

ORANGE GROWERS OF CALIFORNIA HARD HIT BY SEVEREST FLOODS

Cloudburst in Mountains Increases Loss to Orchardists, Railroads, Ranchers.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Pomona, Cal., Feb. 20.—Residents who have lived in Pomona valley for 25 years recall no rain storm as severe as the one that has prevailed here for the last three days. Traffic is entirely suspended on the three transcontinental railroads through Pomona, and the Pacific Electric has no hopes of operating its interurban cars for several days.

Three Southern Pacific overland trains are stalled at Pomona station with washouts on both sides. Reports coming in indicate that a number of families in this locality have been washed from their homes by the flood waters.

Orange Growers Damaged.
Damage to the orange groves will run into thousands of dollars. At San Dimas the road overseer stated that every bridge was out and that his entire force was busy aiding distressed families.

A near cloudburst in the mountains last night shortly after midnight sent a veritable wall of water down the valley, washing away the famous La Verne orange orchards, flooding a section of Lordsburg and pouring like rivers through the streets of Pomona. To the southeast of Pomona in the Chico district, fields are flooded and roads will be impassable for several days. At North Pomona, the home of C. D. Dunt, rests on the two banks of a roaring mountain stream.

Camp Baldy Cut Off.
Communication with Camp Baldy is cut off, but last reports gave the rainfall for the season to date as 45 inches.

The San Antonio canyon wash east of Claremont is reported to have changed its course, and ranchers have worked desperately the last two days to prevent serious destruction.

The Sierra power house, five miles east of Camp Baldy, reports 12.55 inches for the storm.

Three Die in Storm.
Los Angeles, Feb. 20.—Two deaths, due to the heavy rain storm sweeping southern California, were reported today. Mrs. Sue Belle, a wealthy orange grower of Covina, and Harold Selts, 27, her nephew, were drowned at her ranch near the home of a newsboy at Santa Barbara earlier in the storm brought its total death toll to three lives.

Selts was the son of John D. Selts, a broker of Kansas City. He recently was graduated from Yale and had come to California to visit his aunt. The bodies of both were found by Japanese ranch hands, who were unable to tell how they met death.

Rain fell throughout the night, bringing the total precipitation for the storm to 5.24 inches at midnight. Damage amounting to \$15,000 was done to streets, while thousands of basements were flooded. The Los Angeles river, which is a dry channel, was reported to be banked, although no bridges had been washed away at daylight, the approaches to several were damaged.

The storm continued throughout the southern part of the state. The heaviest rainfall was reported at Sierra Madre, near Los Angeles, where between 8 and 9 inches fell.

Railroad traffic still was demoralized today. All lines, however, had resumed service to the east of Los Angeles, but the Southern Pacific's coast line still was out of commission. The Pacific Electric lines to a score of suburban towns were impassable last night, but service was being resumed slowly today.

Coyotes Driven Into House.
Chico, Cal., Feb. 20.—Driven from their homes in the hills by heavy rains, a family of coyotes invaded the basement of the residence of Ed Vandyne here, in the heart of the city. He intends to make pets of them.

Flood Is Receding.
Long Beach, Cal., Feb. 20.—Flood waters northwest of Long Beach are receding rapidly today and no local damage is reported. The public knows nothing of reported rescues, save the usual removal of city poundmaster Henry Hutchins from his cabin in the center of the lowlands. Electric lines from here to San Pedro and Los Angeles are in operation.

The rainfall last night was .57, making the total for the storm 2.13 inches.

Ferries in Los Angeles.
Los Angeles, Feb. 20.—After collecting \$12 from passengers he ferried across a flooded street in an automobile truck, Angus Tucker was compelled to pay out the whole amount to get help when his engine went dead in mid-stream.

Conservation Candidate for Commissioner.
W. S. Conser, bailiff of Circuit Judge Clemon's court, is a candidate for the office of county commissioner, and announced yesterday that he would seek the Republican nomination for the place at the coming primary election. His platform is "an honest and economical business administration."

Conser is a native Oregonian, having been born at Jefferson in 1852. At the age of 10 years he became a railroad man, and completed 37 years in the employ of the Southern Pacific company in 1909, when he resigned to become clerk of the county board of relief. For two years he has been with Judge Clemon.

Police Car Driver Runs Into Workmen.
Seattle, Wash., Feb. 20.—An automobile driven by E. Ohlstrom, a police department chauffeur, carrying men and women passengers, ran into a group of workmen on the Madison street cable line at First avenue and Madison street at an early hour this morning, and injured several of them seriously. The car was driven by Ohlstrom, 30 years old, is the workman who was hurt. His right leg was broken in three places. He may be injured internally.

N. P. Gives Rates to DUNKARDS' CONVENTION.
When action was resumed by the railroads of the Transcontinental Passenger association for special rates for the Dunkards' convention at Seattle in June, the Northern Pacific took the matter into its own hands, according to a telegram received by Assistant General Passenger Agent A. D. Charlton today from the Northern Pacific general passenger agent at St. Paul.

The rate will be \$55 for the round trip, with a \$10 return limit. It is probable that other roads will follow with a similar rate.

Sailor Will Be Held in Jail.
James Burger, colored, will remain in the county jail for 15 days while the steamer Bilbster, on which he was employed, sails away. He was sentenced to 15 days for assaulting R. G. Morgan, a shipmate, and in order that Burger might not join his boat, for the captain, when Judge Bell that Burger might be hurt or killed if he were allowed to return. Burger is a New Zealander, and will be turned over to the immigration officials when his sentence expires.

Reward for Bravery.
For exceptional bravery performed in saving the life of O. Ecklund, at a fire at First and Third streets, J. M. Tom Gavin, chauffeur for Fire Chief Dowell, was given 100 merits, and Lieutenant Von Lom of truck company No. 2, received 50 merits for assisting in the rescue of Ecklund. These are the largest number of merit marks given since the new efficiency system for city employees has been in use.

Wants New Star Route.
Washington, Feb. 20.—Representative Hawley presented to the postmaster general today a petition for the establishment of star service three times a week from Norton to the Wilson and Fendall stores. Fifty-five families would be served.

Blacksmiths Meet in Annual Session.
The opening session of the second annual convention of the Oregon State Association of the Master Blacksmiths and Blacksmiths' association of America was held this morning at the Imperial hotel, about 75 delegates being in attendance. This morning's session was devoted to organization and the election of officers. The work of the body being planned for this afternoon and tomorrow.

The convention will conclude with a banquet at the Imperial tomorrow night. F. S. Gunning of the Dalles is president of the state association with Ira Jorgensen of Salem, secretary. The convention is being held under the auspices of the Portland local of the association. Hardware and blacksmith supply men are taking part in the sessions as guests of the association.

Restaurant Man's Guilt Technical.
T. H. Van Puybroeck, proprietor of a restaurant at Fourth and Salmon streets, was found guilty of the crime of advertising adulterated maple syrup yesterday by District Judge Bell and sentence was continued on condition that he pay the fine of \$100. Van Puybroeck showed that the syrup was sold pure maple syrup by the manufacturer and that Van Puybroeck took the responsibility for the truth.

Tour of Foreign Countries Planned.
O. M. Clark, of the Clark & Wilson Lumber company, and C. E. Runyon, accompanied by their wives, will start in a day or two on a tour of the Mediterranean countries, to be gone as long as they find traveling interesting. Mr. Clark is chairman of the Oregon Pan-Pacific exposition committee. "We will take an auto with us when we get to Europe," said Mr. Clark this morning, "and our plan is to try motoring in northern Africa for a while. If it gets too hot for us there along the border of the Sahara, we will cross the Mediterranean and try the roads in southern Europe."

Improvement Rally in Astoria Postponed.
Dr. Alfred Kinney, chairman of the Ports of Columbia committee, telephoned today that the Astoria Improvement League's rally for tomorrow night in the Weinhart-astoria hotel at Astoria had been postponed until next Tuesday evening, in order to make certain of the presence of L. C. Gilman, president of the S. P. & S. railroad.

West Before Courtmartial.
Bremerton, Wash., Feb. 20.—Captain Ernest E. West, U. S. M. C., is to appear this afternoon before the courtmartial board on charges of insubordination. This is the third trial of Captain West. A charge of assault was also recently returned against him by the board. He was charged with breaking into his mother-in-law's home to get possession of his child, having been separated from his wife shortly before that time.

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