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A WHEAT POOL EXISTS—EVIDENCES OF THE FACT

"Portland Business Man" Explains Its Nefarious Operations--Some Interesting Points Ably Grouped.

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Addendum.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 2.—Editor Astorian: I am told some of your local wiseacres, while otherwise endorsing the careful accuracy of my letters, doubt the existence of the wheat pool. They simply need to put on their thinking cap in order to see clear proofs of its existence in a series of authentic facts stated in my six letters.

Some Doubts.

These facts are, first, that Tacoma and Portland are nominally "common points" from the wheat fields. Second, that the Portland road gets a sufficient "differential" to pay Columbia grain ships a bonus of free towage and lighterage. Third, that nevertheless wheat is worth 50 cents a ton more at Puget sound than at Portland. Fourth, that about half the wheat of the Inland Empire goes to the Sound and half to Portland; and that the wheat buyers pay the same prices for wheat at the "common point" stations, regardless of the port for which it is destined.

Some Proofs.

To these facts add the further fact that the wheat buyers for the Sound and for Portland are the same, and those buyers are mostly the charterers. From these undeniable facts a thinker must deduce the existence of a wheat pool.

Analysis.

In letter V the conceded existence of a railroad pool is shown. It is the principle of modern railroad traffic that "Differentials" must be allowed to make up for "disadvantages" in order to secure a fair division of the traffic. Although Tacoma and Portland are nominally "common points," the O. R. & N. gets enough "differential" to give a bonus of free towage and lighterage to the Columbia grain ships. Here is plainly a "wheat pool" between the transportation companies.

Division of Traffic.

Although, despite this bonus, wheat is worth 50 cents a ton more at Tacoma than at Portland, yet the Inland Empire grain is about equally divided (some 12 million bushels for each) between the two places. Since wheat is worth 50 cents a ton more at the Sound, why do not the wheat buyers, charterers and elevator men, send it all to that port and make this difference for their own pockets? If there were no wheat pool, or trust, they surely would do this.

Same Price at Stations.

Of course the wheat buyers control the point of export. They are governed by their interest. They pay uniformly the same prices for the wheat at the "common point" stations. Yet, seemingly, they lose 50 cents a ton in order to ship half of it to Portland! This equal division of their shipments makes it plain there is a pooling between these buying and chartering agencies and the railroads, in harmony with the "differentials" concerted between the O. R. & N. and the N. P.

The Charterers.

The wheat buyers and the charterers being mostly the same persons, and the brokers, act in like concert. They charter big ships for the Sound and little ships for Portland, and change their destination from one port to the other to suit emergencies as in case of the Mozambique. Lovely concert! Happy harmony! It is nothing more nor less than our old friend, the trust—the wheat trust, which, for euphony, I have named the Wheat Pool.

False Theories.

These agencies of the wheat pool play on the same strings. Tuning their pipes in concert with the pool we find the charterers (and their Portland and Astoria undertones) solemnly insisting, with infinite detail, that ship expense to Portland and back is at least as light as train expense. They kindly offer Astorians to charter ships of equal tonnage to the two ports as a TEST OF THEIR VALUE TO THE FARMERS. They urge the difference in favor of Astoria would be so slight—some 25 cents a ton—as not to justify a change of port. Yet they know well the MAIN POINT in favor of Astoria is that ships of HEAVIEST TONNAGE and CHEAPEST CHARTERS can only reach Astoria—making some 30 per cent difference in favor of the Astoria bottoms. They conceal this overwhelming fact, by their false issue, and they grow sleek and fat upon the deception. Hence the concert, the harmony, the pool!

How It Works.

The King Pin gives the cue for this false issue. The Oregonian takes it up. The little claquers, whose little bins are snugly filled out of the farmers' toil, swell the chorus and all is harmony.

An Open River.

Another concerted false issue, exploited by the pool, is the need of an "open river" from the wheat fields before Astoria would be valuable to our farmers This is of a piece with the false issue of the difference in ship expense and train expense between the two cities. It is intended to divert public attention from the truth as to the LOW OCEAN SHIP CHARTERS to Astoria, resulting from HEAVY SHIP TONNAGE. A 25s-ship at Astoria as against a 35s-ship at Portland means, say, $2.50 a ton more in the farmers' pockets. Yet the chorus of the wheat pool for "an open river" (that cannot be had for 20 years!) is to hide that PRESENT VALUE of an open railway from the wheat fields to Astoria.

The Small Fry.

Whenever you hear a little newspaper piping the tune of "an open river" in lieu of "an open railway" as the real present need of the farmers, it is dollars to doughnuts that the wheat pool has spilled some of its stuff into its little bins. Let the producers and property owners—the masses—of the Columbia basin keep their optics on those fellows. They are incorporate parts of the wheat pool—they've "got some of the hog."

A PORTLAND BUSINESS MAN.

EMPEROR WILLIAM WILL VISIT GREAT BRITAIN.

England and Germany Are Renewing Their Former Friendship—Interesting Society Gossip.

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LONDON, Dec. 3.—There has been a flutter of expectation among the society people over the announcement that Emperor William of Germany has allowed the fact to become known that he will pay a visit to England next summer unless unforseen circumstances arise. The better relations between Great Britain and Germany which have recently been established have sponged out to a great extent the "anti-kaiser" feeling which existed in Great Britain since the emperor's notorious dispatch to President Kruger, of the Transvaal, congratulating him upon the suppression of the Jamison raid, and there is little doubt that he will receive a welcome rivaling that of his former visits. On his arrival here, which is timed, according to report, for July next, he proposes to visit a few of the leading industrial centers, and, it is added, his majesty may also cross over to Ireland. The imperial visit, coupled with the fact that the king and queen of Italy also harbor the idea of coming to England next year, has opened a vista of brilliant society functions for the London season of 1899.

Queen Victoria is disposed to end the discussion as to whether she will spend the spring on the Rivera, in view of the French unpleasantness, by engaging apartments at Cimis for March 1, for five weeks, and it is understood that her majesty will return home through Germany and stay a week or so at Coburg, where she will meet Emperor William and probably arrange for his return visit to England.

According to announcement made upon high authority a marriage has been arranged between Prince George of Greece and his cousin, Princess Victoria, of Wales. The latter is a year older than the recently appointed high commissioner of the powers in Crete. The union would be very popular both in Great Britain and Greece, and there is no reasons of state against the marriage which would strengthen the prince's position as high commissioner, and among the Greek royal family it is hoped that the union will assist him in his ambition to become Prince of Crete.

The warmth with which two American heiresses, Miss Ogden Goelet and Miss Astor, have been welcomed in ducal society in Scotland this autumn has given rise to considerable speculation from a matrimonial point of view. They have been feted and petted to an extraordinary degree. The Buccleugh-Roxburghe families have both been paying them noticeable attention, and it seems pretty well understood that the young Duke of Roxburghe will ask for Miss Astor's hand. The duke, who is the eighth of his line, was born in 1876 and succeeded his father in 1892. His name is Henry John Innes-Ker, and he is a lieutenant in the Royal Horse Guards. Miss Astor is staying at Floors Castle, Kelso, Roxburgheshire, the ancestral home of the Roxburghes, on the border, for the past week, and it is not unlikely that she will make her debut at court as a peeress. The Duke of Roxburghe's two uncles, uncle-in-law and cousin all married American girls.

Mr. Henry White, the United States charge d'affaires, and Mrs. White are entertaining a week-end party at their country place, Wilton Park, near Beaconsfield, including Lord and Lady Curzon, of Kedleston, and General Lord Kitchener, of Khartoum.

Lady Curzon has prepared his vice regal wardrobe for her Indian home. She passed a week in Paris selecting dresses. Her orders to the Worth house alone reached $15,000.

Countess Casa Valencia's bazaar at Downshire house in aid of the Spanish sufferers by the war, has been a brilliant success. It was opened by Princess Henry of Battenburg, and a dazzling array of duchesses and countesses kept the stall. The princess herself did a brisk trade in Spanish guitars, fans, etc., and she also bought a number of articles, including a water color by Garcia Mercia, representing a Spanish gpysy, in behalf of the queen. Several contributions were presented by the pope, the queen regent of Spain, the queen of Servia, and Princess Ludwig, of Bavaria. They fetched high prices.

The young king of Spain has just had a very pleasant windfall in the shape of a legacy of 3,000,000 pasetas, bequeathed to him by an old gentleman named Solar, who had a close though unacknowledged relationship to the king, being the natural son of Ferdinand VII and great uncle of King Alfonso. The testator's relatives opposed the will, but the queen regent, as her son's nearest friend, supported it, and the suit has now been decided in favor of the king.

A newspaper of Portsmouth, England, which cabled Secretary Long, asking for definite information regarding the current report that an American squadron is to visit Portsmouth, received a reply yesterday in which the secretary said: "I have to say at present that the date of the formation of an European squadron is undecided. When this action is taken it will be made public. Thanking you for your assurance of a hearty welcome to the United States fleet," etc., etc. People here deduce from this reply that an American squadron will be sent to Europe, and that Portsmouth will be visited.

An insight into the seamy side of the Klondike boom was given by the chairman at a meeting of the Klondike Hydraulic Company, called to receive the report of their engineers' visit to the Klondike to investigate the statements of the Vendor. The chairman said the Vendor first tried to get 36,000 pounds and then 18,000 pounds for the purchase of piping, etc.; but the chairman went to San Francisco to investigate the matter and found the Vendor's statement was false whereupon he withheld the money. The engineer also reported that the Vendor's mine on the Black river was a myth; that the location notices were forgeries, and that he was satisfied the Vendor had never seen Alaska.

Therefore, the chairman pointed out, the only course was to wind up the company, the shareholders escaping with the loss of only two shillings a share.

The dignity of the Duke of Orleans received a rude shock in an incident which has just occurred. While traveling from Brussels to Vienna he engaged a saloon carriage, which requires the payment of 20 tickets to the Belgian tariff, or 12 tickets of the German tariff. The duke elected to pay the German rates. The officials protested, but, after a scene on the platform, the train started. In spite of this a telegram was sent to the frontier, and a German official appeared in the carriage and demanded the payment of the deficiency. The duke refused, and the official said:

"Very well; we will uncouple the carriage and shunt your highness to a cold siding until you pay." The duke paid.

The list of winnings of race owners this season places Baron Rothschild first with £30,017; C. D. Rose third, with £16,282; Pierre Lorrilard seventh, with £8,690; Lord William Beresford tenth, with £8,020, and the Prince of Wales fourteenth, with £6,347, which is a big drop from 1896, when he won £36,819.

NOTABLE DINNER GIVEN BY THE GRIDIRON CLUB.

More Distinguished Men Present Than Have Gathered for a Long Time—Interesting Features.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The Gridiron Club tonight gave a most notable dinner, entertaining distinguished guests from the United States, Europe, and other parts of the world. In the company were the president, vice-president, members of the cabinet, the president of Costa Rica, the premier of Canada, the entire joint high American-Canadian commission, General Garcia, the most prominent officer of the army and navy, senators, representatives, and many other distinguished men. More than 160 persons were assembled in the beautifully decorated dining hall of the Arlington hotel.

The dinner was in a measure conducted on the lines of compliment and honor to the men who distinguished themselves both by land and sea in the late war.

The guests were grouped in divisions of volunteers, and in orders, very direct and explicit, were required to "keep in the line of fire" during the entire engagement.

A map of a battleground was one of the unique features, in which various divisions were represented as charging through Champagne river toward Table heights, where they were supposed to have captured "Soon Won" hill.

Among the features was a burlesque investigation of the conduct of the war, which conveyed some of the more humorous features of the real investigation.

LIBERATION OF KNAAK NOT YET ACCOMPLISHED.

American Held in Berlin for Lese Majeste Still in the Toils—Protests His Innocence.

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BERLIN, Dec. 3.—Frank Knaak, of New York, who has been in jail on a charge of treason in having referred to Emperor William as "calf head," is still in jail, in spite of the efforts of the United States embassy and his counsel to bring about his release on bail. His liberation has been refused on the ground that his trial will be expedited. It will occur before Christmas. Knaak denies that Emperor William was the person he designated as a "calf head," and his lawyer has evidence that Knaak, on several occasions, spoke in complimentary terms of Emperor William. It is also claimed in the prisoners behalf that he was intoxicated at the time the alleged offense was committed.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT ON A MALLORY LINE STEAMER.

Steampipe Burst on the Almado, Literally Roasting Six Men Who Were in the Engineroom.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—Six men of the crew of the Mallory line steamship Almado were killed tonight by the bursting of a steampipe while the vessel lay at her pier in East river.

The dead are:

Patrick Murphy, second engineer.
Thomas McHugh, fireman.
Patrick Farrell, oiler.
Frank Mahon, fireman.
L. Connell, fireman.
J. Ryan, coal heaver.

The only injured man was John Stoneman, a passenger of Albany, who was seriously scalded.

The Almado has only recently been discharged from transport service for the government. She has new steampipes and boilers. She carried 30 passengers. At the time of the accident the ship had cast off her lines and her engines had made but two or three revolutions when the explosion came.

The flow of steam was checked with great difficulty, and not until the lapse of five or six minutes. Then it was found that it had completely filled the engineroom and fireroom and that all who had been confined had been not only parboiled, but suffocated by it.

NEW YORK SAILS FOR HAVANA.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Dec. 3.—The cruiser New York sailed today for Havana.

REPORT IS BELIEVED

Americans at Paris Think Germany Is After the Caroline Islands.

ANOTHER WEEK REQUIRED

Judge Day Thinks Peace Treaty Will Have Been Concluded in That Time.

MUCH WORK YET TO BE DONE

How the Status of Affairs Is Viewed in the Leading Cities of the European Powers.

PARIS, Dec. 3.—There was no joint meeting of the peace commissioners today, although the American representatives were in session for three hours.

The report from Berlin that Germany is negotiating for the purchase of the Caroline islands is confirmed from several quarters, although Count von Moster Ladenburg, the German ambassador here, informed a correspondent of the Associated Press that he knew nothing at all about the matter.

The American commissioners are inclined to believe the report, and it is looked upon as explaining the reluctance of the Spaniards to give the Americans an answer in regard to the Carolines, as well as to the question of religious liberty there, and the latest developments confirm the report that the Spaniards have been instructed not to yield on these points until they have made a good bargain.

The position of the commission, says an American gentleman, is the same as two card players, each studying his own hand, and waiting for his opponent's lead.

In spite of this temporary halt in the negotiations, and contrary to general opinion, Judge Day, president of the American commission, believes the treaty will be signed next week, but a great deal of work is to be done before the treaty is ready for the signatures, as, after 19 weeks of negotiation, the only articles accepted by the commissions are the three leading ones providing for the cession of the Spanish colonies, and these only in principle, and not in language.

DON'T THINK HARD OF US.

(Copyrighted, 1898, by Associated Press.)

LONDON, Dec. 3.—According to travelers in Spain, there is little or no feeling against the Americans among the Spanish people generally. An English visitor, who has just crossed Spain, writes to the English papers, saying:

"I have not found a trace of unfriendliness or a word of abuse for the Americans. The soldiers who have come home have given favorable accounts of the Americans, for whom they seem to have a real liking."

HOW NEGOTIATIONS ARE LOOKED UPON ABROAD.

English are Delighted and Expect to Profit by Our Acquisitions—Germans Don't Like Our Smoke.

(Copyrighted 1898 by Associated Press)

LONDON, Dec. 3.—The practical conclusion of the peace negotiations at Paris is hailed here with considerable satisfaction, and the newspapers daily discuss the so-called "imperial" future of the United States, coupled with the frevent hopes that it will adopt a colonial policy. In fact, the latter point is regarded as being the cornerstone of an Anglo-American understanding, which is now an important feature of every political speech delivered on this side of the Atlantic.

The Saturday Review is very candid about what it describes as the "slobbering cant and hypocritical blazoning of doubtful affection" between the United States and Great Britian, and says:

"Let us be frank and say outright that we expect mutual gain in material interests from this approachment.

"The American commissioners at Paris are making their bargain, whether they realize it or not, under the protecting naval strength of England, and we shall expect material quid pro quo for this assistance. We expect the United States to deal generously with Canada in the matter of tariffs, and we expect to be remembered when the United States comes into possession of the Philippines,

(Continued on fourth page.)

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Safeguards the food against alum.
Alum baking powders are the greatest menacers to health of the present day.
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