

WEATHER REPORT.

Fair and cooler to night and Friday.



TO ADVERTISERS. Don't sit down in the meadow and wait for the cow to back up and be milked—go after the cow.

HALF A BLOCK IN RUINS; PROPERTY LOSS \$50,000

Early Morning Fire Destroys First Christian Church, Wilcox Implement Store, Hotel Barn and Did Other Damage.

Heroic Work of Pendleton's Volunteer Fire Department Saved Perhaps a Third of the City from Destruction—Stiff Breeze Fanned the Flames—Big Church Consumed in Half an Hour—Entire Stock of Implements Destroyed—Fine Residences Threatened Several Times, But Good Work Saved Them—Golden Rule Hotel, Oregon Theater and Other Properties Threatened—Loss Falls Heaviest on Church, Which Carried But \$6000 Insurance on \$15,000 Property.

The Loss.

R. H. Wilcox & Co., \$25,000. Christian church, \$15,000. W. H. Jones (implement building), \$5000. Golden Rule Hotel, \$1500. Damage to surrounding property, \$2000.

The biggest fire that Pendleton has seen in years occurred between 1:30 and 2 o'clock this morning and damage to the extent of \$45,000 or \$50,000 was inflicted. Had it not been for brave and persistent work on the part of the fire department, aided by a favorable change in the wind, the fire fiend would have gotten entirely beyond control and a third of the town might have been burned.

Started in Stable.

At 1:25 this morning George Hayes, the bus driver for the Golden Rule hotel, had just returned from meeting train No. 5 and he left the bus standing in front of the hotel while he went inside to eat a lunch.

As he entered the place he saw that the old stable at the rear of the hotel was on fire and he gave the alarm. How the fire started is a mystery. It apparently began at the front end of the stable and presumably from the careless dropping of a match or cigar by some one.

According to the bus driver he struck matches to light the bus lamps on leaving the barn, but says he is positive that the fire was not started by him.

General Alarm Sounded.

When the alarm was given the old wooden stable was all aflame and a general alarm was sounded. Almost immediately the local bells in all parts of the town were sounded and the different companies turned out quickly.

Wilcox Implement Store.

From the Golden Rule stable the fire spread to the Wilcox implement store and within a few minutes the long corrugated iron building was a blazing furnace. The building extended the entire length of the block and was filled with farming implements. The flames spread from one end to the other with startling rapidity and the Christian church and the Jones house, occupied by Tom Thompson, became threatened.

Christian Church Destroyed.

At an early stage of the fire it could be seen that the big wooden church was in serious danger, for it was directly against the implement building and the church building itself was dry as pitch.

The church caught fire on the south side and with the wind driving the flames northward the whole building was a mass of flames within a few minutes. Within less than half an hour the church had burned to the ground. So quickly did the church burn

that nothing whatever was saved from the building. The church itself, the furniture and about \$1000 worth of books belonging to the pastor, Rev. Meldrum, were entirely lost.

Thompson House Threatened.

How the W. H. Jones house, occupied by Tom Thompson and family, escaped destruction is a mystery. Almost from the start it was regarded as doomed and willing helpers assisted the family in carrying the household goods to places of safety. Practically everything within the house, including even the carpets, was taken out.

But just as the danger was greatest and the house was considered a "goner" the wind changed and the flames and cinders were turned in a northeasterly direction.

The change in the wind saved the Jones house and lessened the danger to the Alexander and Sturgis houses across the street, but it was deadly to the houses farther up the street.

Fine Homes Endangered.

The scorching flames from the church reached nearly across the street to the Strahorn and O'Gara homes. Time and again each of those places caught fire, but each time the firemen were equal to the emergency and saved both houses. But both homes were soaked with water and much of the furniture was damaged. Most of the household goods from the Strahorn place were taken out and carried up the street. The O'Gara home suffered a heavy loss from water.

When the wind changed the Furnish, Thompson and Vincent places on Water street were menaced. Several times the fine residence of W. J. Furnish was in great danger, but small streams of water were kept playing on the house and it was saved.

Burning shingles and monster cinders from the burning church were carried over the house and several fires were started in the grass on the north side of the river.

For a half hour burning cinders from the church were a serious menace to that entire portion of town and also to the north side residences in the wake of the wind. Had it not been for good precautionary work on the part of individual householders several dwellings would surely have burned.

Narrow Escape for Hotel.

All during the fire the Golden Rule hotel was in grave danger and it is almost a miracle how the hostelry escaped destruction. Nearly all the windows on the north side of the building were broken by the heat or by hose streams and the burning cinders blew directly into the bed rooms.

Six or eight times fires were discovered in different rooms, but they never got beyond control. All the

guests in the hotel were gotten out quickly and they assisted Landlord Popejoy protect the building and contents.

Several streams from the fire hydrants were played on the building and these, together with streams on the second and third floors of the hotel saved the day for the Golden Rule.

Thence Was Afire.

At a later stage in the fire flames broke out in the corrugated property room of the Oregon theater and for a half hour the playhouse as well as the entire business block was in peril. As it was, the big Six dry goods store, owned by Mr. Cobb, was damaged by water and minor losses were suffered by the other business establishments in that block. The Hohbach bakery was somewhat injured by water, as a line of hose was taken through the building in order to fight the fire in the rear.

Firemen Fought Well.

Among those who saw the fire last night there is universal praise for the gallant work of the firemen. To Fire Chief John Vaughan and the men in the eight companies comprising the department, medals of honor are due for the way in which they did their work.

All during the fire they fought hard and without fear to check the flames and they won out. Had it not been for their good work all the adjoining residences, the business block between Cottonwood and Johnson streets and possibly a third of the town would have been destroyed.

At the outset of the fire it was difficult work for the department. The flames were spreading so rapidly and the streams of water were needed at so many points that it was hard work to handle the situation. But no blunders were made and in less time than it takes to tell nine streams of water were brought into action.

In spite of the burning heat and other disadvantages under which they labored, the firemen held persistently to the job until they took the life out of the burning pile and left it nothing but a blackened ruin.

Shortly after the fire started Dr. F. W. Vincent, manager for the Northwestern Gas & Electric company, being unable to get the substation by phone, ran to the station and had the electric current shut off from that portion of the city. By this precaution danger from live electric wires was done away with.

Loss Nearly \$50,000.

Naturally the heaviest losers by the fire are the Wilcox Implement company and the Christian church people, the most severe loss being suffered by the church. The Wilcox implement stock was valued at approximately \$25,000 and upon the stock insurance to the amount of \$15,000 was carried.

The church with its contents was valued at \$15,000 and it was insured for but \$6000, thus making the loss heavy. Inside the church at the time of the fire was a valuable library which Pastor Meldrum had just received from Australia.

The implement store building was owned by W. H. Jones, now of Seattle, and its value is estimated at \$5000. It is said to have been entirely without insurance. Mr. Jones regarding the structure as fireproof.

Of the private homes in that section the O'Gara and Strahorn places were the worth damaged. The loss to those places will probably reach \$1000 or more, but it is covered by insurance. The Jones house, occupied by the Thompson family, was damaged but little.

GOVERNOR JOHNSON ACCEPTS NOMINATION

Minneapolis, Aug. 20.—Governor Johnson today decided to accept the nomination for reelection by the state convention. He had declared he would not accept. He will issue a statement later.

Debs at Portland September 12. Chicago, Aug. 20.—According to the western itinerary of the socialist special bearing Eugene B. Debs, the presidential candidate, on a speaking tour, the train will reach Portland September 12, Seattle September 17, and Spokane September 18.

Baseball Scores.

Portland 7, Oakland 0. Los Angeles 5, San Francisco 0.

SIX CHILDREN DIE IN FLAMES

Burning of Farm Home Near Palouse City Snuffed Out Half a Dozen Lives.

PARENTS AWAY, CHILDREN BURNED IN THE HOUSE.

Two Elder Girls Tried Desperately to Drag Sleeping Tots From the Flames But Were Forced to Abandon Them—Four Little Children of One Family and Two of Another Met Horrible Death—Mothers at Show, Fathers With Threshing Crews.

Spokane, Aug. 20.—As the result of a fire in the home of H. W. Schultz, two miles west of Palouse, last night, six children are dead and two are dying. Four of the dead are Schultz's children, two those of W. W. Fix, Schultz's brother-in-law.

Fix and Schultz, whose families live together, were away with threshing crews, and the mothers were at Palouse to see a show when the fire started.

When all the children were asleep at 11 o'clock, the oldest Schultz girl was awakened by smoke and fire. She aroused the little tots, who were too sleepy to realize the danger; she and the next oldest sister grabbed the four Fix children and two Schultz children and attempted to rescue them, but finally were forced to abandon the attempt to save their own lives.

They dropped the sleepy tots and ran through the flames, their clothes burning.

The quartet of Fix children and two Schultz children were burned to death before help arrived. The oldest Schultz girl and her sister who attempted the rescue are dying.

It is believed the fire started in the kitchen pipe. When the mothers returned they were horrified to find the home in ashes.

BUY RAISINS NOW.

Prices of Dried Grapes Will Soon Begin to Soar.

Fresno, Cal., Aug. 20.—Better buy your raisins now. Pickers here say that the price will soon begin to soar and that the dried grapes will soon be beyond the reach of all but well-to-do people. Several advances in price have already been made, and more are to follow, according to the fruit brokers.

The extreme hot weather, which has carried an estimated damage to the crop of from 25 to 30 per cent, is given as the reason for the shortage and the consequent high price. Estimates place the 1908 crop at not more than 50,000 tons. Last year's crop was about 80,000 tons.

Commission Will Return.

London, Aug. 20.—The Aldrich-Vreeland financial commission, composed of United States senators and representatives, announced today that it had obtained sufficient data regarding the monetary system of foreign countries and would return to America without further investigation. It was the original plan to tour all the European capitals.

FOREST FIRES RAGE AT VANCOUVER'S BORDERS

Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 20.—A heavy pal of smoke caused by approaching forest fires is overhanging the city today. The air is oppressive and the fires are the worst in 10 years and are dangerously near the city limits. All efforts to extinguish them have failed so far. A large force is fighting the flames. It is consuming hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of valuable timber. The worst fire is in the Squamish valley, between the Island and point Grey in Capitano valley.

HAVE JAPS INSULTED AMERICAN

San Francisco, Aug. 20.—United States Attorney Devlin is today preparing to act against the proprietors of Japanese tea gardens for desecrating the American flag by distributing handkerchiefs representing it with the words, "Japan tea" printed thereon. The Japanese-Korean Exclusion league called attention to the matter asking that the proprietors be punished under the federal law. "This repeated contempt and disrespect shown the flag by the Japanese is in accord with Nipponese diplomacy," said Devlin.

AGED HUNTER HAD THRILLING EXPERIENCE.

Los Angeles, Aug. 20.—After hanging by his fingers to the walls of a precipice for hours, Louis Lehman, aged 50, is on the verge of nervous prostration today. His hands are bruised and swollen and his fingernails are off. He crawled down the ledge on the face of a sheer wall in Wheat canyon in an attempt to recover a wild dove he had shot. The ledge crumbled and the aged hunter was hurled 25 feet down the cliff but managed to get his toes on a small ledge and held himself by digging his fingers into the crumbled sandstone. Campers rescued him.

CHILD'S BODY INTO BIG SIPHON

SUCKED THROUGH 600-FOOT PIPE AT CHICO.

Seven-Year-Old Floyd Kitch Ketchum Ventured Too Near Swirling Eddy of Hydraulic Siphon and Was Drawn Through Pipe Line Into Sugar Factory—Strangest Drowning on Record—Child Died Two Hours After Being Rescued.

Chico, Cal., Aug. 20.—After being sucked by a swirling eddy into the mouth of a 600-foot hydraulic siphon at Hamilton City, Floyd Ketchum, aged 7, is dead, the victim of one of the strangest drownings on record.

The boy was swimming and ventured too near the mouth of the big tube carrying water to the sugar factory. He was sucked through 600 feet to the mill, where he was ejected. He died two hours later.

Harriman at Crater Lake.

Medford, Aug. 20.—E. H. Harriman, Governor Chamberlain and J. P. O'Brien, superintendent of the Southern Pacific in Oregon, arrived at Crater Lake this morning, and spent the day in viewing its wonders. They were met by a delegation of Medford citizens.

Son Born at Spokane.

Born at Spokane, Wash., on August 18, to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Snyder, a son. The mother was formerly Miss Dixie Todd and was a student at the Pendleton high school.

Ever notice how narrow minded most people are who argue with you?

NEW BUILDINGS ON THE RUINS

Fire Losses Have Not Discouraged Pendleton's Optimistic Property Owners.

WILCOX COMPANY ALREADY READY FOR BUSINESS.

Temporary Offices Opened on the Scene of Last Night's Fire—Two Autos and Roll Top Desk Comprise the Company's Entire Stock Today—Christian Church Will Be Rebuilt, Perhaps of Stone—All Are Optimistic.

Though \$50,000 worth of local property went up in smoke last night the fire sufferers have not been cast down by the weight of their loss, but instead are already making plans for the future.

At an early hour this morning the Wilcox company opened up headquarters in the old brick paint shop on the west side of Cottonwood street opposite the burned store. At the time of the fire the company had two automobiles stored in the old shop and these together with a roll top desk that was saved constitutes the firm's stock in trade at present.

But the fire had hardly been extinguished this morning before R. H. Wilcox, head of the firm, began wiring for goods to fill orders they had on hand. According to Mr. Wilcox, he will re-establish his business at the old stand if W. H. Jones will erect another building for his use. Mr. Wilcox places his actual loss at between \$10,000 and \$15,000. At the time of the fire he had a stock that would invoice between \$25,000 and \$30,000, covered by \$16,000 insurance.

Will Rebuild Church.

Up to this time the Christian church people have not worked out any definite plans for the future, but they are unanimous in saying their church will be rebuilt. The location may be changed if they can dispose of their present property and secure a desirable location. When the new church is built it will be of stone. The old church was painted but a few months ago at an expense of \$500.

Will Extend Fire Limits.

A move is now on foot to have the burned district included within the fire limits and action to that effect will very likely be taken at the next meeting of the council. Mayor Murphy, Fire Chief Vaughan and several members of the council are known to favor extending the fire limits.

Consolation From Abroad.

This morning the sufferers from the fire have received many messages of sympathy from outside parties. During the forenoon the Wilcox company received many messages of condolence from manufacturers' agents with whom they have been dealing. One from Wilson & Mathews, representatives of the Oliver Flow company, said: "We mourn your loss, but congratulate you on saving your nerve."

White Man's Ballot for Klamath.

Klamath Falls, Ore., Aug. 20.—The Australian ballot will be employed by the Indians of the Klamath reservation in an election to choose 12 new chiefs. It is the first time the Indians voted in a modern way.

FIRE FIGHTING EXHAUSTED WATER SUPPLY

The nine streams of water that were turned on the big fire this morning exhausted the supply of water then on hand and once more demonstrated that the present water system is not adequate. Had the flames spread as they threatened to do for a time and would have done but for the hard work of the firemen, the shortage of water would have been severely felt.

Had a really "big" fire occurred the firemen would have been rendered powerless by lack of water.

After the fire this morning Mayor Murphy reported that the reservoir was empty and the water people were asked to do everything possible to renew the surplus supply. The sprinkler wagons were not operated during the forenoon and the electric pumping plant at the water works was operated to the limit.