

GOOD EVENING.
The Weather:
Tonight, showers; Wednesday, probably fair; brisk to high westerly winds, diminishing tonight.

Oregon



Journal

THE CIRCULATION OF THE JOURNAL YESTERDAY WAS 14,480

VOL. III. NO. 18.

PORTLAND, OREGON, TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 29, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

NORTHERN PACIFIC WILL GIVE FREE RELINQUISHMENT TO HOMES OF BONA FIDE OVERLAP SETTLERS IN WASHINGTON

HOMES ARE SAFE NOW

Northern Pacific Will Clear Title to Overlap Farms.

GIVES LIBERAL TERMS

Legal Department Prepares Circulars to Settlers—None Who Settled Prior to 1898 Will Be Disturbed—Procedure Is Clear.

Nearly 1,000 settlers upon the overlapping grants of the Northern Pacific in Clarke, Cowitz and Skamania counties, in the state of Washington, whose title to the lands they are occupying has been in litigation for a longer or shorter time, are at last to be established in the full and undisputed ownership of their homes.

C. E. Moulton, attorney for the land department of the Northern Pacific railway, with headquarters at Tacoma, who arrived in this city yesterday, is authority for the statement that the company proposes to allow every bona-fide settler upon the overlap lands to retain his holdings without any charge or interference by the company, notwithstanding the fact that the Northern Pacific was declared by the recent decision of the United States supreme court to be the legal owner of all the territory involved.

Settlers Faced Dilemma. When the news of that decision was made public a month ago there was deep dismay among the settlers, who saw ruin staring them in the face. The stern decree of the highest judicial tribunal in the land had stripped them of every vestige of title to their farms, their orchards, their homesteads and their homes, in many cases the product of half a lifetime of toil and industry. Many of the settlers had attained a considerable degree of competence, their lands being among the most productive in the state of Washington. The dark shadow upon their prosperity was the uncertainty as to the legality of the title to the lands they were occupying, and about 12 years ago they began the suits which were expected to remove this cloud.

Banded together in a protective association, they carried on the expensive litigation, until at last the issues were submitted to the supreme court of the United States. The cause of the settlers was ably presented, one of their attorneys being C. E. Wood of this city. The contention made in their behalf was that the railroad had forfeited all claims to the lands in controversy, and this was supported by the rulings of the department of the interior.

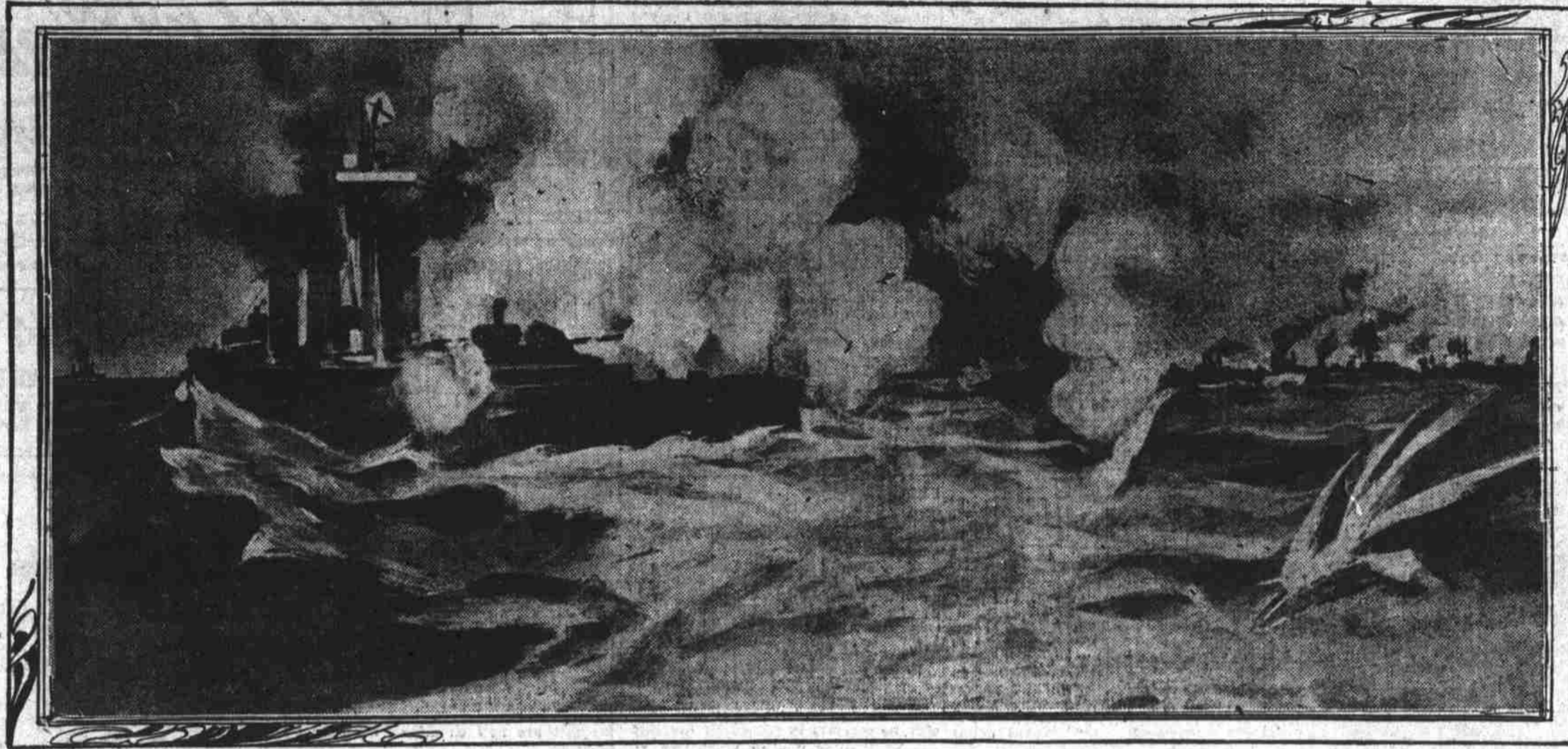
But the supreme court did not take this view, and by a decision handed down a month ago it was held that the railroad was the absolute owner of all the odd-numbered sections within the overlapping grants, and that the settlers had no title whatever. Evidently confronted then unless the Northern Pacific should see fit to waive its claims and accept the terms of the Wilson act of 1898 under lieu lands elsewhere in place of those awarded to it by the supreme court's decree.

Railroad's Broad Policy. Happily for the settlers, the railroad company has decided upon a policy of broad liberality and has decided that no bona-fide settler who acquired his holdings prior to the passage of the Wilson act and still occupies them shall be disturbed in his possession, but shall be at liberty to obtain full title from the government. It will be necessary for him to follow the procedure required in every case where government land is taken up, but beyond this there will be no obstacle to perfecting title.

More speculators, who have acquired color of title without actual occupancy of the land, and settlers who have entered since the Wilson act was passed, will receive less consideration, though even with them the railroad proposes to deal generously. They will have opportunity to buy from the railroad at prices based upon a valuation of the land as unimproved and without reference to any improvements that may have been placed upon it.

Have Nothing to Fear. The policy of the Northern Pacific toward the settlers upon the overlap lands was discussed yesterday by Mr. Moulton as follows:

"The bona-fide settlers upon the lands within the overlapping grants who are still living upon their lands have nothing to fear from the railroad. All such settlers will be left undisturbed and the railroad will take lieu lands elsewhere as soon as the matter can be arranged with the land department. The settlers will be enabled to perfect their titles under the homestead law, for the relinquishment of the railroad's rights does not operate as a conveyance to the settlers, but merely clears the way for them to go ahead and make title. They must file an election under the Wilson act and the government must act upon it. The government then invites the railroad to relinquish its rights and take other lands elsewhere, and as soon



RUSSIAN CRUISER NOVIK IN A SINGLE-HANDED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE JAPANESE SQUADRON OUTSIDE PORT ARTHUR.

From a photograph taken at the moment of the cruiser's maneuvering for the delivery of her broadside at the attacking fleet.

CHIEF SETS FREE HIGHWAY ROBBER

By His Free and Easy System Hunt Releases a Negro Registered as "Robber" Mistaking Him for Another—Clashes with Detectives.

W. C. Goode, positively identified last night as the negro who snatched a purse containing \$76 from Miss Jennie Hartman, was released from the city jail this morning by Chief of Police Hunt. Goode lined up with the men who were ordered released at the morning session of the chief's kangaroo court, signed a receipt for the things taken from him when he was arrested last night by Detectives Day and Weiner, and left.

Goode was released about 8:30 o'clock this morning, and quickly disappeared. Shortly after 9 o'clock Detective Day arrived at the station and began to tell the chief about the arrest of the purse-snatcher, after he (Day) and Detective Weiner had worked hard on the case for two days. The chief then informed Day that the negro had been released some time before.

Upon the receipt of this startling bit of information Day was for a minute dumfounded. Then followed one of the most brilliant displays of verbal pyrotechnics that has ever been heard in the local police station.

Detective and Chief Tilt. "Why, that man was positively identified last night by Miss Hartman as the negro who took her purse!" said Day. "The two girls were here this morning and said he was not the man, and so I turned him loose," replied the chief. Then followed a rapid-fire exchange. Day did not use his words sparingly; neither did the chief.

The chief then told the detective that two girls who said that a purse had been snatched from one of them some time ago had seen Goode and had said that he was not the man who took their money. It was then learned that the two girls who had given this information to the head of the police department were Misses Bessie and Ethel Abrahams, who had reported that a purse had been snatched from them 10 days ago. The women who positively identified the negro were Miss Jennie Hartman and her sister, Miss Hartman's purse was snatched out of her hand about 11:30 last Saturday night near the corner of West Park and Stark streets while they were on their way home accompanied by a woman friend. The Misses Hartman had a good look at the negro at the time the purse was snatched.

Record Says "Robbery." On the police station record is written the name of W. C. Goode, and the crime charged against him is robbery. It is shown that he was arrested last night by Detectives Day and Weiner, and that the complaining witness is Miss Hartman. The name of Miss Abrahams does not appear on the record at all. Chief Hunt looked over the station record this morning. He talked with the girls who were waiting to see the negro. Said an officer: "If the chief had asked the names of the girls who were waiting this morning and who informed him Goode was not the man who took their purse, they might have easily found out that they were not the persons who had made the complaint against Goode. But this point he seems to have overlooked." When the real news of the blunder made was told the chief was very much excited. He said many times that he was sorry the man had been released by his orders. Detective Day said vigorously that it was a strange way of running a police station when a man was released by the chief's or-

LAMORNA MAY HAVE HAD MUTINY ABOARD

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) San Francisco, March 29.—A distressing story is reported from Port Blakely, Wash., today by Captain Walker of the German ship Artemis, which just arrived there. It is to the effect that he sighted the missing ship Lamorna 20 miles off Cape Flattery, and from all observation he believed that there was mutiny aboard.

Captain Walker tells a graphic story as follows: "Late in the afternoon of March 27, I was steering northward and observed the Lamorna a short distance ahead steering badly, but in the same course. Probably a mile and a half separated us and I called, but the Lamorna refused to answer my signal, neither would she display any flag.

"She was sailing contrary to her natural course, and as the gap between us grew greater I observed men running about the deck in a heedless manner. Two were aloft, but were doing nothing.

"I asked several times for a reply to my signals, but received none. As we parted the Lamorna was steering so badly that I now believe that no one was at the helm. The vessel rode well before the easy sea then running, and I knew that no damage had befallen her.

"I am under the opinion that the ill-fated craft lies wrecked somewhere on the Vancouver island coast."

HARRIMAN WON'T QUIT

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Chicago, March 29.—E. H. Harriman will go into the courts to fight the plans of J. J. Hill and J. P. Morgan for distributing the stocks held by the Northern Securities company.

According to private advices received in Chicago yesterday, Harriman has told his business associates that he positively will appeal to the courts and in case of an adverse decision will carry the appeal to the court of last resort for what he believes the right of the Union Pacific stockholders to receive Northern Pacific stock in return for Northern Securities company stock held by the Union Pacific system.

Hill is apparently as determined as ever that there shall be a pro rata distribution of Great Northern and Northern Pacific stock. Within the past few days he has sent to St. Paul circular letters and unsigned proxies which he desires to use when the final test of voting strength is made. His circulars are said to make clear statements of the holdings of the Northern Securities company, and give explanations of the proposed basis of settlement which he desires to effect.

DELL POSTMASTER NAMED. (Washington Bureau of The Journal.) Washington, March 29.—Charles E. Boswell has been appointed postmaster at Dell.

SANTA FE WILL TAP PORTLAND

Vice-President Kenna in an Interview Says His Company Will Have a Complete System on the Pacific Coast.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) San Francisco, March 29.—Vice-President Kenna of the Santa Fe and his party will leave this city tomorrow for Eureka, California, and inspect the Santa Fe properties there.

While the Santa Fe officials will not acknowledge the ownership of the North Shore railroad, it is well-known that that company has control of the latter and that Mr. Kenna's trip means that the work of connecting Eureka with this city will rapidly advance. From inside sources comes the more important news that the law department will soon be at work in efforts brought by the Santa Fe to clear a right of way to points further North, with the ultimate object of reaching Portland.

When interviewed this morning Vice-President Kenna said: "My company is desirous of having a complete system on the coast and it will have it. This is all I am at liberty to say at present."

A complete story of the growing importance of the Santa Fe to the Pacific coast would fill large space when taking into consideration those things contemplated. At present it operates an oriental line of steamers from San Diego, and intends to extend the service north to Portland, and with its new railroad line tap the rich districts in western and southern Oregon.

Officials of the Santa Fe have long considered Portland the next port of importance on the Pacific coast. San Francisco being first. Particularly in this opinion given when the Columbia river waterway is taken into account. What water traffic extensions the company officials intend to make when Portland is a terminus of the road, can not be learned here, even by conjecture.

SARAFFOFF DEFERS BALKAN REVOLUTION

(Journal Special Service.) Sofia, March 29.—Boris Saraffoff, the Macedonian leader, today stated that the Macedonian insurgents had decided not to raise a rebellion in the spring. The delay is for the purpose of giving the powers an opportunity to carry out the proposed reforms.

Saraffoff says this decision was reached on the advice of friends in the capitals of countries interested in the Balkans, all of whom have given assurances that the powers are anxious to prevent further bloodshed and are earnestly endeavoring to see that the reforms promised are fulfilled to the letter.

GEN. HORBECK IS DROWNED IN A CANAL

(Journal Special Service.) Berlin, March 29.—Gen. Lettow Horbeck, the well-known military officer, while riding on the towpath near Oldenburg today, fell into the canal and was drowned. It is supposed he suffered a stroke of apoplexy, which rendered him incapable of either retaining his seat or swimming to safety after his fall.

BRYAN'S APPEAL IN WILL CASE IS HEARD

(Journal Special Service.) New Haven, Conn., March 29.—The trial on the appeal of William Jennings Bryan from the decision requiring the probate of a sealed letter designating of \$50,000 of the estate of Bennett was begun before Judge Gager in the superior court at 10 o'clock this morning.

Beside Bryan sat Charles Towne, Henry Newton and Harrison Hewitt, his counsel. Mrs. Grace Bennett, the widow in the case, sat among a score of witnesses. There were many women spectators. The jury was readily selected when the clerk of the probate court, Blake, produced the will and sealed letters and identified them as also manuevering. Thus far no sounds of an engagement have been heard here.

WILL SOON RESUME WORK ON POSTOFFICE

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.) Washington, March 29.—Work on the Portland postoffice building will be resumed in a month is the opinion of Supervising Architect Taylor of the treasury department, who says the plans are completed. The reason for the halt in building is that Judge Bellinger decided on a change of original plans which placed his court in the new addition. He decided that the old section was better suited for all purposes. This occasioned new plans to be drawn and many alterations on the upper floors of the building. The elevator shaft will take a slightly changed position, which will cut off a small portion of the proposed registry department of the postoffice. Aside from this the alterations will be confined practically to the upper story.

In order to begin work the new plans will have to be forwarded to Langford & Walker, the local contractors, who will be required to submit supplementary bids, and these will be transmitted to Washington for approval and returned, when work will be resumed. Mr. Taylor is of the opinion that this will require about a month's time, and that the building will be ready for occupancy by June, 1905.

JAPS USE DYNAMITE

Report in St. Petersburg That Troop Train Is Attacked.

BLAST IS INEFFECTUAL

Czar Orders His Private Wine Cellar Opened for the Benefit of Those Wounded at Port Arthur—Financial Stress.

(Journal Special Service.) St. Petersburg, March 29.—A report is current here this afternoon that an attempt has been made by the Japanese to blow up a troop train, through the use of dynamite, near Tatariska, in Siberia.

The story as circulated is to the effect that for a considerable distance the track had been undermined, but that the explosion was rendered ineffectual by being premature. The locomotive had barely touched the outer edge of the mined section when a deafening explosion occurred, hurling the engine from the track and backward with such violence that the entire train came to a standstill without serious wrecking. No official confirmation has yet been given. The czar has ordered that 100 bottles of choice wine from his private cellar shall be sent to Port Arthur hospitals for the benefit of the wounded.

Today's papers comment at length on the alleged recommendation of the director of martial customs to the Chinese government that it create a European trained army by levying a universal land tax. The Novos Vremya says every one is very simple if he thinks China would be able to create an army inside of 20 or 30 months which the war will last. The financial situation in many Russian cities is becoming alarming and the rise in the price of food is causing great distress.

RUSSIAN WAR MOVEMENT. Squadron Now at Mouth of Amur—Troops Leave Harbin. (Journal Special Service.) Rome, March 29.—The Agenzia Libera reports that a portion of the Vladivostok squadron has arrived at Nikolaievsk, Siberia at the mouth of the Amur river. The Russian army corps has left Harbin for Chang Chun.

One of the first acts of General Kourpatkin on his arrival at Mukden was to seek an interview with General Ma, commanding the Chinese troops. General Ma refused to be interviewed or to have any conference with the Russian commander. The latter, disgusted and affronted by the obstinacy of the Chinese general, finally retired with diplomatic nonchalance, but it is said to have made a full and complete report of the treatment accorded him to Alexieff.

NAVAL BATTLE IMMINENT. Chinese Junk Brings News That Leads to Prediction of Speedy Engagement. (Journal Special Service.) Wel Hai Wei, March 29.—Evidently there is a big naval battle imminent between the fleets of Japan and Russia. A Chinese junk arrived here yesterday afternoon with information that she sighted in the morning 11 Russian seaworthy vessels manuevering in the vicinity and that the Japanese squadron was also manuevering. Thus far no sounds of an engagement have been heard here.

SENDS COLONELS HOME. Kourpatkin Strips Feathers from Favorites in His Reorganization. (Journal Special Service.) Berlin, March 29.—Der Tag states that General Kourpatkin has sent back to Russia from Harbin Colonels Tschiscl and Monajeff, declaring them incompetent.

A general shaking up and reorganization of troops is said to be in progress since Kourpatkin's arrival and favorites are finding themselves compelled to stand upon merit alone.

WANT TO BORROW. New York, March 29.—Reports have been received here which say that an attempt is to be made to place a large Japanese loan in America.

REPORT RUSSIAN DEFEAT. London, March 29.—Russian imperial forces declined a half today on Seoul reports of a Russian defeat by Japanese between Anju and Chong Ju.

PARKER INDORSED. (Journal Special Service.) Oneida, N. Y., March 29.—The Madison county Democratic convention met today and chose delegates to the state convention at Albany. A resolution was unanimously adopted endorsing the candidacy of Judge Parker for the presidency.

(Continued on Page Three.)

(Continued on Page Three.)

(Continued on Page Three.)