

VERNONIA RAILWAY TO BE INSPECTED

President Donnelly of Northern Pacific Arrives.

BIG GROUPING WANTED

Association of Lines Is to Be Asked at Meeting of Interstate Commerce Body.

Charles Donnelly, president of the Northern Pacific railway, came to Portland yesterday to have a look at the new mileage lately added to the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railway line, the Portland, Astoria & Pacific line that extends into the timber beyond Vernonia. With local officials he will inspect that road today. Yesterday he went to Burlington and saw logs from the woods in the Vernonia district roll into the Nehalem booms there.

President Donnelly said upon arrival that the interests he represents will propose that the Northern Pacific, Great Northern, Burlington, Colorado & Southern, Spokane, Portland & Seattle and the electric lines held by the last named corporation be grouped in one great rail system when the interstate commerce commission meets November 17 to consider its proposal to form 19 big railway systems for the United States.

Retention to Be Urged. It was said this association of lines, closely related in interest, appealed to Northern Pacific officials, as well as heads of the allied lines, more strongly than the suggested union of the Great Northern and Milwaukee, with the Northern Pacific and Burlington in another district system.

Retention of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle, it was said, would be urged by both the Great Northern and Northern Pacific, now joint owners of that property. The entrance into Portland, President Donnelly stated, was an advantage and would be surrendered by either major line with extreme reluctance.

The rail executive said the consolidation plan did not include the right to force any roads to accept groupings contrary to their own interests, and he believed it would be to the advantage of the northwest to retain the present alliance of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern, with its co-operative road entering Portland down the water grade of the Columbia river.

Car Shortage Declared Bad. President Donnelly said the car shortage is the worst in the history of the western roads at this time. He blamed eastern lines for the unfortunate conditions that obtain and said if the roads east of the Missouri river would release rolling stock of the western lines the pressure would be relieved and complaints would end.

A party of Spokane, Portland & Seattle officials, including President W. F. Turner and Traffic Manager W. D. Skinner, will accompany President Donnelly over the Portland, Astoria & Pacific line today. Judge C. H. Carey and James B. Kerr, attorneys, will be asked to go, and Judge George T. Reid of Seattle, western counsel for the Northern Pacific, will join the party here. W. P. Kenny, vice-president of the Great Western, was expected to arrive and join the excursion, but it was announced yesterday he was unable to make the trip.

YEGGS DEFEND COMRADE

Pair in Court Swear Companion Was Innocent.

True to the principles of yegmen, Charles Bosler and Carl Klein-smith, two local youths who have been dabbling in crime for the past few years, took the witness stand in the federal court yesterday and attempted to clear a companion, Al-hert Steffens, of guilt in a charge of attempting to rob a postoffice. The trio was caught by the police July 19 while attempting to enter a sub-postal station on Hawthorne avenue and East Thirty-ninth street. Steffens was drunk, they declared, too drunk to know what he was do-

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OCTOBER BUILDING RECORD EXCELLENT

Bank Clearings for Month Show Stable Business.

TWO HIGH MARKS MADE

Construction Values and Fiscal Transactions Indicate Great Prosperity in Portland.

With two more months to go, the volume of building in Portland thus far this year is within \$750,000 of the highest building year in Portland's history, according to figures compiled at the office of Building Inspector Plummer. The month just closed also set a high record for bank clearings.

At the close of business yesterday the total of building permits issued in the city for the first 10 months of the year were announced as more than \$20,000,000.

During the period 12,875 permits were issued for an aggregate of \$20,152,560. The greatest previous building record in Portland's history was made in 1910, when the permits for the year aggregated \$20,886,202.

\$22,000,000 Is Predicted. It was predicted in building circles that the volume of building for the present year would reach \$22,000,000 when the totals for the months of November and December were included.

Building activity for the month just closed amounted to \$1,539,420, representing 1223 permits. This was slightly in excess of the activity for the preceding month, \$1,534,000, in spite of the fact that building was heavily curtailed during October by the shortage of cement.

As had been anticipated, October set a new high record in bank clearings among all months for the last two years. High tide in business transactions was forecast for the month and it lived up to expectations. Total clearings were \$172,789,063, compared with \$153,774,220 for the same month last year.

Business Prosperity Foreseen. The total for October is only slightly below that of October, 1915, the previous high record, which gives business men the feeling that the city is returning to the highly prosperous conditions that obtained two years ago.

Bank clearings since January 1 amount to \$1,323,412,343, as compared with \$1,270,352,078 for a like period last year.

Savings deposits, too, show a healthy increase, along with satisfactory showing in building permits, postal receipts and gains in all lines of merchandising.

Alleged Forger Requisitioned.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Oct. 31.—(Special.)—Governor Hart yesterday issued a requisition upon the governor of Oregon for the return to Spokane of Elizabeth Ryan, alias Blanche Miller, alias Jean Desmond, under arrest in Portland and wanted in Spokane for forgery. The woman is alleged to have cashed a forged check at a Spokane shoe store on October 17.

Coos County to Put Up Signs.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Oct. 31.—(Special.)—The Coos County Good Roads association, at a meeting held in the county seat, appropriated a large sum of money for the establishment of signs on the Pacific highway and other thoroughfares in the state along the north and south counties of the interior. The project was originated in June, but not established until four months later, owing to an excessive charge that faced the managers. Great reductions from original estimates were made before a deal was closed. Several large signs will be maintained, besides 50 to 100 smaller ones.

Cranberry Growers to Meet.

MONTESANO, Wash., Oct. 31.—(Special.)—Robert Cowan, county farm agent, will meet with the cranberry growers of the county at Graylands, in the southwest corner of Grays Harbor county, tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock. The meeting will decide concerning the exhibit from the Grays Harbor bogs at the northwest fruit show in Seattle November 11-15. So far the counties of Grays Harbor and Pacific, Washington and Clatsop, Oregon, have announced their intention to exhibit. First prize of \$100, second prize of \$75 and third prize of \$50 are offered for the best county exhibits.

Vote X 99—Dan Kellaher for city commissioner—Adv.

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