

FISHER WILL ACT IN ALASKA CASE

Secretary Working Hard to Solve Difficulty Over Coal Lands.

SEATTLE TAKES ITS STAND

Territory Expected to Be Disgraced at Position of Sound City as Radical Move Was Expected on Account of Trade.

SEATTLE, May 27.—(Special).—From Washington, D. C. have come friends of Hon. Walter L. Fisher with the tidings that the new Secretary of the Interior is devoting night and day to the task of solving the Alaska coal problem. That cabinet officer, who is reported to be entirely undisturbed by the northern coal parties and by Seattle mass meetings, has indicated that he will come to Seattle just as soon as Congress adjourns and from this point will continue the journey into Alaska. It is admitted that Secretary Fisher was at a disadvantage when he entered the cabinet, inasmuch as he knew none of the details of the complex problem which he had been set to solve. Despite the sharp criticism heard on all sides in Seattle and Alaska of the policy of the Taft Administration, it is certain that Secretary Fisher will receive here and in the north the same hospitable greeting that all previous visits of cabinet officers have brought forth. It is thought that the Secretary, who is a fighting man, and an even-tempered one, will take pleasure in meeting his critics face to face and exchanging views with them.

However, extreme the Administration may consider the resolutions adopted at the Seattle mass meeting, there is not the least doubt that the people of Alaska will regard them as being entirely too mild. The explanation lies in the fact that the commercial organizations of Seattle are obliged to trim to a middle course, between official Washington, with many favors to grant, on the one hand, and Alaska, with its prohibitive tariff, on the other. The resolutions cut squarely across the Taft program. The first one, which demands a territorial government and an Alaska Legislature, is a strong, to "go home and read the Declaration of Independence." The second resolution, which contains the meat of the problem, is that it demands a revocation of the order withdrawing Alaska coal lands from entry. This covers precisely the point in the Taft program that is most objectionable to the people of Alaska. It is in the present shape of the demand of Alaskans is merely that the laws, which have been suspended for five years, be enforced.

The resolution reflects the Bryan view, and that phase of it may be traceable to the fact that Charles G. Hulford, Democratic wheelhorse, in calling the meeting to order, made the most of his opportunity to advise his audience, if they thought the language used was too radical, rather than to "go home and read the Declaration of Independence." The second resolution, which contains the meat of the problem, is that it demands a revocation of the order withdrawing Alaska coal lands from entry. This covers precisely the point in the Taft program that is most objectionable to the people of Alaska. It is in the present shape of the demand of Alaskans is merely that the laws, which have been suspended for five years, be enforced.

On this legal aspect of the coal claims the Alaskans lay greatest stress. They regard the executive order as a source of all their trouble. They have contended that it is irregular and illegal. As stated by Maurice D. Leecher, the officials sworn to enforce the law have declared with defiance that they will compel Congress to pass a leasing system or some other law to the President's liking.

"If this can be done," he continued, "then it means that the President, who has sworn to enforce the law, may nullify the law whenever he sees fit to do so. He can set up his judgment as to what law should be enforced, and the will of Congress, and tell Congress that 'unless you pass the law I believe in, I shall have no law at all.'"

While the Alaskans, therefore, have gone as far as is diplomatically with respect to the President, there is not the least doubt that Alaskans would have preferred demanding that they be allowed to enforce the law as it stands in the Seattle Commercial Club a week prior to the mass meeting.

According to the Alaska division of the General Land Office, special agents are making every effort to complete as quickly as possible the investigation of all Alaska claims. The agents recently returned from Washington, D. C. where he was in conference with Secretary Fisher, Andrew Bennett, Commissioner of the General Land Office, and James M. Sheridan, chief of the field service. Christensen says there are 1100 claims, and that the investigation of this city is reported finally on 774. Claimants will be advised promptly of the action of the department, through the Land Office, in which the claims have been returned, embraces the Brown, Dunn, Doughton, Christopher, Stracey, Wainwright, Detroit groups, behind which last were Mackay, McAlpine and Bushnell, Detroit financiers.

Save Given Boycotters. An opportunity has been opened for Seattle to re-establish harmonious relations with Southwest Washington, by attending the mass meeting of the Development Association in Chehalis, June 1, 2 and 3. The threat of a boycott, which is now operative to a greater or less extent, has shown an appreciation of the gravity of a situation that may send the bulk of a profitable commerce into Portland. On that account, what invitation was read to the Seattle Chamber of Commerce to attend the Chehalis meeting, an acceptance followed in short order. The contrast is particularly marked, in that only recently has Seattle awakened to the necessity and advantage of a representative delegation at trade conferences in various parts of the state.

Seattle will take the ground, at the meeting of the association, that the differences have arisen largely through misunderstanding on the part of the southwest with regard to Seattle's attitude; and the delegation will try to bring about an era of good feeling, instead of the strained relations now existing. To that end the Chamber of Commerce has adopted a report of its committee on National affairs, of which Judge Thomas Burke is chairman, concerning a proposition from the association as follows:

Committee Gives Report.

Your committee on National affairs, to which was referred the communication from the Southwest Washington Development Association

relative to the location of the soldiers' home at a point between Willapa and Grays Harbor, beg leave to report that they have investigated the subject and upon such investigation have found that the site referred to is well adapted for the purpose of a site for the home. The situation is beautiful, the climate mild, and the location between the cities of Willapa Harbor and those on Grays Harbor makes it convenient and easily accessible. It is reported that this site was the unanimous choice of the ex-soldiers at a reunion which was held in the City of Houston on the 10th day of this month, and this is a commendable fact. We therefore recommend to the Chamber of Commerce that a resolution be passed requesting our delegates in Congress to assist in selecting the location between Willapa and Grays Harbor as the site for the ex-soldiers' home. It is hoped from the foregoing that the city have been complicit and self-efficient; but all at once with a boycott threatened or actually under way, and the jolt recently administered by P. C. Kaufman, of Chehalis, they find they have to bestir themselves, or fall behind the procession. Hence the eagerness to support the soldiers' home and to send a representative to the South-western meeting of the South-

WOMEN OPEN FIGHT

Battle for Equal Suffrage Formally Renewed.

AUDITORIUM PLAN FAVORED

Resolutions Say Men of Oregon Can Advertise State by Voting in Favor of Amendment to Be Submitted in 1912.

The Oregon State Equal Suffrage Association last night with a meeting in the auditorium of the Olds, Wortman & King store opened the campaign

CAMAS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ITS FIRST CLASS OF SIX



The Names of the Graduates, From Left to Right Are: Vera Harrington, Lewis Spicer, Gertrude Farrell, Alice Asher, Maude Blake, Winfield Scott.

CAMAS, Wash., May 27.—(Special).—Just one-half a dozen young folk of this city were counted as the first graduates of the Camas High School since it became a graded educational institution. The school term ends this week.

21 MAY BE PAROLED

WHOLESALE FREED OF CONVICTS NOT BOARD'S PLAN.

Less Than One-Third of Prisoners Found Worthy of Favor—Test of Some to Be Made.

SALEM, Or., May 27.—(Special).—Prophecies that the new Parole Board would start a tide of prisoners away from the State Penitentiary proved unfounded today when the board ended its first meeting of three days with only 21 prisoners slated for parole.

Regardless of the fact that 194 of the convicts were subject to parole under the new indeterminate sentence laws, and that all of these 194 prisoners were examined, less than one-third of them proved themselves worthy of the favorable consideration of the board.

According to statements by members of the parole organization the number of paroled men might have been even less had it not been for circumstances that governed the action in making recommendation for leniency.

When a prisoner serves within a month or so of the end of his sentence and has been retained considerable time, should that prisoner be paroled and break his parole he will lose not only the month he has yet to serve, but all the additional "good time" as well. With this fact taken into consideration the board decided to parole a number of classes of prisoners to try them out. If they break their parole the board will know what to exact from them and to some instances will be able to send them back to the prison for a term of years, according to their sentences.

The board, while it has adopted in its by-laws the rule of quarterly meetings, will probably meet again in a month to pass on some of the prisoners again, as there are a few cases in regard to which no final determination has been reached.

Body Found Near Malden. Boys Fishing Make Discovery Near Railroad Bridge.

COLFAX, Wash., May 27.—(Special).—The body of an unidentified man was found in Pine Creek under a Milwaukee bridge half a mile east of Malden yesterday by boys who were fishing. Coroner Bruning and Det. Sheriff Cole went to Malden today to investigate. No money was found on the body.

The man was about 40 years old and weighed about 150 pounds. He was five feet six inches tall, had dark hair, slightly gray, and a black mustache. The body is clad in black coat and vest, black striped shirt, dark striped pants. The laundry mark on the clothes is XXX. Nothing was found in the pockets but a razor and pipe.

Infantry to Attend Church.

The Third Oregon Infantry will attend Memorial services tonight at the First Presbyterian Church. The services will be conducted by the regimental chaplain, Captain William S. Gilbert, of Astoria. Officers and men will appear for the first time in the new full dress uniforms. Assembly will sound at 8:10 P. M. and the regiment will move at 8:30 attended by the band. On Memorial day, Tuesday, the regiment will act as honorary escort to the Grand Army in the parade and Memorial exercises. The command will assemble at the Armory at 1:45 P. M.

School Issue Postponed. PHILOMATH, Or., May 27.—(Special).—The dispute between the college and the proposed high school was deferred until next July by the School Board last night. The movement, which on its face was for a "Central School," was resisted on the ground that the encouragement of a new high school would be at the expense of the village. For at least another year the high school issue is deferred.

The Japanese railway, at the close of the last year, had 900 miles of line, of which more than nine-tenths belonged to the state.



KNOX HATS

BANKRUPTCY CASES ON

TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT OF KENNEY AFFAIRS CALLED OFF.

Clash Among Creditors Cause of Dropping Proposed Arrangement Looking Toward Settlement.

MARSHFIELD, Or., May 27.—(Special).—The negotiations for the appointment of a trustee to settle the affairs of Major L. D. Kinney and his railway corporations have been definitely called off and the bankruptcy case will be continued. The matter was supposed to be definitely settled, as the parties concerned had signed an agreement for the appointment of a trustee to take the matter in charge, but before the bankruptcy cases could be dismissed there was a clash among the creditors with the result that the proposed arrangement has been dropped.

On account of the delay caused by the negotiations the Federal Court has granted Major Kinney an extension until June 15, when he must introduce evidence to show that he and his companies are solvent. The creditors are given until June 24 to make additional showing of alleged bankruptcy. C. F. McKnight, who is the special referee in the bankruptcy cases, will return from a business trip to Roseburg the first of June and at that time the hearing in the bankruptcy cases will be taken up again.

The final dropping of the trustee arrangements throws the whole matter back into the courts and it will likely be a long time before the title to the large amount of property involved is settled and the affairs of Major Kinney and his companies cleared up.

BERRIES BRING HIGH PRICE

First Crate From White Salmon Sells for \$14.50 at Butte.

WHITE SALMON, Wash., May 27.—(Special).—The first crate of berries from this place sold for \$12.50 in Butte, Montana. Other crates sold for \$6 to \$8.

The unusually cold weather has retarded ripening and the impatient gangs of pickers will not be fully occupied until Monday or Tuesday.

Paroled Man Arrested.

MARSHFIELD, Or., May 27.—(Special).—Ray Brown, a young man who has been on parole in this county, has been arrested and will be taken to Point Richmond, Cal., to answer a charge of passing a bogus check for \$100. Brown says he has less than \$1 in bank, and that his check was an overdraft which he intended to make good. He was arrested here a month ago, and was found guilty of passing a forged check. On the plea that he committed the forgery to help a sick friend he was paroled and has been working in a logging camp.

Ontario Schools Close.

ONTARIO, Or., May 27.—(Special).—The public schools of Ontario closed last night, when a class of 14, seven boys and seven girls, graduated and were presented with diplomas. Judge Thompson, of Caldwell, Idaho, delivered the commencement address. No program was given by the graduates, although a special musical entertainment was given by others. Prof. Conklin has been retained as superintendent of the schools for the new term. The new high school building is to be ready for occupancy by the opening of the Fall term.

Clackamas Farms Christened. OREGON CITY, Or., May 27.—(Special).—Clackamas County farmers are taking advantage of the law passed at the recent session of the Legislature providing for the registration of names of farms. The following have registered their farms: M. C. Young, "Silver Leaf"; Ward B. and Helen Ward, "Locust"; William Griesen-thwaite, "Ashbrook"; W. P. Kirchheim, "Hillcrest"; William E. Purdy, "Lauriel"; and E. E. Albright, "Fair Oaks."

Grants Pass Plans Celebration. GRANTS PASS, Or., May 27.—(Special).—Grants Pass is going to celebrate the Fourth of July. Extensive preparations are being made in the way of preliminary arrangements that are being outlined by a committee ap-

DECORATION DAY signals Summer. When it arrives, you can feel quite certain that chilly days have departed for good. If you've worn your Winter clothes up to now, it will hardly be discreet to do so longer, for hot, simmering days will soon be here. You'll want to cast off the old and take on the new when you see Benjamin Clothes. Their clever New York swing, their certain New York style and their excellent New York tailoring, make them supreme—commanding.

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WELCH LINE MAY BUILD

EUGENE - MONROE EXTENSION SEEMS LIKELY.

Capitalists Go Over Proposed Road in Autos—Automatic Switch Found Satisfactory.

EUGENE, Or., May 27.—(Special).—It is believed that the Welch interests are preparing to begin building operations on their proposed electric line from Eugene to Monroe, to connect with the Corvallis & Astoria road, which was recently acquired by the Welch interests.

Strength is given to this belief by the fact that A. Welch, of Portland, head of the Eugene & Eastern, was joined here yesterday by William Brock, S. D. Sinkler and Clyde A. Heller, Philadelphia capitalists; Isaac W. Anderson, a promoter, William Pullman, a banker, and Mr. Davidson, of Portland. The party left here yesterday evening by automobile for Corvallis, via the line of the proposed route.

The Portland, Eugene & Eastern now owns complete right of way from Eugene to Monroe, and 3000 acres of fruit land along the right of way. Mr. Welch was in Eugene for the purpose of examining an automatic switch, the invention of a Eugene man, a test unit of which has been in operation for some time on the company's lines here. The test was satisfactory, and Mr. Welch announced that it is his intention to equip all his street railway lines with it. The switch is a device for enabling the motorman to handle all switching operations without stopping the car, or leaving his stand.

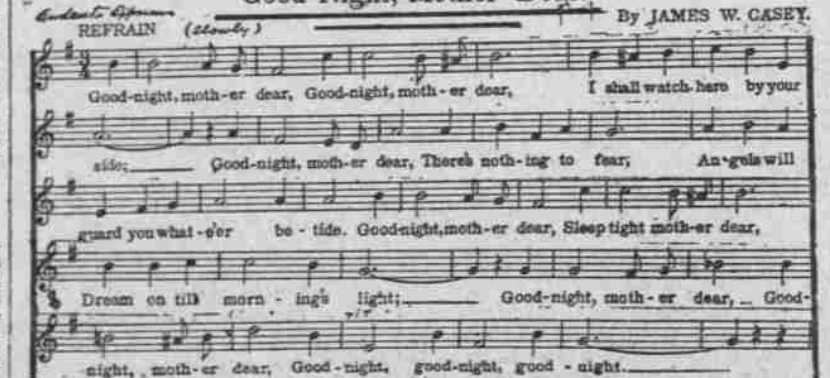
Ukiah to Celebrate Two Days.

UKIAH, Or., May 27.—(Special).—This town is to be the scene of the only two-day celebration to be held in Umatilla County this year. The committee in charge of the arrangements has prepared a program which will cover two days. On July 4 there will be a big parade, followed by the usual literary and athletic program, with a grand ball in the evening. The next day will be given over entirely to horse racing, bronco busting, and steer roping contests. Some of the best riders and ropers in Eastern Oregon will be present to participate in these events.

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