

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

FINE TIMBER DESTROYED.

Fire on McCully Mountain Supposed to Have Been Set by Campers.

Albany—The forest fires which have been raging in the mountains of Oregon for the past ten days are having the usual effect on valley towns. A pall of smoke, so thick that the eyes burn, hangs over Albany, and the horizon is narrowed down to a very short distance. The sun looks like a ball of fire, being almost hidden from view a part of the time.

The smoke in Albany is particularly bad because of a fire in close proximity to the city. Just east of Lacombe, which is only about 15 miles from Albany, is a fire which has been burning for several days, and is doing inestimable damage. The fire is on the side of McCully mountain, which is covered with one of the finest bodies of timber in the county. There had been a number of fires in that section for some time, but all were under control and the loss was normal. Albany people could see a large column of smoke rising from the side of the mountain east of Lacombe, and later came the news that an immense and destructive fire was sweeping over McCully mountain with irresistible force. The fire is thought to have been started by careless campers, and the authorities are investigating to see of the blame cannot be fastened on someone.

BRING HIGH PRICE.

Last Year's Hops Sell Well, and Picking Soon Begins.

Salem—Krebs Brothers, hopgrowers and dealers, have reported the purchase of 136 bales of 1903 hops from the A. J. Luce Hop company at 25 cents. This is the highest price paid for some time. Speaking of the hop situation, Leonard Krebs said that the greatest danger is that growers will begin picking too early. Some are talking of beginning September 1, which Mr. Krebs says is fully a week too soon.

In the Botterville, Hubbard, Aurora and St. Paul districts in particular the hops are usually too green, causing a loss in weight and also in quality. Mr. Krebs says that in view of the absence of vermin this season, there is no danger in letting the hops remain on the vine until they are ready for picking.

EXHIBITS OF STATE.

Salem—From information that has been received by Secretary Wylie A. Moores, of the state fair board, it is evident that the state fair next month will equal, if not excel the splendid exhibitions which have been held here for the last five years. There are more horses in training on Lone Oak track now than ever before at this time of the year. Many breeders of livestock who have never been here before are making arrangements to come with their herds, and the livestock department will be at great an attraction as ever. Space in the main pavilion is being rapidly taken for county and general premium exhibits, and many new displays will be seen.

Hop Market to Open.

Salem—Though 20 to 21 cents is freely offered for contracts for 1904 hops, nothing of consequence is being done in this market. Growers are preparing for the harvest, which will begin about September 8 to 10, and are worrying very little about prices. The hops in this vicinity are in excellent condition, so far as quality is concerned, and there has been no change in the estimates of the probable yield. Al Jenuan, who still holds 200 bales of hops of the 1903 crop, has refused an offer of 23½ cents a pound for the lot.

Wheat Crop Ready.

Salem—Because spring wheat is ready to harvest, farmers are hauling little grain to town now, and there is little activity in the wheat market. All the flouring mills in this vicinity are paying a premium of 2½ cents above the export quotations, and buyers for export are meeting the milling price.

Forest Fires Create Havoc.

Eugene—A number of forest fires are creating havoc in Lane county. Considerable damage has already been done and heavy losses are feared. A large fire is now burning in some of the finest timber on the McKenzie river. Several fires prevail.

Harvester Burns in Field.

Wasco—While the harvest crew were at dinner the combined harvester of Henry Howell, near Wasco, caught fire and burned up completely. The cause of the fire is unknown. Loss \$2,000, with no insurance. Only a small lot of wheat was burned.

Wheat Market.

Portland—Walla Walla, 76½¢; Astoria, 81¢; valley, 80¢.
Tacoma—Bluestem, 83¢; club, 77¢.
Walla Walla—Bluestem, 72½¢; club, 60¢.
La Grande—Fortyfold, 68¢; club, 60¢.
Albany—73¢.

HOP MEN IN HIGH GLEE.

Crop Will Be Large, and Quality Better Than Last Year.

Albany—Prospects are very bright for Linn county hopgrowers this year. The yield is expected to be fully as large as that of last year, and the quality of the product much better.

The weather has been all that hop men could desire, and the crop is free from vermin. Picking will commence the last of this month. The prices for picking will be the same as last year.

But few contracts for sale of hops have been made up to this time. The prevailing price for those few sales that have been made is 20 to 21 cents. Although growers have made no effort to sell their hops before the season is fairly opened, yet there does not seem to be any disposition to hold the crop, as there was last year. This is thought to be due to the fact that the slump in prices late in the season last year caused a loss of thousands of dollars to those who were holding for top prices.

Land Patents Held Up.

Albany—Word has been received in Albany by Ed Dorgan, the timber locator, from the interior department at Washington, D. C., that Albany claimants of timber land in the Klamath and Lake county districts will have to wait some time yet before receiving their patents. All the claimants have proved up on their claims and hold receipts from the local land officers, but Messrs. Jones, Erickson and Brown, the special agents sent out by Secretary Hitchcock, have recommended that the land be held up for further investigation. This is a great disappointment to the holders, who have waited for a long time for their patents. And the large number of people in Albany who have timber claims in the Eastern Oregon districts have a considerable amount of money tied up in the land.

Road to Aid Three Counties.

Albany—County Judge Scott, of Marion county, has been in conference with County Judge Stewart, of Linn county, regarding the proposed road to connect the Willamette valley with the Deschutes country, in Crook county, and the outcome is very favorable to the road. Hon. John Minto, father of the scheme and discoverer of the pass through which the road will go, is now at his mountain home on the line of the road, and will co-operate with the county judges in an effort to secure a conference with the judge of Crook county, to see if the three counties can work together and divide the expense of constructing the road, which will be a mutual benefit.

Crops in John Day Valley.

Prairie City—The hay crop in the John Day valley is this year as good as usual, on an average. While some stockmen are complaining over a slightly inferior crop, others have harvested a superior one over those of previous years. George W. McHaley harvested 25 tons of timothy hay from a five-acre parcel of land. Haying is now well under way, and in about another week the hay harvest will nearly be completed. Only a small amount of grain is being grown here, but it is of good average quality. The fruit crop is excellent, with the exception of a few orchards that was damaged by late frosts and hail storms.

Cove Cherries Get Prize.

La Grande—Union county cherries carried off the prize at the St. Louis fair. C. M. and O. G. Stackland of Cove, one of the greatest fruit sections in the state, have received word that their Royal Ann cherries sent in were given the 100 per cent mark by the judges. Oregon has her own way at the fair in the line of cherries, and those from Union county are considered the best. The county has shipped out 20,000 boxes of the best varieties this season, besides the big home consumption.

Remove Name's Stigma.

Salem—That the name of the Oregon State Reform school be changed to Oregon State Industrial school, is one of the recommendations made in the biennial report of Superintendent N. H. Looney. This change is advised because the present name is to many a stigma of disgrace when applied to youths whose characters are not formed. "It is not the intention of the state to brand these boys when what they want is encouragement," says Superintendent Looney.

Sulphite Mill Closed.

Oregon City—Having on hand a large surplus of the mill's product, the Crown Paper mills has temporarily closed down its sulphite mill, throwing out of employment 40 men. The wood mills of both local paper companies have suspended operations also because of the low stage of the river. Because of this more than 100 men have been placed out of regular work temporarily.

FEAR OF SHARKS.

No More Reserves to Be Created in the State of Oregon.

Washington, Aug. 17.—The interior department will not create any more forest reserves in Oregon at this time because it is afraid in so doing it would open up endless opportunities for lien land operators.

This is the explanation given today by an official who is handling forestry matters under Secretary Hitchcock's direction. While the bureau of forestry, recommending the establishment of Blue mountain reserve, has carefully drawn its boundaries so as to exclude practically all private holdings, yet if a reserve should be created on those lines, the department fears that after the reserve was created, great numbers of speculators would file entries and allege settlement on land in the reserve prior to the time when the original withdrawal was made.

The department officials admit it would be a comparatively easy thing for speculators to bring forward witnesses to swear falsely as to their having established residence on this land, and it would be almost impossible for the government to secure evidence which would justify the rejection of these entries. Once speculators established their right to the reserve lands, they would be entitled under the law to relinquish them and make lien selections of more valuable lands elsewhere. "But," says this official, "as reserves are not created and land simply remains withdrawn from entry, no base for lien selections can be created, and the government is not in danger of losing by unfair exchange."

FLEET WILL QUIT SMYRNA.

American Minister Will Not Need It, Now Turkey Has Yielded.

Constantinople, Aug. 17.—A satisfactory solution of the American school question has at last arrived. This matter, which is the most important of the American demands, was settled by extending to American schools the same treatment as that accorded to the schools under the protection of other powers.

A settlement of other matters affecting American interests in Turkey, of secondary importance, has also been effected, and United States Minister Leishman has telegraphed to Rear Admiral Jewett, in command of the United States squadron sent to Smyrna, instructing him to salute the batteries on land and depart.

The sitting of the council of ministers at which the settlement was agreed upon, was a long one, and it was not until its close that an agreement was reached. The delay in the settlement is believed to have been caused by the intervention of the palace functionaries, whose policy, in order to retain the sultan's favor, consists of combating the rights and privilege of foreign subjects.

ONLY PROPELLER REMOVED.

Japanese Towing Destroyer Report She Could Have Injured Them.

Chefoo, Aug. 17.—The Russian torpedo boat destroyer Ryeshitelni, flying the Japanese flag, was sighted near the Elliott islands on the evening of August 12. She was being towed by a Japanese torpedo boat destroyer. A second one acted as escort.

The report that the Japanese had left the Ryeshitelni at some Chinese port probably arose from the report brought by a junk to the effect that when passing Yung Ching bay south of Shantung promontory, she saw one of the two Russian destroyers which went ashore there.

Japanese arriving here from Dalny communicated with the destroyer escorting the Ryeshitelni and they were informed that a careful examination of the Ryeshitelni after her capture by the Japanese showed that the Russians had not rendered her completely ineffective before her capture. A torpedo was still in a torpedo tube, its propeller only having been removed. The torpedo towed by rowboats might have been used effectively against the Japanese. It was also stated that while the breeches of her guns had been unhinged several remained on board. The Japanese consul here states that his government has no idea of returning the Ryeshitelni.

Must Take Port.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 17.—The Boerse Gazette has received the following dispatch from its Liao Yang correspondent: "Twelve Japanese regiments have left in the direction of Port Arthur. It is stated on trustworthy authority that the mikado has ordered that Port Arthur must be taken at any cost, even if it necessitates the suspension of operations in Manchuria, and it is quite probable the main Japanese force will proceed to Port Arthur within a few days. Rain has stopped all operations."

Russian Ships Lower Flag.

Tsing Chou, Aug. 17.—The Russian flag has just been pulled down from the battleship Carevitch and the three cruisers which took refuge here. The lowering of the colors was done in the presence of the German governor.

WEEK'S DOINGS

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Condensed Form.

The Russian Baltic fleet has sailed for the Far East.

General Stoessel made a defiant reply to the Japanese demand that he surrender.

The wheat crop in Eastern Oregon and Washington will be to greatest ever known.

The Russian ships damaged in the recent battles can take no further part in the war.

The Grand Army has elected General Wilmon Blackmar, of Massachusetts, commander in chief.

It is believed that the raids of the Russian squadron will not cost shipping more than \$250,000.

Indications are more favorable than ever that Russia will agree to the American definition of contraband of war.

The Japanese consul general at Shanghai has notified the taotai that a fleet is coming to seize the Russian war vessels there.

The Japanese are making a final assault on Port Arthur, and reports say they have already sacrificed 20,000 men. Several important positions have been taken.

Japan has demanded the surrender of Port Arthur.

A Georgia mob overpowered the militia, seized two negro murderers and burned them alive.

Great Britain, in her answer to Russia, contends that foodstuffs cannot be classed as contraband.

The government is experiencing trouble in securing Oregon gold for the Lewis and Clark souvenir gold dollars.

The Russian admiralty is still in the dark as to the fate of Withoef's ships not heard from since the Port Arthur battle.

America deems that Japan was in the wrong in taking the Russian torpedo boat from Chefoo and that the vessel should be returned.

It is now certain that the Japanese have taken important land positions at Port Arthur, the fire from which compelled the Russian fleet to leave the harbor.

To date the Russian navy has lost seven cruisers and one battleship besides those which have just taken refuge in neutral ports and disarmed. The Japanese have lost one cruiser and one battleship.

St. Petersburg expects the fall of Port Arthur at any moment.

The Malheur irrigation withdrawal has been increased 26,000 acres.

Admiral Togo sowed many mines in the path of the Port Arthur fleet.

Japan is laying in great quantities of supplies for a winter campaign in Manchuria.

The Japanese navy is co-operating with the army in the final assault on Port Arthur.

Over 300,000 acres of land in Eastern Oregon in forest reserve withdrawals have been restored to entry.

Great Britain will reply to Russia that she cannot concede that the Knight Commander was sunk lawfully.

The national encampment of the G. A. R. is being held in Boston. It is estimated that 50,000 veterans are present.

The commander of the Japanese fleet is reported to have notified the Russian commander of Port Arthur that if he sinks the vessels in the harbor the town will be shelled with lyddite.

A launch turned turtle at a Potomac regatta and ten people were drowned.

Fire at New York gas tanks caused a great panic, many people in fleeing forgetting their children.

Work on the Malheur irrigation project will commence this fall. The Palouse project will be next.

The Russian flagship Carevitch was badly damaged in the recent battle and may be dismantled at Tsing Chou.

Issues with Turkey have been settled, the state department scoring a victory.

About 345,000 acres of land in Eastern Oregon withdrawn under forest reserve order will be restored to entry.

The general attack on Port Arthur is now on. Twelve regiments of reinforcements have been sent the Japanese from Liao Yang.

Russia expresses a willingness to modify regulations regarding contraband goods providing Great Britain will agree they are binding in future wars.

GREATEST OF NAVAL BATTLES.

Port Arthur Engagement Is Shown by Official Reports.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 16.—Not since the beginning of the war between Japan and Russia has anything so obviously affected Russian spirits as the gradual revelation of the extent of the Port Arthur squadron's reverses. Details of Rear Admiral Withoef's fatal sortie are not known to the general public even at this hour, though the contents of the report of Captain Matousevitch, Admiral Withoef's chief of staff, to the emperor, gradually permeated official circles in the course of the day. The captain's statement was issued late tonight in the form of an official report.

Captain Matousevitch makes it clear that the Port Arthur squadron fought what probably was the greatest battle of ironclads since steel replaced wood in naval construction. The effort of the Russians to fight their way through the Japanese would probably have been successful had it not been for the disaster to the battleship Carevitch, which compelled the squadron to fight a second battle, ending in the dispersal of the Russian fleet in the darkness.

The Associated Press learns that the awful mortality of the officers of the Carevitch, which was merely stated in the official report, is due to the fact that Admiral Withoef and most of his officers were gathered on the bridge during the action in order to set an example to and encourage the men, instead of remaining in comparative safety in the protection of the conning tower. A Japanese shell burst beneath the bridge, wrecking that part of the ship and killing or wounding every officer on duty thereabouts.

One of the most important features of Captain Matousevitch's dispatch, aside from its grimly brief account of the battle, is the detailed statement of the makeup of Rear Admiral Togo's fleet, which consisted of six battleships, 11 cruisers of various classes and approximately 30 torpedo boats.

According to this statement there were in line of battle some ships previously reported destroyed. This gives an indication of Japan's naval force which Admiral Togo has hitherto concealed.

LIKELY TO DESTROY BIG SHIPS.

Russia, so Tokio Believes, Will Not Be Able to Repair Them.

Tokio, Aug. 16.—It is believed here that the Russians will not be able to repair the five battleships reported by Admiral Togo to have been damaged in the recent sea fighting at Port Arthur. The Japanese land batteries now command the entrance to the harbor, and could render this work impossible.

Before the Russian fleet emerged from Port Arthur on August 10 the Japanese batteries could reach the warships there with shells and the docks were exposed to a fire the severity of which was increasing constantly. It is doubted if these ships will be able to go to sea again without first undergoing repairs, and it is expected that the Russians themselves will destroy them before Port Arthur falls.

ANXIOUS TO END STRIKE.

Mayor of Chicago, However, Will Not Discuss Trouble Now.

Chicago, Aug. 16.—There few developments in the packers' strike today, and it is not probable that there will be any for several days. A committee of retail dealers will call upon Mayor Harrison and ask him to act as mediator in the strike. The mayor declines to say what he will do until he receives the committee, but expressed himself as anxious to do anything in his power to end the strike.

The packers declined to say this afternoon to say whether they would accept the mediation of the mayor. They declared that they would, of course, receive him.

Chief of Police O'Neil and Police Inspector Hunt laid formal charges before the mayor today against Justice John Fitzgerald, who, it is asserted by the police, has discharged the great majority of the rioters brought before him, no matter how strong the evidence against them.

Women and Children Hurt Missiles.

New York, Aug. 16.—Women and children today joined in the demonstration against nonunion men who have taken the places of striking butchers and other employes in the packing houses. From upper windows and roofs of buildings in the affected district, they hurled missiles of all sorts at every luckless meat truck driver or beef carrier that passed along the street. The force of police assigned to the packing house district was largely increased today.

Earthquake in Chile.

New York, Aug. 16.—A severe earthquake was felt Thursday at Valparaiso, province of Atacama, according to a Herald dispatch from Valparaiso, Chile. It was preceded by loud subterranean noises. The earthquake caused much damage, but no fatalities have been reported. It was also felt at Iquique and La Serena.