

The Heppner Gazette.

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LAYS IT TO CLOUDBURSTS.

Seiner Says They Are to Blame for Scarcity of Salmon.

Cloudbursts are cited as the true cause of scarcity of salmon in the Columbia by a lower river seiner, says Thursday's Oregonian. The seiner said that cloudbursts were so frequent on the upper streams that the river was "like ink" for weeks, impregnated with brick-clay and alkali and "few salmon would nose into such water at all."

"The fish would come up to the mouth of the Columbia on flood tide," said he, "but would go back on the ebb when the river water swept down on them. This was during the months of July and August and gillnetters made large catches at the mouth of the river as far as the salmon would come up, or as far as Sand Island. Above that point there were few fish."

The speaker went on to say that the reason alleged for few salmon at hatcheries, namely, fishing past the closed season, is "all bosh." Said he:

"In my opinion those cloudbursts were the sole and only reason for scarcity of eggs at the Chinook and Kalama hatcheries, which did as well as in former years, for the river cleared up about August 10 and the fish run fairly well up as far as Kalama. But about September 1 another cloudburst occurred on the upper river and the fish were stopped again from reaching the hatcheries on the upper rivers. But for these cloudbursts I believe there would have been plenty of fish for all and hatching purposes as well."

Offered Place in Cabinet.

New York, Nov. 17.—Frank S. Black has been tendered the offer of the Attorney-Generalship in President Roosevelt's Cabinet for the term beginning March 4, 1905.

While President Roosevelt has not formally invited Mr. Black to become a member of his official family, the tender of the Attorney-Generalship has been made in a way that carries with it the assurance of the President that he would like to have New York's ex-Governor in his Cabinet of younger men which Roosevelt is understood to want as his associates during the new Administration.

It is the view of ex-Governor Black's friends both in New York and Albany that he will not accept the Attorney-Generalship, because it would mean sacrificing a law practice which, it is said, nets him \$100,000 a year, and which his friends say he could retain if he should be elected to the United States Senate. For this reason, the ex-Governor's friends assert, he would prefer to take the Senatorship.

The understanding of those New York Republicans who know of President Roosevelt's plan to prevent a fight over Chauncey M. Depew's seat in the Senate is that W. H. Moody accepted the Attorney-Generalship only on condition that his term should terminate on March 4 next. It is believed that President Roosevelt may invite Mr. Moody to remain in the Cabinet after that date in some other capacity. But this is a point which is interesting New York politicians very little. Their main concern is whether Mr. Black will accept the attorney-Generalship.

Will Fight to Bitter End.

Washington, Nov. 16.—"Russia will pursue the war to the bitter end; that is, until Russia conquers."

These are the opening words of an emphatic statement made by the Russian ambassador today by Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador. A recurrence of the rumors that the powers contemplated mediation caused the ambassador to reiterate in behalf of his government its position regarding intervention or mediation of any kind.

In the ambassador's opinion the reports were started for the purpose of convincing the public that the war was near the end, and thus to create a belief in the Japanese loans as attractive investments.

Regarding the danger of Russia ending the war on account of financial difficulties, he states that Russia's income is equal to \$1,000,000,000 annually.

Balliet Pleads Guilty.

Des Moines, Ia., Nov. 17.—Letson Balliet yesterday entered a plea of guilty to a charge of using the mails to defraud. Balliet organized the White Swan Mines Company (Ltd.), and collected hundreds of thousands of dollars by sales of stocks all over the country. He was convicted after a hard fight on the occasion of the first trial one year ago, but higher courts ordered a second trial, which was suddenly terminated yesterday by Balliet's plea of guilty. Balliet made his headquarters at Baker City, Or., near where the White Swan mine was located.

A mutual telephone company has been organized to operate at and between Independence and Monmouth.

10,000 Deaths at Port Arthur.

Rome, Nov. 17.—The Che Foo correspondent of the Italia Militaire wires that Stoessel's report brought to Che Foo by the Rastoropny states that since the commencement of the siege 30,000 troops and 10,000 civilians have died.

The garrison is using home-made powder, and the troops are on half rations and civilians on quarter rations. Stoessel contents himself with stating the bare facts concerning the situation, implying that he awaits orders to surrender or continue resistance.

J. W. Morrow Promoted.

J. W. Morrow, tax agent of the O. R. & N., has been promoted to the position of tax and right of way agent for the entire O. R. & N. and Southern Pacific lines in Oregon.

Mr. Morrow will hereafter be chief of the land and right of way department as well as that of tax agent. This largely increases his duties and official responsibilities, and will make him head of one of the most important departments in the entire system. His headquarters will still be in Portland.

Indian Guilty of Murder.

Portland, Nov. 17.—Louis Savage, the Indian who killed Foster Wachino, a fellow tribesman, in a quarrel over a game of cards on the Grand Ronde reservation last April, was found guilty of murder in the first degree, without capital punishment. Savage is known as the "last of the Mollalis," once a powerful tribe.

The editorial page of the Weekly Oregonian gives a broad treatment to a wide range of subjects.

Gas Engines For Warships.

Berlin, Nov. 18.—The German navy officers are giving close study to the possibilities of gas engines for propelling warships. It is reported that the Admiralty is having a rather larger vessel fitted out with the view for the purpose of making experiments. The discussion of the subject attracted unusual attention of the German Society of Naval Architects. The chief paper was read by Engineer Capitaine, of Frankfurt on-the-Main, who predicted that gas will displace the present steam engines as well as the turbines. According to the engineer's calculations, the present machine utilizes only 12 to 14 per cent of the coal's energy, whereas gas engines utilize 26 per cent.

H. M. Wickon, of San Francisco, holds the record as a pole vaulter, at 11 feet 9 inches.

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