

Roseburg, Oregon
Population, 5300. The County Seat of Douglas County. Oregon Soldiers Home; U. S. Land Office and U. S. Weather Bureau are located here. S. P. railroads; splendid educational advantages. Gateway to the Coast Bay and Coquille country.

Roseburg

THE TWICE-A-WEEK



Plaindealer.

Roseburg Plaindealer
The most widely read newspaper published in Southern Oregon and consequently the most advertising medium. Large, modern printing plant. Established in 1868. Subscription, \$2 per year for Semi-Weekly.

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ROSEBURG, DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1905

No. 22

SENATOR JOHN H. MITCHELL HAS RETURNED TO PORTLAND

Judge Bennett of The Dalles, to Conduct His Defense at the Land Fraud Trials---Says He has been Treated Unfairly by the Newspapers.

Portland, Or., March 14.—Senator John H. Mitchell has arrived in Portland from Washington after visiting on his way here. To all inquirers the Senator declared that his health is good, and he appears to be much better than when he left for Washington in January, although the ordeal through which he has passed has left its impress upon him. Mr. Mitchell refuses to give out any information beyond the statement that he is ready for and desires a speedy trial.

As to the nature of his defense the Senator would say nothing.

"That is a matter which I do not care to discuss for publication. The newspapers here and elsewhere have been unfair to me."

Senator Mitchell paused for a moment, and then with a flash of indignation, he burst forth vehemently:

"The Oregonian has been damnably. You know that as well as I do."

The angry gleam in his eye and the vigor with which he spoke were even more expressive than the words. But it was evident that Senator Mitchell was firmly resolved to keep a tight rein on himself, and he added immediately:

"I really do not wish to discuss the charges against me. You will have to excuse me."

To his friends Senator Mitchell

FATAL ACCIDENT AT WINCHESTER

Japanese Section Hand Crushed to Death Under Handcar Wheels. Foreman Injured.

After the day's work had been finished and the Winchester Japanese section crew under Foreman John Kay were returning to the station last Monday evening about 6 o'clock, the end of a crow bar in some manner came in contact with one of the car wheels and was hurled from the car, at the same time striking one of the Japanese workmen, named Okajaki, throwing him across the track before the car, which passed over his body crushing him fatally. In passing over Okajaki's body, the car was derailed and the rest of its occupants thrown off. Foreman Kay's left leg was dislocated at the knee and one of the two bones of the lower leg was broken a few inches below that joint. Ason sustained a badly sprained back which will keep him from work for several weeks. The other members of the crew suffered only slight bruises.

Dr. Geo. E. Hoock, of this city, attended the injured men at Winchester shortly after the accident. He notified Justice Long by telephone of Okajaki's death, but after learning the facts in the case, Mr. Long concluded that an inquest was unnecessary.

Okajaki was to have resigned his position on the section on the evening of his death and upon receipt of transportation the next day, go direct to Japan to enlist in the Mikado's army, which is now in pursuit of the retreating Russians in Manchuria.

The accident occurred about a quarter of a mile south of Winchester. The body of the unfortunate Japanese was taken to Portland on the overland train Monday night.

MAY EXHUME BODY

Coroner May Investigate Death of the Third Mrs. Branton.

Writing in Note Sent to Cottage Grove Marshal Similar to that of Many Letters Written by Branton. Preliminary Hearing

Cottage Grove, March 14.—Prosecuting Attorney George M. Brown arrived here from Roseburg and has been busy all day collecting evidence against John Branton, charged with shooting John Fletcher. Samples of notes and letters in Branton's handwriting were found and they bear unmistakable similarity to the note which was received by the city marshal, signed John Fletcher. These letters will be submitted to handwriting expert at once.

Tonight Attorney Brown left for Eugene. In addition to arranging for the preliminary hearing of Branton, Prosecutor Brown will discuss the question of exhuming the body of Mrs. Branton the third. It will be necessary for County Judge G. R. Chrisman, of Lane county to issue an order granting Mr. Brown the power to draw upon Lane county for the expense of conducting the coroner's inquest and to pay for a chemist to examine the contents of the stomach. If this is done the body of Mrs. Branton will be exhumed at once.

The constant talk and ugly rumors which have been current during the past week have caused public sentiment to change against Branton. Today men who had previously held to the innocence of Branton say that if he is proven guilty of shooting there is perhaps something in the stories about the deaths of his three wives.

John Branton has been married three times, and soon after marriage he is said to have induced his wives to take out liberal insurance payable to him. His first wife died at his home on Camp Creek east of Eugene; his second wife died suddenly under suspicious circumstances at Waterville. His third wife died suddenly a few months ago at Cottage Grove. The latter having heard the ugly rumors concerning the demise of Branton's first wives, had refused to insure her life, but she had property in Cottage Grove which went to her husband at her death and which after her death he forthwith mortgaged for all it was worth. The death of each of Branton's wives seems to have been surrounded by suspicious circumstances, and Fletcher is supposed to have known too much of the details.

It begins to look like Lane county has a Johann Hoch.

Pleas for Him to Confess

Cottage Grove, March 14.—Speculation as to the shooting of John Fletcher is the theme on everybody's tongue. The rambling stories as to the death of John Branton's three wives have also whetted the public appetite.

T. J. Elliott, the father of Branton's first wife, arrived here today from Waterville for the purpose of looking after his three grand children. He is a man of about 70 years of age, his hair is almost white, his shoulders drooped from age, yet he is active and seems to have good possession of his mental faculties. It was easy to discern from his countenance and expression that he is one of those honest citizens who regards his word as sacred as his note. Elliott said: "My wife died some 21 years ago, leaving me two boys, John and William, and two daughters, Mary and Millie. The latter became the wife of John Branton. I opposed her marrying him,

DEVELOPMENT CONVENTION

To Be Held at Salem on March 23 All Commercial Organizations Are Invited

Salem, Or., March 14, 1905.
Mr. W. C. Connor,
Editor Plaindealer,
Roseburg, Oregon.
Dear Sir:—We enclose you a special invitation to our development convention, Greater harmony and enthusiasm for upbuilding of Western Oregon, city, town and country, is the object of this gathering. We are going to have fine programs and would like to have you present. The Press Club is trying to arrange a social feature of the convention especially for the newspaper men. Program will be sent you.
Yours sincerely,
E. HOFER,
Pres. Greater Salem Commercial Club.

Object of Meeting

Pursuant to resolution of the Greater Salem Commercial Club, the undersigned committee, representing that body, earnestly invites the commercial organizations of the several towns and cities of the Umpqua valley to attend a convention of such bodies which is to be held in this city on Thursday, March 23, for the purpose of developing and carrying out the objects involved in the following suggestions, among others:

1. The better development of our communities, the uniting of our forces and the harmonizing of our interests along all lines that need promotion and advancement.
2. Making and securing provisions for taking care of the incoming tide of tourists and home-seekers.
3. The encouraging of new industries; the construction of branch lines of railroad, the extension of trolley lines, the utilization of our unemployed water powers, the establishment of rural telephones and other desirable utilities and enterprises.

We request the attendance of the president and secretary of each commercial organization and at least five delegates chosen from the membership. The intention is to hold sessions for the discussion of our varied interests in the forenoon, and afternoon and evening, a program for which will be formulated and sent you later.

Let us come together and work together for better conditions in this grand country of Western Oregon.

Fraternally yours,
J. L. STOCKTON,
Chairman.
E. HOFER,
FRANK DAVEY,
Secretary.
Committee on Invitation.

P. S. Please notify us of the action of your organization as soon as convenient, and send our secretary a list of delegates appointed.

RUSSIA'S LACK OF FUNDS MAY INFLUENCE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

The Japs are Repulsed at Tie Pass with Heavy Loss. France Turns a Deaf Ear to Russia's Appeal for a New Loan. Kuropatkin is Recalled.

St. Petersburg, March 15.—Prince Khikof, minister of public works and railways, in an interview on the subject of peace, said: "Personally I should be glad to see the end of the war, but peace is impossible. Since we received Kuropatkin's telegram relative to the situation, there is no reason for alarm. The question of peace could be solved by the Zemski Sobor, but this will not be summoned soon."

Japan Repulsed

London, March 15.—A dispatch to the Central News, from Tie Ling, states that the Japanese attacked the fortifications outside of that town but were repulsed. It is believed that the Japanese losses are heavy.

Kuropatkin Recalled

St. Petersburg, March 15.—A report is current here that Gen. Linevitch has been cut off and surrounded by two divisions of Japanese under Nogi which were attempting the turning movement west of Tie Pass. The decision of the council of war to send Nicholasvitch to replace Kuropatkin has been approved by the emperor.

St. Petersburg, March 15.—Kuropatkin reports that the Japanese were repulsed at Tie Pass, and left 1000 dead on the field.

France Refuses Loan

Paris, March 15.—It is understood that the large French banks will refuse to take up the new Russian war loan. In the event that they do it is thought the war will be brought to a speedy termination, and that Russia will sue for peace.

CAVES OF EASTERN OREGON WILL BE EXPLORED

W. S. Mayberry of Milton, who is now principal of the public school at Antelope, Wasco County, expects to visit the caves of Crook county, Oregon this summer, on an exploring trip. Mr. Mayberry spent two years in that portion of the state some years ago, and while there visited the lava beds and caves on the Des Chutes river and will return to more fully examine this wonderful region which has been explored but superficially.

At places in the lava formation on the Des Chutes holes are found which lead to subterranean caverns of unknown depth and in many places water can be heard running underneath the floors of the caverns on a still lower chamber. The caves vary in height and width. In some places it is necessary to crawl through the small opening between the dark chambers, and on other places the caves widen out into spacious rooms, filled with overflowing with bats and reptiles.

It is said that one of these underground chambers has been explored for

RAILROAD OVER THE MOUNTAINS

Cottage Grove, Ore., March 13.—The railroad project mentioned here some time ago by P. J. Jennings to the Coos Bay county on the west, crossing the Cascade mountains beyond the Bohemia district, is being given considerable serious consideration. G. B. Hengen, who financed the Oregon Securities Company and built the Oregon & South-eastern Railway from this place to Wildwood, has been looking over the coast advantages of such a project for some time, and there are many rumors to the effect that he and his partner intend to do heavy work this year.

Their present railway is 17 miles long and was built primarily to tap the rich timber resources east of Cottage Grove and open the Bohemia mining district. It is expected that the road will be extended up the basin it is following until near the Oregon Securities mine, and those who have been interested in the new project believe it will cross the divide somewhere near the headwaters of the Umpqua, reaching the Des Chutes valley at the headwaters of that stream, where there are vast areas of white pine.

Local developments indicate to the community that Mr. Hengen and his associates have big work ahead, such as offers for property, but until he made an extended trip to the coast surveying the country through which the proposed route is to pass the real significance of the enterprise was not appreciated.

STERLING MAY CLEAN UP \$25,000

Medford, March 14.—One of the few Southern Oregon hydraulic mines that has been supplied with water for continual operations this season, is the famous old Sterling, of Jackson county, near here, the property of H. E. and Levi Ankeny, and N. Cook, of Portland. It is believed that the output of the Sterling for the present season, despite the absence of rain, will be close to \$25,000, and may be greater even than that. This is a production of some 40 or 50 per cent on the amount invested, and only a small crew is required to operate the property. Five years ago the output of the Sterling was \$90,000. Plans were laid to eclipse that record this year but low water prevented.

SENATOR FULTON TO NAME REGISTER AND RECEIVER

Washington, March 15.—Senator Fulton will name the new register and receiver of the Roseburg land office. He had a conference today with Secretary Hitchcock, and was told that in time Booth and Bridges will be removed. When the Government is ready to make new appointments Senator Fulton will be asked to make recommendations. His men will be examined and if satisfactory will be appointed. If they do not meet the requirements he will be asked to submit other names. In any event men of his selection will get the offices. Secretary Hitchcock has abandoned his independent search for men for the land office.

Ever since Bridges and Booth were suspended, various agents of the Interior Department have been making a sweeping investigation to find evidence which will warrant their removal, and such evidence they claim to have, but the rumor that either Mr. Bridges or Mr. Booth will be indicted on these charges by the grand jury is denied by Mr. Heney. At any rate, Secretary Hitchcock is satisfied that he has evidence enough to convince the President that Bridges and Booth must go. Business at the land office has practically been suspended during these investigations.

GREAT REVIVAL AT EUGENE

Eugene, March 14.—One of the greatest religious revivals held in Eugene in recent years is now in progress at the M. E. church. Five churches, the M. E., Presbyterian, Cumberland Presbyterian, Baptist and United Brethren, have united in these meetings and are conducting them jointly. Evangelist Beiderwolf is the preacher and is being assisted by Harry Maxwell, tenor soloist. The M. E. church is crowded to overflowing every night, and people who have not attended church for years can be seen at these meetings. Over 300 persons, including a number of the leading business men, have signed cards, expressing the determination to lead a Christian life.

WORK OF FIFTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS IN BRIEF

The Fifty-eighth Congress was convened March 4, 1903 and closed March 4, 1905. Much initiated legislation failed to become law because of the extreme pressure in the closing weeks. The following is a summary of the most important accomplishments of the four sessions:

Special session of Senate—At the session of March 5-19, 1903, the Cuban reciprocity treaty and the Hay-Herron treaty with Columbia for lease of the Panama strip were ratified.

First session extraordinary—In this session, which lasted from Nov. 9 to Dec. 7, 1903, the Cuban Reciprocity Enabling act passed the House; in the Senate it was discussed and secured agreement for vote on Dec. 16.

Second session, regular—This extended from Dec. 7, 1903, to April 28, 1904. The Hay-Variella Panama treaty was ratified; President authorized to pay French Canal Company \$40,000,000 and Panama Republic \$10,000,000, to take possession of canal zone and begin work. Cuban reciprocity was finally enacted. The coastwise laws were extended to the Philippines after July 1, 1905.

Age Pension Order No. 78 was given legislative approval by appropriation. All army officers with Civil War records were given promotion on retirement. The sum of \$500,000 was voted for eradication of cotton boll weevil and foot and mouth disease. An investigation of the alleged Beef Trust was ordered. Increase of navy was authorized by one first-class battleship, two first-class armored cruisers, three scout cruisers, and two colliers (to cost \$21,000,000) and 3000 enlisted men. House passed a bill for Statehood for Oklahoma (including Indian Territory). Appropriations were ordered of \$4,600,000 to aid Louisiana Exposition and \$475,000 for Lewis and Clark Exposition. The total appropriation for maintaining the national government for one year, to June 30, 1905, amounted to \$781,172,375. Third session, regular.—This extended from Dec. 5, 1904, to March 4, 1905. General arbitration treaties with six

(Concluded on second page)

SPRAYS, SULPHUR, LIME, BLUE VITROL AND CAUSTIC SODA OF THE BEST QUALITIES

SOLD AT

MARSTERS' DRUG STORE

LIVES LOST IN TENEMENT FIRE

New York, March 14.—In the most thrilling fire New York has experienced for many months 19 lives were lost and 40 persons injured, a number fatally. Early today an East Side tenement was destroyed. Many of the tenement dwellers were roasted to death like flies on the cluttered fire-escapes, while others jumped shrieking to the pavement before the eyes of the horrified spectators. Firemen and police officers threw themselves into the work of rescue with absolute abandon of personal safety, and deeds of heroism were continuous. Many were rescued before the roaring furnace drove firemen away and consumed its remaining inmates.

We have a limited amount of screenings suitable for chicken feed that we offer for sale in quantities not less than one hundred pounds. Douglas County Mills.

FREE FIGHT OF GREEK WORKMEN AT COMSTOCK

Cottage Grove, March 14.—A big row is reported to have occurred at Comstock Sunday among a band of Greeks who were employed by the Southern Pacific Company ballasting the tracks. Several shots were fired, but no one hit.

STORM AT LOS ANGELES WAS BAD

Los Angeles, March 14.—Six persons lost their lives and property loss of \$400,000 is the closest possible estimate of the effect of the two days' storm in and about Los Angeles. Two men were drowned by the falling of the Seventh street bridge, and two fishermen were drowned at Santa Monica, one man at North Beach and a railroad laborer at Cajon Pass. No bodies were recovered. All the electric and steam railroads are still tied up.

HOME SEEKERS AT COTTAGE GROVE

Cottage Grove, Ore., March 17.—A delegating of home-seekers and colonists struck this town Saturday and more are to follow. Those that came here were from Iowa and were the friends and acquaintances of a local real estate dealer. They report that country too cold for them and intend to settle here. Several citizens are in receipt of letters from friends advising them of the departure for the Oregon country and Cottage Grove is the destination of many a home-seeker. Property is cheap here but is looking up and as soon as the mines open up values of property will greatly ascend. Vacant houses are filling up and now there are only a few desirable houses for rent; these people, however, will probably buy lands near the city and then move out in the country.

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