

HAPPENINGS FROM AROUND OREGON

SPEND \$400,000 ON PROJECT.

New Concern Will Build Big Reservoir to Store Flood Waters.

Laidlaw—Oregon's pioneer irrigation project, begun in 1893 just as the panic swept over the country, stands in a fair way to be completed, and the settlers who have been waiting and watching for the water that never came, may have their hopes realized. For the state of Oregon, represented by the land board, is making an effort to secure the completion of the project, the most flattering prospects of

came into being during the latter expected water and of fact when water was the ditches. But the sufficient for the lands to be reclaimed, the acreage other supplies of water financial troubles followed. In company was reorganized. In time it was fully demonstrated that a gravity system of irrigation was not feasible and that reservoirs would have to be built to store the flood waters of Tumalo creek during the spring and allow water to be carried over the parching land in July and August, when the stream carries scarcely any water. The whole scheme resolved itself into bad engineering, but the engineer was not the man to suffer for his mistake. Three Sisters Irrigation company to water 27,000 acres of land lying on the west side of the Deschutes river, about six to 15 miles from Bend, taking water from a mountain stream known as Tumalo creek. The nearest railroad point is Shaniko, about 90 miles distant. The altitude ranges from 3,100 feet to 3,700 feet.

Lowland Grain Frozen.

Salem—"It is difficult to estimate the damage the average weather has done, as it has varied in severity in different localities," said A. C. Armstrong, county fruit inspector of Marion county, in speaking of the effect of unusual winter.

"Upland grain has been protected by snow to some extent, while lowland grain, has been frozen out, so that in some instances, I would say, less than one-third of a crop remains. However, it will be found upon investigation, I think, that the farmers this year planted less fall grain than they ordinarily would, because of persistency of early rains last fall.

"A large proportion of potatoes not yet dug have suffered, I am told, but other crops aside from potatoes and grain have not suffered greatly. Cold winter will be good for fruit trees. It will keep them back, giving them longer rest, making them harder, besides decreasing liability of late frosts doing damage. Cold weather will also lend flavor to next winter's apples."

Fruit in Good Shape.

Eugene—While the recent continued cold weather has injured the grain crop of Lane county to some extent, all fruit is in good shape and it is expected that the usual crop will be gathered, according to the predictions of S. J. Holt, manager of the Eugene Fruit Growers' association and County Fruit Inspector J. Beebe. They think the trees did not suffer from the cold at all. The extent of the damage to the grain cannot be ascertained, but is not as great as first thought. Following each hard freeze there came a good rain which packed down the ground that had been raised by the freeze and uprooting the grain. Some say there will not be more than half crop of fall-sown wheat, while others aver that no damage at all was done. No reports on the condition of hops are at hand, but it is generally thought that very little, if any, damage has been done by the freezing weather.

Crops in Josephine.

Grant's Pass—Outlook for fruit, hops and grain in Josephine county the coming year is better than it has been for years. County Fruit Inspector J. F. Burke has recently visited some of the larger orchards in this county and reports the trees well set with buds. The extremely cold weather we have been experiencing is all that can be desired for fruit raising and if the present conditions hold until the first of March, Josephine county will be blessed with a bumper crop. This does not apply to orchards exclusively, as small fruits of all kinds are expected to be abundant.

12 Mill Tax Levy in Lincoln.

Newport—The tax levy of Lincoln for 1909 is 12 mills. The increase in state school tax over last year is \$3,000. The increase of state tax is \$4,000 more than was paid last year. Much money is expended in this county each year for new roads.

Beautify Streets with Trees.

Medford—Eleven hundred trees ordered by the Greater Medford club for the purpose of beautifying the streets have arrived and are now heeled in and will be planted as soon as the condition of the soil warrants.

AVIATION MEET CLOSES.

Curtiss Wins Speed Contest; Paulhan Height and Endurance.

Aviation Field, Los Angeles, Jan. 21.—As dusk gathered over the old Dominguez ranch tonight four flying machines that had been circling in the air in rivalry of the meadowlarks that for so many centuries have held dominion there, settled softly to earth. The masters of the newest air craft walked to their tents, the great crowd filed down the roadway, and the first international aviation meet ever held in America was over.

All was peaceful and but few knew that one man had been near death in those last few minutes. Charles K. Hamilton was returning from a 15-mile flight toward the ocean, and while a mile from the aviation field the crank shaft of his machine snapped. To ship it would have meant a helpless drift upon the sea. To the aeroplane it means so little that no one in the crowd noticed anything wrong.

Hamilton shut off his engine and so leveled and swayed his planes that he was wafted gently down, touching with scarcely a thud. It was the best piece of emergency handling of a machine that has been seen at the meet.

Curtiss and Paulhan—the great rivals of the meet—furnished the excitement for the closing day. Paulhan went up at 3:25 o'clock for an endurance flight. After he had gone two or three laps of the course, Curtiss started on a ten-lap speed trial, half a lap, or more than three-fourths of a mile behind Paulhan. Instantly it was seen that a great race was on—the first real race of the ten days.

The two airships, full power on, came over the grandstand with the speed of express trains. Curtiss, it was plain, was gaining. He crept swiftly on Paulhan's heels, and on the third lap after starting he reached Paulhan, flying above. The Frenchman for a few seconds held his own, then Curtiss, in his American machine, forged ahead by a nose, a length, and finally by half a lap. It was no race after that. The American machine was demonstrated as the faster beyond question.

As Curtiss rushed over Paulhan he received the greatest applause that any of his efforts have evoked. Paulhan went on until he had traveled 64.4 miles and had been in the air nearly an hour and a half. Curtiss came down after a 30-mile trip.

This race gives the whole story of the meet. The Curtiss machines have won all the prizes for speed, quick starts, perfect landings, and those events where a light, swift machine showed best.

Paulhan has won all the cross-country, passenger-carrying and endurance tests, having a heavier, slower machine and an engine which he trusts completely. Paulhan has taken more than \$15,000 in prizes, and has broken the world's records for altitude and for cross-country flights, alone and with a passenger.

A medal presentation took place after this, then Paulhan went upon his endurance flight. The French machine never seemed to run so smoothly. M. E. Cleary, Paulhan's distinctly English manager, was filled with emotion. He broke out as follows:

"Look at her! There she goes! Watch the turn when the sun glints the white planes! Isn't it mystical—something above men? By George—like a magnificent albatross after a thunderstorm. Now it's lost on the turn! It's great!"

TAFT WILL FIGHT MERGER.

Lovett Expresses Confidence Railroads Will Win.

Washington, Jan. 21.—It was stated authoritatively today that the government suit for the dissolution of the merger of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railways would not be dropped. Attorney-General Wickersham has found nothing so far in his investigation to warrant such action.

A conference was held today between the attorney-general and Frank B. Kellogg on the one side, and Judge Lovett, president of the Union Pacific, and counsel representing the allied Harriman lines on the other, for the formal presentation of reasons why the suit to dissolve the merger of the railroads should not be pressed.

The railroad interests have made it clear that they feel confident the suit cannot be pushed to a successful conclusion, and are willing that it should be compromised.

Just before leaving for New York tonight Judge Lovett, when asked if he would have further conferences with the attorney-general on the subject, said that would depend upon many circumstances that he could not discuss.

Pinchot's Acts Illegal.

Washington, Jan. 21.—Controller of the Treasury Tracewell declared today that there was nothing in the law or appropriation for the forest service giving the secretary of agriculture power to send forest rangers to college at government expense and to pay their traveling expenses. When Solicitor McCabe of the department of agriculture took charge of the forest bureau after the dismissal of Gifford Pinchot, he found that about 200 of these forest rangers were attending universities and colleges in the west for short courses in forestry.

Monoplane Strikes Wires.

Oran, Algeria, Jan. 21.—A monoplane collided with the telegraph wires here today. The gasoline supply tube was cut. In a moment the machine was enveloped in flames and crashed to the ground. The aviator escaped with a few burns.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRIEF

Washington, Jan. 24.—The land grants of the Northwest, which at the instance of Senator Tillman received so much attention from congress two years ago, and figured conspicuously in a sharp controversy between Mr. Tillman and President Roosevelt, were again today the subject of discussion in the senate.

A resolution introduced by Senator Chamberlain, calling on the attorney general to state whether he had instituted the suit which two years ago his department was directed to bring to determine the rights of the government in connection with the grants, was adopted.

After Mr. Chamberlain, in explaining the reason, had said it was time that action was taken, Senator Tillman declared he had written to the attorney general a week ago, inquiring what steps had been taken towards carrying out the order, but had received no reply. He expressed the hope that the resolutions would be adopted and that "His Highness, or whatever you may choose to call him," would take the action which he had been directed to institute.

Speaker Cannon today assured Representative Hamer of Idaho he had not only favored, but would support the bill along the lines of that agreed upon by the senate irrigation committee authorizing the issuance of \$30,000,000 worth of reclamation certificates to complete the existing irrigation projects.

Immediately, Hamer introduced in the house a bill similar to that drawn by the senate committee, and at the speaker's suggestion, had it referred to the ways and means committee, for it is a measure to raise revenue.

Washington, Jan. 22.—The senate irrigation committee today drafted a substitute for the Borah-Ballinger bill authorizing the issuance of \$30,000,000 worth of bonds to assist in the completion of government irrigation projects.

Aside from changing the name of the securities from bonds to certificates, the committee made no material change in the Borah bill, except to provide that moneys shall be applied exclusively to the completion of existing projects or extensions thereof. No new projects can be built with this fund.

After sitting almost continuously for the last three days, the senate committee on territories today perfected the Beveridge measure to create a legislative council for Alaska.

The proposed council was increased by the sub-committee so that it will be composed of a governor, an attorney general, a commissioner of interior mines and eight others, two from each of the four judicial divisions.

All the members of the council are to be named by the president. The council is authorized to levy a special tax of not more than one per cent on the value of the gross output of the mines. This tax is to create a fund to defray the expenses of the meeting of the council, and is in addition to direct appropriations to be made by congress.

Washington, Jan. 21.—Senator Carter of Montana, has prepared and will introduce a bill carrying out the recommendation of the governors of the country at their recent meeting in Washington with reference to the disposition of waterpower sites on the public domain.

The bill provides that all public lands immediately adjoining streams and forming a part of power sites shall be ceded to the various states in which they are located; the states to retain perpetual ownership of such lands, with authority to lease them for power development in such a way as to prevent monopoly.

The house of representatives, after a long fight led by Representative Hawley, as a member of the claims committee, today passed the bill directing the secretary of the treasury to refund to registers and ex-registers of the local land offices money earned by them in issuing notices of cancellation of entries subsequent to July 26, 1892, at the rate of \$1 per cancellation.

Testimony given today by Secretary Knox before the house committee on appropriations revealed the fact that the United States is endeavoring to induce the Argentine Republic to have two Dreadnoughts built in shipyards in this country.

The visit of Mr. Knox to the capitol was for the purpose of explaining the estimates for his department for the next fiscal year, with special reference to the request for \$100,000 for promoting foreign trade relations.

Washington, Jan. 20.—Delegate Wickersham, of Alaska, at the hearing before the senate territories committee today, objected to all the provisions of the Beveridge Alaska bill, recently introduced, on the ground that it gave the people of Alaska no voice in their own government. Senator Beveridge had numerous clashes with Wickersham, and professed to know more about Alaska's needs than does its delegate.

Representative Poindexter, of Washington was the only Republican member of the house of representatives who today voted to place Representative Rainey, of Illinois, on the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation committee.

The senate Indian committee today favorably reported Senator Jones' bill authorizing additional allotments on the Yakima Indian reservation, and the setting apart of townsites thereon; it also favorably reported his amendments appropriating \$250,000 for draining the lowlands on the Yakima reservation and appropriating \$5,000 to complete the appraisal and classification of lands to be obtained.

Secretary Ballinger, in response to requests from Prosser, Wash., has laid down certain conditions under which he will direct reclamation service to extend the Sunnyside canal, so as to irrigate about 2,200 acres in the vicinity of Prosser by the beginning of the season of 1911.

Owners of these lands must come into Sunnyside Water Users' association, sign up their lands and agree to pay \$31 per acre for water if they are now receiving water from the Prosser Falls Land & Power Co., or \$52 per acre if they have no water rights, and Prosser Falls must agree to relinquish to the government 25 cubic feet of water per second.

The Hamilton bill which was passed by the house is declared to be objectionable to the senate committee.

Representative Ellis today recommended to Secretary Ballinger that the nine warm springs on the Warm Springs Indian reservation be set apart as a resort, so that a sanatorium may be erected for the benefit of those desiring to make use of the springs. These springs will be readily accessible as soon as the railroads are built along the Deschutes river.

A general denial of the sweeping charges of reckless and improper expenditures in the interior department incited by Representative Hitchcock was made today by Fred Dennett, commissioner of the general land office, at the opening session of a hearing before the houses committee on expenditures in the interior department. He admitted, however, that some of the minor specifications were true.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Without debate and by a viva voce vote the house today adopted the conference report on the Ballinger-Pinchot inquiry resolution and then devoted almost five hours to further discussion of the urgency deficiency appropriation bill. Consideration of this bill was not concluded.

After cleaning up the calendar by passing about 40 bills, a majority of private character, the senate today adopted a resolution requesting the secretary of the treasury to advise the senate if newspapers reports were true that the customs house at Newport News, Va., was to be closed tomorrow in observance of the birthday of General Robert E. Lee.

Speaker Cannon today officially ruled that President Roosevelt had acted without authority in appointing representatives to the third international conference on maritime war at Brussels. He did this by sustaining a point of order made by Representative Harrison of New York against an appropriation for the continuance of the service of these representatives.

Accordingly, the paragraph asking such an appropriation was stricken out when consideration of the urgent deficiency bill was resumed in the house.

Representative Hawley today introduced a bill to pay the state of Oregon \$712, the amount due the state on lands selected on desert land list No. 11.

Paris and London Wait.

Washington Jan. 25.—The report from Paris that both Great Britain and France will withhold indorsement of Secretary Knox' plan for neutralizing the Manchurian roads was received at the State department with much surprise and regret. No official announcement of such contemplated action has been received here and the hope was expressed that the declination may yet be found to be at least conditional.

Washington, Jan. 19.—No new stars will be added to the American flag before the summer of 1911, according to the plan under consideration in the senate committee on territories.

The programme is said to have the endorsement of President Taft. It provides for the reporting of an entirely new bill for the admission of New Mexico and Arizona as states.

Harbor Policy Suggested.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Recommendations as to a general Federal policy toward the improvement of rivers, harbors and canals, based upon investigations that have been conducted in this and foreign countries for a couple of years, will be made to congress by the United States National Waterways commission in a report to be submitted Monday.