

# NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

## INVESTIGATE EXPRESS RATES.

### State Railroad Commission Has Fancy Figures to Start With.

Salem, Or., May 26.—An investigation has been started by the railroad commission regarding express rates enforced by the Wells, Fargo and the Pacific express companies in Oregon. Some startling revelations have been brought to light that will likely demand the attention of the commission in the near future.

Comparisons have been made showing the relative charges on lines in Oregon and the charges in other states for similar distances and for the same class of goods. From Portland to Siskiyou, a distance of 385 miles, the Wells-Fargo express company charges a merchandise rate of \$2.75 for 100 pounds, while for the same distance in Missouri a rate has been established by the Missouri railroad commission, which is now in force, of \$2 for 100 pounds. The merchandise rate in Texas for a similar distance is \$2.05.

The rates charged by the Pacific express company are even more exorbitant according to the figures given out by the railroad commission. The Pacific express company operates out of Portland east over the O. R. & N. For 440 miles over the O. R. & N., from Portland to Huntington, the general merchandise rate for 100 pounds is \$4. For 538 miles, over the same distance for which the Wells-Fargo charges \$2.75 in Western Oregon, the Pacific express company in Eastern Oregon charges \$3.75.

Compared with similar distances in Missouri and Texas, the rates of the Pacific express company are extreme. For 440 miles in Missouri the general merchandise express rate is \$2.10 and in Texas it is \$2.30. In both these states the rates have been fixed by railroad commissions and have been accepted by the express companies and are now in force. The rates given are for the same classes of goods in every instance.

## ANNUAL INSURANCE REPORT

### Secretary of State Shows Growth and Present Status of Business.

Salem.—Frank Benson, secretary of state, has completed his annual report. It is now being printed and will be available within a few weeks. The report includes a statement of the total risks written by all insurance companies doing business within the state of Oregon, the gross premiums received, premiums returned, losses paid and the net premiums for taxation of all authorized companies and associations for the year ending December 31, 1907.

Besides much other valuable information the report shows the aggregate business transacted within the state since 1895; the amount of licenses and taxes paid into the state treasury since 1887, and gives a list of all the insurance companies authorized to transact business in Oregon on May 8, 1908. A statement of the business of the several Oregon mutual fire relief associations for the year ending December 31, 1907, is also included.

## Complete Elgin-Joseph Line.

In the Portland mail from the East to General Manager J. P. O'Brien, of the O. R. & N. company, he has received the long-expected instructions from New York to proceed with construction of the Elgin-Joseph branch. About \$500,000, the amount necessary to complete the line, has been provided. From 300 to 400 men will be put on at once. For the last two months the authorization from Mr. Harriman for this work has been expected daily. As soon as the effects of last year's money stringency began to wane Mr. O'Brien made application for the necessary funds to complete the road to Joseph.

## Double the Enrollment.

University of Oregon, Eugene.—Judging from the applications that are pouring into the Registrar's office, the freshman class of next September will be the largest in the history of the university. More than 300 applications have already been received from graduates of the different high schools and academies throughout the state, and it is safe to predict that there will be at least 100 more, as many freshmen do not apply for standing until college opens in the fall.

## Nevada's Governor an Oregonian.

Ontario.—Den S. Dickerson, who is now Governor of Nevada, vice John Sparks, deceased, is a Malheur County boy, aged 34 years. His parents reside on a farm five miles west of Vale. He left this section seven years ago for Nevada and joined the Miners Union in White Pine County, and when the union asked recognition on the state ticket he was named as lieutenant-governor. He served in the Philippine war, enlisting in Portland.

## Fruit Crop Will be Heavy.

Baker City.—Unless exceptionally cold weather should overtake this part of the country there will be a large fruit crop, according to men who are heavily interested in fruit lands and orchards. In the immediate vicinity of Baker City fruit is necessarily slower on account of the altitude, but over in Pine and Eagle valleys it is far advanced. Recent cold spells have not damaged the crop materially.

## Scouring Mills to Reopen.

Pendleton.—It was announced a few days ago that the wheels of the Pendleton scouring mills would be started turning about June 1. The uncertain condition of the wool market is responsible for the late start, but it will not shorten the season's run. Several thousand pounds of wool are now on hand and more is arriving daily.

## Teachers Turn Homesteaders.

Ontario.—About 300 teachers of the public schools of Malheur county have filed on homesteads under irrigation projects near Vale and will engage in farming. A number of unmarried women teachers are in the number.

## FLIES WITH OWN WINGS.

### Frenchman Beats All Records With Aeroplane in Italy.

Rome, June 1.—Leo de la Grange, the French aeroplanist, made a new experiment with his aeroplane here this morning, which was so successful that it filled the spectators with admiration. He surpassed his own record by flying for 15 minutes and 30 seconds, only then coming down because he received a signal to do so, and also because the motor of his machine cannot hold sufficient gasoline to operate it much longer than that.

During that space of time M. de la Grange made nine and three-fourths rounds of an established course in the military field, namely six kilometers, a little over nine and nine-tenths of a mile, at a velocity of 60 kilometers, or 37.2 miles an hour.

The aeroplane was first pushed forward by M. de la Grange's associates, and as soon as the motor was put into action the machine rose without difficulty, keeping from seven to ten feet above the ground. It moved smoothly and turned easily, the rounds of the course following each other without interruption, and not once did the aeroplane touch the ground. It was a marvelous exhibition, which would have won De la Grange a prize of \$5000 had it occurred in France. It at least confirms his possession of the Archdeacon cup.

## ROBBERS GET CASH.

### Great Northern Passenger Train Held Up at Great Falls.

Butte, Mont., June 1.—A Miner special from Great Falls, Mont., says:

The north bound Great Northern passenger train was held up this evening about one mile and a half from this city by seven masked men at 12:30 o'clock, the train being run onto a siding by the robbers, who fired a fusillade of shots up and down the train. Wm. Dempsey, an Augusta rancher, was shot through the leg in attempting to escape from the train after it had stopped, and Conductor Hayes was compelled by the robbers to precede them in passing through the cars, he carrying a hat in which the passengers were invited to dump what cash they had about them. Most of them deposited from \$1 to \$10, and the booty of the desperadoes is not believed to be greater than several hundred dollars.

While the passengers were being robbed, several of the highwaymen stood guard at the doors of the cars to prevent the passengers from leaving.

The robbers finally jumped off the coaches and disappeared in the darkness. Rain is falling heavily, and the night is so dark that no trace of the robbers could be found, although posses were in pursuit within 20 minutes after the outlaws had left the train.

## GOVERNMENT MAY SUE.

### Great Area in Montana is Stripped Bare of Timber.

Butte, Mont., June 1.—A federal survey corps is engaged in running survey lines in the mountains near Phillipsburg, Mont., to determine the amount of cordwood cut for the mines of Granite county, and the location of the ground from which the timber was taken. This wood was cut, it is claimed, from land belonging to the government, and it is intimated that suits may be begun to recover for about 700,000 cords of wood cut, approximating in value about \$1,000,000. The bulk of this wood was cut about 10 or 12 years ago, during the boom days of silver, and was used at the Bimetallic and Granite Mountain mines, owned by Charles D. McClure and his associates, of St. Louis, together with a few Montanans. The area of timber land stripped clean is 10 miles wide and 12 long.

## Still Vigorous at 128.

St. Petersburg, June 1.—A veteran soldier, with the record of 80 years' military service, and whose age is declared to be 128, has been visiting St. Petersburg from the Tver district. This wonderful old man, Michael Budnikov, traveled to the capital to draw a prize of \$2500 in the lottery, and the czar had him at Czarskoe Selo as a feature of the festivities for the Swedish royal wedding.

Budnikov, whose breast is adorned with many medals for bravery and distinguished service, joined the Russian army in 1797.

## Kill Women and Children.

Athens, June 1.—A body of panic-stricken refugees from Samos, who have arrived here, report that eighty women and children were slain by Turkish troops during the first day's fighting at Vathy, capital of the island. They declare also that the troops fired persistently on the foreign consulates. The refugees are all Greeks, and, as they have inborn hatred of the Turk, their statements are accepted here with considerable reserve.

## Cholera Is Spreading.

Manila, June 1.—The cholera at Dagupan, 120 miles from Manila, is worse. Twenty-nine deaths are today reported, due to eating infected foods. The people are loath to clean up their surroundings, despite strenuous efforts on the part of the bureau of health.

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF NATIONAL LAWMAKERS

## Saturday, May 30.

Washington, May 30.—The democrats filibustering in the house to the end, and La Follette having led a record filibuster in the senate, the sixtieth congress adjourned for the session at 11:50 o'clock tonight. The last bills were signed by the president before 11 o'clock, and both houses, which had with difficulty maintained a quorum, scurried to their homes.

Washington, May 30.—Amid scenes of excitement well-nigh unparalleled in the senate chamber, the La Follette filibuster collapsed a little after 4 o'clock this afternoon, and the currency bill was passed by a vote of 43 to 22, four republican senators voting in the negative.

Washington, May 30.—Among the bills passed at today's session of the house were the following:

Providing life-saving apparatus on the Farallon Islands, off California; granting pensions on the surviving officers and enlisted men of the Texas volunteers, and providing for compensation to government employes for injuries received while in the performance of their duties. Several pension bills also were passed.

## Friday, May 29.

Washington, May 29.—It has been a long time since the senate has been tied up by a filibuster with such slender support as was in evidence when La Follette undertook to defeat the conference report on the Aldrich-Vreeland currency bill by talking it to death. The report was brought up and La Follette took the floor. He insisted that a quorum should be maintained at all times, and up to 6 o'clock he had demanded 20 roll-calls.

The senate was able to obtain more or less relaxation and at the same time kept the supporters of the bill in their seats. The heat was excessive, and many were very restless under this restraint.

On the 23d roll-call, at 7:15 P. M., upon motion of Stone, the absence of a quorum was developed and the sergeant-at-arms was directed to bring in absentees.

At 2 o'clock in the morning La Follette let it be known that he intended to speak until 8 or 9 A. M.

Republican leaders say they will have a quorum from their own membership tomorrow, and that they will not be delayed by one or two men filibustering, if they have to keep congress in session indefinitely.

## Thursday, May 28.

Washington, May 28.—The anticipated strenuous opposition to the adoption of the conference report on the Aldrich-Vreeland currency bill in the senate, according to the inference to be drawn from the debate today, probably will not materialize. Aldrich kept the report before the senate until nearly 4 P. M., when he assented to its being laid aside until 11 o'clock tomorrow, and the remainder of the time today was devoted to the passage of unobjectionable house bills on the calendar. Every senator realized that the meaning of this move was that an understanding had been reached to vote on the bill tomorrow. Inquiry proved the existence of this understanding, although no positive agreement has been made. The indications are, therefore, that congress will adjourn sine die tomorrow or Saturday.

Washington, May 28.—While the senate was wrestling with the currency question, the business of the house today went merrily on. The following measures were passed: To establish two or more fish cultural stations on Puget Sound, Wash.; amending the laws of transportation between Hawaii and the United States by removing the penalty for carrying passengers from Hawaii to this country; providing for the entry of agricultural land in forest reserves; establishing an assay office at Salt Lake, Utah; incorporating the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and incorporating the Congressional Club, which is composed of wives and daughters of senators and representatives.

## Wednesday, May 27.

Washington, May 27.—An emergency currency law is assured. The currency question held its place today as practically the only subject of consideration at both ends of the capitol, and when both houses adjourned the compromise bill, which was drafted by the republican conferees, had received the sanction of the house, and had been presented to the senate, where it was announced it would be taken up for consideration tomorrow and where it will also be passed when the vote is reached.

Washington, May 27.—Aside from the currency bill the house today passed the following measures:

Requiring greater space and better accommodations on steamships for steerage passengers; authorizing the sale of certain lands at the head of Cordova bay, Alaska, and granting relief to the Alaska Terminal & Navigation company; authorizing a survey of certain townships in Wyoming; granting to the interstate commerce commission additional authority in the matter of requiring reports of all accidents on interstate carriers.

The conference report on the omnibus lands bill and the senate amendments to the bill granting obsolete ordinance to various institutions and organizations also were agreed to.

## Insists on Subsidy Clause.

Washington, May 27.—A partial agreement of the conferees on the postoffice appropriation bill has been laid before the senate by Mr. Penrose and was agreed to. The sections applying to ocean mail subsidy and the weighing of the mails were not agreed to by the conferees. The senate ordered that this amendment be insisted upon and continued Senators Penrose, Burrows and Clay as conferees.

## Tuesday, May 26.

Washington, May 26.—The two floor leaders of the house again today occupied the center of the stage and performed their usual feat of charging each other with responsibility for the evil conditions at present existing in that body. It came about through an order presented by Mr. Payne, of New York, granting five days' leave after adjournment in which to print in the Congressional Record the remarks that might have been, but were not made upon the floor. He took occasion to arraign the democrats for their filibuster and said that republicans had no apology to make for their course.

The democratic leader, Williams, accused the majority of doing nothing in the present session and opposed the order because it gave members no opportunity to reply to statements which he felt in advance would call for an answer. The order was adopted.

Following this debate business proceeded at a rapid gait.

The conference on the military academy appropriation bill was agreed to. Its consideration was marked by a vigorous speech by Mr. Slayden, of Texas, against the senate permitting the education of four Filipinos at West Point. The bills were passed as follows:

Refunding stamp taxes on foreign bills of exchange and certain duties on anthracite coal illegally collected; providing for the opening and settlement of portions of the Cheyenne and Standing Rock Indian reservations; promoting the safety of the employes on railroads by requiring the equipment of locomotives with ash cans that can be dumped without requiring an employe to crawl under the locomotive; promoting the safe transportation of explosives.

Washington, May 26.—The omnibus house bill, embracing seven separate measures affecting the navigation laws, was considered and passed by the senate today, but not without resistance. Senator Newlands tried to amend by inserting his bill creating the Inland Waterways Commission. He was met with prompt opposition by Mr. Nelson.

## Monday, May 25.

Washington, May 25.—An effort to annihilate time by dilatory tactics without making progress on any legislation except that involved in conference reports was the chief occupation of the senate today under the leadership of Aldrich. The attempt was so successful that the net result in the way of accomplishment of the day's session was the adoption of the conference report on the sundry civil appropriation bill.

Washington, May 25.—Working under heavy pressure with a single eye to adjournment at the earliest possible moment, the house today disposed of a great amount of business. Several conference reports were agreed to and the following bills passed:

Amending the navigation laws; removing the discriminations against native officers of the Porto Rican regiment of infantry; authorizing the sale of unallotted land of the Spokane Indian reservation; encouraging the development of coal deposits in Alaska; and prescribing penalties against the sale of clothing and government property by soldiers. The omnibus bill relating to disposition of the public land was sent back to conference.

After an active debate of an hour and a half the project for a reduced bill of representatives was defeated by a large majority.

## Continues Land Fraud Cases.

Washington, May 28.—Arguments supporting the motion of the defense in the Hyde-Benson land fraud case to quash the indictments against the defendants were resumed Tuesday. Assistant Attorney-General Pugh, opposing the motion, charged that the perpetration of the Hyde-Benson fraud was fraudulent, and that Joost Schneider, one of the defendants, knew they were illegal.

## Bills Signed by President.

Washington, May 26.—President Roosevelt has signed the bills providing for the participation of this country in the exposition to be held in Tokio in 1912; the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill; a bill making Monterey and Port Harford, Cal., sub-ports of entry, and a bill authorizing the extension of the street railways of this city to the Union Station.

## Spends Over a Billion.

Washington, May 26.—Although the figures on the total appropriation for the present session of Congress are incomplete, from careful estimates the indications are that they will exceed \$1,000,000,000. This is \$100,000,000 in excess of any previous session. The largest increases over previous years are found in the postoffice, pension, naval and army appropriation bills.

## Troops Will Stay in Cuba.

Washington, May 28.—In several conferences between President Roosevelt, Secretary Taft and General Bell, it has been decided not to withdraw troops from Cuba at the present time. This decision was reached, it is said, upon the advice of Governor Magoon, who deemed it inadvisable to reduce our force in Cuba prior to the re-establishment of the Cuban republic next fall, when the entire force will return.

## Annul Grant Lands.

Washington, May 28.—B. D. Townsend, special attorney in the department of justice, started Monday for Portland, Or., to start legal proceedings on behalf of the government to take from the Southern Pacific railroad about 3,000,000 acres of land in Western Oregon, said to be worth between \$30,000,000 and \$50,000,000. Townsend will try to secure a decree which will annul the grant and restore the lands to the public domain.

## FROOF AGAINST SHELL.

### Monitor Florida Stands Fire of Navy's Heaviest Guns.

Thimble Shoal, in Lower Chesapeake Bay, May 29.—Disregarding the danger and apparently anxious to experience open war at sea, Commander John C. Quimby, Lieutenant Taussig and 20 men on the monitor Florida remained on board her today while 12-inch shells were hurled at the great hulk from the great guns of the monitor Arkansas, anchored 300 yards off, with her broadside battery in full play on the target ship.

When it was first planned to make the extraordinary test of the power of the guns in warfare, it was not dreamed of keeping any of the men aboard, but the plans for the test were changed suddenly today. Commander Quimby and his men eagerly volunteered to stay aboard their ship while she was subjected to the hammering of the big projectiles. The imminent danger did not lessen their determination in the least.

When the time came for the test, the Florida immediately steamed into her position. The Arkansas aimed her tender then anchored fore and aft of Thimble Shoal, 300 yards from the Florida with her broadside bearing upon the target ship. The Arkansas is in charge of Commander Harry M. Denbigh, who with a detail of officers, took up his position on the bridge.

The first shot was fired at a screen target raised above the main turret of the Florida and pierced the exact center without a moment's hesitation, giving the men aboard the ship to understand they need not think any of the projectiles would go wild.

Then, according to the program, the Arkansas began firing heavily upon the Florida and the shells began hammering against the plates of the Florida, which stood under the bombardment without even showing signs of being crippled. As far as could be discerned from the use of the glasses the effect was not noticeable, but the experts on the Arkansas reported that the shells were having terrific effect upon the Florida.

During this bombardment the men aboard the Florida gave no signs of being displeased with their dare-devil experience, and gave no signal of distress.

After the main bombardment the Arkansas' guns were directed against the big experimental mast which had been erected aft upon the Florida. It was 125 feet high and on it were two turrets, in which dummies had been placed to show the effect on men in the fighting tops during an actual engagement. Dummies also had been placed in the main turret of the Florida to show the effect of the impact of heavy shells upon them.

The big guns made quick impression upon the mast target, and if men had been in the place of the dummies they would not have lasted more than two shots.

The "battle" will result in much valuable information which will be used by the experts of the navy in the planning of future men-o-war. It has the double effect of showing the power of American guns when directed against armor plate as it is actually presented in a fight at sea, and the strength of the armor in withstanding the impact of the 12-inch projectiles in warfare.

## NEW SCHEME UNEARTHED.

### Oriental Die While Being Expressed Into This Country.

Washington, May 29.—Twelve Chinese lives was the price paid by daring smugglers to experiment with a new scheme for evasion of the immigration laws. The government has just discovered that a dozen Orientals who attempted to gain entrance to this country by having themselves crated and shipped by express from El Paso to New York were dead upon arrival.

Acting Commissioner of Immigration Larned admitted today that a gigantic smuggling plot had been unearthed on the Texas border and that Chinese Inspector Babeuk, one of the keenest sleuths in the service, is now in New York on the trail of the arch-plotters. Quong Dou Yen received the corpses of his countrymen from the express company and will be arrested if trace of him can be found by the detective.

A telegram from Quong Dou Yen to his friends at El Paso revealed the plot. Official Interpreter Fing Ming overheard his countrymen at El Paso reading a message which informed them that the twelve men in the crates were dead upon arrival. Ming informed Inspectors George Harris and F. W. Berkshire of the plot and they reported it to the bureau here.

It is believed that the smugglers crated the men on the Mexican side of the line, hauled them across the river to El Paso, Texas, where they consigned them by express to New York.

## Steamer Mass Schooner.

Glooucester, Mass., May 29.—Thirteen sailors of the schooner Fame lost their lives Wednesday in a terrific collision between that boat and the steamer Boston of the Dominion-Atlantic line off the Massachusetts coast.

The Fame was run down by the steamer with such suddenness that only six of the schooner's crew of 19 were saved. Four of them were put in a dory when the disaster occurred, and John Clark, a sailor, and the steward of the Fame were on board. They were saved by the crew of the Boston.

## Unveil Memorial Monument.

Tokio, May 29.—General Baron Nogi was designated Wednesday to be the chief official in the ceremonies incident to the unveiling of the Russian memorial monument erected by the Japanese people at Port Arthur, in memory of the famous siege of that city, and the gallant fighting done in its defense when those in the stronghold held out so bravely and with such determination against the attack which eventually proved successful.

## Snow Storm in Montana.

Bozeman, Mont., May 29.—A heavy snowstorm Tuesday night impaired service and did great damage to trees. The precipitation during this month is the heaviest of any May in 28 years.