

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.

Citizens Not in Distress. The greater part of the town is unscathed, however, and there is plenty of shelter for those who have been left temporarily without homes. Provisions are plentiful. The tax on the local larder was considerably lessened this afternoon when the delayed Northern Pacific passenger train from Portland, with its 150 passengers, got through to Kelso and finally to Portland.

Much Land Under Water. Thousands of acres of land yet lay under from one to five feet of water. On the Nelson ranch, two miles below Castle Rock, two substantial frame residences rested in debris and sand. Both were carried down from Castle Rock during the night.

The first real estimate of the damage wrought was made today. Conservatively stated, the river's mad frolic cost the people of the valley \$250,000. The burden of this loss falls on the lumber interests. Lumber mills and great booms of timber have been swept away on both sides of the river. The loss to Castle Rock people will aggregate about \$50,000.

Land Emerges From Water. Two Oregonian men covered the flooded section from Kalama to Castle Rock during the day and learned the precise condition of affairs. At daylight it was evident, even at Kalama, that there had been an extensive falling away of the floods. Telephone poles that had been hardly visible above the surface on Friday were dry half their length. Where farmhouses had been submerged to the eaves, north and west of Kelso, the windows and in some instances the foundations were in evidence.

Reaching Kelso it was found that uneasiness was nearly at an end there. Several small steamers had fire in their boilers in readiness to take up their runs up and down the Cowlitz. Cattle, across the stream, was dry again, portions of the docks being above the flood. Driftwood appeared in smaller quantities. The

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.

Too Young to Marry, She Says. "Wait a while, you're too young to marry," Miss Wolf chided, as Geer asked her to promise to be his bride. Longing to forget the scene of his unsuccessful love-making, Geer turned his face eastward, and several years ago came to New York, where he joined his cousin on his stock-farm at Morris Plains. Eighteen months ago Dr. Wolf was graduated from a medical college and accepted an invitation to spend several weeks with Mr. Geer at Morris Plains.

Coming to New York one morning early in September of last year, Dr. Wolf read in a New York paper that Commander Peary's expedition was lacking a physician. Several had volunteered to accompany him to the far North, but none was accepted.

Joins Peary Expedition. "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. "I'll tell you what I'll do," Miss Wolf said. "If Louis gets back safely, I'll promise to marry you."

The engagement was sealed then and there and was kept a secret until a cablegram announced the safe arrival of Commander Peary and his party on the coast of Labrador. Mr. Geer was among the first to receive a message from Dr. Wolf. He telegraphed his provisional fiancée. She replied: "Am the happiest girl in the world.

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. "The Roosevelt has a few feathers pulled out of her tail, but she is able to put up a mighty good front yet. We

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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 papers are supplemental to a petition and other affidavits which were filed by Mr. Smith with the Land Office in Washington early in 1903, and they make a demand upon the department to start proceedings for the recovery of all the sequestered lands.

Charges Are Sensational. 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.

In pursuing the investigation the Interstate Commerce Commission was exceedingly careful not to uncover the fact that these deals and all the details connected with them, together with names and dates and amounts paid for perjury, had been in the possession of the Department of the Interior for more than three years. Acting under the suggestion of Government officials, the Commission carefully avoided exposing or making an attack upon a co-ordinate branch of the Government.

Emboldened by the disclosures of the Commission, Mr. Smith has again appealed to the Department of the Interior for justice, declaring that he has a prospective interest in the lands in question and that he desires to assert and protect this interest.

Mr. Smith's charges may be summarized as follows: Evidence of Fraud. 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. That, after insistent demands and

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. Star-Chamber Session. That, on December 26, 1905, a "star-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. Regarding his attempts to arouse the Government and secure its aid in preventing these frauds Mr. Smith says: "I reluctantly charge the General Land Office, with all its helps and the Government, with failing to keep faith with me and by a system of procrastination and indifference compelling me to resort to such indirect methods as the records which these proceedings disclose.

Controls Land Office. "I make the bold assertion that there is now in the records of this case in the general land office an affidavit that carries the responsibility that this arm of the Government is controlled by the corporations known as the Union Pacific Railway Company, the Union Pacific Coal Company, the Superior Coal Company, I do not give much credence to this sworn statement and only refer to it so that I may be justified in my belief that I am the victim of misplaced confidence, when I appear before the department as an American citizen to ask for recognition." Accuses U. P. Coal Company. In connection with the land frauds which are now being considered by the Federal grand jury in Salt Lake City, Mr. Smith, under oath, charges Dyer O. Clark, vice-president of the Union Pacific Coal Company, and brother of United States Senator Clark, of Wyoming, George L. Black, superintendent of the company, William A. Gifford, agent of the company, and George Mossholder with subornation of perjury in procuring people to file fraudulently on Government lands and then to turn them over to the coal company, which is owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Regarding his efforts to obtain assistance from the Department of the Interior, Mr. Smith says: "I appealed in vain in 1903. I have continued my appeals up to and including the present. I have spent a vast sum of money I could ill afford. I have striven to get my petition to the foot of the throne. I have failed, and, almost disconsolate and broken-hearted, I have at last reached the ear of the Honorable Secretary of the Interior."

PAT CROWE'S NEW GRAFT Judge Who Tried Him Warns People Not to Bite. OMAHA, Nov. 17.—(Special.)—In a letter to Judge Mack of the Chicago Juvenile Court, Judge Sutton, who presided at the trial of Pat Crowe for the kidnaping of young Cudahy, has put a quietus on Crowe's latest scheme of reforming and starting clubs for boys in Chicago. He expresses an earnest hope that Chicago business men will not be beguiled into contributing to Crowe's scheme, saying it is merely a ruse to get money to spend in debauchery. Judge Sutton says he has known Crowe for 18 years, and has no faith in his protestations of reform.

"In my opinion," he says, "Crowe is one of the most dangerous men in the United States, and the most dangerous one at large today in the country. I could no more think of letting a child under my control pass under his than I would think of sending a child to live with a friend in the penitentiary."

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.

"You may be assured that in this litigation, as in all matters affecting the company, your directors will see that the proper steps are taken to protect your interests. "By order of the board of directors. (Signed) "C. M. PRATT, Secretary."

Lipton Sails for Home. NEW YORK, Nov. 17.—Sir Thomas Lipton sailed for home today on the steamer Calmaria.

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.

Glad to Get Into Court. "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.

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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.