

FIRE ATTACKS FAMOUS TREES

Change of Wind Only Can Save Big Trees of California.

Fire Fighters Powerless to Stop Wall of Fierce Flame, Which Threatens Mother of Forest—Many Trees Are Named After Noted Men of History.

Stockton, Cal., Sept. 3.—News comes by special to the Independent from Murphys, which is connected by wire with the Calaveras Big Tree Hotel, that a forest fire has got into the grove of mammoth trees at the upper end of the grove, near where the mother of the forest stands, a monster sequoia 327 feet high and 78 feet in circumference. The famous trees named after noted men of history are below the point of attack, and the only hope for the magnificent monsters of the forest is a change in the wind, as the fire-fighters are powerless to stop the flames. To get into the grove of big trees the fire had to cross the road leading to Gardner's, which it did Tuesday night. There is little undergrowth in the grove, and that may be the means of checking the fire, but its sweep through the grove is greatly feared.

The valley in which the grove is situated contains of the sequoias 93 conifer trees. Ten of the trees are each 30 feet in diameter. Many are more than 300 feet high. The fire has attacked some of the mammoth trees. The grove is owned by Mr. Whitesides, a Michigan millionaire lumberman.

FINDS SUNKEN WARSHIPS.

Japanese Salvage Vessel May Recover Three Lost in War.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 3.—Advices from Japan state that the sunken battleship Yashima has been located by the steamer Saruhashi Maru, a salvage vessel sent by the naval department to search for Japanese warships lost during the war with Russia, and investigations are being carried out to ascertain if the battleship can be raised. The Saruhashi Maru has also located the Russian warship Sebastopol and the approximate place where the cruiser Takasago sunk has been located. She is now searching for the battleship Hattuse. The sinking of the Yashima and Hattuse was due to the placing of mechanical mines by Rear-Admiral Wren on May 1, 1904. The Russian officers observed that the Japanese warships, while engaged in gauging at Port Arthur, cruised continually over the same ground, and a mine field was laid into which the vessels steamed, and the Yashima, Hattuse and cruiser Yoshino went down the same morning, all with heavy loss.

News of the sinking of the Yashima was suppressed for six months by the Japanese government, and reports of her loss were always officially contradicted with the result that not until news of her destruction was published in the official reports at the end of the war was it generally known that she had been sunk when the Hattuse and Yoshino went down.

NEW POSTAL SCANDAL.

Shortage of \$400,000 Reported From Havana Office.

Havana, Sept. 3.—The whole provincial government is in an uproar as the result of the discovery of the theft of over \$400,000 in the local postoffice. The discovery was made when an inventory of the stamps, envelopes and other material was taken. The objectives are searching for Ricardo Dolzquez, chief of the supply bureau, who disappeared when the theft became known.

Colonel Charles Hernandez is postmaster-general and he said that every effort would be made to discover the thief.

Growing out of the postoffice scandal Manuel Elies, editor of El Vigilante of Manzanillo, was shot dead Sunday afternoon by Manuel Estrada, editor of El Reporter, of the same city. Estrada, who is an independent, considered he had been insulted in a political editorial written by Elies, who is a conservative. The coroner's jury held Estrada to answer on a charge of murder.

Wait All Night for Land.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 3.—The Dominion land office in every district in the west where odd-numbered sections are thrown open for homesteading promises to be very busy for the next few days. In the reports received from fourteen points where application may be made it is stated that hundreds of men waited outside the land offices in line throughout the night. In many of the towns, especially in Saskatchewan and Alberta, numerous valuable sections, some of them near town, are to be had.

Great Demand for Bonds.

Pittsburg, Sept. 3.—Bids were opened Tuesday for a new municipal loan of \$100,000,000, the bonds of which are to bear interest at 4 per cent and to be redeemable in 30 years. The loan was heavily oversubscribed. The premium offered ranged as high as 3.9. City Controller Walter awarded the bonds as follows: William A. Read & Co., of New York, \$9,000,000 at 103.43, and \$500,000 each to Harvey Fisk & Sons at 103.59 and 103.39.

Potato Bugs Stop Cars.

Bristol, Conn., Sept. 3.—Potato bugs on the rails at Lazy Lane stalled eight trolley cars of excursionists bound to Lake Compounce. In spite of the terrific slaughter, the bugs held possession until the carmen could sand the track.

NEW WAR CLOUD.

German Move to Recognize Mula Hafid Angers France.

Paris, Sept. 4.—Morocco has again caused France to become enraged against Germany. The latter power has provoked another acute crisis by notifying the powers signatory of the Algeiras convention that she considered the actual situation demanded the immediate recognition of Mula Hafid, the usurping sultan of Morocco. Germany has also dispatched Dr. Vassel, her consul at Tangier, to Vez, the capital, which is now in the hands of Mula Hafid.

A feeling approaching consternation is manifested in official circles. The notification, which was made verbally, is not accompanied by any explanation of Germany's "brutal change of front," as it is termed here.

France can see in Germany's action only her intention to disregard the Algeiras act and seek a special position in Morocco for herself. The consequences both from an international and French standpoint are expected to be deplorable.

In answer to Germany's call for recognition of Mula Hafid before he has entered into engagements with Europe, fanatical Arabs who had been gathering on the Algerian frontier attacked the French post at Bonedib.

ASSIST POOR TO INSURE.

Sage Millions Will Back Scheme of Philanthropists.

New York, Sept. 4.—Backed by the millions of the Sage Foundation, to which Mrs. Russell Sage has already turned over \$10,000,000 for elevating the economic condition of the poor, trustees of the fund are engaged in investigations which may result in an extensive plan which will provide life insurance below cost to those who recognize the benefit of such insurance, but who may not be able to afford the luxury of life insurance at the rates charged by the big companies.

Since the middle of last June, Dr. Leo Franklin, who is well known in charitable organization work, has been in Europe as the agent of the Sage Foundation, studying the practical operation of governmental life insurance as practiced by the German and other governments. Dr. Franklin's associate in this work is Miles M. Dawson, actuarial expert of the Armstrong committee, which with Governor Hughes, assistant organizer, brought out the extraordinary investigation in 1905 and laid out the foundations which have since revolutionized the business of life insurance in this state.

DISCOVERS NEW COMET.

Professor D. W. Morehouse Makes Find by Camera's Aid.

Lake Geneva, Wis., Sept. 4.—Director Edwin B. Frost, of Yerkes observatory, Wednesday night announced the discovery of a new comet through photographic observations made by Professor D. W. Morehouse, of Drake university, of Des Moines. The presence of the comet was revealed upon development of photographic plates exposed in three cameras Tuesday night. It is clearly defined and has a tail several degrees long and was found in the constellation Camelopardalis, remaining above the horizon throughout the night. Its position was 3 hours, 20 minutes of right ascension and 66 degrees north declination.

Its visual brightness, Professor Morehouse said, could not be stated until after further observations had been made, but it probably will be visible through an opera glass. The new comet, he said, had no connection with Halley's comet.

Professor Morehouse has been engaged during the summer in graduate work at Yerkes observatory in astronomy, under Professor Barnard.

Blow Up Canal.

Joliet, Ill., Sept. 4.—Several hundred acres of land are under water and property valued at thousands of dollars has been destroyed, due to a dynamite explosion at the Jackson street dam on the Illinois river-Lake Michigan canal. The explosion wrecked the dam and tore away a hundred feet of the canal bank, letting the water out upon rich farming lands. It is believed that farmers, who were angered at the refusal of the canal officials to make repairs that have been demanded for months, are responsible for the explosion.

Castro Insults Brazil.

Caracas, Sept. 4.—President Castro's refusal to permit the Brazilian charge d'affaires to assume charge of French interests in Venezuela is the latest cold throw on the smoldering fire of Venezuela's international complications. Speculation is rife in Caracas as to whether or not Brazil will look upon this action as an insult directed at her and what France will do toward getting representation here for her interests after this rebuke.

Wrangle in Ruef Case.

San Francisco, Sept. 4.—A third juror passed, subject to peremptory challenge, has been accepted in the trial of Abraham Ruef on a charge of bribery. The greater part of the day was devoted to investigation of allegations that efforts had been made by one side or the other to interview prospective jurors prior to their appearance in the court room.

NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

USES FOR DEAD TIMBER.

Forestry Service Will Begin Investigation in Colorado.

Washington, Sept. 5.—The university of Colorado will soon have a completely equipped timber testing laboratory at Boulder, Colo. Machines for this laboratory have been ordered and delivery has been promised during the first half of August. The first problem taken up will probably be an investigation of the relative strength of dead and fire-killed timber as compared with that of timber cut while still growing.

Two testing machines will be installed, the larger one capable of exerting a pressure of 200,000 pounds, and the smaller one capable of exerting a pressure of 30,000 pounds. Both of these machines are of the latest design and each is driven by a separate motor. In addition to the testing machines, the laboratory equipment will include a power-driven saw and planer, for preparing the test specimens from the timber as it is delivered at the laboratory.

Plant Trees Broadcast.

Washington, Sept. 4.—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has returned from an extended trip through the Western States.

"The question of getting enough wood in most of the states east of the divide," he says, "cannot be determined by planting timber to meet the requirements of the people, but the growing of something on the watersheds should be attended to, and that is being closely studied by the department of agriculture."

"I found that at 5,000 feet elevation in the Deadwood forest reserve broadcast seeding on the last snow in the spring is a success. It is out of the question to reforest the watersheds of the country with spades. There is too much to do. The work must be done in some wholesale manner, and to this the department is giving its earnest attention."

Goes Straight to President.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Sept. 1.—On a secret mission of such importance that it has not been transacted in the usual way with some of the cabinet ministers at Washington, Baron Kozoso Takahira, Japanese minister to the United States, today held a personal conference with President Roosevelt. What his mission was the baron would not say. "Everybody will know about it in a little while," the Japanese statesman explained. "Until then the public must wait. Asked if his visit had to do with the forthcoming visit of the fleet to Japan, all Baron Takahira would say was, 'I think the American sailors will get a great welcome when they reach the shores of our country.'"

Big Money in Forests.

Washington, Sept. 4.—American forests, according to the experts of the department of agriculture, are capable of yielding more wood to the acre, if well handled, than the noted forests of Germany, many of which net their owners from \$2.50 to \$6, or more, per acre annually. Not only are the native forests richer in valuable timber trees, but American climate and soil conditions are more favorable. The trouble is not that trees do not grow fast enough, but that ignorance and carelessness have left American woodlands poorly stocked.

Bowen Reduced in Rank.

Washington, Sept. 3.—First Lieutenant William S. Bowen, Coast Artillery Corps, stationed at the Presidio, San Francisco, was convicted by court martial of the charges of neglect of duty and of making false official reports, and sentenced to be dismissed from the service of the United States. The president confirmed the sentence, but on recommendation of General Murray, Chief of Artillery, concurred in by the secretary of war, has commuted it to a reduction of 30 files in rank.

Brazil and Argentine Quarrel.

Washington, Sept. 2.—An early conflict between Brazil and Argentine Republic is probable, according to advices received almost daily by the state department. Spencer Eddy, American minister to Argentina, has cabled the state department that the Argentine chamber of deputies has voted a credit of \$55,000,000 for armaments. Argentina is in the market to buy warships, and any country having such for sale can find a cash purchaser.

Court Martial Board Ordered.

Washington, Sept. 5.—Announcement is made in special orders of the war department that, by direction of the president, a general court-martial had been appointed to meet at Fort Wayne, Mich., September 19, 1908, for the trial of such persons as may be brought before it. The fact that the personnel of the court comprises some of the officers of highest rank in the army indicated that an officer of high rank was to be placed on trial.

Alaska Marshal Removed.

Washington, Sept. 1.—The department of justice announced tonight that George Perry, United States marshal at Fairbanks, Alaska, had been removed by order of the president. The reasons were not disclosed officially, but Perry's leaning was toward the mine-owning interest.

Tests Signal Balloon.

Washington, Sept. 5.—A balloon ascension was made Wednesday by three officers of the signal corps at Fort Meyer. Lieutenant Frank P. Lahm, who will take part in the coming international balloon race at Berlin, acted as pilot and was accompanied by Lieutenants Foulers and Selbridge.

MUCH LAND NOT TAKEN.

Uncle Sam Has Nearly 50,000,000 Acres in Northwest.

Washington, Sept. 1.—The general land office has compiled its annual statement showing the area of the public domain remaining undisposed of July 1, 1908. From this statement it appears that the government still has an area of 734,859,296 acres of surveyed and unsurveyed land, including the following:

Alaska, 386,021,509 acres; Arizona, 42,799,292; California, 29,872,493; Colorado, 23,696,697; Idaho, 26,785,002; Montana, 46,592,440; Nevada, 61,177,053; New Mexico, 44,777,963; Oregon, 14,837,913; Utah, 36,578,998; Washington, 4,359,001; Wyoming, 37,145,302.

In Oregon there are 4,769,456 acres of unsurveyed land, Washington, 2,287,116 acres, and Idaho 19,476,044 acres. In Alaska all the land is unsurveyed.

OPEN ROSEBUD RESERVE.

Government Will Dispose of Indian Lands October 19.

Washington, Sept. 2.—The Rosebud Indian reservation lands, which, under the proclamation of the president on October 19, are located on the south side of the State of South Dakota, and adjoining the lands in Gregory county, which were opened in 1904. They are said to be very desirable for farming and stockraising purposes.

From present indications the approaching opening will be even larger than that of the Gregory reservation, since a much larger area is to be opened. The plan adopted for this registration and drawing is similar to that used in the Gregory opening, but certain objectionable features which imposed hardships on applicants have been eliminated.

Colombia Will Play Fair.

Washington, Sept. 2.—Minister Gertes, of Colombia, issued a statement today in which he said: "In view of the pending conflict between Holland and Venezuela, a rumor has been circulated to the effect that a revolutionary movement will soon take place in Venezuela and that Colombia will permit the bulk of the necessary fighting men to cross her frontier and enter Venezuela. It is true that Colombia has serious grievances against Venezuela, but no matter how grave they are, or may become, the government of Colombia will not secure redress by unfair means."

United States Not in Accord.

Washington, Sept. 3.—The state department wholly discredits the report that England will act in connection with Holland for the coercion of Venezuela, and denies that the United States approves in any way joint action by Holland and Great Britain. It is pointed out that if the United States stood for the disciplining of Venezuela the joint disciplinarian with Holland would be the United States and not a European power.

Will Play Waiting Game.

Washington, Sept. 3.—The report from London indicating the possibility of Great Britain taking some action to assist Holland in her dispute with President Castro, and that there had been informal references to Venezuela between the British and American diplomats on that subject, calls forth the statement by officials of the state department that the United States is simply watching and awaiting developments in the Venezuelan affairs.

Important Matters On.

Oyster Bay, Sept. 2.—For the first time on a Sunday night, during President Roosevelt's stay here this year, Acting Secretary Forster Sunday night went to Sagamore Hill with official business for submission to the president. He was at the executive's summer home for some time, and on his return here remained until a late hour at the executive offices. The nature of this seemingly pressing business was not divulged.

Holds Up Mula Hafid Case.

Washington, Sept. 4.—The United States today is awaiting developments before considering the question of officially recognizing the sultan of Morocco. The attitude of the state department leads to the inference that if the European powers recognize Mula Hafid, the new sultan, as the ruler, the United States will follow suit.

Practicing for African Hunt.

Oyster Bay, Sept. 4.—Armed with rifles and shotguns, revolvers, cartridge belts and all the other warlike paraphernalia of a hunter, Kermit Roosevelt left here yesterday for a practice hunt in the Northwest, preparatory to the African expedition on which he will embark next March with his father.

Extend Klamath Project.

Washington, Sept. 3.—Contract has been awarded to W. H. Mason, of Klamath Falls, for the extension of the south branch canal of the Klamath irrigation project. The work consists of the construction of about seven miles of canal, involving the excavation and embankment of about 112,000 cubic yards of material. Mason's bid amounted to \$22,703.

Shooting Irons Will Be Cheap.

Washington, Sept. 2.—September 8 will be house-cleaning day in the various arsenals throughout the United States, according to orders issued from the war department. On that day all the old-fashioned and out-of-date ordnance material on hand will be offered for sale.

FLURALITY IS LESS.

Republicans Carry Vermont by a Majority of 28,000.

White River Junction, Vt., Sept. 2.—The Republicans won the election in Vermont yesterday by carrying the state for Lieutenant Governor George H. Prouty, of Newport, for governor, by about 28,000 votes over James E. Burke, of Burlington, his Democratic opponent. The plurality was the smallest in a presidential year since 1892, when it was only 18,596, and was followed by a Democratic national victory; but it was larger than in 1888, and only slightly less than in 1900. There was a falling off in four years of about 8 per cent in the Republican vote, while the Democratic vote fell off about 2 per cent.

The Independence League appeared for the first time, and polled about 1000 votes, while the Prohibition and Socialist vote remained about the same. An unusually large number of local candidates for the legislature, although bringing out a heavy vote and resulting in Democratic gains in the lower branch of the legislature, apparently had no bearing on the gubernatorial fight.

As Vermont is the first state to vote during the presidential campaign, there was much interest throughout the country in the size of the Republican plurality.

THREATEN RIVAL FAIR.

Japanese Business Men are Disgusted With Government.

Tokio, Sept. 2.—The dissatisfaction of the Japanese commercial bodies over the postponement of the Tokio world's exposition from 1912 to 1917 has become so marked that there is danger that the scheme will have to be abandoned altogether.

At a mass meeting of the Tokio Business Men's association yesterday afternoon the action of the cabinet in postponing the exposition was condemned in unmeasured terms, and a formal protest against the action was framed and sent to the minister of commerce and agriculture, under whose supervision the fair is to be given.

The meeting of the business men was exciting. Charges that graft had crept into the management of the proposed fair were freely made. It was stated that the fair could be given for less money than was proposed, if the management was economical. They said the exposition would be a big factor in the ending of hard times. As an alternative, they threaten to have an industrial fair of their own in 1912 under the auspices of the various commercial bodies of Japan, if the cabinet does not restore the original date of the proposed world's fair.

TRAINS ARE BLOCKADED.

Canadian Pacific Line Cut to Pieces in Manitoba.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 2.—Thousands of passengers on transcontinental trains of the Canadian Pacific are blocked today between Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. Over 20 heavily laden passenger trains have been stalled by vast washouts, which have swept miles of track from the mountain grades into the valleys.

Several cloudbursts last night and this morning did more damage, and it is feared it will be days before even temporary tracks can be built around the dangerous places.

The railroad company is feeding and caring for the marooned passengers. Most of them are bound for New York, Boston, Chicago and Montreal from the west and east.

It is impossible to learn the exact extent of the damage done by the floods, because the telegraph and telephone wires are down in the storm-swept district.

The governor general is one of the delayed trains. Many week-end holiday travelers from Winnipeg are tied up at Kenora.

Twenty-Eight Drown.

London, Sept. 2.—The British schooner Amazon was wrecked off Port Llabotte on the coast of Wales yesterday, and 28 of the 33 members of the crew were drowned. The Amazon had been caught in the terrific storm which has been sweeping both eastern and western coasts of England for 24 hours. The survivors reached shore in a small boat, after a miraculous trip through the high waves. Nearly every vessel that has reached port shows serious effects of the storm. Those which are overdue are in great danger.

In Memory of Fire Victims.

Hinckley, Minn., Sept. 2.—In accordance with a custom that has been followed for 14 years, the citizens of Hinckley and vicinity yesterday paid honor to the memory of the 418 men, women and children who perished in the great forest fire that devastated Pine county on September 1, 1894. Flags were displayed at half-mast, and yesterday afternoon memorial exercises were held in the little park where the unidentified dead of the disaster were buried.

Jap Maneuvers in November.

Tokio, Sept. 2.—It was announced yesterday at the ministry of war that the special grand military maneuvers of the Japanese army will begin November 10.

GREAT WHEAT SHIPPING PORT

Portland Now Leads Every City in United States.

Over Eight Million Bushels Received in One Day—Chicago, Always Considered Largest Receiving Port, Left Far Behind by Oregon Metropolis.

Portland, Sept. 1.—Portland today is the greatest wheat shipping port in the country. Over transportation lines coming into the city more wheat was sent in than to any other shipping port in the United States. The shipping records for Portland show that 219 cars of export wheat were received in the city. This is nearly double the record of 113 cars established Saturday last, when the wheat shipping records of the port were shattered.

On several different occasions recently Portland shipments have topped those of Chicago, which is the record wheat shipping port of the world. The Saturday shipment of 113 cars went ahead of the Chicago receipts and established Portland as a record holder. Today's record, however, puts Portland far in the lead, even over Chicago, and establishes the pre-eminence of the port as a wheat shipping center of world-wide importance. The rapid climb in the size of the shipments is shown by the record of 65 cars for Friday last, not a small shipment by any means.

Figuring from a basis of 210 cars shipment, it is seen that approximately 79,800 sacks of wheat reached Portland, since there are on an average of 380 sacks to the car. The sacks as they are shipped from the field weigh from 100 to 110 pounds to the sack. Estimating the average weight to be 105 pounds to the sack, it will be seen that a great flood of 8,379,000 pounds, or 144,465 bushels of grain, reached the city. The average price of the wheat is 92 cents a bushel, making the aggregate value of the shipment alone reach the enormous sum of \$1,588,980. To put the vast shipment in a shape where its size can be readily grasped, it might be noted that the 210 cars which reached the city, if put together in one train, would reach in a solid line for 13-5 miles.

ULTIMATUM IN STRIKE.

Canadian Pacific Employees Threaten General Walk Out.

Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 1.—A special from Winnipeg says the crisis is approaching in the mechanics' strike on the Canadian Pacific railway. The committee now in session in Montreal, representing all the orders and unions to which employees belong, have given the company this week to decide whether it will meet this committee in conference with the object of settling the strike or have the entire system tied up. The committee in Montreal represents not only the machinists, boiler-makers and carmen on strike, but also the engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen. It seems to be a fight between the unions and the Canadian Pacific railway, the company having made up its mind to test their strength.

Former Master Mechanic Cross, of Winnipeg, is now in England, having been sent there by the country to hire mechanics.

JAP FAIR POSTPONED.

Economical Ministry Wins Controversy With Commercial Interests.

Tokio, Sept. 1.—The Tokio exposition has been postponed until 1917, according to the official statement issued today by the minister of agriculture and commerce. The action is taken over the protests of all the chambers of commerce, and is indicative of the determination of the new cabinet to carry out its policy of retrenchment.

The officials of the exposition were called together and the decision of the government was announced to them. It is expected that the postponement will result in a great benefit to the exposition.

Break Ground for Institute.

New York, Sept. 1.—John D. Rockefeller, Jr. will officiate tomorrow in the ceremony of breaking ground for the main hospital building and isolation annex of the Rockefeller institute for medical research. Plans for the new hospital were filed last week, and work will be begun on it immediately. It is to cost about \$100,000. The building will have seven stories, with a brick and Indiana limestone front. The isolation wards will be in a two-story building connected with the main building by steel bridges.

Traffic is Delayed.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 1.—Trains are delayed throughout the west on the Canadian Pacific lines as the result of the strike of the machinists, and the general demand for action looking toward a settlement is increasing. The railway commission will meet here September 10, and it is said the unions will bring before it body of strong representations showing a violation of the alien labor law by the railroad company.

Washout on Canadian Road.

Winnipeg, Sept. 1.—The worst washout in the history of the Canadian Pacific road on this division occurred yesterday. Rain fell in torrents, and is still falling. Hundreds of yards of track between here and Kenora have been washed away, and dozens of trains have been held up.