

SUITSME, SAYS GEO. E. CHAMBERLAIN

Chamberlain Is for Geer's Special Session.

HE FAVORS FLAT SALARIES

Legislative Members, However, Think No Action Need Be Taken Before Next January—What the Constitution Says.

Governor Geer's special Legislative session enterprise to put all state officers on flat salaries is favored by George E. Chamberlain, supposed to be members of the Legislature from Multnomah County who were yesterday interviewed by The Oregonian. It seems to be agreed now that the Legislature, if called together at all, must meet before the new year, in order to devote the time necessary to consideration of the complicated and cumbersome fee system. Governor Geer says he has not yet made up his mind about the matter, and will not still be heard from the people.

The proposal to call a special session of the Legislature for the purpose of enacting a law placing all state officers on flat salaries has created a stir in political circles. Members of the Legislature from this county are pretty generally opposed to a special session, but all are in favor of a flat salary law. In the larger events of political activity are wondering what all is at the bottom of the new move.

The consensus of opinion among those who were heard to discuss the matter yesterday seems to be that all state officers except the State Printer should be placed upon reasonable flat salaries; that the people have demanded this; that the candidates have pledged themselves to abide by such a law, and that both the candidates and the people contemplated the passage of such a law at the regular session. Those who have studied the matter agree that it is impossible to place the State Printer upon a salary, flat or otherwise, for the constitution plainly provides that his compensation shall depend upon the amount of work he does. It is generally agreed that the State Printer gets too large a profit, and that his fees should be reduced, but manifestly his pay must depend upon the quantity of printing done. Section 1 of article xii of the constitution says:

"There shall be elected by the qualified electors of the state, at the times and places of choosing of the Legislative Assembly, a State Printer, who shall hold his office for a term of four years. He shall perform all the duties which the state which may be required by law. The rates to be paid to him for such printing shall be fixed by law, and shall neither be increased nor diminished during the term for which he shall have been elected. He shall give such security for the performance of his other duties as the Legislative Assembly may provide."

As to the other officers, their compensation is supposed to be fixed by the constitution, though some contend that the salaries named in the constitution are minimum amounts. Section 1 of article xiii provides:

"The Governor shall receive an annual salary of \$1500. The Secretary of State shall receive an annual salary of \$1000. The State Treasurer shall receive an annual salary of \$800. The Judges of the Supreme Court shall each receive an annual salary of \$2000. They shall receive no fees or perquisites whatever for the performance of any duties connected with their respective offices, and the compensation of officers, if not fixed by this constitution, shall be provided by law."

As is well known, the compensation of the various officers has been increased beyond the amount stated in the constitution by means of salaries paid for services on bonds and commissions. The constitution does not require the Governor specifically to act as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Asylum, and upon the ground that his duties upon that board are additional duties he is given an additional salary. The platforms of both parties in the recent campaign called for the enactment of a law placing all state officers on reasonable flat salaries. The pledge was not that all salaries or any particular compensation should be lower than at present, but rather that the fee system should be abolished. From the manner in which the campaign was conducted by the Democrats, it has been evident that the attack is being made particularly upon the compensation received by the Secretary of State and the State Printer.

Among those who expressed themselves yesterday regarding the flat-salary law and the necessity for calling a special session of the Legislature were the following: George E. Chamberlain, Governor-elect, said: "I am in favor of flat salaries for state officers, and have advocated them during the campaign. I am also in favor of the special session for the purpose of enacting the salary law before the new officers begin their administrations. A special session would be necessary in order to make the law effective, for the salaries cannot be changed after a man has begun his term of office. Yes, I am in favor of putting the State Printer on flat salary also, and let him get the public printing done as I get mine done—at the usual union price."

Representative W. N. Jones said: "I believe in the flat salary system of paying public officials, and believe the Legislature, at its next session, should enact a law placing all state officers on such salaries, and requiring that all fees be turned into the treasury. Salaries for state officers should be large enough to secure the services of competent men, and I do not believe that many of the officers are now receiving too much. If, upon consideration, the Legislature finds that any officers are receiving more than a reasonable compensation, the excess should certainly be cut off. It does not seem to me that it is necessary that a special session should be called to consider this question. The state officers have been elected upon a platform advocating reasonable flat salaries, and they should not, and, I think, will not, re-

OLD CHARLESTON

Aspects of Life in the Quaint Old City.

THE NEGRO PROBLEM

Charleston's Commercial Position, Present and Past—Her Unprofitable Devotion to a Dead Past—The Historic Harbor Ports.

(By a Staff Writer—Letter No. 3.)

I cannot take leave of Charleston without a word about the city itself, for, to be entirely frank, I have been far more interested in the old town than in the exposition. This is not unusual. Everywhere I am told it is the same. Chicago was as much a part of the Columbian show as the exposition city out in Lincoln Park; and it was the same in the case of Buffalo and of other places where fairs have been held. Exposition cities understand this, and always take pains to get themselves up in presentable shape—to put their best foot foremost, so to speak. For the first and only time in her career Chicago was made relatively clean for the great show of 1893, and kept so for half a year. Omaha got such a move on in the matter of civic improvement that the fever has not yet subsided, and she is today covering her outer districts with paved streets and permanent stone sidewalks, for these advantages have been found profitable as well as pleasing. At Buffalo the whole city was put in apple order—thereby earning the pleasant reputation of being the cleanest city on the American continent.

Even old Charleston did something in the way of perking up for company. It was a big job. The city is something over two centuries old, and the marks of age—almost worn ages—are everywhere upon it. It is not easy to make a city whose streets are narrow almost after the medieval pattern, whose buildings are of every era and representative of half a dozen national types of architecture, and three-fifths of whose population is black, look smart after the modern fashion. The Charlestonians had the good sense not to try it, but they did clean up their town, reconstruct its sewers, mend the breaches in its old pavements, fit bathubs into the old hotels and generally "buck up" for the sake of appearance. The old town, which has a bad name for sloth and carelessness in connection with its backyards, is now very presentable and comfortable.

The population of Charleston, as I stated in a former letter, is small—only 53,000, all told, of whom 25,000 are white and 28,000 are black. The effective community is, therefore, a little one, and in many of its aspects life in Charleston is village life. The blacks count for something, but not much. They are the brewers of wood and carriers of water, but their initiative is nothing, their productive power is not great, and their consumptive demands are surprisingly small. Of course, they have to eat like other beings, but they have little money to spend and the money cost of their subsistence is surprisingly light. Hog flesh and cornmeal make the bulk of their fare, and when there is one day's supply of these staples in the house there

is not much anxiety for the future. Indeed, the South Carolina negro lives wholly for the present, and he is the happiest creature the sun shines on. Unlike the Northern negro, who has come to be a regular and dependable workman, he has little forethought, no care for the future of his own children, no consideration for the woman of his family connection, no care in life of any kind. He will work after his own fashion, but it is a delectable fashion at best, and its average is perhaps one day out of four. The life of the Charleston roustabout is scarcely removed from what in the North we would call vagrancy; it lacks pretty much everything that a civilized taste demands, but it seems to yield a vast measure of happiness of the sensuous sort. There are, of course, some blacks of a more energetic and ambitious type, but they are in the minority, and it is the other sort which makes the tone and fashion of South Carolina negro life. All the initiative and force of life in Charleston rests upon the shoulders of the whites, who carry the black population as a burden. A Northern community would resent the incubus, but not so the Charleston people. They understand the situation thoroughly, but they do not like to hear it discussed. The negro is with them and of them—an affliction to be sure, but a domestic affliction to be borne with patience and even affection.

The domestic position of the blacks in Charleston is a curious one, and the domestic problems they make ever more curious. Each white family has its group of old retainers upon whose affection and general faithfulness it counts, but it is expected, as a matter of course, that these same old and faithful servants will steal anything they can get their hands on. Every housekeeper takes it as a matter of course that her purchase of domestic supplies must be made on a basis which will allow for at least 25 per cent loss through the petty dishonesty of cook and waitress. It is the rule in all of the kind households to keep supplies of all kinds under lock and key, leaving only the day's supply open to the hands of the household servants. Of this limited quantity, it goes without saying, all that is not immediately consumed is carried away. The sugar bowl and the tea urn are, of course, always turned in empty, and they will be emptied half a dozen times each day if it is permitted. "We pay small wages," one housekeeper said to me, "but we make up for it in losses which a Northern housekeeper does not have to take into account. I always reckon that my cook gets as much in the way of small thievery from my kitchen as I pay her in wages. There is no use making a fuss about it, for if you let one go it will only be to get another of the same sort. It's the custom of the place; the servants themselves regard it as legitimate. There is not the slightest use to attempt reforms. Just keep things locked up as closely as you can and expect the sugar tray to be looted right under your nose."

The men are, of course, as bad as the women. Nobody leaves anything lying about as we do. A lawn hose left out overnight would not be found the next morning. Garden tools must be kept under lock and key every minute they are not in use. There are, however, curious limitations to this universal practice of petty larceny. While the average Charleston "boy" is ready enough to steal from you he will not climb over a fence to do it. For this reason every Charleston residence has a protection in the form of a high fence, sometimes of wood or stone and often of iron grill work, and this is always locked at night. In many instances it is kept locked all the time.

The musical ritual of the coronation service, announced today, shows that

former settings have been closely followed, with a few notable additions. Chief of these are the Frith's specialties, composed by Sir Frederick Bridge, organist of Westminster Abbey; Sir Walter Parratt, organist of St. George's Chapel, Royal Windsor, and master of the Kings' Music; and Charles H. Parry, director of the Royal College of Music. Parry's "I Was Glad" signals the entrance of the royal party into Westminster Abbey. Midway in the service a break is made, so that boys of Westminster School may exercise their ancient privilege of greeting their majesties by shouting "Vivat Regina Alexandram" and "Vivat Rex Edward."

Thirty-five persons injured in an accident near St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, June 7.—As the result of a collision today at the surface crossing at Brentwood, St. Louis County, between a car on the Clayton branch of the Suburban Electric Line and an engine on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, 35 persons were badly injured, two fatally. The car, which could not be controlled because of a defective brake, plunged into the engine, which was at the crossing, and was badly wrecked.

The injured are: William Laxen, motor-man, probably fatally; George Gibbons, negro laborer, probably fatally; Miss Amelia Gross, artist; Kirkwood; Mrs. J. W. Smithers, Webster Grove; William Bolt, conductor; W. G. Crabbe, St. Louis; L. K. Grundy, Webster Grove; Charles Barrett, Kirkwood; Kirkwood; George Henry Wolfberger, Kirkwood; William Wellhouse, Webster Grove; C. L. Brooks, Webster Grove; G. E. Braher, artist; Kirkwood; Peter Griffin, Webster Grove; Henry Wolfberger, Kirkwood; William Barter, negro laborer, Webster Grove; John Anderson, negro laborer, Luzzado; Quincy Poll, negro, Webster Grove; James J. Jacobs, Kirkwood; George J. W. Brandall, butcher, Clayton; W. D. Ewing, engineer; Joseph McClure, fireman, St. Louis; George W. Marvin, brakeman, Kirkwood.

The fireman and engineer of the railroad train were removed to the hospital. Almost every one of the passengers on the trolley car was cut by flying glass or thrown against a door, window or seat. The injuries of a majority of the passengers were slight, however, and they set about the rescue of the less fortunate.

PACKERS' ANSWER.

Attack Missouri Anti-Trust Law as Unconstitutional.

KANSAS CITY, June 7.—Attorneys for the packers have prepared their answer to the proceedings against the alleged beef trust brought by Attorney-General Crow, and copies were forwarded to Jefferson City today. While denying that they ever made an unlawful combination of any sort, the packers attack the Missouri anti-trust law as unconstitutional and in conflict with both Federal and state legislation and laws.

The Schwartzchild & Sulzberger Company has a separate answer. It has been operating without a license and is on a different footing from the rest, for it has never been legally in business in Missouri. Part of its answer says:

"This respondent never made or entered into any agreement, confederation, combination, pool or understanding with or among the respondents or either of them or any person or corporation, to regulate, fix or control the price to be paid by retail butchers or anyone else for any kind of pork, beef, cured meats or lard, slaughtered or manufactured, prepared or offered for sale or to be sold in the State of Missouri or elsewhere, or to maintain or control prices thereof in St. Joseph, Kansas City or St. Louis or elsewhere in Missouri, or to prevent competition in business between the respondents and others engaged in like business; nor did respondent ever take any part in maintaining any such agreement, confederation, combination, pool or understanding."

The answer denies that unwholesome beef is sold.

AS IN OLDEN TIMES

Some of the Features of the Coronation.

FITTING UP THE ROYAL BARGE

Peereases Undecided What to Do With Their Coronets During the Services at the Abbey—The Musical Ritual.

LONDON, June 7.—As the date for the coronation approaches, London is assuming a beflagged aspect, the early extent of which is to no little degree due to the peace rejoicings.

The Indian and other Foreign Princes, with Oriental costumes in royal carriages, are sights to which London is becoming daily accustomed. The feeding of these same nobles almost drives the court functionaries to despair. That most orthodox of Hindu potentates, the Maharajah of Jeypoor, who is living in stately confinement at Lorys Lodge, has commanded a complete renovation of a neighboring slaughter-house, which is now exclusively devoted to killing animals required by the Maharajah and his enormous suite. All the slaughtering operations are, naturally, conducted by Hindu butchers, who enshroud the slaughter-house with amusing scenery.

Despite the strict orders issued regarding the uniformity of the dresses to be worn by peereases at the coronation service, there will be seen the countless variations that art and wealth can devise without actual disobedience of the royal commands. All the dresses must be white, but many ladies, determined to make their dresses distinctive of the occasion and to preserve them as heirlooms, are having gowns embroidered with coats of arms, national flowers and other devices. These are being executed in gold and silver, here and there touched with the forbidden colored silk, in order to bring out the badge of a clan or an ancient heraldic quartering. Gold embroidery down the sides of the dresses and on the shoulder straps is also much employed. The Countess of Shrewsbury, mother of the Earl of polo fame, will appear, with the exception of hoop, in a dress exactly similar to that worn by the Countess of Eglington, when George III was crowned.

One of the greatest present anxieties of the Peereases is how to keep the coronet on the head. It cannot be too firmly fixed, for it has to be quickly taken off and then replaced in accordance with the ritual of the service. Another serious point is how the Peereases are to carry their costly coronets when the service commands that they be uncovered. The correct method, according to the authority of old prints of previous coronations, is to hold up the coronet between the finger and thumb.

The King's golden robe has finally been completed. It is a gorgeous garment, shaped like a priest's cape, composed of the finest cloth of gold and elaborately embroidered in various colors.

Among the many ancient customs which the King has revived, is one which makes those who shook their heads over Sir Thomas Lipton's shamrock II, May 22, 1881, almost equally nervous. His Majesty has now ordered that an old royal barge, built for George II, be made seaworthy. This magnificent relic, with its elaborate canopy and high stern, will once more be floated on Virginia water, and the "King's Jolly Watermen" have been ordered on duty at Windsor, where the castle lake, after many years, will soon be the scene of a royal water pageant.

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SEA DREDGE FOR BAR

Columbia River Likely to Have One at Once.

FUNDS ON HAND TO BE USED

Chief of Engineers Is Considering the Matter—Treasury Department's Plan for Enlarging Portland Postoffice.

WASHINGTON, June 7.—As soon as the river and harbor bill has been signed by the President, the Chief of Engineers will appoint a board of engineers, in accordance with the provisions of the bill agreed to by the conference committee, to visit the Columbia River and make an examination and estimate to determine whether a canal for overcoming the obstructions between The Dalles and Celilo can be built for less than the estimate made by Captain Harts two years ago, approximately \$4,000,000. The first action taken under the new bill will be the appointment of special boards. If this board shall report the Harts estimate a reasonable and safe one, and that the work cannot be done for any considerably less amount, the Chief of Engineers intends to authorize the commencement of work without further delay. While there is nothing additional in the department on which to base an opinion, engineer officials here incline to the opinion that Captain Harts will be sustained by the board.

Work at the mouth of the Columbia River will be taken up as soon as the local engineers submit projects, upon which contracts are to be invited. The preliminary work done under the last appropriation has placed the jetty and approaches in such condition that the work of extension can be carried on without delay. In this connection, the Chief of Engineers is considering the advisability of taking a part of the funds on hand for the mouth of the river for building or purchasing a sea dredge for maintaining a deep channel across the bar until the jetty is completed. He is of the opinion that he already has authority to make this expenditure, and informed Mr. Tongue that he was very favorably impressed with the proposition, realizing the necessity for immediate relief. Other work will be taken up as soon as plans can be prepared.

OLNEY FOR PRESIDENT.

Indorsed by Prominent Democrats of Tennessee.

MEMPHIS, June 7.—A mass meeting, attended by a large number of the most prominent Democrats in Memphis and Shelby County, tonight indorsed Richard Olney, of Massachusetts, as candidate of the Democratic party for President in 1904.

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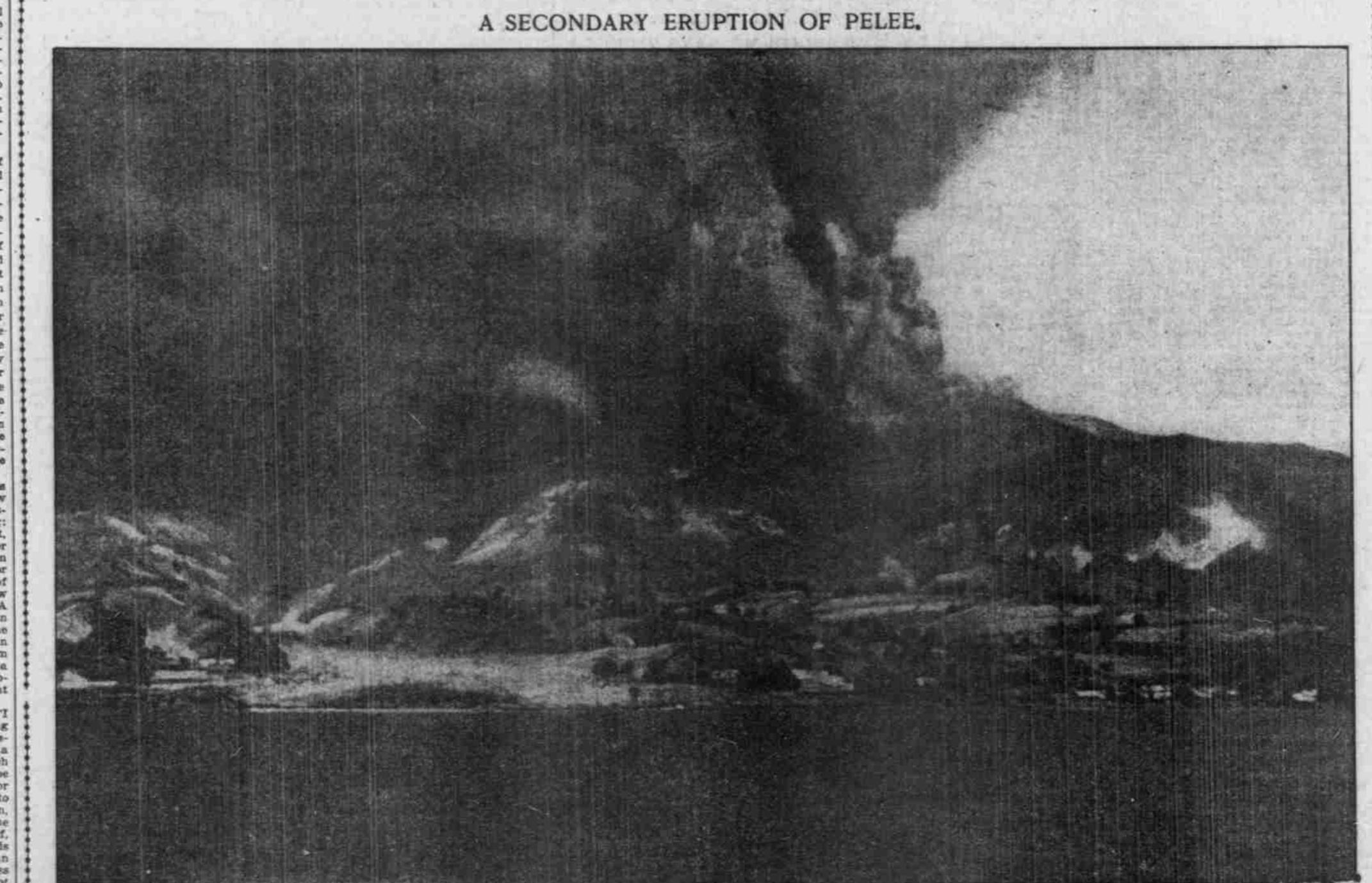
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THE TERROR-STRIKING SPECTACLE OF THIS LESSER ERUPTION, AS SEEN FROM THE WATER FRONT OF FRECHUR—A TOWN ONLY A FEW MILES DISTANT FROM ST. PIERRE—MAKES POSSIBLE A MORE VIVID REALIZATION OF THE APPALLING MAGNITUDE OF THE GREAT DISASTER OF MAY 8.