

ROADS TO RETRENCH

State Legislation Everywhere is Having Its Effect.

RETALIATION NOT THEIR AIM

Claim It Prudence to Stop Construction Until They Know Where Money is Coming From.

Chicago, March 14.—Railroad presidents agree that the general disposition all over the country to attack the roads by means of hostile bills has reached a stage where some decided action must be taken or the country will suffer severely. As a matter of fact, the roads already have suffered tremendous losses, but eventually the heaviest burden will fall upon the public in diminished and inferior service, general retrenchment, cheaper equipment and the abandonment of extensions which would develop new country.

The greatest danger, according to all authorities, lies in the great crop of two-cent rate bills, regardless of the conditions in the states adopting the bills. In the East it is possible to maintain good service at this rate. In the West it is not.

Benjamin Winchell, president of the Rock Island system, probably best epitomizes the sense of all the replies received to messages sent all presidents asking for an opinion on present conditions and what was necessary to reduce the danger of poorer service. Mr. Winchell says:

"If the Interstate Commerce commission does its work wisely and sanely, as I believe it will do, the railroads have nothing to fear. They will get even justice, which is all they ask. I am relying on the sound sense of fairness of the American people to stop before the situation becomes acute financially. It is a mistake to say the railroads are retaliating by reducing their service and abandoning great enterprises. It is simple prudence, a bowing to the storm. We are forced to stop building new lines, buying cars and other equipment until we know where the money is coming from. It is simple business sense, and not retaliation."

"I am heartily in accord with the plan for railroad presidents to confer with President Roosevelt. We must take the public more into our confidence and break down the distrust. Cooperation with the government in laudable reforms is a good thing."

HOPE TO RECOVER THE MONEY

Treasury Theft Has Not Yet Been Returned, However.

Chicago, March 14.—"If the man who got the \$173,000 from the sub-treasury will send it back through the mail or by express, the chances are that he never will be detected."

This observation was made yesterday by a high Federal official working on the disappearance of the money, and it represents the hope of the government authorities, so far as can be learned from anyone engaged in the investigation. The hope that the money would be returned in some mysterious fashion and materialize.

Deputy Treasurer Bantz admitted for the first time that there is a remote possibility that the cash in the sub-treasury is not \$173,000 short. He made it with a reservation.

Defects Found in Dreadnaught.

London, March 14.—According to the Chronicle today, the official accounts of the Dreadnaught's behavior on her trip to Trinidad are not altogether supported by private letters. The engines worked well, but the heat in the engine room exceeded anything ever experienced by those on board. Owing to the great size of the ship, her maneuvering qualities at slow speed were not equal to those of small ships. It is stated that the big battleship cannot keep her station with reciprocating ships at 20 knots, and that for night maneuvering without lights, in close formation, the ship is out of the running.

Will Carry Out Agreement

Washington, March 14.—Following the receipt of a telegram tonight from President Walsh of the San Francisco board of education, announcing the carrying into effect of the agreement between the president, Secretary Root, the San Francisco mayor and school board on the Japanese question, President Roosevelt tomorrow will sign the passport amendment of the immigration bill. The case pending to test the constitutionality of the law segregating Japanese children, will not be dismissed.

Pennsylvania Streams Swollen.

Pittsburg, March 14.—Dispatches from all sections of Western Pennsylvania report heavy rains last night and rapidly rising waters. Streams are already beyond their banks and much territory is submerged.

POINT AGAINST HERMANN.

Answered Letters, but Copies of Answers Not Found.

Washington, March 15.—Evidence decidedly damaging to Binger Hermann was introduced by the government today in the trial of the ex-land commissioner for destruction of 35 letterpress copybooks, alleged to have contained official correspondence.

Charles L. Dubois, chief of survey division; D. C. Sherman, formerly Hermann's financial clerk, and John S. Wile, another clerk in the land office, all identified several letters taken from the files of the land office, all pertaining to government business and all endorsed on the back, "answered by commissioner."

They all agreed that this endorsement signified that Hermann himself dictated the replies and that his answers were press-copied in what were known as the commissioner's "personal" letter-books. It was also brought out by the government that careful search through the letter-books now in the land office failed to disclose copies of the answers to these particular letters, thereby strongly intimating that the letters must have been copied in the books destroyed by Hermann as charged in the indictment, and that the books, therefore, contained official correspondence.

No stronger evidence in support of indictment has heretofore been given during the protracted trial. In fact, most of the evidence submitted up to this time has been designed to show a motive for the destruction of the books and had no direct bearing upon the actual charge contained in the indictment. Today's evidence is very strong in support of the indictment, and while it is circumstantial, yet leaves little doubt in the minds of those who have followed the case that Hermann's so-called "private" letter-books in fact contained much correspondence relating to the business of his office.

MAY PROMOTE IMMIGRATION.

Government Will Not Interfere With Movement of Southern States.

Washington, March 15.—Information received today renders it clear that the immigration authorities, as one result of the several conferences recently held, in which the president, Secretary Straus, Attorney General Bonaparte, Commissioner of Immigration Sargent and prominent men of the South have participated, will interpret the existing immigration law as it was interpreted in the South Carolina case. The attorney general has held that the immigrants landed at Charleston, S. C., last November, are legally in the country. They were indeed to come to America by authorized agents of South Carolina and the passage money for some, at least, of them was paid by the state, and others by contributions of the citizens. Several other Southern states have decided to seek immigration along the same lines as were followed by South Carolina and it is understood they will not be interfered with.

CHANGES CANAL BOARD.

Roosevelt Receives Resignations and Appoints New Members.

Washington, March 15.—The president today received the resignations as members of the Isthmian Canal commission of Rear Admiral Endicott, Brigadier General C. P. Haines and D. M. Harrod, to take effect tomorrow. To fill the vacancies he announced the appointment of John F. Stevens as chairman of the commission to succeed T. P. Shonts, and as commissioners Lieutenant Colonel Goethals, Majors Gaillard and Siebert, Civil Engineer Rosson, Dr. Gorgas and Jackson Smith.

Ex-Senator Blackburn will have to await the retirement from the commission of Mr. Stevens about April 1.

Enjoins New Copper Deal.

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 15.—Judge Knappen, of the United States Circuit court, today admitted that yesterday he issued a restraining order forbidding stockholders of the Calumet & Hecla Mining company from holding a meeting to vote proxies in the Osceola company, and hearing on an injunction was set for March 25. Judge Knappen refused absolutely to discuss the matter. The action before Judge Knappen was instituted by Mr. Boynton, attorney for the Bigelow interests in the Osceola mine.

Sell to Insurance Company.

Milan, March 15.—In the town of Borsano, near this city, 2,000 persons were today made homeless by a fire which destroyed the greater part of the village. The people were indifferent to the spread of the flames, because their property was insured, and the authorities were obliged to force peasants to work to check the fire.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

CANNOT COLLECT POLLTAX.

Attorney General Passes on Validity of Procedure.

Salem—Attorney General Crawford has filed his opinion in the validity of the polltax collection with District Attorney John H. McNary, upon a request from the latter. House bill 325, which passed the last legislature, repealed sections 3041 and 3142 of Bellinger & Cotton' code, which abolishes the \$1 polltax law of 1854 and amended in 1870 to exempt firemen from the polltax roll. The act of 1885 and subsequent amendatory acts providing for the state revenues cover the entire ground of the section enacted in 1854, providing that state revenues shall be 5 mills on the dollar of all taxable property and in addition to the \$1 polltax.

The attorney general holds that after the repealing act goes into effect on May 25 the polltax cannot be legally collected; that the assessment would not have the validity of a judgment until it is entered on the roll. As the roll would not be made up before the act takes effect, the assessor would have no further authority to collect the tax or make up the roll, and that there is no authority in future for sheriffs to collect the tax.

Plan to Finance Normal.

Salem—The maintenance of the Monmouth State Normal school has reverted to the shoulders of the board of regents. Under the provision made by them at a meeting here, a regular statement of the contingent expenses, as well as the payrolls, will be filed with the secretary of state, as heretofore, and several banks have agreed to advance the money on them, requiring an assignment of the payrolls over to them. The members of the board will individually stand responsible for the payment of the hypothecated securities. This was practically the only course they could follow, as there are no funds available by the state, and Governor Chamberlain could not take any steps towards securing assistance, even if he were so disposed.

No Encampment This Year.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has been officially notified by the War department of the abandonment of the regular army annual encampments, on account of so many of the men being in Cuba, and the large number that will be required to go to the Jamestown exposition. The department, however, calls attention to the fact that during one week to ten days in July, camps of instruction for coast artillery will be held, and the members of the Oregon National Guard are invited to participate. Assistant Secretary of War Oliver asks that preparations be made, together with a list of men who intend to attend, and forwarded to the department.

Board of Sheep Inspectors.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has named the new state board of sheep inspectors. The new officials are:

First district—William H. Stensloff, Salem, term of two years; district embraces Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Lane, Coos, Douglas, Curry, Josephine and Jackson counties.

Second district—Thomas Boylan, Antelope, term one year; district comprises Wasco, Crook, Lake and Klamath counties.

Third district—Dan P. Smythe, Pendleton, term three years; district comprises Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Grant, Wallowa, Baker, Harney and Malheur counties.

Grain Bags at Nine Cents.

Pendleton—An order for the purchase of 600,000 sacks was made by the executive committee of the Graingrowers' association in this city. The name of the firm of importers or manufacturers and the price paid has not been given out, but it is thought that the sacks are made in Portland and they will not be more than 9 cents apiece delivered in this city. The contracts for 120,000 of these sacks have been signed by Morrow county growers, who asked for and were given permission to come in with the Umatilla county farmers.

Howe Succeeds Williams.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has appointed ex-State Senator W. A. Howe, of Carlton, a member of the state board of agriculture to succeed Jasper Williams, of Albany, deceased, and President W. H. Downing, of Shaw, to succeed himself. He also appointed Drs. A. C. Smith, of Portland, Alfred C. Kinney, of Astoria, and C. J. Smith, of Pendleton, on the board of medical examiners. Their terms had expired.

Commission Approves Rate.

Salem—The Oregon Railroad commission has given its approval to the existing rate of \$1.25 per thousand on lumber in carload lots from Astoria to Seaside on the Astoria & Columbia River railroad.

GATHERING DATA ON CARS.

Commissioner Campbell to Ask Shippers for Many Details.

Salem—One of the important undertakings of the Oregon Railroad commission is the collection of accurate information regarding the shipment of produce in carload lots. Commissioner Campbell is now arranging with the lumber companies to have them report to the commission every application for car, the number and kind, the date of application, and the date the cars were furnished; the date loaded, started from the shipping point and the destination. The commission will also arrange to learn when the cars reach the consignees and when they are unloaded. Information will be gathered also concerning shipments of other products than lumber. The purpose is to place in the hands of the commission figures which will enable it to act intelligently upon controversies that are likely to arise in the future. The reports will show to what extent the car shortage is due to scarcity of equipment, delay in loading, delay in shipping and delay in unloading.

Crop Outlook Good.

Milton—Farmers in this section of Umatilla county are very optimistic over the prospect of a bumper wheat and barley crop this coming season. The fall was an ideal one in regard to rainfall, there being plenty of moisture in the ground before the setting in of winter weather. The snowfall in the mountain districts this year has been unusually heavy, thus conserving the water supply for the summer months. With the supply already produced by the thawing out on the lowlands or light soil districts, it leaves little question as to the adequate supply of moisture.

Crop Outlook in Harney.

Burns—The winter in Harney county is over and the snow in the valley has gone off with a warm rain. There is plenty of snow in the mountains to keep the high water over the swamp land and make good crops of hay. Stockmen have turned their herds out on the range, which is better than has ever been known for this time in the year. Farmers are preparing their ground for spring crops and everything points to a successful year to the farmers of Harney county.

More Trout for Oregon.

Oregon City—Two hundred thousand Eastern brook trout have been received at the Clackamas United States bureau of fisheries station for distribution in Oregon, and 100,000 rainbow trout have been received from California. Superintendent O'Malley has started a sub-station at Eagle Creek for steelhead work.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 71@72; bluestem, 73@74; valley, 70c; red, 69@70c.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$29; gray, \$28.50.

Barley—Feed, \$22@22.50 per ton; brewing, \$23; rolled, \$23.50@24.50.

Rye—\$1.45@1.50 per cwt.

Corn—Whole, \$24.50; cracked, \$22.50 per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$14@15 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17@18; clover, \$9; cheat, \$9; grain hay, \$9@10; alfalfa, \$14.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 32½@35c per pound.

Butter Fat—First grade cream, 33½c per pound; second grade cream, 2c less per pound.

Poultry—Average old hens, 15c per pound; mixed chickens, 14c; spring, fryers and broilers, 20@22½c; old roosters, 10@12c; dressed chickens, 16@17c; turkeys, live, 13@15c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18½@20c; geese, live, 8c; ducks, 16@18c.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 17½@18c per dozen.

Apples—Common, 75c@1.25 per box; choice, \$1.50@2.50.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1@1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack; horseradish, 7@8c per pound; cauliflower, \$2.50 per dozen; celery, \$3.25@3.50 per cwt; sprouts, 9c; radishes, 30c per dozen; asparagus, 10@12½c per pound; rhubarb, \$2.25@2.50 per box.

Onions—Oregon, 75@90c per hundred.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, \$1.35; No. 1 choice, \$1@1.25; common, 75c@1.

Veal—Dressed, 5½@9c per pound.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 3@3½c per pound; cows, 5@6c; country steers, 6@7c.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 10@10½c; ordinary, 8@9c per pound.

Pork—Dressed, 6@9c per pound.

Hops—9@12c per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13@18c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@23c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 27@30c per pound.

GRAFT IN IRRIGATION.

Officials and Contractors in Idaho Work Suspected.

Boise, March 13.—Evidences of graft in the arid land reclamation service of the government has been discovered and is now in possession of the department of the Interior at Washington. Action looking toward a number of indictments is anticipated. The principal evidence, so far as disclosed here, relates to grafts in Idaho, but it is said that similar conditions exist throughout the service and that officials in nearly all the Western states where irrigation work is in progress will have to answer.

The Federal grand jury, now in session here, will probably take the matter up, so far as this state is affected, if the new secretary of the interior, James R. Garfield, says the word, and decides to furnish evidence now in his possession. Agents of the department have been conducting an investigation for some time. Their discoveries in Idaho are said to typify conditions in other places, and a reorganization of the department is said to be in prospect.

The charges in general are that engineers and other officials of the department are "standing in" with favored contractors in some instances, and in other instances have thrown out bids in order to make commissions on the purchase of machinery by the government and to profit in other ways.

In Idaho the Boise-Payette irrigation project has been under special scrutiny. Evidence has been secured bearing on the relations of the contracting firm of Hubbard & Carlson, having headquarters at Boise, with certain department officials. It is charged in affidavits now on file that this firm has received many special favors and explanation has been asked of the reason for this.

EXPLOSION ON WARSHIP.

All France Appalled at Disaster on New Battleship.

Toulon, March 13.—The powder magazines on board the French battleship Jena blew up at 1:35 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and as a result Captain Adigard, commander of the battleship; Captain Vertier, chief of staff of the Mediterranean squadron, and from 70 to 80 bluejackets are dead, while Rear Admiral Manceuron and hundreds of men are suffering from injuries. Naval circles are aghast and the public is stunned by the appalling catastrophe, coming so soon after the loss of the French submarine boat Lutin, in which 16 men met death.

The entire after part of the Jena was blown to pieces. The bodies of the victims were hurled through the air by a succession of explosions and panic-stricken workmen at the arsenal fled for their lives from the vicinity of the drydock. Scows on board the Jena jumped overboard on the stone quays and sustained serious injuries.

The primary cause of the accident was the premature explosion of a torpedo. What caused the explosion is not known, but the powder magazines of the Jena were set on fire and the resulting explosions practically destroyed what was considered one of the best vessels of the French navy. The Jena had just undergone the final construction of her hull and machinery, the latter part having been partly overhauled preparatory to joining the squadron today.

DAKOTA'S CREW PAID OFF.

Sailors of Wrecked Steamship to be Sent Home.

Yokohama, March 12.—The crew of the wrecked steamer Dakota has been discharged. The Europeans will be sent to America on the American steamer Tremont. The Asiatics will be sent to Hongkong. The majority of the passengers left here will take the steamer Siberia. Their hotel and other expenses were paid by the Great Northern Steamship company, owners of the Dakota.

The American consul has sent \$150 to the governor of Chiba prefecture for distribution among the fishermen who assisted in the rescue of the American passengers. No salvage measures have yet been taken.

An official inquiry has been arranged, steps having been taken for the preservation of evidence. Captain Franke, of the Dakota, is still at the scene of the wreck, awaiting the decision of the underwriters.

Uncle Sam to Make Torpedoes.

Washington, March 13.—Admiral Mason, chief of the naval bureau of ordnance, has completed plans for the construction of a torpedo factory at the Newport naval station, and expects to advertise at once for proposals. This will be the first time the government has undertaken to make its own torpedoes on a large scale. The new factory will give employment to at least 200 skilled workmen. It is proposed to make every part of the torpedo except the steel flask which contains the compressed air.

Congressmen Arrive at Colon.

Colon, March 13.—The steamer Panama arrived today with 63 congressmen, who are desirous of inspecting the work on the canal.

FLOOD IS RECEDING

Damage at Pittsburg Estimated Ten to Twenty Millions.

AT LEAST TWENTY LIVES LOST

Whole Business Center of the Smoky City is Submerged When Ice Gorges Go Out.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 16.—With the rapid receding of the waters in the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers, conditions are resuming normal proportions. The approaches to the bridges are now clear of water and street car service in the flooded district has been resumed.

At 9 o'clock last night the river had fallen almost eight feet. At that hour the stage was 29 feet and dropping six inches an hour.

Ten square miles were inundated. The loss is summarized as follows:

Loss in output of steel mills, \$3,000,000.

Loss in output of other industries, \$2,000,000.

Losses in wages of employes, \$1,837,777.

Damage to industrial plants, \$2,500,000.

Total, \$9,337,000.

Various other estimates are being made, ranging from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

Reports from numerous Western Pennsylvania towns are to the effect that the flood is subsiding.

The water in this city reached 37 feet at 6 a. m. yesterday, the highest stage ever recorded. More than 100,000 persons were temporarily thrown out of employment; every transportation company in the city was interrupted; skills carried hundreds of people to their places of business, and the utilization of wagons and horses as conveyances, which did valuable service, was discontinued, owing to the strenuous protests by the Humane society.

Twenty fatalities have occurred in Allegheny county, directly due to high water.

In a fire that threatened the entire Mount Washington section of the city 25 business structures and dwellings were destroyed or damaged today, causing a loss estimated at \$200,000. Many of the dwellings were tenements or apartment houses, and there were many narrow escapes.

The structures were mostly of frame construction and, because of a break in the water main, the only available fire-quenching materials were chemicals from extinguishers and buckets.

Two attempts were made to stop the flames by dynamiting buildings on either side, but each time the wreckage caught fire. It finally burned itself out.

COLLUSION, SAYS GREENE.

Substance of Idaho Irrigation Fraud Charges by Inspector.

Washington, March 16.—Secretary Garfield is working on a report sent to his predecessor by Special Agent A. R. Greene, detailing alleged frauds which he believes he has uncovered in connection with the construction of the Boise-Payette irrigation project in Idaho.

Mr. Greene, so it is reported, alleges there has been collusion between contractors on the Deer Flat reservoir dam and Reclamation Engineer D. W. Ross, it being rumored that Mr. Greene charges that the contractors, in return for favors shown by Mr. Ross, made him a present of 12,000 acres of land. Officials of the reclamation service absolutely discredit the report, and have the utmost confidence in Mr. Ross. It is their belief that investigation will show Mr. Greene to be in error.

Three Drown in Ohio Town.

Zanesville, Ohio, March 16.—Three Hungarians were drowned here as the result of the flood this morning. A note of foreigners were living in a house that was surrounded by the Muskingum river, which overflowed during the night. When they started to wade to land three were caught in the current and swept out into the river. Flood conditions through Muskingum county are unprecedented and growing worse hourly. The Muskingum and Licking rivers are out of bounds in this city and doing much damage.

Another Naval Disaster.

Brest, March 16.—There was another accident to a French warship off this port today. During torpedo practice the coast defense ship Fulminant was struck and seriously damaged on the water line by a torpedo. Collision mats were at once applied to the vessel's side and she was towed into port in a sinking condition.