

ONE DOLLAR WHEAT

Society of Equity Will Fix Minimum at Omaha Convention.

ALSO PREVENT GLUT IN MARKET

Farmers' Trust Has Organized System to Control Price and Distribution—Bankers Help.

Omaha, Neb., April 18.—In the five great wheat producing states of the country the minimum price of this cereal this year will be \$1 a bushel. This, at least, is the plan of the American Society of Equity, the grain growers' department of which will hold its annual convention in Omaha June 5, 6 and 7. Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas will send large delegations to the convention. Oklahoma, Iowa and other states are also to be represented.

The purposes of this society and the scope of its membership were explained at length today by J. A. Everett, of Indianapolis, its president, who said:

"The American Society of Equity is a business organization of farmers, with local societies in 2,700 of the 3,000 agricultural counties of the United States. Its purpose is to carry on its organization work through local societies, organized into state unions. Its business side is being strongly developed along the line of departments, covering various farm products, such as departments already organized being those of fruit and produce and of tobacco. The grain growers' department is the third.

"The convention at Omaha in June will launch this department on a solid basis. A central bureau will gather and disseminate information concerning supply and demand; fix a minimum price below which the farmers agree not to sell, and handle and divert the grain from the source of supply to the points of demand, as needed, not causing a glut of the market at any point at any time.

"The state union of North Dakota, at its annual meeting, was invited by the State Bankers' association to appoint a committee to confer with a like bankers' committee to arrange for carrying along the poor farmers who might otherwise be forced to sell below the minimum price."

REGULATE 2-CENT FARES

Nebraska Commission Rules on Terminal and Pass Matters.

Lincoln, Neb., April 18.—The Nebraska railway commission issued its first order today bearing on 2-cent fares and streetcar passes. It is a notice to steam railroad companies to post placards in every station calling attention to the fact that the 2-cent passenger fare does not apply to tickets purchased to a destination beyond the state border.

In addition to this order the commission has addressed a letter to the Lincoln Traction company, the Citizens' Railway company, of Lincoln; the Omaha Lincoln & Beatrice Interurban and the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway corporation, notifying them that they are subject to the terms of the new anti-pass law and will be expected to obey it.

GO FROM COPY TO CROPS.

Newspaper Men to Take Up Farms in Colorado.

Denver, Colo., April 18.—A colony of newspaper men is to be established in the Little Snake river valley in Routt county, Colorado, where the state of Colorado will throw open for settlement this summer, under the Carey act, 50,000 acres of land. This land is under the Little Snake river canal system. The plan is to make this colony an up-to-date farming community, where each man will own his own farm and improvements, the only connection in which the community idea will prevail, if at all, being in regard to labor.

Shocks Still Continue.

City of Mexico, April 18.—Owing to the great difficulty in establishing communication with the cities situated in the region of the earthquake details are coming to this city slowly. From the latest reports it is learned that shocks occurred as late as noon today. In the list of known dead, which now totals 50, and of the injured, which approximates 300, are many names of Mexicans prominent in the official and social life of the region. So far the name of no American has appeared in the meager list.

War in Tobacco States.

Clarksville, Tenn., April 18.—The destruction of tobacco plant beds in this district by "night riders" has reached an alarming state and it is feared that, unless the depredations are stopped, there will be an unusually light crop. During the past week a number of plant beds have been salted and the plants killed. Trainmen have been threatened with violence if they hauled tobacco growers not connected with the growers' association.

Cubans Want No Regular Army.

Havana, April 18.—Opinion here is opposed to the plan of the American general staff to establish a Cuba regular army of 12,000 men to replace the rural guard. It is said that it will be difficult to recruit that number of men.

EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO.

Shock Lasts More Than Four Minutes Over Large Territory.

City of Mexico, April 16.—An earthquake lasting four and a half minutes started this city Sunday night. The earth rocked in a long, swinging motion, terrifying the inhabitants but doing no damage so far as can be learned at this city. Clocks stopped at 11:34 p. m. (Mexican time), and the perceptible motion of the earth ceased at 11:38½. The telegraph wires were put out of commission and for a short time the city was in darkness owing to the failure of the electric lights. The asphalt on one of the principal business streets of the city was cracked open for a distance of 10 yards. People fled from their houses into the streets.

Representatives of the Associated Press made rapid searches over the city but nothing beyond cracked walls and small fissures in the pavements could be found. At the police stations no deaths had been reported. A wall on Santiago street collapsed, killing a number of horses and wounding five men.

No reports have yet come from the American colony, but it is not believed that serious damage was sustained there, although the houses, unlike those in the old section of the city, are not built to withstand earthquake shocks.

Telegraphic communication as far south as the cities of Oaxaca and San Juan Bautista has been established, but beyond the report that the shock was very heavy in that region and along the Gulf coast nothing more was learned.

ROUTE OF LONG RIDE.

Lieutenant McCabe Selects Course of 3,000-Mile Trip.

Washington, April 16.—Lieutenant E. Warner McCabe, of the Sixth cavalry, who has been picked by General Bell to ride from Silverton, Ore., across the continent on an Arab stallion, has asked that Quartermaster Sergeant Samuel Peterson, troop K, Sixth cavalry, be detailed as his orderly to accompany him on his long trip.

McCabe has also indicated that he will lay his route along the Oregon Short Line and the Union Pacific road from Silverton to Umatilla, Or.; thence to Boise Barracks, Idaho; Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo.; Omaha, Neb.; Fort Des Moines, Ia.; Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind.; Columbus Barracks, Ohio; Pittsburg and Harrisburg, Pa., to New York City.

General Bell said today that he thought the trip, which will embrace more than 3,000 miles, might be made in 100 days, and even less if the horse had the necessary endurance. Complete statistics of the condition of the horse and rider, amount of food consumed and other details will be kept from day to day.

Pick Flaws in Douma.

London, April 16.—In a long letter to the London Times, the Russian jurist, Professor DeMartens, expresses the conviction that the second Russian parliament is absolutely unfit to work successfully for the benefit of Russia and cannot advance the nation in the direction of a constitutional system of government. Professor DeMartens bases his belief on the ground that legislative assembly find not a single word to disapprove of assassinations and murder, only enjoys speeches of discontent and unlimited hate and is quite unfit to discuss needed reforms, and cannot possibly construct new order in the state. He believes dissolution is absolutely inevitable and only a question of time.

Brazil at Peace Meeting.

Rio de Janeiro, April 16.—Brazil has received official information from the government of the Netherlands that she is to participate in the approaching peace conference at The Hague. The Brazilian government has denounced the existing commercial treaty with France, and it has been decided to denounce also the agreements with France, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Switzerland under which the consular representatives of the specified countries are allowed to intervene in the collection and settlement of inheritances.

Fruit Damage Is Heavy.

Kansas City, April 16.—There were killing frosts again last night in the fruit district of Kansas and Western Missouri, adding to the damage already done. All reports agree that heavy loss has been caused—millions of dollars, according to Secretary LaGoodman, of the Missouri Valley Horticultural association. Several days may elapse before the full extent of the injury can be estimated accurately. The weather tonight is cloudy and warmer and further frost is not expected.

Texas Has New Tax Plan.

Austin, Tex., April 16.—With 27 tax measures pending for consideration in consequence of Governor Campbell's having reconvened the legislature in special session last Friday, much interest awaits his demands which he says will make tomorrow for specific action upon these measures. They represent a tax upon every known corporate interest in the state. In addition the state revenue agent has demanded a revaluation of property values.

Floods Do Great Damage.

Constantinople, April 16.—Continuous heavy rains have caused the rivers to overflow, seriously flooding Macedonia and Asia Minor. The plains of Broussa, Adabazir, Kutaia, Adin and almost all the villages are submerged and there have been heavy loss of life and destruction of cattle and property.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

GRAFT IS DENIED.

Secretary Garfield Says Idaho Reclamation Service Is Clean.

Washington, April 16.—Secretary Garfield today exploded the charges of graft in the reclamation service in Idaho by officially notifying Director Newell that the accusations against Engineer D. W. Ross and his assistant secretary had been found to be without foundation and had been dismissed, following this announcement by promoting Mr. Ross from \$3,600 to \$4,000, and Mr. Horn from \$3,300 to \$3,600.

The report against Ross and Horn was made by Special Inspector A. R. Green, who spent some time in Idaho making investigations and who gleaned his information from government contractors. Green based his charges on statements made by the contractors on the Boise-Payette project. His conclusions were utterly disapproved by Secretary Garfield.

WILL CONFER ON GUNBOAT.

Zelaya and Figueroa to Meet—Joint Guarantee of Peace.

Washington, April 18.—Naval movements today show that the gunboat Boston has started from Amapala, Honduras, for Corinto, Nicaragua, to convey President Zelaya to Amapala for the conference he will have there with President Figueroa. The Chicago will be used to convey President Figueroa to the conference, which will be held either at Amapala or on board one of the American vessels to be anchored in Fonseca bay.

At the State department today it was admitted that an agreement between the United States and Mexico had been entered into, by which a guaranty has been given that there shall be no hostile demonstrations between the forces of Guatemala and Salvador upon the frontier during the conference.

Foreign Crop Good.

Washington, April 17.—The European crop report of the Agricultural department, covering conditions abroad up to April 1, says that the heavy snow which fell last winter over the greater part of Europe, has, excepting in parts of Russia and the Balkan states, almost everywhere disappeared. That the protection afforded to winter cereals has been generally efficacious is being demonstrated by the vigor with which the plants in most countries seem to be responding to the quickening influences of spring.

Northwest Postal Affairs.

Washington, April 18.—Postmasters appointed:

Oregon—Antone, George C. Glover, vice E. L. Knox, resigned; Kingsley, Theodore Bushkul, vice W. L. Smith, resigned; Lamont, Millard T. Cowan, vice J. C. Rush, resigned.

Washington—Cascade, Thomas Moffett, vice Minnie Stevenson, resigned. Rural free delivery route No. 1 has been ordered established June 17 at New Kamelie, Mason county, Wash., serving 410 people and 86 families.

Changes in Forest Service.

Washington, April 18.—Forest inspector F. E. Ames has been placed temporarily in charge of the Tillamook and Umpqua forest reserves in Oregon. Acting Supervisor Anderson, of Grant's Pass, takes charge of the Ashland reserve. D. B. Shellar, formerly in charge of the Heppner reserve, has been transferred to the Yakima reserve, in Washington, being succeeded by T. R. Chidey. William Cryder is promoted from manager to acting supervisor in charge of the Colville reserve, in Washington.

Bonilla Becomes Exile.

Washington, April 17.—The Navy department is informed that the gunboat Princeton left Amapala on Saturday with President Bonilla, of Honduras, on board. It was stated that President Bonilla would be landed at Salina Cruz, Mexico. His departure is in compliance with an agreement entered into between President Zelaya, of Nicaragua and President Figueroa, of Salvador, that the Honduran president leave the country.

500,000 in Six Months.

Washington, April 17.—According to a statement issued today by the bureau of immigration, the total immigration to the United States from all countries for the six months ending March last aggregated 539,137 persons, which is an increase of 75,821 over a like period in 1906. The total number of immigrants from Russia for the six months ending March last was 103,364, being an increase of 21,631 over the corresponding period of 1906.

Exult Over Exonerations.

Washington, April 18.—The reclamation service, from Director Newell down to the lesser officers, held a jubilation today at the official exoneration of Engineer Ross of Idaho by Secretary Garfield. They claim the exoneration will invest the service with renewed confidence in the minds of the people, re-establishing it everywhere where charges by Special Agent Greene have called it in question.

Wants Clerks to Weigh Mails.

Washington, April 17.—The Civil Service commission has been called upon by the Postoffice department to furnish a list of clerks for temporary work, beginning July 1, who will be employed in making arithmetical computations in connection with the weighing of the mails.

TEXAS VALUATION OF ROADS

Cowan Tells President How Capital Is Limited.

Washington, April 20.—Some interesting information on the operation of the Texas stock and bond law of 1903, under which a valuation of railroad properties of the state was made in 1895, was given to the president today by Judge S. H. Cowan, of Texas, a special employee of the Interstate Commerce commission and attorney for the Southwestern Cattlegrazers' association.

Mr. Cowan told the president that the Texas law had proven a success. It had not been put upon the statute books for the purpose of becoming the basis for rate-making, he said, but to fix a line beyond which the roads could not go in issuing stocks and bonds. He added that the valuation put upon the roads by the Texas commission having charge of the matter exceeded the cost of construction by 15 to 20 per cent, and the cost of the ascertainment of the facts had been comparatively small. So far as he was aware, Judge Cowan said, none of the railroads had contested a valuation made under the law.

BORAH GOES TO ROOSEVELT

Idaho Senator Asks to Have Action On His Case Postponed.

Washington, April 17.—President Roosevelt has been appealed to by Senator Borah, of Idaho, to review his indictment by the Federal grand jury with a view to postponing action until after the trial of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, the men accused of murdering Governor Steunenberg, of Idaho.

Senator Borah is the special counsel engaged by the state to prosecute these officials of the Western Federation of Miners. The appeal of Senator Borah places the president in a rather embarrassing position.

In the event the president withholds the action against Senator Borah, it will be charged that he is showing favors to those who are prosecuting the miners, and if he does not, Senator Borah will be seriously embarrassed in the prosecution of the miners charged with the murder of Steunenberg.

Civil Service in the South.

Washington, April 16.—Civil Service Commissioner McIlheny, who is a Southerner and a Democrat, is entering on what he terms a campaign of education in the South in regard to the function and character of the commission. He found that one of the greatest difficulties in securing efficient service for the government in the South was the fact that the whites have conceived the idea that the service is meant especially for the negroes, and as a consequence when an examination for positions is held it is generally attended largely by negroes, the proportion often being ten to one.

Heyburn Slowly Gains.

Washington, April 19.—Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, who has been very ill in Philadelphia, was brought to this city today. He is improving slowly, though still very weak, and there is much ground to be gained before his condition will permit him to attend to any official business. He was accompanied here by Mrs. Heyburn, W. B. Sams, his private secretary, and a trained nurse. Today was the first time Mr. Heyburn was able to be moved since the inception of his attack of acute indigestion.

Will Relieve Congestion.

Washington, April 18.—After a conference with and upon the recommendation of Senator Bourne, Land Commissioner Ballinger has ordered Special Inspector O'Brien, of Denver, to proceed to Roseburg and assist the local land officers in clearing up the accumulation of business in their office. Work has fallen behind to such an extent that there are now pending about 700 land cases and contests awaiting action. When the Roseburg office is straightened out, similar work is to be done elsewhere in Oregon.

Cheap Paper for Official Records.

Washington, April 18.—That the papers supplied for government use too frequently fall below the specifications, lack durability or in some way are not adapted to the purpose for which they are intended, is the statement made by Chief Wiley, of the chemistry bureau in a circular issued by the Agricultural department. Valuable documents and scientific work are recorded on papers which deteriorate, thus rendering the records useless.

Would Be "Cadet" or "Middy."

Washington, April 16.—The State department has received an inquiry from Hamilton King, American minister to Siam, asking whether it would be possible to admit to the Naval or Military academy a nephew of the king of Siam.

McLaren Pension Examiner.

Washington, April 19.—On the recommendation of Congressman Ellis, Dr. A. P. McLaren has been appointed by the pension bureau as examining surgeon at St. Helens, Or., vice Dr. J. E. Hall, who recently resigned.

Cuba Accepts Taft's Program.

Washington, April 16.—The War department today received a dispatch from Governor Magoo, of Cuba, saying that the plans for the elections in the island, which were made by Secretary Taft, are satisfactory to everybody.

BREAK HARRIMAN MONOPOLY.

Secretary Bonaparte May Reclaim Big Union Pacific Land Grant.

Cheyenne, Wyo., April 22.—As one of the results of the recent investigations by the Interstate Commerce commission into Western land frauds, Attorney General Bonaparte has under consideration an attempt to force the Union Pacific railroad to return to the government all the millions of acres which remain unsold of the original land grant. Of the great grant of more than 20,000,000 acres, the road yet holds an area equal to the states of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware, and still have nearly 500,000 acres left over. This immense body of land in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, if returned to the government, would immediately be thrown open to settlement under the homestead laws.

Immediately after the Interstate Commerce commission's investigation of the conditions which have made possible the monopoly in coal land which the Union Pacific has maintained for 25 years, Commissioner Prouty called upon the attorneys for the commission to submit recommendations for remedial legislation or to suggest other means of dealing with the monopoly. Those recommendations are now in the hands of the attorney general.

"Destroy the land monopoly of the Union Pacific," is the basis of this report.

IMMENSE FIRE SCO GRAFT.

Police Captain Tells of Blackmail in Tenderloin District.

San Francisco, April 22.—Captain of Police John Mooney was on the stand in the grand jury room for two hours today, and when he left it was announced that he had not completed the story of police corruption, but would return tomorrow to finish the recital.

Mr. Mooney's testimony was sensational in the extreme. The burden of it was that corruption of the blackest kind exists in the department, and that it exists by the sufferance and encouragement of Chief of Police Dinan, Mayor Schmitz, Abe Ruef and a certain element in the lower courts. Mr. Mooney said that all his efforts to purge the town of undesirables were blocked by the men in authority, whose duty it was to assist.

Mr. Mooney charged that resorts in the new tenderloin were protected at regular rates. With his assistance the grand jury has been put in possession of evidence which shows a depth of degradation almost unbelievable. It has been shown that the mayor and Ruef have been partners in some of the most nefarious enterprises launched in any municipality.

BAD CONDITIONS ON ISTHMUS.

Italy Forbids Emigration and Sends Man to Investigate.

Rome, April 22.—Leroy Park, agent for the Panama Canal commission, who was sent here to investigate means of obtaining men for work upon the isthmus, learns that the Italian government has received grave reports regarding the hygienic, humanitarian and moral conditions of the isthmus; that the government had forbidden further immigration of Italians to Panama, and that a government official had been sent to the isthmus to investigate conditions. Mr. Park did everything possible to place the situation before the government and to convince the officials here that the men at work upon the canal earned \$2 a day, were well fed, well housed and humanely treated, adding that he believed that 5,000 immigrants might leave Italy for Panama immediately and that thousands of others would soon follow.

Many Governors to Attend.

New York, April 22.—Fifteen governors have accepted the invitation to name delegates to attend the national conference on combinations and trusts in Chicago, May 28-31. The acceptances of the governors of New York, Iowa, Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin and Utah were received today. This conference will discuss Governmental powers over corporations engaged in interstate commerce; the division of power under the constitution between the nation and the state, and similar subjects.

May Tie Up Street Cars.

San Francisco, April 22.—San Francisco is threatened with a bitter street car strike on May 1, when the present agreement between the men and the company will expire. The men now receive up to 32 cents an hour for a ten-hour day. The men request a flat rate of \$3 a day for eight hours. Both sides admit they expect a strike and are prepared for it. It is known that the United Railways has begun the recruiting of strike breakers with whom to supplant its men when they go out.

Heavy Snow in Colorado.

Denver, Colo., April 22.—According to the local weather bureau's measurements, 18 inches of snow, equivalent to 1.44 inches of rain, fell here during the storm which came from the north yesterday morning and passed off to the southeast today. A heavy precipitation was general in Colorado, and the ground is now in good condition to bring to maturity the grain crops, which were threatened with failure in some districts.

Only Week's Supply of Coal.

Winnipeg, Man., April 22.—More than 15,000 coal miners are now involved in the strike in Alberta and British Columbia. Within a week, it is said, the Canadian Pacific will not be able to operate its passenger trains for lack of coal. Until navigation opens there is no relief in sight.

LARGE AREA IN RUIN

Two Cities in Mexico Known to Be Destroyed.

500 LIVES ARE REPORTED LOST

Panic Reigns at Chilpancingo and Chilapa, the Ruined Cities—Silence Covers Others.

Chilpancingo, Mexico, April 16.—This city has been completely destroyed by an earthquake. The known dead number 11 and the badly injured 27. The greatest panic prevails and the people are fleeing to the open country. The earth continues to rock at half hour intervals and many minor shocks are completing the work of destruction begun by the first earthquake.

Word has reached here that the town of Chilapa, 42 kilometers to the northeast, has also been destroyed. No details have been received as to the number of dead and injured.

The population of Chilpancingo is 7,498 and until the panic into which the citizens have been thrown abates it will be impossible to state the number of casualties. The population of Chilapa is 15,000.

No word has been received from Tixtla, and it is feared it also has been destroyed. According to the movements of the earthquake, Tixtla would be in its direct line.

Half Republic Is Shaken.

Mexico City, April 16.—The Federal telegraph office here has informed the Associated Press that Sunday night's earthquake has interfered with the working of the wires in all parts of the republic south of a line drawn from Acapulco on the west coast to Tampico on the Gulf coast. From messages received at the telegraph office up to noon it appears that the entire south half of the republic including the lower country and the Mesaba belt felt the shock.

The National Bank of Mexico has received a telegram saying that 500 lives were lost in the destruction of Chilapa and Chilpancingo. In government circles the report is not credited. It is admitted that both cities were leveled to the ground, but it is not thought that the death list will even approximate 500, owing to the fact that the houses are built of stone in order to resist earthquake shocks.

TAMPERING WITH GOLD COINS

Entire Output of Denver Mint Under Legal Fineness.

Denver, April 16.—Department heads of the new United States mint in this city and three government agents connected with the mint headquarters began today checking up the coinage of the mint and making the annual settlements, several weeks in advance of the usual time for these settlements. This action, following the government report that gold coins from the Denver mint have been found to be under value in fineness of gold, though up to grade in weight, means that the government has begun action to discover who is responsible for the discrepancy in fineness.

The government report states that the coins are found to be under fine to the extent of 5 cents on every \$20 gold piece. The discrepancy was discovered by the Bank of England assayer, who passed on a shipment of \$1,500,000 made to England in January.

Money for United States.

Shanghai, April 16.—The sum of \$5,000 received from the United States by the Famine Relief commission today was used to purchase 500,000 pounds of dried potatoes, which were rushed to the front. A dispatch was received today from a Chinese official offering to put, for the first time in history, steamboats above the locks of the Grand canal, thus cutting down the time for transportation to the famine district from this city to eight days. Further particulars of the distress existing show that the people are eating the green scum from the ponds, white clay and the hulls of rice.

Five Burned in Wreckage.

St. Paul, April 16.—Running at a speed of 40 miles an hour on a straight track, the Great Northern west bound Oriental Limited, which left here for Pacific coast points Sunday morning, was derailed at 1:15 yesterday morning at Bartlett, N. D. Five persons were killed and a score or more injured. Later the gas tank exploded and the train took fire, seven passenger coaches being destroyed. The sleeper and observation cars escaped the flames. There is said to be some evidence that the rails had been tampered with.

Made Whole Earth Shake.

Albany, N. Y., April 16.—The strongest and longest earthquake shock recorded upon the seismograph at the state museum here since the instrument was installed began at 1:14 a. m. yesterday and continued for more than two hours. The record is much more pronounced than that made by the San Francisco earthquake of last year. The maximum vibration was so severe as to swing the pendulum clear off the recording indicator.

Andean Volcanoes Break Out.

Buenos Ayres, April 16.—Active eruptions are in progress among the Andean volcanoes in the territory of Rio Negro. Ashes are being thrown for a great distance.