

ASSEMBLY IS OPENED

Secretary Taft Calls to Order First Session at Manila.

SERGIO OSMENA FIRST PRESIDENT

Members Swear Allegiance to American Government—Gomez Declares Against Politics in Legislature.

Manila, Oct. 17.—Secretary Taft formally opened the Philippine assembly in the National theater at 11:15 yesterday morning, in the presence of a large crowd of people.

At the close of his address Mr. Taft formally called the assembly to order. A short prayer was read by the only native Catholic bishop in the islands. The assembly then took a recess until 5 o'clock in the evening.

Upon reassembling at that hour the first business was the selection of a president, and Sergio Osmena, Nationalist, who formerly was the governor of the island of Cebu, was chosen. Senor Osmena is a young man and had no part in the revolution.

All of the assemblymen, including Senor Gomez, whose election is to be contested, were then formally sworn in. The oath included acknowledgement of sovereignty and allegiance to the American government. The afternoon session lasted three hours. The only business transacted was the selection of a secretary. The delegates showed they had no understanding of parliamentary law and procedure.

The principle feature of the session was an address by Senor Gomez, who declared against bringing politics into legislative business and asked the delegates to show their patriotism by forsaking party affiliations and legislating for the benefit of the Filipino people.

DEAD TOTAL 38.

Fontanet Explosion Injured 600 Besides Those Killed.

Fontanet, Ind., Oct. 17.—The latest estimate of the destruction wrought by the explosion at the Dupont powder mills is that 38 persons were killed, 600 injured, 50 seriously, and a property loss of approximately \$750,000 caused by a workman employed in the glassing mill. It was learned today that a "hot box," due to too much friction on the shafting causing sparks to be transmitted to some loose powder, was in all probability the cause of the terrible catastrophe. The employe, whose name is William Sharrow, and who is dangerously hurt as the result of the explosion, said:

"The explosion was caused by loose boxing on the shafting. The day before the explosion happened we had to throw water on the boxing when it became too hot. This time it got too hot and sent off sparks that caused the explosion."

HENEY WILL SUE.

Climax to Bitter War With Tiley L. Ford's Lawyer.

San Francisco, Oct. 17.—Francis J. Heney announced today that he intended to bring suit for criminal libel against Earl Rogers, chief counsel for Tiley L. Ford, the indicted attorney for the United Railroads. Mr. Heney will base his suit on an article published over the signature of Mr. Rogers, in which the statement was made that members of the prosecution had used undue influence upon C. W. Strange, a juror in the Ford case, who voted for conviction.

Mr. Heney came out in this morning's papers with an open letter asking Mr. Rogers either to supply the proof of his assertions or to retract. This afternoon Mr. Heney summoned Mr. Rogers before the grand jury, stepped out of the room and asked Mr. Rogers to lay his evidence before the jury. Mr. Rogers hedged and finally said that he believed the grand jury an unfair body and would not take advantage of Mr. Heney's offer. It was then that Mr. Heney declared that he would sue.

Sends \$5,000 to Fontanet.

Wilmington, Oct. 17.—Alfred G. Dupont, vice president of the Dupont Powder company, who married Mrs. Bradford Maddox in New York yesterday and who intended to take a long motor trip on his honeymoon, was informed of the explosion at Fontanet immediately after his wedding. Mr. Dupont canceled his intended trip and wired \$5,000 to Governor Hanley at Indianapolis for the immediate relief of the sufferers. He authorized the governor to use any amount in excess of this sum if he finds it necessary.

Boxers Driven to Mountains.

Pekin, Oct. 17.—The Imperial Chinese troops detached from the Yangtze Kiang valley cantonments because of the anti-missionary outbreak at Nan-Kang Sien have driven the so-called boxer rebels into the mountains on the borders of Kwang Tung. In an engagement at Chung Yi the troops killed 70 of the insurgents.

ARRANGE COMPROMISE.

Warring Telegraphers to Settle Differences in Convention.

Chicago, Oct. 18.—Warring officials of the striking telegraphers reached a compromise tonight. They have postponed hostilities until the convening of the emergency convention, called in Milwaukee for October 23.

The elimination of S. J. Small, former president, as a factor in the fight will be sought at the convention by the executive committee. A temporary president to succeed Small and direct the strike or its settlement will be chosen, it is expected, from the committee's membership. Mr. Small still contends that no convention will be called, but is making efforts to control its action through his friends.

The truce of the battling officials came after a descent upon the telegraphers' headquarters in the Monon building by ex-President Small and a bodyguard of detectives. They arrived before the members of the executive committee reached the office and took possession at once. The committee members and Secretary Russell were refused admission to the offices.

After much parleying the late comers were permitted to take their places, and Small locked himself in his private office. The terms of the compromise were not given out by the participants.

General Superintendents Cook and Capon, of the telegraph companies assert that from six to ten men apply for reinstatement daily in Chicago. They declare that in other large cities almost a full number of men were at work, while more applications were being received daily. Fifteen asked reinstatement yesterday in New York, several in West Oakland, Cal., and the entire force of Columbia, S. C.

TRADE HAS NOT DECREASED.

American-Asia Association Expects No War With Japan.

New York, Oct. 18.—That there has not been a falling off in trade with Japan following the Japanese-Russian war, but on the contrary a healthful resumption of normal conditions, was the statement of James R. Morse, president of the American-Asiatic association, at the annual meeting of the organization today. Conditions in China have not been so good, but there are prospects of recovery from depressed conditions. In the secretary's report, John Ford says:

"The obviously temporary character of the settlement of the Japanese exclusion question in California tended to encourage rather than to check the circulation of foolish and mischievous rumors of impending war between the two countries. All the influence of your executive committee has been exerted to demonstrate the absurdity of assuming that there could be any serious quarrel between the two governments in dealing with the issue raised in California."

RAILWAY CLEARING HOUSE.

Official Suggests Feasible Scheme to Prevent Car Shortage.

Los Angeles, Oct. 18.—Nearly every railway company is studying to perfect plans for the quick movement of cars and rolling stock, with a view to eliminating the shortage features of the business this winter. It is argued that with the proper shifting of cars and a careful adjustment nearly one-third more business can be transacted with the present equipment.

It is suggested by an official here, and the plan is under consideration, that there be formed a pool of equipment by the various roads and a clearing house for cars. Any demand for cars by any road would be made to the clearing house, and that concern would give over the required number of cars from the nearest supply, or in case of a shortage, or a multiplicity of demands the orders would be filled pro rata.

Under this plan it would be the duty of every road to wire daily reports of the exact location of all its cars. The entire equipment of the pool would be registered in the clearing house, much in the same manner in which the cars of a line are tabulated by each of the different roads at present.

His First Ride on Train.

Seoul, Oct. 18.—The Emperor and crown prince of Corea left Seoul for Chemulpo at 12:30 this afternoon to receive the crown prince of Japan, Yoshihito. This was the first time the crown prince of Corea had ever ridden on a railroad train, and he showed a childlike interest in the proceeding. He was delighted with the speed of the cars. The Japanese crown prince landed from a warship in the harbor at 2 p. m. and he was greeted at the dock by the Korean emperor and the Korean crown prince.

Older Sues His Kidnappers.

San Francisco, Oct. 18.—Suit was filed today by Fremont Older against Luther G. Brown, G. A. Wyman and Ben Cohn, alleging false arrest and imprisonment and demanding damages of \$100,250. The suit grows out of the recent kidnaping of Mr. Older, the three defendants having been concerned in that adventure.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

FRUIT LAND IN DEMAND.

Many Sales of Rogue River Valley Orchards.

Ashland—Things have been doing in Rogue river valley orchard lands recently as never before and numerous sales have been made in every portion of the valley at prices that a few years ago would have been counted fabulous, but which in reality are demonstrated to be only fair values when the returns from them and the possibilities of the future are taken into consideration. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of outside capital are being poured into the orchard industry in the Rogue river valley, in the purchase of bearing orchards, as well as in the planting of new orchards. Inquiries for larger or smaller tracts of the highly prized real estate of this valley are coming in from many states. Those who thought prices of orchard lands had reached the top notch a year or two ago are still wondering where it is going to stop, and people who sold too soon are sorry.

Suspend Enrolling Fee.

Klamath Falls—In order to get additional lands under the Klamath project signed up, the Watersusers' association has voted to suspend for the next 90 days the enrolling fee of 65 cents per acre, charging only the assessment fee of 10 cents per acre. It is hoped thus to insure the beginning of the Clear lake dam next year. Those familiar with conditions say that no difficulty will be encountered in securing the additional land. A resolution was drawn up, protesting against the recent action of the reclamation service in leasing the Clear lake reserve to sheepmen, as it is feared that when the attempt is made to take sheep on a range where cattlemen have always had control serious trouble will arise.

Bulletin on Oregon Fir.

University of Oregon, Eugene—What promises to be the lumbering interests of the Pacific Northwest one of the most valuable bulletins ever published is the bulletin to be issued next spring by the department of forestry on the strength of Oregon fir. During the past two years a most thorough and exhaustive series of tests have been made by J. B. Knapp, engineer in charge at the University of Oregon testing station. In the preparation of the report, considerable collateral data will be used, and Mr. Knapp is now in Washington preparing his material.

Trails for Reserve.

La Grande—Forester Schmitz, of the Blue mountain reserve, announces that it is the intention of the forestry department to open 20 miles of trails across the Blue mountains during the fall and winter months. As a result of the work good wagon trails will be used by the inhabitants of that district instead of the rough and in many instances impassable trails now being used. The trails will lead to La Grande and other points in the Grand Ronde valley. The government is offering \$2.25 per day for laborers on this work.

Freight Via Weed and Bray.

Klamath Falls—A petition is being circulated among Klamath Falls business men addressed to the Southern Pacific company, asking that all freight and passenger business be routed via Weed and Bray over the California Northeastern. The petition cites the difficulties encountered on the Pokegama route during the winter, especially with freight, and the high rate for the hauling to this city. The company is asked to route via the new road at the earliest possible moment.

Fruit Men Form Union.

Eugene—At a meeting of a number of Lane county fruit growers steps were taken to form a fruit growers' union for the purpose of mutual protection and to facilitate the shipping and handling of fruit. A committee consisting of the following was appointed to draft bylaws and constitution and to prepare articles of incorporation: George A. Dorris, Dr. H. F. McCornack, Frank Chase, O. Holt and M. H. Harlow.

Prepare Permanent Exhibit.

North Bend—The chamber of commerce of North Bend is preparing a permanent exhibit of the various products of the city and the surrounding country. The exhibit will be arranged attractively in one of the warehouses on the wharf so that it may be inspected by passengers on the boats which stop here. There will be samples of many different kinds of products.

Bright Prospects for Weston.

Weston—Prospects for a good school year at the Weston normal were never better than they are now, notwithstanding the crowded condition of the school rooms and living quarters. The registration in the normal department is now 185 students, with prospects of 200 by Christmas. In the training department there are about 100 young pupils.

MAKES BIG REDUCTION.

Blue Mountain Reserve to Have 7 Per Cent Less Sheep.

Pendleton—As a result of the deliberations of the sheepmen's advisory board with A. F. Potter, head of the grazing department of the forestry bureau, he has agreed to reduce the number of sheep allowed the eastern division of the Blue mountain reserve to the extent of 28,000. This means a reduction of over 7 per cent in the number allowed last summer. No further cut will be necessary after next spring, as the range will be sufficient to maintain the 18,000 head allowed next summer. Mr. Potter announced there would be no stockmen's meeting, as last year, but that instead all should file applications for range with Henry Ireland, supervisor of the division.

University's Great Growth.

University of Oregon, Eugene—The registration of the University of Oregon in the departments at Eugene, exclusive of the School of Music, has practically reached the 400 mark. The total enrollment in all departments at the present time is between 750 and 800. At the beginning of President Campbell's administration in 1902 the attendance was 224. The present freshman class numbers almost as many students as the total enrollment at that time. If the present rate of growth continues, it is expected the number of students next year will reach 600 in the departments at Eugene exclusive of music. The university offers no high school subjects, the requirements for entrance being the completion of the four-year high school course.

Correspondence Work Success.

University of Oregon, Eugene—The demand throughout the state for the correspondence work now being offered by the University of Oregon is greatly surpassing the expectations of its most sanguine supporters. In a number of towns the teachers are forming clubs and carrying on work under the direction of the university instructors. The interest is not confined to teachers, however, for many young men and women who have found it impossible to attend college are taking the work. To begin with, only a small number of courses are being offered, such as English Classics and Shakespeare, English History, Pedagogy, Algebra, etc., but others will be added from time to time.

Must Apply in Person.

La Grande—The La Grande land office is in receipt of instructions from the commissioner of the general land office that hereafter all applications for the sale of isolated tracts must be made in person by the applicant at the land office. Heretofore applicants could make out their papers before a notary public.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 80¢@90¢; binestern, 91¢@92¢; valley, 89¢@90¢; red, 87¢@88¢. Oats—No. 1 white, 28¢; gray, 27¢. Barley—Feed, 27.50 per ton; brewing, 29¢; rolled, 33¢@31¢. Corn—Whole, 33¢; cracked, 33¢. Hay—Valley Timothy, No. 1, \$17@18 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, 23¢; clover, 13¢; cheat, 13¢; grain hay, 13¢@14¢; alfalfa, 13¢@14¢. Fruits—Apples, 1¢@2.50 per box; cantaloupes, 1¢@1.50 per crate; peaches, 60¢@41 per crate; prunes, 50¢ per crate; watermelons, 1¢ per pound; pears, 1¢@1.75 per box; grapes, 40¢@1.50 per crate; casaba, \$2.25 per dozen; quinces, 1¢@1.25 per box; huckleberries, 7¢@8¢ per pound; cranberries, 10.50@10.50 per barrel. Vegetables—Turnips, 1¢.25 per sack; beets, 1¢.25 per sack; carrots, 1¢.25 per sack; cabbage, 1¢@1.50 per pound; cauliflower, 25¢@41 per dozen; celery, 50¢@1 per dozen; corn, 85¢@1 per sack; cucumbers, 10¢@15¢ per dozen; onions 15¢@20¢ per dozen; parsley, 20¢ per dozen; peppers, 8¢@10¢ per pound; pumpkins, 1¢@1.50 per pound; radishes, 20¢ per dozen; spinach, 6¢ per pound; squash, 50¢@1 per box; tomatoes, 25¢@50¢ per box. Onions—1.50@1.65 per sack. Potatoes—75¢@85¢ per hundred, delivered Portland; sweet potatoes, 2 1/2¢ per pound. Butter—Fancy creamery, 27 1/2¢@35¢ per pound. Veal—75 to 125 pounds, 8 1/2¢@9¢ per pound; 125 to 150 pounds, 7 1/2¢@8¢; 150 to 200 pounds, 6¢@7¢. Pork—Block, 75 to 150 pounds, 8¢@8 1/2¢ per pound; packers, 7 1/2¢@8¢. Poultry—Average old hens, 12¢@12 1/2¢ per pound; mixed chickens, 11¢@12¢; spring chickens, 11 1/2¢@12¢; old roosters, 8¢@9¢; dressed chickens, 13¢@14¢; turkeys, live, old, 16¢; young, 18¢; geese, live, 8¢@9¢; ducks, 12¢@13¢; pigs, 1¢@1.50 per dozen; squabs, \$2@3. Eggs—Fresh ranch, candled, 32 1/2¢@35¢ per dozen. Hops—1907, 7 1/2¢@9¢ per pound; olds, 4¢@5¢. Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 16¢@22¢ per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20¢@22¢, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 29¢@30¢ per pound.

EXPLOSION WRECKS TOWN.

Fontanet, Indiana, Scene of Blood and Wreckage.

Fontanet, Ind., Oct. 16.—By the explosion of the Dupont powder works yesterday between 25 and 50 persons were killed, 600 injured, and Fontanet, a city of 1,000 people, was wiped out. Where stood a thriving and busy town there is ruin and scattered wreckage. The dead and more seriously injured have been taken away. Five hundred inhabitants, all more or less wounded, remain to gather scattered household goods and sleep under tents, guarded by soldiers of the state.

Without warning the powder mills, seven in number, blew up at 9:15 yesterday morning. They employed 200 men, and of these 75 were at work when the first explosion occurred in the press mill. In quick succession the glassing mill, two corning mills and the powder magazine blew up, followed by the cap mill. In the magazine, situated several hundred yards from the mill, were stored 4,000 kegs of powder.

The concussion when it blew up was felt 200 miles away. Every house in this town was destroyed. Farmhouses two miles away and schoolhouses equally distant were torn to pieces and their occupants injured. Indianapolis and even Cincinnati felt the shock. A passenger train on the Big Four railway, four miles away, had every coach window broken and several passengers were injured by flying glass.

The mill went up with three distinct explosions, followed 90 minutes later by a fourth, even more serious than the others, when the magazine went up. Immediately after the explosion the wreckage took fire and the inhabitants of the town who rushed to the rescue of the mill employes, found themselves powerless to aid those in the burning ruins. They worked frantically, in constant danger from possible succeeding explosions, unmindful of their ruined homes.

Dead and dying were picked up and collected. Eighteen bodies horribly burned and mangled were carried to a protected spot to await identification, while the badly injured, numbering upward of 50, were put on a special train and taken to Terre Haute for hospital accommodations.

Scarcely one of the 1,000 inhabitants of the town but carried blood on hands and face from his own wounds or those of people who had required aid. The mills were located one mile south of town. With the first explosion the employes ran for safety, but most of them were killed or wounded by the quickly following explosions in the other mills. When the heat from the burning mills exploded the giant powder magazines 90 minutes later, destroying the town by the concussion, many of those engaged in rescue work were badly injured and several killed.

Fronts, roofs, sides and even foundations of many buildings have been blown to pieces. Great holes are torn in the ground, fences have vanished and household goods from the ruined homes are in confused heaps of debris in all directions.

A Big Four railroad freight train on the switch leading to the mills was practically destroyed by the explosion and the wreckage caught fire. Three school buildings were destroyed at Fontanet and Coal Bluff, two miles away. All were filled with scholars and every one of them was more or less injured by the collapse of the buildings. A four room school building was torn to pieces and not one of the 200 children escaped unhurt, although none were fatally hurt. A two room school building at Coal Bluff was turned over and collapsed. The teacher and 90 pupils were more or less injured.

The force of the explosion destroyed all telephone communication with outside towns, and it was with great difficulty that aid was summoned. Terre Haute and Brazil sent physicians and nurses with supplies in carriages and automobiles, while special trains were made up and ran on the Big Four railroad for the care of the injured.

Governor Hanley ordered the Terre Haute company of militia to patrol the ruined district and to protect life and property. The governor arrived last evening. He brought with him 700 tents and cots for the care of the homeless.

Few Injured Will Survive.

Terre Haute, Ind., Oct. 16.—Of the 50 victims of the disaster cared for at St. Anthony's hospital, 14 were in a critical condition when brought here. Five of them have died and little hope is entertained for the recovery of nine others. The remainder are expected to survive. One of the seriously injured is Miss Susan Bishop, a schoolteacher, who was caught in the collapse of the school house. She sustained a fracture of the skull and at first it was thought she could not recover. Attendants say she appears to be improving.

Shock Felt at Cincinnati.

Cincinnati, O., Oct. 16.—A slight shock, similar to that of an earthquake, was noticed here at 9:30 yesterday morning. Professor Porter, of the University of Cincinnati, reported it very light, but distinctly noticeable. Southern Indiana points reported a shock in somewhat more severe form, and it was also reported from Hamilton, O.

AID COAST SHIPPING

Government May Establish Line to Isthmus of Panama.

PACIFIC MAIL SERVICE IS BAD

Chambers of Commerce of Pacific Ports Asked for Data as to Prospective Business.

San Francisco, Oct. 19.—President C. H. Bentley, of the chamber of commerce, has taken up the task of providing the War department of the United States with all the information available in San Francisco that the department requires preliminary to considering the advisability of putting on a line of steamers to compete with the Pacific Mail between the isthmus of Panama and San Francisco and other Pacific Coast ports. A committee has been appointed by Mr. Bentley, with Captain William Matson as chairman, and including George D. Gray and James McNab.

This information has been asked for by Joseph L. Bristow, who was appointed a special commissioner by President Roosevelt two years ago to look into the steamship service between American ports, and is now under instructions by the War department to proceed further along the same lines.

"I am advised by the secretary of war," Mr. Bristow has written to the chambers of commerce of San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Portland, Seattle and Tacoma, "that, while the service of the Pacific Mail Steamship company has not been withdrawn, it is very unsatisfactory. He has advised me to make further inquiry as to the advisability of the government's establishing a steamship line between the Pacific Coast ports of the United States and Panama."

At first it was supposed that the inquiry would deal largely and to a certain extent exclusively with the question of how much freight could be provided by the government as a canal digger and in its capacity of furnishing supplies for the great naval and military plants to be located at San Francisco, (and for the insular possession of the United States in the Pacific which move by sea. Now it is developed that the scope of the proposed governmental line of line of steamships is much wider.

Mr. Bristow has submitted a list of questions to the several chambers of commerce of the Pacific Coast regarding all sorts of freight that can be moved by sea. The questions run the complete gamut of the sea-carrying trade and include the following:

"Under neutral conditions, with rates fixed upon a basis of reasonable compensation for services rendered, would there be sufficient business between the Pacific and Atlantic ports of the United States to warrant the establishment of a first-class line of steamships to make regular schedule trips weekly from Pacific Coast ports to Panama?"

TEAR UP THE TOWN.

Ex-Chief Dinan Turns Crooks Loose in San Francisco.

San Francisco, Oct. 19.—The familiar game of applying crooked police methods to a desperate political situation is being energetically worked in San Francisco. The purpose is to discredit the present administration of the police department and thus to injure the candidacy of Mayor Taylor.

Behind the game, pulling the strings, is Jerry Dinan, the indicted chief of police, who saved himself from summary dismissal by resigning. His chief of staff is his bosom friend, "Kid" Sullivan, "king of the pickpockets."

The staff consists of the little army of crooks, men and women, whom Dinan allowed to stay here and "do business" if they "got right" with him through "Kid" Sullivan.

Word has been sent out for the gang to "tear up the town," and in consequence hold-ups, petty thievery and huggery have increased to an alarming extent.

Keep Poor at Home.

Victoria, B. C., Oct. 19.—According to advices the Japanese government will organize a bureau of emigration and colonization. Recent action on the part of the government resulting from the protests from the Pacific coast have forced into liquidation 28 immigration companies. The government raised the indemnity which each company is compelled to furnish, from \$5,000 each to \$25,000. Another circumstance having to do with their failure is the refusal to issue passports to Mexico and Peru.

No Tunnel Under Sea.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 19.—The Russian government has published an official denial of the statement that it designs a tunnel under Behring sea.