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NEW YORK MEN OBTAIN CONTROL OF COAST MINE

Powerful Merger Will Develop Rich Properties; Franklin Leonard Jr. Will Head the Enterprise.

San Francisco, March 5.—After careful examination of the mines by some of the most experienced mining engineers and about a year's arduous work, Franklin Leonard Jr. and a number of associates of New York city have succeeded in obtaining control of the stock of practically all the Comstock mines, except the Morrow group and will combine them into a gigantic merger of interests.

The details of the syndicate have all been fully arranged and the word is now out awaiting from New York to make public the list of financiers behind the consolidation, and the size of the financial interests affected by the syndicate. This formal announcement will be made simultaneously in New York and San Francisco.

More than \$600,000,000 having been taken from the Comstock lode since the discovery, the opinion has quite generally prevailed that the vast store of wealth was practically exhausted, but Leonard, Edward B. Strages and the other financiers at the head of the new syndicate, know differently by expert reports and they believe that by touching the lode in a different way, the properties can be made to yield further stores of mineral wealth.

Leonard won't talk. The plan in the rough is to form a syndicate of the stockholders of the group that competition and bickering may be eliminated and then to develop the mines to greater depth, using in the process the modern machinery and methods that were not known when the Comstock group were making their largest returns.

Franklin Leonard Jr. refused today to divulge the names of either the New York or San Francisco men interested in the consolidation, but he made this statement: "Substantially all the Comstock mines, including the Ophir, Consolidated Virginia, Mexican, Potomac, Chollar, Eschschuer, Hilltop, Savage, Sierra Nevada, Union and the Sturgess group, the Yellow Jacket, Crown Point and Belcher mines, will be included in the readjustment to be proposed shortly by a syndicate headed by Franklin Leonard Jr., of New York.

This preliminary syndicate will recommend a plan to the shareholders of the properties, giving every holder an opportunity to join if desired. "The syndicate controls the Comstock tunnel property which drains and ventilates the Comstock mines.

Deepest Level 2400 Feet. "Present work in the Ophir and Mexican is on a large scale, and the deepest level attained is 2400 feet, where an east drift is being extended toward the ore body in each mine from the bottom of the wings.

"It is expected to cut the ore body in about three weeks directly under the present working stopes. The permanent improvements, new machinery and pumping apparatus in the Comstock mines represent a cash expenditure exceeding \$1,500,000. In the old days it was impossible to prospect lower with the methods of that time, but now, with modern pumps, electrical machinery, and modern appliances, much greater depths can be worked and made to yield handsome returns.

The Gold Hill section produces mostly gold and in the bygone years it has yielded over \$15,000,000. The Crown Point and Yellow Jacket over \$2,000,000. So much for the prospective work on the south end of Gold Hill section of the Comstock. On the north end there have also been some very important and at the same time substantial preparations for developmental activities in the near future.

The fame of the great bonanza of thirty-five years ago was world-wide and there are still many residents in San Francisco and the state who remember the wonderful mineral production of the time. It was the high cost of milling, which caused a cessation of work in the Comstock mines, and when the work ceased the water commenced to accumulate in the lower levels.

KITCHEN WILL BE CENTER OF THIS NEW HOME

Other Attractive Features in Residence Being Erected in Irvington by F. E. Bowman—Cobblestone Fireplace

One of the handsomest bungalows of the California type in the Irvington district is being erected by F. E. Bowman on a Twenty-first and Brazeau corner. An odd feature of the design is the position of the kitchen, which will be in the center of the house surrounded on all sides by bedrooms, living rooms and the dining room. Other attractive features are the cobblestone fireplace, the hardwood floors and finish and the beamed ceilings in the dining room and living room.

Modified English architecture properly describes the type of a new building which is being erected for J. M. L. Pipes at East Ninth and Siskiyou streets. The entire lower floor will be finished in white enamel with the ceiling beamed in mahogany. Mr. Pipes expects to spend about \$7000 in completing the building.

The northeast corner of East Thirtieth and Davis streets has been purchased by John Klein, a local business man, who is contemplating improving the property with an apartment house.

Harry Edings took out a permit last week for a two-story frame residence which he will erect at East Twenty-first and Wasco streets at a cost of \$4000.

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An important residence building program first developed early last week is four frame cottages to be erected by M. K. Settlemier on East Twelfth between Everett and Flanders. These are to be two-story six roomed frame dwellings, and when completed will represent an investment of about \$10,000.

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LETTERS FROM DEAD ARE READ BEFORE HOUSE

Expenditure of \$1500 for Preservation of Epistles Penned by Widows of Two Greatest Presidents.

Washington, March 5.—With reverent attention the house listened today to a letter written by the widow of Washington, and also one written by the widow of Lincoln, and then ordered the expenditure of \$1500 for the preservation of the manuscripts.

The first was a letter from Martha Washington, written in 1793 to the speaker of the house of representatives soon after her husband's death, in which she gave her assent to the plan of removing Washington's remains from Mount Vernon to a crypt in the capitol. The second, from Mrs. Lincoln, written in 1859, pleaded for a pension. The pension was granted and she drew \$5000 a year until her death.

Representative O'Connell (Dem.) of Massachusetts, who presented the letters to the house, said that thousands of other valuable historical documents are now crumbling with age in the capitol.

"In her letter Martha Washington said: 'Taught by the greatest example which I had so long before me, never to oppose my private wishes to the public will, I must consent to the request made by congress which you have had the good wishes to transmit to me, and in doing this I need not—I cannot—say what a sacrifice of individual feeling I made to a sense of public duty.'

The letter from Mrs. Lincoln was written from Frankfurt, Germany. After presenting her formal request for a pension and referring to the assassination of her husband, she said: "That sad calamity has very greatly impaired my health and by the advice of my physician I have come over to Germany to try the mineral waters and during the winter I go to Italy.

"My financial means do not permit me to take advantage of the urgent advice given me, nor can I live in a style becoming the widow of the chief magistrate of a great nation, although I live as economically as I can."

The document clerk of the congressional library will take possession of the papers and file them in the library where they can be preserved and still be seen by the public.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SHIPBUILDERS ON PACIFIC COAST

Ambassador Straus Gains for Americans Bidding Chance at Turkish Navy—Coast Men Might Make Killing.

Washington, March 5.—A budget providing for the expenditure of \$38,000,000 for the construction of two battle ships, two cruisers and 19 destroyers is before the senate of Turkey, awaiting his decree.

Oscar S. Straus, American ambassador at Constantinople, has persuaded the sultan to defer for several weeks the opening of bids for these battleships in order that American shipbuilding firms may have an equal opportunity with those of other nations to submit bids.

In a cablegram to the state department, announcing his success in arranging this delay, Straus said: "It is important that the representatives of American firms who desire to submit tenders and bids should proceed promptly to Constantinople, with full power to finance the budget allowance."

The bureau of manufactures has sent letters to all the shipbuilding firms of the country, announcing the successful effort of Straus and including the names of prominent business men of Constantinople.

Letters have been sent to the Union Iron Works, to the Risdon Shipbuilding company of San Francisco and to the Moran Shipbuilding company of Seattle. This will afford the Pacific shipbuilding firms a chance to make good on a large contract and prove to the United States government that they are fully capable of handling contracts for the submarines which have been voted for the defense of the Pacific coast.

Representative Kahn said: "This will prove a great opportunity for the Pacific shipbuilders. They should be able to make a strong bid for the contracts."

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WATER POWERS ARE RESERVED BY SINGLE SAM

Sites in Western States Aggregating 11,500 Acres Are Withdrawn During the Last Twelve Months.

Washington, March 5.—If the "Interests" are seeking to monopolize water power sites in the west, they will have to hustle or else the United States geological survey will have all the available ones reserved.

According to a statement issued tonight by Director George Otis Smith, the survey during the last 12 months has withdrawn lands thought likely to contain water power sites aggregating 11,500 acres. These totals include new withdrawals along ninety-seven rivers.

Conservationists are studying these figures with considerable interest, inasmuch as one of the criticisms directed against Secretary Hallinger by the Phinchottites has been his removal of the Garfield-Roosevelt water power policy. On March 4, 1909, Garfield, as secretary of the interior, had withdrawn sites covering public lands on 29 rivers in nine states. Secretary Hallinger restored those lands. The geological survey subsequently raised the withdrawal of many of these lands. The withdrawal areas now aggregate tracts along 97 rivers in addition to those covered by the Garfield withdrawals, and lie in 11 states.

Other Lands Withdrawn. Further conservation work by the survey during the last year includes the withdrawal of 241,130 acres of land in California, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming as public oil lands. This brings the total covered by oil withdrawals up to 3,487,076 acres. In California there were restored to entry 966,916 acres that field examination had been shown to be non-oil lands.

Phosphate lands withdrawals cover 2,054,103 acres in Wyoming, Utah and Idaho. Coal land withdrawals were made covering 5,475,900 acres not previously withdrawn and the form of withdrawal affecting an additional 9,000,000 acres was changed to cover all forms of entry instead of coal entry alone. The new regulations have increased the value of these lands by nearly 60 per cent. The old regulations placed the sale price at \$75, the new has placed a maximum of \$465 per acre. There are now 3,443,000 acres of coal land saleable which the government values at \$191,430,000.

The East Side Business Men's club, formed for advancement of the section east of the river, has filed articles of incorporation with the county clerk. George T. Atchley is the president, Louis Gevurtz vice president, George Dilworth secretary, G. S. Fulton treasurer, and the following are trustees: H. A. Calef, C. J. Bigelow, Dan K. Kehler, E. R. Galinsky and H. H. Newhall.

Protection and drawing attention to the advantages of east side trading are among the objects specified. Other new articles of incorporation filed are as follows: Woodard, Clarke & Co., drug department, by Louis G. Clarke, William E. Woodard and Elizabeth L. Clarke, capital stock \$100,000.

Buehner company, lands, logging, lumbering and contracting business, incorporated by Phillip Buehner, S. B. Linthicum and H. H. Parker, capital \$200,000.

Oregon Road Oiling company, by S. J. Harder, W. Harder and L. E. Crouch, capital \$5000.

Murray & Richards, architects and engineers, by Leslie W. Murray, M. C. Richards and D. H. Smith, capital \$5000.

INSURGENTS SEIZE MONEY TRUST'S AMENDMENT AND INSERT IT IN BODY BUT NOT IN SPIRIT, IN POSTAL BANK BILL.

Washington, March 5.—A crushing defeat was experienced today by the Taft-Aldrich-Cannon coalition when the senate adopted Borah's amendment to Smoot's amendment to the postal savings bank bill. Aligned for Borah's insurgent amendment were Bourne, Chamberlain and Borah, while against it were Heyburn, Jones and Piles. Bourne addressed the senate, declaring himself in the proposition that the national credit demanded bond-buying with postal bank deposits.

Chamberlain's Patriotism. Chamberlain distinguished himself by being the only Democrat to vote for the bill on final passage. This vote was otherwise a strict party vote, every Republican voting yes and every Democrat no, save Chamberlain.

Opinion runs that the Democrats blundered in following Bailey's lead, proceeding on the theory that the postal bank bill was unconstitutional. Chamberlain dissented, thus distinctly aligning with the insurgent senators and voting, as he pledged himself that he would when elected, not as a partisan Democrat, but according to the intrinsic merit of measures placed before him for senatorial judgment.

The Fight for the People. Seldon has such a struggle being witnessed as that over the postal banks. Openly the administration declared first for the Root amendment, which compelled the purchase of bonds with postal deposits. A storm of opposition arose. Taft made it known that he had formed a pact with the insurgents to force through the bill with a proviso like the Root amendment in it.

When the Root amendment was seen to be impossible of enactment, Aldrich, Cannon, Crane, Carter and Smoot met and agreed, at Taft's instance, to submit the Smoot amendment, which, while not compelling, nevertheless permitted, the bond buying with postal savings deposits, in the discretion of the president, when, in his opinion, war or any emergency involving the national credit, justified such action. This would have rather taken the first step toward the Aldrich central bank of issue, which was the real reason why the Root and Smoot amendments were so strongly urged by Taft. These senators upheld their position by arguing the measure was unconstitutional without the bond-buying provision.

The Insurgents' Coup. Then came the brilliant stroke by the insurgents. Calling the constitutional bluff, they drafted the Borah amendment, which permits bond buying, but prohibits buying bonds carrying less than 2 1/2 per cent interest. This left in the bill the bond buying feature, but cut off everything that Taft, Aldrich and Cannon most desired, namely, legislative authority to buy the \$700,000,000 of 2 per cent bonds now held by the banks as a basis of circulation. Aldrich had converted the white house to his central bank scheme, one vital essential of which was that the bulk of outstanding 2 per cent be used in creating the central bank.

Taft-Aldrich Sneak Exposed. Bonds bearing more than 2 per cent are a negligible quantity. Most of the old 4 and 4 1/4 per cents have been refunded at 2 per cent, and of which \$500,000,000 are outstanding, and \$700,000,000 are in the hands of the banks.

Administration's Defeat. People are talking tonight about the administration's defeat, which, some say, means the president's humiliation before the country, in that his downfall on this measure came through his open announcement of partnership with Aldrich and Cannon in an alleged covert step towards the central bank instead of an open admission that the central bank was to be taken up later, as an administration policy.

Everyone knows Aldrich's purpose to bring in a report, as chairman of the monetary commission, in favor of the central bank plan. Yet neither Aldrich nor Taft took the country into confidence, apparently trying surreptitiously to get into the postal bank law a proviso making the central bank possible.

The strength of the insurgent movement is not ascertained at tonight. The central bank scheme is badly shattered, perhaps beyond reconstruction.

GENERAL WOOD OUT OF HOSPITAL

Baltimore, Md., March 5.—Major General Leonard Wood, U. S. A., left Johns Hopkins hospital today accompanied by his wife. General and Mrs. Wood are believed to have gone direct to Washington. The general has been a patient at the hospital several weeks following an operation from which, it is stated, he has fully recovered.

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BUSINESS CLUB IS INCORPORATED

East Side Men to Carry on the Work of Advancing Their Side of River.

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MILLS SHUT DOWN; TOWN IN DISTRESS

Wesson, Miss., March 5.—As a result of the closing down of textile mills at this place one-third of the people of town have left and many of those who remain are in a state of poverty bordering upon starvation.

So serious has the situation become that the city council at a special meeting, appointed a committee to go to Jackson and ask Governor Noel to urge the legislature to pass a bill authorizing the city of Wesson to set aside from the general fund, a sum of \$500 to relieve the immediate needs of the people. The committee went to Jackson yesterday only to find that the executive was off on a "unlucky" trip and that nothing can be done until Monday. The committee, accompanied by Mayor Thompson, will go again to Jackson to urge the remedial measures.

NORTH YAKIMA FACES SHORTAGE OF FUEL (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) North Yakima, Wash., March 5.—A mud slide has filled the city with water and the Northwest Light & Water company, is compelled to use steam to pump water into the mains. The company and city face a grave situation in a shortage of fuel, which may result in the water supply of the city being shut off. Every effort is being made to secure a supply of fuel to keep the engines at the power house going until the ditch can be repaired.

SECOND UNIT OF DAKOTA PROJECT Washington, March 5.—The completion of the second unit of the Bellefourche S. D. irrigation project embracing 10,000 acres, and divided into 40 and 80 acre farms, was announced tonight by the interior department. These farms are now available under the homestead and reclamation laws.

FIRE CAUSES \$500,000 LOSS AT BOSTON Boston, March 5.—The New England Building in the heart of the wholesale district of Boston was destroyed by fire tonight, causing a loss of \$500,000.

TITLE CONFIRMED TO VALLEY LAND

Dennett's Decision Establishes Security to Values of \$20,000,000 Property.

(By the International News Service.) Los Angeles, March 5.—Commissioner Dennett, of the general land office in Washington, has rendered a decision which practically confirms title to a majority of land claims in Imperial valley. The decision at one stroke destroys hundreds of contests and establishes security to values of more than \$20,000,000 worth of property which was in jeopardy.

Essentially, this decision shows that the practice of the general land office is contrary to a decision rendered by Judge Wellborn several months ago. The case at issue was in the contest by Sirel E. Skinner, now in jail in Los Angeles for alleged violation of a federal statute against the land claim of John E. Davis, near Holtville.

Dummy Entryman Alleged. The contest was based on the allegation that the original filing was made by a dummy entryman and the land assigned to Davis, it not being shown that Davis was a party to or knew of the alleged fraud.

Commissioner Dennett holds that fraud renders a claim voidable, but not void, and the entry of an innocent purchaser of the land into the case is to be construed in effect as an original claim, on which the alleged fraud has no bearing. Skinner's contest is therefore dismissed.

Under the old rules this land was held to be worth \$2,477,000.

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300 SAMPLE SUITS, the pick of four New York manufacturers, shipped to us by express. These garments are undoubtedly the greatest assortment of strictly tailored Suits ever assembled in Portland—no two alike. No exaggeration in price—we want you to compare these garments in quality, style and price. Here's what one quarter off means:

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SINGLE FRONT LACED CORSETS; \$5.00 values for \$2.50, while they last. BACK LACING MODELS FROM \$1.00 to \$10



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