

HAPPENINGS GATHERED IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D. C.

HEAR PACIFIC RATE CASES.

Full Interstate Commission Will Sit on Coast in October.

Washington, Sept. 17.—The entire Interstate Commerce commission will visit the Pacific coast this fall and conduct hearings on all complaints of record from that section. The hearings will begin at Seattle, October 7, and after clearing the Washington docket, the commission will move to Portland on October 14, and to San Francisco four days later.

Among the questions to be heard are the allegation that various distributive rates in the Northwest are excessive. Testimony will also be taken on various complaints affecting the contemplated rearrangement of all transcontinental rates to Pacific coast points. Most of the large cities have entered complaints which will be heard. In most instances where time permits, the commission will hear arguments after hearing testimony.

Among cases on which testimony will be taken at Portland are: Oregon Railroad commission vs. O. R. & N. and other roads; Farmers' Co-operative & Educational union vs. Great Northern and others; and Astoria chamber of commerce vs. Great Northern.

At Seattle the commission will take up the following: Portland chamber of commerce vs. O. R. & N. and others; Transportation bureau, Seattle chamber of commerce, vs. Northern Pacific and others; Humboldt Steamship company vs. White Pass & Yukon route, of Alaska; F. S. Harmon vs. Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, and Seattle Frog & Switch company vs. Northern Pacific.

At San Francisco a long docket is to be heard, the most important case being that of the Pacific Coast Jobbers' & Manufacturers' association vs. Southern Pacific and other roads.

Ballinger Denies Rumor.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Secretary Ballinger is suffering from sore throat today and on the advice of his physician is not at his office. He has been ordered to remain at home as quietly as possible and expects to be back at work in a day or two. He will depart for the West Saturday and will meet President Taft either at Denver or Helena. Secretary Ballinger denies the report that he contemplates resigning from the Taft cabinet, as published in yesterday's dispatches.

Controversy in Congress Next.

Washington, Sept. 16.—No matter what the decision of President Taft may be in the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, that the row will be a subject for congressional investigation next winter is practically assured. A preliminary investigation of the principal features of the controversy will start in a few days, when the senate committee on Indian affairs junkets through the Northwest to inquire into conditions on the Indian reservations.

Land Withdrawn From Entry.

Washington, Sept. 16.—The secretary of the interior has withdrawn from entry southwest quarter of section 29, township 25 south, range 14 east, in Lake county, Oregon, until the geological survey can make an examination of the peculiar formation on this land, known as Fortrock. If this land mark is considered of sufficient importance, it will be permanently reserved as a national monument.

Hitchcock Coming West.

Washington, Sept. 15.—Postmaster General Hitchcock left Washington tonight on a trip to the Pacific coast, going by way of New York city. He will arrive in Seattle in time to be present at the Washington state postmasters' convention, September 20 and 21. He will attend also the conventions of the Oregon and Montana postmasters.

Irrigation Contract Awarded.

Washington, Sept. 18.—A contract has been awarded D. H. Traphagen, of Seattle, for the construction of that portion of the distribution system of the Tieton irrigation project on the Natches Ridge, Washington. The work involves the excavation of 117,700 cubic yards of material. The contract price was \$31,500.

Taft's Secretary at White House.

Washington, Sept. 18.—Fred W. Carpenter, secretary of the president, and Rudolph Forster, one of the assistants, have returned to Washington and assumed their duties at the White House. President Taft will at all times be in easy communication with Washington.

Spencer Eddy Resigns.

Washington, Sept. 18.—The State department today received the resignation of Spencer Eddy, of Illinois, minister to Roumania and Servia. Mr. Eddy's wife, is the daughter of John D. Spreckels, of San Diego. Ill health is given as the cause for Eddy's resignation.

He Defended John Surratt.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Judge W. F. Morris, former chief justice of the court of appeals for the District of Columbia, died today, aged 74 years. Judge Morris defended John H. Surratt, one of the alleged conspirators against President Lincoln.

DROP MALHEUR PROJECT.

No Funds Available to Continue Irrigation Work.

Washington, Sept. 18.—It was announced today that the government will not at the present time undertake the construction of the Malheur irrigation project.

Secretary Ballinger, though anxious to help settlers in the Malheur contract country, finds after a study of the entire irrigation situation, that the condition of the reclamation fund will not now justify the adoption of any new projects. Many millions of dollars, in addition to what is at present available, are needed to complete projects in course of construction and as the adoption of new projects would seriously interfere with finishing what has been heretofore undertaken, it has been decided temporarily to lay aside all applications for new work. This decision is approved by President Taft.

The question whether or not the Malheur project shall be built by private enterprise has not been passed upon, and probably will depend largely upon the attitude of landowners. How long it will be before the Malheur project can be undertaken by the government is purely a matter of conjecture.

SHIPPERS GET REBATE.

Sensational Charges Made Against Atlantic Ocean Lines.

Washington, Sept. 14.—In official circles here more than ordinary interest is excited over the investigation in New York into the alleged illegal operations of some of the trans-Atlantic steamship lines, especially the Holland-American line.

The charges that these lines have entered into conspiracy with certain American railroad lines in restraint of trade, that rebates have been paid them by some railroads and that they have laid themselves liable to prosecution under the terms of the Sherman anti-trust act did not surprise those who had followed the proceedings in what was known as the Cosmopolitan shipping cases before the Interstate Commerce commission.

The commission dismissed the case on the ground that it had no authority to act. The evidence was turned over to the Department of Justice. Wade E. Ellis, assistant to the attorney general, expressed surprise that the matter had become public and declined to discuss it.

Names Tariff Commission.

Beverly, Sept. 15.—President Taft yesterday announced the appointment of the new tariff commission: Chairman, Professor Henry C. Emery, of Yale; assistant secretary of the treasury, James B. Reynolds, of Boston; editor and publisher of the Breckers Gazette, Alvin H. Sanders, of Chicago. The commission is authorized to employ experts to investigate foreign and domestic tariffs. The announcement was made after a conference.

New Governor of Porto Rico.

Washington, Sept. 16.—It was announced tonight that the president would appoint George R. Colton, of the District of Columbia, as governor of Porto Rico. Mr. Colton first went to the Philippines as lieutenant colonel of a Nebraska regiment. After that he was made collector of customs at Manila. This office he now holds, having come home on leave of absence to assist the bureau of insular affairs in preparing the Philippine tariff bill.

Consular Promotions.

Washington, Sept. 17.—The following promotions have been made in the consular service: David F. Wilbur, of New York, from consul general at Halifax to consul at Kobe, Japan; James W. Ragsdale, California, from consul at St. Petersburg to consul general at Halifax. Ragsdale entered the consular service at Tientsin, China, in 1897 and was transferred to St. Petersburg in 1908.

Show Disgust With Peary.

Washington, Sept. 15.—"Pole hunting is a sportsman's job; the scientific value of the discovery is very slight," said Henry W. Perkins, acting superintendent of the coast geodetic survey, today. All Washington replies: "If that is true, why, in heaven's name, can't the question of the victory be settled in a sportsmanlike manner?"

Are Railroads Overpaid?

Washington, Sept. 14.—It was announced today that Postmaster General Hitchcock will institute an inquiry to determine whether the \$50,000,000 which the government annually pays the railroads for carrying the mails is too much or too little for the service performed.

Governor Clark to Take Oath.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Walter E. Clark, of this city, will take the oath of office as governor of Alaska at Juneau October 1. He leaves for San Francisco tomorrow, where he will be banqueted by the commercial bodies of that city.

Orders Three Billion Postcards.

Washington, Sept. 14.—The contract for supplying 3,487,000,000 postal cards to his department in the next four years has been awarded by Postmaster General Hitchcock to the government printing office at the lowest bid, \$934,717.95.

TAFT SMILE WINS.

President Beams His Way Into Favor With Chicagoans.

Chicago, Sept. 17.—President Taft smiled his way into the hearts of 500,000 Chicagoans yesterday. Geniality and "Bill" Taft—for that's what the multitudes called him—ruled the city for 15 hours. From the moment he arrived until he entered his private car to leave, through all the automobiling and speechifying and handshaking and excitement, there was one thing which shone as brightly as the sun of a perfect day. It was the famous smile. That smile was commented upon everywhere. It was cheered and it made those who saw it feel more pleased with the world and with themselves. Good humor, jollity, happiness—these followed Mr. Taft like attendant guardians wherever he went.

And in response to that smile Mr. Taft got the smiles and laughter of the throngs, as well as their shouts and applause. All the way through the 16 miles of streets which he traveled during the day in a motor, at the West Side ball park, at the Orchestra Hall meeting, at the bankers' ball, Mr. Taft saw thousands upon thousands of faces which smiled at him and which cheered him.

"It's grand," said the chief executive before he had been in the city five minutes. "I'm really vastly glad to be here."

As his automobile swept down Michigan avenue in the midst of 150,000 school children, he turned to his aide-de-camp, Captain Archibald W. Butt, U. S. A., and his voice was just an atom husky.

"This is wonderful, Butt," he said. "The cheering of the children is most pleasant to me, and yet affecting, for we know that the cheering of the children is sincere."

At the great bankers' ball there were silks and white shoulders and jewels; there was rhythm of waltz music and glow of pendant lights; there was dancing by blushing debutantes and epigrammatic foreign consuls; there was promenading by prominent bankers and dowagers and beauties and politicians. And the chief individual figure of the scene was the big man in evening dress who smiled and smiled and smiled.

Unqualifiedly President Taft is in favor of union labor. This was the subject of his main speech today, and in plain terms he upheld organization, but demanded that the rights of non-union labor be protected. Next to this in national importance was his denouncing the present court system. He deplored delays in the administration of justice and announced an intention to urge congress to make a change.

MONEY FOR WIDOW.

Mrs. Harriman Is Made Only Beneficiary in Will.

New York, Sept. 17.—A hundred brief words, weighted each with approximately \$1,000,000 and containing in their entirety the last testament of E. H. Harriman, given out yesterday, make his widow, Mary Averill Harriman, one of the wealthiest women in the world.

It perhaps is the briefest will on record for the disposal of an estate of such magnitude. All his property is left to Mrs. Harriman. Wall street estimates that Mrs. Harriman will inherit in realty and personal property between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000. Mr. Harriman's private fortune is supposed to have been greater than this by many millions, but there is reason to believe that his unmarried daughters, Mary and Carol; his married daughter, Mrs. Robert Livingstone-Guerry; and his two sons, William Averill and Roland, a boy of 14, together with his surviving sister, Mrs. Simons, and other relatives, have all been substantially provided for with gifts out of hand.

The will is dated June 8, 1903, and is witnessed by Charles A. Peabody, president of the Mutual Life Insurance company, who drew it, and C. C. Tegethoff. Mr. Peabody was Mr. Harriman's close personal friend.

Mr. Harriman, by making no bequests to children or relatives, avoided the large share of the enormous inheritance tax which, under the laws of the state of New York, would otherwise be imposed.

Fires Destroy Homes.

Oxnard, Cal., Sept. 17.—A great forest fire is burning tonight in the hills. Telephone messages from Somis at 6 o'clock called for all available men to fight the flames. Four families were burned out in Las Posas hills today. Hundreds of tons of hay and beans were burned. Several hundred men fought the fires all night, and have the biggest task yet before them in saving the ranchers' homes. The fires began early Monday morning, and have burned in varying directions ever since, devastating a solid stretch of 30 miles of hills.

Sheriff Asks for Soldiers.

Newcastle, Pa., Sept. 17.—On account of today's outbreak among the striking employees of the American Sheet & Tin Plate company and imported workmen, in which a striker was perhaps fatally shot, Sheriff Waddington tonight asked for state troops to guard that in plate plant. The sheriff informed the governor that the situation was ominous and that outside protection was needed at once to cope with lawlessness.

Canada Helps Travelers.

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 17.—The Canadian Railway commission has made an order commanding all railroads in Canada, which do an international business, to direct their conductors to prevent any undue interference with passengers in Canada by United States immigration officials.

PLANT BURNS AT LOSS OF \$425,000

Buildings of Portland Flouring Mills Company Swept Away.

T. B. Wilcox Announces Concern Will Rebuild Without Delay and on a Larger Scale—Insurance Amounts to \$325,000—Spontaneous Combustion Cause of Fire.

Portland, Sept. 16.—Spontaneous combustion and subsequent explosion of flour dust on the fourth floor of the local mill of the Portland Flouring Mills company, set fire to the plant at 8:40 o'clock yesterday morning and almost completely destroyed the machinery and buildings. The loss is estimated at about \$425,000 on machinery, structures and grain, with insurance amounting to \$325,000. The boiler room, main engine, warehouse and contents were saved.

Customers of the Portland Flouring Mills company will not suffer as a result of the disastrous conflagration of yesterday. Receipts of grain will not be lessened and business of the company will be handled as usual. In addition to the mill destroyed, the company operates 14 others, and it is the intention to divert a portion of the product of these mills to Portland for the purpose of protecting customers in this district. Oriental orders now on hand, and orders for shipment to California will be promptly filled.

Work of rebuilding the plant will begin as soon as possible. As soon as the insurance adjusters complete their work, the process of tearing down the wreck will commence. The new plant will be larger, and modern in every respect.

Two firemen were severely injured and a Japanese killed during the progress of the fire.

RUSSIA SENDS TROOPS.

Czar Is Massing Great Army in Siberian Territory.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 16.—Russia is massing a great army in Siberia, four or five barracks are being built and extensive fortifications made and speculation as to a second war with Japan is a common topic of conversation among the Russian military men, said A. B. Denbigh, a Russian who returned from Siberia and Mongolia by the steamer Kaga Maru today.

"I was told that there were at least 500,000 troops in Siberia," said Mr. Denbigh. "Troops are quartered everywhere. The number of troops are from four to five times the number in Siberia before the war. At Vladivostok, before I left, there was a review of 55,000 troops and not one man was taken from the fortifications. I suppose at least as many more could have been prepared."

Denbigh brought news of a rich gold strike by Russians in Mongolia, about 50 or 60 miles distant from Kiska, the big walled city which has been for centuries one of the stopping places of the tea caravans from China.

PRESIDENT DIAZ AGED 79.

Mexican Ruler Celebrates—Workmen Move Him to Tears.

Mexico City, Sept. 16.—General Porfirio Diaz, president of Mexico, celebrated his 79th birthday anniversary yesterday. He received greetings from many foreign countries. The diplomatic corps and consular body were early at the palace. United States Ambassador Thompson and Consul General Drier, of Sweden, congratulated the president. Diaz, who is in splendid health, feelingly answered these salutations. A body of workmen expressed the hope that Diaz might yet rule Mexico for many years, and their enthusiasm moved the president to tears. President Diaz has occupied his office for 32 years. He has been renominated for the term commencing in 1910 and ending six years later.

Governor Johnson Serious.

Rochester, Minn., Sept. 16.—Governor John A. Johnson, who was operated on in St. Mary's hospital here yesterday for an intestinal abscess, was somewhat improved late last night and his physicians said that he would survive the night. Dr. C. F. McNevin, house physician, issued the following bulletin: "Governor Johnson has taken a turn for the better. His pulse is better, being down to 140. His abdominal pains have been relieved by vomiting and he has apparently passed the first crisis of the shock."

Eight Killed in Wreck.

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 16.—As the result of a head-on collision between passenger train No. 4 and fast freight No. 51, on the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis railway, one mile west of Pegram station, Tenn., today, eight trainmen and mail clerks were killed, one seriously injured and a number of passengers reported more or less hurt. No passengers were killed. The cars caught fire and several of the victims were cremated.

Lovett Chairman of S. P.

New York, Sept. 16.—The board of directors of the Southern Pacific railway today elected Judge Robert S. Lovett chairman of the executive committee of the board. Jacob Schiff and William Rockefeller were elected members of the directorate and also members of the executive committee.

FOREST FIRES RAGE.

Blaze Threatens Many Ranches and California Resorts.

San Francisco, Sept. 15.—Several thousand men are engaged in a dozen counties of this state in fighting numerous forest fires that threaten ranch and resort buildings, as well as many square miles of valuable timber lands. As a result of these conflagrations unusual heat prevails along the coast. Great damage already has been done to ranch houses and several groups of summer resort hotels and tent cottages have been destroyed.

The most serious fires reported today are in Northern Sonoma, Western Napa, Mendocino, Santa Cruz, Lake and Los Angeles counties. In Napa county, where Walter Springs was destroyed and the cottages and tent houses at Burk's sanitarium were badly damaged, the fire burned itself out today, but in the hills near Preston the flames are spreading.

In the vicinity of Ukiah the whole country is ablaze. Fire fighters are back firing to save the city from destruction. In the vicinity of Calistoga the conflagration that threatened that town last night has been controlled. A hundred men from St. Helena succeeded in saving suburban residents scattered through the foothills. Near Watsonville a fire has been burning for two days, spreading in the direction of Gilroy.

Rangers succeeded in saving the big trees. Thousands of acres in the foot hills west of Donovan valley, Lake county, have been swept by the flames, but they are now under control. For a time the oil region around Whitties was in danger. Most of the fires so far reported originated at points where campers had left embers or from sparks from engines.

WOULD REFORM FINANCES.

President Opens Western Tour at Boston With Revelations.

Boston, Mass., Sept. 15.—President Taft yesterday began his tour of the country, by coming to this city from Beverly in an automobile, accompanied by Mrs. Taft, his daughter and Professor and Mrs. Louis Moore, and making a speech at the Boston Commercial club, which was devoted mainly to a discussion of financial reform.

The president revealed that the Monetary commission will recommend the establishment of a central bank and that Senator Aldrich intends to stump the country in order to arouse interest in his plan of financial reform. He also dwelt on the need of reform in the interstate commerce and anti-trust laws and strongly deprecated sectionalism, either between East or West or North or South.

The president said he was going to take his Western trip because he believed it would enable him to be a much more efficient president and make him better acquainted with the needs of that great section. He also outlined some of the matters to be submitted to the next congress.

SEPARATION IDEA GROWS.

Southern California Taxpayers Begin Spreading Propaganda.

Los Angeles, Sept. 15.—Members of executive committees appointed at a mass meeting of taxpayers in Symphony hall yesterday, will meet tomorrow to organize and issue a formal call for a conference to consider the formation of the state of South California.

Under the terms of the resolution the conference is to be held within 30 days. Although yesterday's meeting went on record as favoring state division, the conferences are to consider all phases of the question carefully, and to decide whether the formation of a new state is desirable. If it decides in favor of it, a convention is to be called, to which all counties and all the principal cities in Southern California will be asked to send delegates.

Boy of 80 Beats It in 10.

Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 15.—When Dr. B. W. Lawrence, 80 years old, lined up at the tape opposite the Holbeck home to go against time for 50 yards an inconsiderate youth yelled "Beat it, kid." The venerable anti-careerist twiddled his white whiskers disdainfully and "beat it." He traveled that 50 yards in 10 seconds flat. The time was taken by two men, but not, of course, under sanction of the A. A. U. "I'll sign against anybody for Thanksgiving day," the aged physician said.

Canadian Scores Tariff.

Hamilton, Sept. 15.—The annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' association began here today. President R. Hobson characterizes the condition of the American senate as violation of the trust reposed in it by the people of the United States and barren of all desire to create closer trade relations with Canada. He called upon the Canadian government to take them at their word and bring into effect the surtax act of 1909.

Tidal Wave Sweeps Port.

Mexico City, Sept. 15.—The Port of Moleque, on the east coast of Lower California, was overwhelmed by a tidal wave September 4. There were several casualties and considerable property was destroyed. The tidal wave flooded the inland district for a distance of about two miles.

Mount Vesuvius in Action.

Rome, Sept. 15.—A dispatch from Portico, on the Bay of Naples, to the Giornale d'Italia says that Mount Vesuvius is active again. Guides report rumblings followed by slight seismic shocks. The small craters have been unusually active in the last few days.

PRESIDENT PACKS FOR HIS JOURNEY

Taft Gives Up Golf Game to Prepare for Western Trip.

Executive Office of Nation to Be On Wheels Until November 12, When Washington Will Again Be Seat—Official Trip Starts From Boston—Chicago First Stop.

Beverly, Mass., Sept. 14.—President Taft gave up his golf game and all official business yesterday and devoted himself to preparing for the long Western trip, which will really have its beginning when he motors into Boston this afternoon to attend a chamber of commerce banquet. The president will pass the night in Boston, leaving there for Chicago at 10 a. m. Wednesday. Mrs. Taft expects to remain in Beverly until November 12, when the president plans to arrive here to take her back to Washington. The executive offices will close after the president leaves Beverly.

With the assistance of two servants the president packed his numerous grips and trunks.

The president also was busy yesterday assembling the numerous papers, documents and reference books which he will need in the preparation of his manuscript. Secretary Carpenter had collected most of these and it was the president's task to revise the list. The president had no official engagements.

Oscar Lawlor, assistant attorney general of the Interior department, was at Beverly and his presence led to a renewal of the report that the president may have something to say on the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy before he leaves for Boston.

LOVETT IS HEAD.

Elected Chairman Union Pacific Executive Committee.

New York, Sept. 14.—Ex-Judge Robert S. Lovett, chief counsel for the Union Pacific railroad, was yesterday elected chairman of the executive committee of the company, thereby becoming the successor of Edward H. Harriman in the control of the vast railroad and steamship systems which the financier built up. The Union Pacific still remains without a president, as Mr. Harriman occupied this position also. It is understood, however, that an operating man, probably L. F. Loree, president of the Delaware & Hudson, will be elected to the place at the annual meeting of the stockholders October 12.

At the same meeting where Mr. Lovett was elected to the chief executive position of the keystone road of the Harriman system, William Rockefeller and Jacob H. Schiff were elected members of the board of directors of the Union Pacific and were also appointed members of the executive committee. Messrs. Schiff and Rockefeller succeeded Mr. Harriman and the late Henry H. Rogers as members of the board.

WOULD DIVIDE CALIFORNIA.

People of South Propose New State Because Taxes High.

Los Angeles, Sept. 14.—The South California State league was made a permanent organization at a mass meeting of citizens of Los Angeles, in Symphony hall today, with George N. Black as president and Herbert Burdette and B. A. Stephens as secretaries. The meeting was called by the Los Angeles Realty board to offer a protest against the recent action of the state board of equalization in raising the assessed valuation of the property of this county.

Many of those present at the meeting today wore badges inscribed "South California State League."

The wearing of these badges and many of the speeches made reflected a strong sentiment in favor of state division, and this was later crystallized in a set of resolutions passed by the meeting.

Opium Hidden Among Fish.

Marysville, Sept. 14.—Having received information that a large quantity of opium was being smuggled here from San Francisco, the police placed a watch on a Chinese store which was suspected. Officer Burroughs remained in hiding for five hours last night and finally was rewarded by catching several Chinese in the act of receiving a package marked "fish" from Wells, Fargo & Co. express. The men were arrested and the package was seized. It proved to contain a large amount of opium hidden among fish.

Immigrants Good Citizens.

Chicago, Sept. 14.—"The immigrant is a better American than the American himself. He has learned by experience in his native land to appreciate the freedom and advantages of the United States. He can understand the free life which the American takes merely as an individual." Dr. David Blaustein, superintendent of the Chicago Hebrew institute, speaking on America and the immigrant, thus expressed himself yesterday.

Knife for Governor Johnson.

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 14.—Governor John A. Johnson will go to Rochester, Minn., this afternoon to undergo another operation as the result of an operation for appendicitis several years ago, which left several painful abscesses.