

TO GIVE UP PLUNDER

Harriman Coal Companies Offer Government Stolen Land.

PROPERTY IS WORTH MILLIONS

Asks Immunity in Return, but Only a Small Part of Stealings Is Offered.

Washington, April 4.—It was learned tonight that the Harriman corporations, whose ramifications extend to coal land and other vast interests in the Far West, are offering to restore to the government properties they have heretofore claimed as theirs by good and ample title. They prefer to do this rather than be prosecuted.

Coal land worth in the aggregate millions of dollars is to be restored to the public domain, as a result of the recent activities of the Interstate Commerce commission. The commission several months ago investigated the land frauds in Wyoming, Colorado and Utah. It was found that this whole section was honeycombed with corruption and its reports indicated that the general land office had been either hopelessly incompetent or worse in permitting the railroad companies and their allied corporations, the Union Pacific Coal company, the Utah Fuel company and the Colorado Fuel & Iron company to secure, by various and devious methods, control of great areas of the richest coal land in the West.

The Union Pacific Coal Company is a subsidiary corporation of the Union Pacific Railroad company. All the stock of the coal company, except qualifying shares for directors, is owned by the railroad company. The coal company secured control of a large amount of scrip and used it to secure entry of land, which was rich in the finest bituminous coal of the Wyoming field.

As it is the coal company is anxious to return the valuable land to the government and end the matter. But the matter will not be allowed to end there. While there is no possible defense to the title under which this scrip land has been claimed, this, though very valuable, constitutes only a small part of the coal land now held by the Union Pacific railroad, the Union Pacific Coal company, the Union Fuel company and other concerns.

JAPANESE SMUGGLED IN.

Hundreds Cross Border From Canada and Mexico.

Washington, March 4.—Information has reached the immigration bureau of the Department of Commerce and Labor that hundreds of Japanese have arrived in Mexico destined for the United States. Inspector Braun, who was sent to Mexico to investigate, telegraphed today that he had interviewed several hundred Japanese, principally laborers, who are now in Mexico. Many of them are in straightened circumstances. They have no intention of remaining in Mexico, but do desire to come to the United States. They expect to obtain employment on the railroads of the West and Southwest. Some of them have already applied for admission to the United States and have been denied.

WANTS TO REGAIN STRENGTH.

Russia Says Time is Not Ripe for Limiting Armament.

St. Petersburg, April 4.—According to Professor De Martens, who was received in audience by Emperor Nicholas yesterday, Russia believes the time is not ripe for the discussion of the question of limitation of armaments, as practical results cannot be obtained, but if the United States and Great Britain are determined to bring the subject before the conference Russia is not inclined to insist on its exclusion.

In consequence of the unsuccessful war Russia's army and fleet are far below her normal strength and she is not willing to restrict her freedom of action in regaining her naval strength.

Four Jurors Are Accepted.

San Francisco, April 4.—Three of the first talesmen who will sit in the jury-box, subject to peremptory challenge, were passed by the prosecution and the defense as a result of the second day's proceedings in the trial of Abraham Ruef for extortion. One having been passed by both sides the first day, four talesmen have now been temporarily selected. When this number has been increased to twelve they will be subject to peremptory challenge, the defense having the right to excuse ten jurors and the prosecution five.

Rejects Bering Tunnel Scheme.

St. Petersburg, April 4.—The cabinet today rejected a proposal made on behalf of an American syndicate for the construction of a railroad tunnel under Bering straits, by which it was hoped ultimately to connect the Trans-Siberian with the Canadian Pacific railroad.

WILL BE NO STRIKE.

Railroads and Trainmen Have Reached an Agreement.

Chicago, April 5.—The differences between the Western roads and the members of the Order of Conductors and the Brotherhood of Trainmen were finally adjusted yesterday. The men abandoned their demand for a nine-hour work day and the roads made an advance over their previous proposition in the pay of baggagemen, flagmen and brakemen of \$7.50 per month.

The original demands of the men were for an increase of 12 per cent and for a working day of nine hours. The managers offered an increase in pay of 10 per cent and declined to grant the nine-hour day. The agreement was reached mainly through the efforts of Chairman Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce commission, and Charles Neill, United States labor commissioner. The agreement, which goes into effect dating from April 1, follows:

The pay of conductors in the passenger service to be increased \$10 per month, that of baggagemen \$7.50 and that of flagmen and brakemen \$6.50 per month as applied to the schedules in effect November 1, 1906.

The railroads are not to make any reduction in crews or increase in mileage for the purpose of offsetting the increased wages given the passenger trainmen.

Overtime in the passenger service to be allowed on the basis of 15 miles per hour, to be computed for each part of the run separately. Time is to begin at the schedule time of leaving. Roads on a basis of more than ten hours per day for a helper or construction train service are to make no increase in the rates paid for such service. The increases granted in the agreement are to apply also to rates for special services as specified in the individual schedule.

Upon roads having a better basis for a day's work or for payment of overtime or other allowances in all branches of train service, the acceptance of this agreement is not to act as a reduction.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen was also granted by the railroads an increase of 10 per cent.

NEW SPELLERS GAINING.

Champions of Simplicity Rejoice Over Number of Converts.

New York, April 5.—Chairman Brandt Matthews, of the Simplified Spelling board, at its first annual meeting today submitted a report stating that at least 100,000 persons were using the form of spelling urged by the organization. Most of the criticism against the board's activity, Professor Matthews declared, had come from men of letters, but this had been more than offset by the support of men of science. Professor Matthews says President Roosevelt's warm attitude toward simplified spelling had also been a powerful factor in advancing the work.

Resolutions were adopted thanking Andrew Carnegie for the aid he had rendered the board and expressing the conviction that through the help thus rendered there "would be insured for countless generations a great diminution in the labor of teaching and learning in the things taught and learned; a vast increase in the facility of spreading ideas, and therefore a vast increase in each individual's stock of original ideas."

REGARDED AS PERSONAL.

Hermann Explains Why He Made Way With Letterbooks.

Washington, April 5.—During the hour he was on the stand todaylinger Hermann narrated the circumstances under which he ordered the destruction of his 35 private letterbooks, gave his reason for so doing, and also explained the distinction he drew between personal and official correspondence. While telling the story of the books, he for the first time displayed signs of emotion, and his earnestness and straightforwardness as he talked direct to the jury were convincing.

From his own testimony it was evident that Hermann never drew a fine distinction between the official and the personal in his correspondence with Oregon friends, in fact, the bulk of his correspondence with personal acquaintances at home was regarded by him as personal, notwithstanding much of it dealt more or less extensively with land office business.

How Germany Understands It.

Berlin, April 5.—The statement made at the British foreign office today that Great Britain had not in any way altered her request that the question of the limitation of armaments be included in the program of the coming peace conference at The Hague causes some surprise in Berlin, as the German foreign office understands that Great Britain does not insist on the question being formally included in the program, but only reserves the privilege of raising the question in the conference, thus leaving the other powers free.

Two-Cent Fare for Michigan.

Lansing, Mich., April 5.—The senate today, 27 to 3, passed a bill requiring a 2-cent per mile passenger fare on all Lower Peninsula railroads, the net earnings of which exceed \$1,200 a mile.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

INVOKES REFERENDUM.

Linn County Grangers Hold Up University Appropriation.

Albany.—The University of Oregon appropriation bill is to be referred to the people. Efforts of Linn county Grangers to hold up the university bill culminated in a meeting of representatives of all grange organizations of Linn county in Albany.

Besides the Grangers there were in attendance President P. L. Campbell, of the university, and Senator M. A. Miller, member of the board of regents of the school. These men presented very strongly the university's side of the case showing the need of more money than was appropriated.

The \$125,000 carried in the bill was segregated by President Campbell, who explained the use to be made of every dollar. But the Grangers were obdurate and at the close of the conference decided to use the referendum to hold the appropriation up until the next general election, when the people will determine the fate of the school.

But little argument was used in support of the position of the Grange, other than "retrenchment." It was also decided to have reproduced an editorial printed in the Oregonian of Saturday, February 11, 1905, entitled "Machine Made Citizens," and scatter thousands of copies over the state.

Country Sheep Inspectors.

Pendleton.—State Sheep Inspector Lytle has announced the appointment of eight county sheep inspectors for Eastern Oregon. Appointments have not yet been made for Wheeler, Harney, Lake, Klamath or Gilliam counties. Those named are: Umatilla county, John Bryant, Pendleton, present incumbent; Wasco, P. J. Walsh, Antelope; Crook, J. A. McCoy, Hay Creek; Malheur, H. L. Anderson, Skull Springs; Grant, George Irwin, Monument, present incumbent; Morrow, Andrew Cook, Heppner, present incumbent; Walla Walla, J. W. Dale, Walla Walla city, present incumbent; Baker, A. N. Ingle, Richland, present incumbent.

Students to Fight Sheep Disease.

Corvallis.—Four Oregon Agricultural college students are leaving college to take positions on the government staff for eradicating sheep diseases in Oregon. They are G. A. Dodson, Walter Foster, Edgar W. Donnelly and Henry Rooper. They receive good salaries and have their expenses paid. The work will extend from now to the end of the summer. Their appointments are received from the bureau of animal industry at Washington. Dodson, Donnelly and Foster are to operate in Eastern Oregon and Rooper in the Willamette valley.

Commission to Hear Protests.

Salem.—At a meeting of the state railroad commission a conference for April 16 was set, to hear the complaints filed by the lumbermen along the line of the Southern Pacific railroad in this state, in regard to the raising of rates on rough lumber from \$3.10 per thousand feet to \$5, which rate is to go into effect April 18. Among the concerns that have filed complaints are the Western Oregon Lumber Manufacturers' association, of Cottage Grove, the Oregon & Washington Lumber Manufacturers' association, with offices in Portland, and the B-oth-Kelly company, of Eugene.

New Insurance Company.

Salem.—The first domestic corporation ever organized in this state for the purpose of doing a surety and accident business insurance has been authorized by the secretary of state to incorporate under the laws of the state, proving that they had available capital to the amount of \$100,000. The Union Guarantee association is the name of the new firm which will have offices in Portland. William Glafke is president and H. D. Wagon secretary.

Prizes for Cover Design.

Portland.—At a recent session of the board of trustees of the Chamber of Commerce, the matter of issuing a new advertising booklet, to be entitled "Oregon," came up, and it was decided to offer cash prizes of \$10, \$15 and \$25 for the best cover design. The premiums will be advertised when the competition is opened.

Farmers Loyal to Varsity.

La Grande.—The Blue Mountain Grange at its last meeting resented the action of the Albany grange in holding up the appropriation for the State university. The farmers of this portion of Eastern Oregon are heartily in favor of helping in every possible way the state institutions of learning and especially the state university.

Asylum Board Buys Land.

Salem.—The state asylum board has paid over \$10,000 to Charles Riley and his wife and the deed is recorded covering 23 acres and a fraction adjoining the asylum grounds, which was purchased by the board recently.

REORGANIZE HOSPITAL CORPS

Military Board Holds Session—New Company at Oregon City.

Salem.—The state military board, at its last meeting, effected a reorganization of the hospital corps of the Oregon National Guard into what will be known in the future as the ambulance company, consisting of 43 non-commissioned officers and men. A new company will be formed at Oregon City to take the place of the one disbanded.

The Dalles, Oregon City, Ashland, Roseburg, Albany and Woodburn have offered land for armory sites provided for by the appropriation of \$100,000 in house bill 118. No action was taken, the matter being left to the towns. The various companies of the state are paying an average of \$300 per year for the use of buildings as armories, and General Finzer figures that in 20 years the state will be repaid the \$100,000 appropriation.

Very little action was taken on account of the anticipated action of the Grange in asking that the appropriation be submitted to the referendum at the June election.

May Be Held to Three Inspectors.

Salem.—State Labor Commissioner Hoff is in a quandary over adjusting things to fit the new law, authorizing him to appoint special deputy inspectors of mills, factories and workshops. He has divided the state into four inspection districts, but now is afraid the revenues from the act, which levies an annual inspection fee of \$10 upon each factory, mill and workshop in the state where machinery is used, will not support four inspectors, and he has about come to the conclusion that he will have to divide the state into three districts in order to make both ends meet. He cannot figure that the act will produce much more than \$10,000 per year revenue from this tax, and the inspectors are entitled to \$4 per day for each day's actual work together with expense allowance of about \$4 per day.

Official Notice of Forest Reserve.

Salem.—Governor Chamberlain has received the three proclamations of the president, dated March 2, 1907, creating the Tillamook, Umpqua and Coquille forest reserves. These reserves all border on the Pacific ocean, commencing at Tillamook county and running south as far as Curry county. The aggregate amount of the three reserves is about 4,000,000.

Hundred Divorce Cases on Docket.

Oregon City.—The April term of the Circuit court will be convened in this city Monday, April 15. The number of divorce suits on the docket will exceed those of any former term, there being nearly 100 such cases pending.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 73¢@74¢; bluestem, 75¢@77¢; valley, 76¢@77¢; red, 71¢@72¢. Oats—No. 1 white, \$29.50; gray, \$28.25.

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

Rye—\$1.45@1.50 per cwt.

Corn—Whole, \$25; cracked, \$26 per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$15@16 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17@18; clover, \$9; cheat, \$9; grain hay, \$9@10.

Apples—Common, 75¢@1.25 per box; choice, \$1.50@2.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1@1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack; horseradish, 7¢@8¢ per pound; cauliflower, \$2.50 per dozen; celery, \$4 per crate; lettuce, head, 35¢@45¢ per dozen; onions, 10¢@12¢; per dozen; sprouts, 9¢; radishes, 30¢ per dozen; asparagus, 14¢ per pound; rhubarb, \$1.50@1.75 per box. Onions—Oregon, \$1.20@1.30 per hundred.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, \$1.40@1.65; extra fancy, \$1.75; No. 1 choice, \$1.25@1.40.

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

Butter Fat—First grade cream, 30¢ per pound; second grade cream, 2¢ less per pound.

Poultry—Average old hens, 15¢ per pound; mixed chickens, 14¢; spring fryers and broilers, 20¢@22¢; old roosters, 10¢@12¢; dressed chickens, 16¢@17¢; turkeys, live, 13¢@15¢; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18¢@20¢; geese, live, 8¢; ducks, 16¢@18¢.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 18¢ per dozen.

Veal—Dressed, 5½¢@8½¢ per pound.

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

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 10¢@10½¢ per pound, ordinary, 8¢@9¢; spring lambs, 12½¢@13¢.

Pork—Dressed, 6¢@9¢ per pound.

Hops—\$8@11¢ per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13¢@18¢ per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20¢@23¢, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 28¢@29¢ per pound.

MAKE LAST PROPOSITION.

Mediators Still Hopeful of Preventing Big Railway Strike.

Chicago, April 3.—In a final effort to avert the impending railroad strike, Commissioners Knapp and Neill, the agents of President Roosevelt, will make a direct appeal to the full committee of conductors and trainmen today. The meeting will be held in the Sherman House, and the Federal mediators will lay before the 170 delegates the final proposition of the general managers. What that proposition is neither the commissioners nor the labor chiefs would disclose tonight, but it is understood to contain some minor concessions.

The decision of Messrs. Knapp and Neill to visit the meeting of the labor delegates and appeal to them direct was reported at a conference with the labor chiefs, which lasted until 11 o'clock last night. It was taken to indicate that the committee which has been conducting the negotiations refused to accept the terms of the managers and that it invited the Federal mediators to attend the meeting and find out in a direct manner what the delegates thought of the offer.

At the meeting today the entire matter will be put up to the delegates and it is believed that it will end the conferences. The controversy will either be settled or the threatened strike, which has been suspended for several days while the negotiations were pending, will be declared. The prospects for an amicable settlement seem more remote.

Chiefs Morrissey and Garretson attended a meeting of the full committee and it was said they learned the temper of their men as to what concessions they would make in the interests of peace.

"Is the nine-hour day the real stumbling block in the way of peace?" was asked of Mr. Garretson.

"I am not at liberty to discuss the situation now," he replied, "but as a matter of fact there has not been a minute since the conference has begun that the nine-hour day was not the real stumbling block. The men are determined on that issue."

In the event of the negotiations being broken off and a strike resorted to, which is a strong probability, the real issue will be the nine-hour day.

DUNNE LOSES OUT.

Chicago Voters Turn Down Mayor for New Man.

Chicago, April 3.—The Republicans, headed by Frederick A. Busse for mayor, carried Chicago yesterday. Perhaps no one was more surprised at the result than the Republicans themselves. It marked the climax of the most mystifying and the filthiest campaign ever waged in the city.

Chicago will now speedily settle its streetcar problem, which has been handed back and forth for 11 years as a political asset, the service growing more wretched and antiquated every year. Within 90 days the traction companies must accept the ordinance, rehabilitate the lines entirely, provide sufficient cars, abolish straps, repave the streets, sprinkle and keep the streets in order, build such extensions as the city shall order and turn over, as from February 1 of this year, 55 per cent of the net profits. The city may invest this sum against the time it will buy the lines for \$30,000,000 plus the amount spent, or it may be used to lower fares.

FRISCO IN DARKNESS.

Electric Light Plant Valued at Two and a Half Millions Destroyed.

San Francisco, April 3.—The destruction of the electric light and power house of the San Francisco Gas & Electric Light company at Twenty-second avenue South and Georgia street by fire last night plunged almost the entire city into darkness, resulted in the injuring of five firemen and causing a loss estimated at \$2,500,000.

Extra police were placed on duty at the temporary hall of justice and city prison at Eddy and Mason streets. Owing to the darkness, the buildings having no gas connections, no one was allowed to enter or leave the city prison and no prisoners were released on bail.

His Chauffeur Burns Spy.

San Francisco, April 3.—When Supervisor James G. Gallagher was dashing about San Francisco last winter in his red automobile, the quiet, unassuming young mahout at the wheel was none other than a disguised detective in the employ of William J. Burns. When Gallagher went to Ruef's office to get the hoozie money, when he secretly sped to the home of Mayor Schmitz to arrange upon franchise programs, when he went to the bank to deposit his own share, this mahout was always with him in the automobile.

Vote on Saloons in Newbraska.

Omaha, April 3.—City elections were held in all cities and towns of Nebraska except Omaha, South Omaha and Lincoln. Probably three-quarters of the towns ignored party politics, voting only on the question of licensing saloons. In only a few towns were the existing conditions changed.

TORNADO IN SOUTH

Sweeps Through Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

CLAIMS A SCORE OF VICTIMS

Portions of Four Towns and an Insane Asylum Devastated—Loss Placed at \$500,000.

New Orleans, La., April 6.—Probably 15 lives were lost today by a tornado which swept across portions of three Gulf states and which was traceable for a distance of 300 miles. The tornado moved from west to east over the southern extremity of Louisiana and Mississippi, and striking into Alabama for a short distance. Portions of four towns were destroyed, and damage approximating \$500,000 was done.

The tornado began at Alexandria, La., soon after 1 o'clock yesterday morning, instantly killing four persons there, fatally injuring three and seriously wounding 13 others.

Soon after daylight it reached the Mississippi river, killing four persons at Jackson, La., while at Bayou Sara, La., at least half a dozen others were killed. There was one fatal injury at Jackson.

The tornado next appeared at Carson, Miss., where great property damage was done. About noon near Seims, Ala., the inhabitants saw the clouds rise into the air and the storm disappeared.

The insane asylum at Jackson, La., was almost wholly wrecked, with a loss of about \$200,000. In addition to three female inmates killed many sustained injuries. Two negroes were killed on a nearby plantation. Reports from the surrounding country indicated that there was probably more loss of life among the negroes, whose flimsy cabins quickly collapsed before the wind.

HONOR MEMORIAL DAY.

Commander-in-Chief of Grand Army Issues Proclamation.

Zanesville, O., April 6.—Commander-in-chief Brown, of the Grand Army of the Republic, today issued his Memorial Day proclamation, of which the following is a summary:

On Thursday, May 30, will occur the annual ceremony of garlanding the graves of the dead, and the commander-in-chief calls upon the posts to see that the last resting place of every Union soldier, sailor or marine in their respective localities is fittingly decorated. Wherever practicable, public commemorative services of the heroism of the dead should be held at some central point.

Department commanders are charged with the duty of patriotic instruction in the public schools insofar as the cooperation of the school authorities can be secured. Let Friday, May 24, or the last day preceding Memorial Day, be set aside for this laudable purpose.

In accordance with a time-honored custom, each post will attend divine service in a body on Sunday, May 26, to render praise and thanksgiving unto the God of nations for the manifold blessings of the past and the undisturbed enjoyment of the fruits of an enduring peace won by the Union arms.

CZAR TO ABDICATE.

Will Appoint Grand Duke Michael Regent for Infant Czarvitch.

London, April 6.—The Daily Mirror claims to be in a position to announce upon the "highest authority" that the emperor of Russia purposes to abdicate within a month and that Grand Duke Michael will be appointed regent during the infancy of the czarvitch. For the past three or four weeks, the paper says, events have been proceeding in this direction with lightning like rapidity in St. Petersburg, but the secret has been well kept.

"Lately," says the paper, "the emperor's mind has given way even more completely, and he has shown himself incapable of performing the smallest duties of his rank."

Warrants for Trainmen.

Colton, Cal., April 6.—Coroner Van Wie today swore out warrants for the arrest of the employes of the Southern Pacific who were held responsible for the wreck on March 28, in which 25 people were killed and 75 injured. The following are the names of the men against whom warrants were issued: L. R. Alvord, foreman of the switching crew; J. G. Crosemeier, switchman, Clarence Warrington, engineer. The complaints charge them with causing the death of H. F. Walther, of Sacramento, who was among the killed.

Tax Collector Short \$40,000.

New Orleans, April 6.—As a result of an examination of the accounts of Ferdinand Hudenheffer, state tax collector, it was announced today that there was a shortage of over \$40,000.