

THE OREGON DAILY JOURNAL

Bit of Strategy May Result in Compromise of Big Railroad Fight.

BITTER LEGAL WAR MAY COME, HOWEVER

Railroad Men Speculate as to Outcome of Contest for Supremacy in Columbia River Basin—Santa Fe May Be Directly Benefited.

With the arm that the Milwaukee is reaching into the Pacific northwest, Hartman hopes to wield a club that will bring the pugnacious "Jim" Hill to time, and already there is talk of another northwest "compromise."

It is admitted on all sides that possession of the Milwaukee greatly strengthens the Hartman position in the north bank fight, and throughout Idaho and Washington, where the warmest feeling of friendship exists for the Milwaukee road, the Columbia valley railroad's undertaking on the north bank has met much opposition and an antagonistic public sentiment because of a general belief that the Hartman interests were back of it with the sole purpose of blocking the Hill north bank line and not with a bona fide intention of building a railroad there.

But from the first it has been conceded that the north bank efforts the only way for the Milwaukee to get into the Columbia valley basin on a feasible grade. It is said the Hartman people will now go at their task with redoubled determination to build the line, and that a warmer reception will be given them by the people and the courts.

Legal Battles Imminent. Condemnation proceedings and suits to enforce contracts for deeds for rights of way on the north bank will be pushed with more vim than ever. The Columbia valley's attorneys are today preparing papers for court hearings that are to be held this month at Vancouver. Judge McCree, who has returned from his San Francisco vacation trip, has on August 24 for resuming the hearing of evidence in these cases. G. W. Stapleton will appear for the Columbia valley company, and James B. Kerr for the Portland & Beulah. The Portland & Beulah Cape Horn tunnel, one of the most important strategic points on the line, will be determined in this suit.

A Portland man whose knowledge of inside railroad dealings is considerable, said: "It looks like Hartman, in taking over the St. Paul road, has given up hope of the Santa Fe, which he unavailingly sought to control with a view to retaining his exclusive hold on California."

FROM WATSON CHALLENGED TO FIGHT BOE. WATSON STILL LOVES WIFE WHO WILL JOIN HIM.

Former Populist Leader Likely to Accept and Bloodshed May Follow.

Thomson, Ga., Aug. 18.—John M. Barnes, postmaster of Thomson, former United States marshal, has challenged Watson to a duel for the presidency in 1904, to fight a duel. So far Watson has not accepted.

The trouble grows out of a charge made by Barnes that he was told by Watson in 1904 that the latter (Watson) worked for Roosevelt in the east and was receiving \$50,000 therefrom from the Republican national committee. Watson heard this story and wrote Barnes demanding to know whether the latter had made the charge.

Barnes replied did not satisfy Watson and the latter wrote another letter in which he charged Watson with having worked for Roosevelt in the east and was receiving \$50,000 therefrom from the Republican national committee. Watson heard this story and wrote Barnes demanding to know whether the latter had made the charge.

In reply Barnes wrote: "Some of the language in your letter is very offensive to me. I hereby beg you will retract every word of it. Failing in that, you will indicate what time and place on the frontier of the neighboring state we may continue this correspondence." Barnes is known as a "killer" and Watson is known as a "fighter." It is believed that bloodshed is inevitable.

GREAT DAMAGE DONE BY LA GRANDE FIRE.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) La Grande, Or., Aug. 18.—A \$12,000 fire at La Grande last night destroyed the warehouse of the Grand River Cash company, owned by Lewis Bros., the Fowler warehouse and one small residence. The warehouses contained hay, machinery, etc., and are a total loss.

Hornes in a barn attached to the warehouse were saved. An old man named Smith was sleeping in the Lewis warehouse and escaped by jumping from a window minus any clothing. Constant streams of water were poured on the Standard Oil company's tank in the immediate neighborhood to prevent it from burning. The absence of wind alone saved the thickly settled district from a very serious fire.

MRS. BERG HAS ICY FEELING FOR HUBBY.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Wells, Wash., Aug. 18.—Charles E. Berg, superintendent of the brickyard at the state penitentiary, was made defendant in sensational divorce proceedings commenced in the superior court yesterday by Mrs. Berg.

Several weeks ago \$15 in which Mrs. Berg had cashed, and which she mysteriously disappeared and Mrs. Berg is her complaint for divorce says Mr. Berg accused her of taking the money. Mrs. Berg also alleges cruel and inhuman treatment and says her husband's conduct the past two weeks has made her the neighborhood.

Switzer Postmaster at Beulah Station.

Washington Bureau of The Journal.) Washington, Aug. 18.—James M. Switzer is appointed postmaster at Beulah, Malheur county, Oregon, vice H. A. Smith, resigned.

Did Not Fear Storm and Was Stricken.

Greenbay, Wis., Aug. 18.—This morning Fred Billings was chiding his daughter for her fear of a storm when lightning struck and killed him as he spoke.

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