

FAVORS WATERWAYS

Roosevelt Says Rivers Should Be Improved.

GREAT VALUE OF THEIR POWER

Lays Great Stress on Preservation of Our Natural Resources Against Monopoly and Waste.

Washington, Feb. 27.—With his hearty indorsement in a special message, President Roosevelt yesterday transmitted to congress the preliminary report of the Inland Waterways Commission, recommending a general policy of waterway improvement.

The president proceeds to point out the connection between navigation of the lower reaches of a stream and control of methods and prevention of soil erosion. Use of a stream for domestic and municipal water supply, power and irrigation must also be taken into account. He says deep channels will have high value for national defense; use of water power will relieve drain on the coal supply; transportation by water instead of rail will conserve iron; forest protection will prevent timber famine and perpetuate the remaining forest; irrigation will sustain millions; and pure water will promote health. The work is national in scope.

The commission recommends a policy for developing all commercial and industrial uses of waterways at the same time. To this end the work of the various departments concerned should be, co-ordinated, that there may be no delay. The cost will be large, but far less than would be required to relieve the congestion of rail traffic, and the benefits will be large also and will unite the interests of all states and sections.

The president calls attention to the great amount of detailed information needed to carry out the commission's plan, but says beginning of work should not be postponed till all the facts are obtained.

The president says our policy hitherto has been purely negative—one of repression and procrastination—and frequent changes of plan and piecemeal execution have further hampered improvement. In spite of large appropriations our rivers are less serviceable than half a century ago and are less used.

In its report the commission first states the facts it has found. It finds that there are 25,000 miles of navigated rivers and at least an equal length, which are navigable or might be made so; 2,500 miles of navigable canals and over 2,500 miles of sounds, bays and bayous, which could be connected by less than 1,000 miles of canals parallel with the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. These waterways are in 43 states and development of rivers for irrigation, power, etc., will make certain waterways navigable in the remaining states.

Railroad interests have been successfully directed against maintenance and development of water traffic.

Successful waterway improvement must provide for adjustment of the relations of rail to water lines. Railroads can so control traffic as to leave waterways insufficient to support vessels and terminals, for they can so reduce rates on traffic for which waterways compete as to destroy profits, and can recoup themselves with higher rates on traffic for which waterways do not compete. Waterway improvement will not relieve rail congestion unless co-ordination is arranged to insure harmonious co-operation.

In some instances the cost of works to control floods and improve navigation would be less than the loss by floods and drought.

The annual soil wash is about 1,000,000,000 tons, mostly the most valuable part of the soil, which pollutes the water, necessitates dredging and reduces efficiency of river improvements.

Forestry, farming, mining and other industries affect the flow of streams for commerce.

Wide variation in the level of rivers hampers establishment of water terminals.

Telegraphers May Quit.

Spokane, Wash., Feb. 27.—Railway telegraphers of this division announce that the union and nonunion men have voted to strike if the Northern Pacific or the Great Northern cuts are wage scale. They claim the companies are trying to make the men pay for the extra operators that will be required if the interstate nine-hour law goes into effect March 1. The vote on the strike question shows 95 per cent of the operators on both roads will quit. They are now averaging \$75 per month for 12 hours' work.

Reclamation Work in Nevada.

Salt Lake City, Feb. 27.—The Utah-Nevada Irrigation Company, will begin work promptly on a dam and irrigation system in Eastern Nevada near the Utah line. The company plans to reclaim 220,000 acres of land in the Meadow Valley, Wash.

DESTROY PUBLIC RECORDS.

Conspiracy to Secure Valuable Concession From Government.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Three arrests here brought to light a scandal in the patent office which has been under investigation since early in February, and which revolves around an invention which is valued at more than \$500,000. The parties arrested are Ned W. Barton, third assistant examiner of the Patent Office; Henry W. Everding, a patent attorney of Philadelphia, and John A. Heany, an inventor of York, Pa. They have been indicted by the United States government for attempting to defraud the government and for destroying public records.

The indictment charges that the three men, "with an intent to steal and destroy," carried away from the patent office letters, specifications and amendments relating to patents and unlawfully and willfully destroyed them. The investigation was made upon information that as a result of a conspiracy John A. Heany had been given a patent on an invention for manufacturing filaments and electrodes for electric incandescent lamps.

The facts disclosed by the investigation were of such a character that they were presented to the grand jury. It is alleged that through connivance with Ned W. Barton, Heany and Everding, outwitted more than 20 of the largest electrical concerns in the country striving to get the same patent. All of these concerns had filed applications for a patent, but from time to time Barton, it is charged, would see the specifications and employ whatever he desired for perfecting Heany's invention. To be successful in this plan it was necessary to destroy certain records and the substitutes therefor.

BLOW AT BRITISH SALOONS.

Asquith's License Bill Raises Storm of Protest.

London, Feb. 28.—Chancellor of the Exchequer Asquith introduced the licensing bill in the house of commons. This is the principal government measure for the present session of parliament, and involves vast money and labor. The capital invested in licensed property in this country is not less than \$1,200,000,000, while over 2,000,000 people are employed in the traffic. Briefly, the bill provides for the compulsory reduction within a specified period and on a uniform scale of the number of regular saloon licenses throughout the country.

The bill proposes that this reduction be effected within 20 years. The system of compensating those entirely deprived of their licenses is to lapse after a period of 14 years from the time the act goes into force, and an end thus will be put to the vested interests in licenses.

The bold and drastic bill is raising a storm of denunciation in the opposition press. Mr. Balfour gave his party a lead in a brief speech stigmatizing the measure as "robbery." The tremendous strength of the brewing interests throughout the country will be brought to bear in an endeavor to prevent the passage of the bill.

ADMIRAL EVANS HAS GOUT.

Peruvian Physicians Report His Condition as Not Serious.

Lima, Peru, Feb. 28.—Two Peruvian physicians paid an official visit to Admiral Evans on the flagship Connecticut and after consultation declared that Admiral Evans was suffering from rheumatic gout, but that his condition was not serious. It is believed that the commander of the fleet will be able to direct the movements of the battleships on their departure next Saturday.

President Pardo gave an audience this afternoon to Rev. Mr. McGleeson, chaplain of the Connecticut. There was a large attendance of sailors and others at the mass at the cathedral this morning, at the conclusion of which a breakfast was given at the seminary.

Another bull fight was given yesterday afternoon; at which there were 4,000 spectators, including 1,500 officers and sailors from the fleet.

A banquet was given last night on board the Connecticut. All the ships were brilliantly illuminated.

Illinois Miners May Strike.

Peoria, Ill., Feb. 28.—Despite reports to the contrary, one prominent coal operator declared today that the deadlock between the operators and miners of the Northern, Central and Southern Illinois field had not been broken, and that the operators were prepared to hold out until March 1, when the present agreement expires. Then the trial will come, if nothing intervenes and neither side recedes from its announced determination. President John M. Walker has declared that the prospects are for a general suspension of work.

Torpedo Boats Collide.

Kiel, Feb. 28.—Two torpedo boats collided during the course of maneuvers today. Both vessels were seriously damaged and were docked in a leaking condition. One man was killed and one injured.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

LARGE CLIP EXPECTED.

Eastern Oregon Wool Industry Looks Encouraging.

Pendleton—The fixing of the wool sales dates for Eastern Oregon is the first step in what promises to be one of the best years for sheep and wool in the history of the state. Owing to the mild winter all over Eastern Oregon the lamb crop promises to be heavy and the wool clip will average higher than ever before. It is estimated that the Eastern Oregon herds will average nine pounds or more this year, owing to the constant improvement of the grade of sheep. Shearing is now being discussed and prices will be fixed soon. It is thought the price for shearing will be about 7½ cents per head, and there is a large preference shown for hand shearing, owing to the fact that the machines injure the roots of the wool by cutting too close to the skin of the sheep. The skin of the machine shorn sheep being clipped extremely close, stuns badly and this retards the growth of the wool for another year.

Wool and sheep buyers are already on the ground, and there promises to be spirited bidding for wool and mutton sheep all over this section. Ewes which will bear a lamb this spring and having a heavy fleece of wool upon them are now worth \$6 per head in Eastern Oregon.

FARMERS HOLD THEIR WHEAT

Growers of Baker County Expect to Get High Prices.

Baker City—One of the strongest combines among the farmers around Baker City is now in existence and it is practically impossible to secure grain of any kind. Heretofore they have always been anxious and ready to sell but at the present time it is almost impossible for the local dealers to supply the demand of the people in Baker City who have stock to keep.

The cause of this combine among the farmers of this section of the country is the building of the Eagle Valley railroad, which will employ a large number of teams in the spring and the farmers are holding their grain in anticipation of the great demand and the high prices when active operations begin. The building of the Snake River Railroad will also create a strong market for grain and many of the ranchers expect to sell to the contractors on the Snake. With the two railroads building they are almost sure to obtain a high price for their grain and to make money by holding it.

Fruit Replaces Forests.

Grants Pass—If the progress of clearing up raw land and improving it keeps on at the present pace, Josephine county, within five years, will be entirely cleared and planted to fruit. As an instance of this work it may be stated that one country store in Applegate valley has placed seven grubbing machines within the last month. These mechanical devices do the work of several men, with greater ease and less expense. Within short distances of town where heavy machinery may be used, donkey engines play a prominent part in pulling stumps and brush.

Clackamas May Get Cannery.

Oregon City—If the present plans of the members of the Clackamas County Horticultural society are carried out, Clackamas county will have still another enterprise in the shape of a fruit cannery. A meeting of the society was held last week. Mr. Britton, of Eastern Oregon, addressed the meeting on the subject and stated that he had made a careful examination of the fruit acreage of this vicinity and finding it highly satisfactory, was willing to finance the scheme.

Pumping Out Red Boy.

Baker City—After lying idle for months, the pumps of the famous Red Boy mine have been started again and the mine will soon be in condition for operation. The monster pumps throw out about 600,000 gallons of water every 24 hours, and at this rate the mine will be ready for operations in about 30 days. The Red Boy mine was one of the best producers of Eastern Oregon for many years and it is thought that it will again occupy a front rank.

Will Issue Pamphlets.

Salem—The secretary of state has turned over to the state printer all measures to be submitted at the election June 3, and arguments for and against them, for the purpose of having them bound in one pamphlet, which will be sent to all voters throughout the state. This pamphlet will probably be ready for mailing at the end of March, when it will be sent to all voters whose names are sent in by the county clerks.

Oregon Butter Sent East.

Corvallis—A carload of butter has been shipped by the Corvallis creamery to Philadelphia. The shipment comprised 50,000 pounds and is valued at above \$150,000. It is storage butter, and the movement is occasioned by much better prices for the product in the East than are obtained on the Coast.

FILING PETITIONS.

Candidates for Office Have More Than a Month.

Salem—Candidates for office have more than a month yet in which to procure signatures to their petitions and to file them in the office of the secretary of state or the county clerk as the case may be. Some of them are not familiar with the details of the direct primary law and are making inquiries as to dates. The last day for filing petitions for nominations for offices to be voted for in the state at large, or in any district composed of more than one county, or in judicial or prosecuting attorney districts, is March 27. This class of offices includes state offices, congressional offices, joint senators, joint representatives, circuit judges and district attorneys. These petitions are to be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

Petitions for nominations for offices to be voted for in only one county must be filed in the office of the county clerk not later than April 1.

The secretary of state will certify the state, congressional and district portion of the ballot to the county clerk by March 30. The primary election will be held Friday, April 17. The general election will be held Monday, June 1.

Alfalfa for Cattle.

Pendleton—It is estimated that the increase in the alfalfa acreage of Umatilla county this spring will amount to at least 10 per cent. In the Butler creek and Hermiston districts in the West end of the county and also in the Hudson Bay district in the North part of the county active work in enlarging the alfalfa farms is now in progress. The raw land without water is worth but \$10 to \$25 per acre, while seeded to alfalfa and under irrigation it is worth from \$100 to \$150 per acre. The proposed erection of the packing plant at Portland has stimulated the growing of alfalfa and the feeding of cattle in this district very much.

New Fruit Packing House.

Milton—At a meeting of the Milton Fruitgrowers' union the following directors were elected for the ensuing year: J. N. Stone, T. L. Ragsdale, William Foreythe, O. K. Goodman and E. P. Jensen. The union is in good condition and its affairs have been handled in a very creditable manner. It is the purpose of the union to build a new and larger packing house on the site of the present one for this season. The new building will probably be a three-story structure and will be conveniently arranged for the handling of fruit.

After Federal Court.

Pendleton—The Pendleton Commercial association will send a delegation to Washington to fight for the Federal district headquarters when the date of the hearing with the house judicial committee is fixed. If the Oregon delegation think it necessary, expressions from attorneys of Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman and other Eastern Oregon counties in favor of Pendleton for the headquarters will be secured.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 81c; bluestem, 83c; valley, 81c; red, 79c.
Barley—Feed, \$26 per ton; brewing, \$32; rolled, \$29@30.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$27; gray, \$27, per ton.
Corn—Whole, \$32.50; cracked, \$33.50.
Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$17@18 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$20@21; clover, \$14@15; chest, \$15; grain hay, \$14@15; alfalfa, \$12@13; vetch, \$14.
Fruits—Apples, table, \$1.75@3.00; cooking, \$1.25@1.50 per box; cranberries, \$8@11 per barrel.
Vegetables—Turnips, 75c per sack; carrots, 65c per sack; beets, \$1 per sack; cabbage, 10@11c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.75 @1.85; celery, \$3.75@4 per crate; onions, 16@20c per dozen; parsley, 20c per dozen; peppers, 17½c per pound; pumpkins, 1@1½c per pound; radishes, 20c per dozen; spinach, 6c per pound; sprouts, 8c per pound; squash, 1@1½c per pound.
Onions—\$2.50 per hundred.
Potatoes—\$2.50 per hundred, delivered Portland; sweet potatoes, \$5.50@3.75 per cwt.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 30@35c per pound.
Poultry—Average old hens, 13@13½c per pound; mixed chickens, 12½@13c; spring chickens, 12½@13c; roosters, 10@11c; dressed chickens, 14c; turkeys, live, 14@15c; dressed, choice, 15@17c; geese, live, 9@10c; ducks, 14@15c; pigeons, 75c@1; squabs, \$1.50@2.
Eggs—Fresh ranch candled, 22½@23½c per dozen.
Veal—75@125 pounds, 7c; 150 to 200 pounds, 5@6½c.
Pork—Block, 75 to 150 pounds, 6½@7c; packers, 5@6c.
Hops—1907, prime and choice 4½@6c per pound; olds 1@2c per pound.
Wool—Eastern Oregon average best 18@20c per pound according to shrinkage; valley 18@20c according to shrunken; mohair choice 29@30c per pound.

CHARGES ARE FALSE.

Experts Testify Before Committee on Naval Construction.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Two experts in naval construction—Rear Admiral Converse, retired, president of the board of construction, and Rear Admiral Capps, chief of the bureau of construction and repair, were before the senate committee on naval affairs today in the investigation of charges against the navy made by Henry Reuter Dahl in a recent magazine article. The charges were taken up in the order they appeared in the article and at the conclusion of the extended refutation by Admiral Converse it was stated by Senator Perkins that the apologies of the committee were due the officers for having called them to answer such charges. Chairman Hale assented to this view and no member of the committee took issue.

This incident at the conclusion of the first day's proceedings is thought to indicate that the inquiry will be short. It has not been determined whether the committee will enter upon an investigation of any subject except those embraced in the criticism of the battleship construction, but, if other questions are taken up, it is certain no long-continued discussion will be permitted. It is likely that the entire inquiry will be concluded before the naval appropriation bill is taken up.

MAY CAUSE WAR.

Minister Warns Parliament of Danger Ahead in Europe.

London, Feb. 26.—The Macedonia difficulty was raised in both houses of parliament tonight. Sir Edward Grey, secretary for foreign affairs, made a statement in the house of commons on this subject, and Lord Fitzmaurice, under secretary for foreign affairs, did likewise in the house of lords, the gist of both statements being that, because of the Porte's obduracy, matters had reached a critical pass; that the government deprecated any isolated action, but was doing its utmost to preserve the concert of powers and press Turkey to an acceptance of the reforms.

Sir Edward Grey said that in discussing the Macedonian question the government was not far from the Turkish question, which more than once had led to an European war. They were rapidly nearing a point, he said, where the concert of powers must either justify or stultify itself, and, if the concert disappeared, it was impossible to foretell what misunderstanding might arise. If Macedonia continued to be neglected, he added as a note of warning, it must sooner or later provoke a catastrophe.

Sir Edward suggested that, if a Turkish Governor were appointed for a term of years and he was a man whose capacity and character were recognized and accepted by the powers, the whole question might be solved.

EXPECT FLEET AT HONOLULU.

Enough Coal Being Stored Up for Battleships.

San Francisco, Feb. 25.—Advices from Honolulu of February 19 say plans are already beginning to be laid for the victualing and entertainment of Rear Admiral Evans' fleet, should it come to Honolulu. The addition of the 20,000 men whom the fleet may be expected to bring to the population of Honolulu will quickly exhaust the normal supplies of fresh vegetables and island fruits grown here unless large additions are made to the area cultivated.

Although there has been no official announcement that the fleet is coming here, there is a feeling of certainty that it will. There is now here and on the way to arrive within a few weeks fully 60,000 tons of coal belonging to the navy. This coal has all been brought here since the announcement was made of the sending of the fleet to Pacific waters. For the ordinary purposes of the navy at this port, 4,000 or 5,000 tons a year is all that is needed. Hence the provision of 60,000 tons here now is looked on as practically conclusive that the fleet is coming.

Will Advise San Francisco.

San Francisco, Feb. 26.—One of the beneficial results of the agitation for the cleaning up of the city and the extermination of rats will be made evident this week when the consuls of several foreign countries will prepare their reports to their superiors on the sanitary conditions in San Francisco. Dr. Rupert Blue will prepare a full report to submit to the consuls. The federal health officers will have a report prepared in a day or so, which will show the percentage of infection among the 10,345 rats caught last week.

Big Fleet at Frisco.

San Francisco, Feb. 26.—From present figures there will be 50 vessels, if not more, belonging to the United States navy, assembled in San Francisco bay with the arrival of "Fighting Bob" Evans' big fleet in the early part of May. These vessels will come from the north and south, where many are either engaged in maneuvers or making repairs.

NEW MINISTER HERE

Wu Ting Fang Does Not Seek Our Intervention.

LANDS WITH LARGE RETIREE

Admits That There is Some Friction With Japan—No Change in Exclusion Laws.

San Francisco, Feb. 29.—Wu Ting Fang, for the second time appointed Chinese minister to this country, arrived yesterday on the Pacific mail liner Siberia, with a large retinue of secretaries and legation and consulate attaches numbering 79 persons. He brought with him new consuls for Mexico, Havana, New York and San Francisco, besides three nephews and three secretaries and five other attaches for the Chinese legation at Washington and 24 young students, who will enter various schools and colleges in this country.

At the Pacific mail dock, where the Siberia made fast, shortly before 1 o'clock, a large number of Chinese from the local colony were on hand with a brass band to greet their minister. From the dock the minister and his party were taken to the Fairmount hotel, where a large number of suites had been reserved.

Minister Wu denied the report that he was the bearer of an appeal to Washington asking this country to assist in preserving the interests of China in Manchuria and protesting against the alleged agrandisement of Japan in that Province, but admitted "there was some local friction."

He professed to be ignorant about the Kan Tao boundary dispute between China and Japan and the extension of the Hainan-Fukien railroad, which has caused friction between the two countries.

Asked whether he would endeavor to secure some modification of the exclusion law, Minister Wu said that he had no particular instructions from his government with reference to that.

WILL SHOW TEETH.

Japan Sends Cruiser to China to Investigate Seizure.

Tokio, Feb. 29.—The Japanese armored cruiser Idzumi sailed yesterday from Shanghai for Hongkong, where, it is understood, she will investigate the seizure on February 7 by the Chinese customs cruisers of the steamer Tatsu Maru.

This movement is possibly intended as a demonstration against the Chinese officials, although the foreign office denies it has such an object in view, adding that negotiations are proceeding at Peking and that the Japanese flag has been restored to the Tatsu Maru.

The whole question of the seizure of the Tatsu Maru, which carried a cargo of arms and other munitions, now turns upon the character of the merchant to whom the arms were consigned. It is believed that he is a sympathizer of the revolutionists in China, for whom the arms were possibly intended.

KENTUCKY ELECTS SENATOR.

Legislature Elects Governor Bradley After Six Weeks.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 29.—Four democrats, who have stood out from the party machine, swung into line with the republican members of the general assembly yesterday, resulting in the election of ex-Governor William O. Bradley, a republican, to the United States senate. The election followed a deadlock that has held up more than six weeks, the democratic organization supporting ex-Governor Beckham, while the republican members have been as a unit for Mr. Bradley from the first. The four democrats who made possible an election have been persistently refused to vote for Mr. Beckham, and when they were convinced that their party would unite on no other man, they withdrew their support from scattering candidates and centered it on the republican choice.

Union Men Refused Pardon.

Washington, Feb. 29.—The President has denied pardons in the cases of P. D. Lenihan, M. J. Plunkett, Joseph Shannon, William Cutts and A. Edwards, members of a labor union, convicted some months ago of violating an injunction issued by a United States court judge enjoining them and others from interfering with the operation and business of the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company, at Butte, Mont. The penalties imposed were from three to four months imprisonment and, in some cases, fines.

New Claims Bring Big Prices.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 29.—Advices received in this city today state that the two original claims at Hart, San Bernardino county, where a camp was established six weeks ago, following a discovery of gold, have been sold for a deposit of \$20,000 cash and a bond for \$250,000. The claims were owned by James Hart and Bert Hitt and were sold to Colonel Hopkins.