

OVER 300 FRENCH SEAMEN ARE KILLED

Fire in Warship's Hold Causes Explosions Which Destroy Vessel.

Toulon, France.—More than 300 oficers and men of the French battleship Liberte lost their lives when the ship was torn apart and totally destroyed in the harbor here by an explosion of her magazines.

The battleship Republique was badly damaged and the battleships Democratic and Verite suffered heavily from the masses of twisted iron and armorplate hurled upon their decks.

This is the greatest disaster that has ever befallen the French navy, and in magnitude is almost without precedent in the annals of the world's fighting ships.

The explosion which wiped out one of France's most powerful battleships was the result of an outbreak of fire. The flames spread rapidly in spite of all efforts to extinguish them, and reached the magazines before there was time to flood them.

The magazines exploded with tremendous violence, sowing death and destruction in every direction. The naval authorities now estimate the killed at between 350 and 400. It will be necessary to go through the ship's muster rolls before a full list of the victims can be prepared.

Woman Known as Man 49 Years.

Albany, Ore.—After masquerading as a man 49 years and for 22 years of that time living at Lebanon, this county, Ray Leonard, 62 years old, was discovered to be a woman when taken to the state insane asylum.

OREGON SYSTEM IN COURT

Telephone Company Denies Laws Constitutionality.

Washington.—The constitutionality of the initiative and referendum, the famous "Oregon system" of popular government, will be the subject of a decision by the Supreme Court of the United States in the approaching term.

The question of the constitutionality of these expedients of government forms the basis of a suit between the State of Oregon and the Pacific States Telegraph & Telephone Company. The case originated in the company's challenge of a law enacted by the Oregon legislature under the initiative plan, by which a tax of 2 per cent was placed on the gross earnings of telegraph and telephone companies.

Agreement to Building Station Void.

Salem, Ore.—Declaring that a provision in a right-of-way deed providing that a railroad company shall maintain a station or a depot on the land of a landowner in return for a right of way granted across his land is void, because contrary to public policy, the Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Justice Bean today, reversed the judgment of the circuit court of this county in the case of Frank Ford against the Oregon Electric Railroad Company.

ITALY AND TURKEY ON VERGE OF WAR

Rome.—The Italian government is moving rapidly and with determination to establish an Italian protectorate over Tripoli. Its plans no longer are concealed and its attitude is favored by all classes except the advanced Socialists, who threaten to call a general strike in the event of hostilities.

It is said the government hopes to arrange an amicable settlement with Turkey whereby Italy will secure a lease of Tripoli under the sovereignty of Turkey, paying therefor an annual rental. If Turkey definitely refuses to meet this proposal, Italy will proceed with military measures.

The Turkish forces in Tripoli are estimated at a minimum of 30,000 men. To cope with these, Italy will send her whole fleet and an expeditionary force of 60,000 men.

Washington Tax Levy Cut.

Olympia, Wn.—The State Board of Equalization has announced that the tax levy for 1911, for state purposes, will be 5.30 mills. In 1911 the total amount to be raised by taxation is \$5,962,187, which is \$141,000 more than was raised in 1910, the rate being lower, but the total assessed value this year is \$955,125,934, as against \$906,247,944 a year ago.

McCarthy Overthrown in Frisco.

San Francisco.—James Rolph Jr. was elected Mayor of San Francisco at the first direct primary election to determine the personnel of municipal officers of the city and county of San Francisco.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Events Occurring Throughout the State During the Past Week.

To Teach Farmers to Farm by Mail.

Corvallis.—Three correspondence courses for farmers are now offered by the college school of commerce. Dean J. A. Bexell, in a recent publication outlines the work in farm accounting, rural law and rural economics which is designed to meet the practical needs of the farmer. Aside from a nominal entrance fee it is absolutely free to all who wish this aid, and the large correspondence already received indicates a heavy enrollment this winter.

Three Hundred Apple Men Meet.

Hood River.—About 300 valley orchardists were present at a meeting of the Apple Growers' Fellowship in the assembly hall of the Commercial Club, to hear addresses by Professor W. H. Lawrence, the expert who directs the work of the fellowship association, and C. E. Whisler, of Medford, one of the foremost pear experts of the country.

RECRUITING PLAN OUTLINED

Government Proposes Scheme for Adoption in Oregon Guard.

Salem.—Governor West has received a communication from the acting Secretary of the United States War Department submitting to him a war recruiting system and asking that it be adopted by the state with modification to meet conditions.

According to the system an officer of each company will be named as recruiting officer for war and will at all times keep himself posted as to the requirements of war. It is further provided that when a local organization is called into the service its recruiting officer will at once begin to recruit it up to war strength and that when the state goes to the mobilization camp the recruiting officer will remain behind with suitable detail of enlisted men and continue recruiting. Each regiment and separate battalion will also, before it leaves the state, establish a recruiting party to recruit for its organization during the continuance of war.

Apples Go To Denmark.

Medford.—The Rogue River Fruit and Produce Association, through the Northwest Fruit Exchange, sold to Anderson & Albeck, fruit importers of Copenhagen and caterers to the royal family, the first carload of Yellow Newtown Pippins from the Rogue River Valley ever consigned to Denmark.

Hold Entire Air in One Place.

The Dalles.—For the first time in the history of the Second Eastern Oregon Agricultural Society, all of the annual fair will be held at the Driving Park, at the west end of the city, this year. The dates of the event are October 3 to 6.

VALLEY PREPARES EXHIBIT

Willamette Products to Be Shown at Omaha Land Show.

Albany.—Arrangements for a Willamette Valley exhibit at the Omaha Land Show were completed at a meeting held in this city attended by representatives of four of the leading counties of the valley. The four counties which have finally decided to join in the enterprise are Marion, Linn, Benton and Lane.

According to arrangements each county will contribute an equal amount to the enterprise and each will collect the best exhibit possible within its boundaries. Then all of the county exhibits will be merged into one big Willamette Valley exhibit and their county identity will disappear. It is probable that this joint exhibit will be assembled at Salem, as the county exhibits of Benton and Marion counties at the State Fair, from which a part of the big exhibit will be formed, are now at the capital city.

Woman Asks \$20,125 Damages.

Eugene.—Mrs. Sarah S. Marquiss has begun a suit against the Portland, Eugene & Eastern Railway for \$20,125 damages as the result of an injury which she sustained by being struck by a car in November, 1910.

Dallas to Have Tag Day.

Dallas.—Saturday, Sept. 30, was named as the date for the annual tag day for the benefit of the Dallas public library. Dallas has one of the best equipped public libraries in the state.

Project's Prizes Many.

Stanfield.—Settlers on the Furnish Irrigation Project carried off 26 first and second prizes at the district fair just closed at Pendleton.

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

Albany college begins its forty-fifth year of work this week.

The date for Redmond's celebration of "Railroad Day" has been set for Saturday, September 30.

The record yield for Hood River Peach orchards is held by W. H. Marshall. From 100 trees Mr. Marshall picked seven tons of Crawford's.

A. W. Lafferty, Representative to Congress from the Second Oregon District has returned to Oregon, and will remain until time to return to Washington, D. C., for the regular session of Congress.

The Coes Bay Summer classes of the Bitmore School of Forestry, which have been in session at Marshfield have closed and Dr. C. A. Schenk the president of the college and his students have left for the East.

More than 75 per cent of the colonists now coming to Oregon are seeking homes on farms, indicating that the efforts of the railroads and commercial bodies to divert people from the cities have been effective.

That there are 22,917,920 acres of tillable land in the State of Oregon has been estimated by Dr. James Withycomb, director of experiment stations at the Oregon Agricultural college in some new statistics recently compiled.

The 66,000-volt power line of the Siskiyou Light & Power Company has just been completed from the company's new power plant at Prospect, on the upper Rogue, to the plant at Gild Ray. The line is 38 miles long. Thirty thousand horsepower will be developed at Prospect.

John H. Stevens, who has been with the Corvallis and Eastern Railroad Company for twenty years, as division engineer and superintendent of bridges, has been appointed superintendent of Corvallis and Eastern Railroad to fill the vacancy caused by the recent death of J. C. Walen.

A petition has been presented to the Washington County court by the citizens of Gaston, praying the court to make an order for an election to vote on incorporating the town of Gaston. The petition is numerously signed, and the residents are practically a unit for incorporation.

President Carl R. Gray, of the Oregon Electric Railway Company, who was in Eugene to address the people attending the grange day exercises at the Lane County Fair, announced that it was probable that the Oregon Electric would not extend its line as far as Eugene this fall because of trouble over the right-of-way.

Suits similar to the one instituted in the United States Court a month ago by the O. W. R. & N. Company against the Oregon Railroad Commission, Attorney General Crawford and various District Attorneys of the state for the purpose of enjoining the enforcement of the 14-hour law enacted by the last session of the Oregon Legislature, were filed in the Federal Court at Portland by the Corvallis & Eastern Railroad Company and the Southern Pacific Company.

State Capital Cleanings

Attorney General Crawford is in Albany to prosecute a mandamus proceedings against the Corvallis & Eastern Railroad Company with relation to the construction of a depot at Lyons.

Nine hundred and ten people attended the good-fellowship banquet given at the tabernacle on the Willamette University grounds by the Methodist Episcopal Conference. The affair was the largest of the kind ever held in this city.

Upon report of the special committee to investigate sensational charges of misconduct on the part of Rev. John Parsons of Fairbanks, Alaska, the Oregon conference voted unanimously to vindicate Rev. Mr. Parsons of all the charges of immorality.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Alderman has completed the list of books for the teachers reading circle as required by a law passed by the last legislature. According to the law, teachers must read at least one of these books during the year, and failing to do so will not be entitled to have their certificate registered.

Admitting that in the month of March and April of this year a conspiracy was entered into between George Higgins, alias George Harris, Si Sandrosky, alias Sam Cohn, Elmer Brown and others to defraud the voters of the State, and Harry J. Parkinson, who led the referendum movement against the University of Oregon appropriations, by forging names to the petitions, but asserting that the fraud was discovered by Parkinson and the petitions never filed, Secretary of State Oleott has filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court here his answer to the complaint filed by B. S. Friendly asking that the Secretary of State be enjoined from placing the title of the two appropriation bills on the ballot on the ground that they are illegal because of fraud in the petitions.

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