

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

IDLE MONEY AT WORK.

School Fund Surplus is Being Put Out at Interest.

Salem—The semi-annual report of State Treasurer C. S. Moore shows a heavy decrease in the surplus of money lying idle in the common school fund. A year ago, the balance in that fund was \$724,772.25. On January 1, 1904, the balance was but \$562,177.53. Since January 1, about \$10,000 has been sent out on loans and \$90,000 will be paid out in a few days on the Portland School District bonds.

Applications have been approved for loans to the amount of over \$60,000 more, so that it appears that the state has now but \$400,000 which it can offer to those who wish to borrow upon gilt-edged real estate security at 6 per cent interest. If the present demand for loans from the school fund continues, the balance will be out at interest within a year. The loaning of this fund, and consequent decrease in the amount of the idle surplus, means an increase in the revenues for school purposes. The interest on this fund is apportioned among the counties annually according to school population.

The report also shows a balance of \$85,640.50 in the general fund, from which the ordinary expenses of the state are paid. State Treasurer Moore says that a large portion of this amount will be used in paying the claims for the last quarter of 1903. During the next three months, however, nearly \$40,000,000 will be received from insurance companies under the law requiring them to pay a 2 per cent tax on their net receipts, and this sum will be sufficient to pay the ordinary expenses of the state until state taxes begin to come in, about April 1.

HEAR RAILROAD'S PLEA.

Timberland Assessment in Land Reduced to \$2.50 Per Acre.

Eugene—The county board has decided to reduce the assessment on the timber lands of the Southern Pacific company in this county from \$3 to \$2.50 per acre, after considering the argument of the attorney of that company. The reduction, however, was not made until the company should agree that there would be no contest on that figure.

The lands of the railroad company were assessed the same as all timber lands, but the argument was made that these lands were less valuable than the lands held by other corporations, for the reason that the railroad grant consists of certain sections by numbers, regardless of whether they are valuable or not, while the lands of other corporations and individuals have been selected and it is reasonable to suppose valueless claims would not be acquired.

Makes a Good Showing.

Pendleton—The annual report of Assistant Postmaster French shows that Pendleton has one of the few self-sustaining offices in the state. The total revenue of the year was \$13,687.43, while the total expense was \$5,867.77. The total receipts for 1902 were \$13,539.07. The net increase of the office for 1903 over the previous year was \$148. This the officials consider is a good gain, since Pendleton has a free delivery. For a while when the free delivery was established the receipts from box rent fell off, but the demand at the present time for boxes seems to have outgrown the office, and 60 more have been asked for. This will make a total of 600.

Stockmen Feel Better.

Pendleton—The cattlemen and sheepmen of the Blue mountain district are rejoicing this winter because of the extraordinary open season. Up to the present spring like weather has prevailed, and only in a few sections has the temperature been but little below the freezing point. So far, the sheep to be held over the winter have not required feeding, remaining on the pastures, the grass of which is holding out remarkably well. Considerable rain has fallen during the fall, and so far grass has been growing.

Good Winter for Farmers.

Salem—Captain Hunt, a prominent farmer of the Waldo hills, says that the season thus far has been a very favorable one for farmers and winter wheat is in excellent condition. Farmers in this part of the county have not fed their livestock a fork full of hay or a measure of grain this winter, and probably will not do so. Pasturage has been good and cattle do well with the grass they can get, and the straw that is stacked for them in the fields.

Coal Vein Struck Near Union.

La Grande—At a depth of 280 feet a vein of coal has been struck in W. J. Townley's artesian well near Union. Just what the depth or the thickness of the layer of coal has not been ascertained. Work will be immediately resumed on this proposition, and its development is being awaited with keen interest throughout the county.

APPLIES FOR APPORTIONMENT.

Pilot Butte Company Wants to Begin on 10,000 Acres.

Salem—A. M. Drake, president of the Pilot Butte Development company, has applied to the state land board for an apportionment of the lien upon some 10,000 acres of the land for the reclamation of which his company has a contract. The company has a contract for the reclamation of 86,000 acres and the contract price is \$10 per acre. The reclamation company holds a lien upon the land for the cost of construction. The lien upon each acre is not uniform, however, but is to be apportioned upon each 40-acre tract according to the relative value of the land. Thus one 40-acre tract may bear a lien of \$15 an acre, while another, not so valuable, will bear a lien of but \$5. An intending settler is required to pay to the company the amount of the lien, whereupon he receives a deed from the state.

PLANT EXHIBIT AT EXPOSITION.

Regents of the Agricultural College Much Taken With the Idea.

Corvallis—At a recent board meeting, the plan for the agricultural college to plant and maintain a growing exhibit on the exposition grounds at the Lewis and Clark fair was discussed and referred to the executive committee for direction. The committee is: Weatherford, chairman; Apperson, Daly, Keady, and Leedy.

The sentiment of the board was universally favorable to the plan, and the expression general that the occasion offered the college opportunity to do all the people of the state great and enduring benefit. The growth of forage grasses and plants, the cultivation of vegetables of all kinds, the production of small fruits and many other features were mentioned as among the possibilities for converting the tract into a compact and valuable display of Oregon productions and resources.

To Lease Hatchery.

Salem—Negotiations are pending between the state board of fish commissioners and the United States fish commissioner with a view to a lease of the new state salmon hatchery at Ontario to the government. If the lease can be effected as desired, the expense of operating the hatchery will be borne by the federal government, the result to the fishing industry will be the same and the state will save some \$6,000 a year, which can be devoted to the development of the fishing industry elsewhere in the state.

Big Hogs of the Grand Ronde.

La Grande—J. W. Spencer now holds the honor of having raised the largest hog in the county. Dexter Eaton has always held the championship, the largest being 760 pounds. His neighbors, John McAllister and J. W. Spencer entered into the hog raising business also and the two latter gentlemen brought two monster hogs in from their ranches near Island City a few days ago and had them weighed. McAllister's weighed 775 pounds and Spencers' 870, which breaks all former records in the weight of Grand Ronde valley hogs.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 73c; blue-stem, 79@80c; valley, 78c.
Barley—Feed, \$20 per ton; brewing, \$20@20.50; rolled, \$21.

Flour—Valley, \$3.75@3.85; hard wheat straights, \$3.90@4.10; clears, \$3.55@3.75; hard wheat patents, \$4.20@4.50; graham, \$3.75; whole wheat, \$4; rye flour, \$4.50@4.75.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.07½@1.10; gray, \$1.05@1.07½ per cental.
Middlings—Bran, \$17.50@18 per ton; middlings, \$26; shorts, \$19@19.50; chop, \$18 lineed, dairy food, \$19.

Hay—Timothy, \$16 per ton; clover, \$12; grain, \$12; cheat, \$12.

Vegetables—Turnips, 65c per sack; carrots, 75c; beets, 90c; parsnips, 85c @ \$1; cabbage, 1@1¼c; red cabbage, 1½c; parsley, per dozen, 25c; tomatoes, \$1.50@2 per crate; cauliflower, 75c@1 per dozen; beans, 12c; celery, 75c per dozen; pumpkins, 1c per pound.

Potatoes—Fancy, 70@80c per sack; common, 50@60; sweets, 2¼c in sacks; 2¼c crated.

Fruits—Apples, fancy Baldwins and Spitzenbergs, \$1.50 per box; cooking, 75c@1; pears, \$1@1.50 per box; grapes, \$1.50 per box.

Butter—Fancy creamy, 27½@30c per pound; dairy, 20@22½c; store, 12½@14c.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 14@15c; Young America, 15@16c.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 12@13c; per pound; spring, 12@13c; hens, 12½@13c; turkeys, live, 17@18c; dressed, 20c; ducks, \$7@7.50 per dozen; geese, live, 8c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 27@27½c; Eastern, 25@26c.

Hops—Choice, 26@27c per pound; prime, 25c; medium, 22c.

Wool—Valley, 17@18c; Eastern, 12@15c; mohair, 32@35c.

BUILD THE CANAL.

National Livestock Association Favors Panama Policy.

Portland, Jan. 15.—By unanimous vote and with great show of enthusiasm, the National Livestock convention during its morning session yesterday, adopted resolutions heartily endorsing the policy of President Roosevelt with reference to the building of the Panama canal. When President Springer introduced the resolutions he alluded to the discussion of the Panama question in the United States senate and the criticism of President Roosevelt on account of the position he has taken. The call for a vote was the signal for a roar of "ayes" and a burst of deafening applause. Not a dissenting vote was raised. A copy of the resolution was immediately wired the president.

Today the attention of the convention will be given to the election of officers for the ensuing year and the selection of a place to hold the next convention. The executive committee will report the nominations for officers at the morning session. F. J. Hagenbarth, of Idaho, is the only one talked of as a successor to President Springer, and his election is considered certain. The general impression is that there will be no change in the list of other officers, the present incumbents to be re-elected.

There is little doubt that Denver, Colorado, will be the next place of meeting. El Paso, Texas, has been making a fight for the convention, but it is understood that a compromise is to be made whereby the next convention will go to Denver, that of 1905 to El Paso, and the succeeding meetings to Denver as permanent headquarters. The business sessions of the seventh annual convention will come to a close with the selection of a place of meeting.

Yesterday the subjects of railroads and forest reserves were considered in relation to their effect upon the livestock industry. Shortage of cars, slow time in transit and high tariffs formed the burden of a number of addresses bearing upon the first mentioned subject. Legislation remedying the exclusion of stockmen from forest reserves was the demand of every speaker on the public lands subject.

TOLD OF 1905 FAIR.

House Committee on Expositions Listens to Oregon Men.

Washington, Jan. 16.—For two hours the house committee on industrial arts and expositions listened to arguments in support of the pending bill making an appropriation of \$2,125,000 for the Lewis and Clark centennial exposition. The principal statement was made by H. W. Scott, of Portland, who followed the general course of his address before the senate committee last Thursday. He, however, made some additions to his original remarks, which made it a more complete historical recital and strengthened the appeal for government aid.

Following Mr. Scott's address, which was closely listened to practically by the entire committee, Whitney L. Boise, of Portland, presented a convincing argument in support of the pending bill. Not only did he appeal to the patriotism of the members of the committee, but he emphasized the importance of the acquisition of the Pacific coast states to American commerce generally.

At the conclusion of Mr. Boise's statement, the committee adjourned until today, when Jefferson Meyers, president of the Oregon state commission, the two congressmen from Oregon, as well as Congressmen Jones, Cushman and Humphrey, of Washington, French of Idaho, Dixon of Montana and Mondell of Wyoming, will make brief statements in support of the bill.

It is expected that the hearing today will close the preliminary work on the bill. After that, the fate of the legislation will be left largely in the hands of the Oregon delegation.

To Concentrate Troops.

Port Arthur, Jan. 14.—It is reported here that owing to threatening news received from Corea, the commanding officer of the Seventh Russian brigade has gone to the Yula river to select temporary quarters and effect a concentration of troops. Owing to the apprehensions of a daring dash on the part of the Japanese at Port Arthur, the authorities here have taken extraordinary precautions in and about the town and along the whole of the Manchurian railroad. The whole Russian fleet is now in fighting trim.

Two Territories for Oklahoma State.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Representative Robinson introduced a bill today providing for the admission of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory into the Union as the state of Oklahoma.

IN JOINT SESSION.

National Conventions of Sheep and Cattlemen Meet in Harmony.

Portland, Jan. 13.—The delegates to the National Woolgrowers' and National Livestock conventions met in joint session yesterday morning and the two big organizations were heartily welcomed to Oregon and Portland by representative men of the state and city. The Livestock association formally opened its annual meeting and the Woolgrowers, after a lengthy business session in the afternoon, adjourned sine die. More than a thousand delegates to the two conventions from every section of the United States thronged the Baker theater from pit to gallery. The house rang with repeated bursts of applause in response to addresses upon questions of vital interest to the two organizations. Sheepmen and cattlemen met upon common ground, with common interests at heart, and discussed ways and means of securing mutual benefits.

The morning session was devoted to a program of entertainment, including music and addresses of welcome and responses. In the afternoon the woolgrowers met alone and completed the business of their meeting. Common interests of the woolgrowers and manufacturer were discussed. The condition of the mutton sheep market was thoroughly presented by representatives of the markets. Resolutions were adopted favoring legislation that the sheepmen deem to be beneficial to their industry, and officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Senator E. E. Warren, of Wyoming, president; Jesse M. Smith, Utah, first vice president; George Truesdale, Maryland, second vice president; Mortimer Levering, Indiana, secretary, the treasurer to be selected by the executive committee.

The convention decided to meet in conjunction with the livestock men next year at such place as the latter convention should decide upon. San Jose, California, appears to be in the lead for the next convention of the two organizations, though Denver has a strong backing. An effort is being made to have the convention decide upon a permanent meeting place, where all succeeding meetings may be held. It is generally conceded that should this motion prevail, Denver will be selected as permanent headquarters.

The Livestock convention will begin its work proper this morning, and three days will be devoted to earnest consideration of many questions of vital importance.

READY TO BLOW UP RAILROAD.

Japanese Spies All Along the Siberian Line are Awaiting Developments.

Liverpool, Jan. 14.—An interesting statement, in conjunction with the strategic value of the trans-Siberian railroad was made today by Fulford Bush, a member of a British mercantile firm at New Chwang. Addressing the Liverpool chamber of commerce, Mr. Bush, after covering the question of the light construction of the railway and the probability of the line being blocked if subjected to heavy military traffic, said his own observations, coupled with trustworthy native information, convinced him that at least 200 Japanese military engineers, disguised as Chinese coolies, barbers and other menials, had already been distributed at points along the railroad, and it would not be a fortnight after the declaration of war before the line would be blown up in a dozen places.

WILL SEND ARMY.

Colombia Proposed to Fight for Possession of Panama.

Colon, Jan. 14.—United States naval authorities here appear to be convinced, from the tenor of the reports which are continually brought in, that Colombia is determined to send an army to attack Panama. The Panaman authorities yesterday received official confirmation of the fact that the Colombian troops at Titumati number at least 4,000 men, under the command of Generals Ortiz, Uribe-Uribe, Bustamante and Novo. These troops are well armed and supplied with ammunition, and have four guns, three steam launches and a large supply of cattle.

Would Lessen Dangers of War.

Washington, Jan. 16.—The house committee on foreign affairs today heard a delegation including B. F. Trueblood and Robert T. Payne in favor of the establishment of an international congress where questions of common interests to the nations would be discussed. Such a congress, it was stated, would exert a great and growing influence in favor of a mutual good will; would lessen the dangers of war, and insure the permanence of peace and the continuation of prosperous commercial relations.

Move to Secure Veterans Pensions.

Clarksburg, W. Va., Jan. 14.—The organization of teamsters of the Civil war will send a petition to congress asking for the passage of a law allowing all teamsters on the payroll during the war to receive a pension of not less than \$10 monthly. Petitions from similar organizations throughout the country will also be presented.



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Chicago, Portland, Special, 8:20 a. m. via Huntington.	Salt Lake, Denver, Ft. Worth, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago and East.	6:30 p. m.
Atlantic Express, 8:15 p. m. via Huntington.	St. Paul Fast Mail.	10:30 a. m.
St. Paul Fast Mail, 8:50 p. m.	Atlantic Express.	7:30 a. m.
Spokane		

OCEAN AND RIVER SCHEDULE FROM PORTLAND.

8:30 p. m.	All sailing dates subject to change. For San Francisco—Sail every 4 days.	5:00 p. m.
Daily, Ex. Sunday, 8:00 p. m. Saturday, 10:00 p. m.	Columbia River Steamers. To Astoria and Way Landings.	5:00 p. m. Ex. Sunday
6:45 a. m. Mon., Wed. and Fri.	Willamette River. Salem, Independence, Corvallis and way landings.	8:30 p. m. Tues., Thu., Sat.
7:00 a. m. Tues., Thur. and Sat.	Yamhill River. Oregon City, Dayton and way landings.	4:30 p. m. Mon., Wed. and Fri.
Lv. Riparia, 4:00 a. m. Daily except Saturday	Snake River. Riparia to Lewiston	Lv. Lewiston, 8:00 a. m. Daily except Friday.

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Time Card No. 24

No. 2 for Yaquina:
Leaves Albany.....12:45 p. m.
" Corvallis.....2:00 p. m.
Arrives Yaquina.....6:20 p. m.
No. 1 returning:
Leaves Yaquina.....6:45 a. m.
" Corvallis.....11:30 a. m.
Arrive Albany.....12:15 p. m.
No. 3 for Detroit:
Leaves Albany.....7:00 a. m.
Arrives Detroit.....12:20 a. m.
No. 4 from Detroit:
Leaves Detroit.....1:00 p. m.
Arrives Albany.....5:55 p. m.

Train No. 1 arrives in Albany in time to connect with the S. P. south bound train, as well as giving two or three hours in Albany before the departure of the S. P. north bound train.

Train No. 2 connects with the S. P. trains at Corvallis and Albany giving a direct service to Newport and adjacent beaches.

Train No. 3 for Detroit, Breitenbush and other mountain resorts leaves Albany at 7:00 a. m., reaching Detroit at noon, giving ample time to reach the Springs the same day.

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