

BRIEF NEWS OF THE PAST WEEK

Interesting Events from Outside the State Presented in a Manner to Catch the Eye of the Busy Reader

Postal deficit for 1909 is \$17,441,719.

Over 50,000 people attended President Taft's New Year's reception.

Senator Cummins of Iowa, opens campaign for further tariff revision.

If mediation in switchmen's strike fails, 20,000 more men will stop work.

Daughters of the American Revolution have taken up conservation work.

Postmaster-General Hitchcock urges postal reforms to avoid a deficit in 1910.

Betting is even in London that the Liberals will win in the coming election.

Indian commissioner reports that tuberculosis is on the increase among Indians.

Twelve men were lost by the sinking of a sugar-laden schooner in an Atlantic gale.

Colonist travel to the Pacific Northwest for 90 broke all records, and is expected to hit greater for 1910.

A woman armed with a shotgun stopped the laying of an oil pipe line on her ranch in California.

Trains collided in a snowstorm near Billings, Mont., killing two. A missing baggage man is thought to have burned in the wreckage.

Zelaya asserts that he is still president of Nicaragua.

Taft's special message on trust law changes will go to congress next week.

A southern chemist expert asserts that the aurora borealis is caused by gas.

The New York supreme court says patriotism has given way to an age of graft.

Army engineers have recommended extensive improvements for the Columbia river.

The Turkish cabinet has been driven out of office and a military premier may be appointed.

It is considered that the reclamation service is safe from abolition, though many changes may be made.

A Nebraska man got an appointment as a deputy sheriff and then proceeded to bring home his erring son from Los Angeles.

A draftsman on a British schoolship is under arrest for stealing complete plans of the British navy's wireless system and codes.

James Gordon, once accused of conspiring with Booth to kill Lincoln, has been named United States senator from Tennessee by Governor Noel.

Henry has filed a libel suit against W. S. Crocker for \$250,000.

Fifty out of 88 American colleges will continue to approve of football.

Physicians say there is no hope for Cardinal Satolli, though he may linger several days.

Loss by the tidal wave and blizzard on the New England coast will reach \$5,000,000, besides many lives.

When Zelaya arrives in Mexico, President Diaz will attend a reception in his honor, which is taken as a direct insult to the United States.

Six women are en route on foot from Seattle to join the I. W. W. of Spokane and fight for the right of free speech on the public streets.

Strike leaders for the switchmen have called off negotiations with the railroads, and will appeal to Washington for advice and aid.

Miss Louise Taft, niece of the president, will be married to G. H. Snowden, of Seattle. After a trip to Europe they will reside in Seattle.

A schooner arrived at Hoquiam, Wash., 97 days out from Hypong, China, with her captain hopelessly ill and only a few pounds of provisions left.

A crippled Italian girl in Chicago robbed her father's bank of \$30,000, with which she hoped to induce her cousin, also a cripple, to marry her.

France is in a panic at the inroads of American commerce.

President Taft is being urged to make active war on the trusts.

Zelaya boards Mexican gunboat under eyes of American marines.

J. D. Warren, who pursued and helped to capture Jesse James, is dead.

Blizzards sweep the east from Winnipeg to Illinois, and Chicago faces a coal famine.

The famous Garden of the Gods was given to the city of Colorado Springs for a Christmas present.

A Texas man has made \$15,000,000 speculating in cotton for two years.

The greatest labor struggle in history is said to be impending between the railroads and their employes.

The bones of Cortez, the ancient conqueror of Mexico, are said to have been found after a search of nearly a century.

Six coaches full of Christmas travelers were stalled on a car ferry in the Detroit river, and had to wait till the ice was cut away.

MORSE IS BITTER.

Convicted Banker Claims He Has Been Made a Victim.

New York, Jan. 4.—With a supreme effort to be cheerful, but with emotion occasionally getting the better of him, Charles W. Morse left New York today to begin a 15-year sentence in the federal prison at Atlanta, Ga., for violation of the national banking laws.

Before leaving the Toombs, where he had been confined for the greater part of the last year, Morse received his wife and two sons and then the newspaper men. He was too affected to say anything, but handed out a carefully prepared statement.

Morse left at 10:45 o'clock in custody of Deputy United States marshals. The party occupied a stateroom. Morse's statement is bitter and dramatic.

"I am going to Atlanta to begin penal servitude under the most brutal sentence ever pronounced against a citizen in a civilized country," is his opinion of the sentence.

"I have hoped," the statement continues, "with that hope which comes from a consciousness of my innocence, that I will not have to close out forever the light and liberty of this world under such an inhuman sentence. I have felt that the fact that I had paid a fine of \$7,000,000 and served a year in prison would satisfy the cry for a victim and I have steadily believed that the courts would be compelled to give me a new trial."

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NEWS NOTES GATHERED FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF OREGON

RAILS TO CENTRAL OREGON

Preparations Go Forward for Construction of Huge Bridges.

Madras—Preliminary preparations are going ahead for the immense steel bridge which is to span Willow creek at Madras. This bridge is on the Deschutes Railway company's line and will be the highest as well as the largest bridge projected for Central Oregon.

Another immense steel structure will be the Oregon Trunk bridge across the Columbia at Celilo. This will be the second bridge the Hill people have built across the Columbia within 100 miles of Portland.

A large number of new men were added to the construction crews on both roads during the past week. Carloads of laborers pour into the Harriman camps over the Columbia Southern railroad to Grass Valley and Shaniko. While the Harriman people are thus mustering forces by way of their line through Sherman county, the Hill contractors are daily receiving recruits at The Dalles and Dufur.

As many as 100 laborers are reported to have been lodged at Dufur, the terminus of the Great Southern spur from The Dalles, at one time, while to Grass Valley, on the Harriman road, even larger numbers were gathered.

June is set as the time for the completion of the Harriman road into the Deschutes valley. Twoby Bros., general contractors for that road, are authorized for the date. It is the general belief the Deschutes road will be the first completed to Redmond.

State Wins Battle for Taxes.

Salem—The state has won the first battle for the collection of several thousand dollars of accrued taxes during 1906, 1907 and 1908, under the gross earnings act of 1906 from the Wells-Fargo Express company. Suit was instituted several months ago in the circuit court for this county. The attorney general demurred to the answer of the corporation, and the demurrers were sustained by Circuit Judge Burnett.

The court held that to answer to the complaint made by the corporation to the effect that the gross earnings tax was unconstitutional because it was enacted by the initiative, was not sufficient, for the Supreme court of the state of Oregon has held the initiative amendment valid. The point has been carried by the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph company to the United States Supreme court for final determination in the case similar to the one now being prosecuted by Attorney General Crawford against the Wells-Fargo company.

Big Steel Bridge for Willows.

Enterprise—The contract for building the 175 foot span steel bridge across the Grand Ronde river at Troy has been let by the county court to the Columbia Bridge company of Portland for \$7,984.

The bridge will be the largest in the county and will rest on concrete-filled steel piers. About 50 tons of material and tools, including 36 tons of steel, eight tons of cement and four tons of tools, will have to be hauled by wagon from this city to Troy, a distance of 47 miles. The bridge is to be ready for traffic by August 1, 1910.

\$1,000 for 1910 Boost Fund.

Eugene—There remains nearly \$1,000 in Eugene's 1909 publicity fund. It will be applied to the 1910 fund, which has reached the sum of \$13,000. The board of governors has not yet selected a successor to John H. Hartog, the publicity manager who recently resigned. The board has elected the following officers: F. M. Wilkins, president; W. A. Bell, vice president; R. McMurphy, secretary and treasurer.

Sells Farm for \$18,000.

Baker City—The E. A. Chambers farm, about 2 1/2 miles north of this city, comprising 240 acres of land and well improved, has been sold to Edward York at \$75 per acre, or \$18,000. Before purchasing the Chambers place Mr. York sold his Warren Spring farm, between Muddy creek and North Powder, 50 acres, to Lorin Perkins, for \$5,100.

Rumors of New Railroad.

Paisley—What does it mean? Announcement is made that the Nevada-California-Oregon railroad company has signed a contract with the Nugent-Richardson Construction company for the grading of the extension from Altruras to Lakeview and that work will begin some time in January. It is stated further that the new line will be a broad gauge.

Thousands Pairs of Birds Shipped.

Corvallis—During the season just past the Simpson pheasant farm, of Corvallis, shipped out of the state to the Idaho game preserves 1000 pairs of China pheasants, to be used for propagation purposes. Under the state game laws these birds cannot be shipped beyond the borders of Oregon except under permit from the game warden.

Thirty Musicians in Joseph Orchestra.

Joseph—Joseph has one of the best orchestras in Eastern Oregon. There are 30 musicians in the organization a number of them having played in professional organizations at other places.

Clatskanie for Good Roads.

Clatskanie—At a meeting of the citizens of Clatskanie and vicinity a tax six and one half mills was voted. The good roads people carried the day by a large vote.

WATER 2,000 ACRES IN CROCK

Homesteaders Near Bend Cooperate to Reclaim Valley Land.

Bend—L. D. Wiest has secured a water right from Fall river 25 miles south of Bend, and will irrigate 2,000 acres next year. A company to be known as the Fall River Irrigation company will be organized in the near future.

The land to be irrigated is located between the mouth of Fall river on the South and Spring river on the North, on the west side of the Deschutes, the surface being almost level, and having a gentle slope towards the north and east.

The cultivation and irrigation of the same quality of soil in the vicinity has proved that it will produce immense crops of timothy hay and vegetables.

A remarkable feature of this project is that there will be no waste land between the canal and the river, as there are no high ridges and no rock whatever.

The lands included under the system are owned by an energetic class of homesteaders, and the company will be organized and the capital stock owned entirely by them. Among these are M. J. Main, John Usher, A. D. Lewis, John Peters, Joe Hoffman, Bob Bowser and Harold Palmer.

The main canal will be eight feet wide on the bottom and six miles long.

Big School Population Increase.

La Grande—One thousand four hundred sixty-eight school children, varying in ages from 4 to 20 years, populate the La Grande school district according to figures filed with the county school superintendent from this district. This is an even gain of 97 over last year's school population. There yet remains one district in the county to be reported before Superintendent Bragg can compile the county school population.