

RATE WAR NEAR AT HAND

Friction Between Hill and Harriman May Change Aspect of Ocean Traffic.

CLAIM THAT NORTHERN BROKE ITS AGREEMENT

Portland's Oriental Business the Bone of Contention, Being Worth Six Thousand a Month, for Which Big Guns Will Fight.

While none of the local officials of the line has been advised, there is a strong probability that the four oriental lines operated by the Portland & Asiatic Steamship company will be fitted up for carrying Chinese and Japanese passengers back and forth between here and the far east. If this plan should be decided upon, it will be a direct result of the conference held at Portland yesterday by the representatives of the various steamship lines operating from this coast who were unable to come to a satisfactory agreement over passenger traffic arrangements.

The friction between the lines is due to the attitude of the Hill people, who, it is claimed, have broken their agreement since the steamships Dakota and Minnesota were put in commission. Up to that time the steamship association had a distinct understanding as to the exact territory in which the several agents should solicit passenger business. The right to carry all of the oriental passengers, who almost invariably travel by steamer, was accorded to the northern lines, and they were given the privilege of sending agents all over Oregon to secure this traffic without any interference or opposition on the part of the Harriman interests. In return for this consideration, the Pacific Mail and Occidental & Oriental lines belonging to Harriman were to carry all passengers from Oregon traveling first-class to the orient.

But of late, it is charged, the Hill people have been soliciting trade from all classes, not only in Oregon, but they have invaded California. It is contended

by the Harriman people that such a proceeding is in direct violation of the former agreement. Some believe that the association will now be dissolved, and a big rate war is likely to be declared at any moment.

No far as the oriental passenger traffic is concerned, Oregon has long been looked upon as the richest field on the Pacific coast. As regards Chinese population, Portland is the second city in the west. In the course of a year hundreds of Chinese return to their former homes on short visits, and have been patronizing the northern lines, in accordance with the agreement. If they should be able to get accommodations direct from Portland it will mean a big cut into the Hill business. It is also said that about 20 white people go to Japan and China from Portland every month. These have heretofore been sent to San Francisco to take passage on the Pacific Mail boats. Hill is expected to establish an agency here for the purpose of securing this traffic. For round-trip passenger accommodations between here and Yokohama it costs \$300, and 20 people making the voyage runs the business up to \$6,000 every month, a matter well worth fighting for.

NEW CHRISTMAS SPORT.

International Lifeboat Race to Take Place in Harbor.

All of the sailors in port are taking an interest in an international boat race, which has been arranged to be pulled off in the harbor on Christmas day. The craft used in the contest will be the small lifeboats carried by the sailing vessels. It is probable that the following nations will be represented: British, French, Russian, German and possibly American. The only American ships in port are the C. E. Sargent and Harry Morse, which are being fitted up for carrying cargoes of lumber to New York. The seamen on the British and French craft are already practicing for the race, and the Russians are also preparing to do so. A valuable prize yet to be selected will be given to the winners.

STEAMSHIPS START EVEN.

And Will Probably Have Hot Race, Now Storm Has Broken.

With the shift of the wind the bar became sufficiently calm this morning to permit the storm-bound fleet at Astoria to put to sea. 14 vessels crossing out. Some of them had been detained there almost a week. At 8 o'clock the steamers Daisy Mitchell, Costa Rica, Home City, Alliance and British steamship Crocydon crossed the bar and an hour later they were followed by the steamers Whittier, Jeanie, Northland, Redondo, British steamship Blackheath, British ships Kynance and Dunboyne,

French bark Camborne and schooner Oakland.

The foreign sailing vessels are bound for the United Kingdom with grain cargoes, and local mariners say there is no doubt they will utilize every yard of canvas in an endeavor to be the first to report at Queenstown or Falmouth. It is declared that no two windjammers ever left the Columbia river in company before for the same destination without a race being pulled off and usually their captains place wagers on the result of the contest. All of the coasters are bound for California ports and it is probable that some of them will also get up a little extra steam in order to lead the procession.

Again the French bark Asia was sighted off the mouth of the Columbia this morning and it is likely she will reach Astoria before night. She was seen in about the same position last Friday. As Asia soon disappeared it is supposed that she was carried far to the north by the storm and has just succeeded in beating her way back.

TOTTENHAM ABOUT DUE.

Vessel From Moji Expected on Columbia by New Year.

On January 1 the British steamship Tottenham is expected to reach Portland from the orient. She sailed from Moji for the Columbia river on December 18 and by making an ordinary passage should not be out more than a few days. The vessel is under charter to the Pacific Export Lumber company to transport a cargo of Oregon fir to China and will take out about 3,500,000 feet of the product. A letter from Captain Mann, master of the vessel, was received this morning by a local mariner. It was written at Newchwang, China, and dated November 27. The skipper said that he intended to sail that day for Moji.

ALONG THE WATERFRONT.

In tow of the Harvest Queen the French bark Hoche left this morning bound for the United Kingdom with a grain cargo. The British bark Owens will leave tomorrow for the same destination. The following new movements in the harbor are reported: Arabia to the flour mills, David d'Angers to the sand dock, Isabel Browne to Martin's dock, Alice Marie to Irving dock, Vincennes to Banfield's and Edmond Rostand to the stream. She has completed her cargo and will leave for the sea in a day or two.

This morning the French bark La Rochelle was taken to the drydock where she will be repaired, cleaned and painted. After she has been lowered the British ship Blythwood will be cleaned.

The steamer Ocklahoma is at the boe yard, where she is being fitted out with a new smokestack. She will be ready for service again tomorrow.

With 778,000 feet of lumber the steamer Redondo cleared yesterday afternoon for San Francisco.

After spending a few days in the harbor replenishing her stock of supplies, the revenue cutter Perry sailed this morning for the mouth of the river.

The work of discharging ballast from the British ship Miltonburn was started this morning at Greenwich dock.

M. C. Harrison & Co. report that insurance is still being taken out on all shipments carried by vessels bound for Siberian ports. It is explained that torpedoes and floating mines are thick in those waters.

Notwithstanding her mishap it is announced that the steamer Senator will sail from San Francisco for Portland tomorrow night on regular schedule time.

Loaded to the hatches with freight the steamer Columbia will sail tonight for San Francisco. She will carry 1,800 tons, made up of potatoes, paper, flour, wheat and hops. The latter shipment comprises 20 tons.

MARINE NOTES.

Astoria, Dec. 22.—Arrived down at 6 and sailed at 9 a. m., steamer Whittier, for Port Harford. Arrived down at 8 and sailed at 9 a. m., steamer Redondo, for San Francisco. Sailed at 8 a. m., steamers Costa Rica, Daisy Mitchell and Home City, for San Francisco; steamer Alliance, for Coos Bay and Eureka, and British steamer Crocydon, for Moji and way ports. Sailed at 9 a. m., steamer Northland and schooner Oakland, for San Francisco; steamer Jeanie, for San Francisco; British bark Camborne, and French bark Hoche, for Callao; British ships Dunboyne and Kynance and French bark Camborne, for Queenstown or Falmouth. Outside at 12:30 p. m., French bark Asia, from Hoche, and barkentine John Palmer, from San Pedro; latter arrived in at noon. Astoria, Dec. 22.—Arrived at 2 a. m., steamer Aurelia, from Portland. Arrived, schooner Alpha, from Columbia river. Sailed at 4 last night, schooner Monterey, in tow of tug Delancey, for Portland. Sailed at 1 p. m. yesterday, steamer Eureka, for Portland.

Astoria, Dec. 22.—Condition of the bar at 8 a. m., moderate; wind east; weather clear.

Astoria, Dec. 22.—Arrived at noon and left up at 12:40 p. m., steamer Homer, from San Francisco.

Preferred Stock Granted Goods, Allen & Lewis' Best Brand.

HOOD RIVER CITIZENS PROTEST NEW SEWER

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Hood River, Or., Dec. 22.—A mass meeting of the residents of the hill district was held last night to protest against the building of the new sewer. Attorney Huntington of The Dalles was present to render legal advice, and a movement to commence an action against the city to restrain it from assessing the residents of this part of the town is being considered.

J. T. Holman, a prominent merchant here, was chairman of the meeting, and among other things brought to light was a charge that there were members of the present city council who hold office illegally. A committee was appointed to confer with Mr. Huntington with a view to taking the case to court and fighting the assessment. The two sections of the town are lined up in the matter, and it is expected that both sides will engage attorneys.

The city recorder is proceeding with the collection of the assessment, and if the warring factions do not fall into line an action will be commenced against their properties at the expiration of the time set by the council for the payment of the sewer tax. Bids have been opened for the construction of the sewer, and it is expected to commence work on it as soon as possible. It is not yet known who the lowest bidder were, but Paget, Geblich & Joplin of Portland, who have the contract to construct a large irrigating ditch near here, it is expected, will get the contract.

California Prune Wafers Are made of the fresh California fruit used all over the land to cool and refresh the stomach and invigorate the bowels. The most delicate invalids can take these wafers—free from laxation, indigestion and all other evils. They act gently but surely, stimulate digestion and insure the passage and absorption of food, refreshing the whole body. 100 Wafers 25 Cents S. G. Skidmore & Co., Druggists, 151 Third St., sole agents for Portland, Or.

YOUTHS, BOYS AND CHILDREN

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Our two great departments devoted to youths' and children's wear are fairly bubbling over with beautiful, stylish effects in Holiday apparel. Mothers will find Christmas shopping a pleasure in our roomy, well-lighted establishment.

Youths' Suits - \$5 to \$20	Boys' Suits - \$2.15 to \$12.50
Overcoats - \$5 to \$25	Overcoats - \$3.50 to \$15
Cravenettes \$10 to \$17.50	Cravenettes - \$10 to \$17.50

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CELEBRATED	THE NEW
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This coupon must be voted on or before December 25, 1905.

AT THE THEATRES.

"The Sho-Gun" Tonight.

Henry W. Savage company in George Ade and Gustav Laders' Korean comic opera success, "The Sho-Gun," will be the attraction at the Marquam Grand theatre tonight and tomorrow night at 8:15 o'clock, with a special price matinee tomorrow at 2:15 o'clock. This is one of the most beautiful musical productions ever presented on the Marquam stage.

Broadway Gaiety Girls.

Tonight and tomorrow matinee closes the engagement of the Broadway Girls' great burlesque production at the Baker. In the show alone there are seven vaudeville acts of exceptional cleverness, among whom are Johnny Weber, Kenny and Hollis, Gardner West and Sunshine, Mr. Marshall, and of special note Miss Mildred Stoller and the four famous

Three More Performances.

There will be only three more performances of "All the Comforts of Home" at the Belasco theatre, one of these a popular priced matinee, tomorrow afternoon. It is the laughing hit of the theatrical season.

Next week the company is to perform the great old melodrama, "Blue Jeans."

Seats Selling for "Buster Brown."

The advance sale of seats opened this morning for Melville B. Raymond's cartoon comedy, "Buster Brown," which will be the attraction at the Marquam Grand theatre all next week, beginning Christmas matinee, with extra

Special Price Matinee "Sho-Gun."

A special price matinee will be given tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon at the Marquam Grand theatre, when Henry W. Savage's company will present George Ade and Gustav Laders' Korean comic opera success, "The Sho-Gun." Curtain at 2:15 sharp.

Matinee at Empire Tomorrow.

Daley and Zeke, the unique comedy characters in the play, "The Misanthrope Girl," at the Empire will give the children and everybody a royal good time tomorrow matinee. Tonight, the matinee tomorrow and tomorrow night close the engagement.

"Jerry From Kerry."

The Christmas attraction at the Empire, starting next Sunday matinee, will be the laughing farce, "Jerry From Kerry." There will be a special matinee also Christmas day.

Jolly Girls Christmas.

Starting Sunday matinee at the Baker the Christmas week attraction will be the Jolly Girls Burlesques, with Sam Sidman, comedian. There will be a special holiday matinee Christmas day, for which seats should now be secured.

A Surprise.

For you. Visit the London Clothing company, 172 Third street.



Christmas Suggestions

FURS naturally suggest themselves to the minds of the thoughtful. Sealskin Jackets are most fashionable, and Neck Pieces with Muff to match, made in Sable, Mink, Ermine, Chinchilla or Squirrel.

A Few Holiday Specials

Natural Siberian Squirrel Sets, consisting of Four-in-Hand Tie and Pillow Muff. Special..... \$15.00

Siberian Squirrel, Four-in-Hands in natural and Sable colors. Special..... \$8.50, \$11.50, \$13.50

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