

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

The French accuse the church of having meddled in politics.

The St. Paul railroad has stopped all improvements till popular wrath cools.

Sixteen children and their teacher were burned to death in a Montreal school.

Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia narrowly escaped being blown up by a terrorist bomb.

Stoessel is called a coward by Smirnoff, one of the generals at Port Arthur during the siege.

Fire at Los Angeles destroyed property valued at \$200,000. Firemen rescued 12 people from the flames.

A British naval paymaster at Victoria, B. C., is to be court-martialed because his carelessness caused a loss of \$1,550.

The English parliament will arrange a loan of \$5,000,000 for Kingston, the money to be used to rebuild the business portion of the city.

George Von L. Meyer, former American ambassador to Russia, has returned to the United States to become postmaster general in President Roosevelt's cabinet.

The Texas senate has voted to exonerate Senator Bailey.

A Denver man has confessed to killing his wife that he might marry another woman.

The senate has approved of another Federal judge for the Northern district of California.

The senate has refused to consider a measure to reduce tariff on sugar, tobacco and rice from the Philippines.

Secretary Shaw will leave the cabinet March 4 to become president of the Carnegie Trust company, of New York.

Pittsburg has just had a fire in the heart of the business district, the loss amounting to several hundred thousand dollars.

E. H. Harriman is now before the Interstate Commerce commission. He has refused to tell some things the commission wants to know and the matter will be carried to the Federal courts.

The Union Pacific and Burlington have lost a case carried to the United States Supreme court. Back taxes of over \$3,000,000 were involved. The various court trustees of Nebraska represented the other side in the case.

Jerome aims to have Shaw declared permanently insane.

Mayor Dunne has been renominated by Chicago Democrats.

Flooding mines are still loose in the neighborhood of Vladivostok.

France and the Vatican are again quarreling over church matters.

Owing to trouble between owners and labor all Butte mines may be closed.

There is a possibility that the river and harbor bill may yet be killed in the house.

The Texas legislature will publish all evidence in the Bailey case and let the people decide.

The State department has received formal notice of a declaration of war between Honduras and Nicaragua.

The Illinois legislature may pass a law limiting the speed of trains as the result of many recent wrecks due to fast running.

The Austrian Lloyd steamer Imperatrix, while bound from Trieste to Bombay, ran onto a rock near Cape Elaphron, and sank.

The passengers and crew numbered 150, but it is not known if any were saved.

Honduras has declared war on Nicaragua.

The survivors of the steamer Berlin number eleven.

Cleveland says the only thing to do with ex-presidents is to turn them loose and let them fish.

Senator Fulton proposes that no more forest reserves be created without the consent of congress.

At a Washington birthday speech Governor Higgins, of Rhode Island, criticized the first president.

Over 40 persons were injured and a dozen unaccounted for in a wreck on the Pennsylvania railroad, at Mineral Point, Pa.

Russian terrorists attacked the Warsaw postoffice and after killing five persons secured all the money on hand and escaped.

The State department has about concluded that blood letting is the only cure for the trouble between Central American republics.

It is said that Japanese laborers now in Hawaii, who desire to enter the United States, propose to do so by going through Mexico.

Mayor Dunne has carried the Chicago Democratic primaries.

Slight earthquakes are still felt in San Francisco occasionally.

Taft is going to Cuba in April to investigate conditions there.

The Japanese minister and Secretary Root are working on a new treaty.

A Kentucky woman has just given birth to five children. All are doing well.

Taney says the present session of congress will appropriate more than one billion dollars.

Palouse Farmers Will Carry Their Wheat to Elevators.

Waverly, Wash., Feb. 26. — The farmers and wheatgrowers of this district have decided to do away with the "sack profit," and elevators for handling wheat bulk will be built all along the Spokane & Inland Electric road. A very enthusiastic meeting was held here recently and the matter thoroughly discussed by the farmers. The meeting was addressed by a representative of the elevator company, who explained the advantages to be derived from the farmers handling loose instead of sacked grain.

The company will be organized to enable the wheatgrower to handle his grain in the most economical manner, and thereby save the price of sacks, which sell for from 10 to 11 cents each. The farmers feel that they have been imposed upon by the "sack grafters" long enough, and they have decided to stop buying sacks and handle their wheat in bulk.

Wagon boxes that will hold 100 bushels of wheat to haul to the elevators will cost the farmers but \$15 each, and these boxes can be used from year to year. All elevators will be equipped with the most modern machinery for the handling and cleaning of grain in the most economical manner. Wheat can be handled fully a cent a bushel cheaper than through the warehouses in sacks. Wagon dumps and shipping scales will be provided at every elevator. These elevators will probably be built all through the Palouse country this season, and farmers all over Eastern Washington are anxious to do away with sacks.

TRUST IS REALITY.

Farmers Holding Back Produce for Better Prices.

Chicago, Feb. 26. — The farmers' trust has arrived. It has stretched its big, strong hands over the states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas. Its knotted fingers have piled up millions of bushels of grain and fruit and thousands of bales of cotton into a mountain heap, and the trust has said to the dealers of the world:

"You can't have any of this until you pay us what we think is coming to us. Now do your worst."

Ever since early last fall, board of trade men and shippers of grain have been talking about the scarcity of cars. To that scarcity they have attributed almost entirely the fact that corn, wheat and other farm products do not move to the market centers with more haste. The dearth of cars is an everyday theme in the speculative and commercial gossip. That there is a great deal in it nobody disputes, but a still more significant phenomenon of the day is that grain is being held back because the farmers are determined they shall get the price they have set on their own property.

RATES ON DECLINE.

Senator Elkins Files Long List of Railroad Statistics.

Washington, Feb. 26. — Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, has just completed and filed in the senate its minority report on the railroad rate law. It presents a comprehensive history of the economic development of American railroads, together with exhaustive tables which tend to show a constantly decreasing freight and passenger rate, and the relation between such rates and the price of commodities and cost of labor.

"The average passenger rate," says the report, "advanced slightly from 1870 to 1880. During the next 24 years there was a decline equal to 17.85 per cent of the average for 1880. The net decline from 1870 to 1890 averaged 16.14 per cent. The decline in the average rate per mile per ton of freight was 58.71 per cent during the years from 1870 to 1904, the rate for the earlier year being about two and one-half times that of the latter, and the net saving to the shippers averaged 11.09 mills per ton per mile."

The report says that the cost of transportation in 1904 was nearly \$2,000,000,000 less than it would have been had the rates for 1870 still prevailed.

Dry Farming in Malheur.

Vale, Or., Feb. 26. — Persons here from Pendleton and Walla Walla state that they will take up some of the bench land just west of Vale and use dry farming methods. They feel certain that the soil is similar and better than that around Pendleton, on which such excellent returns are being made. No dry farming has ever been tried in this section of the country, and the outcome is being prophesied as a failure by some of the old settlers, but those who are studying the situation state there can be no doubt as to success.

Leather Exports Treble.

Washington, Feb. 26. — The leather industry contributed \$150,000,000 to the foreign commerce of the United States in the year 1906, against less than \$50,000,000 a decade earlier. These figures, announced by the bureau of statistics, department of Commerce and Labor today, combine imports and exports of leather and its manufactures and imports and exports of hides and skins. The value of hides and skins imported in the calendar year 1906 was practically \$84,000,000, having quadrupled in ten years.

To Enlarge Irrigation Project.

Pendleton, Feb. 26. — More than \$6,000 will be expended this spring on the work of extending the Hinkle ditch, one of the small private reclamation projects in the vicinity of the government's East Unimproved project at Hermiston. The announcement was made by Attorney J. T. Hinkle, of this city, who is at the head of the company. The contract has been let to the Newport Land & Construction company, and the work will be started at once.

Forty of Crew Perished.

Canes, Island of Crete, Feb. 26. — All the passengers on board the Austrian steamer Imperatrix, which ran on a rock Friday evening near Cape Elaphron, were saved. Forty members of the crew, of whom 32 were Austrians and eight Indians, perished.

PROCEEDINGS OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

Saturday, February 23.

Salem, Feb. 23. — The legislature adjourned today went down in history as the most lavish Oregon has ever had. A grand total of \$3,500,000 has been appropriated.

The senate refused to adopt the house bill changing the brush fire law.

The house reconsidered a vote of yesterday and passed two bills giving farm laborers and threshermen liens on crops for money due them.

Indorsed by nearly every assessor in the state, the bill providing for an equitable system of assessing the rural lands of the state went down to defeat in the senate.

The house finished up its business at 11.30 but it was 2 o'clock before the senate was through, and it was necessary for the house to continue in session until that time.

It was announced to the members of the legislature that it would be more convenient to buy tickets at the depot than to pay fares on the train. Passes would not do, as the new anti-pass law is in effect.

Friday, February 22.

Salem, Feb. 22. — The bill creating the state board of tax commissioners was killed in the senate by failing to pass.

President Haines was presented with an elegantly framed photograph of the members and officers of the senate.

The senate banking bill was passed by the house. Several unimportant amendments were made. The senate disposed of all business but 12 bills which will be taken up tomorrow morning.

The normal school question is the only vexation they have on the table.

The house bill appropriating money to pay interest on certificates issued in 1905, when the appropriation bill was held up, was passed by the senate, amended so that interest is not to be paid on such certificates as were discounted.

The senate passed the house bill extending the law regulating hours of female labor to mercantile establishments.

Another house bill passed by the senate gives conductors and engineers authority of sheriffs on trains.

Eight hours is to constitute a day's work in underground mines according to a bill passed by the house, which the senate has already approved.

Altogether the senate passed 68 bills today and the house 26.

Thursday, February 21.

Salem, Feb. 21. — The normal school question is still unsettled and may be passed up to the next legislature. Both houses passed a bill providing for a discontinuance of two normals, but this was vetoed by the governor. Both houses have passed appropriations for Weston and Ashland, and the senate for Monmouth.

The house passed a bill allowing farmers to burn brush before June 1 or after October 1 without obtaining permits.

The house indefinitely postponed the senate bill for the purchase of the half block east of the capitol grounds.

The irrigation code bill was indefinitely postponed by the house.

The senate passed the locks bill appropriating \$300,000 for co-operation with the Federal government in purchasing the Oregon City locks.

Land barons were successful in the senate today securing the defeat of the Coos bay grant bill.

The proposed tax laws have passed the house and were favorably reported to the senate. The house changed the provision for taxes to be paid the county treasurer to sheriff as at present.

The senate committee made minor changes in this measure that the house overlooked.

All bills looking to the creation of new counties have been killed.

The house passed the senate reappropriation bill and shortly afterward the senate passed the house bill appropriating \$20,000 for new buildings at the state fair grounds. The passage of the two bills was in the nature of a trade.

Today the house passed 27 bills and the senate 13.

Wednesday, February 20.

Salem, Feb. 20. — The bill for an appropriation of \$2,500 for the importation of song birds was defeated by the house.

House bills for free text books in public schools were killed in the senate.

The senate by indefinite postponement killed the house bill annexing to Baker county a part of Grant county.

The same disposition was made of the bill proposing to create Nesmith county.

The bill abolishing the 3 per cent tax rebate was indefinitely postponed by the senate.

The house defeated the bill appropriating \$25,000 for the construction of a bridge across Snake river near Ontario.

Hart's bill to found a state library at Pendleton met a hasty death in the house.

The senate passed the house bill appropriating \$10,000 for maintenance of the portage road.

Wallowa Enjoys Good Winter.

Wallowa. — While the outside papers have been carrying the news of blizzards, cold snaps, fuel famines, floods and washouts, all Wallowa has suffered is the inconvenience of railway transportation, owing to the many washouts on the main line of the O. & N. The winter has been very pleasant, with the exception that there was scarcely frozen sufficiently to make stock feeding from stacks as successful as is generally the case. The first snow did not come until midwinter, and remained but a short time.

State Railroad Commissioners.

Salem. — Oregon's three railroad commissioners will be Oswald West, of Salem, now state land agent; Clyde B. Atchison, of Portland, now attorney for the Title Guarantee & Trust company; and Thomas K. Campbell, of Cottage Grove, a lumberman of the firm of Campbell & Alexander. These selections were decided upon by the state board, which is given the appointment under the Chapin law. West is a Democrat and the other two Republicans.

House members and attaches today presented Speaker Davey with a gold watch and chain.

An adverse report has been made in the senate to compel Southern Oregon land barons to sell their land at \$2.50 per acre as provided in the grant.

The house passed a bill for the repair and maintenance of the highway at Oregon City.

The joint resolution providing for a recall of public officers was indefinitely postponed by the house.

Thirteen bills were passed by the house today. The senate passed 20 and killed 13.

PASSED IMPORTANT BILLS.

What the Legislature Accomplished During the Session.

Salem. — Many important bills passed both houses of the Oregon legislature at the session just ended, and a considerable number were defeated. The appropriations are very large—amounting to some \$3,500,000—and no bills passed raising any considerable amount of revenue by new methods.

Several bills for new revenue were defeated. Among them was that of Representative Deas to tax timber holdings on the basis of cruising submitted to assessors by their owners.

Another was that prepared by the late tax commission and introduced by Representative Freeman taxing public service corporations on their capitalized net earnings. A third was that of Representative Settlemier for collection of taxes on land that had escaped taxation in the last six years.

One of the defeated measures of large moment was that of the Portland board of trade, for control of the water powers of the state. Another was that for a \$60,000 appropriation for extension of the portage road to the Dalles.

First of all the amendments was that for a railroad commission. The bill for this law was introduced by Representative Chapin and the three commissioners already have been appointed—T. K. Campbell, C. B. Atchison and Oswald West.

Representative Jones, of Polk, is father of a successful bill appropriating \$300,000 for free locks at Willamette falls, contingent on the national government's appropriating an additional sum sufficient to provide the locks and maintain them.

Representative Eaton, of Lane, has the credit of having secured enactment of a bill granting to the State university an annual standing appropriation of \$125,000.

Representative Jackson, of Douglas, introduced a successful bill appropriating \$100,000 for National Guard armories.

Representative Perkins, of Jackson, has the credit of securing for fruitmen a law to prevent false labeling and branding of packed fruit, and of another law to prevent false marking of nursery stock. A third bill of his permits orchardists to kill birds that destroy crops, but this bill is in danger of a veto.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 70; bluestem, 72; valley, 70; red, 68.

Oats—No. 1 white 32; gray, 28.50. Barley—Feed, \$25.00 per ton; brewing, \$25; rolled, \$25.00@24.50.

Rye—No. 1, 45¢@1.00 per cwt. Corn—Whole, 24.50; cracked, 22.50 per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, 14¢@15 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, 17¢@18; clover, 10¢@11; grain hay, 9¢@10; alfalfa, 11¢.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 32¢@35¢ per pound. Butter fat—First grade cream, 33¢ per pound; second grade cream, 2¢ less per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 19¢@20¢ per dozen. Poultry—Average old hens, 13¢@14¢ per pound; mixed chickens, 12¢@13¢; spring, 13¢@14¢; old roosters, 9¢@10¢; dressed chickens, 14¢@15¢; turkeys, live, 16¢@17¢; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18¢@20¢; geese, live, 9¢@10¢; ducks, 16¢@18¢.

Apples—Common, 75¢@1.25 per box; choice, 1.50¢@1.50.

Vegetables—Turnips, 1¢@1.25 per sack; carrots, 1¢@1.25 per sack; beets, 1.25¢@1.50 per sack; horseradish, 7¢@8¢ per pound; sweet potatoes, 3¢@4¢ per pound; cauliflower, 2.25¢ per dozen; celery, 3.75¢@4¢ per crate; sprouts, 17¢@18¢ per pound; asparagus, 17¢@18¢ per pound.

Onions—Oregon, 1¢@1.15 per hundred. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, 1.35¢@1.50; common, 90¢@1.15.

Veal—Dressed, 1¢@1.09 per pound. Beef—Dressed hals, 2 1/2¢@3 1/2¢ per pound; corn, 4¢@5 1/2¢; country steers, 5 1/2¢@6 1/2¢.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 8 1/2¢@9¢ per pound; ordinary, 6¢@7¢.

Pork—Dressed, 9¢@9 1/2¢ per pound. Hops—9¢@10¢ per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13¢@18¢, according to shrinkage; valley, 20¢@23¢, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 26¢@28¢ per pound.

Timber Notice Pickups Ending.

Wallowa. — The past year has been a fortunate one for the newspaper men of Wallowa county, owing to the great available strip of land, chiefly valuable for its timber, has been taken with such great activity that very little now remains to be taken. The adding taken the remaining sections of merchantable timber.

The newspaper men, who are now raising the fact that their business must emanate from the merchants of the county.

Timber Becoming Scarce.

Timber. — So great has the rush for timber land claims become in this part of the state that many people are now using their timber entry right to secure person the right to take 160 acres, but he can then file in a smaller amount he can then take no more. The entry values have risen so remarkably in the past few months they are content to take a vacant 40 acres well timbered.

SUB-TREASURY ROBBERY.

Two Hundred Thousand Dollar Theft Uncovered in Chicago.

Chicago, Feb. 23. — The Tribune today says:

One of the largest—if not the largest—thefts from the United States treasury has been unearthed in Chicago.

Somewhere between \$175,000 and \$200,000 was stolen from the local sub-treasury last week. The money has disappeared as completely as if it had vanished from the earth.

The authorities here and in Washington have been working night and day on the robbery since it was discovered.

Chief Wilkie, of the United States Secret Service, has been keeping informed by telephone and telegraph of every development, and, according to telegraphic advices, he will leave Washington today to take personal charge of the investigation.

Secretary Shaw, of the Treasury department, was told of the big theft when in Chicago last week, and was in conference with Sub-Treasurer William Boldenwick and secret service officials. The money was stolen either a week ago Saturday, the next day or Monday.

The chances are it was abstracted on Monday. The loss was discovered Tuesday.

All the money taken was in large bills—bills of the denomination of \$1,000, \$500 and \$10,000. Just who discovered the loss the sub-treasury officials would not admit last night.

Neither would they tell from what department the money was taken, nor how the loss was discovered.

DANGER TO HARBOR BILL.

May Be Killed Entirely to Avert Big Treasury Deficit.

Washington, Feb. 25. — Since Chairman Tawney, of the appropriations committee, called attention to the probability of a deficit of \$100,000,000, in consequence of the large appropriations made this session, there has been considerable talk around the capitol about defeating the river and harbor bill, thus removing the possibility of such deficit.

The river and harbor bill as passed by the house carried \$83,000,000. As amended by the senate, it carries \$92,000,000, and the prospects are that, if the conference committee agrees, it will report a bill carrying in the neighborhood of \$90,000,000, or approximately the amount of the deficit predicted by Mr. Tawney.

Friends of the river and harbor bill, since the rumor started, have become active in urging prompt agreement on the bill in conference, so that it will not run the chance of being talked to death in the last day or two of the session. If the report is delayed until the middle of the week, and a few senators determine to kill it, they will have the bill entirely within their power.

STOP FOREST RESERVES.

Fulton Would Give Congress Authority to Create.

Washington, Feb. 25. — Senator Fulton has offered his amendment to the agricultural appropriation bill, prohibiting the creation of further forest reserves in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado, except by authority of congress. Senator Lodge, who threatened to raise a point of order against the amendment, withdrew his objection, and it was generally agreed that the amendment would be permitted to go in the bill if it was not debated.

This is satisfactory to Mr. Fulton, and he expects to have the amendment accepted by the senate when the bill is taken up.

Western men in congress are thoroughly aroused at the Forest service for its attempt not only to regulate all government timber land but public range land as well, and in consequence legislation recommended by the president, looking to the leasing of the public range and the reservation of all public timber land now in reserves, will be tabled.

Japanese Will Investigate.

Seattle, Feb. 25. — The Japanese association of Seattle has appointed a committee of five to make a full and impartial report on conditions existing in the Pacific Northwest, as regards their countrymen. The result of the committee's investigations will be sent to the government at Tokyo, through the Japanese ambassador at Washington.

A. Hattori, president of the association, declared that the meeting was not called as a government function, but merely through a sense of national pride to investigate conditions.

Put All on Same Footing.

Washington, Feb. 25. — The postoffice appropriation bill, as passed by the house, differentiates between salaries paid letter carriers and clerks in first and second class offices and those of the third class. At the suggestion of Senator Fulton, the bill was amended placing clerks and carriers of all presidential offices on an equal footing, so that the same salaries will be paid in third class offices as in the two higher grades. This is in the interest of the cities of the Pacific coast, which would have been discriminated against.

Alaska Loses by Much Wrangling.

Washington, Feb. 25. — All important Alaska legislation now pending before congress will fail because of disagreement among the Alaska men here.

The most Alaska can expect is the passage of the bill creating land offices at Nome and Fairbanks, a new game law, a bill requiring the recording of assessment work on mining claims and the bill relieving the Tanana Mines Railroad company from the payment of taxes.

No Hope for Seattle Fair Bill.

Washington, Feb. 25. — Senator Piles has about abandoned hope of securing the passage through the senate this session of Senator Ankeny's bill appropriating \$700,000 for the Seattle exposition. Senator Hale refuses to withdraw his objection. As the bill cannot pass the house this session, the whole matter will go over to the next congress, when it stands a fair chance of passing.