

The Morning Astorian.

VOL. LVII.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1904.

NO. 124.

BITTER TOWARD AMERICANS

STATE CAPITOL RUINED BY FLAMES

Defective Electric Wiring Creates Fire That Destroys Legislative Building at Madison, Wisconsin.

Structure Practically Gone, Although Valuable State Records Thought to Be Safe.

LOSS WILL BE ABOUT \$800,000

Already There Is Talk of Rebuilding at Milwaukee, and Make That City Capital of the State.

Madison, Wis., Feb. 27.—The Wisconsin state capitol building was damaged to the extent of \$800,000 by fire today. The fire involved the building of a new capitol, a special session of the legislature and the probable renewal of the agitation in favor of the removal of the capitol from Madison to Milwaukee.

The fire was caused by defective electric wiring. The fire started before daylight, and at 8 o'clock had completely ruined the east and west wings, containing the senate and assembly chambers and the departments of the tax commission, the adjutant-general, railroad commissioner, state school superintendent, superintendent of property, board of agriculture, state normal school, commissioner of fisheries, fish and game warden, state board of pharmacy, state land office, dairy and food commission, state treasurer, commissioner of labor, governor secretary of state, state board of control and insurance commissioner, the supreme court, law library and the state library commission.

Practically all the valuable state records are believed to be safe. Most of them remain in masonry and steel vaults in the ruins.

Fire apparatus was sent from Milwaukee.

Governor Schofield maintained insurance on the building throughout his term totalling \$600,000, but the last leg-

islature instituted an insurance fund and directed the state's officers to allow the insurance policies to lapse.

In June last there lapsed \$510,000, and in December \$90,000. There is in the insurance fund at the present time about \$6000 to meet the loss, which conservative estimates place at \$500,000.

The fire practically devastated every portion of the capitol building, with the exception of the north end. This was saved, but is in such a dilapidated condition that this portion, together with the standing walls, will have to be torn down.

Governor La Follette was early on the scene, and by his coolness and self-possession did much to enforce order among the workers. All the contents of the immense law library were carried out, together with a large quantity of other books and papers. The priceless records stored in the Grand Army room also were saved.

Chief Charles Bernard was overcome by smoke and fell from a ladder, receiving serious injuries. He is unconscious.

From an original cost of \$50,000 in 1837, appropriations from time to time for new additions made the cost of the state capitol to date about \$900,000.

IDIOT THROWS ROCKS.

Ashland, Ore., Feb. 27.—Peter Keller, familiarly known as "Pete," who is alleged to be demented at times and who is strongly suspected of being connected with the attempt to fire Mrs. A. H. Russell's house Wednesday morning, was taken into custody last night by the officers and is being detained in the city jail, pending his examination for insanity by County Judge Charles Prim.

On the morning of the fire, about 12:30 o'clock, the family of ex-Mayor D. B. Grant were terrified by someone throwing rocks against the house. A neighbor was telephoned, who on his arrival saw a form in the front yard, which he believes to have been Pete, and told him to leave the premises. Pete showed fight and told him to stay on his own side of the fence. An officer was summoned, but Pete disappeared in the darkness. He was later, however, placed under surveillance. The "rocking" of Mr. Grant's house occurred only a short time before the fire alarm sounded.

Pete has been working around Ashland for the past two years, and has the reputation of being a good hand, but is said to be intermittently insane.

Keller was examined today and was declared to be insane. Judge Prim has made an order committing him to the asylum for the insane at Salem.

EXTENSION OF PACIFIC CABLE TO JAPAN HEIGHTENS THE GRIEVANCE NOW FELT

Americans Residing at St. Petersburg Treated Coldly by Russian Friends Because of Vicksburg Incident.

Recent Versions of Affair Satisfy Russian Government that Right Was Done, and This Government Is Not Blamed—Counts Strongly on Continued Friendship of United States In Spite of Popular Prejudice.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—A dispatch published here, purporting to be from Washington, that the United States had assented to an extension of the Pacific cable from Manila to Japan, further aggravates the popular belief that the United States is siding with Japan against Russia. The few Americans in St. Petersburg have all remarked upon the changed demeanor shown by their Russian friends.

How deeply the Russians were wounded by their belief is shown by the severance of personalities, of which a striking instance occurred this week when the most intimate Russian friend of an American lady declined her proffered hand. Upon the lady's exclamation of astonishment her friend burst into tears and said she felt aggrieved at all Americans since the reported action of the commander of the Vicksburg at Chemulpo.

Without waiting for an explanation, which it is apparent from dispatches received here today from Washington, will put another complexion upon the Vicksburg incident, columns of the press for days have been full of excited comment based on the original version of the affair. In spite of the state of popular opinion, the government, it can be asserted, places the highest value on American friendship, and although the course of American diplomacy is at times privately viewed askance, officially the government of the czar assumes that the American attitude has been strictly correct, nor is the slightest disposition to question its acts manifested.

COMMANDER TELLS STORY.

Vicksburg Affair Mountain Out of Mole Hill.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The text of the message to the navy department from Commander Martin of Vicksburg is as follows:

"I took the initiative by sending medical assistance to the Vrag as soon as possible after learning they were abandoning the vessel. I sent four boats and assisted in taking off the Russian sailors, putting them on board the British and Italian vessels. The Vrag remained afloat over five hours filling slowly. Our boats were instructed not to bring the Russian sailors to the Vicksburg, offering the Zafiro temporarily, but the offer was declined."

Searchlight Finds Them.

Tokio, Feb. 27.—The official report of the naval officers, who attempted to block the entrance to the harbor of Port Arthur February 24, differs in some respects from the accounts already printed. From this report it appears that a Russian searchlight discovered the approach of the five Japanese steamers before they had reached the point where it was proposed to sink them and the Russian guns disabled three of the five. Another new feature is that a portion of the crews of the sunken steamers were not picked up until the afternoon of the 24th.

Will Raise Cruiser.

Paris, Feb. 28.—The Tokio correspondent of the Petit Parisienne cables that Japanese engineers have left for Chemulpo, Corea, to endeavor to raise the Russian cruiser Vrag.

Russians Rob Women.

Nagasaki, Feb. 28.—The British

steamer Kwang Ping has arrived here from Chin Wang Tao with 630 Japanese refugees, and women from Manchuria. Many of the women claim they were robbed and maltreated by the Russian soldiers at Harbin.

GOOD WORDS FOR ROOSEVELT.

Republicans of His Own State Solid For Him.

New York, Feb. 27.—April 12 was agreed upon as the date for the state republican convention, and President Roosevelt was endorsed for the presidential nomination at the meeting of the state republican committee here today. Both resolutions were adopted unanimously. The convention will be held in Carnegie hall, this city. A committee was appointed to draw up resolutions of respect on the death of Senator Hanna and Timothy Ellsworth.

Governor Odell sat in the meeting, holding a proxy for L. S. Goodsell, of Highland Falls.

The resolutions endorsing President Roosevelt were as follows:

"The republican state committee of New York take this occasion to declare their entire loyalty to President Theodore Roosevelt as the representative of his party in his native state. We are proud of his distinguished services to his country. We admire his alert Americanism and his devotion to the highest ideals of government. His character, his fidelity to the progressive principles of republicanism and his singleness of purpose in administering the affairs of government in the interest of the entire nation have commended him to all good citizens without regard to party.

"We pledge to him our earnest support for nomination and with confidence in the verdict of the people on election day."

The meeting was held in the Fifth Avenue hotel. Senator Platt did not attend the meeting of the committee, but during the session remained in the lobby of the hotel, where, with former Governor Woodruff, he held an informal reception and was greeted by many republican politicians present.

WITNESSES IN CALIFORNIA.

Hearing at New York Concludes With Motion to Dismiss Charge.

New York, Feb. 27.—The hearing of John A. Benson, charged by the government with bribing O. A. Harlan and S. A. Volk, clerks in the land office at Washington, was concluded today and motion was filed by counsel for the accused to dismiss the charge. This motion was based upon the evidence of Harlan and Volk, both of whom testified that the money Benson paid them had been for work and services rendered him in 1899, and not to divulge the result of the examination made by the land office. United States Commissioner Shields said he would render the decision later.

Evidence was then taken on the second charge, wherein Benson was charged, together with Frederick A. Hyde, of San Francisco, of having conspired to defraud the government in securing titles to school lands.

Benson placed in evidence his contract with Hyde concerning the lands in question, showing that Hyde had secured a title to the school lands before Benson became interested in the deal.

Judge Campbell, representing the accused, said that in view of the fact

that all of the government's witnesses were in California, it would be more convenient for all concerned if the examinations were held there, and offered to surrender Benson to the California authorities and then have the examination in that state, those representing the government saying the suggestion would be acceptable. Adjournment was taken until Tuesday to afford time to consult with the Washington authorities.

STATE MUST BE REIMBURSED.

Attorney-General Crawford Renders Opinion Regarding School Lands.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 27.—In response to a question propounded by Clerk of the State Land Board G. G. Brown yesterday, Attorney-General Crawford rendered an opinion in which he holds, in substance, that if a person purchase indemnity school land from the state and divest it of its timber, and thereafter it is found that the state cannot convey title thereto, said purchaser is entitled to the repayment of his purchase price paid to the state, under section 3310 and 3311 of the code.

In holding this way, however, the attorney-general goes a little deeper into the question and adds that, if such timber is removed from the land and it is found that the title thereto lies in the United States, such party removing said timber is held accountable for the same to the government, but that the government cannot hold the state liable for such devastation.

In support of this opinion the attorney-general comments as follows:

"The indemnity was selected by the state at the request of the purchaser, and the case having failed he cannot get title from the state. The land selected was vacant government land when selected, and under the United States law no timber should be removed until title was recovered from the United States. The purchaser having removed the timber from the land while the title was in the United States must answer to the owner of the fee for the same when called upon. It follows that the state must settle with its customer the same as though the timber had not been removed, unless the United States can hold the state liable, and I can see no way in which that can be done."

So far as is known at the present time there is only one case of this kind in existence, the one on which the question was raised, and in this case the timber has all been cut, but remains upon the land, owing to a lack of facilities for bringing it out.

MANY OFFER SERVICES.

Tokio, Feb. 27.—Ten naval officers commanded and 67 "Jackies" manned the five steamers sunk at the entrance to Port Arthur. Merchant sailors volunteered for the dangerous undertaking, but their services were not accepted. The volunteers bade farewell to their comrades, expecting to die under the fire of the batteries of the enemy. The rescue of the entire crews surprised even the Japanese.

The steamers did not carry lights and were not armed and consequently were not discovered until the operation was practically completed.

It is understood that Admiral Togo's main fleet is still in the vicinity of Port Arthur, and it is expected his fleet will continue bombarding the place until it is untenable or until the Russian fleet is destroyed.

PEN FARE AND FINE FACE THEM

Two Years in the Penitentiary Together With \$10,000 Imposed On Machen Lorenz and D. B. Groff.

Defendants' Counsel at Once Give Notice to Court of Appeal to Court of Appeals.

S. A. GROFF MAY GET OFF

Evidence Against Him Not Strong, Government's Counsel Agreeing to This—Motion to Be Argued.

Washington, Feb. 27.—August W. Machen, formerly general superintendent of the free delivery postal service; Dr. George F. Lorenz, of Toledo, once postmaster of that city, and Diller B. Groff, of this city, all of whom were convicted of conspiracy against the government in connection with the supply of Groff fasteners to the post-office department, today were sentenced by Judge Pritchard to two years' imprisonment in Moundsville, W. Va., penitentiary, and a fine of \$10,000 each. The defendants immediately gave notice of appeal to the court of appeals and were released on \$20,000 bonds.

Samuel A. Groff, as to whom Special Counsel Conrad, for the government, said some days ago there was not sufficient evidence to convict, was not sentenced and his motion for a new trial and for arrest of judgment being allowed further consideration, his counsel were given four days within which to prepare to argue the motion.

Relieved at His Own Request.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Commander Henry McCrea, a detailed officer in the bureau of navigation, has been relieved at his own request and will go to the Fifth lighthouse district as the successor of Commander John M. Hawley, now inspector of that district.

Army Officer Brings Suit.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Captain George Cochran Broome, of the United States army, now stationed at Porto Rico, today filed suit for \$250,000 damages against James S. Barbour and his wife, Annie D. Barbour, of this city, for alleged alienating the affections of Captain Broome and wife. The Barbours are prominent socially here.

Bribery Charge Dismissed.

Butte, Mont., Feb. 26.—The district court today dismissed the bribery charges against Charles W. Clark, son of Senator W. A. Clark, based upon an alleged offer of \$250,000 to Judge E. W. Harney.

Sleeveless nightgowns are a development of the present season. They are made low necked and sleeveless, the neck and armholes being finished with a ruffle of lace or of the material.

FINE CLOTHING



We are selling superior grade hand tailored clothing in latest styles and materials at prices any man can afford.

Hart Schaffner & Marx
Hand Tailored

P. A. STOKES

Do you know it all

- Pocket Dictionary, only 25c.
- Hand Books, now 25c.
- Hoyles Games, only 50c.
- Pocket Encyclopedia, for 25c.

See the show window tells the tale.

J. N. GRIFFIN

Groceries, Hardware, Ship Chandlery, Paints, Oil and Glass--Hardwood Lumber Boat Supplies etc.

AT

FISHER BROTHERS

Cor. Bond and 12th Sts. Astoria, Oregon