

THREATEN BIG TREES

Fire Again Near Grove of Sequoias in California.

CHANGE IN WIND ONLY SALVATION

Fire Fighters Are Powerless to Stop Onslaught of Great Walls of Flame.

Stockton, Cal., Sept. 3.—News comes by special to the Independent from Murphys, which is connected by wire with the Calaveras Big Tree Hotel, that a forest fire has got into the grove of mammoth trees at the upper end of the grove, near where the mother of the forest stands, a monster sequoia 327 feet high and 78 feet in circumference.

The famous trees named after noted men of history are below the point of attack, and the only hope for the magnificent monsters of the forest is a change in the wind, as the fire fighters are powerless to stop the flames. To get into the grove of big trees the fire had to cross the road leading to Gardner's, which it did Tuesday night. There is little undergrowth in the grove, and that may be the means of checking the fire, but its sweep through the grove is greatly feared.

The valley in which the grove is situated contains of the sequoias 93 monster trees. Ten of the trees are each 30 feet in diameter. Many are more than 300 feet high. The fire has attacked some of the mammoth trees. The grove is owned by Mr. Whitesides, a Michigan millionaire lumberman.

FINDS SUNKEN WARSHIPS.

Japanese Salvage Vessel May Recover Three Lost in War.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 3.—Advice from Japan state that the sunken battleship *Yashima* has been located by the steamer *Saruhashi Maru*, a salvage vessel sent by the naval department to search for Japanese warships lost during the war with Russia, and investigations are being carried out to ascertain if the battleship can be raised. The *Saruhashi Maru* has also located the Russian warship *Sebastopol* and the approximate place where the cruiser *Takanago* sunk has been located.

She is now searching for the battleship *Hatsuse*. The sinking of the *Yashima* and *Hatsuse* was due to the placing of mechanical mines by Rear Admiral Wires on May 1, 1904. The Russian officers observed that the Japanese warships, while engaged in gauging at Port Arthur, cruised continually over the same ground, and a mine field was laid into which the vessels steamed, and the *Yashima*, *Hatsuse* and cruiser *Yoshino* went down the same morning, all with heavy loss.

News of the sinking of the *Yashima* was suppressed for six months by the Japanese government, and reports of her loss were always officially contradicted with the result that not until news of her destruction was published in the official reports at the end of the war was it generally known that she had been sunk when the *Hatsuse* and *Yoshino* went down.

NEW POSTAL SCANDAL.

Shortage of \$400,000 Reported From Havana Office.

Havana, Sept. 3.—The whole provincial government is in an uproar as the result of the discovery of the theft of over \$400,000 in the local postoffice. The discovery was made when an inventory of the stamps, envelopes and other material was taken. The detectives are searching for Ricardo Rodriguez, chief of the supply bureau, who disappeared when the theft became known.

Colonel Charles Hernandez is postmaster general and he said that every effort would be made to discover the thief.

Growing out of the postoffice scandal Manuel Elias, editor of *El Vigilante* of Manzanillo, was shot dead Sunday afternoon by Manuel Estrada, editor of *El Reporter* of the same city. Estrada, who is an independent, considered he had been insulted in a political editorial written by Elias, who is a conservative. The coroner's jury held Estrada to answer on a charge of murder.

Reprieve for Japanese.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 3.—Advice from Vladivostok state that the six Japanese of the crew of the seized sealing schooner *Nie Mary*, sentenced to be shot, have been reprieved. Russian officials state that the schooner was captured while in the act of raiding the Copper Islands, and that the crew were also guilty of landing at Kurinka village on Medni Island, and pillaging the villagers' house. Stocks of grain were carried away from barns, and the warehouse of the Kamchatka Commercial company was looted.

Potato Bugs Stop Cars.

Bristol, Conn., Sept. 3.—Potato bugs on the rails at Lazy Lane stalled eight trolley cars of excursionists bound to Lake Compounce. In spite of the terrific slaughter, the bugs held possession until the carmen could sand the track.

NEW WAR CLOUD.

German Move to Recognize Mulai Hafid Angers France.

Paris, Sept. 4.—Morocco has again caused France to become enraged against Germany. The latter power has provoked another acute crisis by notifying the powers signatory of the Algeiras convention that she considered the actual situation demanded the immediate recognition of Mulai Hafid, the usurping sultan of Morocco. Germany has also dispatched Dr. Vassel, her consul at Tangier, to Vez, the capital, which is now in the hands of Mulai Hafid.

A feeling approaching consternation is manifested in official circles. The notification, which was made verbally, is not accompanied by any explanation of Germany's "brutal change of front," as it is termed here.

France can see in Germany's action only her intention to disregard the Algeiras act and seek a special position in Morocco for herself. The consequences both from an international and French standpoint are expected to be deplorable.

In answer to Germany's call for recognition of Mulai Hafid before he has entered into engagements with Europe, fanatical Arabs who had been gathering on the Algerian frontier attacked the French post at Bonedib.

ASSIST POOR TO INSURE.

Sage Millions Will Back Scheme of Philanthropists.

New York, Sept. 4.—Backed by the millions of the Sage Foundation, to which Mrs. Russell Sage has already turned over \$10,000,000 for elevating the economic condition of the poor, trustees of the fund are engaged in investigations which may result in an extensive plan which will provide life insurance below cost to those who recognize the benefit of such insurance, but who may not be able to afford the luxury of life insurance at the rates charged by the big companies.

Since the middle of last June, Dr. Leo Franklin, who is well known in charitable organization work, has been in Europe as the agent of the Sage Foundation, studying the practical operation of governmental life insurance as practiced by the German and other governments. Dr. Franklin's associate in this work is Miles M. Dawson, actuarial expert of the Armstrong committee, which with Governor Hughes, assistant organizer, brought out the extraordinary investigations in 1905 and laid out the foundations which have since revolutionized the business of life insurance in this state.

DISCOVERS NEW COMET.

Professor D. W. Morehouse Makes Find by Camera's Aid.

Lake Geneva, Wis., Sept. 4.—Director Edwin B. Frost, of Yerkes observatory, Wednesday night announced the discovery of a new comet through photographic observations made by Professor D. W. Morehouse, of Drake university, of Des Moines. The presence of the comet was revealed upon development of photographic plates exposed in three cameras Tuesday night. It is clearly defined and has a tail several degrees long and was found in the constellation Camelopardalis, remaining above the horizon throughout the night. Its position was 3 hours, 20 minutes of right ascension and 69 degrees north declination.

Its visual brightness, Professor Morehouse said, could not be stated until after further observations had been made, but it probably will be visible through an opera glass. The new comet, he said, had no connection with Halley's comet.

Professor Morehouse has been engaged during the summer in graduate work at Yerkes observatory in astronomy, under Professor Barnard.

Blow Up Canal.

Joliet, Ill., Sept. 4.—Several hundred acres of land are under water and property valued at thousands of dollars has been destroyed, due to a dynamite explosion at the Jackson street dam on the Illinois river-Lake Michigan canal. The explosion wrecked the dam and tore away a hundred feet of the canal bank, letting the water out upon rich farming lands. It is believed that farmers, who were angered at the refusal of the canal officials to make repairs that have been demanded for months, are responsible for the explosion.

Wrangle in Reef Case.

San Francisco, Sept. 4.—A third juror passed, subject to peremptory challenge, has been accepted in the trial of Abraham Ruef on a charge of bribery. The greater part of the day was devoted to investigation of allegations that efforts had been made by one side or the other to interview prospective jurors prior to their appearance in the court room.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

LINE NEARS COMPLETION.

Trains Expected to Reach Willowa by September 20.

Willowa.—Trains will be running on regular schedule into this city on September 20. Such is the announcement made by H. H. Weatherspoon, agent for the O. R. & N. at Elgin, who received the information from the headquarters of the company last week and such are the instructions received by Engineer Brandon, of the construction department.

Great progress has been made by the tracklaying crew the past few weeks, and the road has emerged from the Willowa canyon and entered the Willowa valley. For months the road has been building through a winding canyon, between crags, along a picturesque mountain stream that will render it one of the most scenic bits of road in the state.

Progress naturally has been slow for nearly all the rails have been laid on curves and had to be bent. Many bridges, culverts and trestles have been necessary, and the roadbed has needed much repair. For more than twenty miles this work has been followed until the track reached the valley.

Union Crops Average Well.

La Grande.—Many reports have gone out regarding the crop of Union county, and some of these reports have been extremely pessimistic; some have been encouraging. Now that threshing is well along, it is known that the crop is less than average, say, three quarters of a normal yield. Some farmers have but little to show for the year's work. Others have an average return for their labor, and a few of the men who make farming their profession, instead of a mere makeshift, have bumper crops. The Amalgamated Sugar company is threshing 2,200 acres of small grain, and expect at least an average yield. Some of their farms will turn out much better than average. The best crop will be up to normal, in spite of earlier predictions to the contrary. A prominent farmer and a well informed man, in answer to a question about the crops of the valley, said, "Spotted."

Steamer Plies Yamhill.

McMinnville.—McMinnville has river transportation on the Yamhill after an interval of about five years. A few days ago Captain Turper and his crew brought the little steamer *Leona* up the river and have started a regular tri-weekly run between McMinnville and Portland. The trip up from the Lafayette locks is quite difficult on account of the snags and floating logs in the stream, but the government snagboat is expected to clear the way soon. The *Leona* carried a good cargo on her initial trip.

Women's Clubs at La Grande.

La Grande.—The members of the two women's clubs in this city, the Neighborhood club and the Lyle Tuesday Musicals, are making great plans for the reception of the State Federation of Women's clubs, which will meet here some time this fall. The ladies are busy gathering funds for the entertainment of the visitors. They will soon put on a home-talent production, Tennyson's "Dream of Fair Women."

Says Rates Are High.

Salem.—H. Connoway complains that the rates for flour and feed on the Mount Hood railroad from Hood River to Odell are excessive as compared to rates on other lines in Oregon. For a distance of ten miles the rate per ton for flour and feed on the Mount Hood road is \$1.80, while from Portland to Hood River, sixty-six miles, and from Portland to Albany, eighty miles, the rate is only \$1.50.

Burglar Man Visits Eugene.

Eugene.—Several burglaries have occurred in Eugene during the past few nights. Ex-Councilman L. O. Beck with his residence was entered while the family was away in the mountains and clothing and silverware valued at over \$150 stolen. The residence of County Commissioner H. D. Edwards was also entered, and the burglar was frightened away by Misses Zelma and Ina Edwards, whom he awakened.

Mills Close for Lack of Water.

Oregon City.—The low stage of water in the Willamette river has caused mills A, B and C of the Willamette Pulp & Paper company to cease operations until the rains set in. The river is so low that a sufficient amount of power cannot be developed to operate the waterwheels.

Pest Infested Orchard Destroyed.

Grant's Pass.—Fruit Inspector Eisman, of this county, has destroyed an old prune orchard on the Cass property, which had become badly infested with scale and pests. The local fruitgrowers' union has now under consideration a plan to reorganize and adopt by-laws on broader terms than the present organization affords.

Mattress Factory for Albany.

Albany.—Gustav Hesse, of Portland, is planning the erection of a mattress factory in Albany in the immediate future. He has purchased a tract of ground at Third and Lyon streets, and will also establish a wholesale furniture house.

ALBANY BOOSTS FOR LINE.

Favors Extension of Corvallis & Eastern Railroad.

Albany.—Albany has begun a systematic effort to secure the extension of the Corvallis & Eastern railroad into Eastern Oregon. At a meeting of the Albany Commercial Club last week the matter was discussed and a committee was appointed consisting of B. I. Dasset, Dr. M. H. Ellis, W. J. Cook, F. M. French, and Dr. W. H. Davis, to confer with Manager J. P. O'Brien, of the Southern Pacific lines, in an effort to have him use his influence with Mr. Harriman for the extension of the Corvallis & Eastern. A statement will be prepared showing the advantages of this extension and other parts of the state interested in the extension of this line will be asked to co-operate in the movement. The Corvallis & Eastern now extends 54 miles east of Albany, well up in the Cascade mountains. At the club meeting when this action was taken a committee consisting of B. I. Dasset, H. H. Hewitt and C. H. Stewart, was named to confer with Major J. F. McIndoe, of the United States engineer corps, regarding the improvement of the upper Willamette.

Nolan to Succeed Benson.

Astoria.—Governor Chamberlain announced on the grandstand during the regatta here that he had appointed George Nolan circuit judge at Klamath Falls to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Benson. Judge Nolan was a prominent barrister here till about two years ago, when he left for Klamath Falls and engaged in the practice of law with Richard S. Smith. He was city attorney here for two years, and presidential elector in 1902. He was also a member of the board of pilot commission till the time of his departure for Klamath Falls. Judge Nolan is a democrat.

Money for Coos Bay Road.

Salem.—A man named Crow, from Los Angeles, offered to contribute \$20,000 toward the improvement of the road from Marshfield to Roseburg, said Judge Scott upon his return from an extended trip in the interests of the good roads movement in Oregon. Judge Scott states that every place he visited is clamoring for a good roads convention during the winter. He looks to see a great highway constructed from one end of the state to the other, and also a road into the Coos Bay country.

Terminal Now in Oregon.

Klamath Falls.—The terminus of the California Northwestern railroad is now in Oregon, the terminal point being Calor, five miles north of Dorris. The latter has been the end of track all summer. Freight and passenger service will now come to Calor, with but a seven mile stage ride to water, where connection is made with boat. In a few weeks all staging will be done away with.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 88c per bushel; forty-fold, 90c; turkey red, 90c; fife, 88c; bluestem, 92c; valley, 88c.
Barley—Feed, \$24.50 per ton; rolled, \$27.00; brewing, \$26.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$27.00 per ton; gray, \$26.00 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$14 per ton; Willamette Valley, ordinary, \$11; Eastern Oregon, \$16.50; mixed, \$13; clover, \$9; alfalfa, \$11; alfalfa meal, \$20.
Fruit—Apples, new, 50c@61.75 per box; peaches, 45c@55c per box; pears, 75c@81.50 per box; plums, 75c per box; grapes, 85c@91.65 per crate.
Potatoes—90c@91 per hundred; sweet potatoes, 25c per pound.
Melons—Cantaloupes, 90c@91.75 per crate; watermelons, \$16.125 per 100 loose; crates, 12c per pound additional; casabas, \$2.25 per dozen.
Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.50 sacks; carrots, \$1.75; parsnips, \$1.75; beets, \$1.50; artichokes, 65c per dozen; beans, 8c per pound; cabbage, 2c per pound; cauliflower, \$2.50 per crate; celery, 75c@81 per dozen; corn, 25c per dozen; cucumbers, 30c@40c per box; egg plant, \$1.75 per crate; lettuce, head, 15c per dozen; parsley, 15c per dozen; peas, 6c per pound; peppers, 8c@10c per pound; radishes, 12c per dozen; spinach, 2c per pound; sprouts, 10c per pound; squash, 40c per dozen; tomatoes, 35c@50c.
Butter—Extras, 31c per pound; fancy, 27c; choice, 25c; store, 18c.
Eggs—Oregon extras, 26c@27c; firsts, 24c@25c; seconds, 22c@23c; thirds, 15c@20c; Eastern, 24c@25c per dozen.
Poultry—Mixed chickens, 12c per pound; fancy hens, 12c@13c; roosters, 10c; spring, 15c; ducks, old, 12c@12.5c; spring, 14c@15c; geese, old, 8c; young, 10c; turkeys, old 17c@18c; young, 20c.
Veal—Extra, 8c@9c per pound; ordinary, 7c@7.5c; heavy, 5c.
Pork—Fancy, 8c per pound; ordinary, 6c; large, 5c.
Mutton—Fancy, 8c@9c.
Hops—1907, prime and choice, 5c@4c per pound; olds, 1c@1.5c per pound; contracts, 7c@8c.
Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 16c@16.5c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 15c@15.5c.
Mohair—Choice, 18c@19c per lb.

PLURALITY IS LESS.

Republicans Carry Vermont by a Majority of 28,000.

White River Junction, Vt., Sept. 3.—The Republicans won the election in Vermont yesterday by carrying the state for Lieutenant Governor George H. Prouty, of Newport, for governor by about 28,000 votes over James E. Burke, of Burlington, his Democratic opponent. The plurality was the smallest in a presidential year since 1892, when it was only 18,599, and was followed by a Democratic national victory, but it was larger than in 1888, and only slightly less than in 1900. There was a falling off in four years of about 8 per cent in the Republican vote, while the Democratic vote fell off about 2 per cent.

The Independence League appeared for the first time, and polled about 1000 votes, while the Prohibition and Socialist vote remained about the same. An unusually large number of local candidates for the legislature, although bringing out a heavy vote and resulting in Democratic gains in the lower branch of the legislature, apparently had no bearing on the gubernatorial fight.

As Vermont is the first state to vote during the presidential campaign, there was much interest throughout the country in the size of the Republican plurality.

THREATEN RIVAL FAIR.

Japanese Business Men are Disgusted With Government.

Tokio, Sept. 2.—The dissatisfaction of the Japanese commercial bodies over the postponement of the Tokyo world's exposition from 1912 to 1917 has become so marked that there is danger that the scheme will have to be abandoned altogether.

At a mass meeting of the Tokyo Business Men's association yesterday afternoon the action of the cabinet in postponing the exposition was condemned in unmeasured terms, and a formal protest against the action was framed and sent to the minister of commerce and agriculture, under whose supervision the fair is to be given.

The meeting of the business men was exciting. Charges that graft had crept into the management of the proposed fair were freely made. It was stated that the fair could be given for less money than was proposed, if the management was economical. They said the exposition would be a big factor in the ending of hard times.

As an alternative, they threaten to have an industrial fair of their own in 1912 under the auspices of the various commercial bodies of Japan, if the cabinet does not restore the original date of the proposed world's fair.

The matter is to be discussed at a special cabinet meeting.

TRAINS ARE BLOCKADED.

Canadian Pacific Line Cut to Pieces in Manitoba.

Winnipeg, Man., Sept. 2.—Thousands of passengers on transcontinental trains of the Canadian Pacific are blocked today between Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. Over 20 heavily laden passenger trains have been stalled by vast washouts, which have swept miles of track from the mountain grades into the valleys.

Several cloudbursts last night and this morning did more damage, and it is feared it will be days before even temporary tracks can be built around the dangerous places.

The railroad company is feeding and caring for the marooned passengers. Most of them are bound for New York, Boston, Chicago and Montreal from the west and east.

It is impossible to learn the exact extent of the damage done by the floods, because the telegraph and telephone wires are down in the storm-swept district.

The government general is on one of the delayed trains. Many week-end holiday travelers from Winnipeg are tied up at Kenora.

Want Diaz Again.

City of Mexico, Sept. 2.—Citizens of the state of San Luis Potosi, according to advices received here, have begun the first boom in the campaign for the re-election of President Diaz. News of the movement reached here in the form of a proclamation issued by the people of that province calling on the other states of Mexico to appoint delegates to a national convention for the purpose of pressing upon Diaz the necessity for his serving another term as head of the Mexican republic. If he accepts, it will be his sixth term in office.

Jap Maneuvers in November.

Tokio, Sept. 2.—It was announced yesterday at the ministry of war that the special grand military maneuvers of the Japanese army will begin November 10.

WANTS INVISIBILITY

Series of Color Tests To Be Tried on War Vessels.

WHITE SQUADRON TO DISAPPEAR

Our Warships Can Now Be Seen and Recognized as Far as Glass Can Reach.

Boston, Mass., Sept. 5.—The famous "white squadron" of the American navy may become a "green squadron" as a result of a series of tests that were commenced this week with the big auxiliary cruiser *Yankee* of the Massachusetts coast. Early in the week the *Yankee* left the Charlestown navy yard, where every portion of her exterior had been painted a dingy white. The cruiser was then sent to sea for a series of tests to determine at what distance she would be discernible in the new color, and how it would act in various sorts of weather.

Later the *Yankee* will be painted other shades of green, and similar experiments will be made. The results of the tests will not be announced until the experiments have been completed, though it is pretty well understood that some one of the shades will be selected. The navy department recently decided that the white-painted warships were too easily seen at a distance, and their identity and power were clearly disclosed as far as the eye or glass could reach. Acting on the advice and recommendations of the general staff board, of which Admiral Dewey is chairman, it was decided to have a series of practical experiments to absolutely prove the advantage of a more subdued color and to test, by practical methods, the various shades of green paint as a method of hiding a ship's approach. The covering of the painting scheme to the masts, ventilators and every exposed portion of the ship's exterior above the water line is a new idea.

INDICTS THREE POLICEMEN.

Springfield Grand Jury Harshly Rebukes Cowardly Officers.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 5.—The special grand jury called to probe the recent race war administered tonight, after returning 12 more indictments. This makes a total of 17 during the session. Among the indictments returned this afternoon, four were against Springfield policemen. They are indicted for alleged failure to suppress the riot when detailed for that duty.

Sheriff Warnock, Chief of Police Willard Morris, Captain Charles S. Walsh, of Trossard, of Springfield, and other officers are commended by the grand jury. The report condemns alleged "cowards" among the officials and says:

"After the most diligent inquiry we conducted in unmeasured terms the cowardly, contemptuous action of those members of the police, who, having taken the oath of office, failed to do their duty."

GIANT TREES SCORCHED.

Threatening Fire at Calaveras Grove Now Under Control.

Stockton, Cal., Sept. 5.—Information from Mr. Whitesides, owner of the Calaveras grove of big trees at Big Trees today, is to the effect that the fire which has been raging close to the grove for the past three days is now under control, though still burning to the north of the grove on the ridge toward Gardner's. No further alarm is felt at the grove, and unless something unforeseen should occur all danger as far as the big trees are concerned is past.

The latest reports are that the wind has abated. Last night the fire fighters got the better of the flames, and they are now under control. Men are still working in isolated portions of the grove, extinguishing the last sparks, so that the flames may not break out afresh.

Pope Would Quit Vatican.

Rome, Sept. 5.—Expressing great fears that he has not much longer to live, and that the burdens of the church are becoming too much for him to bear, Pope Pius X today, in an interview with Bishop Burke, of Albany, N. Y., declared that he is filled with an unconquerable desire to return to private life in his old home at Venice, where he may spend his declining years in quiet rest. No adequate intimation of the mental suffering his holiness has been undergoing had been made until his statement today to the American prelate.

\$4,000,000 Given to Charity.

Oswego, N. Y., Sept. 5.—More than \$4,000,000 are left the charitable institutions, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Yale University by the will of Frederick Cooper Hewitt, who died at his home here last Sunday. To relatives and friends less than \$500,000 is left. The estate is estimated to be worth \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000.