

## NINE ARE DEAD

### Massachusetts Electric Car Strikes Dynamite.

#### NINETEEN OTHERS ARE INJURED

#### Teamster Was on His Way to Get It When the Disaster Occurred—He Was Arrested.

Melrose, Mass., Sept. 23.—An outward bound electric car containing 32 persons was blown to pieces in this city tonight by striking a 50-pound box of dynamite that had fallen off an express wagon. Six persons were killed outright, three more died of their injuries within an hour and 19 others on the car were taken to the hospitals suffering from severe injuries. At least a score of persons in the immediate vicinity of the explosion were hurt by flying glass and splinters.

So great was the force of the explosion that all but ten feet of the rear portion of the car was blown into small pieces, while windows within a radius of a quarter of a mile were shattered.

The immediate vicinity of the accident presented a fearful spectacle when those in the neighborhood reached the scene. The ground was strewn with legs, arms and other portions of the bodies of those who had been killed, and shrieks and groans came from the writhing forms of the injured. The car contained mostly men on their way to their homes in this city.

For more than three hours there was the greatest confusion. Thousands of people rushed about trying to find relatives and friends, and the hospitals were besieged. The police arrested Roy Fenton, driver of an express wagon. Fenton, it was learned, was carrying two 50-pound boxes of dynamite on his wagon, and did not know until he reached the express office that one of the boxes had dropped off. He hurried back in the hope of picking it up, but the electric car reached the box first.

## PICNIC AT ARCADIA.

### Oregon Irrigationists Enjoy a Day Near Ontario.

Ontario, Or., Sept. 22.—The delegates to the state irrigation convention were the guests of citizens of Ontario and Malheur county yesterday at a picnic and banquet at Arcadia, a model fruit farm owned by the Kiesel, Shilling & Danilson company. Arcadia is on the O. S. L. railway, seven miles east of Ontario. Eight years ago it was a barren waste of sagebrush land; today it is one of the most fruitful sections of land in the state, embracing several hundred acres of alfalfa hay, acres upon acres of bearing fruit trees and a dense grove of locust and maple trees—an ideal place for a picnic.

The delegates and their wives were taken in carriages supplied by the citizens of Ontario and ranchers residing in the vicinity for a drive among the farms, covering an area of several miles, finally ending up at Arcadia, where the women having charge of the banquet had prepared a feast which Congressman Williamson said eclipsed any banquet he had ever attended, not excepting those of Washington, and ex-President Devers declared that it was far superior to the famous banquet given to the delegates of the national irrigation congress at Ogden last year, which is known to have cost over \$1,500.

After inspecting the fruit orchards of Arcadia, where hundreds of tons of ripe and growing fruit are to be found on the trees, the guests were taken back to Ontario, where they all departed on the afternoon trains for home.

The judges awarded the \$100 loving cup, offered for the county making the best fruit exhibit, to Malheur county. Baker county was the only other competitor for this cup.

The experts employed by Commissioner Young to pack the fruit exhibit for shipment to St. Louis began work yesterday afternoon and expect to forward it today. A fresh lot of fruit will be sent, as there is plenty as good and better growing on the trees in the vicinity of Ontario than that placed on exhibition for the convention.

## Rushing Coal and Oil to Siberia.

New York, Sept. 23.—A dispatch from London to the Times says: Business is active on steamers with coal, oil and stores for Russian account. It is clear that urgent measures are being taken to secure supplies for Siberia and Manchuria before the winter. Underwriters are skeptical as to the weather permitting steamers which have still to sail from Europe to reach Vladivostok. It is known that unless large quantities of oil are got out many of the Eastern Siberian towns may be in darkness during the winter.

## 1905 Fair Plans Forwarded.

Washington, Sept. 23.—Plans for the Lewis and Clark buildings were forwarded to Superintendent Lazarus today. Bids will be opened by the supervising architect in this city October 17. Superintendent Lazarus is expected to have the plans open to bidders the latter part of the week.

## PORT NEEDS COAL.

### Port Arthur Cannot Much Longer Supply the Russian Ships.

Tsingtau, Sept. 24.—Several colliers arrived here within the last ten days. It is believed their cargoes are intended for Port Arthur. The British collier Foxton Hall has transferred her cargo of Cardiff coal to the German steamer Erica, which the local authorities would not allow to leave until given assurance that no attempt would be made to enter Port Arthur. The Erica sailed at daylight, and Japan is given as her destination, but it is believed she will ultimately make for Port Arthur, where the Russians are offering stupendous inducements for the delivery of coal.

S. Davidson, an American merchant, who had a Russian coal contract and was ordered to leave Port Arthur on February 15 last, is now at Tsingtau. He tells the Associated Press correspondent that when he left the coal supply there was very much depleted.

On account of the Russian warships having been compelled to keep up full steam day and night for nearly eight months and the enormous quantities of fuel required for the water condensing plant, there must be a coal famine there now unless more coal has arrived.

The Japanese have since then cut off the water supply, when the garrison would have to depend entirely upon the condenser. If a coal famine prevails, the town must be getting water from impure water wells, which would also have to be served to the sick and wounded helpless.

## NEW LAND POLICY.

### Tracts Withdrawn Will Not Be Sold as Soon as Restored.

Washington, Sept. 24.—The secretary of the interior has ordered restored to entry a portion of the lands in Skagit and Whatcom counties, Washington, that were temporarily withdrawn in December, 1902, with a view to enlarging the Washington forest reserve on the west side. These lands were examined by the forestry bureau and found unsuitable for forest reserve purposes. Some are agricultural in character, some grazing lands, but a considerable area is valuable for its timber. The reason the timber lands are to be turned back to the public domain is because they are isolated tracts, located among lands now in private ownership. It would not be practicable to reserve them without reserving the adjoining private lands, and this policy is not favored.

In restoring these lands to entry the interior department is adopting a new policy. These and all other lands hereafter restored to entry will not become subject to settlement immediately, but will be advertised for 90 days. This is to give every one an equal chance to take up newly opened lands, and to prevent any one getting unfair advantage. This was not done in the case of the Blue mountain lands restored in Oregon, but the rule will hereafter apply to all lands eliminated from withdrawals, as well as lands which are cut out of established reserves.

## COST OF UNSTABLE CURRENCY.

### Philippines Out \$1,294,059 as Result of Fluctuations in Silver.

Washington, Sept. 24.—The bureau of insular affairs of the war department in its review and final audit of the finances of the Philippine government has definitely fixed the loss sustained by the insular treasury, up to June 30, 1903, due to the fluctuating value of the silver currency in general circulation in the islands until a recent date at \$1,294,059.

This loss to the insular government was brought about largely by the fact that when silver was dear Mexican dollars were almost exclusively offered for payment of government dues, but when silver was cheap and the Mexicans over valued comparatively little was offered in payment of dues, and creditors of the government sought by every means possible to obtain settlement by the government in Mexican money. In this way silver money would be taken in at a high rate of exchange to gold and paid out at a much lower rate than received.

Under the new coinage act, which is now in successful operation, Mexican money is no longer receivable for public dues.

## Rush of Immigrants.

Liverpool, Sept. 24.—The streets leading to the steerage offices of the trans-Atlantic steamship companies were blocked today by thousands of emigrants, clamoring for a last chance to get to America for \$10, the reports that the rate war was over being generally believed. The White Star line steamer Baltic, which sailed today, took over 2,000 \$10 emigrants and many were left behind for lack of accommodation. The American line steamer Merion was filled up with the last \$10 batch for Philadelphia.

## Population of Buenos Ayres.

New York, Sept. 24.—A municipal census has just been taken, says a Herald dispatch from Buenos Ayres. The exact figures are not yet known, but the population of Buenos Ayres is estimated at about 1,000,000.

## WORK STARTS

### Irrigation Convention Meets at Ontario.

#### THIRD SESSION OF ASSOCIATION

#### About 200 Delegates in Attendance—Malheur County Has an Exceptionally Fine Fruit Exhibit.

Ontario, Or., Sept. 20.—The third annual irrigation convention met here yesterday afternoon, President Devers, of Portland, presiding. Rev. David Sepp pronounced the invocation, after which Mayor Lackey extended a most cordial and hearty welcome to the delegates. President Devers responded to the welcome.

The convention took a recess after President Devers' address until 8 P. M. The evening session was held in the Congregational church, which was crowded to its capacity, most all of the delegates having arrived on the delayed trains since the afternoon meeting.

After singing "America" Governor Chamberlain was introduced as the first speaker of the evening. The governor congratulated the people of Malheur county on the magnificent fruit exhibit. He said he had visited St. Louis and viewed the horticultural exhibits from all the states, Oregon included, and he could state, speaking from personal knowledge on the subject, that the exhibit made by the people of Malheur for this convention was finer in every respect than that of any state or territory at St. Louis. The governor said he had wired President Myer, of the state commission, to come over and secure and send this exhibit to St. Louis at once.

The governor then spoke at some length in regard to the irrigation projects inaugurated under the Carey act. Contracts have been signed and lands segregated to the extent of 120,500 acres and applications are pending for 267,950 acres more, enough to provide homes for 30,000 people.

H. B. Gates, of Hillsboro, member of the state irrigation commission, spoke of the proposed irrigation law the commission is preparing and congratulated the people of Malheur on being the first in Oregon to secure government aid for irrigation.

Judge Lowell, of Pendleton, said he wanted to live to see the day when the line of demarcation between East and West Oregon would be wiped away by the heartbeat of a united people, and in closing he gave the convention the sentiment: "Oregon for Oregon."

E. M. Brannick, of Portland, spoke in the interest of the Lewis and Clark fair and urged the people to work for and aid the fair in every way possible.

The evening was enlivened by several songs by Rev. Dr. Sepp.

President Devers, at the request of the local committee, appointed F. W. Sheffield, Dr. Withycombe and Professor F. W. Young to act as judges of the horticultural and agricultural exhibits. The exhibits of fruits made by the fruit growers of Malheur county has proved to be the most attractive as well as the most astonishing feature of the convention. Nothing to equal it, says Governor Chamberlain, President Devers, Judge Lowell and others, has ever been seen in Oregon. All visitors from other portions of the state join in this opinion. There are about 200 delegates in attendance.

## Train is Ditched.

Junction City, Kan., Sept. 21.—The Pullman section of the eastbound Atlanta express on the Union Pacific was wrecked six miles east of here shortly after 1 o'clock this afternoon by the rails spreading. The train was traveling about 40 miles an hour. Three Pullman cars left the track and the one at the rear rolled over a 15-foot embankment, turning over three times. There were 32 persons in this car. Six of them were seriously injured, and the rest received slight but painful injuries.

## Forest Fires Spreading.

Anaconda, Mont., Sept. 21.—The forest fires west of the city have progressed so far that there is now danger that the buildings at Mountain View park may be destroyed. The advance of the flames is being watched closely by a force of men employed by the railroad company. Should the danger be great, a general alarm will be sounded and a bucket brigade organized. There is plenty of water at the park if it can be properly directed. Along Warm Springs canyon fully a dozen prospectors' cabins have been burned.

## Reserves Japan is Calling Out.

London, Sept. 21.—The Morning Post asserts that the report that Japan is calling out reserves refers to the men not yet summoned to the depots, and whose period of service in the reserves has not expired. The paper explains that a Japanese soldier is not exempt from service until he passes his 41st birthday.

## SECOND DAY OF CONVERSION.

### Irrigationists Elect Officers and Decide on Next Meeting.

Ontario, Or., Sept. 21.—The second day of the irrigation convention opened at the opera house yesterday morning with a large attendance of delegates. The night trains brought in a large contingent from the West, also a large visiting delegation from Boise and intermediate towns in Idaho. President Devers presided.

The first speaker of the day was Hon. Thomas G. Hailey, of Pendleton, member of the state commission to draft a state irrigation law to be submitted to the legislature this winter. Mr. Hailey explained that the commission had secured the services of a government irrigation attorney, who was an expert in the matter of irrigation law, and he had prepared the draft of a bill which would be taken up by the state commission soon. He explained that the United States government would have to be a party to all government aided irrigation schemes in this state, hence the necessity of having a bill passed which would meet the requirements of the government officials.

The chief address of the morning was delivered by Judge J. H. Richards, of Boise, Idaho, on "The Home and Irrigation." Mr. Richards said that the noblest type of manhood and womanhood came from the home beautiful. Following this line of thought, Mr. Richards contended that the pursuit of agriculture and horticulture as a means of gaining a livelihood under proper conditions would produce the best class of citizens, both for the state and nation.

Dr. Withycombe, of the state agricultural college, delivered an interesting address on the educated farmer. Speaking of the government irrigation project for Malheur county, Mr. Withycombe said that it had come to his knowledge that some of the prominent citizens of this valley were sacrificing their personal interests in order to further the government irrigation plans. Following out this suggestion, the doctor spoke at some length on cooperation as a factor in irrigation.

At the afternoon session the committee on organization reported the following officers for the ensuing year:

President, E. M. Brannick, Portland; first vice president, S. A. Lowell, Pendleton; second vice president, F. W. Metcalf, Arcadia; secretary, A. King Wilson, Portland; treasurer, A. H. Devers, Portland.

Hon. J. N. Williamson was the chief speaker of the afternoon. Mr. Williamson had to deal with a delicate subject, and the opera house was crowded to its capacity when he delivered his address on "Disposition to Be Made of the Range Lands of the Arid and Semi-Arid Region." Mr. Williamson spoke with deliberation and positiveness. After dealing with the matter in all its phases, he said that in his opinion individual ownership was the best means of solving the problem, provided the present limit of ownership was removed, taking into consideration location, condition and value of land outside of the irrigated area, each individual to take what is necessary to support a family. It is a question of climatic conditions, altitude and water support; an arbitrary rule will not apply.

Ira Smith read an address prepared by Senator Mitchell, who was unable to be present. Addresses were delivered during the afternoon by Attorney General Crawford, President Brannick, A. King Wilson, E. H. Percy, government law clerk, and D. W. Ross, engineer in charge of the government reclamation service in Idaho.

Mr. Ross said that the irrigation projects now under consideration in Idaho and Oregon if carried out to completion would support a population of 300,000 people.

The convention voted to meet next year in Portland.

## His Books in a Muddle.

Washington, Sept. 22.—The war department has asked assistance of the department of justice in trying to secure the arrest of Captain Ira Keithley, Philippine constabulary, who has disappeared from the Philippine exhibit in St. Louis, leaving a reported shortage of \$4,000 in the funds which had been entrusted to him with which to purchase supplies for the constabulary. Keithley had a good record up to this time, having enlisted in the regular army as a private in May, 1898, in Topeka, Kan.

## Killing Frost at Grand Forks.

Grand Forks, N. D., Sept. 22.—The first killing frost of the season visited this locality last night. The temperature was at the freezing point and ice was formed on all exposed water. Cut corn was killed and large quantity of flax. There is still some green wheat, but this will be good for nothing but fodder.

## MODIFY POLICY

### Russia Meets Views of Britain and America.

#### BIG VICTORY FOR LAMSDORFF

#### Nation Will Hold Commanders of Ships in Error to Preserve the Country's Dignity.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 19.—Russia has given her answer to the American and British notes on the subject of contraband of war. Her answer as communicated to Ambassador Harding this afternoon verbally by Foreign Minister Lamsdorff, and bears out the predictions made on the subject by the Associated Press. The Ambassador was informed in effect that, according to the decision of the commission which has investigated the subject, the government has agreed to view as conditionally contraband in character foodstuffs and fuel, and that supplementary instruction had been issued to the Russian naval commanders and prize courts calling their attention to the misinterpretation which had been placed upon the prize regulations.

These instructions, Sir Charles Hardinge was informed, make a clear distinction between the articles enumerated in article 6 of the Russian prize regulations which are susceptible to deal use, like fuel and foodstuffs, the assumption being that if they are addressed to private persons or firms in an enemy's port they are not intended for warlike use; but their innocent character may be subject to suspicion if the ship's papers and the circumstances are irregular. In effect, the new instructions will place the burden of proof that the foodstuffs, etc., are designed for belligerent purposes upon the captor.

Russia, in Count Lamsdorff's response to Ambassador Harding, in principle meets the views of the American and the British governments regarding foodstuffs and coal and other fuel as being conditional contraband of war, distinctly placing them in the category of articles susceptible of use both in war and peace, and as such only confiscable when consigned to blockaded ports, or destined for military or naval forces of the enemy. Shipments in the ordinary course of trade by private persons or firms, even to enemy's ports, may be regarded as prima facie not contraband, but on this point distinct reservation is made.

## URGE LAND-LAW REFORMS.

### Commission Will Soon Meet to Report to the President.

Washington, Sept. 19.—The public lands commission, consisting of Land Commissioner Richards, Gifford Pinchot and F. H. Newell, will hold an early meeting and outline the report which it will submit to the president recommending changes in the various public land laws. The members of the commission have spent the summer in the West observing the operation of the land laws, and will soon be supplied with reports from their field representatives pointing out the weaknesses of the present laws. After going over all the data collected, the commission will draft its report and submit it to the president in time to permit him to incorporate the various recommendations in his annual message to congress.

The commission may not be able to make a final report, but will make the one presented as comprehensive as possible, and will point out the changes most needed in the public land statutes, including the necessity for modification, if not actual repeal, of the lien land law.

President Roosevelt is depending upon this commission for a strong report, and the indications are that he will get it, though in some instances the commission, while showing the weak spots of the present laws, may not recommend any definite remedy, but submit various plans for the consideration of congress. The probability, however, is that there will be no important land legislation next winter, as it is a short session and there is considerable opposition to changing the existing laws, especially the lien land law.

## May Courtmartial Captain.

San Francisco, Sept. 19.—Naval officers here say Captain Berlinsky, commander of the cruiser Lena, acted on his own responsibility in coming to this port from Vladivostok. They hold that he came here to escape participation in the war, and with the full expectation of having his vessel dismantled on arrival here. They argue that the Russian government will be obliged to order his court martial to demonstrate that the czar had no intention of preying on the commerce of this coast.

## Large Lumber Mill Destroyed.

Chicago, Sept. 19.—A dispatch to the Record-Herald from Pine Bluff, Ark., says that fire has destroyed the Sawyer & Austin plant, one of the largest lumber mills in Arkansas. The loss is estimated at between \$400,000 and \$500,000, fully covered by insurance.