrs. S. B. L. Penrose, National president of the

Young Women's Christian Association, and Miss Mabel Gite and Martha Luginbuhl should represent Whitman at the district convention of the associations of the colleges and schools of the Northwest at Moscow, Idaho, March 12 to 14.

Mr. Lachner started in eight years ago with \$2500 as his yearly compensation. Since that time he has received two increases of \$100 each.

Accused Man Sues for \$1025. KLAMATH FALLS, Or., March 11.—(Special.)—At Crystal yesterday brought suit in the Circuit Court here against Tom Love and the National Surety Company to recover \$1025 damages. Last year Love caused Crystal's arrest on a charge of withholding money. At the same time a civil action was instituted against Crystal in which Crystal's saloon was attached. Later Crystal was acquitted of the criminal charge and the attachment was dissolved.

BAKER POSTOFFICE GROWS. New Head Will Receive \$100 Yearly Increase in Salary as Result. BAKER, Or., March 11.—(Special.)—John G. Foster, who will take over the charge of the Baker postoffice within the next week, will receive a \$100 annual raise over the salary which the incumbent, William J. Lachner, has been drawing. Mr. Foster's salary will amount to \$2800 yearly. The postmaster's salary is based on

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