

OLD DUST STOLEN

\$45,000 In Alaska Mails Disappears Without Clew.

THIRD THEFT WITHIN A MONTH

Miners Ship Dust by Mail to Avoid Excessive Tariff Charged by Express Companies.

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 22.—A Fal-banks, Alaska, special says: What is believed to be the biggest plot for robbing the United States mails ever discovered is now in operation in Alaska. Only yesterday word was received from the coast that the third pouch missing in a month had been reported at Skagway. The sack contained \$45,000 in gold dust addressed to Seattle banks.

Postoffice inspectors already in the North working on the two former robberies have taken up the latest loss. It is almost certain that the sacks were stolen while in transit on the Yukon river boats plying between this point and Dawson. Several men are under suspicion but no arrests have been made. Reliable clews are scarce.

Ever since gold dust shippers have decided to use the mails for sending out their metal, instead of patronizing the express companies, as they previously did, because of the increased tariff, the present trouble has existed. It will necessitate the employment of guards by the government to watch the gold shipments. As they have been practically unguarded up to date, robberies have been easy and it is believed that the thefts have resulted from systematic operations of bandits working with well-laid plans.

PORLAND BANK FAILS.

Unable to Meet Obligations and Is Forced Into Receivership.

Portland, Aug. 22.—The Oregon Trust & Savings bank closed its doors yesterday. Its liabilities were \$2,553,927.35. The value of assets depends upon what disposition can be made of the bank's holdings of independent telephone bonds, which aggregated about \$1,300,000.

President Walter H. Moore, of the bankrupt institution, said last night that some assets not counted upon when the bank closed its doors have been found, and he hopes to pay every depositor eventually in full. For example, the lease on the corner of Sixth and Washington streets is estimated to be worth \$50,000, and the fixtures of the bank, including the safety deposit vaults in the rear of the building, are valued at a like sum. This makes an additional \$100,000, which was not counted upon when it was decided to close the bank's doors.

SEEK OTHER WORK.

Striking Telegraph Operators in Portland Prepare for Siege.

Portland, Aug. 22.—Striking telegraph operators in Portland are scattering in many different directions and are taking up other lines of work. The majority of those who went on strike have either left the city or have secured positions away from a telegraph key. Many will go to the hop fields, while others are away on vacations.

The men expect the strike to continue for some time, but they express confidence in the outcome and are standing firm. The watchword is "stick," at union headquarters. The strikers say the Western Union is out \$1,000,000 a day in excess of its usual expenses while the strike lasts, and the men believe they will win, no matter how long the telegraph companies resist the demands for the concessions sought.

Messenger boys on strike against the Western Union held a meeting yesterday and some broached the matter of going back to work. This was firmly opposed and upon a vote being taken, the poll showed 15 to 3 in favor of staying out.

Specimen for Mining Congress.

Joplin, Mo., Aug. 23.—The production of lead and zinc in the Missouri-Kansas district this year will be larger than ever before. Last year the production amounted to more than \$15,000,000. During the 32 weeks of this year the district has produced almost \$12,000,000 worth. Great care is being taken to get fine ore specimens for the exhibit to be made at the American Mining congress which convenes here in November. Recently a piece of lead ore weighing 1,500 pounds was hoisted from a mine at Granby, Mo.

Strike Nears End.

San Francisco, Aug. 23.—After a heated meeting of the general strike committee Supervisor Tveitmo, who is a member of the committee, said: "We will all ride in a week." United Railroads bond holders are affecting a settlement of the strike. A thousand men will apply for reinstatement on the cars on a day to be set soon. Recognition of the union will not be discussed. Hours and wages will be settled between the men and the company.

Jews Yet to Conquer World.

The Hague, Aug. 23.—The close today of the eighth International Zionist congress, which has been in session in this city since August 14, was marked with great enthusiasm. Dr. David Wolff, of Cologne, delivered the closing speech. He said, among other things, that the Jewish people must yet conquer the world.

ANXIOUS FOR TRIAL.

Borah Will Do Nothing to Impede Legal Proceedings.

Boise, Idaho, Aug. 23.—The statement made by Attorney General Bonaparte that Senator Borah was to be given an immediate trial was shown to District Attorney Buick, and he was asked if he had received any word from Attorney General Bonaparte respecting the trial of Senator Borah. He replied that he had nothing to say. When asked as to the date for the convening of court next month, he replied that the session would take up September 9.

The matter referred to is the reported indictment of Senator Borah by the United States grand jury that sat here in March. No official statement on the subject had ever been made until the attorney general gave out the statement from Washington. The understanding is that an indictment was found charging the senator with having had some irregular connections with timber transactions under which the Barber Lumber company acquired title to certain timber lands. Great secrecy was maintained about the whole matter at the time the grand jury was in session and nothing whatever of an official character had been given to the public until the department of justice gave out the statement that an immediate trial was to be given the senator. That is the first official utterance indicating an indictment was found.

IMBUED WITH HOPE.

Portland Operators Far From Discouraged Over Situation.

Portland, Aug. 23.—There was nothing in the countenances of the little group of telegraph operators gathered in the strike headquarters at the Esmond hotel last night that would indicate discouragement over the situation. They discussed with earnestness various phases of the progress of the strike. They say:

"We have the wires tied up all over the country in spite of reports to the contrary. Why, if a man puts a message on the wire, say, at Chicago for a coast point it is more likely to go up into the air before fairly getting underway. He has no way to find out whether it got started, even, or not."

"We have daily reports from the chief officers in the East and letters in every mail, and can say that Portland seems to have a better service today than any place in the country, and you know what we have here. The latest we have from Chicago is the dispatch received this evening stating that out of 1,700 operators in that city we have not lost a man through desertion."

"We also hear that a strike has taken effect among the strikebreakers in that city. It seems that the company makes no distinction between first-class operators and novices in the matter of pay."

MANNING WILL PROSECUTE.

District Attorney Will Investigate Failure of Portland Bank.

Portland, Aug. 23.—Two announcements stand out as the most important developments yesterday in the Oregon Trust & Savings bank failure: District Attorney Manning's statement that he would prosecute the officers and directors of the bank if his investigations warranted such action, and President W. H. Moore's assurance that the bank's assets would be able to pay the depositors dollar for dollar if he were given reasonable time, unhampered by criminal prosecution or Federal bankruptcy proceedings.

Sitting as a grand jury this morning, District Attorney Manning will hear the testimony of depositors who entrusted funds to the Oregon Trust & Savings bank on Tuesday, the last day of its existence. If this evidence shall be that officials of the bank accepted deposits after the institution was insolvent, active prosecution will be started and Mr. Manning promises to land the guilty in the penitentiary. A complaint has been made out for the arrest of the officers of the bank and a Tuesday depositor will sign the complaint today, should Mr. Manning's investigation prove the truth of the accusations already made by late depositors.

Crops Are Good at Bly.

Bly—Owing to a heavy rainfall, hay is progressing slowly, though there is a good crop to harvest. There is little grain sowed through this district, though what there is is headed well and will make a very heavy crop. Alfalfa is being cut the second time. Other crops show up very favorably.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

FAIL TO KEEP LAW.

Statute Requiring Killing of Weeds Disregarded in Marion

Salem—There is evidence that there has been a pretty general disregard of the provisions of the Barrett law, passed by the last legislature, providing for the extirpation of Russian, Canadian and Chinese thistles and other obnoxious weeds in this county, and if a strict enforcement of the act were to be insisted upon many of the road supervisors of the county, as well as a majority of municipalities, would be liable to the penalties imposed for neglect in observing its provisions, ranging from \$50 to \$500 fines for each offense.

This law, which is the repetition of old laws upon the subject, except that its provisions are made more stringent and its scope enlarged to embrace white mustard, cocklebur and silversalt bush, commonly called, requires the road supervisor of each district to make a tour of inspection of the properties within his territory and serve notice upon all property owners upon whose land any of the weeds mentioned in the list are found to destroy the same before they have bloomed and seeded, and a copy of the notice must be filed with the county court. If the landowner neglects, fails or refuses to comply with the law in this respect, the road supervisor has authority to employ men to destroy the pests and charge the cost to the property owner, which applies as a lien upon the land.

FIR BLOCKS ARE THE BEST.

Oregon Product Excels Other Woods for Switch Blocks.

Salem—Another instance of the superiority of fir wood over the harder varieties of forestry products for commercial and industrial purposes is illustrated in a communication to the railroad commission received from Manager E. Lyons, of the Northern Pacific Terminal company, of Portland, who states that fir wedges will be used in future for switch and frog blocks in place of hard wood blocks because it is superior adaptation to this use has been demonstrated fully by past experiments.

M. Lyons' letter is in reply to a notice from the commission calling attention to the dereliction of the company in permitting switch and frog blocks to remain out of place in the terminal yards, and Mr. Lyons assures the commission that this matter, the blame for which he attaches to the neglect of the track department, will be attended to more carefully in the future. He says that the hard wood blocks work out of place on the light track and under heavy traffic, while fir blocks remain securely wedged where driven.

Good Coal in Lane Conty.

Eugene—There is no longer any doubt that coal exists in reasonably large quantities in Lane county and two months will see the commodity from the mine of the Spencer Butte Coal & Petroleum company on the local market. This concern has been developing its properties for several months past, and now knows definitely just what it has. The mine is ten miles west of Eugene, and includes 301 acres of land. Considerable of the land consists of a hill about 400 feet high, and large croppings show near the base of this hill, a six and one-half foot vein being an average of the croppings measured.

Many Coyotes in Linn.

Albany—The coyote is running rampant in the hills of Linn county and proving a menace to the safety of the flocks and small stock of the farmers. In spite of local coyote clubs that offer a bounty for scalps, these rapacious beasts seem to flourish and multiply. The court has at times been petitioned to lend assistance by offering an additional bounty. The ranchers unite in saying that the coyote is far from extinct in Linn county.

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New Instructor Arrives.

Ashland—Professor H. H. Wardrip, who will have charge of the new manual training department of the state normal and of the work in physical culture, has arrived at Ashland, and is superintending the installation of the equipment required for the new department.

Cannery a Failure.

Milton—The cannery at Freewater has closed its doors. Inability to secure funds for running expenses is the cause of its action. A great deal of tomatoes, corn, berries, etc., which had been contracted for by outside parties will not be forthcoming owing to the shutdown.

Clatsop Building New Road.

Astoria—Clatsop county is building a public highway along what is known as the coast route between this city and the Tillamook county line, the plan being to secure a good road as soon as possible to Tillamook city.

GET ALONG WITHOUT ZIMMER.

Heney Produces Damaging Testimony Against Louis Glass.

San Francisco, Aug. 21.—The breaking of Francis J. Heney's automobile yesterday morning delayed for nearly half an hour the resumption of the trial of Louis Glass for bribery. The assistant district attorney and Rudolph Spreckels completed on foot their journey to the court while Judge Lawlor and the jury waited.

John Krause, who was T. V. Halsey's assistant in the alleged bribing of supervisors in behalf of the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph company, was called. He told of approaching Supervisor Thomas F. Lonergan, showing him the company's plans, luring him and suggesting to him the "inadvisability" of having a rival telephone system in this city.

The faculty already elected at Monmouth was discharged and the executive committee authorized to elect a new faculty when funds are available. No faculty has been elected by Drain normal. Ex-President Ressler, of Monmouth, says that his institution will meet the conditions imposed and that the school will run next year. Ex-President Briggs, of Drain, could not say what the friends of that institution will do.

BIG PRUNE CROP.

Picking Will Begin About September 1 in Linn County.

Albany—Prunes are surely a bumper crop this year and the picking in most of the orchards hereabouts will begin about the first week in September. Growers are experiencing small difficulty in obtaining pickers on account of the high wages to be paid. The prevailing wages for pickers is 6 cents per bushel, this being an advance of 1 cent over the amount paid last year.

It is said that a good picker can clear about \$3 per day and that children should be able to pick on an average of about 30 bushels per day and thus earn \$1.80.

It is an interesting fact that while the prune industry was considered a failure a few years ago, on account of the lack of market, this condition has been eliminated and growers will receive on an average of 50 cents per bushel for all they can produce and bring into the market. The orchards that have been properly cared for will do better this year.

Construes Mill License Law.

Salem—Attorney General Crawford has construed the definition of what constitutes a mill, factory or workshop, for the purposes of inspection and levy of fees to include all institutions where in machinery is operated for manufacturing purposes, whether conducted solely by the owner of the plant or not. Under this interpretation all little shops wherein articles of furniture, etc., are made, come within the meaning of the act and the owners will be required to pay the annual license fee of not less than \$5.

Hop Crop Heavy.

Aurora—The hop growers in this section are between the devil and the deep sea this year as far as prices for their hops go, for there are no prices, and the growers have no means of knowing when a price will be made, or what it will be. In the Aurora, Butteville and Hubbard districts, the hop crop is as large, if not larger, than last year. The yield is so heavy in many yards that the hops are breaking down the wires and pulling down the posts.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—(New crop)—Club, 78@79c; stem, 80@82c; valley, 80c; red, 76@77c.

Oats—(New crop)—No. 1 white, \$2.50; gray, \$2.30.

Barley—(New crop)—Feed, \$22@22.50 per ton; brewing, \$24@24.50.

Corn—Whole, \$28; cracked, \$29, per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$17@18 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$21@22; clover, \$9; cheat, \$6@10; grain hay, \$9@10; alfalfa, \$13@14.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 32½@35c per pound.

Poultry—Average old hens, 12@13½c per pound; mixed chickens, 12½c; spring chickens, 14½@16c; old roosters, 8@9c; dressed chickens, 16@17c; turkeys, live, 15@16c; turkeys, dressed, choice, nominal; geese, live, 8@10c; ducks, 10c.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, candied, 25@26c per dozen.

Veal—Dressed, 6½@8½c per pound.

Pork—Block, 75 to 150 pounds, 8@8½c; packers, 7½@8c.

Fruits—Apples, \$1@1.75 per box; cantaloupes, 65c@\$1.10 per crate; peaches, 50c@\$1 per crate; blackberries, 5@7c per pound; prunes, \$1.50@1.75 per crate; plums, \$1.50@1.65 per box; pears, \$1.50 per box; apricots, \$1.50@2 per box; grapes, \$1.25@1.75 per box.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.75 per sack; carrots, \$2 per sack; beets, \$2 per sack; asparagus, 10c per pound; celery, \$1.25 per dozen; corn, 25@35c per dozen; cucumbers, 10@15c per dozen; lettuce, 25c per dozen; onions, 15@20c per dozen; peas, 4@5c per pound; pumpkins, 1½@2c per pound; rhubarb, 3½c per pound; beans, 3@5c per pound; cabbage, 2½c per pound; squash, 50c@\$1 per box; tomatoes, 60@90c per crate; sweet potatoes, 5@5½c per pound.

Onions—\$2.25@2.50 per hundred.

Potatoes—New, \$1@1.25 per hundred.

Hops—4@6c per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 16@22c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@22c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 29@30c per pound.

Robbers Make Rich Haul.

Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 21.—Three registered mail sacks, containing about a quarter of million dollars disappeared from the Burlington train between Denver and Oxford, Neb., Sunday night. Detectives and postal officials are investigating. Superintendent Butler, of the mail clerks, believes the robbery was just west of the Nebraska line. Both mail clerks slept while the train was passing long stretches between stations.

Arbitrate Fisheries Dispute.

London, Aug. 21.—Great Britain has accepted the proposition of the United States to submit the Newfoundland fisheries dispute to arbitration by The Hague tribunal. Meanwhile the money due the U. S. will continue the same as last year.

Cholera Outbreak in China.

* Berlin, Aug. 24.—A Shanghai special says that there is a cholera outbreak in China, and several Europeans have succumbed thereto. Preventive measures have been adopted in the foreign quarter. Several Chinese and Japanese towns are affected but a spread through ocean steamers is regarded improbable.

WONDERFUL POWDER