

FLEET CORPORATION FINANCES CHAOTIC

Millions Spent Without Supporting Vouchers.

GRAVE DISCLOSURES MADE

Nearly Half of Disbursements Covering Period of 17 Months Held Lacking Proper Data.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—Nearly one-half of the disbursements of the shipping board emergency fleet corporation over a period of 17 months, totaling more than \$2,000,000,000, were unsupported by proper vouchers, according to the audit of the corporation's accounts submitted to Secretary Houston today by the controller of the Treasury in his annual report.

The audit was made by direction of congress for the period October, 1918, to February, 1920, and showed total disbursements of the fleet corporation were \$2,732,915,215, of which exception to the payment of \$1,942,295,243 was taken by the controller because of the "lack of supporting papers." Subsequent production of supporting papers, however, the controller said, resulted in a credit to the corporation of \$70,628,838, leaving a balance as of February of \$1,131,790,243 approved by the auditors.

The controller presented figures only up to February, but M. J. Gillen, former special assistant to the chairman of the board under Secretary Payne, declared before the congressional investigating committee in New York last week that up to March 1 \$2,708,000,000 had been submitted for the audit and payment of \$1,900,000,000 had been disapproved because vouchers were not supported by the necessary data.

WARRANTS HELD LACKING

Controller Warwick declared that "at least 25 per cent of all vouchers received were unsupported by documents or other papers explaining or justifying the payment."

"It would appear," he added, "as if the emergency fleet corporation considered approval of the resident or district auditor as sufficient authority or justification for a voucher, especially in reference to 'miscellaneous' items."

Imprest funds are explained as funds established by the corporation and deposited in banks and other financial institutions of the ship contractors and expenditures were made from them under general order of the corporation. Effective October 1, 1918, the controller continued, the corporation's accounts were to be rendered in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the treasury, but "the audit of the accounts to February, 1920, would indicate strict adherence thereto which has not been made. Little improvement, if any, is noted to February, 1920, account over the previous period."

AUDIT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE

Despite the fleet corporation's original desire to obtain an audit of its accounts by the treasury, Controller Warwick asserted, "the corporation apparently found it well nigh hopeless to bring together the scattered supporting papers necessary to a systematized rendering of its accounts."

"At least," he continued, "no accounts were submitted in response to the request of the department until the interchange of correspondence on the subject promised to reach an acute stage."

The audit was originally asked by Chairman Hurley, Controller Warwick explained, but was declined because of the limitations imposed on the treasury by law, until July 1, 1918, when congress directed the secretary to make the audit.

"While there was no reason to impute other motives for the delay than those always afforded by the difficulties of bringing order out of conditions not hitherto required to be orderly in accordance with given standards," the controller continued, "the situation presented before me to look like disregard of the law, however excusable. Consequently I viewed it as a duty devolving upon my office to recommend to the secretary that some action be taken to exact compliance with the law."

Differences Then Arise.

Differences of opinion arose with the treasury auditors and the fleet corporation, Controller Warwick said, over the corporation's practice of auditing accounts before payment.

"Apparently the audit before payment was satisfactory to the officers charged with the responsibility," he stated. "Under the system employed it would seem that evidence in support of disbursements was not required to accompany vouchers in all cases, and presumably such evidence was left in the hands of contractors and other payees, even if submitted in due form to resident and traveling auditors. That it was so submitted is not in evidence before the treasury."

"A prior knowledge on the part of corporation officers, unsupported by papers of record, would not establish a reason why an audit by the treasury after payment should follow blindly an audit by corporation officers before payment."

PACIFIC IS NOT VISIBLE

OCEAN CANNOT BE VIEWED FROM SUMMIT OF HOOD.

Richard J. Grace, Expert of Trails Club, Says Feet Reported as Fact Is Optical Impossibility.

For banks "shimmering" in the sunlight, when viewed from the summit of Mount Hood, may look like the mighty Pacific ocean, but reports that mountain climbers frequently have made to the effect that the Pacific ocean was viewed from the top of Mount Hood are both a mistake and an optical impossibility, according to Richard J. Grace, prominent member of the Trails club.

Mount Hood, to Mr. Grace, is as familiar as is the Columbia river highway to the average Portland resident, and he bases his statement upon trigonometrical and geometrical calculations.

"If it were possible to view the Pacific ocean from Mount Hood, or vice versa," said Mr. Grace, "it would be the most noted and mentioned sight on this earth. Assuming the earth's diameter at 7920 miles, and Mount Hood being at its summit, practically 233 miles above sea level, a not too involved calculation will show the theoretical horizon to be 141.3 miles distant from the center of the peak, and at a level of 4.68 miles below the summit."

"A further calculation, assuming the average summit of the coast range at 85 miles west of Mount Hood, will

NEW SHIPPING BOARD TO CONSIDER RATES

Sections 28 and 9 of Marine Act to Be Studied.

POLICIES MAY CHANGE

Disposition of Leviathan, Wooden Ships, Foreign Buyers, Other Topics.

WIFE, 86, SEEKS DIVORCE

Kentucky Woman Is Tired of Her Husband, Aged 90.

MAYSVILLE, Ky.—Mrs. Hannah McAfee Ruggles, 86 years old, is tired

JOAN G. McDANIEL TO WED

Salem Man's Engagement to California Girl Announced.

ESCAPED PRISONER RETURNED

SALEM, Or., Nov. 20.—(Special.)—E. C. Hallie, chief keeper at the state penitentiary, returned here today from Walla Walla with George Kemp, who escaped from the local prison in 1917, while serving a one to seven years term for burglary.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU

Washington, Nov. 20.—Appointment of a new shipping board and the announcement of Admiral Benson that the commission has been called to meet here in December is expected to result in several far-reaching developments.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU

SALEM, Or., Nov. 20.—(Special.)—Announcement reached here today from California of the engagement of Ivan G. McDaniel of Salem to Miss Dorothy K. Belcher, a student at Stanford university. It was said that the wedding would be an event of next January.

THETA CHI HOLDS BANQUET

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Nov. 20.—(Special.)—The Theta Chi fraternity gave a banquet for its alumni Saturday night. Old Theta Chi graduates and students present were Clifford

TRAILS CLUB MEMBER GIVES PROOF OF IMPOSSIBILITY OF VIEWING PACIFIC OCEAN FROM SUMMIT OF MOUNT HOOD.

Horizon is 4.68 miles lower than Summit of Mt. Hood

Coast Range

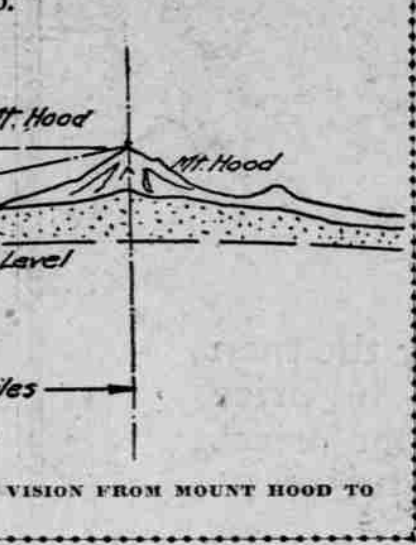
Willamette Valley

Line of Sea Level

Pacific Ocean

Horizon from Mt. Hood 141.3 miles

DIAGRAM SHOWING TOPOGRAPHY WHICH PREVENTS RANGE OF VISION FROM MOUNT HOOD TO THE OCEAN.



PACIFIC HIGHWAY GOOD

Tourists Pass Through Roseburg Going North and South.

ROSEBURG, Or., Nov. 20.—(Special.)—Though much rain has fallen in this section of the state the last six weeks it is a very noticeable fact that tourists are still passing through, leaving north and south, evidence of the conditions of the Pacific highway in the southern part of the state.

PAWN SHOPS ARE RAIDED

15 Stores Searched in Hunt for Stolen Clothing.

Visits to Portland pawnshops by constables yesterday netted suit after suit of clothing alleged to have been stolen from the Miller Mercantile company at Sheridan, Or., by Lee Wygant and Frank Jacobson. More than 15 search warrants were issued in order that the goods might be run down.

Wygant and Jacobson were arrested on a charge of entering the store on November 7 and stealing a large quantity of goods. They were alleged to have returned again for more plunder and to have been fired upon by the night watchman.

SLEEPS WELL AND NERVES ARE STRONG

Michigan Woman, in Poor Health for Years, Now Feels as Well as She Ever Did.

"I was in miserable health for years," said Mrs. Alma Philbrook of No. 215 Willow avenue, Pontiac, Mich. "I was very weak and pale and my lips were without any color. Nothing tasted good and I suffered from sour stomach and other discomforts after eating. I became nervous and had terrible headaches. My rest was broken at night."

"I had known of several people who had taken Dr. Williams' Pink Pills with benefit, so I got a box. After taking the pills for a time I found that they were helping me, so kept on with the treatment. My nerves became stronger and then my color slowly returned. I have a healthy color now, food tastes good and I can eat heartily of whatever appeals to me. I sleep well, too, and no longer have nervous headaches. I cannot speak too highly of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills."

"When work that you are accustomed to becomes a severe tax on your strength and the blow of health leaves your cheeks, when your appetite becomes fickle and discomfort follows a meal, it is time to tone up the blood. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have a direct action on the blood. They build it up and enable it to carry more oxygen. As the blood becomes abundant and rich it strengthens the muscles, tones up the nerves and enables the stomach to digest food properly."

"Do not neglect yourself, but begin treatment now with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. If your druggist cannot supply you the remedy will be sent postpaid by the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y., on receipt of price, 60 cents per box. An interesting booklet, 'Building Up the Blood,' will be mailed free on request.—Adv.

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Value in All Diamonds Watches Jewelry

They have all the beautiful qualities of the real gem, at a price which enables you to enjoy them without the fear of loss.

Orientas are the best indestructible pearls made, and we shall be pleased to show them to you so that you may see how remarkably beautiful they are.

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25 to 33 1/3% Discount on Our Entire Clothing Stock

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Spaulding, '16, Newberg; Charles W. Stier, '16, Portland, assistant editor of Commercial Print while in college and also a member of Kappa Psi; Edwin Baylies, '18, Portland; Edward A. Finney, '21, Astoria; Robert L. Jewell, '21, Portland; Carl C. Jacoby, '18, Gates; Ivan L. Loughery, '17, Mouthout; William L. McGeorge, '19, Portland; George Naderman, '20, Marshfield, who played baseball three years; Edward L. Preston, '20, Dallas, who played baseball; George R. Rehde, '17, Portland; Eugene L. Strout, '21, Amity; Ben W. Schubert, '17, Portland; John E. H. Simpson, '18, Portland; Wayne E. Gurley, '21, Canby, well known in college athletic circles, where he played football, basketball and baseball; Harry A. Prather, '21, Klamath Falls.

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