

The Morning Astorian.

VOL. LVII.

ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1904.

NO. 183.

BAY CITY CUT OFF FROM WORLD

Wires Leading Into San Francisco Prostrated, and Portions of City Are Flooded by Backing Water.

Little Information Obtained But Indications Are That Storm Shows Little Abatement.

IN THROES OF A HURRICANE

Storm Swept District Is West of Reno, North of Los Angeles and South of Sissons.

Portland March 10.—San Francisco and all California west of Reno, north of Los Angeles and south of Sissons is in the throes of the severest wind and rain storm that has occurred for 13 years. Telegraph wires in all directions are prostrated, and San Francisco is almost isolated from the rest of the world.

From the meager information at hand it is learned that terrible damage has been inflicted to shipping in San Francisco harbor and along the coast. One report has it that the business portion of Sausalito is under water and in portions of San Francisco water has backed up, and flooded cellars.

Whether the storm has begun to decrease in violence is not positively known, but a private message received about 9 o'clock tonight indicates that the storm is still at its height. Weather-telegram company has any hopes of obtaining information of any sort tonight.

Train Blown From Track.

This morning the barometer reached 29.23, the lowest record, and the wind registered a velocity of 48 miles. A train of passenger cars at Alameda mole was blown from the track. No one was injured.

The steeple of St. Paul's church was snapped off and many buildings under construction were badly damaged.

BIG STORM AT SACRAMENTO.

Houses Torn Down and Trees Uprooted by Fierce Wind. Sacramento, March 10.—Sacramento

was visited last night and today by a storm as fierce as any experienced by the oldest inhabitants. Trees were uprooted in many localities, here and there a building in course of construction or undergoing alterations was blown down and in a few cases considerable loss was suffered by property owners.

The wind attained a velocity of 65 miles an hour, the greatest velocity recorded at the local weather bureau.

Military Train Derailed.

Tomsk, Western Siberia, March 10.—A military train bound for Irkutsk, eastern Siberia, was derailed today. One person was killed and a number of others were injured.

TRANSIT FOR PHILIPPINES.

Secretary Taft Discusses Plans With Leading Railroad Men.

New York, March 10.—Secretary of War Taft came here today and had a prolonged conference with several men prominent in railroad and financial matters, including Sir William C. Van Horne, E. H. Harriman, George Peabody, Lindon W. Bates, Miles Green, J. Gilbert Smith, Colonel Edwards, James Speyer and Charles H. Tweed. After the conference, Secretary Taft said that it had been called to consider the possibilities of steam and electric railroad development in the Philippines, that no other enterprises were discussed and no conclusion had been reached.

PRISONER ATTEMPTS SUICIDE.

Held for Murder, John White Would Beat Out His Brains.

Butte, Mont., March 10.—A special from Billings states that John White, who is held in the county jail there for the alleged murder of W. D. Schwink, and a woman named Marie Burns, last Thursday, made a desperate effort to take his own life yesterday afternoon by beating himself over the head with the iron cover of a pill. White was heard pounding something and an investigation was made.

The prisoner was found hitting himself on the head with all the force he could muster with a heavy iron pill cover, stopping at intervals to wash blood from his eyes. The jailer, assisted by several prisoners, managed to secure the cover, but it took six men to subdue the desperate man. He was finally overpowered, but not before he had repeatedly sunk his teeth in the arms of those fighting him. When his wounds were dressed it was found that the skull was not fractured, but his scalp was bruised and cut to a pulp. White did not seem to mind the pain from his hurts, but made desperate attempts to remove the irons from his wrists.

PREMIER BALFOUR IS MUCH TOO THIN SKINNED, SAYS LORD ROSEBERY

Gets in White Heat Because of Prime Minister's Use of Word Calumny, Referring to Recent Speech in the Fiscal Controversy.

Explanation Offered Does Not Suit Irate Member, Who Proceeds to Unburden Himself Regarding Noted Peer's Decencies of Debate That Should Be Used Even by Those Who Occupy Highest Positions.

London, March 10.—An extraordinary scene disturbed the customary decorum of the house of lords this evening. In a recent debate in the house of commons, Premier Balfour had used the word "calumny" with reference to some statement made by Lord Rosebery in the fiscal controversy. When the house of lords met today, Lord Rosebery asked Lord Lansdowne, the foreign secretary, what justification existed for the premier's use of such a word. Lord Lansdowne admitted that the premier had used the word in the heat of debate. He said, he thought circumstances justified some warmth on the part of the premier, but he had consulted with Balfour, who told him he did not desire to impute to Lord Rosebery a deliberate attempt to misrepresent him. Lord Rosebery declared the explanation had not been satisfactory, and fiercely attacked the premier, whom he accused of being too "thin skinned," adding:

"The people who live in a glass house should not throw stones. It is all very well to defend such language by saying it was due to the heat of debate, and only pretty Fanny's way if a man can't curb his tongue better than that he is unfit to be the first lord of the treasury."

"I do not personally care a farthing what language Premier Balfour uses about me, and I only brought the matter before the house in order to point out there are decencies of debate that should be used even by those who occupy the highest position."

IN AREA OF SEARCHLIGHT.

Viceroy Wires Czar Concerning Enemy's Latest Attack.

St. Petersburg, March 10.—The czar has received the following message from Viceroy Alexieff, dated Mukden, March 10:

"The commandant of the fortresses at Port Arthur reports that about 10 o'clock this morning outlines of vessels, apparently torpedo boats, were seen at sea within an area swept by our searchlights. Our batteries opened fire upon those vessels. Our torpedo boats put out to sea at 2:40 a. m. and at about 4 o'clock met the enemy west of Laotischin lighthouse. After firing several shots the enemy retired to the south in the direction of Shandan. Our torpedo boats returned to the harbor at 6 o'clock."

"Later our torpedo boats were again sent to sea to reconnoiter. They returned in half an hour, having learned that the enemy's squadron was approaching."

"At 8 o'clock the Japanese opened fire upon our cruisers and fortress. The enemy had 14 ships and fired the entire time from behind Laotischin."

Japs Build Railway.

New York, March 10.—Japanese military engineers, with 8,000 of the pioneer corps, have commenced active construction on the Seoul-Wiju railway, cables the Herald's correspondent at Seoul. Materials are now en route from Japan. A large number of Korean laborers will be employed and every effort will be made to complete the work this year.

Russian Scouts Retire.

Tokio, March 10.—Russian and Japanese scouts met north of Ping Yang yesterday. After a brief engagement the Russians retreated. No casualties are reported on either side.

Hopes in Ito's Visit.

Tokio, March 10.—It is believed in diplomatic circles here that Marquis Ito, who is to leave Tokio March 15 for Corea, will be able to allay the

doubts and imagined dangers which are reported to be haunting the Korean emperor. Information obtained from private sources is to the effect that the Japanese squadron has bombarded Vladivostok twice since March 6.

HEARST FACTION VICTORS.

Old Timers Sidetracked at the Rhode Island Democratic Convention.

Providence, R. I., March 10.—John J. Fitzgerald, of Pawtucket, and the leader of the democrats in the state house of representatives, won a notable victory in the state convention, held today for the purpose of choosing delegates to the national democratic convention. Fitzgerald routed the forces led by Patrick H. Quinn, of Warwick, chairman of the state central committee, and Colonel Samuel R. Honey, leader of the "old time" democrats, electing six supporters of the Fitzgerald-Green faction, which is working in the interest of W. R. Hearst for the presidential nomination.

ALASKA BILL DEFERRED.

Platt, of Connecticut, Opposed to Election of Delegate.

Washington, March 10.—The senate today passed a number of bills relating to Alaska, but failed to act on the measure authorizing the election of a delegate in congress from that territory. Platt, of Connecticut, opposed the bill and because of his opposition and his desire for time for discussion it was not pressed.

The Alaskan bills passed include those for the improvement of roads, maintenance of schools, the appointment of an additional judge and the extension of coal laws to the territory.

Several other bills were passed including one increasing to \$100 the pensions of ex-soldiers who have become totally blind on account of service.

Salary of Commissioners.

Washington, March 10.—President Roosevelt has fixed the salaries of the isthmian canal commissioners at \$12,000 per year and in addition thereto \$15 per day while they are on the isthmus.

SERVED IN 1812.

Hiram S. Cronk, Oldest Surviving Pensioner in Country.

Ava, N. Y., March 10.—Hiram S. Cronk, the only surviving pensioner of the war of 1812, will be 104 years old April 19, 1904. He enjoys splendid health for a man of such great age, and his faculties are as keen as those of many people only half his age. Mr. Cronk's career has been notably that of a true and patriotic American. Born April 15, 1800, at Frankfort, Herkimer county, New York, to Mr. and Mrs. James Cronk, who were among the first settlers of the Mohawk valley, he was reared on a farm until August 4, 1814, when he enlisted with Captain Edmund Fuller, at Western, N. Y., in the New York volunteers.

The same day, James Cronk, the father, and John and Casper Cronk, brothers, enlisted with the same regiment. All served in the defense of Sackett's harbor. Their war record places the Cronk family among the famous people of the state. At the close of the war with England the father and three sons were honorably discharged. Hiram S. Cronk survived his father and brothers, but they all reached a ripe age.

Hiram S. Cronk lives with his daughter, Mrs. Sarah A. Rowley. Their home is on a farm at the outskirts of this village, and the farm was cleared by himself more than 70 years ago.

Until two years ago the venerable pensioner drew only \$12 per month, but congress has increased his pension to \$25 per month.

BIG FIRE AT LA GRANDE.

G. E. Fowler's Warehouse Damaged by Flames at Night.

La Grande, Ore., March 10.—Fire last night destroyed the iron feed warehouse of G. E. Fowler, with 120 tons of hay and some grain. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is thought a match may have been dropped by a deliveryman while getting hay. The alarm was given at 11 o'clock and the firemen fought desperately for two hours to prevent the flames spreading to the feed mill and fuel business of McLain & Co., and the Standard Oil tanks near. A strong wind was blowing and only the indestructible nature of the walls and roof of the warehouse saved the town from heavy loss. The loss to G. E. Fowler is about \$2000, covered by \$1700 insurance.

Ernest Schreckles owned 70 tons of the hay and had it fully insured. Within a block of this building the A. B. C. steam laundry burned at a loss of \$7000, and the H. & R. elevator, at a loss of \$5000, in the past eight months.

Sealing Schooner Strands.

Victoria, B. C., March 10.—The schooner Penelope, bound outward on her annual sealing cruise to Bering sea, dragged her anchors in Clallam bay and went ashore in an easterly gale, sustaining much damage. An unknown seaman was drowned. With continuance of the present wind her position is considered hopeless.

COURT SAW NO REMEDY.

Corvallis, Ore., March 10.—Attorneys representing the C. & E. Railroad Company appeared before Judge Watters, of the county court, on Monday for the purpose of securing a reduction in the assessment of said railroad in Benton county. They claimed that the valuation of the company's roadbed and other property had been arbitrarily advanced 150 per cent and that such advance was unjust. The valuation of the roadbed was raised from \$1000 per mile to \$2500, and the total valuation of all properties from \$50,000 to \$149,000. On account of the low levy this year the increase in the company's taxes is not so great as the increase in valuation. This amount last year was about \$1600 and this year \$1900. After listening to the argument the court announced that it would be impossible to make the order for reduction of assessment as requested. The railroad company asserts that it will carry the matter into the circuit court in order to procure the relief sought.

SMOOT NEEDED CONSENT OF CHURCH

Testimony Taken at Yesterday's Hearing Shows That Senator Could Not Have Acted Independently.

Details of Moses Thatcher Episode Given Before Senate Committee by Attorney.

SCORED BY THE APOSTLES

Candidate Broken in Spirit and Bows to Will of Church—Story Entertainingly Told by Utah Witness.

Washington, March 10.—One of the most interesting and important features of the investigation of the Senator Smoot case was brought out today in the testimony of E. B. Critchlow, formerly assistant to the United States attorney in Utah, who told the story of the Moses Thatcher episode.

According to his version, which was borne out by official records, Apostle Thatcher persisted in continuing as candidate for the United States senate against the wishes of a quorum of apostles and on that account was held to be "not in harmony with his quorum." The history of the campaign he made against the wishes of his fellow Mormons, of his defeat and his subsequent trial before a committee of church officials, was given in detail and then Thatcher's submission to the will of the church was read. This recantation showed Thatcher totally broken in spirit and bowing absolutely to the mandates of the church.

The purpose of the testimony was to show it was necessary for Reed Smoot to have obtained the consent of the church before he could have become a candidate for the senate. In addition to the Thatcher episode, Critchlow gave a history of the prosecutions in Utah on charges of polygamous cohabitation since the passage of the Edmunds law and legislation in the territory and state which affects Mormonism or polygamy. His story was concise and entertaining and he was interrupted but little.

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