

NEWS NOTES FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL CITY

ALL PRICES ADVANCE.

Cost of Living, However, Increased More Than Wages.

Washington, Sept. 19.—The average wages per hour in the principal manufacturing and mechanical industries of the country were 3.7 per cent higher in 1907 than in 1906, while retail prices of food were 4.2 per cent higher, according to the July report of the Bureau of Labor. The regular hours of labor per week were four-tenths of 1 per cent lower, and the number of employes in establishments investigated by the bureau showed an increase of 1 per cent.

The report shows that, as compared with the ten years preceding 1890 to 1899, the average wage in 1907 was 28.7 per cent higher, the number of employes 44.4 per cent greater, with a decrease of 5 per cent in the average hours of labor per week.

The retail price of the principal articles of food was 20.6 per cent higher in 1907 than for the period 1890 to 1899. Compared with the average for the same ten-year period, the food-purchasing power of an hour's wage in 1907 was 6.8 per cent greater. Retail prices of food in 1907 were higher than in any other year of the 18-year period above named, being 4.2 per cent higher than in 1906.

WRIGHT WILL WIN.

Experts Say His Aeroplane Meets All Requirements.

Washington, Sept. 15.—Signal corps officers here freely express the belief that Orville Wright, who shattered all records in his history-making aeroplane flights, will be able to exceed by a wide margin the requirements of the war department. One official predicted that the Wright aeroplane will be able to make 42 miles an hour. The matter of remaining in the air for a given length of time bothers no one now, since Wright sailed for 62 minutes and 15 seconds, with perfect ease.

The members of the signal corps are all anxious to take a trip in the machine since Lieutenant Lahm sailed about with Wright at Fort Myer last week.

Orville Wright is the hero of the day and his claim to the title of "king of the air," though not advanced by himself, is not disputed. He has received congratulations from aeronauts from all parts of this country and Europe, but is calm and unassuming as usual. He has little to say except that he "knew the machine would do it."

Jap Sealers Caught.

Washington, Sept. 17.—The department of justice was advised yesterday of the capture of two Japanese vessels and between 30 and 40 Japanese sailors caught seal poaching within the three-mile limit off St. Paul island. The revenue cutter Bear overhauled the foreign vessels and captured them after a chase. The men were taken to Unalaska and will be later removed to Valdez for trial. One of the schooners were found several hundred skins, and the small boats were covered with blood, showing that the seals had been killed within the prescribed three-mile limit.

Examine Col. Stewart.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 18.—It was announced yesterday that the war department would soon order Colonel W. F. Stewart, the Fort Grant exile stationed at Huachuca, Ariz., to appear before the retiring board, to be given a strict medical examination as to his physical condition. If the board finds Stewart unfit for service, his retirement will be compulsory. It is made clear that his examination will be sufficiently thorough to finally determine his physical qualifications for service in the army.

Two-Cent Postage to Great Britain

Washington, Sept. 19.—The two-cent postal rate between the United States and Great Britain will go into effect October 1. After that date letters may be sent to the United Kingdom for 2 cents which formerly required 5 cents to carry.

At the same time the rate of postage applicable to letters mailed in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland for delivery in any part of the United States will be one penny for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Support Hepburn Clause.

Washington, Sept. 16.—United States District Attorney Bonaparte today ordered that an appeal be taken to the supreme court of the United States from the recent decision from the court of appeals at Philadelphia declared unconstitutional the commodity clause of the Hepburn act. The decision held that the portion of the railroad bill that ordered all railroads to dispose of their coal mines and other property holdings was unconstitutional.

Postoffices Advanced.

Washington, Sept. 19.—On October 1 the following fourth-class postoffices will be advanced to presidential grade, salaries of postmasters being fixed as indicated:

Oregon—Arleta, Freewater and Weston, \$1100; Bend and Falls City, \$1000.

Washington—Edmonds, Starbuck, Lumas and Tenino, \$1100; Medical Lake, \$1200; Black Diamond, \$1000. Idaho—St. Maries, \$1000.

Trust Busters in Conference.

Oyster Bay, L. I., Sept. 12.—The big stick is believed to be in training today at Sagamore hill, where a conference is being held by the president with Herbert Knox Smith, commissioner of corporations, and the official government investigator of trusts, and Attorney General Bonaparte. The subject of the conference was not made known.

AEROPLANE IS WRECKED.

Orville Wright Injured and His Passenger Killed.

Washington, Sept. 18.—After having drawn the attention of the world to his aeroplane flights at Fort Myer and having established new world's records for heavier-than-air flying machines, Orville Wright yesterday met with a tragical mishap while making a two-man flight. The aeroplane was accompanied by Lieutenant Thos. E. Selfridge, of the Signal Corps of the army. Lieutenant Selfridge was fatally injured and died at 8:10 o'clock last night. Mr. Wright was seriously injured, but is expected to recover.

While the machine was encircling the drill grounds, a propeller blade snapped off, and, hitting some other part of the intricate mechanism, caused it to overturn in the air and fall to the ground, enveloping the two occupants in the debris. Soldiers and spectators ran across the field to where the aeroplane had fallen and assisted in lifting Mr. Wright and Lieutenant Selfridge from under the tangled mass of machinery, rods, wires and shreds of muslin. Mr. Wright was conscious and said:

"Oh, hurry and lift the motor." Lieutenant Selfridge was unconscious. His head was covered with blood and he was choking when the soldiers extricated him from under the machine.

Dr. Watters, a New York physician, was one of the first to reach the spot and rendered first aid to the injured men. When their wounds had been bandaged, Mr. Wright and Lieutenant Selfridge were taken to the Fort Myer hospital at the other end of the field. Mr. Wright lapsed into a state of semi-consciousness by the time he reached the hospital, but Lieutenant Selfridge did not regain consciousness at all. He was suffering from a fracture at the base of the skull, and was in a critical condition.

After a hurried surgical examination it was announced that Mr. Wright was not dangerously injured. He is suffering from a fracture of his left thigh and several ribs on the right side are fractured. Both men received deep cuts about the head. Mr. Wright regained consciousness at the hospital and dictated a cablegram to his brother at Le Mans, France, and requested that the same message be sent to his sister and father at Dayton, O., assuring them that he was all right.

Charles White, of White & Middleton, Baltimore, a mechanical expert, gave this description of the accident to Messrs. Wright and Selfridge:

"The aeroplane was performing beautifully for six or seven minutes, when suddenly one of the propellers broke near the end. This caused the machine to become so thoroughly out of balance through centrifugal force as to make it unmanageable, and it made a dart to the ground while still under operation of the right propeller, causing it to strike the ground with a great deal more force than it would have done by gravity."

"I do not feel that this is any serious defect in the machinery, but merely want of better construction in the propellers. Therefore, I do not feel that the machine should be condemned beyond this point. I should imagine that, when the machine made the dart for the ground, it fell at the rate of 20 miles an hour. Wright and Selfridge were not thrown out. The accident was due entirely to the defective propeller."

French Editors Worried.

Paris, Sept. 18.—The French press is displaying much irritation over violent criticism of the Franco-Spanish note regarding Morocco that are appearing in the newspapers of Germany; but the government is content with the assurances received yesterday from Herr Sternich, acting foreign secretary for Germany, that the note would be studied in an amicable spirit. If this is done, the foreign office cannot understand how Germany will be able to dissociate herself from the other chancelleries of Europe.

Can't Limit Skyscrapers.

New York, Sept. 18.—The commission appointed about a year ago to investigate high buildings in New York City, and particularly on Manhattan Island, is ready to submit the printed record of its work. It is said the report points out that it is impossible to hold the height of buildings down to the present public fire protection service, because, it is argued, that would limit buildings to about 100 feet in height.

Cholera is Subdued.

Manila, Sept. 18.—The cholera continues to recede. During the 24 hours ending at 8 o'clock this morning there were 25 cases and 12 deaths. Only four cases were reported this forenoon.

One hundred additional inspectors were enlisted today in a united effort to stamp out the disease before the Atlantic fleet arrives, and there is every reason to believe that it will be successful.

Worse in St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 18.—Three hundred and fifty cases and 155 deaths from Asiatic cholera have been reported for the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday.

The municipal administrations are under fire from all sides for their criminal inefficiency and for their failure to make adequate preparation for hospital, ambulance and sanitary services.

Punish Congo Outlaws.

Paris, Sept. 18.—Dispatches to the government from the governor-general of the French Congo say that a force of 1600 French troops, under Captain Jullot, have routed the Oudai tribe, whose territory is in the center of the trade in slaves and contraband arms. The tribesmen's losses numbered 1000.

PUTS \$4,000,000 AT EACH PLATE

Pittsburg Steel King Gives a Novel Dinner Party.

W. H. Singer Celebrates His Golden Wedding by Fulfilling Promises Made Years Ago, to "Distribute Wealth Among Youngsters in Time to Do Them Some Good."

Pittsburg, Pa., Sept. 17.—At the golden wedding supper recently given by him and his wife, W. H. Singer, one of the Pittsburg steel magnates, distributed \$16,000,000 among his four children, each child getting \$4,000,000. Through the filing of certain papers in the Allegheny county courthouse yesterday this fact came out, and was later admitted by the Singer family, which is one of the best and oldest in Pittsburg. The millionaire invited his children to assist in celebrating his golden wedding anniversary on May 27. The children were the only guests, and each found by his or her plate a small "dinner favor," consisting of checks, bonds and deeds amounting to \$4,000,000.

The Singer children who received \$4,000,000 each are: William Henry Singer, Jr., landscape painter, now in Norway. George Singer, iron manufacturer, Pittsburg, now in the White mountains on his vacation.

Mrs. William Ross Proctor, wife of a Philadelphia architect. Marguerite Singer, youngest daughter, now living with her parents.

Mr. Singer made his fortune in iron as a member of the famous iron firm of Singer, Nimick & Co. He also is connected with many banking institutions in Pittsburg, and is considered one of the very rich men of the country, his remaining fortune, after giving his children their share, being probably \$15,000,000.

Mrs. Singer, who has a fortune of her own, made through investments by her husband, received several pieces of valuable real estate as her golden wedding present.

A peculiar feature of the case was made known late yesterday. William Henry Singer, the son, who chose an artistic career rather than the iron business as his life's work, will scarcely be able to enjoy his millions in America, owing to the great fear his wife bears for the "Black Hand." She received a threatening letter at her home in Sewickley, and it frightened her into hysterics. Her husband was finally compelled to take her abroad. It is said they will remain permanently in Norway, as Mr. Singer expects, in spite of his wealth, to spend all his time in painting.

Mr. Singer is following the policy laid down by his life-long friend, Charles Lockhart, of the Standard Oil company, who some years before his death, invited all his children to a dinner party, at which, under each plate, was found \$1,000,000. Lockhart and Singer many years ago promised each other that they would begin to distribute their wealth among their children "in time to do the youngsters some good."

GETS ANOTHER ROAD.

Union Pacific Secures Control of Chicago & Northwestern.

Chicago, Sept. 16.—A report from Wall street of a traffic agreement between the Union Pacific and the Chicago & Northwestern, amounting to complete control of the latter road by the former, gained strength yesterday in financial circles on the refusal of Marvin Hughitt, president of the Northwestern, to discuss statements made in the Wall Street Summary under the head of "Harriman Properties."

The report is that the Harriman interests have absorbed the Chicago & Northwestern by the simple device of a guarantee on the stocks of the latter company. It is pointed out in the article, which appears to be inspired, that the strategic position of the Chicago & Northwestern is such that it will not come within the meaning of the law that prohibits merging or single control of parallel competing railways.

Lightning Slays Birds.

San Francisco, Sept. 17.—The Pacific Mail liner City of Para, which arrived yesterday from Panama and way ports two days ahead of time, was struck by lightning during a heavy electrical storm encountered August 30, when steaming from Acapulco to San Jose de Guatemala. The vessel was struck several times. The only damage sustained by the liner was the loss of the foremast, which was shattered into splinters. In the morning after the storm had passed, thousands of dead birds were gathered up on the bridge, awnings and decks.

No Trace of Missing Steamer.

Honolulu, Sept. 17.—The British steamer Marama, which arrived here yesterday from Brisbane, Australia, reports that nothing was seen of the missing steamer Aeon, despite the fact that a sharp lookout was kept throughout the entire trip. The Aeon sailed from San Francisco on July 6, 71 days ago, for Australia, and, as nothing has been heard from the vessel since sailing, grave fears for its safety are entertained.

Indian Murders Recklessly.

Denver, Colo., Sept. 17.—Frank Howe, a 15-year-old Indian boy, got possession of a revolver today and, riding through the streets of Pagosa Junction at breakneck speed, shot and killed Amee Baker, the 4-year-old daughter of James Baker, a member of the Ute tribe. The lad continued on his wild dash to the hills and disappeared.

DRAINS OUT CRATER.

Wonder Performed by Earthquake in Hawaiian Islands.

Honolulu, Sept. 5, via San Francisco, Sept. 16.—A slight earthquake was felt on the island of Hawaii Friday night, September 4, and at midnight the molten lava in the pit of the volcano of Kilauea suddenly ceased rising and immediately began to run out below, the surface looking like the water in a bathtub from which the plug had been pulled.

The molten lava ran rapidly away, lowering the level instantly and continuously until by Saturday morning, or in something like seven or eight hours, the 900 feet depth of lava in the pit had all run out, and, except for the cooling sides of the pit, there was no fire seen or heat felt. As the lava lowered in the pit the walls scaled off in great masses, dropping into the molten lava below them. The few who were fortunate enough to see this wonderful phenomena describe it as most awe-inspiring.

The lava in the pit, then about 900 or 1000 feet deep, began to rise nearly three years ago, and had been rising gradually since, until it was within about 100 feet of the top of the pit. It is supposed that the earthquake opened some fissure below by which the lava flowed out, perhaps under the sea.

On Saturday night another slight earthquake was felt, and at midnight Saturday it was observed that activity in the pit had begun again, molten lava being thrown up in fountains more than 100 feet high, and at latest accounts the lava had again risen 400 feet in the pit.

DIE IN FOREST FIRES.

Flames Overcome White Man and Six Indians in Minnesota.

Duluth, Minn., Sept. 16.—Grand Marais is girdled by roaring mountains of fire and smoke, and it is believed that a man named Monk and six Indians, cut off from town by fire in their efforts to save homesteaders at Nestor, have perished in the flames. This is the news brought in at noon today by Adjutant-General Wood and officers of the Minnesota naval militia, who arrived on the Gopher from the north shore. They say the danger is not yet over by any means.

Lutzen, a small settlement near Grand Marais, is in the greatest danger, say the naval militia men. It is surrounded by fire, and everything there seems doomed to destruction, although it is not thought that any loss of life will occur.

At Colville, six miles from Grand Marais, everything went, says General Wood.

"The situation looks very bad at Chicago Bay," said Commander Eaton, "and some people wanted us to declare martial law there, but we did not deem it necessary. However, we left ten men from the ship there. Forty men from the boat were left to fight the fire at Lutzen, and 20 more were left at Grand Marais."

The officers of the Gopher declare that the gravity of the situation on the north shore has not been exaggerated in the least.

SUBMITS TO TERMS.

Mulai Hafid Agrees to Be Bound by Algerias Act.

Paris, Sept. 15.—The Franco-Spanish note on the subject of the recognition of Mulai Hafid as sultan of Morocco was yesterday transmitted to the powers signatory to the Algieras convention.

Mulai Hafid's letter to the diplomatic corps at Tangier reached Paris yesterday. He announces his proclamation as sultan, which, he says, obliges him to execute the engagements of the Algerias act.

Mulai Hafid agrees to recognize the treaties concluded by his predecessors, notably that of the Algerias act, which he considers the basis of the prosperity and progress of the empire from both the political and economic standpoints, since it guarantees independence for the country and provides useful reforms. Mulai Hafid concludes with expressions of hope that the powers on an equal footing will aid him in the elaboration and execution of the proposed reforms.

Fire in Tunnel Kills Two.

Detroit, Sept. 16.—It is believed today that more bodies may be recovered from the new tunnel under the river here, in which a fire last night is known to have cost two lives. More than 200 workmen were in the tunnel when the fire broke out, and several were overcome. Had the accident not occurred just at midnight, while about one-third of the force was at lunch, the list of fatalities would probably have been much greater. The fire, which is still burning, destroyed all of the work on the Canadian side of the tunnel.

Cholera Beyond Control.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 16.—For the 24 hours ending at noon yesterday there have been reported at St. Petersburg 240 cases and 60 deaths from Asiatic cholera. This is almost double the record of Monday. Among the stricken is Lieutenant Abramoff, an officer of the Cossack regiment in the Life Guards. The prison authorities have given orders that all prisoners be temporarily removed to police stations in order to make possible the disinfection of the prisoners.

Merchants to Visit Japan.

San Francisco, Sept. 16.—The delegation of Pacific coast merchants who will visit Japan this fall will sail September 25, on the Tongo Maru, for Yokohama. They will represent Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Eureka, Fresno, Los Angeles, San Diego and other cities. They will stay in Japan until early in November.

WELCOME FOR OLYMPIC HEROES

All Oregon Joins in Honoring Athletic Sons at Portland.

Smithson, Gilbert and Kelly Receive Number of Trophies—Thousands Cheer Big Parade—Climax of Receptions Given on Journey Across Continent.

Portland, Sept. 15.—Crowds of laurel leaves, more modern and spectacular, of course, than the simple token of victory of ancient Greece, were pressed upon the brows of Oregon's victorious athletes last night on the triumphant return of Smithson, Gilbert and Kelly from the Olympic games in London.

All Oregon joined in the demonstration, and no Olympic winner, even in the days when poets sang of heroes and of men who sailed from the shores of Troy to bring back honor, ever received a more royally enthusiastic welcome on his homecoming. On their journey across the continent honors and attentions were heaped upon them, and on their entrance into the borders of their native state admiring multitudes contended to do them homage.

In Portland last night enthusiasm reached a climax in a gorgeous pageant, rivaling in spectacular brilliancy and display any similar scene that has been presented in this city. Aged men and women participated, children took part and small boys yelled themselves hoarse in an intoxication of admiration.

The most spectacular feature of the demonstration was the big parade. Thousands of persons witnessed it and thousands cheered it as it passed. In every street through which the parade passed sidewalks were lined, while windows and every available point of vantage were crowded.

In addition to the individual trophy presented by the City of Portland to the boys, each has also been the recipient of a handsome trophy—the gift of each respective Oregon town claiming one of the boys as a native. Baker City on Sunday night presented Dan J. Kelly with a loving cup of beautiful design, and last night Forrester C. Smithson received a similar trophy as the gift of the Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club. Charles L. McNary, of Salem, on behalf of the citizens of the capital, presented Alfred C. Gilbert with another handsome cup.

As an additional honor, Dr. Morrison, on behalf of the Multnomah Athletic Club, announced that that institution had voted a life membership to each of the victorious trio.

REPUBLICANS WIN.

Majority in Maine Much Reduced in Four Years.

Portland, Me., Sept. 15.—The Republicans carried Maine yesterday by about 8,000 plurality, against 26,816 in the last presidential year, and 8064 in 1906. At midnight returns for governor from 468 out of 519 cities, towns and plantations give Bert M. Fernald (Rep.), 72,177; Obadiah Gardiner (Dem.), 64,993. The same places in 1904 gave Cobb (Rep.), 75,334; Davis (Dem.), 49,416. The remaining places in 1904 gave Cobb 1630, Davis 730. The missing towns, which are small, four years ago cast 1630 Republican votes and 730 Democratic.

The Democratic vote increased more than 13,000 over that of 1904, while the Republican vote fell off about 2500. The Republican plurality is the smallest recorded in a presidential year in 25 years.

The two parties split even in the 20 cities, each capturing 10. The voting was particularly heavy in the rural districts, owing largely to the popularity of Mr. Gardiner among the farmers as head of the State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, the Democrats making large gains.

All four Republican candidates for congress were elected, and for state auditor Charles P. Hatch, Republican, of Augusta, defeated his opponent.

Cholera Proves Deadly.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 15.—It is announced officially that from noon September 12 until noon yesterday there were 256 cases of cholera and 64 deaths in this city. The mortality since the beginning of the epidemic is over 25 per cent. One of the victims yesterday was a tenor belonging to the famous choir of St. Alexandre-Nevsky, who was stricken after the service. A council of physicians has recommended the closing of the saloons at 5 o'clock on workdays, as alcoholics are especially susceptible to the disease.

Harriman Makes Big Profit.

Chicago, Sept. 15.—The net earnings of the Union Pacific and the Southern Pacific railroads for the month of July were the largest that either of these roads has reported for that month in their history. In the cases of both, however, the gross earnings showed a material decrease as compared with last year. A good showing in net earnings was brought about by a material reduction in operating expenses.

Take Evidence on Merger.

Salt Lake City, Sept. 15.—In the federal court here an order was entered yesterday appointing Sylvester G. Williams, of Denver, special examiner to take evidence in the suit of the United States government against the so-called merger of the Harriman Pacific railway lines.