

TO IMPROVE RIVERS

National Congress To Be Asked for Fifty Millions.

WAR EXPENSES COST FAR MORE

Congressman Ransdell, Chairman of Rivers and Harbors Congress, Makes Startling Statement.

The United States government expends 25 times more in indirectly fostering trade than in doing so directly. In other words this government spends \$500,000,000 annually for war and its effects, which are presumed to foster trade, and but \$19,750,000 for the improvement of rivers and harbors in this country—a direct method of not only fostering, but also creating and up-building trade. This is the essence of a startling statement made by Chairman Ransdell, of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, in a recent address before the Portland Chamber of Commerce. He stated that the national government annually expends \$169,000,000 for the navy, \$166,000,000 for the army and \$144,000,000 for pensions. Congressman Ransdell believes that if the United States can afford to expend so vast a sum annually for war, it surely can make at least substantial appropriations for the improvement of the rivers and harbors. It has been estimated that an appropriation of \$50,000,000 at the coming congressional session will aid materially in improving many of the present rivers and harbors and open others so that they may become navigable and be what at present they are only supposed to be—the main arteries of trade and practical rate reducers. To do this the leading commercial organizations, and, in fact, everyone interested in the welfare of our country, is co-operating so that all forces may throw their influences together and secure this appropriation, the effect of which will necessarily be inestimable.

Able men will head the Pacific Northwest delegations to the National Rivers and Harbors congress which will meet in Washington, D. C., on the 6th and 7th of December. The object of those who compose this congress is to secure a national appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the improvement of the rivers and harbors of this country and with the tremendous influence of this powerful organization there is no doubt of success.

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI CONGRESS.

Speeches and Discussions Cover Wide Range of Subjects.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 22.—Speeches and discussions covering a wide range of subjects took up the time yesterday of the three sessions of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress. Improved waterways, insurance and currency reforms, the value of the Panama canal as a means of enlarging our trade relations with the South American republics and the necessity of closer relations between the United States and those countries, the great value to the South of improved levees and the resources and needs of Alaska were some of the topics touched upon. The principal speakers were J. E. Ransdell, representative in congress from Louisiana; W. D. Vandiver, superintendent of insurance of Missouri; Dr. W. S. Woods, president of the National Bank of Commerce of Kansas City; John Barrett, United States minister to Colombia; Minister Calderon, of Bolivia; Minister Pardo, of Peru; Minister Cortes, of Colombia; Secretary Do Amaral, of the Brazilian legation at Washington; Representative Morris Sheppard, of Texas; John G. Brady, of Boston, ex-governor of Alaska, and Major T. I. Clarkson, of Seattle.

Mr. Sheppard, who is credited with being the youngest member of the national house, made an earnest plea for the upbuilding of the levee system, as it won warm applause from the delegates. He began by declaring the levee is one of the most important factors in the economic growth of the United States, and of many other countries.

He took the various arguments urged against levees, especially the claim that they were an interference with the laws of nature, and showed that the arguments were without foundation. He demonstrated that there was no real conflict between irrigation projects and levee enterprises, showing that they were the product of entirely different geographical conditions and had a common aim, the improvement of the productivity of the soil.

Another Railroad Fined.

Denver, Nov. 22.—The Missouri Pacific railroad was fined in the United States District court here today for violation of the safety appliance law. The alleged offense happened at Pueblo, where one of the company's trainmen was compelled to go between two freight cars to pull a coupling pin, which refused to work when the safety appliance was operated. The suit was prosecuted at the instance of the Interstate Commerce commission.

Income Tax Law for Ohio.

Columbus, O., Nov. 22.—Governor Harris stated today that he would recommend in his first message to the legislature the levying of a tax on incomes by the state of Ohio, if a way can be found to enact a law that will stand the constitutional test. The governor also favors a re-enactment of the inheritance tax law repealed by the legislature.

HANDLING OF RELIEF FUND

California Promotion Committee Issues a Statement.

San Francisco, Nov. 23.—Owing to the fact that wide publicity has been given to charges that \$1,000,000 of the relief fund contributed to San Francisco has been diverted or stolen, and owing to the further fact that those who have sent money to San Francisco are entitled to a correct statement of conditions, the California Promotion committee has sent out the following statement:

"More than \$6,000,000 contributed to San Francisco came in small sums, ranging from 10 cents up to several thousand dollars. These sums came by mail and express, in all forms, from postage stamps and currency to money orders and bank drafts. Of the entire amount sent, but two sums went astray—one a package of currency containing \$1,085.50 from Searchlight, sent to the National Bank and Trust company, of Los Angeles, by express; the other a package of \$200 sent by mail from Baltimore.

"The finance committee of the Citizens' Relief Committee of Forty, afterward incorporated to handle relief and Red Cross funds, consisting of 21 prominent business men of San Francisco, received all funds and the books of this committee were examined by General Bates, a representative of the National Red Cross society, sent from Washington for that purpose, who declared them kept under a system that guaranteed their correctness.

"The Massachusetts Association for the Relief of California sent a committee to San Francisco to investigate the methods of relief work. On its return to Boston it made a report, going into detail and covering every point in the work of relief in San Francisco. The report of this committee resulted in the immediate forwarding of the balance of the money in the hands of the Massachusetts organization.

"James D. Hague, of the New York chamber of commerce committee for the relief of San Francisco, spent several weeks in San Francisco, investigating conditions. After his report was made to the New York body, funds to the amount of \$500,000, held by the New York committee were ordered turned over to the San Francisco relief corporation."

RUSH JETTY WORK.

General Mackenzie's Recommendations for the Coming Season.

Washington, Nov. 23.—General Mackenzie, chief of engineers, in his estimates recently submitted to the secretary of War, asks for only \$1,000,000 to continue work on the jetty at the mouth of the Columbia river. In his annual report, however, General Mackenzie makes clear the necessity for securing authority to expend an additional \$1,450,000, which will be ample to carry the south jetty to completion. In his report General Mackenzie reviews the work that has been done at the mouth of the Columbia and points out what remains to be done before the demands of commerce are met. No appropriation is now needed for improving the Columbia river between Vancouver and the mouth of the Willamette.

Work on the Dalles-Celilo canal has only just begun. In addition to money already appropriated, \$3,533,392 must be appropriated to complete this waterway. Only \$750,000 has been asked for for the ensuing year.

No estimate has ever been made of the amount necessary to make the upper Columbia and Snake rivers navigable the entire distance from Celilo to Pittsburg Landing. Ten thousand dollars is needed next year.

Frauds in Town Lot Sales.

Guthrie, Okla., Nov. 23.—A special to the State Capital from Muskogee says that W. D. Foulke, special representative of President Roosevelt, has commenced an investigation into the alleged frauds in connection with Creek Nation town lot sales. This investigation was demanded by the National Creek Council, which charges government officials with misappropriating thousands of dollars. The lots were appraised and sold by government appointees. Mr. Foulke has issued a circular inviting testimony on the subject.

Gets \$500,000 for Y. M. C. A.

San Francisco, Nov. 23.—Mr. Henry J. McCoy, general secretary of the San Francisco Young Men's Christian association, has just returned from New York, where he succeeded in securing \$500,000 for the rehabilitation of the association in San Francisco. Of this amount more than \$450,000 was contributed in New York city. Morris K. Jessup and John D. Rockefeller, Mrs. W. E. Dodge, Cleveland H. Dodge, J. P. Morgan, Mrs. Russell Sage and E. S. Harkness being among the largest givers.

Will Investigate Hill Lines.

Chicago, Nov. 23.—The Tribune today says James J. Hill and the three great railroads he dominates are to be investigated by the Interstate Commerce commission. What are the relations between the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and the Burlington system an effort is to be made to find out. The commission will seek to ascertain what effect the control of all these lines by one man has and is having upon rates in the Northwest.

Make Alcohol From Molasses.

Honolulu, Nov. 23.—The Hawaiian Planters' association is planning to manufacture denatured alcohol from the 14,000,000 gallons of molasses produced annually, and for this purpose will erect a distillery at Pearl harbor.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

MONEY IN POTATOES.

Grand Ronde Farmers Market Big Crops at Good Prices.

La Grande—Farmers who planted potatoes last spring are reaping a bountiful harvest in the Grand Ronde valley. The gross income from this year's crop is placed at \$50,000 on the output of potatoes from this valley. It is estimated that 100 cars will be necessary to ship this season's crop. These figures are computed on the basis of 1,000 acres with an average yield of 60 sacks to the acre. This has been the yield on unirrigated lands on the "Sandridge" section, and the estimate is conservative. More than half of the entire potato acreage of the valley is in the vicinity of Imbren and Alieel.

Fields that have produced 60 sacks to the acre—and very many tracts have done better than that—give a net return of \$27.50 per acre. The gross receipts from an acre at the present price of 65 cents per sack amounts to \$39. One of the prominent growers figures the cost of production per acre at \$11.50, as follows: Cultivating, \$3; digging, and sacking, \$3; sacks, \$3; seed, \$1; hauling, \$1.50.

The heaviest yield so far reported is that of A. J. Surby, of Cove, who has secured 300 sacks from an acre. At the present market price, Mr. Surby's income for an acre is \$195, of which about \$183.50 is net. A six-acre field on the Oregon Red Apple company's ground, north of La Grande, gives a yield of 200 sacks per acre. These potatoes are grown entirely without irrigation, and on account of their superior quality are rated 10 cents higher than the open market.

The returns from the six acres will be \$900. The patch was planted as a matter of getting the ground in suitable condition for cultivation.

Col. Hofer Tells His Hopes.

University of Oregon, Eugene—Colonel Hofer, of Salem, addressed the assembly at the university. He was full of enthusiasm over the development of the state of Oregon, and predicted that the growth would be marvelous if there were two competing railroads in the state. He was of the opinion if these two railroads enter the state, that Coos bay would see the terminus on one and that country would shortly develop a city of 150,000, and Portland would be the other center for the end of the railroad system. Two such thriving cities would be of great benefit to the state.

Benson Announces Changes.

Salem—In addition to the appointment of Walter Drennan, to succeed F. T. Wrightman as head of the corporation department, Secretary of State-elect F. W. Benson has announced that S. A. Kozler will be promoted to chief clerk to succeed F. K. Lovell, and that Kozler will be succeeded by H. H. Corey, of Baker City. Kozler is now auditing clerk. The remainder of the office force of Secretary of State Dunbar will be regained until after the session of the legislature. There will be no change in the force of janitors until after the legislature.

Eager for a New County.

Hood River—At a big mass meeting held here for the purpose of ascertaining public feeling in regard to the movement to create a new county, to be known as Cascade county, the sentiment was unanimous and committees will be appointed to circulate petitions to be presented to the next legislature with that object in view. A number of prominent men here spoke on the question, and statistics were presented which show that the new county can be governed more economically than the same territory is under present conditions.

Crawford for Judge.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has announced that he will appoint T. H. Crawford, of La Grande, to succeed Robert Eakin as circuit judge in the Tenth judicial district, when Judge Eakin goes to the Supreme bench in January. Other men who were in consideration for the circuit judgeship were Turner Oliver and W. M. Riansey, of La Grande, and D. W. Sheahan, of Enterprise. Crawford will serve under this appointment until July, 1908.

Big Option on Timber Lands.

Astoria—An option covering the sale of 9,040 acres of timber lands, 3,200 acres being located in the northern part of Tillamook county and 5,840 acres in the southern part of Clatsop county, at \$26 per acre, has been filed for record in the county clerk's office. The lands belong to A. W. Priest and the option for 30 days was given to R. V. Jones and R. F. Fox, of Portland, and sold by them to Godfrey von Platen.

Races for the Land Office.

North Bend—The announcement by the land department that contest filings would be received in a number of Indian allotment claims has caused many horse races from points in Curry county to the land office in Roseburg. It is alleged only such Indians and half-breeds as belong to tribes or live on reservations are entitled to allotment claims.

Much Wheat at Weston.

Weston—It is estimated that about a quarter of a million bushels of wheat are stored in the warehouses in this vicinity. The local market has been dull, awaiting a solution of the car situation. It is thought that nearly six-sixths of the crop is still in the hands of the growers.

COAL MINE OPENED.

Company Finds Eighteen-Foot Vein Near Ashland.

Ashland—There is no little interest and enthusiasm in this section of the state over the opening up of what appears to be permanent coal deposits. Coal croppings have been discovered for 30 or 40 miles along the Cascades from the state line northward, but no deposits of sufficient extent to justify development have been found in the prospecting heretofore. Some time ago the company that is opening the Blue Lead copper mines in this section, after securing leases on a considerable area of land, began prospecting on the Furrey place on the east side of Bear creek, about seven miles from Ashland.

They began by running two tunnels into the mountain. One of these is now 270 and the other 240 feet into the mountain, and an 18-foot vein of coal has been opened up. The coal has been tested and appears to be of excellent quality. The tunnels are seven feet square and run parallel 70 feet apart. They are well timbered and are being connected by cross cuts every 75 feet, for ventilation and to extract the coal. They extend into the mountain from the west to the east on a 7 per cent incline.

About 25 men are being employed and the work is being pushed night and day. Other crews are employed in building coal bins, scales, grizzlies and screens for sorting the coal.

To Improve Federal Property.

Salem—Francis W. Grant, superintendent of construction of public buildings of the United States Treasury department, has been in the city to inspect the plans, look over the grounds and draft prospective plans, specifications and make estimates upon the proposed improvement of the grounds surrounding the Federal building in this city, which have remained in an unfinished condition ever since the erection of the building, three years ago, and for which improvement congress has appropriated a fund of \$10,000.

Pin Faith to Cherries.

La Grande—Cherries, of the shipping varieties, have proven one of the most profitable products of the Grand Ronde valley, and for that reason there will be many new cherry orchards put out in the spring. George Thomas, of Cove, will plant 1,000 trees. Mr. Thomas is one of the most extensive cherry growers in the valley, and now has about 20 acres of cherry orchard in full bearing. During the past season these trees yielded at the rate of \$325 per acre.

Halsey Real Estate Higher.

Halsey—Halsey has slept long and well while the great, busy world about it has been making rapid strides, leaving it far behind. Nowhere in Linn county has there been so little demand for real estate as in and about Halsey, but within the last six months things have changed. Real estate is higher than ever before known in the history of the town. The noise of the saw and hammer has awakened the citizens from their peaceful slumbers.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 64c; bluestem, 67c; valley, 66c; red, 61c.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$24.50@25.50; gray, \$23.50@24.
Barley—Feed, \$21.50 per ton; brewing, \$22.50; rolled, \$23.
Rye—\$1.40@1.45 per cwt.
Corn—Whole, \$25.50; cracked, \$26.50 per ton.
Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$11@12 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$14@16; clover, \$7@8; cheat, \$7.50@8.50; grain hay, \$7.50@8.50; alfalfa, \$11.50; vetch hay, \$7@7.50.
Fruits—Apples, common to choice, 50@75c per box; choice to fancy, \$1@2.50; grapes, 60c@1.25 per crate; pears, 75c@1.25; cranberries, \$10@12.50 per barrel; quinces, \$1@1.25 per box; persimmons, \$1.50 per box.
Vegetables—Cabbage, 1½@1½c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.25 per dozen; celery, 75¢@85c per dozen; lettuce, head, 20c per dozen; onions, 10@12½c per dozen; pumpkins, 1½c per pound; spinach, 4@5c per pound; tomatoes, 30@50c per box; parsley, 10@15c; squash, 1@1½c per pound; turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, 90c@1 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack; horseradish, 9@10c per pound; sweet potatoes, 2@2½c per pound.
Onions—Oregon, 75c@1 per hundred.
Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, 70@85c; common, 60@70c.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 25@27½c per pound.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 35@37½c doz.
Poultry—Average old hens, 10@11c per pound; mixed chickens, 10@11c; spring, 10@11c; old roosters, 9@10c; dressed chickens, 13@14c; turkeys, live, 17½c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20@21c; geese, live, 19c; ducks, 14@16c.
Veal—Dressed, 5½@8½c per pound.
Beef—Dressed bulls, 1@2c per pound; cows, 4@5c; country steers, 5@5½c.
Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 8@9c per pound; ordinary, 6@7c.
Pork—Dressed, 6@8½c per pound.
Hops—1908, choice, 14@15c; prime, 12@13c; medium, 10@12c per pound.
Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13@15c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@21c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 26@28c.

NEED BETTER COMMUNICATION

Would Increase Trade Between North and South America.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 21.—Before the Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress here last night, Elihu Root, secretary of state, delivered his second speech in this city within two days. His speech was the feature of the first day's session of the congress, which convened yesterday morning. As on Monday night, Mr. Root last night dwelt upon our relations with the South American republics, telling of his recent trip through those countries. He said the time had come for the expansion of trade between the countries of the North and South that would result in the peaceful prosperity of a mighty colomere. He declared that the means of communication between these countries must be improved and increased and said the "woeful deficiency in the means to carry on and enlarge our South American trade is but a part of the general decline and feebleness of the American merchant marine."

The representatives of Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Brazil and Chile also spoke, following Mr. Root's theme closely, telling of the possibilities of investment of American capital in their enterprises and dealing also with the political aspect of the situation.

Mr. Root enumerated the many practical things which must be done both by the government and by individuals before the peaceful prosperity of the new commerce can be secured. Underlying all other considerations, however, said the secretary, was the need for improvement of the means of communication between the two countries. This, he said, affects the mail, passenger and freight service alike. The one and only remedy for the woeful deficiency existing in present trade conditions is the establishment of American lines of steamships between the United States and the great ports of South America, adequate to render fully as good service as is now afforded by the European lines between there and the ports of Europe.

REBATES TAKEN.

Verdict of Guilty Found in Federal Court in New York City.

New York, Nov. 21.—The American Sugar Refining company was found guilty by a jury in the United States Circuit court today of accepting rebates amounting to \$26,000 from the New York Central railroad. The New York Central was recently found guilty of giving rebates to the American Sugar Refining company and fined \$108,000. Joseph H. Choate, formerly ambassador to Great Britain, in his argument for the defense in today's trial, declared that there was no precedent in American law for such an enormous penalty as the statute against rebating provided. It was necessary, he added, to go back several centuries in English law to find an instance in which the penalty amounting to more than \$100,000 had been imposed.

The defense offered no testimony. After Judge Holt's charge the jury took the case and in accordance with the instruction of the court, rendered a verdict of guilty. The jury was out an hour and a half.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS NEXT.

British Premier Promises Adoption of German Idea.

London, Nov. 21.—Replying to the deputation of members of the house of commons from the Liberal and Labor parties, Premier Campbell-Bannerman said the matter of old age pensions would be taken up as soon as time and money permitted. Old age pensions, the premier said, instead of sapping the independence and undermining thrift, do just the opposite.

Speaking to the same delegation, Chancellor of the Exchequer Asquith said there was nothing nearer his heart than to be able to submit a financial plan for such pensions. He favored one altogether dissociated from the poor-law, and assured the deputation that the government considered the question one of extreme urgency.

Will Investigate Welchers.

Washington, Nov. 21.—Secretary Metcalf, of the department of Commerce and Labor, has directed the commissioner of corporations to make an investigation of the action of fire insurance companies in the settlement of claims for losses resulting from the earthquake and fire in San Francisco and other places in California. George E. Butler, of Ross, Cal., has been appointed special agent to conduct this investigation in California. Mr. Butler, it was stated, has had an experience of 38 years in the fire insurance business.

Narrow Escape From Rocks.

St. Johns, N. F., Nov. 21.—Commander Peary's Arctic steamer Roosevelt, which is still at St. George's bay, N. F., is reported to have had a terrible experience while coming south from Hopdale, Labrador. She had to tie up for 11 days in Battle Harbor, Labrador, on account of a hurricane. In Battle Harbor the Roosevelt carried away her heaviest anchor and several lines had to be run out to keep her off the rocks.

Ten Below in Colorado.

Denver, Nov. 21.—Temperatures below zero are reported today in Southern Colorado and in the mountain regions of the state. One degree above zero is the weather bureau's record in this city, while Pueblo's official report is 8 below. The coldest point in the state was Corona, on the summit of the front range, where 10 degrees below zero is recorded.

BIG WAGE ADVANCE

Several Large Industries Pay of Employees.

STEEL TRUST LEADS MOVEMENT

Sixty Thousand Men Affected Will Add Millions to Annual Payroll of Companies.

Chicago, Nov. 24.—Sixty thousand employees of the great industrial railroad corporations were today granted increases in wages that will add millions to the annual payroll. The notable increases were those announced by the United States Steel corporation, by which its 20,000 workers will receive an additional 10 cents per day to their wages effective January 1. This will add about \$600,000 to the payroll.

The New York Central firm today granted an advance averaging between 6 and 7 per cent as a result of completion of the wage system of the lines of the company except Boston & Albany and about 6,000 men. By an adjustment of working hours firemen on engines will hereafter have to work 10 hours a day instead of 12.

The Calumet & Hecla Mining company announced at Calumet, Minn., today, that, beginning January 1, wages of all its employees at that and stamp mills would be advanced between 5,000 and 6,000 men, taken voluntarily, the first increase being given the employees whose titles were posted.

Beginning next Monday, 30,000 ton mill operatives at Fall River, Mass., will work under a new agreement in this case was between the managers, by the operation, had voted to strike unless the new one was adopted, and also by the fact M. C. D. Borden, an important manufacturer employing 5,000 hands, the Fall River Iron works mill has already met the demands of the hands, and his action forced the mill managers to yield.

Means Advance for 100,000

Boston, Nov. 24.—According to figures received from cotton mill owners in Southern New England, an advance of 10 per cent in wages granted by Fall River manufacturers today to their 30,000 employees will affect 100,000 operatives in Southern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, East Connecticut and several towns in sections. It is understood, however, the advance will not amount to 10 per cent except in Fall River and small villages.

YEAR'S INCOME OF RAILROAD

Increase of Nearly \$97,000,000 Net Earnings.

Washington, Nov. 24.—A preliminary report of the Interstate Commerce commission on the income earned by the railroads of the United States for the year ended June 30 last shows returns from companies operating 926 miles of lines, or about 90 per cent of the mileage that will be covered by the final report.

The total gross earnings of the railroads were \$2,319,700,030, being equivalent to \$10,543 per mile. Passenger earnings were \$618,555,934, or \$2,515 per mile, and freight earnings \$1,444,862, or \$7,458 per mile. Operating expenses were \$1,512,763,152, or \$6,987 per mile. The net earnings were \$787,597,877, being \$3,588 per mile, and nearly \$97,000,000 more than corresponding amount of the previous year. Incomes from other sources of those of operation aggregated \$122,978,2.

The dividends paid amounted to \$229,406,598, and taxes \$38,990,000.

Lumber is Made in North.

San Francisco, Nov. 24.—The States District Attorney Robert Peary said today regarding his investigation of the so-called lumber trust: "The evidence I have gathered in Washington for consideration of the greater portion of the lumber trust in San Francisco is manufactured in San Francisco and Washington, and is situated in these states. It is believed that an investigation into those states under direction of Washington authorities."

Denies Them Immunity Bank.

Minneapolis, Nov. 24.—Greatly and railroad men who were notified by the special grand jury of the Minneapolis at the instance of the Department of Justice will get no "immunity bath" from the Interstate Commerce commission, which in its session today, as none of the witnesses before the last jury were notified by the commission in the investigation of the relations between the trade and the railroad.

Government To Make Torpedoes

Newport, R. I., Nov. 24.—Arrangements are reported for the construction in this city of a government torpedo factory where all of the United States explosives used in the United States navy will be manufactured independent of private concerns.