

A HEAVY FIRE LOSS

Portland and St. Johns Waterfronts Scene of Blaze.

AGGREGATE LOSS OVER \$350,000

Mills, Warehouses, Cars and Docks Burned—Lewis and Clark Fair Buildings Threatened.

Portland, Sept. 2.—It required but half an hour yesterday noon for fire to wipe out the Albina dock, warehouse and entire plant of the Pacific Coast Elevator company, completely destroying ten freight cars of the O. R. & N. Co. and damage the plant of the Eastern & Western Lumber company, across the river. The loss totals \$210,500, and insurance is \$186,000.

Originating in the elevator building, the fire spread rapidly north and south, fanned by a strong gale from the east. Before apparatus could reach the scene, the destruction of the large dock and elevator property was practically accomplished.

The Albina dock, the property of the O. R. & N. Co., and the elevator buildings were situated on the East Side river front, just below the O. R. & N. car shops. So furious was the wind that blazing brands were quickly wafted across the river, igniting the plant of the Eastern Lumber Co., directly opposite.

There was great anxiety at the Lewis and Clark exposition grounds when the fire was raging half a mile distant. If the flames had gained a secure foothold on the west side of the river and spread to any great extent, the exposition would have been in the direct path.

One burning ember lighted on the roof of the Manufacturers building, but only a small hole was burned before it was stamped out.

Fire at St. Johns destroyed two saw mills, threatened to destroy three other mills and many residences, and was only prevented from doing incalculable damage by the fireboat, George H. Williams, which was sent to the conflagration at 2 o'clock in the morning from Portland. The tiny streams poured on the flames by the mill company's apparatus seemed only to add fuel to the fire.

The sawmills of the Oregon Fir Lumber company and the St. Johns Lumber company, the former known as the Cone and the latter as the Douglas plant, together with the wood yards of the Peninsular Wood company, were totally destroyed by the fire. The loss aggregates \$140,000, with \$31,000 insurance. Some damage was sustained by the Jobs flour mills, but it was not material.

WHOLE TOWNS DIE.

Awful Ravages of Yellow Fever in Honduras.

San Pedro, Cal., Sept. 2.—Spanish Honduras is devastated by the most terrible scourge of yellow fever the country has ever known. The outbreak is the first for nearly ten years. Three towns have been devastated and almost destroyed by the fever, which has been raging there since May.

It originally started in Belize, British Honduras, where many prominent residents were victims. Thence it spread to Puerto Cortez, Choluteca and San Pedro. In all these towns the ravages have been frightful. In Puerto Cortez every non-immune citizen has died, and the only ones left are those who cannot take the fever.

The epidemic, having no more victims there, has gone up country over the railway lines, and is now raging throughout a large part of interior Spanish Honduras.

Trade is stagnated. There is no one to cut bananas, and vast plantations of fruit are rotting.

Contract for Gould Road.

Salt Lake, Sept. 2.—A private telegram from New York states that the Utah Construction company, of Ogden, has been awarded a contract for the construction of the Western Pacific railroad from Salt Lake City to the Nevada line, a distance of about 110 miles. It is stated also that the same company, has been awarded the contract for the construction of the road from the western boundary of Nevada to Oroville, Cal. The work of construction will be begun immediately by the company.

Norwegian-Swedish Conference.

Karlstad, Sweden, Sept. 2.—The first meeting of the Swedish and Norwegian delegates appointed to consider the terms of the dissolution of the union of Norway and Sweden was held here today. It was agreed that each delegation should elect its own chairman. The Swedes selected Premier Lundberg and the Norwegians Premier Michelsen. Each will preside on alternate days. It was decided that the conference shall be secret.

Secret Messenger From Panama.

New York, Sept. 2.—On what he said was a secret mission to see President Roosevelt, Mincaron Obarrio, a prominent citizen of Panama, arrived in this city today from Colon. Mr. Obarrio was one of the original junta which was instrumental in establishing the independence of Panama.

JAPAN IS FURIOUS.

All Newspapers Denounce the Terms of Peace.

Tokio, Sept. 1.—A remarkable absence of rejoicing is one of the most striking features attendant upon the receipt of the news of a practical conclusion of peace. The kind of reception that awaits definite news will depend entirely upon the nature of the terms. It is generally feared that extensive concessions have been made by Japan. It has been generally expected by the public and hoped that there would be a rupture at Portsmouth, in view of what was termed Russia's obduracy in refusing the payment of indemnity.

The Jiji says this morning: "An agreement arrived at without a rupture can only mean that great concessions have been made by our plenipotentiaries. A peace concluded upon such terms can never satisfy the nation."

The Mainichi says: "We are disappointed. We only hoped there would be a suspension of the peace conference. It is impossible under the circumstances to conclude an honorable peace. The fruits of our arms have been lost by weak diplomacy. Japan victorious, victorious in the field, has been defeated in the conference chamber."

The Nichinichi says: "We feel surprised and wonder how peace could have been concluded when everything indicated the impossibility of making Russia accept the vital demands of our terms. In the absence of official confirmation of the terms, it is impossible to form a final opinion, but the indications are that nothing will insure peace with terms that are honorable."

The minor papers are generally angry and say that a peace obtained upon the terms reported is "a humiliating one."

FEELS HER SHAME.

All Russia Humiliated by the Cession of Territory.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 1.—Judging from the press comment of today on peace, it would appear that, while pleased with the prospect of the removal of further bloodshed from the Far East, a large portion of the public is unable to reconcile itself to the loss of territory, however insignificant. The national pride seems to be offended by the cession of part of the island of Sakhalin.

Yesterday the people spoke of "today's shame," meaning peace. Many of the utterances show evidences of regret that the army had not been given another chance to try the fortunes of war, though no one questions or undervalues the humanity of the course followed by President Roosevelt, the plenipotentiaries and Emperor Nicholas.

The tone of many of the utterances concerning peace induce one to believe that a further sacrifice of human lives would not be unacceptable, if the national self respect could be regained thereby. One word of disapproval of the terms from Tokio suggesting that Japan did not desire to be bound by the terms might result in a flare-up here in defense of war and the national honor.

TO TUNNEL SISKIYOU.

Faster Time Will Then Be Made Between Portland and San Francisco.

Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 1.—The fact is made known in the Bee today that during his recent visit to the Pacific coast E. H. Harriman, president of the Southern Pacific railroad company, gave orders to the engineering department to make a survey for the construction of a great tunnel through the Siskiyou mountains.

According to the orders given by the president of road, the tunnel is to be ready for operation within three years. The tunnel through the mountains will be the means of greatly reducing the grade, so that faster time may be made between California and Portland, and will also shorten the distance from seven to ten miles.

Trains running through the tunnel will be operated by electric motors.

Award by Hague Tribunal.

New York, Sept. 1.—Announcement that the Muscat dispute between Great Britain and France had been settled was made today by the secretary of Chief Justice Fuller of the United States Supreme court, who was recently been at The Hague as a member of the permanent international council in adjudication upon this matter. Justice Fuller arrived here today on the steamer Oceanic. The dispute relates to the right of certain traders to fly the French flag in the Persian gulf, upon which Muscat is situated.

Artillery Post at Presidio.

San Francisco, Sept. 1.—News has been received that the War department has approved the plans for the building of a new artillery post at the Presidio, and that \$750,000 will be expended for this purpose within the next year. This will provide for the building of ten sets of barracks, ten officers' quarters, a handsome headquarters building, storehouses and a number of sheds for guns. All the buildings are to be of a substantial character.

Rojevsky Is Improving.

Tokio, Sept. 1.—Rear Admiral Rojevsky has so far recovered from the effects of wounds received at the battle of the Sea of Japan that he will be brought to Kioto early in September.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

DITCH DIGGING TO BEGIN.

Land Owners in Klamath Section Fall In With Government Plan.

Klamath Falls—It is now almost assured that active ditch digging will begin by the government contractors on the lower Klamath project before snow flies.

Practically all of the larger land owners in this project have signed up with the Water Users' association, and many of those not already signed have promised to do so at once.

Secretary Elmer I. Applegate, of the association, states that not one of the large holders who have been approached have refused to sign the trust deed so far. He stated further that 60 per cent had signed and promised to do so, and he expected by September 1 to have the required 75 per cent which the government asks before actual ditch digging is to commence.

It is also promised by the government officials that just as soon as 75 per cent of the holdings under the project are signed, bids for contract work will be advertised for, and as soon as these are accepted work will begin.

However, it is not expected that a great deal will be accomplished this winter, owing to the lateness of the season and difficulty in getting heavy machinery in here during the fall and winter.

Already the government working force now in the field has been reduced slightly in accordance with Chief Engineer Newell's advice when here recently.

This is said to be because of the probability that no great amount of work would be done this fall.

Campers Careless.

Sumpter—The forest fire which raged a short while ago in the Blue mountains, near the hot springs, in the John Day country, is reported to have done considerable damage. Much fine timber was destroyed, and for a while it was feared that some of the ranches would suffer a heavy loss in buildings and fences, but these were finally saved. Campers are said to be responsible for the origin of the fire. S. S. Terrell, warden of the Eastern Oregon forest reserve, states that during the past dry spell he has put out many camp fires that, had they not been checked in time, would have destroyed much valuable timber.

Lumber Company Incorporated.

Tillamook—Articles incorporating the Hadley Lumber company have been filed in the county clerk's office, the capital stock of the company being placed at \$100,000, divided into 1,000 shares at the par value of \$100 each. The incorporators are C. B. Hadley, C. E. Hadley and P. B. Vantress, and the place of business will be Hobsonville, in this county. The new company will take possession of the Truckee Lumber company's sawmill on Tillamook bay September 1, and will operate that mill and the mill on Wilson river.

Free Gold in Sight.

Sumpter—Work has been practically suspended at the Prairie Diggings mine owing to a heavy flow of water encountered while sinking the main shaft, a depth of over 165 feet. The management has decided that heavier pumping machinery must be installed before headway can be made against the large volume of water entering the shaft. A rich body of ore had been struck, from which it was expected great results would be forthcoming. Free gold was plainly seen in the ore taken out just before the water came pouring in.

Hot Lake Fire Out.

La Grande—The extensive fire that has been raging in the tules and grass near Hot Lake, which was caused from the sparks of a passing engine, and which, for a while, threatened to burn the buildings of that sanitarium, has at last, by hard fighting from section men, who were taken from this station, been placed under control. The report was current on the streets that the hotel had been burned, but the report was without foundation.

Sheep Sales at Pendleton.

Pendleton—The condition of the sheep market in this immediate vicinity has materially improved during the past few days, and buyers who have been operating in this district report having made several purchases at prices considerably below those reported a few days ago. The sheep raisers have receded from their indifference maintained so firmly up to a few days ago, and as a result quite a number of sales have been reported at a substantial reduction in prices.

Orchard Ruined by Engine Spark.

Eugene—A grass fire in the Sladen orchard adjoining Eugene on the west, caused considerable damage. It is supposed to have started from sparks from a passing locomotive and burned over 20 acres or more of the orchard, ruining all the fruit on the trees and probably killing many trees. It was rapidly spreading to the residences near by and the fire department was called out to subdue it.

LaGrande Makes Much Sugar.

La Grande—The sugar factory is turning out from 100 to 150 sacks of brown sugar every day from last year's syrup. This sugar is not a finished product, but will be worked over and refined during the regular run in the beet season. The factory has now been running three weeks, and will operate an equal length of time to finish the run on syrup.

MAY OFFER REWARD.

Governor Would Bring to Justice the Flax Incendiaries.

Salem—After reviewing all the circumstances, Governor Chamberlain believes that the three fires which have destroyed flax and flax mills in this city were set by persons who are determined to destroy the flax industry in Oregon. He thinks the manner in which the promoters of the flax industry have been hampered in their work and the extreme measures that have been resorted to indicate that back of the crimes that have been committed is a desire to prevent the establishment of linen mills in this state.

If, after investigation, the governor finds that he has authority to do so under the appropriation made by the last legislature, he will offer a substantial reward for the arrest and conviction of the person who set the fires which destroyed Eugene Bosse's flax and flax plant last winter and the fire which destroyed his 1904 and 1905 crops last week. Even if he should find that he has no express authority, the governor may offer a reward conditioned upon an appropriation by the next legislature.

In speaking of the matter Governor Chamberlain expressed his high appreciation of the value of the experiments conducted by the Oregon Women's Flax Fiber association, which proved beyond doubt that the Willamette valley can produce flax fiber of as good quality as can be produced in any country. He believes that if developed, as it can be and should be, the manufacture of flax products will become a resource which will add great wealth to the state and furnish employment to large numbers of people in growing and harvesting flax and making twine, crash and linen.

Because the industry at its beginning promises so well for the state, the governor stands ready to do what he can to bring to justice those who could injure or destroy it.

Nearly Up to Normal.

The Dalles—The report to the effect that the Oregon prune crop this year will be one-third the normal yield may apply to Willamette valley orchards, but it does not apply to Wasco county. None of the leading prune growers here estimate their crop at less than 75 per cent of a normal crop. Prunes are now ripening. Picking has practically begun. The fruit is average in quality, and buyers are offering from \$15 to \$17 a ton. The bulk of the crop will be sold to driers, although some will be shipped east.

Consolidation at the Agency.

Pendleton—The recent visit of Colonel Tinker, general inspector of the Interior department, and his investigation has resulted in a recommendation by him for the consolidation of the old government Indian agency and the Indian school. The contract for the removal and fitting up of seven of the best buildings at the old agency has been let to Charles Hastings, who has already commenced the work of removing the buildings.

Whistler Comes to Portland.

Pendleton—It is announced that the office of John T. Whistler, head of the Reclamation service for Oregon, will be removed to Portland this fall. It is understood that Portland is to be made the headquarters for irrigation work in the Northwest, and that D. C. Henry, consulting engineer, who is to have charge of the work for Oregon, Washington and Idaho, desires the removal of the office from Pendleton.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 68@69c per bushel; bluestem, 71@72c; valley, 72c.

Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$23@24; gray, \$22 per ton.

Barley—Feed, \$20 per ton; brewing, \$21; rolled, \$22@23.

Rye—\$1.30 per cental.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$14 @15 per ton; valley timothy, \$11@12; clover, \$8@9.

Fruits—Apples, 90c@1.75 per box; peaches, 50@90c per crate; plums, 50c @75; blackberries, 5@6c per pound; cantaloupes, 75c@1.50 per crate; pears, \$1.00@1.25 per box; watermelon, 3/4@1c per pound; crabapples, \$1 per box; grapes, 90c@1.50; prunes, 70@80c.

Vegetables—Beans, 1@4c per pound; cabbage, 1@1 1/4c; cauliflower, 75@90c per dozen; celery, 75@85c; corn, 8@9c; cucumbers, 10@15c; pumpkins, 7 1/2@7 3/4c per pound; tomatoes, 20@40c per crate; squash, 5c per pound; turnips, \$1.25@1.40 per sack; carrots, \$1.25@1.50; beets, \$1@1.25.

Onions—Red, \$1.25 per hundred; yellow, \$1.25.

Potatoes—Oregon, new, 50@75c per sack.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 27 1/2@30c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 23@24c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 13@14c; mixed chickens, 12 1/2@13c; old roosters, 10c; young roosters, 11 1/2@12c; turkeys, live, 18@23c; geese, live, 8@8 1/2c; ducks, 14@15c.

Hops—Choice, 1905, 16c per lb; 1904, 16@17c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 19@21c; lower grades, down to 15c, according to shrinkage; valley, 25@27c per pound; mohair, choice 30c.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 1@2 per pound; cows, 3 1/2@4 1/2c; country steers, 4@5c.

Veal—Dressed, 3@7 1/2c.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 6@7c per pound; ordinary, 4@5c; lambs, 7@7 1/2c.

Pork—Dressed, 6@8c per pound.

NEW HAGUE CONFERENCE.

President May Revive Movement Already Begun.

Washington, Aug. 31.—It is regarded here as probable that immediately on the conclusion and final signature of the peace treaty between Russia and Japan there will be a renewed effort to secure another meeting of The Hague conference, in accordance with President Roosevelt's suggestion to the powers last spring. Following the original proposition, the president sent out a second note notifying the powers that, in his judgment, further proceedings in connection with the call should be left to the resident council at The Hague.

The State department has learned since then that all of the powers addressed, while accepting the project, qualified their acceptance with the statement that the new conference should be deferred until the conclusion of hostilities between Japan and Russia. There the matter has rested and it probably will require the issuance of a third circular note to set the wheels in motion and bring about the desired conference.

Any of the signatory powers might feel disposed to put forth such a note, but on the whole it is regarded as rather more probable that President Roosevelt will complete the movement he has initiated and soon after Secretary Root's return to Washington the president will advise with him touching the issuance of the necessary reminder.

"WHISTLE SOFTLY."

Roosevelt Declares Peace Conference Not Yet Out of Woods.

Oyster Bay, Aug. 30.—"Whistle softly; we are getting into the thin timber, but are not yet out of the woods."

This admonition represents accurately President Roosevelt's view of the situation at Portsmouth. Peace is in sight, but is not yet an accomplished fact. Profoundly as he is gratified at the results already achieved by the plenipotentiaries, the president realizes fully that the most important work remains yet to be done. Until more is accomplished it is scarcely the part of wisdom, he thinks, to do more than "whistle softly."

It is probable that the president may make a formal expression concerning the work accomplished at Portsmouth by the Russian and Japanese envoys, but the intimation today was that he would not make such a statement in any event until he had been assured of the success of the conference.

DISCIPLINE LAX.

Bonaparte Orders Court-Martial in Bennington Case.

Washington, Aug. 31.—Secretary Bonaparte, in his action today on the findings of the court of inquiry in the case of the Bennington explosion, severely arraigns some officers of the vessel for failure to look after the safety-valves; orders Commander Lucien Young before a court martial to clear himself of the charges of "neglect of official duty;" directs the court-martial of Ensign Wade on the charge of "neglect of duty;" and disapproves the court of inquiry's finding that the Bennington was "in an excellent state of discipline and in good and efficient condition." Ensign Wade was in charge of the machinery. The action as to Commander Young was taken in view of the fact that the court of inquiry in its findings and opinions did not pass expressly upon his conduct and the question of his responsibility for the explosion. Mr. Bonaparte, however, approves the court of inquiry's indorsement of the creditable conduct of all the survivors of the officers and crew of the Bennington "after the explosion occurred."

Cars Tossed Like Chips.

Scranton, Pa., Aug. 31.—A tornado struck Carbondale, 16 miles north of here, at 9 o'clock tonight, tearing buildings from foundations and in some instances destroying them. Box cars in railroad yards were lifted into the air, carried some distance and dashed to pieces. Many people had narrow escapes, but no fatalities are reported. Reports from the country are not yet received, but it is feared there was much damage and possible loss of life. The storm cut a 200-foot path through the town.

Czar Approves Conditions.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 31.—The emperor yesterday visited Bjorkoe to inspect a cruiser in course of construction there. Before leaving Peterhof His Majesty called Mr. Witte to break off the negotiations and leave Portsmouth if the Japanese envoys insisted on an indemnity. When he returned to Peterhof, the emperor found Mr. Witte's cablegram announcing the success of the negotiations, and was delighted.

Taft Party Sails for Japan.

Manila, Aug. 31.—Secretary Taft and party sailed on the transport Logan at noon today for Japan. There was a notable demonstration in the bay just before the Logan sailed. Many valuable presents were presented to Miss Alice Roosevelt by the natives after she had gone aboard the Logan.

TREATY ARRANGED

Japan Withdraws Demand for Payment of War.

GETS HALF OF SAKHALIN ISLAND

Startles World by Her Action in Playing Generous Victor—Roosevelt Gets Credit.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 30.—The long and bloody war between Japan and Russia is ended. The terms of peace were agreed upon by Mr. Witte and Baron Komura at the session of the conference yesterday morning, and in the afternoon preliminary arrangements for an armistice were concluded and the actual work of framing the "treaty of Portsmouth" was, by mutual agreement, turned over to Mr. De Martens, Russia's great international lawyer, and Mr. Dennison, who for 25 years has acted as the legal adviser of the Japanese foreign office. The treaty is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

This happy conclusion of the conference, which a week ago would have been shipwrecked had it not been for the heroic intercession of President Roosevelt, was sudden and dramatic. For the sake of peace, Japan, with the magnanimity of a victor, at the last moment, yielded everything still in issue. Russia refused to budge from the ultimatum Emperor Nicholas had given to President Roosevelt through Ambassador Meyer. No indemnity under any guise, but an agreement to divide Sakhalin and reimburse Japan for the maintenance of prisoners were his last words. They had been repeatedly reiterated in Mr. Witte's instructions and in compliance with a request for a written reply to the Japanese compromise proposal of last Wednesday, they were delivered to Baron Komura. Mr. Witte went to the conference declaring that he was powerless to change the dot of an "i" or the cross of a "t" in his instructions. Emperor Nicholas' word had been given not only to him but to President Roosevelt, the head of a foreign state.

The treaty arranged provides for the negotiation of a new commercial treaty, which guarantees to Russia in Japan and to Japan in Russia the most favored nation treatment and confirms the open door in Manchuria.

The envoys also arranged for direct traffic connections between the Chinese Eastern railway, which now becomes Japanese property, and the Manchurian railroad, which belongs to Russia, so that through trains may be run over both lines. Final agreement was reached by Japan according to the ultimatum presented by Mr. Witte.

Almost as soon as the plenipotentiaries had assembled, the senior Russian envoy produced a written statement and handed it to Baron Komura. It proved to be the formal official answer of the Russian government to the modified Japanese conditions of peace.

In substance, it said that Russia refuses to pay any money whatever for the indemnification of Japan's war expenses. She will not agree to surrender her interned warships. She will not limit her naval strength in the Pacific. She will cede that part of Sakhalin island south of 50 degrees. She will pay to Japan any reasonable expense incurred in the maintenance of Russian prisoners and will expect Japan to pay her for similar care extended to Japanese prisoners.

There is still a suspicion that a loophole was left in the adjustment of the difficulty over the Chinese Eastern railway through which Japan is to receive a considerable sum of money. If such an arrangement was made, the secretaries profess to know nothing about it and the envoys unite in the declaration that no financial consideration was paid by Russia to Japan for the traffic agreement.

Mr. Sato, the Japanese secretary, denied emphatically that any questions were to be left to be adjusted by any outside board of arbitration.

Finds Many Cases.

New Orleans, Aug. 30.—The most important development of the yellow fever situation today was the report of Dr. C. Milo Brady, who had been sent by the state board of health on a tour of inspection of the bayous and lakes in Jefferson parish, where there are many settlements of fishermen in constant communication with New Orleans. Without completing an investigation, they turned up 35 cases of yellow fever, mostly along bayou Barataria, learned that deaths had occurred and found much suffering.

Postoffice Building is Opened.

San Francisco, Aug. 30.—The new postoffice building at Mission and Seventh streets was formally opened today, under the auspices of the Manufacturers' and Producers' association. Addresses were delivered by Mayor Schmitz, Postmaster Fisk, United States Circuit Judge Morrow, Congressman Kahn and Hayes and others. The postoffice has been a number of years in course of construction and is one of the finest in the United States.

Vote Approval of Merger.

San Francisco, Aug. 30.—The stockholders of the Southern Pacific company, represented mainly by proxies at a meeting in this city, have voted their approval to the recent merger of the Southern Pacific company, of California, with the Southern Pacific companies of Arizona and New Mexico.