

BRIEF NEWS OF THE PAST WEEK

Condensed Dispatches from All Parts of the Two Hemispheres.

Interesting Events from Outside the State Presented in a Manner to Catch the Eye of the Busy Reader—Matters of National, Historical and Commercial Importance.

The widow of Claus Spreckles has been awarded \$3,000,000 of her husband's estate.

It now seems as though the Chicago streetcar men will win their fight with the company.

William R. Wallace has been chosen for the Democratic candidate for mayor of Salt Lake.

James J. Hill says too many people are going to the cities instead of staying on the farm.

Thousands of acres of pasture and wood land has been burned over in Sonoma county, Cal., by forest fires.

Peary reiterates that he is the only white man who ever saw the Pole and promises to disprove Cook's claim.

David E. Thompson, United States ambassador to Mexico, has secured control of the Pan-American railroad, a line 244 miles long.

The port of Mulege, on the east coast of Lower California, was overwhelmed by a tidal wave September 4. Considerable property was destroyed.

By the election of J. P. Morgan, Jr., as director in a Harriman bank, harmonious relations are shown to exist between the Morgan and the Kuhn-Loeb-Standard Oil group of financiers.

Dewey says the United States needs a larger navy.

It is said the Harriman estate will not be divided.

The Peary-Cook controversy has grown very bitter in New York.

Rear Admiral Schley favors Cook, notwithstanding that Peary is a navy man.

Sweden has taken steps to end the labor war. Arbitration will be insisted upon.

The biennial convention of the national association of machinists is in session at Denver.

It is expected that 10,000 delegates will attend the Eagles' national convention at Omaha.

St. John's Catholic church, New Orleans, has been almost totally destroyed by fire. Loss \$200,000.

General Reyes says he has never been a candidate for the vice presidential nomination in Mexico.

New York, fears a tong war in its Chinatown, and has sent scores of additional police to that section.

Cardinal Gibbons says that while he should like to see prohibitory rule, he does not believe the present move will be successful.

Fairbanks has left China on his way to Manila.

The Santa Fe has withdrawn its orders for fast trains from the East.

Burglars succeeded in getting away with jewelry valued at \$100,000 in Pittsburgh.

Spanish forces in Morocco have been greatly reinforced and now hope to defeat the Moors.

The first snow has fallen in Montana. Should it continue much uncut grain will be damaged.

Hill has attacked the Southern Pacific land grant in order to force an entrance into Southern California.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound road has offered to carry mail from Chicago to Puget sound in 59 hours.

Pernicious anemia and oedema of the lungs was the chief cause of Harriman's death, according to Dr. Lyle, his physician.

Ex-President Roosevelt has been named as a delegate to the world's missionary conference at Edinburgh, Scotland, next June 14 to 24.

Peary says he will prove Cook was never at the Pole.

Harriman lines are not likely to have any more one-man power.

Canadians are determined to re-open the Bering sea sealing question.

Harriman stocks did not drop on the stock exchange as was expected.

Lord Rossberry has left the British Radical party and joined the Liberals.

The first drawing in the Cuban national lottery yielded the government \$100,000 profit.

Latest advices say 10,000 lives were lost in the earthquake which destroyed Acapulco, Mexico.

Chicago carmen are again endeavoring to arrange for arbitration with the streetcar company.

The situation in Northern Mexico is still serious and there is much suffering among the people.

Unusual building operations throughout the United States is reported for August. Portland shows an increase of 29 per cent.

J. P. Morgan has offered financial aid to Explorer Cook.

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 Nampa, Mendocino, Santa Cruz, Lake and Los Angeles counties. In Nampa 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 Holtenbeck home to go against time for 50 yards an inconsiderate youth yelled "Beat it, kid." The venerable anti-carettist 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 Mulege, 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.

NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

WATER UMATILLA LAND.

Seven Irrigation Projects Supply 100,000 Acres.

Pendleton—Between Pendleton and the town of Umatilla are seven big irrigation projects able to furnish water in sufficient quantities for first class irrigation.

The United States government is irrigating 20,000 acres of choice land immediately surrounding the town of Hermiston. This land is selling for \$100 to \$1,000 an acre, the price depending on the improvements that have been made.

The Columbia Land company is irrigating 10,000 acres of land around the townsite of Stanfield, and has already sold to two big parties of buyers this summer and expect to sell the entire tract this fall and winter.

The Hinkle Ditch company is irrigating 17,000 acres of land between here and Hermiston.

The Butter Creek Water company is irrigating 6,000 acres of choice land in the same neighborhood.

The Brownell company is irrigating 1,500 acres and in addition is furnishing water to the town of Umatilla. J. P. McManus will, within the next month, throw open for settlement a fine body of land near Pilot Rock.

In addition to these projects the Irrigon Irrigation company is irrigating 20,000 acres of land around Irrigon, and the Milton and Freewater projects, that embrace something like 30,000 acres more.

With this body of land already under irrigation the movement is but in its infancy and the next few years will see thousands and thousands of choice acres brought into cultivation which are now in a non-productive state.

Plan Model Farm.

Medford—The Modoc orchard, famous as the old Bybee tract, is not to be subdivided and sold in small tracts, as was first planned, but will be planted and operated as one of the greatest orchards in the world by the Potter Palmer estate of Chicago. Approximately 200 acres will be set to fruit trees this winter. Ninety acres will be prepared and planted to potatoes next spring. Between 200 and 300 acres will be sown in grain. Nearly 1,300 acres, mostly bottom land, compose the tract, which lies along both sides of the Rogue for two miles. All the land can be irrigated from the Rogue or from Little Butte creek, which flows through it.

Land Board Defendant.

Salem—State Treasurer Steel has been served with a copy of the summons and restraining order in the Lincoln county tidelands case. This is the case in which the state land board is restrained from declaring forfeited to the state certain tidelands in Lincoln county. The papers are filed in Marion county and the state land board is required to appear within 10 days after service of the papers. The board will be represented by the attorney general's office.

Cody Company Leases Mill.

Bandon—The Cody Lumber company, whose mill burned here recently, has leased the Lyons & Johnson mill, which has been shut down for some time, and is manufacturing lumber while the burned mill is being re-placed. The Cody company is also negotiating with the owners of the Aberdeen mill, which has also been shut down, and if the deal is completed the two mills will saw more lumber than the one that was burned.

New Judge for Lincoln.

Salem—B. F. Swope, county judge of Lincoln county, has resigned and Governor Benson has appointed C. H. Gardiner, a retired hardware merchant of Toledo, to the office. Mr. Gardiner was highly recommended for the position by the citizens of Lincoln county. He is 55 years old and a Republican. Earlier in life he traveled out of Portland for a wholesale hardware house, and was county clerk in Illinois 15 years before coming to Oregon.

Irrigation Brings Settlers.

La Grande—Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars would be a conservative estimate of the improvements that will be made in the building of new homes on the land soon to be placed under irrigation just east of town. This means 100 new homes. It is possible and quite probable that twice this number of families will be building new houses, barns and furnishing homes and farms with required stock and implements.

Market Place Provided.

Oregon City—After a vain struggle for more than 10 years to secure a commission house for Oregon City, the desired end has at last been accomplished, and there has been organized the Oregon City Commission company, with a capital stock of \$15,000, more than half of which has been paid in. Articles of incorporation has been filed in the office of County Clerk Greenman.

Governor Benson Home.

Salem—Governor Benson is in his office again after a vacation of a month in San Francisco. The governor is looking fine and says he feels as good as he looks.

Prunes Sell at High Price.

Canby—Clarke Brothers are preparing to dry 50 tons of prunes from their big orchard near here. The output has been contracted at 4 1/2 cents per pound.

DRY FARMING AREA.

Railroads Building into Central Oregon Open Vast Tract.

Bend—One more Oregon treasure chest has been opened by the magic key of transportation. With the promise of a railroad for Bend interest has suddenly centered on the opening of the prairie-like desert land lying southeast of town.

From 15 to 80 miles from Bend is a huge area of untouched government land just placed under the Mondell act, which makes possible 320 acre homesteads under certain conditions. More than 250,000 acres of as good wheat land as that offered by any dry farming country are opened to settlement on this "high desert," as it is generally known by ranchers. All of the land is said to be level and practically free from rock, with water everywhere procurable at depths varying from 10 to 50 feet.

Although the great value of this virgin stretch of country has long been recognized, it has hitherto been impracticable to open it for wheat raising, no matter what the yield may be without transportation to the markets.

It is a curious phenomena that abundant water supply for wells should be found in a country apparently so entirely dry. In one place it is reported that a three foot hole scratched out by coyotes became a tiny well. At a dozen places in the Deschutes country springs bubble up in the midst of arid dust, unaccountable except by subterranean river passages in the lava rock. A dozen miles from Bend, and as many from water, is a great cave, perpetually full of ice, well illustrating the erratic pranks of Dame Nature, when she fashioned Central Oregon.

Boise-Coos Road Incorporated.

Salem—Articles of incorporation of the Boise & Western railway have been filed in the office of the secretary of state. The purpose of the corporation is to construct a railroad from Boise, Idaho, to Marshfield, Or. The incorporators are: C. W. Mallet, William N. Hanley and J. W. McCulloch. Power is conferred upon the new corporation to condemn rights of way, to acquire property and to contract for the construction of a railroad and operate it after it has been constructed. The capital stock of the enterprise is \$50,000. The managing offices of the railroad are to be in Portland.

Wallows Sugar Beets Good.

Wallows—The sugar beet fields of this county have been investigated by the representatives of the Amalgamated Sugar company. Job Pingree, general field superintendent, and J. F. Wheatstone, an experienced field worker for the company, highly complimented Foreman T. W. Workman on the work he has accomplished. If sufficient land can be secured the growing of beets will be continued in this county by the company.

Union Ships Poles.

Union—L. M. Sturgill is filling a contract for five cars of 35 foot poles for Boise. The poles are being hauled out. Shipment will take place as fast as cars can be had.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 35c; fancy outside creamery, 30@34c; store, 21@22c. Butter fat prices average 1 1/2c per pound less than regular butter prices.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, candled, 30@31c per dozen.

Poultry—Hens, 15@15 1/2c; springs, 16@16 1/2c; roosters, 9@10c; ducks, young, 14 1/2c; geese, young, 10c; turkeys, 20c; squabs, \$1.75@2 per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, 10@10 1/2c per pound.

Veal—Extra, 10@10 1/2c per pound.

Wheat—Bluestem, 94c; club, 84@85c; red Russian, 82 1/2c; valley, 89c; 87c, 84c; Turkey red, 84c; fortyfold, 86 1/2c.

Barley—Feed, \$26.50@27; brewing, \$27.50 per ton.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$13@15 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$16.50@17.50; alfalfa, \$14; clover, \$14; cheat, \$13@14.50; grain hay, \$15@16.

Fruits—Apples, \$1@2.25 per box; pears, \$1.25@1.50; peaches, 50c@ \$1.10 per crate; cantaloupes, 50c@ \$2; plums, 25@75c per box; watermelons, 1@1 1/2c per pound; grapes, 75c@ \$1.25; casabas, \$1.75@2.

Potatoes—\$1 per sack; sweet potatoes, 2 1/4c per pound.

Onions—New, \$1 25 per sack.

Vegetables—Beans, 4@5c per pound; cabbage, 1@1 1/2c; cauliflower, 75c@ \$1.25 per dozen; celery, 50c@ \$1; corn, 15@20c; cucumbers, 10@25c; onions, 12 1/2@15c; peas, 7c per pound; peppers, 5@10c; pumpkins, 1 1/2@1 1/4c; squash, 5c; radishes, 15c per dozen; tomatoes, 40@60c per box.

Hops—1909 contracts, 2 1/2; 1908 crop, 16c; 1907 crop, 12c; 1906 crop, 8c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 16@23c per pound; valley, 23@25c; mohair, choice, 24@25c.

Cattle—Steers, top, \$4.50; fair to good, \$4@4.25; common, \$3.75@4; cows, top, \$3.25; fair to good, \$3@3.25; common to medium, \$2.50@2.75; calves, top, \$5@5.50; heavy, \$3.50@4; bulls, \$2@2.25; stags, \$2.50@3.50.

Hogs—Best, \$8.25@8.50; fair to good, \$7.75@8; stockers, \$6@7; China fats, \$7.50@8.

Sheep—Top wethers, \$4; fair to good, \$3.50@3.75; ewes, 1/2c less on all grades; yearlings, best, \$4; fair to good, \$3.50@3.75; spring lambs, \$5@5.25.

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