

# NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

## HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

Truck workers in San Francisco have struck for more pay and shorter hours.

Nihilists wrecked a train in Belgium, thinking Grand Duke Vladimir, of Russia, on it.

Dowie says he will appeal from the recent decision of the court ousting him from control of Zion City.

The Pacific Coast Steamship company is said to be considering the manning of its vessels with Indians.

A grand jury will convene in Chicago August 6 for the purpose of taking testimony against the Standard Oil.

Bryan says that he will announce the platform on which he will consent to be a presidential candidate August 30.

The outbreak of cholera in various parts of the Philippines is due to the unusual number of flies in the islands, according to doctors there.

Poverty has forced William H. Belcher, a fugitive from justice and former mayor of Paterson, N. J., to surrender to the authorities.

A national conference on wireless telegraphy will convene at Berlin October 3. Practically every power of any importance will be represented.

France is preparing to retire the guillotine.

Revolutionists have cut the telegraph wires between St. Petersburg and the provinces.

A clever French woman swindler has stolen a fortune in diamonds from a Madrid jeweler.

John D. Rockefeller has arrived in New York, but no attempt was made to serve legal papers on him.

John Mitchell, president of the United Mineworkers of America, is being boomed by Bryan's running mate.

An early fall of Zion City is predicted by residents of Dowie's colony as a result of the recent court decision.

Severe crop damage is reported from several points in Minnesota, North Dakota and Iowa, resulting from hail, rain and wind storms.

The outbreak of smallpox on the canal zone appears to be under control. There has been no new cases since July 19 and but one death since July 9.

There is much speculation as to whether or not union men will stand by Gompers in his campaign against those members of the lower house of congress who worked against the labor bills in the last session.

A general strike has been ordered in Poland.

Secretary Wilson has announced rigid rules for meat inspection.

Martial law has been proclaimed at Cronstadt, Russia, to prevent mutiny.

Douma leaders have deferred a general strike, but have split on the question.

The government has brought suit to recover Utah coal land obtained by fraud.

Turkey objects to receiving Lelshman as ambassador from the United States.

The Russian province of Kharkov is arming to establish an independent republic.

Great Britain will build three more battleships from the plans of the Dreadnaught.

Russell Sage left nearly all his wealth to his widow. She will spend a large sum for charity.

The Interstate Commerce commission has called on the railroads to revise their rates under the new law.

Both Dowie and Voliva have lost their suits for possession of Zion, and the court ordered the election of an overseer by the people.

Germany hopes to absorb Holland when Queen Wilhelmina dies.

The government has bought the Ankeny canal for irrigation work.

Revolutionists are landing large supplies of arms and ammunition on the coast of Finland.

Premier Stolypin declares that the policy of the new Russian cabinet will be one of reform.

China proposes a radical reform in her legal code. Trial by jury and employment of counsel is to be the first step in westernizing her courts.

Police are looking for the teller of the St. Louis Union Trust company, who is short \$5,000 in his accounts. He was considered an exemplary citizen.

The coolies employed in the Chinese laundries of San Francisco struck for a raise in wages. They demanded \$11 per week, a raise of \$1. The matter was compromised by giving the men a raise of 50 cents.

Several members of the Russian parliament have been arrested.

## LOSS BY DISASTER.

Insurance Companies Make Returns in San Francisco.

Albany, N. Y., July 31.—State Superintendent of Insurance Otto Kelsey tonight made public the results of his investigation as to the losses of fire insurance companies in the San Francisco disaster.

All joint stock fire and inland marine insurance companies transacting business in the state were called on for a sworn statement as to their losses in California. The companies were asked for the gross amount of insurance involved in risks destroyed or damaged, the deduction for amounts recovered by reinsurance, the deduction for estimated salvage, the total deduction and the net amount of loss as shown by the records June 30, 1906.

The New York state companies, 47 in number, show the gross amount of insurance involved as \$41,110,069; the reinsurance to be recovered, \$10,834,195; the estimated salvage, \$7,137,183, and the actual amount of loss \$23,138,000.

Returns from other joint stock fire and fire marine insurance companies, 84 in number, show the gross amount of insurance \$80,423,704; reinsurance to be recovered, \$22,130,167; estimated salvage, \$11,385,25; actual amount of loss, \$51,983,111.

The foreign companies, 32 in number, made these returns: Gross insurance involved, \$101,430,533; reinsurance to be recovered, \$32,281,808; estimated salvage, \$153,18,859; actual loss, \$57,701,856.

The gross amount of insurance involved by all companies was \$222,836,307; reinsurance, \$65,246,711; salvage, \$33,814,468, and actual loss, \$132,823,067.

## TIE-UP IS NOW COMPLETE.

Kruttschnitt Forbids More Freight Cars in San Francisco.

San Francisco, July 31.—The embargo of the Southern Pacific on lumber, lime and hay has been increased, and now includes all articles from the north. Not a pound of freight can be shipped into San Francisco from Portland or adjacent territory until the freight tie-up at San Francisco has been loosened.

This is the latest edict of Julius Kruttschnitt, who has been threatening to do this for some time unless the situation speedily cleared. It has been decided by the local authorities to take no further chances but to stop at once all shipments from the north.

For the embargo there is only one remedy—to clear up the congestion in the freight yards. Efforts in this direction are being made by all the freight agents, and the missionary work among the consignees is having a salutary effect. The unloading in the yards is going on at a faster rate, but not fast enough to suit Kruttschnitt, who has taken the precaution to see that no more cars are added to the glut that is already crowding the tracks.

The tie-up is working to the detriment of the city, as many merchants throughout the state are sending East for their goods instead of patronizing the wholesalers of San Francisco, believing that they can secure their stocks just as quickly under present conditions.

## ARREST CAUSES MUTINY.

Battalion of Russian Troops Attempts to Rescue Prisoners.

Poltava, July 31.—A grave outbreak occurred yesterday in the Sevsky regiment owing to the arrest of a private of the First battalion, who was discovered with some other soldiers in a shed where the revolutionists are in the habit of holding meetings. After the arrest the entire First battalion, a company by a large crowd, paraded the streets in defiance of the military authorities.

The soldiers proceeded to the artillery barracks, where they seized several guns and marched with them to the prison, where the political prisoners are confined. At this stage all the remainder of the Poltava garrison was called out.

The loyal troops fired on the mutineers with machine guns as they were engaged in breaking down the gate of the prison. Several men were killed or wounded. The outbreak was not suppressed until 2 o'clock this morning.

## Patent Office Behind.

Washington, July 31.—Patent attorneys throughout the country are arranging to send a delegation to see President Roosevelt at Oyster Bay and request him to either remove Commissioner Allen or cause such change in methods as will place the patent office on a satisfactory basis. The work of the patent office, attorneys declare, has been running behind since the appointment of Mr. Allen, five years ago. There are now 23,000 applications for patents unacted upon, besides numerous, copyrights, trade marks, etc.

## Pardo in Favor of Peace.

Lima, Peru, July 31.—The message of President Pardo to congress calls attention to the progress of the republic and to the policy of the nation, which he says is inspired by a desire to settle international differences on a basis of friendship and equity. The president declares further that a discussion of these principles, which Peru and a majority of the South American states uphold, will take place at the Pan-American congress at Rio de Janeiro.

## Viborg Manifesto Seized.

Kharkov, July 31.—The authorities have seized copies of the Viborg manifesto issued by the outlawed parliament to the weight of 400 pounds which have been surreptitiously shipped into Kharkov.

# OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

## FOR EQUITABLE TAX.

State Commission Proposes Revision of Present Law.

Salem—With a view to securing a more equitable assessment of property in this state, the Oregon Tax commission has recommended a revision of the law governing the equalization of assessments by the county board. In this connection, the commission gives its flat disapproval to the plan often agitated of having the assessment rolls published in the newspapers in the locality in which the property assessed is located.

The proposed revision of the law relating to equalization of the assessment is largely based upon inconsistencies in the present law, but also upon a laxity in the law by which wealthy property owners have been able to coerce county courts into allowing an inequitable assessment to stand. The commission proposes a law which seems to have "teeth in it," and which will be effective if county officers are disposed to do their duty.

The inconsistency in the present law lies in the fact that the county board of equalization is required to meet on the last Monday in August, while the assessor is given until the first Monday in September to file his roll, or until the first Monday in October if the county court makes an order to that effect. At the same time there is no authority of law for an extension of the time of meeting of the county board of equalization.

Assessors usually take the full time to prepare their rolls, and very frequently ask for and are granted the extension of time. Commenting upon this condition of the laws, the commission says that "the board of equalization is thus required to meet perhaps six weeks before the assessment roll is completed, and as its functions lapse when it has been in session a week, it must have passed out of legal existence at a date before the assessor is required to have the assessment roll ready to equalize."

"Under the present system we have practically two boards of equalization," says the commission, "one meeting after the other, and having full power to undo the work of its predecessor. The county board of equalization continues in session one week, and if it does not complete its work within the week, the county court, at its next regular session, completes the examination and correction of the roll."

The new law is to do away with this, making provision for the board meeting after the roll is completed.

This proposed law contains several provisions that seem to be an improvement upon the existing law. In the first place, a taxpayer will not go before the county board of equalization unless he has a real grievance, for the court has power to raise his assessment, and his formal petition will serve to call the attention of his neighbors and the public generally to the representations he is making governing the value of his property. Placing the matter of equalization entirely in the hands of one board instead of two will centralize the responsibility and give time and opportunity for careful and well advised work.

## Fire Precautions at Asylum.

Salem—Lest friends and relatives of the 1,420 patients confined in the insane asylum may be unduly concerned as to their welfare on account of the recent fire at that institution, an official of the asylum says that none of the patients were in danger, and would not be even in case of a fire serious enough to destroy a considerable portion of the building. The facilities for getting patients out of the building are such that a disastrous fire need not cause the loss of a single life. In this particular the building could scarcely be improved.

## Umatilla Canal Contract Let.

Washington—The secretary of the interior has awarded the contract to the Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging company, of Seattle, for the construction of the storage feed canal of the Umatilla irrigation project. The work of the contract involves the construction of 25 miles of canal from the Umatilla river, near Echo, to Cold Springs reservoir, and consists of 700,000 cubic yards of earth excavation, 6,000 cubic yards of rock excavation, 2,300 cubic yards of concrete and 2,600 cubic yards of rip-rap. The bid was \$161,388.

## Fire in the Cascades.

Albany—A timber fire in the Cascade mountains near Detroit is spreading rapidly, threatening heavy damage. The fire started near the Hantiam river and spread into heavy timber. Two hundred acres of the finest forest in the Cascades is now burning, and the wind is driving the flames into the heart of the mountains, where, if not stopped soon, immense damage will result. Everything is extremely dry and the flames are spreading rapidly.

## Wheat Yield About Normal.

Pendleton—The harvest in all parts of Umatilla county has commenced. The threshing up to this time has been too limited to make a very close estimate of the yield, but from what has been threshed on the reservation, and around Athena it is thought the yield in those districts will be about normal, and had it not been for the hot winds the yield would have been at least 25 per cent above the average.

## Flour Mills Closed Down.

La Grande—The flouring mills of La Grande, Island City and Union have closed down, having utilized all the old supply of wheat.

## LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Household Goods Not Entitled to Exemption, Says Supreme Court.

Salem—By holding, in a decision just rendered, that the householders' tax exemption is unconstitutional, the Oregon Supreme court has declared void a statute that has been in force in this state almost continuously since 1859. Householders' exemptions have been allowed every year except 1904, when the exemption law had been repealed. It was re-enacted by the special session of 1903, but went into effect too late to be applicable to the assessment of 1904.

Approximately \$8,000,000 has been exempted from taxation in this state from year to year, and legislators, county officers and the people generally have recognized the exemption as valid. Now the Supreme court has declared all these exemptions invalid.

This decision will make it necessary for county assessors in many counties to make a reassessment of property in their counties for 1906, for it is the practice of many assessors not to list property that is exempt. In some and perhaps most of the counties the assessors list the exempt property and make the deductions afterward.

## Clackamas Farmers Are Happy.

Oregon City—There is an abundant yield of all hay and grain crops in Clackamas county this year that surpasses the average in quality. Early fruits and vegetables yielded heavily, while the vineyard, field and orchard with maturing crops, give the producer every assurance of increased prosperity with the harvest. In celebration of the large and satisfactory crops, a number of harvest festivals have been held and others are being arranged. It has been years since Clackamas county farmers were as prosperous and contented.

## Raise Railroad Assessments.

Salem—That railroad property in Oregon was assessed at only \$10,815,915.41, when it had a commercial value of nearly \$70,000,000, is one of the important and interesting features of the report of the Oregon Tax commission, which will be presented for the consideration of the next legislature. These figures relate to valuations in 1904, which was the latest year for which the commission could secure reliable information.

## Yields 90 Bushels an Acre.

Weston—A remarkably heavy yield of barley has just been harvested on the farm of O. C. Turner, two miles north of this place. The yield from 14 acres was 529 sacks, or 1,267 bushels, an average of 90½ bushels to the acre. Turner Bros. were expecting a good yield, but did not look for more than 70 bushels to the acre, which is a big yield.

## Half Million to Clackamas Roll.

Oregon City—By the decision of the Supreme court on the tax exemption law, Assessor Nelson reports that there will be added to the Clackamas county assessment rolls about \$400,000 additional on which next year's tax levy will be made. Revision will delay the task of completing the rolls which were received from the state authorities ten weeks later than the usual time.

## PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 71c; bluestem, 73c; red, 69c; valley, 71c; new club, 70c; new bluestem, 72c; valley, 71c.  
Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$30; gray, \$29 per ton.  
Barley—Feed, \$23.50 per ton; brewing, \$23.50 per ton; rolled, \$24@24.50.  
Rye—\$1.50 per cwt.  
Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$11@12.50 per ton; clover, \$8.50@9; cheat, \$6.50@7; grain hay, \$7@8; alfalfa, \$11.  
Fruits—Apples, \$1.50@2.25 per box; apricots, \$1.25@1.35; cherries, 6@10c per pound; currants, 9@10c; peaches, 7c@11.10 per box; plums, 1.25; Logan berries, \$1.35@1.40 per crate; raspberries, \$1.40@1.50; blackberries, 8c per pound; gooseberries, 8c.  
Vegetables—Beans, 5@7c per pound; cabbage, 1½@2c; corn, 15@20c per dozen; cucumbers, 40@50c per dozen; egg plant, 10@15c per pound; lettuce, head, 25c per dozen; onions, 10@12½c; peas, 4@5c per pound; radishes, 10@15c per dozen; rhubarb, 2@2½c per pound; spinach, 2@3c; tomatoes, \$1.25@3 per box; parsley, 25c; squash, \$1@1.25 per crate; turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack.  
Onions—New, red, 1½@1½c per pound; new yellow, 1½@2c per pound.  
Potatoes—Old Burbanks, nominal; new potatoes, 75c@1.25.  
Butter—Fancy creamery, 20@22½c per pound.  
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 21@21½c per dozen.  
Poultry—Average old hens, 13@14c per pound; mixed chickens, 13@13½c; springs, 16@17; roosters, 9@10c; dressed chickens, 14@15c; turkeys, live, 15@17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20@22½c; geese, live, 8@9c; ducks, 11@13c.  
Hops—Oregon, 1905, 11@12c; olds, 9c; 1906 contracts, 12@15c per pound.  
Wool—Eastern Oregon average heat, 16@20c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@22, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 28@30c per pound.  
Veal—Dressed, 5½@8c per pound.  
Beef—Dressed bulls, 3c per pound; cows, 4½@5½c; country steers, 5@6c.  
Mutton—Dressed fawns, 7@8c per pound; ordinary, 5@6c; lambs, fancy, 8@8½c.  
Pork—Dressed, 7@8½c per pound.

## VERDICT IS GUILTY.

Jury Passes on Case of Two More Land Fraud Operators.

Portland, July 27.—At 12:17 o'clock this morning the jury in the Federal court returned a verdict of guilty against Martin G. Hoge and Charles Nickell, both of Medford. They were recommended to the clemency of the court.

The two men were charged, along with Henry W. Miller and Frank E. Kincart, also of Medford, of with the crime of having conspired to defraud the United States out of portions of already pleaded guilty, and their testimony was used to convict the other two defendants. The indictment against the four men had been returned January 1, 1905.

Miller and Kincart had previously pleaded guilty.

The maximum punishment under the section of the revised statutes applying in their case is two years' imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000, or both fine and imprisonment, while the minimum is 30 days' imprisonment and a fine of \$100, at the discretion of the court.

At 9:30 this morning the case of the United States vs. Hamilton H. Hendricks will be called in the Federal court. It involves an indictment returned February 8, 1905, charging the defendant with a violation of section 3393, revised statutes, in suborning George W. Hawk to commit perjury in giving testimony before the Federal grand jury in connection with said George W. Hawk's homestead entry.

## MUST SHOW BOOKS.

Sugar Trust Official Is Hauled Before New York Court.

New York, July 27.—That the New York grand jury is investigating western trunk railroad lines suspected of having granted rebates to the American Sugar Refining company was made known today, when W. E. Foster, general auditor of that company, was taken before Judge Hough, in the United States Circuit court, as a recalcitrant witness before the grand jury.

The foreman reported that Mr. Foster had declined to produce before the grand jury certain books and documents demanded of him. Mr. Foster said that he had not refused to produce the data. He said that he had not the physical possession of all the books and papers in question, except as general auditor of the corporation. A portion of them, he said, were in the safe of the company's president.

Judge Hough gave Mr. Foster until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock to comply with the grand jury's instructions. Unless the papers are forthcoming the judge informed Mr. Foster that he would consider an application to punish him, both as a recalcitrant witness and for contempt of court.

## BLAME DAMAGE TO QUAKE.

Six Big Insurance Companies Repudiate San Francisco Losses.

San Francisco, July 27.—The severest blow dealt the policy-holders of San Francisco has come in the form of an announcement from six of the largest underwriting concerns, which practically declare that they will pay no losses incurred by the April fire. The earthquake clause in the policies is put forward and the statement made that all the damage done by the flames is attributable to the shock.

In this combination of welters are two American companies and four British companies. The concerns are: Commercial Union Assurance, Ltd., of England; Commercial Union Fire Insurance company, of New York; Palatine Fire Insurance company, Ltd., of England; Alliance Assurance company, Ltd., of England; Norwich Union Fire Assurance society, of England; Indemnity Fire Insurance company, of New York.

Their combined liabilities in the burned area will reach \$15,000,000. Of this amount they pledge themselves to pay "for actual loss suffered in every case in which legal liability is not doubtful." As the companies claim that they cannot be held for losses caused "directly or indirectly by the earthquake," this pretty phrasing, when translated into plain English, means absolute repudiation.

## Japan's Great Liberality.

Washington, July 27.—Through the State department the Red Cross has sent a dispatch to the Japanese government asking that no further contributions be made by the Japanese to the San Francisco relief fund. This action was taken by the Red Cross officials, because they believe all the funds necessary for the relief of California earthquake sufferers can be raised in this country among persons better able to give than many of the Japanese who contributed to the San Francisco fund. A total of \$145,000 was sent by Japan.

## Finding Cause of Cancer.

London, July 27.—As the result of experiments with mice, the superintendent of the imperial cancer research fund laboratory announced today that the prospect of discovering the mystery of the origin of cancer was more hopeful than ever. The superintendent said that the experiments must be carried further before it can be ascertained whether they will have a bearing on the treatment of the disease in mankind.

Says Companies Will Deal Fairly.

Oakland, Cal., July 27.—Representative Mullins, of the Palatine, Commercial Union and Alliance Insurance companies, of London, this afternoon stated the announcement of his companies' plans now being prepared will show an intention to deal absolutely fairly with every policyholder.

# STATE ASYLUM FIRE

Electric Light Wire Starts Flame in Oregon Institution.

## BUT LITTLE DAMAGE IS DONE

Convicts Aid the Force of Employees and Patients Were Cared for Without Excitement.

Salem, Or., July 28.—Fire, which probably originated from an electric light wire, burned the woodwork out of the attic of one of the central wards of the state insane asylum yesterday just before the noon hour. The fire was confined to the one ward, and was at no time in danger of getting beyond the control of the fire fighters. The two fire companies, composed of asylum employees, aided by the Salem fire department and by convicts and guards from the penitentiary, saved the building. The loss is due chiefly to damage from water seeping through the floors and ceilings. Superintendent Calbreath thinks the damage can be repaired for \$2,500, though it may cost \$5,000.

Owing to the fact that the patients at the asylum are given a weekly fire drill, they were quickly marched out of the building and were at no time in any danger. One attendant, G. V. Boggs, fainted from exhaustion after an hour's hard work in the smoke and heat.

The fire originated in the attic over the first tier of wards north of the central section of the building. These wards are occupied by new patients and by patients who are convalescing. The patients had been out in the yard exercising, and had just marched in to prepare for the noon meal when the automatic alarm gave warning of a fire in the attic. The patients, numbering about 120 in the three wards in this tier, were quickly marched out, and the fire companies hurriedly stretched hose. Eleven convicts who were excavating in the basement hastened to assist, and rendered service in handling the lines of hose up on the roof, a task both laborious and dangerous, for the men had to work at times on coping in order to drag the hose around corners. In a few minutes after the alarm was sounded six lines of hose under 100 pounds pressure were playing on the fire, and soon the Salem fire department arrived and turned on two streams more.

The patients were entirely calm and showed no excitement whatever. Those patients who were in the wards distant from the part of the building in which the fire originated were not taken out of the building, but were kept in readiness to go out at any time.

The asylum has its own water system, receiving its water from wells at the prison, a quarter of a mile distant. The state carries no insurance on the building.

## BYERLY MAKES PROFIT.

Express Clerk Sells Canal Bonds and Realizes \$27,024 on Nerve.

New York, July 28.—J. S. Pache & Co., bankers, have purchased the \$5,800,000 of Panama canal bonds which were recently allotted by the Treasury department to Samuel Byerly, an express company clerk in this city. Pache & Co. have in turn disposed of the bonds to Fisk & Robinson, the successful bidders for the greater part of the issue.

The price of the bonds already has advanced to \$104.40, which means a profit of \$27,024 for the clerk.

In conversation with Secretary Shaw over the long distance telephone, Mr. Byerly asked if he was to receive his allotment of the bonds. He was told that he would if he deposited the \$5,800,000 by August 1. The clerk said he would.

## Thanks to Roosevelt and Diaz.

Washington, July 28.—The State department received a dispatch today from the chairman of the American delegation to Rio Janeiro, William I. Buchanan, announcing that on Monday the Pan-American conference, on motion of the Argentine delegation, adopted resolutions expressing thanks to President Roosevelt and President Diaz for their good offices in restoring peace in Central America. The president, through the State department and Mr. Buchanan, responded tonight with an expression of his appreciation.

## Battleships Out in Gale.

Rockport, Meas., July 28.—A stiff northeaster gave the battleships of the Atlantic fleet an excellent opportunity for stormy weather maneuvers today, and for six hours the entire fleet was out of sight of land, rolling about in the heavy seas. The officers reported that the conditions 20 miles off shore were worse than nearer the land, and that there was every indication of a heavy gale off the coast. The fleet will not go out again until it sails east.

## Meetings of Democrats Forbidden.

Paris, July 28.—The Temps correspondent at St. Petersburg telegraphs that the provincial governors have been ordered to prevent all meetings of members of the Constitutional Democratic party and of members of the Group of Toil who belonged to the outlawed parliament, employing the military in case of necessity to disperse such meetings.