

COTTAGE GROVE LEADER

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CAUSES SENSATION

Remarkable Case of Stock-Watering Reported

Combination so Powerful That all Competition is Prevented—Many Suits Will be Instituted.

New York, May 15.—The Evening Telegram today publishes what it says is an abstract of the findings of the interstate commerce commission during its investigation of the Harriman railroads. The Telegram calls the report the most sensational that the commission ever issued. It states that the commission found that railroad competition had been choked off entirely in an area equal to a third of the United States and that in this area Harriman is absolute master; that Harriman's contract with the Rock Island, Southern Pacific, Santa Fe, Illinois Central and San Pedro railroads was in violation of the anti-trust laws, and recommends that the attorney-general proceed against them; that the purchase of the shares of one road by another was a bad practice and should be stopped and that the profits of the great roads of the west were being used to buy stock and control systems in the east instead of developing the west.

The report calls the Harriman reorganization "one of the most remarkable cases of manipulation and stock-watering ever known" and demands laws to prevent repetition. The report concludes with the statement that Harriman is absolute master of the Illinois Central, so powerful in the Santa Fe as to prevent competition with his roads; that the combination of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific is so powerful as to suppress all competition and prevent the building of the San Pedro & Los Angeles.

The government will institute many great suits upon the report to dissolve the merger of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific and other suits based upon the manipulation of western roads.

Administration Will Investigate Land Contracts of S. P. Railroad.

A Washington dispatch says there is no longer any doubt that the national administration will exert its powerful influence to break the Southern Pacific land monopoly in Oregon and force that company to place on market the remaining 3,000,000 acres of its grant, selling to bona fide settlers in quarter section tracts and at not more than \$2.50 per acre, as specifically set forth in the law under which the grant was made. After several long conferences with Senator Bourne, Attorney General Bonaparte has directed District Attorney Bristol, to make a thorough investigation into the Southern Pacific grant, more properly known as the Oregon Central and Oregon & California grant. The government will first determine whether the law under which the grants were made can be enforced without further action on the part of congress. If it concluded that there is ample law the government will then determine what is the most practicable method of enforcing its provision unless it shall be found that the grant was forfeited. From his talks with Mr. Bourne, the Attorney General is fully aware of the difficulties of the problem he has undertaken to solve, and has directed Attorney Nathan V. Harlan of the third division of Alaska to report to Mr. Bristol and aid him in every way in his investigations. Mr. Harlan was in Nebraska on leave and desired employment before the expiration of

his leave. The Attorney General was glad to receive his services for this particular work and accordingly instructed Mr. Harlan to report to Bristol and lend him every possible assistance. The Attorney General has notified Mr. Bristol by letter, and has instructed him to afford Mr. Harlan every facility for the work and directed him to place in Mr. Harlan's hands all information available which would be of use in making the investigation. In his instruction to Mr. Harlan the Attorney General says:

"You are instructed to investigate the matter and prepare a bill in equity for submission to the department for approval. The relief asked in the bill shall be, First, a decree that the land grant involved was valid; or second, that it was forfeited by the failure to comply with the terms stated; or third, that the railroad shall be decreed to comply with the terms of the grant by offering the land for sale to bona fide settlers at \$2.50 per acre, and in tracts not exceeding 160 acres to each purchaser. Later on, it is understood, the department will investigate to determine whether or not sales heretofore made by the railroad in violation of the provisions of the law can be invalidated. At present, however, the main object is to force the Southern Pacific to put its lands on the market and no longer retard development along the line of its road.

RURAL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS.

After May 25, May be Organized in Any County in the State.

On and after May 25, union high schools may be organized in any of the counties of the state, by means of which schools in country districts may be provided with courses for students who have completed the grammar grades. This is possible under a recent act of the Legislature, passed to meet a demand for higher education for suburban districts. By grouping several districts together a central high school may be formed to be supported by the several districts so grouped together. To form a union high school district petitions must be prepared in the districts to be united, addressed to the boundary board.

These petitions ask the boundary board to submit the question of a high school to the several districts for vote at the annual meeting of each district. To bring about a union a majority vote must be cast in all the districts. If one of the districts votes against a union it is enough to defeat the whole measure. The law provides that where two third-class districts unite the school boards become the governing power. If three third-class districts unite, the Board of Control is composed of the chairmen of the respective boards. If any other combination is formed the governing board is composed of five members appointed by the boundary board to serve until the next annual election, when the tax-payers elect.

Arrangements may be made to use the school house in any of the districts for high school purposes. Districts having high schools are required to admit pupils from other districts. Union high schools thus formed will be maintained by special tax. The expense is estimated by the high school board and then apportioned among the districts that have been united according to the assessed valuation of each. Each district is required to levy its share after the apportionment has been made. It is contemplated by such union high schools to bring facilities of higher education within the reach of children in rural districts.

The Leader leads—never follows

OVERLAND WRECKED

The Second Disaster for the S. P. in a Week.

Trainmen Perish in Head-On Collision on Tuesday, Near Copley.—Passengers Escape Injury.

Southern Pacific overland train No. 12, from San Francisco was wrecked Tuesday near Copley, California, by a head-on collision with two southbound locomotives. Five men of the crews of the engines and train were killed or are missing and under their engines. No passengers are reported injured.

All three of the locomotives participating in the collision were nearly demolished and are masses of scrap iron. It was necessary to dispatch two extra locomotives and a wrecking train to the scene.

The two southbound locomotives were proceeding south from Dunsuir, and running close together, at a high rate of speed. It is reported that they dashed around a curve and suddenly were confronted by the northbound passenger train. The two locomotives were running down grade, and before they could be checked the collision occurred, piling all three locomotives up in a tangled mass. Brake-man William Jones of the passenger train, was instantly killed. Engineer Wooden and the fireman of the locomotive pulling No. 12 are reported dead.

The wreck is said to have been due to Engineers Peters and Leland disregarding orders and running past Coram, where they should have stopped. They had received orders to protect themselves against No. 12, which train had the right of way. The dead trainmen and enginemen resided at Ashland and points south.

Some Reserves That Will be Given to Settlement Soon.

The land office at Vancouver has been notified that on July 29 about 98,570 acres of land will be subject to settlement which had been temporarily withdrawn for forestry purposes adjoining the Ranier national reserve. It will be subject to entry August 29.

On July 27 about 355,840 acres will be subject to settlement but not to entry in the Portland, Lakeview, The Dallas and Roseburg districts and surrounding the Cascade National forest reserve.

On the same date 132,920 acres heretofore withdrawn for proposed additions to the Heppner national forest reserve in the La Grande and The Dalles districts, will be subject to settlement, entry, filing or selection.

On July 22 about 256,000 acres in the Waterville district, Washington, will be subject to settlement, but not to entry before August 21, and in the Seattle district 1,280 acres will be subject to settlement and entry on the same dates.

Lane County Agricultural Society Elects Officers.

Officers of the Lane County Agricultural society were elected as follows: President, F. M. Wilkins; vice-president, G. G. Gross; secretary, J. M. Williams; assistant secretary, C. M. Young, treasurer, P. E. Snodgrass. The board of directors consists of the following: Eli Bangs, D. E. Yoran, G. G. Gross, C. M. Young, Amos Wilkins L. L. Whitson, T. E. Schafer.

Henry F. Hollenbeck was elected director of the Second Southern District Association for one year, and Amos Wilkins was recommended for appointment by the governor for the term of two years.

"GUILTY" SAYS REUF

Boss Reuf of San Francisco Admits Extortion

Pleads Guilty to the Charges Now Pending and Throws Himself on Mercy of Court.

San Francisco, May 15.—After one of the most desperate legal battles to avoid punishment for crime in the history of California, Abraham Reuf today entered a plea of guilty to the indictment charging him with extorting money from the French restaurants upon pain of having their liquor licenses revoked. The plea came as a thunderclap and followed the defeat of the defense in the last stand of the effort to secure a change of venue.

When the motion was denied, the defense sought a continuance, which was denied. Reuf then asked time in which to hold a conference with his attorneys. This was granted. At the expiration of half an hour Reuf and his counsel, who had withdrawn to the judge's chambers, reappeared. As soon as the court rapped for order Attorneys Ach, Shortridge and Fairall in turn announced their withdrawal from the case.

Attorney Murphy then arose, stating that he seriously disagreed with the action that his client was about to take, and declared that he would stay with him. The same action was taken by Attorney Fairall.

After the attorneys had concluded their statements, the prisoner, hollow-eyed pale and trembling, arose, with manuscript in hand. He appeared hardly able to stand, and while reading from his manuscript, his voice faltered, his face twitched frequently and he broke down completely. He drank cup after cup of water and spoke very slowly. His statement was a lengthy one and began with an apology to his attorneys for what he was about to do. He closed with a plea of guilty.

After concluding the reading of the statement Reuf in a voice hardly to be heard, threw himself upon the mercy of the court and fell into his chair in a state of almost complete collapse.

COOS BAY ROAD ASSURED

Roseburg Citizens Subscribe a Hundred Thousand for Capital Stock

Roseburg, Ore., May 14.—Roseburg citizens today subscribed \$100,000 for capital stock of the Roseburg and Coos Bay electric railroad. Coos Bay citizens have subscribed a like amount, and Saturday a general conference of committees of five from Roseburg, Marshfield, Bandon, Coquille, North Bend and Myrtle Point will be held at Marshfield, when the new company will be organized and details of the work of construction be mapped out. The \$100,000 pledged today is by no means all the money Roseburg will put into the enterprise. The company has yet to be organized and many of the wealthiest citizens are holding back subscriptions. There is no longer any doubt out that the road will speedily be built.

Voting Machines to Go.

The passage by the New Jersey senate of the voting machine local option bill is supposed to mark the banishment of the machines from the state. It is expected to pass the house without serious opposition.

For five years the state has purchased these machines in lots, until

now there is about \$300,000 invested in 500 of them. The people found it hard to "get the hang" of them, and voters have stayed away from the polls rather than exhibit their inability to comprehend them.

Besides, it was brought out in the debate yesterday that the clicking of the machine under the manipulation of the voter tells those near whether he is registering a straight or split ticket. In many of the districts they registered more votes than there were names on the registry lists.—Trenton Dispatch.

Eugene is Pulling for District Fair Next Year.

Eugene, Or., May 13.—At a meeting of the Lane county Agricultural society held Saturday it was decided to ask for the Second Southern Oregon district fair for Eugene in the fall of 1908. The district comprises Lane, Douglas, Coos and Curry counties. Lane county has had the fair but once, Roseburg having it in all other years since the organization of the district. It is proposed to purchase a suitable site near the city for the fair and hold it here at least once in two years hereafter. The local association and the idea of holding a county fair will be given up.

WILL HAVE LIVESTOCK SHOW

Raising Funds Now—Prizes for all Kinds of Farm Animals.

It looks now as if Corvallis would have a big livestock show. The movement for it has gained great impetus, and sentiment is rapidly developing. A general committee has been appointed and is W. A. Savage, chairman, Grant Elgin, W. H. Currie, Henry Ambler and T. K. Fawcett. The date has been set for June 7th and 8th. An effort will be made to raise \$500 of which \$200 is already subscribed for prizes. The prizes will go for horses, poultry, cattle, sheep and hogs. It is planned for sheep, poultry and some exhibits to be made in pens in a side street next to the sidewalks, the pens to be provided by the committee. This feature will be carried out if permission can be secured of the council to use the streets. A fact of interest is that Chairman Savage of the committee has been identified for years with exhibits at the state fair. He was at many fairs in charge of the pavilion. He was in charge of Marion county exhibit at the Lewis & Clark. His experience is counted on to make the proposed livestock show in Corvallis a stem winder.—Corvallis Times.

Widows and Widowers Excepted.

Omaha, Neb., has passed an ordinance requiring all single persons between 25 and 45 years of age to marry within 60 days or pay a heavy fine. Only widowers and widows are exempted.—News.

LEBANON FEELS LOSS

Car Shortage Cripples Business of Valley Towns

Sawmill Closes Down and 20 Men Are Out of Work—Other Industries Are Affected.

A dispatch to the Oregonian from Lebanon says. Lebanon and vicinity now feel the effects of the car shortage as never before. On account of the lack of cars to move the lumber already cut and in the yards, the sawmill of the Lebanon Lumber Company failed to start up Monday morning and 25 men were thrown out of employment. How long the mill will be closed depends entirely on the ability of the owners to get cars to move the lumber from the yards. There is now about 1,000,000 feet of lumber at the mill awaiting shipment.

The shutting down of the mill here is but a small part of the drawback to the community. There are at least a dozen small mills in the timber belt above Lebanon which must get their lumber to market through Lebanon and over the Southern Pacific railroad and the car shortage will compel most of them to close down very soon, unless they can get cars to move their lumber. Most of these mills still have the entire winter cut in their yards. Only last week did they begin to haul the lumber out. Before the recent rains they were sending this out at about 25,000 feet a day. This was hauled to Lebanon by farmers, who earn with a team \$5 a day, and some 20 of them were engaged in the work.

If some way cannot be devised to overcome this lack of transportation of the lumber to market, the loss to this community will be something like \$500 a day. The business interest of the community is being aroused over the matter.

Special Delivery Stamps Not Needed.

No special delivery postage stamp will be needed after July 1st, to insure the immediate delivery of a letter. The affixing of 10 cents extra postage and marking the covering "Special Delivery" will suffice.

New Bonanza Struck for Copper King Clark.

Butte, Mont., May 10.—A 20-foot ledge of copper glance was uncovered at Columbia Gardens, Butte's chief pleasure resort, while workmen were digging a sewer trench yesterday. The strike was entirely unexpected. The ore is so rich that should it continue for any depth it promises to develop into a big mine. The ground belongs to former United States Senator W. A. Clark.

Delayed Christmas

CHINA WARE

Just Received at

PEARCE BROS.

Our fine Chinaware, Lamps, Etc., we had ordered for 1906 holiday trade have just arrived and will be sold BELOW COST for the next two weeks.

CALL AND SEE THE DISPLAY.