

COLUMBIA WRECKED

Mrs. Graham of this City Among Those Lost.

EIGHTY-EIGHT REPORTED MISSING

Rammed by the Lumber Schooner, San Pedro, the Steamship Sinks in Eleven Minutes.

One of the most appalling disasters on the Pacific ocean occurred off Shelter Cove, California, last Sunday morning about one o'clock when the steamship Columbia was rammed by the schooner San Pedro which was in tow of the steamship Geo. W. Elder. Reports as to the number of lives lost vary, but it is estimated that the number is 88. The Elder and the steamer Roanoke saved many persons from drowning.

Captain Doran, of the Columbia refused to leave his vessel, although he was doomed to go down in a few seconds. He did all in his power to save lives, but the time was too short to accomplish much. Tons of water poured into the great hole torn by the San Pedro's bow, and the Columbia settled rapidly. When the water was within a few inches of the upper deck the Columbia gave a quick lurch and sank beneath the waves like a chunk of lead. As the waves began to wash the upper decks he was still shouting orders to the crew and encouragement to the passengers. When the waves began to lap about his feet he still clung to the rail and with his feet firmly planted on the bridge he went down with his ship.

Just before the ship gave the last lurch Captain Doran's voice was heard for the last time. It rang out like the notes of a clarion, "God Bless you all. Goodby," he said.

The steamer was on her way from San Francisco to Portland and had on board 250 passengers, a number of them being prominent Oregon people. The latest advice is that about 88 of the passengers and crew were drowned, among them being Mrs. A. Graham of this city, who had been visiting friends in California. While her name does not appear upon the steamer's passenger list, yet it is known that she intended to sail on the Columbia for home and Thursday Mr. Graham received a message from the California friends stating that she had sailed on the ill-fated ship. The name of "Mrs. A. Gray" appears in the missing list and her husband and friends here are confident that it is Mrs. Graham. Mr. Graham went to Portland Thursday to try to get some tidings of his wife from the passengers of the Columbia who came to that city on the steamer Elder, and at press time yesterday the Leader received the following message from him which proves conclusively that Mrs. Graham is among the lost:

"Portland, Ore., July 26, 07. The Leader, Cottage Grove, Ore. Mrs. A. Gray was Mrs. A. Graham of Cottage Grove.

A. GRAHAM.
Miss Carrie Martin, a well-known young lady of Eugene was also a passenger on the Columbia. She was rescued, however, and arrived home Thursday.

Sixty-five of the Columbia passengers arrived in Portland on the Geo. W. Elder, Wednesday at 6 o'clock and were welcomed by thousands. All united in saying that everything possible was done by the ships' officers to save lives after the collision.

PLANT NUTBEARING TREES

Some three months ago we gave a short account of a walnut grove that had been set out by Mr. Felix

Curran, and he informs us that they are doing finely and making a fast growth, and is confident that this section, and in fact the whole valley is especially adapted to nut-bearing trees. He is not the only authority for this statement. Felix Gillett, a prominent California nurseryman and nut culturist, is also authority for the statement that the French, commonly called English walnut trees, are especially healthy and vigorous and prolific in this Willamette valley. In an article in the Oregon Agriculturist and Rural Northwest, he says:

"It is of special interest that Mr. Prince of Yamhill county, gathered this past season from three hundred and fifty trees which had been planted but eight years, thirty bushels of the most splendid nuts ever sent to me from any part of the Pacific coast, not excepting Southern California."

Nut culture is claiming the attention of many in Lane county, and our stores have handled the product more than once. The nuts are equal, in fact better than any imported ones, and the market is so staple that there is not the least danger of the industry being overdone or the supply too great.

ABOUT OUR PUBLIC LANDS

Shall Their Resources Be Conserved for the Benefit of the Whole People, or Monopolized for the Enrichment of the Few.

No more important question confronts the American Public today than that of our public lands. As an able statesman has said:

"They are our National Insurance Policy, insuring National resources to future generations. Shall we compromise or destroy this policy?"

In a recent speech President Roosevelt says:

"The conservation of our national resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life.

"The men whom we have prosecuted and those who fear prosecution by us, naturally endeavor to break down the policy under which alone the homemakers' rights can be secured, and the lands preserved for the use of himself and his children."

And he is backing up his beliefs by a determined effort to enforce the laws and thereby stop the looting of the public domain. In this action he is supported by the sentiment of an overwhelming majority of the Western people, as well as those familiar with these questions in the East.

Notwithstanding this, there is a keenly interested element in the West, made up largely of men in public office, associated more or less intimately with the monopolistic timber, coal-mining and railroad interests ably supported by the so-called "System" of the East, who are opposing these new policies, claiming that they are un-American, visionary and autocratic, and that the best interests of the settler and the progress of the West are jeopardized.

Both sides of these most interesting questions will be ably discussed in a series of articles by a prominent Western writer, entitled, "The Way of the Land Transgressor," beginning with the August issue of The Pacific Monthly, presenting to the reader the unvarnished truth, thereby affording an excellent opportunity to judge who and what is right.

It may be said that these articles, while not addressed to lovers of sensationalism, will present in a dramatic form an intimate account of the more important frauds against the public domain, together with a study of the personal ties involved. They will be profusely illustrated with a series of remarkable photographs, showing scenes in the public land regions, the methods of land fraud operators, characters involved, together with sketches from life of public men whose names are associated with the subject.

LIGHT PLANT BURNED

Fire Caused by Sparks Lighting on Roof.

REBUILDING ALREADY COMMENCED

The Loss to the Willamette Valley Company, Owners of the Plant, Will be About \$30,000.

Cottage Grove will be in darkness for the next two months, caused by the destruction by fire of the Electric Light plant last Sunday at about 1 o'clock.

It was discovered by the fireman before it had gained much headway who immediately gave the alarm. The plant was equipped with an inch and a half hose for fighting an incipient blaze which the engineer and fireman attached as quickly as possible hoping to be able to hold the fire in check until the arrival of the fire department, but unfortunately the pressure was so weak as to hardly force the water a distance of twelve feet. When the fire company arrived they found the water in the main had been partially turned off, so that the pressure was so reduced as to be of little benefit, but under the direction of Orville Knapp, who acted as chief in the absence of Chief Johnson, the boys did excellent work in saving the Brown Lumber Co.'s Mill and lumber yard.

Marshal Snodgrass, who is the one thoroughly acquainted with the condition of the water in the mains, was absent from town, who, had he been here, could have turned on the full supply, which Mr. Abrams the engineer, feels assured would have at least saved the main part of the plant containing the machinery. There was quite a breeze blowing but fortunately it was from the north, otherwise nothing could have saved the mill and perhaps everything south of the railroad track.

The plant is practically entirely new, during the past year and only a few weeks ago several thousand dollars were expended in making new additions and in putting in a dynamo for providing for a day circuit and power for our different industries.

The loss is estimated at \$25,000 or \$30,000 with only an insurance of \$5,000. Mr. Al. Welch of the Willamette Valley Co. came to Cottage Grove Monday, to look over the situation and immediately started a force of men cleaning away the debris, and rebuilding was commenced this week. A larger dynamo and engine than the ones burned has been secured, and Mr. Welch says the plant will be running again in at least forty days.

Mr. Fisher, manager of the Brown Lumber Company, had lately installed a system of fire protection for the mill and was well supplied with small hose and pipes connected with a steam pump. The men in the employ of the mill are well drilled and as soon as the fire was seen to be serious, several streams of water were soon playing on the mill buildings and lumber piles and Mr. Fisher says that he thinks that the investment made for the system installed has paid for itself already one hundred fold.

The loss of the plant will of necessity cause a great deal of inconvenience to our citizens, who have become so accustomed to using its light that to have to return to the kerosene lamp will be an unpleasant change. The installation of motors for running machinery, however, is so new that most all who have it installed, still have the water power or steam to fall back on, so that its loss will not so greatly discommode them.

TAX LEVY CHANGED

County Assessor Will Make Three Changes

NOTE-HOLDERS MUST PAY ALSO

Holders of Mortgages and Timber Lands and Southern Pacific Will be Assessed Higher.

The course which Assessor Keeney, of Lane county, is taking in making up the assessment roll at this time, is meeting with the approval of most of the people and the thorough disapproval of a few. Mr. Keeney has made it his particular business to ascertain the real value of property and assess with some degree of uniformity. Three noticeable changes will be made that will add to the income of the county when the next levy is made. First, the notes covering mortgages will be enumerated, timber lands will be assessed higher, and the Southern Pacific will pay more on its roadbed, rolling stock and its lands.

Thousands of dollars in thoroughly secured notes have escaped taxation in the past partly because of the difficulty of finding them, and partly, no doubt, because of the habit of letting them go. The mortgage records of the county will form the basis of what assessments are made although other evidence will be used where there is any attempt to evade the payment of taxes on this form of wealth.

The assessment on timber lands will be about doubled at the next assessment. Last year the average was about \$5 to \$7 per acre. This year it will be \$10 or \$12. Some of the heaviest taxpayers on timber in Lane county will be the Booth Kelly Lumber Company on 103,849 acres; Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, 22,402; Drew Timber Company, 20,748; Storey-Bracher Company, 6840; Starret & Hovey, 9451; Morton, Lewis & Chick, 10,590; Legeogwill-Madalon, 10,278; Hackley Phelps & Bonnell, 8366, besides numerous individuals who have large holdings. It is impossible to estimate at this time how much timber land there is in this county but a dozen of the large corporations alone hold more than 200,000 acres.

The Southern Pacific congressional lands consisting largely of timber but quite difficult to classify will be assessed at an average of \$8 per acre or just double last year's figures. The lands held by the railroad company will aggregate nearly 300,000 acres and at the increased valuation will alone add more than \$1,000,000 to the assessable property of Lane county. The valuation of the rolling stock and roadbed will be raised \$1000 a mile and there are 74.64 miles of track in the county.

The statement of the Southern Pacific of its rolling stock, while not very helpful in aiding the Assessor to make up his rolls, is very interesting so a few items of the department will show. The following is an exact copy of the statement made by the company for the information of the Assessor in making his total assessment of Lane County:

	No.	Average Value	Total
Locomotives, all classes	12	\$2000	\$24,000
Passenger and freight cars	41	1250	51,250
Coal cars	11	125	1,375
Caboose	2	200	400
Total	76	2000	77,025

The total valuation averages about \$500 per mile and the assessment will be \$1000.

Well Written Advertisement.

One of the most attractive and best written announcements that has appeared in the Leader for a long time is that of the Portland Business College, printed elsewhere

in this issue. The heading is strong and artistic, the wording clean-cut and impressive. Send for the catalogue mentioned in the advertisement. It is a beautiful production that tells all about the school and its splendid work.

No educational institution in the Northwest is better known than the Portland Business College. Its principal, Prof. A. P. Armstrong has been engaged in school work all his life, and has an enviable reputation as an educator. He knows the requirements of employers of office help and can prepare any willing student to meet them.

In this commercial age, King Business is monarch of all he surveys. Opportunities are not wanting for those who are properly qualified. A course in the Portland Business College will prepare any young man or woman for work in the commercial world and result in a position that will render the investment of time and money in a business education the most profitable that can be made.

New Hatchery Completed.

H. G. Van Dusen, state fish commissioner who has been on an investigating tour to the salmon hatchery on the McKenzie river says that the hatchery building had been completed by Contractor Bailey away ahead of time and the building would now be ready for use if the troughs were placed in position, but it is difficult to get lumber for that purpose and it may be some time yet before they are built. Spawning will begin about the middle of next month, Mr. Van Dusen says, and the prospects for a large hatch this year are bright.

Four Hundred Licenses.

Game wardens are beginning to leave for the woods now that the deer season for bucks has opened. They will be on the watch for those who violate the law by killing doe. While the season for buck deer opened upon the 15th of this month, the open season for does does not commence until September 1st, and that does may be protected from the hunters who would overstep the law the game wardens are on the ground. Those hunters who do not have licenses will also be looked after, and promptly brought to justice. Thus far in Lane county a total of over 400 licenses have been issued from the county clerk's office.

NOTICE.

The following firms of Cottage Grove by agreement have agreed to close their places of business on and after August 1st at 6 o'clock p. m. Saturday's excepted.

Wheeler-Thompson Co.; Lurch's General Mde.; Metcalf & Brund; Conner & Cochran; Garman-Hemenway Co.; O. Ventsh; W. C. Johnson; The Toggery; Griffin & Ventsh; Geo. Comer, Pearce Bros.; J. B. Lewis; Wynne Hardware Co.; Cochran & Cooley; W. A. Hemenway; J. K. Palmer; C. H. Burkholder.

SOLDIERS IN CAMP

Five Companies O. N. G. Maj. Yoran in Command.

RIFLE SHOOT THE MAIN FEATURE

Will be Held the Last Three Days of Encampment and Swell Total to 250 Men.

The Monday Evening Review under the above head says:

A city of tents adjoins the military rifle range in Kinney's addition to Roseburg, where five companies of the Oregon National Guard are encamped, to remain until next Monday. The companies and their commissioned officers are: "D," of the First Separate Battalion, Roseburg; Captain Hamlin and Lieutenants Slocum and Agee. "B," of the first Separate Battalion, Ashland; Captain Thornton and Lieutenants Grubbe and Spencer.

Separate Company "E," of Cottage Grove; Captain Johnson and Lieutenants Lawson and Metcalf.

Separate Company "F," of McMinnville; Captain Meade and Lieutenant Cunningham.

"G," of the Third Infantry, Albany; Lieutenant Propst.

To the Cottage Grove company, the youngest in the state, having been mustered in only a few weeks ago, belongs the honor of the best representation of the encampment. It has 49 men present. McMinnville is next with 45; Roseburg is third with 38; Ashland fourth with 33, and Albany, a miserable fifth with only 17. Disension among its officers and disappointment among the men at not being detailed to the recent encampment at Seaside are given as the reasons for Albany's poor showing.

The local encampment is under the command of Major G. O. Yoran, of the First Separate Battalion. His staff consists of Captain W. L. Cheshire, surgeon; Lieutenant B. K. Lawson, acting adjutant; Lieutenant F. L. Chambers, quartermaster and commissary, and Lieutenant Geo. E. Houck, ordnance officer. Lieutenant Houck will have charge of the rifle range, which will be the scene of the principal feature of the encampment—the state rifle shoot for teams and individuals on the result of which will rest the selection of the team to represent the state Guard at the national tournament of Port Clinton, Ohio, next month. The local shot will be held on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

STATE TROPHY MATCH—COMPANY CHAMPIONSHIP

Slow fire, 200,600 yards.

(Continued to page 2.)

FARMERS

GO TO
PEARCE BROS.

With your Produce
and Exchange for
SHOES and GROCERIES.