

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

FROST BLIGHTS PRUNES.

Change of Weather Catches Fruit in Blossom—Pears Also Affected.

Albany—The prune crop of Linn county will be almost an entire failure this year, according to an orchardist who was in Albany a few days ago. The frost that visited the valley came at a very inopportune time for the orchards. The cold weather that held on until an almost unprecedented late date for this valley had kept the fruit back until orchardists were confident of escaping the spring frosts that usually catch the fruit in March, if at all. But the warm weather during the first week of April brought the fruit out rapidly, and when the cold rains came again, fruit of every description was in full blossom. The heavy frost found the fruit in full blossom and did much damage.

The prune trees were well loaded with blossoms, which had begun to fall. A close examination of the trees reveals now that although the embryo fruit within the blossom is green, yet the fruitstem leading from the limb of the tree is turning yellow. This is said to mean that the fruit will drop from the tree just as soon as the prune becomes large enough to add weight to the stem. The dead stem can not bear up any load. The statement of the prunegrower is that at least three-fourths of the prunes are affected in this way, and that orchardists will do well to save one-fourth of this year's prune crop. As prunes constitute the greater part of the fruit crop of the county, the loss will fall heavily upon fruitgrowers in this part of the valley. Pears are affected in the same way. The young pears were just beginning to form when the frost came and were hit just as hard as the prunes.

Apples are looking well at this time. They were not affected so seriously by the frost, and the trees are now covered with blossoms that look healthy and give every promise of developing into fruit of Oregon's usual excellent varieties. This crop will, however, depend largely on the weather during the next two weeks. Another frost such as that of recent date would injure the apple crop.

GOLD IN GREAT LUMPS.

Rich Pocket Struck in the Bonanza Mine, in Eastern Oregon.

Baker City—A wonderfully rich strike is said to have been made in the Bonanza mine in the Greenhorn district recently. A pocket of very rich ore was opened upon the 1200-foot level, out of which less than five tons of ore were taken which is reported to have yielded \$64,000 in gold bullion. It is against the policy of the mine-owners to give out any facts about rich strikes of this nature, and it is only in a roundabout way that anything can be learned about the opening of the pocket.

It is unusual to find such rich pockets so far below the surface. The old Virtue mine, near this city, has the best record for rich pockets, but they have all been found near the surface and usually by professional pocket hunters, who make it their business to search for these phenomenally rich deposits.

It has always been the theory of experts that while rich ore might be encountered in the depths, that there never would be any "pockets," as the term is usually understood, found below 500 feet from the surface. The Bonanza has been yielding steadily for several months, since the new three compartment shaft was sunk to the 800-foot level, about a year ago. This strike will encourage deep mining in this part of the state, something that has not been attempted until within the past two years.

May Fly to St. Louis.

La Grande—Union county is to have an entry in the flying machine contest which will take place at the St. Louis exposition. For several years Grant Key, who lives on Cricket Flat, near Elgin, has been experimenting along the lines of aerial navigation, and now firmly believes he has devised a plan whereby a journey through the clouds will be easily made with his apparatus. He has ordered the engines and is erecting a large shed on a flat near his home, where he will assemble the various parts of the machine.

More Butter From Tillamook.

Tillamook—Tillamook county's output of dairy products will be much larger this year than formerly, owing to the quantity of excellent grass feed now on the grazing lands. The late season delayed the grass growth for a time, but the herds and especially the milch cows are now in good condition.

Gift to Willamette University.

Salem—Banker A. Bush has donated \$2,000 to aid in the erection of a building for the medical department of Willamette University. The building will be erected on the university campus, and when completed will cost \$15,000.

NEW BUILDING FOR PACIFIC.

University President Hints of Plans for the Future.

Forest Grove—President W. N. Ferrin has left for the East on an extended trip in the interests of the Pacific University. He will visit Chicago and other Eastern cities, and will not return before the middle of June. In speaking of his trip President Ferrin said:

"We were never more encouraged over the prospects of the university than at present. Our finances were never in a better condition and everything indicates an increase in the school's endowment in the near future. Although I do not wish to make a definite statement, I believe that we will erect several buildings before long. We are planning to build one of the largest and best equipped gymnasiums in the Northwest. We also look forward to a new science hall and will provide a building for the exclusive use of the literary societies and other student organizations as soon as possible."

City Hall Plans Chosen.

La Grande—At a special meeting of the city council held in the council chambers for the consideration of the many plans submitted for the \$25,000 city hall, those drawn and adopted by J. L. Sattler, a La Grande man, were selected. The building will be two stories high, not including the stone basement, 83x91 feet. All the offices will consist of a suite of two rooms. The offices of the water superintendent and city recorder will be provided with roomy vaults for the proper protection of records. This will be one of the finest buildings of the kind in Eastern Oregon.

Foster Ranch Sold Well.

Pendleton—The sale of the real property of the C. B. Wade bankrupt estate was held last week. All the property was sold at figures above the appraised value. The most important parcel was the Foster ranch, located on Umatilla river west of Pendleton, which was bid in by R. N. Stanfield, of Echo, for \$87,000. Its appraised value was \$5,000. The Dixie stock ranch was sold to J. S. McCloud for \$8,050. The ranch consists of 21,000 acres and is considered one of the finest in the county. The city property sold well.

Heavy Rainfall at Ashland.

Ashland—The rainfall for the season at Ashland thus far has broken all records and amounts to nearly 25 inches. The average for the past 23 years, according to the official records of the weather bureau, is only 14.13 inches.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 73c; blue-stem, 81c; valley, 83c@85c.
Barley—Feed, \$23.50 per ton; rolled, \$24.50@25.
Flour—Valley, \$3.90@4.05 per barrel; hard wheat straight, \$4@4.25; clear, \$3.85@4.10; hard wheat patents, \$4.40@4.70; graham, \$3.50@4; whole wheat, \$4@4.25; rye flour, \$4.50.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.17@1.20; gray, \$1.12@1.15 per cental.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$19@20 per ton; middlings, \$25.50@27; shorts, \$20@21; chop, \$18; linseed, dairy food, \$19.
Hay—Timothy, \$45@16 per ton; clover, \$10@11; grain, \$11@12; chest, \$11@12.
Vegetables—Turnips, 85c per sack; carrots, 80c; beets, \$1; parsnips, \$1; cabbage, 2½c; red cabbage, 2¼c; lettuce, head, 25@40c per dozen; parsley, 25c; cauliflower, \$2; celery, 75@90c; cucumbers, \$1.75 per dozen; asparagus, \$1.25; peas, 4@5c per pound; rhubarb, 3c; beans, green, 16c; wax, 20c; onions, Yellow Danvers, \$2.50@3 per sack.
Honey—\$3@3.50 per case.
Potatoes—Fancy, \$1.25@1.50 per cental; common, \$1@1.25; new potatoes, 3½@4c per pound; sweets, 5c.
Fruits—Strawberries, \$2.50@2.75 per crate; apples, fancy Baldwins and Spitzbergs, \$1.50@2.50 per box; choice, \$1@1.50; cooking, 75c@1.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 18@18½c.
Butter—Sweet cream butter, 20@22½c per pound; fancy creamery, 17½@20c; dairy and store, nominal.
Butter Fat—Sweet cream, 19@21c; sour cream, 19c.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 13@13½c per pound; springs, small, 20c; hens, 13½@14c; turkeys, live, 16@17c; dressed, 18@20c; ducks, \$8@9 per dozen; geese, live, 8c per pound.
Cheese—Full cream, twins, 12@13c; Young America, 14@15c.
Beef—Dressed, 5@7½c per pound.
Mutton—Dressed, 6@6½c per pound; spring lambs, 8c.
Veal—Dressed, 6@7c per pound.
Pork—Dressed, 7@8c per pound.
Hops—1903 crop, 23@25c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 16@17c; Eastern Oregon, 11@14c; mohair 30@32c per pound fro choice.

NERVE OF JAPS.

Charge Through Water Waist Deep in Face of Heavy Fire.

Tokio, May 4.—The war office has received a dispatch from General Kuraki, commanding the Japanese advance, which tells of a complete Japanese victory in the first general engagement on land of the war. The Russian army of 30,000, which General Kurapatkin boastfully declared would sweep the Japanese into the sea, is completely routed and was compelled to retreat in confusion on Feng Huan Cheng.

The Russian losses are very heavy, while those of the Japanese are declared to have been much smaller than might have been expected, considering that they had to wade the Yalu river in the face of a withering fire from the Russians, who were very strongly entrenched. The Russian artillery had been silenced by the Japanese guns, and they carried the Russian entrenchment in a gallant bayonet charge in which the men vied with the officers to be the first to reach the interior of the Russian position.

The unquenchable valor which resulted in the uninterrupted series of victories during the war with China was again very much in evidence. Nothing could stop the troops, who, tired with their long stay in the trenches near Wiju, were anxious to show that the army was fully able to bring honor to the mikado's colors as has been the navy.

The scenes in Tokio this morning are well nigh indescribable. The streets have been filled all night with anxious people waiting to hear the latest news from the front. Unfortunately, beyond the fact that a great Japanese victory has been won, there is little else to be learned. If the war office has received a complete report, it is withheld for strategic reasons.

BULGARIA MAY HAVE TO FIGHT.

The Turkish Movements Are Regarded as Very Hostile.

Sofia, May 4.—Despite the fact that the Turkish-Bulgarian agreement has been drafted into a treaty and subscribed to by both powers, there is a growing feeling here that Bulgaria has been deceived by the sultan and his advisers and that instead of danger having been averted for good and all, the conflict has simply been postponed for a time. As an indication that this feeling is shared by the higher Bulgarian officials the following facts may be cited:

In the past it has been customary to grant free leaves of absence to officers of the army during the spring and early summer months and a large number of applications are now pending. However, within a short time, several general orders have been issued by the minister of war, the effect of which has been to do away with all leaves for the present, while all officers have been ordered to bring their commands up to the highest degree of efficiency.

This is held by well informed Bulgarians to mean that Bulgaria may yet have to battle to retain her independence. In conversation with an officer of the Bulgarian general staff, whose identity for obvious reasons cannot be revealed, the correspondent was assured that it is generally recognized that war cannot be averted, although postponed for a time by the new treaty.

How the Mines Were Laid.

Port Arthur, May 4.—Details of the demonstrations off Port Arthur April 27 disclose the ingenuity of the Japanese. Their squadron set afloat a string of connected rafts carrying burning matter. About 1:40 in the morning when five miles off shore, the combustibles were fired, the wind and waves bringing the burning floats toward the harbor.

Under cover of this screen of fire eight Japanese torpedo boats, towing a launch filled with mines, slipped around to a spot near where the Petropavovsk was sunk, but they were detected by the Russian searchlights, when the batteries opened fire and drove them off, but not before the mines had been placed.

The mines have since been destroyed. The Japanese, knowing that the Russians would intercept wireless messages, tried a neat trick to deceive and worry Viceroy Alexieff. For several nights in succession they sent by wireless telegraph orders to prepare for a landing, to send in fireships, to attack with submarine boats, etc.

Sweep Away Opponents.

Tokio, May 4.—After five days of fighting, largely with artillery, the first Japanese army, under General Kourki, has forced a crossing of the Yalu river and drove the Russians from Chiu Tien Cheng and the heights on the right bank of the Iho or Aida river, which enters the Yalu from the north almost opposite Wiju. The Japanese turned the left flank of the Russian position, and in the battle of Sunday they swept away the new front interposed by the Russians to check their onward movement.

Antung Burned and Deserted.

Tokio, May 4.—The Russians were forced to abandon Antung yesterday. They burned the town and retreated to Fenghuan Cheng. The Japanese now control the estuary of the Yalu.

FERNIE WIPED OUT

ENTIRE BUSINESS PORTION IS DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Water Supply Inadequate and Flames Bore Themselves Out—Loss Will Reach Nearly One Million Dollars—Heavy Insurance is Generally Carried on Buildings and Stocks.

Vancouver, B. C., May 2.—Ferne, B. C., the principal coal mining town in the Crow's Nest Pass district, was practically wiped out, so far as its business interests are concerned by fire at an early hour this morning. The entire business district of the town, fronting on the Canadian Pacific railway tracks, was destroyed.

The water supply was inadequate and soon gave out. The distressed inhabitants, after heroically struggling to subdue the flames, worked frantically to save what they could from the stores in the path of the conflagration.

The work of salvage accomplished, there was nothing for the people to do but look on while the fire ate itself out, although efforts were made by the volunteer fire brigade which resulted in finally extinguishing the flames when they had died down sufficiently to be handled by the fire fighting apparatus at hand.

The loss is this afternoon estimated at \$900,000. How much of that amount will fall as a loss is not yet known, but it is asserted that the merchants were fairly well insured, and that as a consequence the insurance companies will lose heavily.

Ferne is a town of 3,500 to 4,000 inhabitants, the population being to a large extent composed of coal miners and those dependent upon that industry.

The head offices of the Crow's Nest Pass coal company are located at Ferne, and the company is a heavy loser.

FIGHT FOR FAIR GOLD ENDS.

Heirs of the Widow Will Receive in the Neighborhood of \$775,000.

New York, May 2.—It has just been learned that the terms of final settlement between the Fair estate and the heirs of Mrs. Charles L. Fair will entail a total payment to the Nelsons, of New Jersey, representing Mrs. Fair, of nearly \$775,000 exclusive of personal property estimated to be worth \$50,000 or \$60,000.

It is understood that the Nelsons have accepted \$250,000 in cash as a compromise for their claims and that the battle for the Fair millions is ended. Besides this sum, they eventually will receive approximately \$100,000 additional. As they received \$425,000 on September 19, their total inheritance will amount to nearly \$775,000.

According to the same authority, the James G. Fair millions will be distributed together with the Charles Fair estate in San Francisco within two weeks. Mrs. Oelrichs will leave for San Francisco this week to join her sister, Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., who with her husband has already proceeded to the Pacific coast. By the terms of the settlement, it is said, Mrs. Vanderbilt and Mrs. Oelrichs will receive \$2,000,000 each from the estate of their brother. They will at the same time receive some \$8,000,000 as their portion of the James G. Fair estate, which would have gone to their brother, Charles, who was killed together with his wife automobiling in France.

INDIAN LANDS WILL BE SOLD.

Roosevelt Signs Bill for Disposal of Grand Ronde Tracts.

Washington, May 2.—One of the last bills signed by President Roosevelt was that authorizing the sale of 25,791 acres of unallotted lands on the Grand Ronde Indian reservation. Under the terms of the bill these lands will be advertised within 30 days and sealed bids therefor will be received by the secretary of the interior. No bids will be accepted, however, until the "total amount of all bids received shall equal or exceed \$28,500," which sum is to be paid to the Grand Ronde Indians on a pro rata basis.

Russians Moving on Wonsan.

Paris, May 2.—The Temps' correspondent at St. Petersburg telegraphs as follows: A Russian column is about 20 miles from Wonsan, where the Japanese garrison has fortified itself. The Vladivostok fleet supports the movement of the Russians. Some skirmishes have occurred on the right bank of the Yalu, resulting favorably to the Russians. Thus far only the advance guard of the Japanese has crossed the river, but the passage of the entire Japanese army is imminent.

Severe Weather Delays Advance.

Liao Yang, May 2.—The delay of the forward movement of the Japanese into Manchuria is due to the exceptionally severe weather. It is rumored that there is considerable suffering among the Japanese troops, due to the intense cold and illness.

FORCE THE VALU.

Charge of Brown Men Irresistible and Russians Fall Back.

Tokio, May 2.—Advices received here state that the Tenth Division of the Japanese army forced a crossing of the Yalu river above Wiju just before dawn Saturday morning. The second pontoon bridge across the river near Wiju was completed at 8 o'clock Saturday night and the Imperial guards of the Second division crossed during the night.

The Russian left flank has been turned and a general attack began at dawn Sunday by all the Japanese batteries on the south side of the river and a flotilla of gunboats co-operating with the army.

The Japanese have the advantage of positions and numbers and are confident of routing the enemy.

The News From St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, May 3.—The general staff account of the operations on the Yalu river Saturday is as follows:

"At 4 o'clock this morning Japanese field batteries and 47 guns opened a terrific fire on our position at Turenchen and our troops near Potientensky.

"The overwhelming superiority of the Japanese in artillery and the heavy losses their fire inflicted on our troops occupying these positions made it clear to General Sasselitch that it was impossible to hold Turenchen. Consequently the troops were ordered to retire from Turenchen while still holding the Potientensky road.

"When General Sasselitch dispatched his telegram the Russian troops were retiring in good order from Turenchen and Schakhedzky to their second position, and the battle was continuing at Potientensky and Tchingu."

WILL TRY TO KEEP FLEET IN.

Togo Wants No More Raids Made by the Vladivostok Squadron.

St. Petersburg, May 3.—A dispatch received here from Viceroy Alexieff says:

"The continued presence of the Japanese squadron off Vladivostok has convinced the authorities that Vice Admiral Togo has taken to heart the sharp lesson taught him through his failure to consider the possibilities of mischief by the formidable Russian division at that port, and is now seeking means to stop further raiding operations in the Sea of Japan. It is evident that as soon as the Japanese were informed of the operation of the Russians in Korean waters, the government instructed Vice Admiral Togo to dispatch a strong squadron and send it to Vladivostok to cut off the Russian ships and confine them to the harbor so they could do no further damage. The former purpose failed, owing to the celerity of Rear Admiral Yezman's movements."

While there is no expectation that Rear Admiral Yezman will risk an encounter with a superior force by putting to sea, even on a raiding expedition, it is said he is a bold, careful commander and will spring surprises upon the Japanese.

FAIR GATES OPEN.

Great Throng Witnesses Ceremonies at St. Louis Exposition.

St. Louis, May 2.—The Louisiana Purchase exposition was formally opened Saturday afternoon. The inaugural exercises were simple and were carried through without delay and without halt or delay of any description.

The weather was without a flaw. The handling of the crowd, the guarding of inclosures and the police work generally could not have been improved upon. This work was in the hands of officers of the regular army, who directed the exposition guards in their duty.

At 12:15 the signal was given to President Roosevelt that all things were ready. In a few minutes came the answering touch over the wire from the White House. This officially opened the exposition.

The crowd was fully as large as that which filled the grounds one year ago when the exposition buildings were dedicated.

Oregon Cannot Get Lands.

Washington, May 3.—The secretary of the interior today confirmed the decision of the general land office canceling two selections made by the state of Oregon under lists 434 and 444 in lieu of school lands relinquished to the government. The selection under list 434 is rejected because the lands assigned as base are within unsurveyed townships. The other list is canceled because the lands used as base were made base for a prior selection of school indemnity lands.

Russians Find Japs Laid Mines.

Paris, May 3.—According to the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris, specialists who have examined the spot where the battleship Petropavovsk sank, declare the Japanese had laid a large group of connected mines, each containing 80 pounds of lyddite, in Port Arthur roads. These have now been found and removed by the Japanese.