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UNION FEELS CONFIDENT.

FORCASTS CERTAIN VICTORY.

President Small Declares That 95 Per Cent of Commercial Telegraphers Have Struck.

Oregonian, Aug. 20.

At a meeting yesterday the striking telegraphers voted to appoint a committee to enlist the aid of prominent business men and commercial organizations in their efforts to have President Roosevelt take a hand in a settlement of the strike. The sentiment at the meeting was against arbitration unless the president should be a member of the board. The committee began its work yesterday and will continue its efforts today.

Conditions in the Western Union and Postal offices in this city remained unchanged yesterday. The number of operators remained the same, although some changes have been made in the personnel.

"Prepare for a 90 days' siege," was the advice given the Portland strikers in a communication that was received yesterday from President Small. The suggestion, however, had been anticipated here when the strikers had rented rooms for headquarters and paid for the rent a month in advance. The same communication informed the strikers that 95 per cent of the commercial telegraphers throughout the country are out on the strike.

"All that is necessary for us to do is to stand together to the finish," said an operator yesterday, "and that is what we are going to do. If we stick together we believe that we can win for there are not enough non-union operators in the country, who, if they could all be induced to go to work, would not be a sufficient force to equip the telegraph offices with a complete working force."

"Locally we are receiving good support, subscriptions to our strike fund from friends and business men having been received to the amount of \$425. We now have a committee at work interviewing the business men of Portland who will be asked to take the initiative in demanding that the telegraph companies submit to an early settlement of the strike. The business men who were seen by our committee today unanimously agreed to use their influence to see that justice was done all parties interested."

There was received at strikers' headquarters yesterday a copy of the resolutions that were adopted at the annual convention of the International Typographical Union at Hot Springs, Ark., last week. In this resolution the printers pledge the commercial telegraphers their moral and financial support. The greatest inconvenience experienced by the local Western Union office is in delivering messages.

Favors the C. & E.

Crews are being added to the survey of the Corvallis & Eastern into central Oregon, and a belief is growing that the recent visit to that region by Julius Kruttschnitt, head of maintenance and operation department; J. P. O'Brien, general manager, and W. W. Cotton, general attorney of the Harriman lines, will result in the beginning of construction work within the next 90 days.

Crews of surveyors have been sent into the field from several directions. A crew equipped for two months' field work was started into the hills from Detroit toward Hogg Pass several weeks ago. Another crew took a direction southeast from that point and will look for easier grades over the summit. A third crew was sent via Shaniko into the Prineville country and another started from that point toward Sisters, in the foothills of the east slopes of the Cascades. It is now apparent that a thorough reconnaissance is to be made of the country from Detroit to Prineville and probably farther east.

When the high officials of the

system returned from the Madras trip it was reported from an undeniably good authority and that they had practically decided to favor the extension of the Corvallis & Eastern to Madras and Prineville. There has been no official statement on the subject, but it has for some time been known that Mr. Harriman was in the humor to build into central Oregon and probably through the state to Ontario should the stringent labor conditions and other difficulties be somewhat modified for the better this fall.

At the present time, it is said, there is so great a scarcity of labor and the difficulties and delays in getting construction material delivered are so discouraging, that the railroad builders are going slow in the inauguration of any new construction project.

These conditions favor the extension of the C. & E. as against the immediate building of the Oregon Eastern, for it would be easier to get men to deliver material and supplies for this work than for any other one of the central Oregon routes under consideration.

Residents of central Oregon say they must have a railroad by the time the cropping season arrives for grain next year, in order to determine the question of crops to be put in. The C. & E. route would give Crook county a railroad quicker than any other survey made.

Corvallis Accident.

A valuable cow, and half a dozen chickens dead, Mrs. Fuller ill, was the result of mistaking lead arsenate for common salt at the George Fuller home Tuesday. Arsenate had been used for spraying trees. It is a deadly poison. It resembles ordinary salt in appearance. Salt is what Mrs. Fuller thought it to be, until six chickens had died from the effects of it, and the family cow, which had been "salted" with it; was in the throes of death. She tasted the stuff to see if it was not salt, and held it in her mouth until she was affected by the poison. Prof. Kniesly was appealed to for an antidote for the cow, and ferric hydrate was administered, but not until too late, and the animal died. Mrs. Fuller was not seriously affected and recovered within a short time. The horses got some of the poison, but not enough to be of consequence.—Corvallis Times.

Meteor Drops Into Ocean.

Everybody out of doors at Amagansett, L. I., was startled last Sunday evening on hearing a terrific roar, and at the same time saw a blazing mass shooting through the heavens over the ocean apparently only a little way out from shore. The blazing object appeared to many to be about 20 feet in diameter. Those who witnessed the flight, say the meteor must have weighed several tons. When it struck the ocean huge breakers came tumbling shoreward. Several bathing pavilions were washed away and fisherman's nets were battered from their moorings, while considerable damage was caused to property along the ocean front. Great numbers of dead fish were swept in.

The first school fair ever held in Benton county will convene in Corvallis August 29, and last until the evening of the 31st. The fair will be along agricultural lines, and the school children of the county will furnish the exhibits of vegetables and other farm products. It will not be exclusively for agricultural products, but will also include many exhibits of needle work, cooking, drawing, writing, etc.

Albert Phenix, staff correspondent of the "Manufacturers' Record," of Baltimore, and one of the country's best posted correspondents on industrial subject, is making a study of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, in connection with a trip including all of the Pacific coast. The report of Mr. Phenix will be decidedly complimentary to Oregon.

For Sale.

Riding or driving horse, 9 years old; pacer. For particulars inquire of John Howard, Laurel, Or.

NOTED SPEAKER FOR PORTLAND

ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6.

Hon. William H. Taft, Secretary of War, will Spend Day in Portland and Speak in the Evening.

Secretary Taft left Washington Saturday on the first stage of his trip to Manila. He made a notable speech at Columbus, O., Sunday. At Seattle he will be joined by members of his family. Mr. Taft will return in December, via Suez, completing a trip around the world.

Hon. William H. Taft, secretary of war, will spend all day in Portland Friday, September 6th. He will speak at the Armory in the evening at 8 o'clock and seats will be reserved for every editor, for the officers of every commercial and industrial body, for the members of the last legislature, the state officers of every city, and a limited number of delegates from all of the commercial bodies throughout Oregon, but these names must be reported and reservations made by Monday, September 2nd, by addressing Tom Richardson, secretary of the Oregon Development league, Portland.

Everybody in the state will be welcome at this meeting, in addition to the reservations mentioned, and it is desired that the larger portion of the audience be from outside of Portland.

A rate of a fare and a third for the round trip has been made for the occasion from Pendleton and all points west on the O. R. & N., and from Roseburg and all points north on the Southern Pacific.

Commissioner Newell Replies to Russell's Letter.

In reply to the letter of the Webber-Bussell Canning Co. in Saturday's Oregonian, I wish to say at the start that the fruit-growers of Oregon and the members of the State Board of Horticulture have no quarrel to pick with Mr. Russell; that we have nothing but the kindest feeling for him and his company. We have welcomed him to the state in competition with our home institutions with much the same feeling that Portland has shown to Mr. Hill with his railroad. It was certainly not the purpose of Mr. Reid to discredit the Seattle firm, but merely to show that as usual, the Oregon grower was not able to get the prices that market conditions warrant, such prices as are being obtained in other localities for similar fruits.

The entrance of the Seattle firm into Oregon territory meant the saving of several hundred tons of cherries that would otherwise have gone to waste, and also a substantial increase in prices. For that we are grateful. But the Oregon grower has always suffered a severe loss on Bartlett pears for canning purposes in comparison with the prices paid to California growers, and we were in hopes that much better prices would prevail this year. They do not seem to materialize, hence the disappointment.

In California this year canneries are paying \$50 per ton for windfall Bartletts, and from \$70 to \$85 per ton for choice fruit; here in Oregon the best offers we are able to obtain for the choice grades is \$25 per ton. Certainly a wide difference and one that fully justifies the Oregon growers in complaining vigorously. The consumer pays just as much for Oregon pears as for the California pack, in fact we have reason to believe that the choicest pack on the market is the Oregon fruit. Inquiry today from the wholesale grocers shows that they are paying \$4-30 per case (2 dozen cans) for the choice grades, \$3-80 for the standard grade and \$3-40 for seconds. Now then we know pretty nearly the expense of canning and it is safe to say that a ton of pears, when canned, will cost not to exceed \$100, and at the price given will sell for from \$170 to \$215. A profit equal to that of the steel trust in selling armor-plate to the Government. Oregon growers are convinced by

efforts made this season to sell pears to California packers that there is a clear understanding among the cannermen that the California men are not to invade the Oregon territory under any conditions. One reason why California packers are willing to do this is because they can always get their labels placed on pears canned in Oregon. That this practice will be followed again this year is evidenced by the fact that the California Canning Company's labels were placed on Royal Ann cherries packed in Portland this season.

In Mr. Russell's letter he entirely ignores the price issue, which is the main feature of Mr. Reid's interview. WILBUR K. NEWELL.

County Treasurer William A. Buchanan and Mrs. Caroline Maxfield, both of Corvallis, were married at the home of the bride Thursday evening, Rev. C. T. Hurd officiating. There were over 40 guests present and the bride and groom were recipients of a goodly number of fine wedding presents. After a short honeymoon, they will be at home to their friends, in Corvallis, after August 20. Mrs. Maxfield is well known among the students of the O. A. C., several from this city having boarded at her house.

Figs as large and perfectly developed as those raised in the most favored portions of California are grown at the town home of Mrs. E. F. Lucas in Monmouth. Specimens of the fruit were brought to Dallas, Wednesday, by Mrs. Martha Cosper, who had been visiting in the Normal School town. The figs were of delicious flavor, and were far superior to the California fruit usually found in the Oregon markets.

Mrs. Lucas' tree is seven years old, the cutting having been brought from California in 1900. The tree is making a luxuriant growth and has already reached a height of 12 feet. Three crops of fruit are borne each year. The specimens brought to Dallas by Mrs. Cosper included ripe and green fruit of the second crop and half-grown fruit of the third crop. The tree has been in bearing four years.

It has long been known that certain varieties of figs will thrive and bear abundantly in the Willamette valley, but no effort has yet been made to raise this fruit as a commercial crop. A tree on the farm of Dr. Victor Fink, on Salt Creek, bears abundantly each year, and a number of fine healthy trees are to be found in James Elliott's orchard south of Dallas. The successful experiments in producing this semi-tropical fruit in the Willamette valley are only another evidence of the wonderful soil and climate of Western Oregon.—Polk Co. Observer.

NEW COMET IS VISIBLE

IS FIRST SIGHTED FROM SHIP.

The Discovery of a New Comet has Created Much Interest—Watched Every Available Instant.

A comet is to be seen on the eastern horizon about 3 o'clock every morning. It is small and dim and remains visible only a short time, as the dawn soon overpowers its feeble rays, being so near the sky line it cannot be seen unless the night is clear.

As soon as the discovery of the new comet was announced, it was watched every available instant by the United States Naval Observatory. Results obtained here were compared by cable and telegraph with the calculations of other watchers of the heavens all over the world. Sunday night, and for as many nights to come as the stranger is visible, a hundred of the keenest eyes and finest brains in the world will weigh, measure, time and analyze the newcomer.

The New York Sun of August 12 contains the following account of the sighting of the comet at sea:

The Insular Line steamship Brooklyn, in yesterday from Porto Rico, entertained passengers with spectacular sea, sky and other changes on the voyage. On the second day out a school of 14 whales apparently mistaking the steamship for their grandfather, nestled alongside, keeping her company for several hours, blowing and breaching and trilling after the manner of cetaceans that have never been near Amagansett and know no fear. One too familiar creature that bumped against the starboard side and splashed with coal by a stealer, and waving his flukes and splashing the liner, he headed off her course.

At 4:30 o'clock Friday morning Captain McLean, who was in charge of the bridge, saw a luminous geyser shaped form rise above

the eastern horizon. Later, after all of the glowing figure was visible, the skipper knew it was a comet, and one of the biggest he had ever seen. He had seen no account of a recently-discovered comet, and he decided that he probably was among the first observers of it at sea. It lost itself in the sunrise glare. At breakfast the skipper told his passengers about his celestial find, and all of them got up before dawn on Saturday and saw the comet rise and vanish. Its head pointed to the horizon line and it looked like a huge pyrotechnic shuttlecock descending.

Music by Electricity.

One of the greatest wonders of this electric age is the telharmonium, purely an electrical machine, yet with this invention any music can be produced. The telharmonium must not be confused with the telephone for the electrical device does not reproduce music but makes it. At the central station where the apparatus and keyboard are located there is no sound save the whirring of electrical machinery but a hundred miles away, over a thousand slender wires, all the music of a great orchestra is issuing from telephone receivers provided with small megaphone horns. The music is sufficiently powerful to fill the ordinary room, the volume of the tone corresponding to a violin or piano.

Not only is the telharmonium a wonder to the layman but it is almost as interesting and astonishing to the engineer on account of its manifold circuits, its mysterious operations and the embodiment of the well-known laws of vibration. The device is the invention of Dr. Thaddeus Cahill and has been thoroughly tested in New York. The perfect results obtainable are surprising; the clear, perfect notes, the wonderful harmony, and the great range of musical notes limited only by the capacity of the human ear to distinguish the separate tones.

In the popular voting contest for queen of the coming regatta at Astoria, Harret Tallent, daughter of E. W. Tallent, was the successful candidate with a total of 11,373 votes.

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