NEW ELECTRIC LINES

Checker Willamette Valley With Branches and Feeders.

BUILD 301 MILES OF NEW ROAD

Capitalization of Oregon Electric Increased to $10,000,000 to Carry on the Work.

Portland, April 23.—To gridiron the Willamette Valley with electric lines is the avowed purpose of the Oregon Electric Railway Company. The original capitalization of $2,500,000 was increased yesterday to $10,000,000. Extensions to the system were authorized aggregating 301 miles. Work will be commenced on the first of these lines this morning.

Stockholders and directors of the company met in the headquarters in the Corbett building yesterday morning and authorized the filing of new articles of incorporation.

The following new lines were authorized by the directors of the company at yesterday's meeting: Salem to Albany, 18 miles; Garden Home to Hillsboro, 12 miles; Hillsboro to Tillamook, 57 miles; Tigardville to Eugene, 125 miles; Salem to Mill City, 54 miles, and Albany to Cascadia, 35 miles. Total mileage, 301. With the 50 miles already constructed by the company between Portland and Salem, the construction of the new lines just authorized will give the Oregon Electric 351 miles of standard gauge railroad in the state.

William S. Barstow & Co., the engineering firm which builds the lines of the Oregon Electric, has assembled construction materials and will begin work this morning on the Garden Home-Hillsboro line. Upon its completion, attention will be turned to building from Salem to Albany. It is likely that at least three years will be required to complete the system of new lines mapped out by the stockholders and directors of the company at yesterday's meetings.

All the new lines planned will be uniform with the Portland-Salem line, which is standard steam railroad construction throughout.

Moffatt & White, 5 Nassau street, New York city, are managers of the syndicate that is supplying the capital for the Oregon Electric operations in this state. The executive committee is made up of the following New York capitalists: A. C. Bedford, George Barclay Moffatt and William A. White.

PRESIDENT SIGNS BILL.

Employers' Liability Law Is Now In Effect

Washington, April 23.—President Roosevelt today signed the employers' liability bill upon receiving an opinion from Attorney-General Bonaparte that the measure was constitutional.

The bill makes railroads or other common carriers, while engaged in interstate commerce, liable for the injury or death of an employe if the injury or death results in whole or in part from the negligence of any of the officers, agents or employes of the railroad, or by any defect or insufficiency in quipment. This provision is made applicable to carriers in the territories, the District of Columbia, the Panama canal zone and other possessions of the United States.

It is provided that in any action brought under the provisions of the bill the injured employe shall not be held to have assumed the risk of his employment in any case where violation by the carrier of any statute enacted for safety of employes contributed to the injury or death of the employe. Any contract, rule, regulation or device to enable the carrier to exempt itself from liability under the act is rendered void by a specific declaration to that end.

Provision is made, however, that the carrier shall receive credit for any contribution made to the employe or his family in the form of insurance, relief, benefit or indemnity. An action for the recovery of damages must be commenced within two years from the date of the cause of suit.

Reveals Burns' Methods.

Washington, April 23.—The cross-examination of Woodford D. Harlan, formerly a clerk in the general land office, was the feature today in the Hyde-Benson-Dimond-Schneider land fraud trial. J. C. Campbell, of San Francisco, attorney for Benson, drew from the government's witness the fact that he often told Benson falsehoods in order to secure evidence for the government. Harlan admitted that under the instructions of Secret Service Agent Burns he practically demanded money from Benson, instead of Benson offering to bribe

Demand Thaw's Release.

Newburg, N. Y., April 23.—Counsel for Harry K. Thaw today served an order of the supreme court upon the superintendent of the Matteawan Insane Asylum to permit Thaw to sign an application for a writ of habeas corpus. Thaw will be brought into court for a hearing on the question of his sanity.

BANKER ROSS CONVICTED.

Guilty of Appropriating State Money to Private Use.

Salem, Ore., April 24.—Guilty of converting to his own use $288,000 of state school funds, was the verdict rendered against J. Thorburn Ross by a Marion county jury yesterday afternoon. The jury was out an hour and ten minutes.

From what can be learned it appears that the jury took four ballots the first showing nine for conviction and three for acquittal.

Sentence will be imposed by Judge Burnett on Monday morning. The penalty provided by law is imprisonment in the penitentiary for from one to fifteen years and by fine of double the amount of the defalcation.

The case will, of course, be appealed to the supreme court, when the case will be tried practically anew, for the defense objected to nearly all the evidence, saved exceptions, and questioned the ruling of the trial court on all points of law that go to the foundation of the case.

Attorney McCamant declined to discuss the verdict, but was very plainly deeply disappointed.

TRY TO KILL GRAFTER.

Ex-Supervisor Gallagher Blown Up by Bomb.

Oakland, Cal., April 24.—What is believed by the police to have been an attempt to assassinate James L. Gallagher, one of the main witnesses for the prosecution in the San Francisco graft cases, was made shortly after 7 o'clock tonight at the home of William H. Schenck, Gallagher's brother-in-law, East Twentieth street and Nineteenth avenue, East Oakland, when a huge bomb placed on the porch exploded and tore away the whole front of the house. Gallagher was up stairs with his wife at the time, and Mr. Schenck was in a rear room with his wife and four children and Dr. Guy Brown.

All escaped but one boy, who was hit in the neck by a flying missile.

That none was killed was little short of a miracle. Gallagher's hat was pierced by a splinter, and taken away as a souvenir. The house was completely wrecked. The report was heard all over Oakland and many windows in the neighborhood were broken. A post belonging to the porch was hurled 100 feet away.

Valuable clews to the perpetrators of the crime were gained today through the finding of a silk handkerchief in which it is supposed the infernal machine was wrapped.

In a search of the debris this morning detectives located some wire and fuse and caps, which would indicate, according to Chief Wilson, that a bomb of some sort had been used.

Heney Had Warned Him.

San Francisco, April 24.—"The prosecution will certainly make a most thorough investigation of the dastardly attempt to kill one of the most important witnesses for the state in the bribery graft cases," said Assistant District Attorney Francis J. Heney this morning to the Associated Press representative.

Mr. Heney refused to state whether or not he had any evidence pointing to the perpetrators.

"I am satisfied that it was not the work of a fanatic or crank," declared the Assistant District Attorney. "Neither did the attempt upon Gallagher's life surprise me. I warned him more than three months ago that if he was not careful 'they would get him,' and at the time urged him to move from Oakland, telling him his home might be blown up. Aside from this I have nothing to say at present."

Tornado in Nebraska.

Paris, Neb., April 24.—About 6 o'clock this afternoon a tornado destroyed the eastern portion of Deport, a town 20 miles southeast of Paris, killing W. R. Isbell, a druggist, and wounding several others. The Isbell family was at supper when the storm came.

Practically all the residences on the east side of town were destroyed, at least 25 or 30 being scattered over the country in fragments.

Oak Grove ,a town east of Clarksville, on the Texas & Pacific railroad, is reported almost destroyed, many houses being demolished, but without fatalities as far as learned. The path of the storm was several hundred yards wide.

Revive Coaching in England.

London, April 24.—Alfred G. Vanderbilt, whose effort to revive interest in coaching in England has been so sympathetically received, left London this morning on a series of trial trips over the Brighton road. He was accompanied by a small party of friends. A big crowd assembled outside the hotel, where the start was made, and gave the American a hearty send-off, while the police stopped traffic in Picadilly in order to allow the coach to gain a free passage. Mr. Vanderbilt will make his first regular trip on May 4.

Machinists Strike.

Marshalltown, Ia., April 24.—Machinists in the various shops of the Iowa Central railway struck today, together with helpers and apprentices. A reduction of 4 cents an hour in the wage schedule caused the strike.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

LA GRANDE RAISES $3,300.

Sum Subscribed in a Few Minutes to Boom the Town.

La Grande—This city went on record tonight as heartily in favor of assuming all the germs of boost possible when it subscribed in a few minutes the sum of $3300, and in addition secured a membership subscription of 125 to a reorganized commercial club at $1 each.

Not satisfied with raising that amount for boosting, the meeting passed a resolution to canvass the city so thoroughly tomorrow morning that the figures will be brought up to $6000 for the year, and a committee was appointed to do this.

This sudden burst of enthusiasm, backed up by financial support, was primed and shot off through the efforts of Tom Richardson, manager of the Portland Commercial Club, who this afternoon raised $600 at Elgin for the same purpose. He goes to Union and Cove tomorrow.

Oregon Will Still Raise Hops.

Salem—The very low prices that have ruled in the hop market for the last few years have not caused many Oregon hop growers to go out of business. Perhaps 2500 or 3000 acres have been plowed up in the entire state, but enough yards are left, under favorable conditions, to produce a crop as large, if not larger, than that of 1907. Cultivation is being neglected or postponed in some sections, but in others the growers are taking the best care of their yards. The proportion of the matured crop that will be picked will depend on how money matters can be arranged in the summer. A good many of the small growers are going ahead with their work in the hope that something will happen before picking time to raise the market to a higher level, when they will be able to borrow money on their crops. The prospect is a gloomy one, however, and it looks now as if the big crop Oregon is growing will only make the market worse.

Crush Rock for Roads.

Astoria—The county clerk has purchased a new rock crusher, with a capacity of 18 tons an hour, and a 20-horse power boiler and engine which it has directed be taken to the quarry near Olney. The smaller crusher now at the Olney quarry is to be moved to some point further out on line of the road being built to the Nehalem valley. Both crushers will be operated all summer in order that so much as possible of the new road can be covered with rock before the rains of next fall.

Eugene Coming to Fiesta

Eugene—The Eugene Commercial Club tonight decided to have Eugene represented at the Portland Rose Carnival in June by 148 men in march and drill. Each man will wear a white serge suit, white shoes and hat and carry a lemon-yellow and green umbrella bearing the words, "Eugene, Lane County." A special excursion will be run from Eugene and a great crowd will attend the carnival.

Free Delivery for Grants Pass.

Grants Pass—Grants Pass may soon have a free delivery system. Postmaster Donnell gives figures showing the receipts for the fiscal year ending April 1, 1908, to be over $11,000. This is an increase of $2000 over last year's business. The city council has under consideration an ordinance outlining the numbering of houses. This increase can only be justified by the increase in the population.

Eugene Will Own Water Plant

Eugene—At a municipal election Saturday the proposition to purchase the Willamette Valley Company's waterworks carried by 635 to 125, and the proposition to vote $300,000 bonds for a municipal water plant carried by 567 to 171. The bonds were voted at several previous elections, but each time the election was declared illegal on account of technicalities.

Marshfield Cleans Up

Marshfield—The chamber of commerce has inaugurated a movement for a "cleanup" day in Marshfield, and the ladies of the Artistic Needlework Club have agreed to take charge of the work and arrange for a general cleaning up of the city. The mayor and city officials will cooperate, and probably the day will be declared a holiday.

McMinnville Studies Esperanto.

McMinnville—An Esperanto Club has been formed in this city with six charter members, for the study of the new universal language. J. C. Cooper is president, Arthur McPhillips secretary, Kate Lants treasurer, and Rev. C. F. Swander, instructor. Meetings will be held weekly.

Market Last Year's Wheat.

Bend—Freighters are very busy now hauling wheat from the Madras country. There was a quantity of wheat left on hand last fall when the bad roads put a stop to hauling, but it will all be hauled to the Shaniko market this spring.

MUST SPRAY ORCHARDS.

Fruit Commissioner Reid Will Make Owners Obey Law.

Oregon City—J. H. Reid, of Milwaukie, fruit commissioner for the First Oregon District, has announced his intention of cleaning up the pest-afflicted orchards of Clackamas county, along the tracks of the Oregon Water Power & Railway Company and the Southern Pacific Company, and will hold a conference with County Fruit Inspector A. J. Lewis and District Attorney Gilbert L. Hedges, for the purpose of carefully laying plans to force the owners of diseased orchards to either spray their trees or cut them down.

"Marion and Yamhill counties have obeyed the law," said Mr. Reid, "and it is up to Clackamas to do the same. It is a strong and forceful argument that hundreds and perhaps thousands of homeseekers come from the east through California, and, after traveling through the southern portion of Oregon and then through Lane, Linn and Marion counties, come to Clackamas and here are confronted by the spectacle of scale-infested trees, hundred of acres of them, absolutely of no value to the owners or to any one else."

WANT TO SEE FLEET.

Newport Will Try to Have Ships Stop One Hour Off Yaquina Bay.

Albany—A movement is under way here for an attempt to have the battleship fleet stop for a short time off Yaquina bay on its northward trip. The idea was suggested at Newport and Albany is taking it up. It is planned to have the commercial clubs of Albany and other valley cities attempt to secure this arrangement through the Oregon delegation in congress. If arrangements are made as planned the fleet will come as close to the shore as possible off Yaquina bay and stop for possibly an hour. In the event that arrangements are made, big excursions will be run from Albany and Corvallis to Newport and boats will take crowds out to view the fleet.

Ready to Strike Oil

Monmouth—The complete outfit for boring an oil well on the Whiteaker farm, three miles north of Monmouth has arrived and is being unloaded and placed on the site for the well. The indications for oil veins in this vicinity have attracted the attention of experts for several years past, and much interest among the landowners is taken in the outcome of this work, which is backed by ample capital for a thorough test.

Commercial Club Elects.

Albany—The Brownsville Commercial club has assumed renewed activity and has chosen the following new officers: President, Ed Holloday; vice president, E. E. White; secretary, R. F. Richardson; treasurer, H. Wayne Stanard; board of managers, W. M. Knapp, R. W. Tripp and F. M. Brown.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Club, 84c per bushel; red Russian, 82c; bluestem, 87c; valley, 85c.

Barley—Feed, $24.50 per ton; rolled, $27@28; brewing, $26.

Oats—No. 1 white, $26.50@27 per ton; gray, $26.

Millstuffs—Bran, $24.50 per ton; middlings, $27.50; shorts, country, $27.50; city, $27; wheat and barley chop, $27.50.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, $17 per ton; Willamette Valley, ordinary, $15; Eastern Oregon, $17.50; mixed, $16; clover, $14; alfalfa, $12; alfalfa meal, $20.

Butter—Extras, 27½c per pound; fancy 26c; choice, 25c; store, 16½c.

Eggs—Loss and commission off, 16½@17c per dozen.

Cheese—Fancy cream twins, 15½c per pound; cream brick, 20c; Swiss blk., 20c; limburger, 22½c.

Poultry—Mixed chickens, 13c per lb.; fancy hens, 14@14½c; roosters, old, 8c; fryers, lb., 20c; broilers, lb., 22½@25c; dressed poultry per pound, 1c higher.

Potatoes—Select, selling price, 70c per hundred; Willamette Valley, buying price, 45c per hundred; East Multnomah, buying price, 55c; Clackamas, buying price, 55c per hundred; new California, 5@5½c per pound; sweet, 5½c per pound.

Onions—Job price, $4.75@5 per hundred; buying price, $4.25@4.50 per hundred; garlic, 15c per pound.

Apples—Select, $2.50 per box; fancy, $2; choice, $1.50; ordinary, $1.25.

Fresh Fruits—Oranges, $2.50@3 per box; lemons, $2.75@3.50.

Cattle—Best steers, $4.75@5; medium, $4.25@4.75; common, $3.50@4; cows, best, $3.75@4; common, $3.25@3.75; calves, $4@4.50.

Sheep—Best wethers, $6@6.50; ewes, $5@5.50; spring lambs, nominal.

Hogs—Best, $6@6.25; medium, $5.75@6; feeders, $5.25@5.50.

Hops—1907, prime and choice, 4@6c per pound; olds, 1@1½c per pound.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 11@15c per pound, according to shrinkage; Valley, 12@15c, according to quality.

Mohair—Choice, 20@20½c per pound.

PRAISES AMERICAN NAVY.

Great Englishman Declares It Second Only to England's

Boston, April 22.—In an interview published here today, Sir William Henry White, who was for nearly 20 years the reputed designer of all British warships, comments on recent criticisms of the American navy. After declaring that the criticisms are unfounded in fact, and supplementing this declaration by a long and technical explanation, Sir William says.

"There is one thing more that I would like to say, and I think it is vital. I have known the American navy from the start. It is not generally known that the modern American navy started with the purchase of two of my designs from the Armstrongs. That was in 1885. From these designs the Charleston and the Baltimore were built.

"The first thing I want to say in this connection is that you have naval architects, in my judgment, as capable as any in the world. The second thing I want to say is that your shipbuilding yards are quite equal to any we have in their equipment and management and all that.

"And the result is that, in my opinion, you have a fleet that, ship for ship, comparing the ships designed at a given date—and that is the only fair comparison—is equal to anything the world contains. Next to the British navy I think your navy is the best in the world."

GUNBOAT TO VENEZUELA.

Bubonic Plague Makes Appearance at La Guayra.

Washington, April 22.—An American war vessel will be sent to Venezuelan waters, but her mission is to be entirely peaceful. The closing of the port of La Guayra because of the existence of what is believed to be bubonic plague there, has made it necessary for the state department to have at hand some vessel to be used as a despatch boat by Minister Russell in sending messages to Curacao or Port of Spain, Trinidad, and for taking cablegrams to him from the state department.

Under today's date Mr. Russell cabled the state department regarding the situation at La Guayra, and expressing the general belief that the disease there is the plague. He says the Venezuelan government today officially announced the existence of a suspicious contagious disease at La Guayra, the nature of which has not been determined. No steamers are touching at the port, which has been quarantined for 15 days, and the traffic is suspended on the railway.

FUN FOR THE SAILORS.

Los Angeles Furnishes Entertainment for Officers and Men.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 22.—Los Angeles continued today its long program of entertainment for the sailors and officers of the American battleship fleet. Thirty-five hundred bluejackets were in the landing parties which came ashore at the various ports where the four divisions of the fleet were anchored, and they pitched right into the fun provided for them with the enthusiasm of boys out of school.

The sailors again were the guests of the city, and the features of the day's entertainment were the same as on yesterday—boxing bouts, barbecues, wild west shows, dancing, shooting the chutes and other forms of amusement occupying the time from early morning until late at night. The sailors' frolics are really the most interesting feature of the fleet's stay at Los Angeles. Thousands of people go each day to Chutes park and Agricultural park to see the men at play.

For the officers there were a number of social events, including luncheon to the higher officers by General Adna R. Chaffee at the California club. Tonight the Chamber of Commerce at Dedondo, where the fourth division is anchored, gave a banquet at the Hotel Redondo in honor of Rear Admiral Charles S. Sperry and other officers of the division. The entire city, overlooking the sea was illuminated.

John D. Fears Kidnapers.

New York, April 22.—Six private detectives acted as a bodyguard for John D. Rockefeller yesterday when he walked with his two grandchildren, Fowler and Muriel McCormick, from his home to the Fifth Avenue Baptist church to attend the Easter service. The guard was maintained on the return from church. In view of these extra precautions, it was thought that the black hand threats against the children recently received by Mrs. Harold McCormick, their mother, had been renewed, but no information could be obtained.

Continues to Improve

Paso Robles, Cal., April 22.—"Rear Admiral Evans spent a very good night," said Surgeon McDonald this morning. "He slept well, ate well this morning, and his digestion is improving. I am certain that the course of treatment which is being followed out here at the hot springs is doing him a world of good."

British ex Premier Dead

London, April 22.—Sir Henry Campbell Bahnerman, ex-British premier, died at 10:40 o'clock this morning at his official residence, No. 10 Downing street. The end was peaceful.

TORNADO IN SOUTH

Dead in Three States Number At Least 225.

MANY TOWNS ENTIRELY RUINED

Negroes Suffered Most, Their Light Cabins Going to Pieces Like Card Houses.

Atlanta, Ga., April 25.—Reports up to 2 a. m. indicate that 225 persons were killed and at least 1000 were injured in storms of great violence which passed over sections of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama yesterday. Several towns were almost totally swept away and the property damage will run into large figures.

Nearly 20 towns were struck by the "twisters," of which there seem to have been at least five.

Most of those killed were negroes, whose cabins were swept away like so much paper.

Natchez, Miss., reports that of 64 persons killed in that section only two were whites.

Latest reports from Amite, a small town in Southeastern Louisiana, say the town was almost entirely destroyed and the estimates place the number killed at between 25 and 50, while at least 75 were injured.

At McLain, Miss., eight are reported to have been killed; at Vidalia, La., one white woman and six negroes are dead; at Quitman Landing, eleven negroes were killed.

The latest report at hand comes from Purvis Landing, Miss., where 25 whites and 50 negroes were victims of the storm, and reports of one to five deaths came from many towns scattered over the storm-swept area. Details at present are meager.

New Orleans and Mobile were cut off from wire communication with the outside world for several hours today and telegraph companies report wires down in all directions.

Tonight the storm is sweeping through Georgia, but beyond torrential rains, accomplished by high winds and brilliant electrical displays no serious damage or loss of life has been reported in the state.

Reports also say that the storm struck Albertville, La., late this afternoon, doing much destruction to life and property. An unconfirmed report from this section gives the death list as from 30 to 35, with scores of persons injured. A train was sent from Birmingham tonight carrying physicians and a squad of state militiamen to the district.

Richmond and Lamourie, La., were struck by the storm and nearly a fifth of their population injured.

Winchester, Miss., a small town, is reported wiped out, though only two persons are known to have been killed.

Mobile reports nine dead at Hattiesburg, Miss., but this has not been co[illegible]

The tornado that first appeared in C[illegible] parish, La., appears to have been the most serious, both in respect to number of victims and extent of territory covered. Although it covered a rural district and struck no large town, the known results of its work were 64 dead and at least 100 injured, with the prospect that the list will be considerably swelled by morning.

More than 50 of the dead are negroes, whose log cabins proved particularly fatal to the occupants, being easily torn to pieces, while the weight of timber crushed the inmates to death.

What appear to have been two different tornadoes struck in Western Alabama, one claiming six victims at Bergan & Thomas' sawmill.

New Orleans, April 25, 2 a. m.—At this hour belated reports have swollen the total number of deaths by the tornadoes in Mississippi Louisiana and Alabama to 225. Mississippi suffered most, but poor communications kept the full extent of the disaster from becoming known. The death list was suddenly swollen by nearly 100 additional victims in Purvis and McLaurin, Miss., towns not heard from up to midnight.

The first reports indicated that four-fifths of the victims were negroes, but the later reports showed an increasing number of whites.

Filipino Outlaws Hanged.

Manila, April 25.—Cipriano Omongom, alias Tiducuc, and Alfroniano Fernandez, noted bandits and fanatical leaders, were privately hanged in Bilibid prison today. Omongo Piry started the Pulajane movement in Samar. Fernandez participated in the attack on Leyte and aided in the killing of four policemen and the burning of the municipal buildings. Faustino Ablen and Esperodon Rota, his principal lieutenant, were to have been hanged on the same gallows. Governor General Smith granted them a reprieve for one month.

Take Orchard's Deposition.

Gunnison, Colo., April 25.—District Judge Shackleford today granted authority to O. N. Hilton, attorney for Steve Adams, to take a deposition from Harry Orchard, to be presented when Adams is placed on trial for the killing of Arthur Collins at Telluride, Colo.