

## WILL CONTROL WHEAT MARKET

### Farmers' Trust Is Organized to Fix Price and Distribution.

### Society Will Hold First Convention at Omaha in June—Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas Will Each Send Large Delegations.

Omaha, Neb., April 18.—In the five great wheat producing states of the country the minimum price of this cereal this year will be \$1 a bushel. This, at least, is the plan of the American Society of Equity, the grain growers' department of which will hold its annual convention in Omaha June 5, 6 and 7. Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas will send large delegations to the convention. Oklahoma, Iowa and other states are also to be represented.

The purposes of this society and the scope of its membership were explained at length today by J. A. Everitt, of Indianapolis, its president, who said:

"The American Society of Equity is a business organization of farmers, with local societies in 2,700 of the 3,000 agricultural counties of the United States. Its purpose is to carry on its organization work through local societies, organized into state unions. Its business side is being strongly developed along the line of departments, covering various farm products, such departments already organized being those of fruit and produce and of tobacco. The grain growers' department is the third.

"The convention at Omaha in June will launch this department on a solid basis. A central bureau will gather and disseminate information concerning supply and demand; fix a minimum price below which the farmers agree not to sell, and handle and divert the grain from the source of supply to the points of demand, as needed, not causing a glut of the market at any point at any time.

"The state union of North Dakota, at its annual meeting, was invited by the State Bankers' association to appoint a committee to confer with a like bankers' committee to arrange for carrying along the poor farmers who might otherwise be forced to sell below the minimum price."

### REGULATE 2-CENT FARES

#### Nebraska Commission Rules on Terminal and Pass Matters

Lincoln, Neb., April 18.—The Nebraska railway commission issued its first order today bearing on 2-cent fares and streetcar passes. It is a notice to steam railroad companies to post placards in every station calling attention to the fact that the 2-cent passenger fare does not apply to tickets purchased to a destination beyond the state border.

In addition to this order the commission has addressed a letter to the Lincoln Traction company, the Citizens' Railway company, of Lincoln; the Omaha Lincoln & Beatrice Interurban and the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway corporation, notifying them that they are subject to the terms of the new anti-pass law and will be expected to obey it.

### GO FROM COPY TO CROPS.

#### Newspaper Men to Take Up Farms in Colorado.

Denver, Colo., April 18.—A colony of newspaper men is to be established in the Little Snake river valley in Routt county, Colorado, where the state of Colorado will throw open for settlement this summer, under the Carey act, 50,000 acres of land. This land is under the Little Snake river canal system. The plan is to make this colony an up-to-date farming community, where each man will own his own farm and improvements, the only connection in which the community idea will prevail, if at all, being in regard to labor.

### Shocks Still Continue.

City of Mexico, April 18.—Owing to the great difficulty in establishing communication with the cities situated in the region of the earthquake districts are coming to this city slowly. From the latest reports it is learned that shocks occurred as late as noon today. In the list of known dead, which now totals 50, and of the injured, which approximates 300, are many names of Mexicans prominent in the official and social life of the region. So far the name of no American has appeared in the meager list.

### War in Tobacco States.

Clarksville, Tenn., April 18.—The destruction of tobacco plant beds in this district by "night riders" has reached an alarming state and it is feared that, unless the depredations are stopped, there will be an unusually light crop. During the past week a number of plant beds have been salted and the plants killed. Trainmen have been threatened with violence if they hauled tobacco growers not connected with the growers' association.

### Cubans Want No Regular Army.

Havana, April 18.—Opinion here is opposed to the plan of the American general staff to establish a Cuba regular army of 12,000 men to replace the rural guard. It is said that it will be difficult to recruit that number of men.

### DEEP SNOW ON PRAIRIES.

#### Six Inches Ruins Fruit Prospect, But Benefits Wheat.

Omaha, April 19.—Five inches of snow fell during the night, and the storm continued during the forenoon. The fall was general over Eastern Nebraska, and is the heaviest known in April for many years. The extent of damage is not known. Opinion as to the storm's effect upon fruit and early vegetables varies. In some counties along the southern and central belts cherries, peaches, plums, and berries are said by some authorities to have been ruined almost entirely, while other growers report that fruit was not far enough advanced to become seriously endangered.

In grain circles it is believed the snow will kill all the green bugs that have been threatening the winter wheat crop and spreading over the central portion of the state.

A Norfolk dispatch says Northern Nebraska, Southern South Dakota, Northeastern Wyoming and the Black Hills are covered with a blanket of snow six inches deep upon the level, which is still falling. At Northwestern railroad headquarters here it was said the storm was practically over the entire system west of the Missouri river.

### DEATH LIST GROWING.

#### Mexican Earthquake Proves to Have Been Most Disastrous.

City of Mexico, April 19.—Today the Associated Press was in direct communication with a number of towns in the district affected by Sunday's earthquake. From the telegrams received it is certain that the death list will exceed 100. There are a number of small towns yet to be heard from, but up to date the average number of fatalities at these places has ranged from 9 to 12 and the number of injured from 30 to 40.

In Chilapa 33 persons were injured and 779 buildings destroyed. Nobody was killed, as reported yesterday.

After the first great shock the air was filled for many miles with a thick, sickening, sulphurous odor. This caused great distress to the survivors. There are many speculations as to the cause of the peculiar freak of nature and some consider it a proof that the earthquake had its origin in some subterranean explosion.

### FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

#### San Francisco Remembers Earthquake Year Ago.

San Francisco, April 19.—While there was no general cessation of the work of rehabilitation, the first anniversary of the earthquake and the fire which left this city a mass of ruins was observed yesterday by appropriate religious services and commemorative exercises by the Building Trades Council and other organizations.

The crowning event of the day was the banquet of the Merchants' association at the Hotel Fairmount, at which the material and civic regeneration of the city was amply discussed and faith expressed in a new and greater San Francisco. The principal business streets were decorated with bunting and incandescent lights. Flags were flying everywhere and the dome of the city hall, still in a partly wrecked condition, was illuminated as on gala occasions "before the fire."

### WILL GO FOR SIX-EIGHTERS

#### Frisco Policy Holders Bring 1,800 Suits for Payment.

San Francisco, April 19.—More than 100 suits against insurance companies for the payment of policies held during the great fire a year ago were filed today at the county clerk's office, bringing the total well over 1,800. At 5 o'clock, when the office closed, there was a long line of attorneys, clerks and messengers waiting, and it took three clerks nearly an hour to dispose of the overflow.

Today was practically the last day for the filing of such suits, although in some cases the year allowed will not expire until tomorrow. During the past two days the county clerk's office has taken in nearly \$3,000 in fees on these cases alone.

### After Men With Guns.

New York, April 19.—While squads of detectives are scouring the foreign quarters, working under the direct orders of Police Commissioner Bingham, arresting all the armed men they find, the judicial officers are showing evidence of their intention to co-operate with the police in breaking up the practice of carrying deadly weapons. District Attorney Jerome has prepared 50 cases against men charged with carrying concealed weapons, and will present them to the grand jury tomorrow. In all, 215 men have been locked up.

### Proposition Is Withdrawn.

Paris, April 19.—The announcement of the withdrawal of Italy's compromise proposition on the discussion of limitation of armaments at The Hague peace conference, owing to Austria and Germany's decided attitude in opposition to it, was made public today. It does not greatly affect France's position relative to the limitation of armaments. Authoritative circles declare that France, as a matter of principle, regards favorably all efforts to advance the idea.

### Volcano Erupts in Andes.

Valparaiso, Chile, April 19.—News has reached here that the Renihue volcano, in the province of Valdivia, is in violent eruption. The eruptions are accompanied by awful subterranean rumblings, earthquakes, intense darkness, electrical displays, ashes and boiling water. The flowing lava has set fire to the surrounding forests, and the inhabitants are fleeing in terror.

## HAPPENINGS GATHERED IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D. C.

### GRAFT IS DENIED.

#### Secretary Garfield Says Idaho Reclamation Service Is Clean.

Washington, April 18.—Secretary Garfield today exploded the charges of graft in the reclamation service in Idaho by officially notifying Director Newell that the accusations against Engineer D. W. Ross and his assistant secretary had been found to be without foundation and had been dismissed, following this announcement by promoting Mr. Ross from \$3,600 to \$4,000, and Mr. Horn from \$3,300 to \$3,600.

The report against Ross and Horn was made by Special Inspector A. R. Green, who spent some time in Idaho making investigations and who gleaned his information from government contractors. Green based his charges on statements made by the contractors on the Boise-Payette project. His conclusions were utterly disapproved by Secretary Garfield.

### WILL CONFER ON GUNBOAT.

#### Zelaya and Figueroa to Meet—Joint Guarantee of Peace.

Washington, April 18.—Naval movements today show that the gunboat Boston has started from Amapala, Honduras, for Corinto, Nicaragua, to convey President Zelaya to Amapala for the conference he will have there with President Figueroa. The Chicago will be used to convey President Figueroa to the conference, which will be held either at Amapala or on board one of the American vessels to be anchored in Fonseca bay.

At the State department today it was admitted that an agreement between the United States and Mexico had been entered into, by which a guaranty has been given that there shall be no hostile demonstrations between the forces of Guatemala and Salvador upon the frontier during the conference.

### Foreign Crop Good.

Washington, April 17.—The European crop report of the Agricultural department, covering conditions abroad up to April 1, says that the heavy snow which fell last winter over the greater part of Europe, has, excepting in parts of Russia and the Balkan states, almost everywhere disappeared. That the protection afforded to winter cereals has been generally efficacious is being demonstrated by the vigor with which the plants in most countries seem to be responding to the quickening influences of spring.

### Northwest Postal Affairs.

Washington, April 18.—Postmasters appointed:

Oregon—Antone, George C. Glover, vice E. L. Knox, resigned; Kingsley, Theodore Bushuk, vice W. L. Smith, resigned; Lamont, Millard T. Cowan, vice J. C. Rush, resigned.

Washington—Cascade, Thomas Mofett, vice Minnie Stevenson, resigned. Rural free delivery route No. 1 has been ordered established June 17 at New Kamilchie, Mason county, Wash., serving 410 people and 86 families.

### Changes in Forest Service.

Washington, April 18.—Forest inspector F. E. Ames has been placed temporarily in charge of the Tillamook and Umpqua forest reserves in Oregon. Acting Supervisor Anderson, of Grant's Pass, takes charge of the Ashland reserve. D. B. Sheilar, formerly in charge of the Heppner reserve, has been transferred to the Yakima reserve, in Washington, being succeeded by T. R. Chidsey. William Cryder is promoted from manager to acting supervisor in charge of the Colville reserve, in Washington.

### Bonilla Becomes Exile.

Washington, April 17.—The Navy department is informed that the gunboat Princeton left Amapala on Saturday with President Bonilla, of Honduras, on board. It was stated that President Bonilla would be landed at Salina Cruz, Mexico. His departure is in compliance with an agreement entered into between President Zelaya, of Nicaragua and President Figueroa, of Salvador, that the Hondurian president leave the country.

### 500,000 in Six Months.

Washington, April 17.—According to a statement issued today by the bureau of immigration, the total immigration to the United States from all countries for the six months ending March last aggregated 539,137 persons, which is an increase of 75,821 over a like period in 1906. The total number of immigrants from Russia for the six months ending March last was 103,364, being an increase of 21,631 over the corresponding period of 1906.

### Exult Over Exoneration.

Washington, April 18.—The reclamation service, from Director Newell down to the lesser officers, held a jubilation today at the official exoneration of Engineer Ross of Idaho by Secretary Garfield. They claim the exoneration will invest the service with renewed confidence in the minds of the people, re-establishing it everywhere where charges by Special Agent Greene has called it in question.

### Wants Clerks to Weigh Mails.

Washington, April 17.—The Civil Service commission has been called upon by the Postoffice department to furnish a list of clerks for temporary work, beginning July 1, who will be employed in making arithmetical computations in connection with the weighing of the mails.

### TEXAS VALUATION OF ROADS

#### Cowan Tells President How Capital Is Limited.

Washington, April 20.—Some interesting information on the operation of the Texas stock and bond law of 1903, under which a valuation of railroad properties of the state was made in 1895, was given to the president today by Judge S. H. Cowan, of Texas, a special employe of the Interstate Commerce commission and attorney for the Southwestern Cattlegrazers' association.

Mr. Cowan told the president that the Texas law had proven a success. It had not been put upon the statute books for the purpose of becoming the basis for rate-making, he said, but to fix a line beyond which the roads could not go in issuing stocks and bonds. He added that the valuation put upon the roads by the Texas commission having charge of the matter exceeded the cost of construction by 15 to 20 per cent, and the cost of the ascertainment of the facts had been comparatively small. So far as he was aware, Judge Cowan said, none of the railroads had contested a valuation made under the law.

### BORAH GOES TO ROOSEVELT

#### Idaho Senator Asks to Have Action On His Case Postponed.

Washington, April 17.—President Roosevelt has been appealed to by Senator Borah, of Idaho, to review his indictment by the Federal grand jury with a view to postponing action until after the trial of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, the men accused of murdering Governor Steunenberg, of Idaho.

Senator Borah is the special counsel engaged by the state to prosecute these officials of the Western Federation of Miners. The appeal of Senator Borah places the president in a rather embarrassing position.

In the event the president withholds the action against Senator Borah, it will be charged that he is showing favors to those who are prosecuting the miners, and if he does not, Senator Borah will be seriously embarrassed in the prosecution of the miners charged with the murder of Steunenberg.

### Civil Service in the South.

Washington, April 18.—Civil Service Commissioner Melhenny, who is a Southerner and a Democrat, is entering on what he terms a campaign of education in the South in regard to the function and character of the commission. He found that one of the greatest difficulties in securing efficient service for the government in the South was the fact that the whites have conceived the idea that the service is meant especially for the negroes, and as a consequence when an examination for positions is held it is generally attended largely by negroes, the proportion often being ten to one.

### Heyburn Slowly Gains.

Washington, April 19.—Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, who has been very ill in Philadelphia, was brought to this city today. He is improving slowly, though still very weak, and there is much ground to be gained before his condition will permit him to attend to any official business. He was accompanied here by Mrs. Heyburn, W. B. Sams, his private secretary, and a trained nurse. Today was the first time Mr. Heyburn was able to be moved since the inception of his attack of acute indigestion.

### Will Relieve Congestion.

Washington, April 18.—After a conference with and upon the recommendation of Senator Bourne, Land Commissioner Ballinger has ordered Special Inspector O'Brien, of Denver, to proceed to Roseburg and assist the local land officers in clearing up the accumulation of business in their office. Work has fallen behind to such an extent that there are now pending about 700 land cases and contests awaiting action. When the Roseburg office is straightened out, similar work is to be done elsewhere in Oregon.

### Cheap Paper for Official Records.

Washington, April 18.—That the papers supplied for government use too frequently fall below the specifications, lack durability or in some way are not adapted to the purpose for which they are intended, is the statement made by Chief Wiley, of the chemistry bureau in a circular issued by the Agricultural department. Valuable documents and scientific work are recorded on papers which deteriorate, thus rendering the records useless.

### Would Be "Cadet" or "Middy."

Washington, April 16.—The State department has received an inquiry from Hamilton King, American minister to Siam, asking whether it would be possible to admit to the Naval or Military academy a nephew of the king of Siam.

### McLaren Pension Examiner.

Washington, April 19.—On the recommendation of Congressman Ellis, Dr. A. P. McLaren has been appointed by the pension bureau as examining surgeon at St. Helens, Or., vice Dr. J. E. Hall, who recently resigned.

### Cuba Accepts Taft's Program.

Washington, April 18.—The War department today received a dispatch from Governor Magoon, of Cuba, saying that the plans for the elections in the island, which were made by Secretary Taft, are satisfactory to everybody.

### WILL FIGHT HENEY.

#### Big Corporations Have Banded Together in San Francisco.

San Francisco, April 17.—A conspiracy which puts into the shade the \$5,000,000 affair that recently aroused the inmates of the White House has evolved from the graft proceedings in San Francisco, and, like the conspiracy in Washington, it has its headquarters in Washington. Moreover, one of the leaders of the \$5,000,000 conspiracy is one of the chief actors in this latest plot.

In short, the big corporations, which have sighted the specter of indictment, have banded together against the common foe. Combined they represent one of the most powerful forces that America has known, and they are prepared to expend a large share of the unlimited capital they control. The United Railroads, an \$80,000,000 corporation; the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph company, the Home Telephone company, and lastly the Southern Pacific company, have joined hands to fight down the graft prosecution.

The head and front of the plot are reputed to be Patrick Calhoun and E. H. Harriman. It is no secret that above all others it is the desire of Mr. Heney to direct the fire of the prosecution against Calhoun and the men who occupy the seats of the mighty in the councils of the Southern Pacific. Harriman's representative on the Pacific, W. F. Herrin, is one of the chief objects of Mr. Heney's investigation. Mr. Herrin has always refused to come into the open and even now, with public attention centered upon him, he remains in the background.

### MEXICAN SHOCKS CONTINUE

#### Destruction Grows as Reports Come From Outlying Districts.

City of Mexico, April 17.—Heavy earthquake shocks continued on the west coast until 4 o'clock this morning. Late news of the earthquake shows that the devastation wrought was greater than at first supposed. Beside the destruction of Chilpancingo and Chilapa, it is now said that Tixtla also was leveled. Messengers reaching Chilpancingo say the towns of Ayutla and Ometepe have been wiped out.

The population of Ayutla is small, and it is thought the loss of life there will be insignificant. Ometepe is a town of about 4,000 inhabitants and the loss of life probably is large.

Tlapa, near the border line of the state of Oaxaca, is also reported to be wiped out. A report from Chilpancingo says the whole of the west coast from Acapulco south of Salina Cruz has been badly damaged.

The damaged places are remote, and news from the stricken district consequently is incomplete. Only one wire is working to Chilpancingo.

### Standard Dodges Taxes.

Chicago, April 17.—Taxing authorities of Lake county, Indiana, have investigated an action against the Standard Oil company of Whiting as a result of investigations in charge of County Assessor William E. Black and his assistant, Towns Assessor Bert Escher, of Hammond. They have discovered, they say, that the company for four years has sequestered millions of dollars' worth of valuable property from tax duplicates. It is estimated by the officials that the Standard Oil company should be paying taxes on \$40,000,000 worth of property when it is assessed on the tax duplicates for only \$3,000,000 worth.

### Will Test the 16-Hour Law.

Butte, Mont., April 17.—A Helena special to the Miner states that Attorney General Albert J. Galen in an opinion rendered today states that he holds the recent enactment by the legislature of the statute limiting the hours of employment of railway employees to 16 hours to be valid. William Wallace, Jr., counsel for the Northern Pacific, has served notice upon the board of railway commissioners that the company will ignore the new statute. Mr. Galen has advised the commissioners to at once begin a test case against the railways.

### Accused of Taking Bribe.

Chicago, April 17.—Perry L. Hedrick, chief sanitary inspector of the city Health department, was arrested today on charges of soliciting and accepting a bribe. It is alleged the \$200 paid to him by George A. Beckway, an inventor, was found in his pocket when he was arrested. Hedrick was released on \$10,000 bonds. According to the charges made against Hedrick, he agreed with Beckway that on payment of the money he would recommend Beckway's invention to the Health department.

### Boston Has \$100,000 Fire.

Boston, April 17.—Millions of dollars worth of property was endangered today by a fire that broke out in a Central wharf warehouse, but owing to the direction of the harbor, the firemen were able to confine the flames and prevent their spreading toward the city. The fire was started in the oil refining plant of Howe, French & Co., and was caused by the explosion of an oil tank. The property loss is placed at \$100,000.

### Wisconsin Central Is Guilty.

Minneapolis, April 17.—A jury in the United States District court last night found the Wisconsin Central railroad and two of its officials guilty of rebating. Burton Johnson, general freight agent, and G. T. Dwyer, his assistant, were convicted on all the 17 counts named in the indictment.

## QUAKE RUINS LARGE AREA

### Entire Southern Half of Republic Felt the Shock.

### Two Cities Are Known to Be Destroyed and Complete Silence Covers Others—Five Hundred Lives Are Reported Lost—Panic Reigns Among Ruins.

Chilpancingo, Mexico, April 16.—This city has been completely destroyed by an earthquake. The known dead number 11 and the badly injured 27. The greatest panic prevails and the people are fleeing to the open country. The earth continues to rock at half hour intervals and many minor shocks are completing the work of destruction begun by the first earthquake.

Word has reached here that the town of Chilapa, 42 kilometers to the north-eastward, has also been destroyed. No details have been received as to the number of dead and injured.

The population of Chilpancingo is 7,498 and until the panic into which the citizens have been thrown abates it will be impossible to state the number of casualties. The population of Chilapa is 15,000.

No word has been received from Tixtla, and it is feared it also has been destroyed. According to the movements of the earthquake, Tixtla would be in its direct line.

### Half Republic Is Shaken.

Mexico City, April 16.—The Federal telegraph office here has informed the Associated Press that Sunday night's earthquake has interfered with the working of the wires in all parts of the republic south of a line drawn from Acapulco on the west coast to Tampico on the Gulf coast. From messages received at the telegraph office up to noon it appears that the entire south half of the republic including the lower country and the Mesaba belt felt the shock.

The National Bank of Mexico has received a telegram saying that 500 lives were lost in the destruction of Chilapa and Chilpancingo. In government circles the report is not credited. It is admitted that both cities were leveled to the ground, but it is not thought that the death list is even approximately 500, owing to the fact that the houses are built of stone in order to resist earthquake shocks.

### TAMPERING WITH GOLD COINS

#### Entire Output of Denver Mint Under Legal Fineness.

Denver, April 16.—Department heads of the new United States mint in this city and three government agents connected with the mint headquarters began today checking up the coinage of the mint and making the annual settlements, several weeks in advance of the usual time for these settlements. This action, following the government report that gold coins from the Denver mint have been found to be under value in fineness of gold, though up to grade in weight, means that the government has begun action to discover who is responsible for the discrepancy in fineness.

The government report states that the coins are found to be under fine to the extent of 5 cents on every \$20 gold piece. The discrepancy was discovered by the Bank of England assayer, who passed on a shipment of \$1,500,000 made to England in January.

### Money for United States.

Shanghai, April 16.—The sum of \$5,000 received from the United States by the Famine Relief commission today was used to purchase 500,000 pounds of dried potatoes, which were rushed to the front. A dispatch was received today from a Chinese official offering to put, for the first time in history, steamboats above the locks of the Grand canal, thus cutting down the time for transportation to the famine district from this city to eight days. Further particulars of the distress existing show that the people are eating the green scum from the ponds, white clay and the hulls of rice.

### Five Burned in Wreckage.

St. Paul, April 16.—Running at a speed of 40 miles an hour on a straight track, the Great Northern west bound Oriental Limited, which left here for Pacific coast points Sunday morning, was derailed at 1:15 yesterday morning at Bartlett, N. D. Five persons were killed and a score or more injured. Later the gas tank exploded and the train took fire, seven passenger coaches being destroyed. The sleeper and observation cars escaped the flames. There is said to be some evidence that the rails had been tampered with.

### Made Whole Earth Shake.

Albany, N. Y., April 16.—The strongest and longest earthquake shock recorded upon the seismograph at the state museum here since the instrument was installed began at 1:14 a. m. yesterday and continued for more than two hours. The record is much more pronounced than that made by the San Francisco earthquake of last year. The maximum vibration was so severe as to swing the pendulum clear off the recording indicator.

### Andean Volcanoes Break Out.

Buenos Ayres, April 16.—Active eruptions are in progress among the Andean volcanoes in the territory of Rio Negro. Ashes are being thrown for a great distance.