

LAND OFFICE RULING

Receiver Will Examine All Contests.

Can Be Taken At Walla Walla.

Breaks Up the Business Land Commissioners—

to the New Settlers.

Walla, Jan. 1.—A new ruling made by the officials of the land office which means a great change in the way in which the new regions of the country within the past two years since the movement of the settlers began. Within two years thousands of settlers have been landed in all the counties of Washington, whole communities have been built up in a few years. A prior there was but a few scattered homesteads in the southeastern Washington and the northward lay the Palouse and the Columbia River was used for sheep and great stretches of land were used for sheep and great bunches of sage brush and where the coyote was the rampant. Water had always been scarce and no one had dared try to irrigate the desert and plant grain markets of the world.

Rush at Land Office.

homesteaders' movement changed conditions and colonies of people passed over the cheap search of places upon which to build homes and grow up with them. Here in Central Washington opportunities presented themselves that had never been dreamed of. The land office was taken as rapidly as it could be filed. The land in this place was rushed day after day and thousands of acres were made by homesteaders. Some time all the cheap railroad was bought up and great tracts of land were quickly planted. The first attempt at harvesting the fertility of the land and great development in a year or two.

When had all the government land taken than the belated settlement to east about for homestead could be contested. In some cases could be secured any cheap land. Many refused to go to other places to homestead but hundreds of new settlers were preparing to fight their way into the land department. In some cases the local men, who were of the open land for 10 years and were afraid of it, under the contests upon land before they would have to pay \$1 per acre for.

With Contests, the local land office has been with these contest cases in bitter fights which have been determined carefully. In some cases the land is valuable, and the settler and contestee are guarded impartially, as the subject to review at the land office. The method of contest cases has been similar to that of hearing final evidence, any United States commissioner being qualified to receive evidence and pass it up to the land office register and receiver. Dozens of cases have been heard in this way, and the credibility of witnesses written testimony, for in some cases the evidence showed a contradiction on many matters. The local land office officials do not see the witnesses and do not judge of the appearance of the witnesses when under examination. The evidence brought an order was made to all land commissioners in the district, that contest cases hereafter be taken only in the city, where the receiver and receiver could personally examine the witnesses and note the testimony while giving testimony.

ny. After today no contest case in the Walla Walla land district will be tried outside of the United States land office. The new arrangement is expected to bring about a more equitable and certain determination of the scores of contests now in progress, and it will likely prove a bar to flimsy cases that trouble more than all those with good foundations.

The new ruling will break into a class of business in the offices of a dozen or more land commissioners, from which splendid revenue has been obtained for several months. Contest cases pay the commissioners well for the time expended, and protests have been sent to the office from all sides asking that the new order be rescinded and the old method allowed to continue. But the register and receiver are determined, and no step backward will be taken.

A Roosevelt Policy.
The vigorous and fearless policy of President Roosevelt is responsible for the new regulation to a certain extent. Last year the officials were changed, and Thomas Mosgrove as receiver, was succeeded by Dr. Y. C. Bialock, an ardent admirer of the president and his policy of fearlessness; and J. M. Hill was succeeded as register by Joseph L. Mohundro, of Dayton, another staunch friend of Roosevelt. Shortly after taking the office these men discovered the difficulty of handling contest cases, and it was discovered that the witnesses could be required to appear personally at the office and submit to examination. In many other districts the law had been enforced in that way, and why not here? Still in this district the regulation was unknown. After a few months labor in the office it was determined to make the change and after today all contests must be heard and determined in the office. The expense of bringing witnesses scores, and in some cases, hundreds of miles, will have to be borne by the parties, and this fact may retard the bringing of actions as well as cause hardship to the poorer class of men who, perhaps, can secure land only by disputing the rights of some delinquent fellow who has taken advantage of Uncle Sam's well known generosity.

FAVOR MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP

THE ONLY SOLUTION OF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM

King County Grand Jury Makes Report on the Traction Facilities in Brooklyn—Declares for Socialism.
New York, Jan. 1.—The King county grand jury today made a report on traction facilities in Brooklyn. It recommends that franchises of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company be annulled and that the city acquire and operate the surface and elevated lines.
The report says: "The only solution of this vexed problem of metropolitan transportation, is municipal ownership. We are of the opinion that municipal control would speedily reduce all fares to 3 cents."

HIGH WATER ON W. & C.

Chinook Winds Have Filled Streams to Overflowing—Track at Helix is Under Water.
The W. & C. R. train, due to leave Pendleton at 7 o'clock, did not leave Wednesday evening on account of high water along the line. The train left here at 6 this morning.

The chinook of the past two days has melted the snow so rapidly that the track has been made dangerous for traffic and it is said that the roadbed was washed out in a place or two between here and Pasco. Wednesday's train reached Pendleton late in the evening, but coming through the flat at Helix it had to come through water two or three inches deep. The snow has melted and the water has settled in the low basin at Helix until the track is submerged for some distance. The water had subsided this morning and the track repaired so that traffic will not be delayed materially.

FIREMAN INJURED.

Rock Loosened by Rains, Rolls Into Cab Window and Disables Fireman.
Wednesday morning, as delayed No. 5 was passing around the rock bluffs near Horseshoe curve, two miles east of Yoakum station, a rock weighing about 10 pounds, loosened by the recent rains, and the jar of the train, crashed into the window of the cab and struck Fireman Getchell in the side, injuring him severely.

He remained on the engine until the train reached Umatilla, when he was sent to his home in La Grande.

GREEN TAKES ACTIVE COMMAND

New Police Commissioner of New York Begins His Regime With a Shake-Up.

SUSPENDS FIVE CAPTAINS AND TWO INSPECTORS.

Told the Inspectors That They Would Be Held Personally for All Actions of Police—Made Many Transfers—Wants Every Day to Be Sunday
New York, Jan. 1.—General Greene, the new police commissioner, took active command of the police department today. He appeared at 10 o'clock and was welcomed by retiring Commissioner Partridge.
He started his regime by summoning all the inspectors, instead of the police captains, as is the usual custom. He told them that he would hold them personally responsible for all actions of the uniformed police.

After he had finished a brief speech he began a shake-up that caused trembling of the entire force. He made transfers over the entire ten-district and declared that he wanted every day to be Sunday in what is now the toughest sections of New York. He suspended five captains and two inspectors.

CONDEMNNS THE MINERS.

Operator Blames Them for Shortage in Coal Supply.
New York, Jan. 1.—The expressed belief of representatives of the coal-carrying companies and of coal dealers is that for the next three days the coal situation will be acute all over the country. A representative of the coal department of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad said:

"The strikers clamored for public sentiment while they were on strike, and through public sentiment they got contributions from all over the country to support them while in idleness. Now the public can scramble for coal as it likes or do without it as far as the miners care."

ODELL REINAUGURATED.

The First Republican Governor of New York to Succeed Himself.
Albany, N. Y., Jan. 1.—W. H. Odell was reinaugurated governor of New York with imposing ceremonies today. He is the first republican governor in the history of the state to succeed himself.

MRS. CLARK DEAD.

The Mother of the Million Dollar Baby Did Not Recover.
Butte, Mont., Jan. 1.—Mrs. W. A. Clark, Jr., the mother of the million dollar baby, died this morning. She has been ill ever since December 1, when the child was born. The baby is healthy and vigorous.

MANY MINERS KILLED.

In a Mine Explosion in Russia—Some Were Entombed Five Days.
St. Petersburg, Jan. 1.—News has just been received of an explosion in the coal mine at Bakhtoot. Fifty-eight miners were killed. Twenty-one miners were rescued after being entombed for five days.

NEW CAR SERVICE.

Between Spokane and Pendleton Commencing With Today.
On and after tomorrow the O. R. & N. company will place a sleeping car service on the two trains running between Pendleton and Spokane. This announcement was made with the advent of the new year and will be hailed with joy by patrons of the road.
Although both trains make the run between the two places in daylight, there are many who would be only too glad to ride in a Pullman sleeper. Passenger train No. 7, arrives here now at 5:45 in the evening and leaves, returning in the morning at 8:15.

Sally Pumpkins—Jerushy Ann says S. Hayraker offered her his hand in marriage. Marthy Butterline—Land sakes! I don't doubt it. He's so t'nal awkward he never does know what to do with his hands.—Puck.

CORONER'S JURY MAKES REPORT

Has Been Investigating the Grand Trunk Wreck at Wanstead, Ontario.

COLLISION WAS CAUSED BY WRONG ORDER.

Responsibility Not Agreed Upon—One of the Operators a Mere Boy of 16, Who Was on Duty for the First Time.
Wyoming, Ont., Jan. 1.—The coroner's jury, which has been investigating the wreck at Wanstead last Friday night, in which 28 lives were lost, brought in a verdict shortly before midnight tonight. The verdict is as follows:

We find that Arthur W. Ricketts was killed in the collision at Wanstead on the evening of Friday, December 26, 1902; that said collision was caused by wrong orders being given No. 5 at Watford. Responsibility for the issuance of wrong orders we are not agreed upon as between Operator Carson and Dispatcher Kerr. That after No. 5 had left Watford by the issuance of wrong orders, we consider that the accident could have been averted by the operator at Wyoming or King's Court Junction, had the railway company had more experienced operators at those points (one being but a boy of 16) at each of which places the dispatchers having had ample time to do it and endeavored to get the opposing trains stopped.

The principal feature of the testimony yesterday was the evidence of James Troyer, night operator at King's Court Junction, where Dispatcher Kerr tried to stop the express train. Troyer, who is a boy of 16, stated that he was on duty for the first time on the night of the accident, and that his total previous experience as an operator was for two nights at Strathroy, where he received only a total of four messages. He gave as a reason for not hearing Dispatcher Kerr calling him for seven or eight minutes that he was studying the time table, and did not recognize the office call, which he had heard only once before. Troyer's extreme youth and apparent incompetence made a deep impression upon the jury.

Troyer said that the first call he heard from London was to stop No. 5, the express train, but it had just gone by. He put up the semaphore immediately. Troyer said he was 16 years old. He was in charge at King's Court for the first time on the night of the accident. Prior to his appointment he passed an examination which lasted 20 minutes. He was not familiar with the telegraph call for King's Court, and was in the office for some time before he heard the dispatcher calling him.

Carson, the Watford agent, was called and reiterated the statements made Monday. A number of copies of orders were put on exhibition and were admitted as evidence. All of the canceled orders had been annulled in the usual way by sending a second order. Carson testified yesterday that orders had been frequently canceled by the dispatcher simply saying "Bust it." Carson said that all papers and books in the Watford office had been taken possession of by assistant superintendent, leaving him without means of substantiating his claim in regard to this method of canceling orders.

Carson could not remember the exact date on which he had previously received a canceling order in the form of "Bust it." He said that for six weeks prior to the night of the accident he had been alone, doing the work previously done by two men.

Other witnesses were examined, after which the jury was addressed by the County Crown attorney and counsel to the Grand Trunk. The coroner gave the case to the jury at 5 o'clock. After the jury handed in the verdict, W. W. Pope, counsel for the Grand Trunk, was interviewed.

"I don't see wherein the fact that a boy of 16, who was in charge at King's Court Junction, had anything to do with the accident," he said. "If we don't employ boys, we will never have men."
Mr. Pope would not speak of probable future action in the matter.

IMPERIAL TROOPS DESERT.

Rebels Eager to March on Peking and Expel Foreigners.
Shanghai, Jan. 1.—A military officer has arrived here from Kan Su province to procure munitions of war and supplies of the commander of the imperial forces.

He reports that all the imperial troops enlisted in Kan Su, together with a majority of the Mohammedans there, are only awaiting Tung Fuh Siang's signal to march on Peking, expel the foreigners and uphold the Dowager Empress. Prince Tuan is expected to co-operate with Tung Fuh Siang with a force of Mongolians.

MISSIONARIES MUST LEAVE.

Sian Fu Region of China, Again Unsafe for Them.
Pekin, Jan. 1.—The missionaries in the Sian Fu region have been officially notified to be prepared to leave if necessary. It is recommended that the women and children be sent to safe ports.

GARMENT WORKERS' SCALE.

Contract Between Them and Wholesale Tailors Signed—Continues Until March, 1904.
Chicago, Dec. 31.—After two weeks of discussion the local union of the United Garment Workers of America and the Wholesale Tailors' Association reached an agreement last night and signed a contract which went into effect at once and continues until March 1, 1904. By the terms of the contract the union gets full recognition, 48 hours will constitute a week's work, and the minimum pay by the week is to be \$20 for suit cutters, \$18 for trouser cutters and \$14 for coat trimmers.

The workmen are given six holidays a year with full pay, and under no circumstances shall anyone be compelled to work on Labor Day. Time and a half is allowed for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays. The contractors provide further for immediate arbitration of all disputes.

CROWNING EVENT OF DURBAR

EDWARD VII DECLARED EMPEROR OF INDIA.

A Gorgeous and Expensive Display Occurred This Morning at Delhi—Festivities Will Continue for Ten Days.

Delhi, Jan. 1.—The crowning event of the durbar this morning was when King Edward was declared emperor of India and the oaths of fealty were sworn to by all the native rulers. In gorgeousness and expense, the display is estimated to be four times that of King Edward's coronation in London. Lord Curzon was seated on a throne in the middle of an immense pavilion. The native rulers occupied smaller thrones at the sides. The festivities will continue 10 days more.

LINER OVERDUE.

St. Louis Has Not Arrived—Sousa on Board.
Southampton, Jan. 1.—The American liner St. Louis, due yesterday afternoon, has not arrived. Among the notable people aboard is Sousa.

MYSTERY IN FREEWATER.

Shooting Affray Occurred in Saloon There Christmas Night.
Freewater, Jan. 1.—There is still considerable mystery in Freewater over the shooting affray in the Kelly-Kelly saloon here on Christmas night.

No one was hurt and no arrests have been made, but the officers have been working on the case and one may be expected at any moment. The circumstances of the shooting which caused a great deal of commotion when it occurred are as follows:
There was a large crowd in the saloon on Christmas night, and every one was feeling good. While the room was full of people and the bar was lined with men with their elbows on the bar and a glass of liquor to their lips a perfect fusillade of shots rang out from the room back of the bar.

When the smoke had cleared away the stove was found to be shot full of holes and windows were shot out, but no man can be found who knows who did the shooting. The wonder is that no one was killed or badly crippled as the house was full when the shooting began. The room was soon cleared and the man doing the shooting was left in full possession. When the officers arrived he had vanished or mixed with the crowd and no one would say who did the shooting.

THE RECEPTION MOST BRILLIANT

President and Wife. Assisted by the Cabinet, Receive a Long Line of Visitors.

THE MARINE BAND PLAYED PATRIOTIC PIECES.

In Compliance With Custom the Diplomatic Corps Came First, Headed by Von Holleben—Colonel Bingham Introduced the Visitors.

Washington, Jan. 1.—At 11 this morning a bugle in the new marble corridors of the White House sounded the president's call.

Immediately the president and his wife, followed by members of the cabinet with their wives, proceeded down the broad stairways, passed down the corridors of the blue room and took their stations at the bow windows. Today's reception was the most brilliant the national capitol has ever seen.

Specially invited guests, who on former occasions crowded behind the president and cabinet, were today placed opposite, where they were able to greet the long line of visitors.

Colonel Bingham was on the president's left in full uniform and introduced each visitor to President Roosevelt.

A place had been assigned to the Marine band, which began by playing the "Star Spangled Banner," which was followed by other patriotic airs during the entire reception.

In compliance with time-honored custom, the diplomatic corps came first, headed by Von Holleben. The genial figure of Poncefote, who had long headed the corps, was sadly missed.

The diplomatic corps, after the reception, attended Secretary Hay's annual diplomatic breakfast.

WALLA WALLA NEWS.

Personal Notes—"Scotty" Anderson Charged With Murder—Produce Company Moves to New Building.

Walla Walla, Jan. 1.—Charged with attempted murder, "Scotty" Anderson lies in the county jail awaiting trial in the superior court, which convenes in two weeks. Anderson is charged with assaulting Ed Palmer, a boot-black, with a knife on Christmas eve, in a local saloon. Palmer was badly cut in three or four places about the head and has been in a hospital since the occurrence. Yesterday the negro was given a preliminary hearing before Justice Glassfield, and bound over to the higher court. Bonds were fixed at \$500 but the man has no hopes of giving the amount.

Alvah Kennett and Miss Anna M. Martin were married yesterday by Judge Breuts in the superior court chambers. The young people will reside in Kilkickat county, where the groom has land interests.

The Inland Empire Produce Company is moving from its old quarters on Alder street to the fine new building erected especially for the business by the company at Boyer avenue and the W. & C. R. railroad tracks. The new building cost about \$4000 and is modern in every particular.

Interesting revival services are being held nightly in the Methodist Episcopal church, south, and the attendance is rapidly increasing. The pastor, Rev. Hanson, has charge of the work, assisted by visiting ministers.

CRACKER CREEK FACTS

North Pole mine was offered for sale three years ago for \$600,000. It has 5000 feet on the mother lode. It is now worth twenty million dollars.
The South Pole mine adjoins, has 4941 feet on the same lode, has six tunnels, amounting to 2200 feet, all in ore. We expect within less than three years' work to have a mine as valuable as North Pole is today.
South Pole stock is selling at 15 cents until about January 1st. Buy before the price rises.
See Cahagan at Hartman Abstract office, Pendleton, Ore.