

COWLITZ RIVER IS FALLING FAST

Sun Lights Up Scene of Destruction.

MUCH LAND IS LAID WASTE

Houses Washed Away From Above Stranded on Bank.

LOSS IS QUARTER MILLION

Part of Castle Rock Is Still Under Water, but Citizens Have Shelter and Plenty to Eat.

BY G. A. WHITE. CASTLE ROCK, Wash., Nov. 17.—(Staff Correspondence)—The Cowlitz River is falling. It is apparent tonight that the stream has spent its force and is swirling harmlessly down its course through the fertile valley a good 10 feet lower than during Thursday and Friday, when the entire region was in peril.

came fainter, finally ceased and the rescue boat returned to shore unable to locate the point from where the cries proceeded. Rev. A. M. McClain is making an effort to find if anyone is missing from the city. He learned of no one today.

Whether or not Castle Rock can be built up as before seems doubtful at this time. The Cowlitz has not yet retreated from the channel which its mad torrent plowed through the west part of town Friday morning. The major portion of the river is racing through this new course and seems bent on tearing a wider bed, that the whole river may follow.

After being tied up since Wednesday the passengers were overjoyed at the prospect of getting out, and many shouted with glee when Trainmaster Buckley got a work train through during the forenoon and said the track was clear back to Portland.

During the early part of next week it is hoped to have the line clear to Puget Sound. A Seattle-bound passenger is held in check by an extensive washout six miles above Castle Rock. The steamer Chester bucked the river from Kelso today and will attempt to transfer the passengers from the washout to Kelso or Castle Rock, where they can get trains for Portland or await the opening of the line.

The entire valley is already at work remedying the damage, for it is believed, after the ten-foot fall in the river today, that the river will remain docile for the winter. The temperature is normal and the chinook remains in evidence, but snow is reported as scarce in the Cascades and hence there seems to be no basis for panic predictions. Fears were entertained at Kelso early in the morning that the Coweeman dam above that place might break, but later the dam was reported firm and normal, with no evidences of a break.

PEARY CEMENTS OREGON ROMANCE

Safe Return Means Silvertown Wedding.

SOPHIE WOLF IS THE BRIDE

Marry Willard Geer When Brother Comes Home.

HE IS DOCTOR WITH PEARY

Oregon Doctor With Peary and Sister Makes Happiness of Davenport's Cousin Depend on Return.

NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—(Special.)—A romance that depended on the safe return of Lieutenant Peary's latest Arctic expedition became known today, when an announcement was made of the engagement of Miss Sophie Wolf, of Silvertown, Or., sister of Dr. Louis J. Wolf, physician to the expedition, and P. Willard Geer, of Morris Plains, N. J., cousin of Homer Davenport, the cartoonist.

Mr. Geer and Miss Wolf have been sweethearts from childhood. Their affection first manifested itself when young Geer, then a resident of Oregon, secured a clerkship in the store of Adolf Wolf & Son, of Silvertown. Not only did the elder Wolf take the young man into his business establishment, but he invited him to live at his home. While young Geer chummed with Louis Wolf, he constantly was pressing his attentions upon his friend's sister, but his suit for her hand was not successful.

"I'd like to volunteer to go with Commander Peary," Dr. Wolf confided to his friend. "I think I can arrange it if you are in earnest," replied Mr. Geer. "I know Commander Peary; come with me and I will recommend you to him." Arriving in New York, Mr. Geer called on the explorer and introduced Dr. Wolf, who was examined and immediately accepted. Dr. Wolf sailed on the Roosevelt, while Mr. Geer hurried across the continent with farewell messages to the young physician's family.

Will keep my promise to be your wife." Mr. Geer expects to marry just as soon as Dr. Wolf returns to New York. He received today this letter from his fiancée's brother.

Message From Dr. Wolf. "Hopedale, Labrador, Missionary Station, Oct. 25, 1906." We're in this harbor repairing rudder and stern and taking on ballast, water, wood, etc. We expect to mail steamship in few days or hope to get coal from her. We have been steaming part of the time with wood and blubber.

Romantic marriage in Oregon will follow return of Peary expedition. Peary's fiancee says insurance gratuity cannot be prosecuted. Three persons cremated in hotel fire at Goldfield, Nev. Floods in Northwest. Cowlitz is falling, showing that damage to rich valley will reach \$250,000.

Commercial and Marine. Shortage in prune market caught. Chicago wheat market lacks support. New York banks hold surplus reserve. Increased speculation in stock market. Norwegian tramp Jethou arrives. Big fleet of sailing vessels harbored at Astoria.

Editorial. Church announcements. Classified advertisements. Woman's battle for freedom in England. Annie Laura Miller's Japanese letters. What Senator Tillman thinks of himself. Multi-millionaires in public life. Chickwagon Cal. An odd freak by W. W. Jacobs. Book reviews. The John Dough mystery. Religious notes. Social. Dramatic. Musical. Household and fashion. Youth department.

NEW FRAUDS COME CLOSE TO THRONE

Taint Said to Touch Interior Department.

LAND OFFICE IS INVOLVED

Commissioner Richards Under Heavy Fire.

HE IS DIRECTLY ACCUSED

Secretary Hitchcock's Subordinates Said to Have Issued Patents on Public Coal Lands in Wyoming Despite Fraudulent Entries.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—(Special.)—Affidavits are on file with the Government here, and have been called to the attention of President Roosevelt, charging that the gigantic land frauds whereby the Union Pacific Railroad Company and the Union Pacific Coal Company secured illegally coal lands in the state of Wyoming valued at many millions of dollars were perpetrated with the full knowledge of the Government Land Office, if not with its connivance and were known, if not tacitly assented to, by the Department of the Interior. The affidavits are made by Artemus J. Smith, of Smith & Bradbury, dealers in mines and mining at Denver.

The charges made by Mr. Smith are sensational in the extreme and call into question the integrity of William A. Richards, Government Land Commissioner, and of others high in the employ of the Government. It was the knowledge of the earlier charges made by Mr. Smith which led to the investigation made by the Interstate Commerce Commission, recently at Omaha, Salt Lake City and Denver, and by which fraudulent land deals of great magnitude were uncovered.

That on November 21, 1903, he placed before the Department of the Interior facts and data and offered to prove, if given the opportunity, that a vast acreage of land had been and still was being stolen from the Government, and that little or no attention was paid to his petition.

repeated charges, M. E. Myendorff, Special Agent of the Land Department, made an investigation in the Evanston district, of Wyoming, which substantiated the charges made by Mr. Smith. That, immediately thereafter, Mr. Myendorff was transferred permanently to Los Angeles. That Mr. Smith again protested and furnished additional facts, making his appeal directly to the Secretary of the Interior, and that the latter official ordered Commissioner Richards to make an investigation.

That, although Mr. Smith repeatedly offered to prove his charges, he was never notified that a hearing and an investigation by the Land Commissioner had been made.

That, on December 26, 1905, a "straw-chamber" investigation was made at Evanston, Wyo., during which only witnesses in the employ of the Union Pacific Coal Company were called and were secretly heard.

That, almost immediately after this hearing, and on the very day the Department received a telegram protesting from Mr. Smith, together with substantiating facts, patents were issued to stolen land valued at more than \$1,000,000.

That, after insistent demands and

OIL TRUST SAYS POSITION IS SAFE

Morally and Legally Unassailable.

CONFIDENT OF VINDICATION

Armed With Virtues, Glad to Go Before Court.

PLACES TRUST IN JUDGES

Directors Issue Circulars to Shareholders, Affirming Goodness of Standard and Saying It's Just Like Other Trusts.

NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—The directors of the Standard Oil Company issued another circular today to the stockholders of the company, saying that the company's position is unassailable from both a legal and a moral standpoint. The circular follows: "25 Broadway, New York, Nov. 17, 1906. "To the Shareholders of the Standard Oil Company: "Regarding the suit this day commenced in the United States Court at St. Louis, in which it is sought to prevent the Standard Oil Company (of New Jersey) from holding any stocks of other companies, your directors are entirely convinced that the company's position is unassailable, both from a legal and a moral standpoint. We are confident that in the proceedings which will follow the company will successfully maintain its position upon the merits and vindicate it before the public and the law.

"While your directors feel that there is no adequate reason for such a suit, either in the organization or the conduct of the business, yet under the circumstances it is perhaps better for your interests and the business interests of the country that the business interests should be removed to the judicial atmosphere of the courts—in whose integrity and wisdom every citizen should have the fullest confidence—where mere allegations must give way to legal proof.

"The present organization was formed after an exhaustive consideration of the legal and business problems involved. It has existed unchallenged for many years. Everything relating to it has been a matter of public report and in every step the utmost care has been observed to conduct the business honestly and fairly and in accordance with not only the spirit but the technical requirements of the law. Legitimate and Normal. "The legal organization of your company is of essentially the same nature and character as that of the other important industrial interests of the country, and the continuous growth and expansion of its business have been legitimate and normal. It is not to be lightly assumed that there is to be a reversal of the wheels of progress or a destruction of the foundations of the great industrial business of the country.

PANORAMIC VIEW OF CASTLE ROCK SHOWING RAVAGES OF THE COWLITZ



THE SWIRLING STREAM IN THE FOREGROUND IS THE NEW CHANNEL OF THE COWLITZ, WHICH WAS CUT THROUGH THE WEST PART OF THE TOWN.