

Unswayed by fear, un-... Oregonian will tell the truth...

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GREAT FLOODS IN CALIFORNIA

One Town is Under Water by the Overflowing of Pit River.

HIGHEST WATER THAT HAS OCCURRED IN YEARS.

Sixty Thousand Acres are Flooded by the Breaking of the Sacramento River Banks - Water Carried Every Levee Before it - Most Destructive Flood Since 1881 - No Deaths as Yet Reported.

Redding, Cal., Feb. 23.-The town of Adin, Modoc county, is under water. The Pit river has overflowed its banks. There is over one foot of water in the leading stores of the town. When the news reached Redding the river was still rising. It is the highest water that has ever been known here.

New Hope District Under Water. Stockton, Feb. 23.-The east banks of the Sacramento river broke, 6 miles north of New Hope at 3 o'clock this morning. Sixty thousand acres of rich lands north of Mokelumne river were inundated. The flood waters carried every levee before them. The water poured into the Mokelumne river, raising that stream until it burst its banks on the south side. Flooding 7,000 acres of the New Hope district. It is the most disastrous flood to the northwestern part of this county since 1881. Stockton is absolutely safe. No deaths as yet reported.

MONROE AND JEFFRIES.

Will Fight at San Francisco During the Last Week in May. New York, Feb. 23.-Jeffries and Monroe were matched here today to meet in a 20-round contest for the heavyweight championship of the world at San Francisco in the last week in May.

FARMS ARE RUINED

MINING COMPANIES TO BE SUED FOR DAMAGES.

Shoshone County, Idaho, Streams Have Been Poisoned by Refuse From Smelters - Farming Land Has Been Ruined and Water Rendered Unfit for Use.

Spokane, Feb. 26.-Damages for \$545,000 will be demanded by 21 farmers of Shoshone county, Idaho, from the owners of several large mines in the Coeur d'Alene in suits which will be filed in the federal court at Mc Cou, Idaho, sometime this week. The farmers, all of whom are assigned to the Coeur d'Alene river, claim that by reason of dumping debris in the south fork of the Coeur d'Alene river their farms have been irretrievably damaged. W. T. Stoll, of Spokane, and Judge Edwin McBee, of Rathdrum, are attorneys for the farmers.

It is contended by the farmers that in former years the Coeur d'Alene river overflowed its banks, it left a sediment that was beneficial to the overflowed land.

It is claimed now, however, that about 3,000 tons a day of debris is being thrown into the south fork, and that the channel is being rapidly filled up.

Whereas, it is claimed, the river used to overflow a year, now, in the filled condition of the channel, the slightest freshet causes it to overflow.

It is claimed that after the water, which mixes with lead in the process of concentration, flows back into the river, it renders the water absolutely poisonous, so that when a sediment which destroys the soil.

It is also claimed that for stock to drink the water of the river means certain death. The valley of the Coeur d'Alene, it is pointed out, used to be a fine hay country. Now, it is alleged, its productiveness has been destroyed.

COLUMBIA SOUTHERN.

Active Work Will Begin by March 15 on Oregon's Needed Extension.

The Dalles, Feb. 23.-Chief Engineer Hammond, of the Columbia Southern railway, was at Shaniko the latter part of last week, and is credited with the statement that active construction of the Columbia Southern extension will be begun by March 15.

It is practically certain that the railroad will be completed as far as Cross Keys during the present year, and it may reach the Willow creek basin, though it is hardly expected that the road can be extended that distance during the current year.

Bridges in Register at Roseburg. Washington, Feb. 23.-The president sent to the senate the following nominations: Panama canal commissioner, Walker, chairman; register of the land office at Roseburg, Ore., J. T. Bridges; receiver of public moneys at Roseburg, J. H. Booth.

From Suez to Manila. Suez, Feb. 23.-The United States destroyer flotilla sailed for Manila this morning.

RUSSIA CAPTURES BRITISH WARSHIP

Advices Say the Cruiser Ornel is Seized in the Red Sea.

JAPS SINK THREE RUSSIAN SHIPS AT PORT ARTHUR.

Japanese Are Instructed to Take Port Arthur by March 1, and at Any Cost - Japan Sustains Three Badly Damaged Cruisers in Last Engagement.

Liverpool, Feb. 23.-A private telegram this afternoon reports that the Russians have captured the British cruiser, Ornel, in the Red Sea.

Port Arthur by March 1. St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.-A telegram from Tiao Yang, Manchuria, states foreigners living at Yinkow assert that the Japanese have been instructed to storm Port Arthur and capture it at any cost by March 1.

Sunk Three for Russia.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.-An unconfirmed rumor is current here this evening that two Russian battleships and a torpedo boat have been sunk at Port Arthur.

Three Jap Ships Damaged.

Tien Tsin, Feb. 23.-The newspapers here report that the Japanese cruisers Asano and Tokona and the battleship Yashima, damaged in the last engagement at Port Arthur, are being towed to Nagasaki.

Will Fight Until Death.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.-A telegram from Port Arthur reports that General Stoessel, commanding, today issued an order directing the attention of the Russian soldiers to the fact that the Japanese intend to land at Port Arthur and seize the fortress. He calls on everybody to fight to the death, as none can save themselves without.

To Assist Wounded Soldiers.

Moscow, Feb. 23.-A large meeting of the nobility and government officials was held to devise methods of giving assistance to the soldiers wounded Sunday. A telegram expressing loyalty to the emperor brought a reply of gratitude. There is a determination of the Russian nobles to serve the emperor as in former days.

Germany Aids Russia.

London, Feb. 23.-The Gazette of St. Petersburg states an important conference occurred there last week between the czar's confidential banker, Rothstein, and Count Buelo, the German chancellor. The latter urged to keep up the value of the Russian securities by German financiers. Buelo acted promptly and personally, inflicting a heavy loss on the Japanese with the result that Russians became steady.

Report Was True.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.-The news agency prieto a Port Arthur dispatch confirming the report that a Japanese destroyer was blown up and another boat sunk in the recent fighting. The wreck of the latter has washed ashore.

Russians Marching South.

Choo Foo, Feb. 23.-A Liao Yang dispatch states that a detachment of mounted Cossacks, are marching south, commanded by General Michelschenko. They are expected to arrive at Liao Yang today. Korean officials are fleeing and informing Japanese of the approach of the Russians. Snowstorms prevail.

Japs Make Another Attack.

Tokio, Feb. 23.-A report of an attack by four Japanese torpedo boats in the Russian torpedo transport Amur, at Port Arthur, has been received here. The result is unknown.

PAUPER DROPS DEAD.

Aged Man From Sumpter Expires at Baker City Railroad Station. Baker City, Feb. 23.-Louis Colanbar, an old man who was being brought down from Sumpter yesterday to the county poor farm, died suddenly while walking from the Sumpter Valley depot to the Crabbill hotel where he intended to spend the night.

After the Dogs.

Marshall Carney Will Start the Chase Tomorrow. Tomorrow the dog crusade will be on. Marshall Carney will put four dog catchers to work and expound every dog found running loose with a license. If they are not deemed they will be killed.

Emporer to Cruise Mediterranean.

Plymouth, Feb. 23.-The Kaiser's Holenstern sailed today for Gibraltar, where the emperor will take a cruise in the Mediterranean.

Lord Hope Weds Again.

London, Feb. 23.-Lord Hope, the divorced husband of May Hope, married on Saturday, Olive Thompson, the daughter of a Melrose banker.

SPOKANE CONTINUES BOYCOTT.

Northern Securities' Lines Must Make Better Coast Rates. Spokane, Feb. 23.-Local shippers were informed today through railroads channels of the action of the Chicago meeting of freight officials on requests for reductions in Spokane rates. A large number of articles are reduced from 5 to 60 cents, and some are raised. The average reduction is 10 to 15 cents. It is noticeable that these reductions effect principally the big shippers. Hardware, dry goods and paper and liquors are the articles most effected by the changes.

Companies handling these lines are the leaders in the local rebellion and, it was probably thought by the railroads that by granting these reductions the local trouble could be allayed. Interviews with prominent business men today, however, show the railroads to have erred in their reasoning. The determination is even more strong than before to hold out for a radical reduction in freight rates.

It is pointed out that in nearly every instance the reduction is insufficient to allow Spokane to compete in its own territory with the coast cities.

MOROS GIVE FIERCE BATTLE.

Wade Gives Reports on an Engagement in the Philippines. Washington, Feb. 23.-General Wade, commanding a division in the Philippines, cables this morning: "Wood reports an engagement at Jolo by Major Scott, with the third squadron of 14th cavalry, of the single gun of the 18th battery of field artillery against a remnant of the Hessianian Moros. Scott attacked the Colta and took it after lively fighting. Firing was twice stopped, give the Moros a chance to surrender, but they declined until all were dead or captured, but Hassan whose located friendly Dattos assisted the troops.

Cable was not working, which accounts for the delay of the news. The wounded are Lieutenant West, three privates; Hulbert, troop 1, right side; Hilderer, troop 1, shoulder; White, troop 1, right arm; Cox, battery; Hanifan, troop K, thigh."

KILLED BY TRAIN ROBBERS.

Negro Outlaw is Captured by Bloodhounds After Desperate Attempt to Escape. Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 23.-In an attempt by a gang of negro desperadoes to rob the postal car train of the Alabama Great Southern line, near Meridian this morning, J. T. Stockton, postal clerk, was shot and killed and Postal Clerk A. J. Bash was shot in the arm. Jim Paris, colored, did the shooting.

He secured some registered letters, but jumped from the train and crushed his leg. He dragged himself three miles, where he was captured by bloodhounds.

HOT PRIMARIES.

Five Hundred Special Officers on Guard at Polling Places. Des Moines, Feb. 23.-With 500 armed citizens standing over the voting places of the seventh district, the republican primary election opened this morning.

Judge Prouty is contesting with Representative Hull. Repeating fraud charges are plentiful. It is feared a physical clash will occur before night. Prouty apparently controls the machinery.

MILL LOST \$150,000.

Utica, N. Y., Feb. 23.-A portion of the New York mill, located at a small village four miles south of here, was destroyed by fire this morning. Loss, \$150,000.

LAND SHARK IS NOW ON TRIAL.

JOHN S. BENSON'S TRANSACTIONS BEING INVESTIGATED. Clerks in the Interior Department Whose Statements Caused the Arrest of the Gigantic Swindler, Now Deny That He Attempted Bribery - Motion Made to Transfer Hearing to San Francisco.

Washington, Feb. 23.-O. H. Harlan and S. A. Volk, clerks in the interior department, testified on Saturday evening in the examination of John S. Benson, the land swindler of San Francisco, that Benson did not attempt to bribe them by offering a large sum of money for the privilege of reading secret reports of the department concerning Benson's transactions.

The arrest of Benson six weeks ago, was based upon the statements of these clerks to the effect that Benson had offered them \$100 to be permitted to see certain private records of the general land office.

They swore at the examination that the money paid them by Benson was for services rendered him several years ago and that it was in no way a bribe.

A motion to dismiss the bribery charges against Benson was at once made by his attorney, and was taken under advisement until Tuesday by the commissioner.

Evidence was also taken in the case against Benson and F. A. Hyde, also of San Francisco, for defrauding the government in securing bogus titles to large tracts of land in Oregon and California.

A motion was made by Benson's attorneys to transfer the hearing to California, as all the witnesses live there and many of them cannot be reached from the national capital.

It is thought that Secretary Hitchcock will consent to transfer the case to San Francisco.

Colonel Grayson was heavily interested in the Baby McKee, Alpine and Last Chance mining companies, of the Sumpter district, and was editor of the Baker City Evening Republican, which was managed and owned by Edward Everett Young for several years.

ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT OREGON

A Traveling Passenger Agent With Heart and Conscience in His Work.

OREGON A CURE FOR ALL DISSATISFIED PEOPLE.

He Expects to Be Instrumental in Landing a Record-Breaking Number of Immigrants During 1904-05 - Great Efforts Being Put Forth for Collection and Dissemination of Literature - O. R. & N. is Organizing to Meet World's Fair Traffic.

J. H. O'Neill, traveling passenger agent of the O. R. & N., whose genial good nature and popularity is partly responsible for the 40,000 pleased and happy tourists who came to Oregon over the Hartman lines, in 1902, 10,000 of whom returned to the state to become citizens, and wheel horses in his progress, paid Pendleton a hurried visit last evening.

Mr. O'Neill is always optimistic about Oregon and the Northwest, but is more so than ever this spring. The Oregon sentiment is contagious, and whose business energy is exhausted in the hopeless task of making a living in the narrow channels of the East.

To all such his prescription is a month of Oregon sunshine. Just a glimpse of the West, just a taste of its health and its opportunity and all the traditions of the East can't draw the patient back to the old hopeless surroundings.

Getting Out Literature. Oregon literature, Oregon facts, Oregon history, Oregon tickets, all are in demand this year. Never has the supply of descriptive literature of the West been so heavily taxed as now.

O. R. & N. passenger department will be compelled to hurry out literature, folders, booklets, circulars and statistics are pouring in to the offices as evidence of the fierce hunger of the East for Western facts.

It would be impossible to make a guess at the number of people that will come into Oregon this year and next. The St. Louis Exposition will start the far eastward stream toward the West and many will be made to read all over the Pacific Coast because of the opportunity to see the country and enjoy the exposition.

But the companies are wondering what will happen next year when the Lewis and Clark fair opens and the Western literature now incubating in the East begins to hatch and brood.

More passenger trains, more accommodations, more equipment will be necessary to handle the volume of business and even now the great Hartman system is planning for the 1905 rush.

Tourist Cars to World's Fair. A special feature of the St. Louis travel over the O. R. & N. this year will be tourist parties made up along the line at various stations. Such a party will be organized at Pendleton. A special car will be furnished and special rates offered.

Repeating fraud charges are plentiful. It is feared a physical clash will occur before night. Prouty apparently controls the machinery.

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M. Bunau-Varilla, Panama minister to Washington, has resigned.

WISCONSIN'S CAPITOL BURNS

Beautiful Million Dollar Structure Ruined by Fire Early This Morning.

REOPENS THE ISSUE OF CAPITAL REMOVAL.

Fire Department Came From Milwaukee, But Too Late to Accomplish Anything - Records and State Library Saved by Citizens' Efforts - Fire Chief Hurt - Vaults Intact - Milwaukee Will Make a Fight for Capital.

Madison, Feb. 27.-Fire started at 3 this morning from crossed electric wires, and completely gutted Wisconsin's beautiful capitol building. Loss, \$1,000,000; insurance, only \$6,000. The fire was not discovered until under great headway. Local firemen were unable to cope with it and appealed to Milwaukee, but aid came too late.

Fire Chief Injured. Governor La Follette personally directed the fight against the flames, and students and citizens assisted in removing the records and law books. The vaults are believed to be intact, with only \$2,000 on hand.

Fire Chief Bernard was seriously injured by falling bricks. The fire involves building of a new capitol, and a special session of the legislature, and probable removal of the capitol to Milwaukee.

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FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

Progressive Grande Ronde Farmers Will Hold Spring Meeting. La Grande, Feb. 27.-There will be a Farmers' Institute held at Imbler and La Grande this year, the dates being set for March 14 and 15, under the auspices of the State Agricultural College. They will four sessions at Imbler and four at La Grande. A morning session at Imbler on the 14th and afternoon session on the 15th. On the return to La Grande in the evening there will be an evening session held here, and on the day following, March 16, there will be a morning, afternoon and evening session at La Grande.

An elaborate program is being arranged for this important affair, and the professors and students from the Agricultural college will attend the meetings and lecture on "Agriculture."

Imbler is situated 16 miles from La Grande on the Elgin branch of the O. R. & N. railroad, and is conveniently situated for all residents of the county.

FOR NAVAL EXPANSION.

Radical Defense of Large Navy Policy. Washington, Feb. 27.-In the house consideration of the naval appropriation bill was resumed. Robert of Massachusetts, argued for an amendment increasing the submarine torpedo boats from two to five, and used the Elgin branch of the O. R. & N. railroad, and is conveniently situated for all residents of the county.

Washington, Feb. 27.-The navy department is informed that the cruiser Cincinnati has sailed from Shanghai for Chemulpo, where she will remain indefinitely. The Vicksburg will also remain at Chemulpo.

GRAFTERS GET TWO YEARS EACH

THREE SENT UP, ONE MOVES FOR NEW TRIAL. Convicted Men Sentenced Also to Pay Heavy Fines - Will Serve Time in Federal Penitentiary in West Virginia - These Men Stood for the First of a Large Batch of Indictments Brought for Similar Offenses - Doubt of One Man's Guilt.

Washington, Feb. 27.-Machen, Lorenz and Diller Groff were each sentenced to two years in the penitentiary at Moundsville, W. Va., and each to pay a fine of \$10,000. Sentences are to date from the time of arrival at the penitentiary.

Samuel Groff has a motion pending for a new trial. Judge Kummer, attorney for Lorenz, made an eloquent plea for his client when the latter stood up to receive his sentence. He told the court he had borne a reputation for reflected credit on any family. Judge Pritchard said he would make no remarks on the case at present, as one other condemned man remained to be sentenced.

Sentence was delivered in an empty court, none being present except the prisoners and their attorneys.

Prior to the sentence, defendants' attorney, Douglas, moved for the two Groffs. Judge Pritchard overruled, making an exception, however, for Samuel Groff, because of the fact that the special counsel for the government, Conrad, had expressed belief in Samuel Groff's innocence.

Formal Ratification.

Washington, Feb. 26.-A formal exchange of ratifications of the Panama treaty took place at the state department at 11 this morning, between Hay and Bunau-Varilla.

IDAHO LAW NOT VALID.

Irrigation Statute Said by Supreme Court to Be Unconstitutional. Boise City, Feb. 27.-The supreme court has decided the case of Bear Lake County vs. Alfred Hodge, judge of the final judicial district, in favor of the county.

This was an action brought in the district court before Judge Hodge to enjoin proceedings brought under sections 24, 25 and 26 of the irrigation law, passed at the last session of the legislature, the contention being that those provisions authorizing the proceedings in question were unconstitutional.

The decision of the supreme court sustains this contention. The provisions in question authorize the state officers to commence suits in their name to adjudicate title to water, employ attorneys, etc. The expense thus incurred was to be recovered by taxation.

The case is one of vast importance to the southern counties and has attracted widespread attention. It was argued here on January 21st last by Attorney General Bagley for the state and James E. Babb of Lewiston, for the county plaintiff.

DEADLY SEWER GAS.

Asphyxiation and Explosion and Three Men Dead. Chicago, Feb. 27.-Friday last Policeman Lussacy was found dead in a toilet room in the rear of the carbarn at Fortieth and Twelfth streets. He supposedly died of a heart attack.

An examination of the toilet room was made today by Sergeant Maher and Health Inspector Long, when a match was struck. A terrific explosion followed, injuring Long so badly he died on route to hospital, and Maher will probably die.

Sewer gas is believed to have asphyxiated Lussacy and later caused the explosion.

CHINESE ARRESTED.

Internal Revenue Officers After Them at La Grande. La Grande, Feb. 27.-Two revenue officers, Messrs. Williams and Holman, are in the city and last evening arrested a Chinese merchant named Hing, for selling opium without paying internal revenue, confining 10 pounds of the crude opium in old cans.

The Chinaman has an attorney employed and the case will come before the revenue officers Saturday, when a report will be sent into the head office.

CAVEIN UNDER A TOWN.

Thirty Acres Sinking and Cracking in Pennsylvania. Scranton, Pa., Feb. 26.-A cavein covering 30 acres and affecting 200 dwellings, occurred in Bellevue near this city, at 11 last night. At 3 this morning it gave indications of spreading.

INDORSED ROOSEVELT.

State Committee Also Called Convention April 12. New York, Feb. 27.-The republican state committee went into session this morning at the Fifth Avenue hotel. The session lasted only 10 minutes. The state convention is moved from the previous date to the 12th of April. The resolution endorsing Roosevelt's nomination was unanimously adopted.

American Cruisers at Chemulpo.

Washington, Feb. 26.-The navy department is informed that the cruiser Cincinnati has sailed from Shanghai for Chemulpo, where she will remain indefinitely. The Vicksburg will also remain at Chemulpo.

WALLA WALLA'S NEW CLERK.

Dorsey M. Hill Succeeds Arthur Haebach, Resigned. Walla Walla, Feb. 23.-Through the filing of a temporary bond in the sum of \$50,000, which has been approved by the county commissioners, Dorsey M. Hill assumed full charge of the county clerk's office this morning.

His appointment of James Williams as deputy, was approved by the board, and he was engaged in assisting Mr. Hill in conducting the affairs of the office.

NEW FLEDGED CITY.

Cove, Union County, Former Home of T. T. Geer, Incorporated. La Grande, Feb. 23.-Cove, situated 16 miles from La Grande, held a special election Wednesday for its incorporation and election of officers. There were 106 votes cast, voting for incorporation by a majority of 12 voters. Officers were elected as follows:

For mayor, D. M. Clark; for treasurer, Jasper Stevens; recorder, Sherman; clerk, J. H. Conklin; William Reynolds, Joe Tripper, William Martin, F. C. Pickett, F. E. Peel.

CHICAGO GRAIN.

Wheat Slightly Depressed, War News Being Nil. Chicago, Feb. 27.-Old wheat opened at 97, closed 97 1/2; new July opened at 54, closed 54 1/2. Corn opened at 55 1/2, closed 55 1/2. May wheat was again hammered. Lack of war news added the bears. It opened \$1.05 1/2, and lost 3/4 cents at closing.

Jap Fleet Massing.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.-The Japanese are making a powerful naval force at Port Arthur, according to a dispatch today from General Alexieff. He believes another attack is imminent. The fleet now off the harbor includes 17 battleships and cruisers and eight destroyers.

Another Battle at Port Arthur.

London, Feb. 27.-Minister Haysashi has received an official report of a battle at Port Arthur, in which the statement was made that up to the present time no Japanese ships had been damaged.

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, HAS A CONFLAGRATION

Three Acres of "Fireproof" Business Houses Burned - Greatest Fire Loss in the History of That City.

Rapid Spread of Flames.

The fire broke out in the very heart of the dry goods district, starting in the central elevator shaft of the Rochester Dry Goods Company, on Main street.

Ten minutes after the alarm sounded the six-story building was a mass of flames. In less than half an hour the rear wall fell and the flames spread into the seven-story fireproof building of the Sibley-Carr Company.

At 7 the fire chief said he was powerless to stop the flames, which by that time were encroaching on the wholesale district.

Buffalo and Syracuse have been appealed to and specials given by the railway companies have started carrying extra fire apparatus.

At 7:30 a series of explosions were followed by the breaking out of flames in the 12-story building at the corner of St. Paul and Main. Within half an hour flames were belching through the roof. At 10:15 the fire is practically under control.

Help From Outside.

At 8:15 the Buffalo and Syracuse fire companies arrived. It seemed at that time as though the fire would cross Main street to the east, and the windows in the stores across the street began to burst out under the pressure.

The entire police force is holding the crowds in check. Employees in the threatened buildings are allowed to assist in removing goods.

The streets are piled high with merchandise, the merchants fearing another Baltimore fire. In the Sibley-Carr store alone were 3,500 employees, and as many more in other stores are utilized with but small success in saving goods, so in the actual fire district the salvage is small.

Temporarily Check.

The fire in the Sibley wholesale building temporarily stopped the

LOCKSTEP ABOLISHED.

Warden of the Colorado Pen Arrests the Humane Rule. Canon City, Col., Feb. 26.-Warden Cle