

COMMISSION IS OUT

Asked to Resign by Direction of the President.

FREE HAND IN REORGANIZATION

All Commissioners Now in Washington Comply with Request, Which is Cabled to Governor Davis.

Washington, March 30.—The first practical step having in view the reorganization of the Panama canal commission was taken today, when, in compliance with instructions from President Roosevelt, Secretary Taft requested the members of the commission to tender their resignations. This request was promptly complied with by the members of the commission now in Washington and their resignations will be in the hands of the president tomorrow.

The purport of Mr. Taft's letter requesting the resignations of the commissioners was sent to Major General George W. Davis, retired, of the army, governor of the canal zone, and also one of the members of the commission, and a prompt answer is expected from him.

As indicated in the letter of Mr. Taft, the resignations are requested in order that the president may have a free hand in reorganizing the commission. That the president has contemplated reorganization has been known for some time and he has been in consultation with Mr. Taft as to his future policy in choosing his personnel and directing its work. It was believed originally that better results might be accomplished by the appointment of a smaller commission than now existing, but a recent opinion of Attorney General Moody held that under the law, the president was required to name seven members in all. The appointments probably will be announced during the progress of his Southern trip.

The members of the present commission, in addition to General Davis, are Rear Admiral John G. Walker, of the navy, retired, chairman; William Barclay Parsons, William H. Starr, Benjamin M. Harold and C. Edward Grunsky, the last four being civil engineers.

SEND THIS BOOK EAST.

Tell Your Friends About Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The 1933 issue of "Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Their Resources," issued by the passenger departments of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, and the lines of the Southern Pacific in Oregon, is now ready for distribution, 50,000 copies having been issued. The book is divided into chapters covering the following subjects: Climate, Dairying, Diversified Farming, Fish and Fishing, Fruit Culture, Grain Growing, Grasses and Forage Plants, Homes for Millions, Hop Raising, Irrigation, Lewis and Clark Expedition, Lumber and Lumbering, Markets, Mines and Mining, Portland the "Rose City," Railroads, Schools and Churches, Soil, Stock Raising, Vegetable products, Lands in Western Oregon, condensed information about towns and cities along the O. R. & N. and the Southern Pacific lines.

Every citizen of the states exploited in the book will find it valuable to read to relatives and friends in other states who may be induced to come and live in the Pacific Northwest.

Four cents in stamps sent to A. L. Craig, General Passenger Agent of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, Portland, Oregon, with the address of an eastern friend, will insure his being sent.

No Person was Responsible.
Rockton, Mass., March 29.—A statement that no evidence had been discovered to show that any person was ultimately liable for the explosion in the E. B. Grove company's shoe factory here last week, which caused the death of 55 employees, made this afternoon by District Attorney French, concluded an inquiry held in the police court in December, if possible, the cause of the accident. Mr. French also said that he believed it to be shown that the explosion was due to a hidden defect in the factory boiler.

BOWEN IS UPHELD.

Has Not Exceeded His Instructions in Dealing with Castro.

Washington, March 31.—Dr. Jose de Jesus Paul, special representative of President Castro, had an interview today with the president respecting the issues that have arisen between Venezuela and the United States. Dr. Paul appears to believe that these issues might be settled by a change in the American legation in Caracas, in view of the strained relations between President Castro and Mr. Bowen. He is awaiting the text of the communication from President Castro to the American minister relative to the arbitration proposal, which document is en route to Washington by mail.

As an impression apparently prevails to some extent, not only in Venezuela, but in this country, that Minister Bowen has incurred the ill will of President Castro by an excess of zeal in the presentation of the American claims against Venezuela, it may be stated that official inquiry from Washington has developed the fact that Mr. Bowen merely presented to the Venezuelan government the precise instructions sent to him from the State department relative to arbitration; that he did not add to nor take from those instructions in the slightest degree, but in fact effaced himself, so the fact is that the State department and not Mr. Bowen is responsible for this present Venezuelan government.

In view of the statement from Dr. Paul touching Mr. Bowen, it can be added upon the highest authority that, in view of the administration, the doctor has no official standing and whatever communication he makes to the president or State department cannot have any weight or bearing. If President Castro is dissatisfied with Mr. Bowen, he must have recourse to the regular diplomatic channel and communicate that fact formally to this government, which cannot receive representations on the subject from other sources.

MILL IS IN RUINS.

Bannockburn Property at Albany is Ravaged by Fire.

Albany, Or., March 31.—The old Albany woolen mill, a brick building built by the Bannockburn Woolen Mills company, of Portland, was Wednesday entirely destroyed by fire, involving the owners in a loss of about \$30,000, and the city in a loss in payroll and general expenditures in the city's stores that cannot be replaced in years. While the Bannockburn Woolen Mills company will not suffer a loss greater than the figures given above, the building could not be duplicated for less than \$75,000. It cost that when built, and later some \$20,000 more was spent upon it.

The fire originated in the drying room, in a wooden annex or basement built below the main floor of the building, on the water front. It is supposed to have been started by an explosion in the steam drying apparatus, though the exact origin is not known. The flames shot quickly up the big power belt to the first floor of the main building. Here the greasy floor and woodwork furnished fuel for the flames and in a moment the entire building was in fire.

The building, with all the valuable and intricate machinery, is a total loss. There were no manufactured products on hand, hence the losses are confined to buildings, machinery and the small amount of raw material. The large boiler and engine are thought to be unharmed, though some explosions that were heard from the direction of the engine and drying rooms may have injured the big machinery.

Pennsylvania Miners Will Strike.

Altoona, Pa., March 31.—The operations and mines of the central bituminous district of Pennsylvania, after being in conference in this city almost continuously since March 10 endeavoring to agree on a wage scale to go into effect on April 15, adjourned finally today without coming to an agreement. The failure to agree means a suspension of work by the 25,000 organized miners of the district at the end of the present week. The employees demand a 10 per cent reduction, but the most say it is beyond consideration.

Quality Creditors' Approval.

Washington, March 31.—Interest at the State department centers in the attitude of the French and Belgian creditors towards the recent settlement with Santo Domingo. It is recalled that an unfavorable reply on their part might cause an embarrassing situation. In view of the action which the government has already taken. These creditors have, in all, claims of \$18,000,000 against Santo Domingo, and their attitude towards the agreement is of great importance.

Commission on Post Arthur's Loan.

St. Petersburg, March 31.—(U. S. N.)—The membership of the commission to investigate the circumstances of the surrender of Post Arthur, under the presidency of General Rupp, has been announced. It consists of General Rupp, of the engineers; General Smith and Kerner, of the infantry; General Smith, of the artillery; and Admiral Duff and Duff.

All But American Trunk Rattled.

Bern, Switzerland, March 31.—The Swiss trunk rattled today under the pending treaty of commerce with the United States. Further negotiations regarding the latter will be necessary because of the action of the American which is nullifying what is regarded, as an essential clause of the treaty.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

PROTEST TO GOVERNMENT.

Removal of Land Office to Portland is Bitterly Opposed.

Oregon City—There will be vigorous opposition offered to the proposed removal of the land office from this city. The claim that the removal of the office to Portland is being made for economic reasons is not accepted as genuine by Oregon City people, who think they see in the plan a move preliminary to the consolidation of the government's land business in this state in a central office with headquarters at Portland. At present there are six land offices in the state, those other than in this city being located at The Dalles, La Grande, Lakeview, Roseburg and Burns. At any rate it is believed here that a consolidation of the Oregon City and Roseburg offices could be effected to the improvement of the service. But so far as the move being in the interest of economy, Oregon City people laugh at the idea. The Oregon City office now occupies a suite of five rooms, for which a monthly rental of \$30 is paid, and it is argued that similar rooms could not be had at Portland for several times that amount. In addition it appears that accommodations must be provided for the land office at Portland, all available room having been otherwise appropriated in the government buildings. In their present quarters the officials of the Oregon City land office have no extra room and could not transact the business of the office in more limited quarters.

The land office here is the first land office that was established in Oregon, and one of the first created west of the Mississippi river.

Relics From Jackson County.

Medford—The curious and interesting relics found in an Indian grave on the farm of J. H. King, Jackson county, a few days ago, will be sent to Portland, as a part of the Jackson county display at the Lewis and Clark fair. In the grave, besides the skeleton of the brave, there was found a decayed plainsman's blanket, a U. S. army coat, the buttons of which bore the dates of 1837 and 1847. Three Mexican dollars of the stamp of 1840 were also found. Then there was a scalping knife, beads of all sizes and hues and other articles taken by the brave from unfortunate victims of Indians during the early days.

Bronze Statue of Sacajawea.

Portland—The clay model for the statue of Sacajawea has been shipped from Chicago to New York, where the bronze casting will be made. Miss Alice Cooper, the sculptor, has achieved a most remarkable success in her work. After the exposition the statue will be presented to the city of Portland. The cost of the statue will be \$9,000, of which \$7,000 has been subscribed, all but \$200 of this amount coming from persons outside of Portland. July 8, Sacajawea day, all children under 15 years wearing Sacajawea badges will be admitted to the fair grounds upon payment of 10 cents.

Heavy Rains on Arid Land.

Irving—This whole section has received such a drenching as the oldest inhabitant never heard of at this season. The precipitation of last week exceeds three week inches, and the entire section east of the Cascades and west of the Blue mountains and the coast has received a similar amount. This means wonders for the wheat belt in Morrow, Gilliam, Umatilla and the Horse Heaven countries, and to Oregon it means that people need not resort to irrigation for many weeks. Settlers have already put out over 150,000 trees this spring.

To Open Oregon Belle.

Ashland—Ashland mining men say that soon the Oregon Belle mine will be added to the list of Southern Oregon producers. Development work has been done for some time past, but a mill will soon be erected and complete working done. Mr. Cassell, one of the owners, has just returned from the East, where he succeeded in making arrangements to finance the property, and complete development will be needed. A 10-stamp mill, with all necessary machinery, will be placed on the property at once.

Indians are Doing Out.

Chenoweth—From reports received from the Grand Banks reservation it appears that the Indians of the Northwest are either rapidly passing away or else being absorbed by the body politic. In the official report for 1928 it was stated that there were 807 Indians on the Grand Banks reserve. In 1888 528 were reported, in 1887, 299, while at the present time there are living 325, of whom 36 are old and decrepit, being supported by the government.

Flour Averages 12 Pounds.

Portland—Charles Cunningham has 35 men shoveling wheat on his ranch south of here, near Pine Rock. Thus far they have shovelled 15,000 and have 11,000 to shovell. His sheep are pure bred Merinos and are yielding an average fleece weighing 12 pounds each. Mr. Cunningham estimated all of his clip to the United States, and for 17 cents a pound early in the season.

Will Run a Long Tunnel.

Schwanitz—The Lewis & Clark Mining & Milling company has let a contract for their 200-foot tunnel, to be increased to 350 feet, and the work will begin at once. Last year this company equipped the mine with modern machinery and now this new contract will thoroughly develop the ledge.

LITTLE WHEAT IN UMATILLA.

Only One Large Lot of 40,000 Bushels Coming of Assessor.

Pendleton—Assessor Strain reports but one lot of wheat of any consequence in the county to be assessed this year. This is 40,000 bushels belonging to the Balfour-Guthrie Warehouse company in this city. All other large lots have been disposed of long ago and most of it shipped from the county.

The Puget Sound warehouse reports the purchase of a small lot of 1,600 bushels of wheat from Oliver & Co., grocers of this place, but aside from that there are practically no sales. Some of the farmers who had seed wheat saved over from last fall, which they did not need to use, are offering that for sale, and some small purchases have been made.

Estimates are that not over 75,000 bushels remain in the county, and all those are in small holdings. Those who have not sold will likely hold over until another year, as the prices of late have been declining instead of advancing.

TO CONTROL FRUIT PRICES.

Growers' Associations Arrange for Single Selling Agents.

Hood River—In order to prevent overstocking of the fruit markets, the fruit associations of Hood River, Puyallup and Washouet propose to unite in having one representative salesman each at Helena, Butte and Great Falls, and also at other points east.

At local points it is proposed that one broker shall act for the several associations. Fruitgrowers are determined as much as possible to fix prices in each of the different markets. Jobs and commission merchants will handle the fruit on a fixed basis, and as soon as any market is likely to be overstocked, the representatives will advise the shipping associations to divert the shipments elsewhere.

Test Standard Ores.

Sumpter—D. L. Killen and E. F. Warner, of the firm of Killen, Warner & Co., mining promoters, are now at Denver, where a test is being made of the ores of the Standard group, in the Quartzburg district. This firm has financed the Standard, and expects large returns from the immense body of ore opened on the property. The object of the test is to decide upon the character of the reduction plant to be installed at the mine this season for the proper treatment of the ores. The Standard is one of the many properties shipping ore to the smelter here.

Cottage Grove Mill May Start.

Cottage Grove—It is rumored that the Long & Bingham sawmill, which was recently sold to Eugene and other parties, will soon be started up. A few meetings have been held between the interested parties, and it is the expression that the mill will start up in the near future. This mill was run successfully for several months, as the timber was taken from the territory crossed by the O. & S. E. Railroad. George H. Kelly, of the Booth-Kelly Lumber company, and W. E. Brown, of Eugene, have been investigating the matter.

Free Ferry to Lure Trade.

Independence—Opposite Independence, on the Marion county side of the Willamette river, is one of the most populated hot sections of the state, and it is the purpose of the people of this place to attract this trade by providing the residents of that section with a free ferry to this point. At the last meeting of the Independence Improvement league it was reported the owners of the present ferry were willing to dispose of the present one, and it is the intention to have it, providing a price can be agreed on.

Will Take the Oregon Census.

Portland—The blanks for the regular state census have been received by Assessor C. F. Strain, and the work of taking it with the regular county assessment will begin on April 1. The last census taken of Umatilla county, five years ago, showed 12,000 population, and Assessor Strain believes that this year will show at least 22,000. In taking this census Mr. Strain asks the co-operation of the people of the county to assist the census takers.

Oregon Stock in Good Health.

Salem—With the exception of a scaple in one head of horses in Eastern Oregon, in which one two head have been killed and the rest are being shipped, the general health of stock in this state is good. This is according to the verbal report made by State Veterinarian McLean to the Department Animal commission.

RUSSIA HAS OFFERED TERMS

Official Admission at St. Petersburg—Bluffing on Indemnity.

St. Petersburg, March 29.—After a meeting of the council of ministers, which lasted until after midnight, the positive information was given out through an official channel this morning that Russia has outlined the terms under which she is prepared to negotiate peace. It was asserted on the same authority that, thanks to the good offices of the United States and France, the question of bringing about the termination of the war had assumed tangible form and that preliminary steps in the negotiations would be taken in the immediate future.

Of the terms upon which Russia would be willing to begin negotiations, enough was known tonight that Russia will maintain to the eleventh hour an absolute opposition to any Japanese proposal to impose a direct indemnity upon her conquered foe. It is also intimated that a demand for the cession of Russian territory would meet with the same vigorous opposition.

It is apparent, however, that the czar himself is convinced of the Russian situation in the Far East and of the inability of the Russians to resume hostilities with any chance of success in the event of a suspension of preliminary negotiations.

The opinion was expressed yesterday by all exceptionally well informed foreign diplomats here that the demonstrative declarations of the ministers on the subject of indemnity and cession of territory are intended as a lullaby to draw out opinion on the subject in Tokyo. Eventually, this diplomat asserted, Russia is prepared to accept peace on any terms that Japan may be willing to offer.

FIXING A WITNESS.

Charge Placed Against Armour's General Superintendent.

Chicago, March 29.—The Federal grand jury tonight returned an indictment against Thomas J. Connors, general superintendent of Armour & Co., on a charge of interfering with a witness summoned to appear before the jury investigating the beef trust. Mr. Connors, who is J. Ogden Armour's most confidential employe and the active head of one of the largest packing companies of the world, was arrested on a bench warrant by a deputy United States marshal and taken to the grand jury room, where he was released on \$5,000 bonds. After his release Mr. Connors refused to discuss the matter.

The indictment charges that John Edward Shields, of Brooklyn, a former employe of Armour & Co., who testified before the grand jury, was approached, favored and entertained by Mr. Connors, and specifically states that on March 25 the offense upon which Mr. Connors was indicted occurred. It is also charged that Shields was given the use of Armour & Co.'s office at 205 La Salle street to transact his business while in Chicago and also the use of a private telegraph wire in the office of the packing company.

WAITING FOR CASTRO'S LETTER

Government Will Continue Negotiations Unless It is Insisted.

Washington, March 29.—It has been decided to await the reception of the exact text of President Castro's refusal to accept Minister Bowen's arbitration proposition before proceeding further with the negotiations in this line. It is realized that there may only be a fair difference of opinion as to whether or not the Venezuelan response was couched in discourteous language, and it may be that at this distance from the seat of negotiations and after the lapse of a few days the words which appeared to Mr. Bowen to be insolent will admit of a different construction.

No Big Game Hunting in Alaska.

Washington, March 29.—As the result of representations by Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, it was determined by the cabinet today that no permits should be issued this year for big game hunting in Alaska, except for authorized representatives of museums. Similar action was taken last year because of the knowledge that game in Alaska was rapidly being destroyed and it was desired to preserve it so far as possible for the benefit of the natives, although they are required to comply with the local game laws.

Japanese Again Advancing.

Genoa, Italy, March 29.—The Japanese are again moving forward and the Russian guard has fallen back from its position, about 15 miles north of Niponai (74 miles north of St. Petersburg). The Japanese are estimated at 10,000 men, which is a practically complete report shows that the Russian army sacrificed general commissariat stores to the amount of \$1,200,000 and stores for an army corps amounting to \$200,000 at Mukden.

Try Again in Wisconsin.

Madison, Wis., March 29.—Defensible action on a bill for an exhibit at the Portland exposition was recommended by the Wisconsin assembly today, and a new bill appropriating \$25,000 was introduced.

HAY MAY MEDIATE

Suspected Purpose of Hay's European Trip.

OPINIONS OF THE DIPLOMATS

Whenever Hay Has Been Reported In, a Great Stroke of Diplomacy Has Quickly Followed.

Washington, March 28.—Several prominent diplomats in Washington believe that John Hay, secretary of state, during his trip to Italy, will make an effort to see what can be done in the way of mediation and settlement of the war in the Far East. The news from the Azores that Mr. Hay's health was improved, and that he expected to return to Washington by May 12 adds color to this theory.

The diplomats attach great importance to the news that Henry White, the new United States ambassador to Italy, was ordered to hasten his arrival at his post. Mr. Hay and Mr. White are warm personal friends, and the secretary has great confidence in Mr. White's adroitness in diplomacy.

It has been figured out in the diplomatic corps here that Italy is practically the only country of importance in Europe that might be expected to take part in friendly mediation without being suspected by either Russia or Japan of ulterior motives or hostile intent.

Mr. Hay has come to be regarded almost as a fetish by diplomats stationed in Washington. They recall that he frequently has been ill, confined to his house, and inaccessible to diplomats, and half a dozen times after these illnesses something of great importance has happened bearing on diplomatic affairs.

MUST GIVE SPAIN HER GUNS

Secretary Taft Calls on Cuba to Carry Out Terms of Treaty.

Washington, March 28.—Spain has never been able to secure from Cuba the ordinance left there at the termination of the Spanish-American war, and in the latter case its claim had been recognized and the ordinance transferred. But in the case of Cuba there appears to be some difficulty in securing the recognition by the Cuban government of the obligation entered into by the United States.

Secretary Taft caused a cablegram to be sent to Minister Squirers in Havana instructing him to notify the Cuban authorities that the ordinance in question remains the property of Spain, that it was never possessed by the United States and should be returned to Spain.

STEP TO HOME RULE.

Census of Philippines is Completed—Legislature in Two Years.

Washington, March 28.—Secretary Taft today notified President Roosevelt that the census of the Philippine islands had been completed and published, and under the law of July 1, 1902, two years from this date the president shall direct the Philippine commission to call a general election for the choice of delegates to a popular assembly.

All legislative power on the islands will thereafter be vested in a legislature consisting of two houses, the Philippine commission and the Philippine assembly. The conditions on which the election is to be called is that complete peace shall have continued in the territory of the islands not occupied by Moro or other non-Christian tribes. The popular election is not to extend to the Moro tribes.

Would Federate with Canada.

Toronto, Ont., March 28.—M. Filian, a member of the Dominion parliament, now here, says the sentiment in the British West Indies is strongly in favor of federation with Canada. "There are among us," said he, "hardly any but would be glad to see some scheme inaugurated for bringing the two more closely together. I think a union would be helpful to both." Mr. Filian has seen Premier Laurier on the subject and is hopeful of good results, and will also interview the Ontario premier.

Tornado Wipes Out Town.

St. Paul, Minn., March 28.—A report received this city tonight that the little town of Loupburg in the extreme western portion of the state had been practically wiped out by a tornado and that several persons had been seriously injured. It was also stated that two men to whom were killed, but up to a late hour it has been impossible, owing to lack of telegraph facilities, to verify the latter statement. Loupburg is a town of about 100 people.

Call to Jamestown Exposition.

Washington, March 28.—James Paulson, secretary of the Jamestown Exposition, today issued a call for the attention of the public, stating that the exposition would be held in the summer of 1907 in the vicinity of Jamestown, Va.