

BIG STEAMSHIP ASHORE

Wreck of the Californian Off the Maine Coast.

PASSENGERS ARE ALL SAFE

The Vessel Went on a Reef in the Harbor of Portland, Maine, During a Heavy Storm.

Portland, Me., Feb. 27.—The big Allan line steamship Californian, which left her dock at midnight, went ashore on Ram Island ledge, just outside the harbor, a few minutes after the pilot left her this morning. All the passengers are safe, though still aboard. Most of the local seafaring men are of the opinion that the rocks have penetrated the bottom of the vessel in several places, and they doubt very much if she can be saved. The vessel is valued at \$3,000,000; the cargo at \$300,000. There are six cabin, five intermediate and 10 steerage passengers, beside a crew of 75 men.

The Californian was in charge of Pilot Edward L. Parsons, and at the time he left her the wind was blowing hard from the southeast, and a heavy rain was falling. Pilot Parsons left the ship on reaching the bell buoy of Cushing's Island Point, after he gave the officers of the ship the course. Ten minutes later the Californian was hard and fast aground on Ram Island ledge. This is a reef that runs out from Ram Island and the ship had gone several points off her course when she struck. The ship is lying under the lee of Ram Island, on the ledge, and although the waves are breaking with great force, the long ledge acts as a breakwater and protects the ship. The local officials feel confident that the ship can be floated. The conditions are now favorable.

The Californian was bound to Glasgow by way of Halifax. Captain Barclay says that the hold is full of water, the fires are extinguished, there is a heavy sea, but the passengers are perfectly safe. The cargo of 3,000 tons consists mainly of meats, lard, apples, cheese and grain. The greater part of the cargo was probably insured by the consignees. It is not known whether the ship was insured.

The steamship California, now named the Californian, was built on the Clyde and launched in 1891. She is built of mild steel, is classed A1 in Lloyd's special survey, and with additional strengthening over Lloyd's requirements to comply with the demands of the admiralty for transport service. Her length is 400 feet, beam 46 feet and depth of hold 32 feet 8 inches. Her tonnage capacity is 5,000 tons. She is divided into eight compartments, the bulkheads of which are all carried to the upper deck. These, with the cellular double bottom, insure the greatest amount of safety in case of accident.

Postoffice Robbed.

Independence, Feb. 27.—The postoffice was broken into this morning after 3 o'clock and over \$600 was secured; the amount of cash was \$212.95, and stamps \$400. An entrance was made by taken out a window pane in a rear room, and then a panel of the door, thus giving admission to the office. The tools were stolen from a blacksmith shop in town. A hole was drilled in the outside door of the office safe, just above the handle, and the hole in the inner door was made just above the combination lock, and powder was used to blow the safe open.

The robbery was not discovered until about 10 o'clock today, when several dollars' worth of stamps were found behind the adjoining harness shop by W. H. Craven, which led to an investigation. It is thought that the thieves have been in town for the past two days, and could be easily identified. The money lost belonged to Postmaster J. A. Wheeler.

Cremation of Plague Victims.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—A special to the Record from Honolulu, February 18, via San Francisco, says: As there are no facilities for cremation at Kahului, where the latest advices show that the black plague has broken out, the seven bodies of those who have died from the dread disease were cremated in the open air on the beach at night by piling up an immense amount of fire wood for a fire. The harbor was full of ships at the time and the sight from the decks of the vessels of the burning of the plague victims is described as a weird one.

Fight on Burmah-Chinese Boundary.
Rangoon, British Burmah, Feb. 24.—A British official attached to the boundary commission, named Hertz, while touring in the Burmah-Chinese frontier with an escort, has engaged and routed two considerable forces of hostile Chinese from Mirkawga, killing the leader of the Chinese and 70 Chinese.

Mill, Elevator and Grain Burned.
Halifax, Feb. 27.—The works of the Maritime Milling Company at New Glasgow, were destroyed by fire today, with a grain elevator and thousands of bushels of grain. The loss was \$150,000.

BIG FIRE NEAR PARIS.

Series of Alcohol Explosions Injure 150 People.

Paris, Feb. 28.—As a result of a fire that broke out this morning at St. Quen, a suburb of Paris, in a collection of alcohol and oil stores, a series of explosions occurred, spreading the flames until a block of six immense warehouses was involved in a huge conflagration.

A great concourse of spectators had assembled and had approached too near, when suddenly the explosions occurred. A large number of people, including some firemen, were more or less injured. The last explosion occurred at 6 o'clock this afternoon, when it was thought that much danger had been averted. Thirty persons were injured by flying debris. The official compilation shows that 150 were hurt, and quite a number seriously.

The fire broke out at 8 o'clock, from some cause as yet unknown, and had obtained firm hold before it was discovered. It progressed without exciting incidents during the morning, and at 1 o'clock had been gotten under control. At 4 o'clock, however, the falling walls permitted the flames to reach a number of alcohol vats, and then the explosions began to take place. The block of warehouses was almost surrounded by unoccupied ground, over which the burning alcohol spread when the buildings collapsed, resembling a sea of flames, and causing consternation throughout the district. People in the dwellings near by began hastily removing their furniture. The suffocating heat and fumes seriously hampered the work of the fire brigade. A number of engines were sent from Paris to assist. The firemen worked fearlessly, and more than once were precipitated to the ground by falling roofs and walls.

A detachment of soldiers aided the firemen in emptying the adjacent houses of furniture. Ambulances were busy in carrying victims to the neighboring hospitals.

Fortunately the flames did not reach the immense reservoirs of petroleum. The loss is estimated at 2,000,000 francs.

YAQUIS HARD FIGHTERS.

Mexicans Lose More Than 200 in One Battle.

Chicago, Feb. 28.—A special to the Chronicle from Potom, Sonora, Mexico, says: The Mexican Federal troops, under General Torres, have saved Guaymas from the Yaquis, but by dint of the fiercest fighting of the war, and a sacrifice of 200 soldiers. The town here is filled with wounded, and all public buildings are utilized. Torres anticipated the surprise the Yaquis intended. The Indians were accompanied by 10 adventurers, miners and cowboys, who acted as commanders of separate companies of 40 men each. The Yaquis had also a Maxim gun, which had been smuggled through at Bisbee, A. T., in a load of machinery. The gun was manipulated, the Mexicans say, by two ex-rough riders.

Torres reached here Thursday afternoon and decided to divide his army of 700 men into two divisions. The first and strongest, flanked by the gunboat Democrita, left here at daybreak Friday morning. No scouts preceded the force and the first intimation of the presence of the Yaquis was a withering fire from the Maxim and a rifle volley from concealed fortifications in a dense thicket. The first division retreated in confusion, and was sheltered in the timber growth along the river. More than 100 men fell at the first fire. The Democrita then steamed up and swept the thicket with her machine gun, but evidently ineffectively. Her forward decks were swept, and the protected upper decks peppered with bullets from the Maxim. Ten sailors and First Lieutenant Rambold, of the army were killed. The Democrita drifted for more than half a mile until a bend in the river sheltered her.

Late in the afternoon hill signals showed the waiting commanders of the first division that the second detachment had reached the neighboring heights to the southeast in its flank movements. A simultaneous attack was then made from the front and flank, and the Indians retreated. The Maxim gun, disabled and useless, was brought to Potom and 73 Indians, the official report states, were found dead. During the first fire of the Yaquis 23 Mexican Federals were driven into the river in a panic, and drowned. The total Mexican loss was 237. The Democrita has been taken to Guaymas for repairs.

This is the first time the Yaquis have made use of fortifications.

Building Burned in Chicago.

Chicago, Feb. 27.—Fire today destroyed a four-story brick building at 51-55 Jefferson street, causing a loss of \$65,000, divided among the following firms: Lammert & Mann, machinery; William W. Vernon, gas machinery; James Barry & Co., pattern makers; Hartley Electric Company; George H. Nye, pump manufacturer; Charles H. Bendham, pattern maker.

Two Frozen Bodies Found.

Buffalo, N. Y., Feb. 27.—The storm which has raged since yesterday afternoon, with a maximum wind velocity of 65 miles, abated tonight. The body of a farmer was found frozen stiff in a snow drift about a mile from the city. Near Warsaw, the body of John Carmody was found frozen.

PRESERVE FORESTS.

Government Will Attempt to Induce the Adoption of Conservative Methods of Lumbering.

The attempt of the government to induce the adoption of conservative methods of lumbering in order to preserve the national resources, and the responsive interest taken by timber owners, have brought up many interesting legal questions, and the division of forestry has found it necessary to make extensive researches in this direction. As a result, a circular dealing with the laws which affect forests is in course of preparation and will be sent free to persons interested. One of the most important points brought out is the recognition by law of the prospective value of growing timber. The possibility of profitably carrying on lumbering with systematic provision for future cutting depends upon this point. It has usually been held that when, by trespass, or by unscrupulous cutting by contractors, timber has been removed contrary to the owner's wish, he could recover only its stumpage value. As forestry usually requires that a certain number of trees of certain size be left, it follows that an unscrupulous contractor could easily upset the plans of years with little fear of punishment. The supreme court, however, has recently ruled that the difference in value between logged and unlogged land depends not only on the value of the timber removed, but on its probable increase had it been left untouched.

Improvements in Alaska.

Captain W. R. Abercrombie, head of the government exploration party, which last season did much work in the Copper river country and began opening up a military road from Port Valdes to Fort Egbert on the Yukon, arrived in Seattle, en route north to continue his work. It is the purpose of the government, he says, to construct 2,400 miles of telegraph line in Alaska, and complete the military road. He returns this year with increased responsibilities. The road, he says, will be completed during this season from its present terminus, 80 miles inland, to Tanana, about two-thirds of the distance to the Yukon. The telegraph line will be built from Port Valdes along the road to Fort Egbert and thence down the Yukon to St. Michael.

Among other northern improvements, he says, a large government wharf at Valdes has been decided upon.

An Eastern syndicate, headed by Henry Villard, he says, is now having surveys made along the general course of the military road with a view of building a line.

Bank for Ballard.

After many vain efforts on the part of the citizens, Ballard has finally secured a national bank, to be called the Ballard First National bank, with a capitalization of \$50,000. The bank will be founded and intimately connected with the Seattle National, whose cashier, S. Foster Kelly, is now arranging the details of the new institution. E. W. Andrews, president of the Seattle National, will be the head of the new bank. Mr. Kelly will be vice president, and the cashier and other officers are yet to be announced.

Northwest Notes.

A condensed milk factory is under consideration for Hillsboro.

There were 1,300 visitors at Crater Lake last year.

The Eugene water company has been reorganized, five of the old stockholders selling 230 shares to four new men for \$22,000.

The Dalles business men will take up the project of establishing a fruit and vegetable cannery there when the scouring mill project shall be off their hands.

An effort is being made to construct a telephone line from Tillamook to North Yamhill, by way of the toll road. It would cost, it is estimated, about \$2,500.

Allen Edwards pleaded guilty to the charge of obtaining money by false pretenses at The Dalles, and was sentenced to the penitentiary for one year. He obtained \$2 at the Umatilla house on a fraudulent check.

Sheepmen of Enterprise, Or., are refusing \$5 a head by the band for good ewes, says the Pendleton Tribune. One man refused \$3.50 for spring lambs, and another paid \$5.50 for 50 head of first-class sheep. Goats sell for \$5 a head.

At a public meeting in Klamath Falls, the proposition to donate \$150,000 worth of land to the Oregon Midland railroad, which proposed to build to that town, were accepted, and committees were appointed to arrange the matter.

It is reported by a gentleman residing in Ashland that instead of rebuilding the woolen mill at that place it is likely that the company will build a woolen mill at Klamath Falls, says the Klamath Falls Republican. It is argued that such a mill here would, on account of the long and mountainous road intervening, be far easier of access for the wool growers of Klamath and Lake counties, from which counties the Ashland mill derived its main supply.

MINES AND MINING.

Conditions of the Camp at Rampart City, Alaska.

Harry Bigelow and Walter Hall, of Seattle, are in receipt of a letter from C. H. Knapp, of Rampart City, Alaska, giving the mining news of the camp for the winter. The letter bears date of December 18, and is replete with news of interest. Excellent results are being realized. The winter to that date had been a little to open for good development. Mr. Knapp says:

"I will write you a few lines to let you know how things are moving in this camp. The weather thus far has been very mild for Alaska. This is the coldest morning we have had, 42 below. We have not had cold weather enough to stop the water on many of the creeks, therefore many have been held back from working. On Hoosier those that tried to ground sluice last summer have not been able to do much as yet on their claims, but we hope this cold turn will freeze up so they can all work."

"Jack Welch has struck a rich spot on No. 13. He picked up \$100 on Friday and Saturday of last week. I have eight men on 19 and 20; they are getting some pay, but I cannot say that they have found anything very rich as yet, but they are getting fair prospects. They panned out 10 pans and got \$7.05 on the bottom of two holes; then they commenced drifting, but did not find it as good for some days as at the foot of the shaft. I heard from them Saturday and they said it was improving the further they drifted, and the other four men on 19 reached bedrock on Saturday and got good prospects."

"Little Manook is turning out well. On No. 6 every lay has fair pay. No. 8 is rich. The Governor and General Carr will have more money net this year than they did last. Little Manook, Jr., is showing up rich in several claims. They have taken out as high as \$14 to the pan, and got from \$2 to \$5 and \$6 quite often."

"There is nothing being done on Russian this winter. I had forty-five represented. On Hunter there is but very little work being done. I had 11 below represented and also 30 on Hoosier. I could not get anyone to work 62 and 63 Hunter or the Idaho Bar claims without pay cash, and I did not feel as though I would be warranted in paying out cash."

Index a Great Camp.

Without doubt the most important event in the history of the Index, Wash., district was the uncovering of the four-foot ledge of high grade copper lance in the Ethel mine last week, at a vertical depth of 440 feet. What adds additional value to this discovery is the fact the same identical ledge encountered at a depth of only 125 feet, in the John D. adjoining, yields copper values of but \$10 to \$12. This is tangible, indubitable evidence that the mineral veins in the district increase in value as depth is attained. Since the publication of this good news renewed interest in the great copper camp is manifest. There have been a great many more people visiting the camp since this discovery was made than for some time prior thereto. There can be no doubt but that scores of other properties in the district run into high grade borinite and copper glance, carrying also gold and silver, the only thing required being depth to convert them into some of the greatest and richest mines in the world. Beyond question, by the middle of the following summer, there will be many equally rich strikes on other Index property.

Rich Strike in Idaho.

Reliable mining men who have seen the famous strike made by Mr. Lamereaux, near Elk City, Idaho, say that the Lamereaux ledge lies underneath about six feet of wash, and is 12 to 14 inches wide. Some of the ore seems to be phenomenally rich. The rich channel is only about six feet long. Two hundred feet from this channel the ore will not run over \$15 or \$20 to the ton. It is what the mining men call a chimney. The quartz is firm and in place, thus differing from most of the rich discoveries that have been made from time to time, and would seem to indicate that it will probably extend down to a considerable depth. The find is evidently one of great importance as compared with other discoveries in this section, such as the Buffalo Hump, Dewey, etc.

Bonded a Promising Mine.

W. B. Lawler, of Albany, Or., who, for several years, has had charge of the development work of the Lawler Mining Company, of the Santiam district, who is also interested in properties in the Blue River mines, having put over \$300,000 into the two places in development work, has just returned from Ely, Nev., where as representative of Oregon and Eastern capitalists, he has bonded what promises to be a very rich group of mines. After settling affairs in Albany he will go there to superintend personally the development and working of the mines.

No Pacific coast smelter is as yet a member of the great smelting trust, organized last spring.

Larger amounts of money are being invested in Snohomish county, Wash., mining properties than ever before, which is a sure indication of the permanent and more rapid development of the mineral interests there.

SPRING TRADE ENLARGING.

General Distribution Is of Fairly Good Volume.

Bradstreet's review of trade says: General distribution of trade is of fairly good volume, although affected by weather conditions and holidays. Spring business is enlarging at many markets East and West, the presence of buyers being encouraged by special passenger rates. A softening of prices of speculatively dealing staples is to be noted, but the reactions are of narrow extent.

Foreign demand for wheat remains small, American stocks are large, and farmers are reported holding supplies back, and crop-damage scares are discounted by mild weather. The strength of corn has been a feature, foreign demand being of good proportions, and this has furnished a supporting element in the wheat market.

There is a larger volume of business in pig iron at some markets, but less at others, and prices of that product are quite steady.

Structural iron continues active, indicating heavy building operations the coming spring and summer. Foreign iron markets retain all their old strength, and lower ocean freight would, it is argued, bring about a great enlargement of our export trade. Copper is quieter, but steady in price and tin notes a further advance in sympathy with foreign speculation. Hardware is improving in distribution at the West.

Business failures for the week number 163, as compared with 199 a week ago, and 220 in 1899.

The strength of staple values is a feature of Canadian trade. Retailers will carry over some stocks of winter clothing. Industrial activity is very marked, Canadian factories running to their fullest capacity. Business failures for the week number 28, against 35 last week, and 39 in this week a year ago.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, \$2.25 @ 2.50 per sack.
Lettuce, hot house, 40c per doz.
Potatoes, new, \$18 @ 20.
Beets, per sack, 75 @ 85c.
Turnips, per sack, 60c.
Carrots, per sack, 50c.
Parsnips, per sack, 75 @ 85c.
Cauliflower, 75c @ \$1 per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, \$1.00 @ 1.25 per 100 pounds.
Apples, \$1.25 @ 1.50 per box.
Prunes, 60c per box.
Butter—Creamery, 31c per pound; dairy, 17 @ 22c; ranch, 20c per pound.
Eggs—20c.
Cheese—Native, 16c.
Poultry—13 @ 14c; dressed, 14 @ 15c.
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$18.00 @ 19.00.
Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.25; blended straight, \$3.00; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; graham, per barrel, \$3.00; whole wheat flour, \$3.00; rye flour, \$3.80 @ 4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$14.00; shorts, per ton, \$16.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$20.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$20; oil cake meal, per ton, \$30.00.
Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, 7 1/2 @ 8c; cows, 7c; mutton 8c; pork, 7 1/2c; trimmed, 9c; veal, 8 1/2 @ 10c.
Hams—Large, 13c; small, 13 1/2c; breakfast bacon, 12 1/2c; dry salt sides, 8c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 53 @ 54c; Valley, 53c; Bluestem, 56c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, \$3.00; graham, \$2.50; superfine, \$2.10 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, 35 @ 36c; choice gray, 34c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, \$14 @ 15.00; brewing, \$17.00 @ 18.00 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$13 per ton; middlings, \$19; shorts, \$15; chop, \$14 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$10 @ 11; clover, \$7 @ 7.50; Oregon wild hay, \$6 @ 7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50 @ 55c; seconds, 42 1/2 @ 45c; dairy, 30 @ 37 1/2c; store, 25 1/2 @ 32 1/2c.
Eggs—12 1/2 @ 13 1/2c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 18c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.50 @ 4.50 per dozen; hens, \$5.00; springs, \$2.50 @ 3.50; geese, \$6.50 @ 7.50 for old; \$4.50 @ 6.50; ducks, \$5.00 @ 5.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10 @ 11c per pound.
Potatoes—50 @ 80c per sack; sweets, 2 @ 2 1/2c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 90c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, 1 1/2c per pound; parsnips, \$1; onions, \$1.50 @ 2.50; carrots, \$1.
Hops—3 @ 8c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 12 @ 13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8 @ 14c; mohair, 27 @ 30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 4 1/2c; dressed mutton, 7 @ 7 1/2c per pound; lambs, 7 1/2c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$6.50 @ 6.00 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$4.00 @ 4.50; cows, \$3.50 @ 4.00; dressed beef, 6 1/2 @ 7 1/2c per pound.
Veal—Large, 7 @ 8c; small, 8 1/2 @ 9 1/2c per pound.