

BAD STORM IN TEXAS

Twelve Persons Known to Be Dead From Tornado.

SEVERAL TOWNS ARE WRECKED

Property Loss Will Amount to Many Thousands of Dollars—Score of People Injured.

Dallas, Tex., March 25.—Twelve known dead, property loss reaching into the thousands of dollars, and possibly a score of injured are the results of a tornado which swept over the northeastern part of Wise county last night. Several small towns suffered serious damage.

The greatest loss of life occurred in the country districts. The destruction one farmhouse alone caused the death of eight persons. This single tragedy of the storm occurred near Slidell. The farmhouse of Ira Rice was crushed in by the furious wind and the family of eight persons pinned down beneath the wreckage. A light in the house at the of the disaster caused the ruins to become ignited and, fanned by a strong wind, the flames snuffed out the lives of the helpless victims.

The towns of Sanger and Greenwood were hit and a number of houses were moved from their foundations. The Good View schoolhouse, near Sanger, was wrecked. In this vicinity two farmers and two children of negro tenants were killed.

At Crafton every business house save one was blown down. The Methodist and Baptist churches were completely wrecked.

At Dan, also in Wise county, near Slidell, two houses were destroyed. The Christian church at Greenwood was destroyed.

DENVER TANGLED IN WIRES.

Over \$200,000 Damage by Heavy Fall of Wet Snow

Denver, March 25.—Eight inches of wet, clinging snow, following several hours of steady rain, did damage in Denver last night estimated at from \$200,000 to \$300,000 and cut off all communication with the outside world so completely that up to a late hour tonight it had not been restored.

Every wire of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies, and every telephone wire, was carried down by the snow; 6,000 telephones in the city were rendered useless and hundreds of trees in the parks and along the boulevards were badly damaged. For several hours this morning street car service was at a standstill and thousands plodded to work through the slush. Suburban electric lines were put out of commission and trains on all railroads were many hours late, as the dispatchers were helpless.

Many small fires were caused by broken and crossed wires.

MINERS WILL NOT STRIKE.

Leave Board to Arrange Scale—May Ask Taft to Arbitrate.

Scranton, Pa., March 25.—Reaffirming the demands already presented to the operators, the anthracite miners tonight voted to remain at work after April 1, allowing the district executive boards of the hard coal fields of Pennsylvania to continue their efforts to get an agreement satisfactory to the men. The miners were instructed by the convention to continue at work until they are otherwise notified by the official representatives of the three anthracite districts and the executive boards were instructed to negotiate an agreement upon such basis as the boards in their judgment believe the conditions warrant.

A resolution to ask President Taft to appoint a commission to arbitrate differences was adopted tonight by the miners' convention and referred to the executive boards to put it into effect at their discretion.

Harriman at Paso Robles.

Santa Barbara, Cal., March 25.—E. H. Harriman has gone to Paso Robles to take the baths at the hot springs there, the same which were beneficial to Admiral Robley D. Evans. Mr. Harriman is being bothered with rheumatism, too, but his physician, Dr. Dixon, says that he is not ill, but simply desires to try the hot baths. Before he left this city at 2 o'clock today, Mr. Harriman had a short conference with E. P. Ripley, president of the Santa Fe Railroad company, but both stated it had no significance.

Senate Still Deadlocked.

Springfield, Ill., March 25.—After 12 joint ballots today, the legislature found itself still in a deadlock over the selection of a successor to United States Senator Hopkins. In one ballot, Governor Denoon was the recipient of one vote, after he had made it plain that he would not be considered as a candidate.

BALKAN SITUATION IS ACUTE

Peace Efforts of Powers Fail, and Outbreak is Expected.

Paris, March 26.—It is understood in official circles that the Balkan situation on account of the irreconcilable attitude of Austria-Hungary has now reached its most acute stage and that a few days will decide between peace or war. The efforts of Great Britain, France and Russia to present a formal settlement of the difficulty acceptable to Baron von Aehrenthal, the Austro-Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, having failed, Austria-Hungary is expected forthwith to deliver an ultimatum at Belgrade.

After this, if Serbia refuses to make complete surrender, officials here think that Austria-Hungary will dispatch an army across the frontier. The Eclair today announces that the absent officers belonging to the French regiment on the Eastern frontier have been recalled. The minister of war says "that certain precautionary measures have been taken on account of the tension of the Balkan situation."

The government this afternoon was officially advised that Russia had agreed to accept without reserve the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary. It is hoped that this will remove Baron Aehrenthal's objection to the Serbian note formulated by Great Britain, France and Russia.

CASTRO LACKS CASH.

Deposed Dictator of Venezuela Shorn of All His Splendor.

Paris, March 26.—In striking contrast with his first visit to Paris, ex-President Castro, of Venezuela, arrived here last night, bereft of his suite of 20 followers, with crestfallen manner and almost entirely unnoticed by his fellow passengers from Cologne, who regarded him with pity rather than any other sentiment. With a few intimates the ex-dictator dined at his hotel and then retired to an ordinary bedroom entirely lacking in the luxury of his former quarters in the same establishment.

The truth seems to be that he is in reduced circumstances, at least for the moment, as his monthly income of \$60,000, according to information given by a member of the household, is temporarily tied up.

General Castro, with great irritation, particularly after he had been informed that the French Trans-Atlantic company would not land him at La Guayra on account of a protest of the Venezuelan government, shut the door in the face of reporters. His wife, however, said he would make up his mind where to land after he got aboard ship at Bordeaux.

TEST SPOKANE DECISION.

Railroads Can Get No Encouragement From Prouty's Explanation.

Chicago, March 26.—On behalf of the Western railroads involved in the Spokane rate case, J. C. Stubbs today tried to get some light on the decision of the commission. At his request, Commissioner Prouty met him and the various points in the decision were gone over and discussed.

It is understood that the commissioner informed the railroad man that the decision meant about what it said and that the order was drawn in a way which, in the opinion of the commissioner, would make it most difficult to attack successfully. No secret is made of the fact that the railroads have decided to test the order in the courts, because they feel that the struggle between the commission and the railroads with regard to rate principles must be fought out to a finish.

Harriman Faces.

New York, March 26.—A suit for \$800,000 has been begun against E. H. Harriman by John Donovan, who says this sum is due him as commission on the sale in 1901 of the St. Joseph Railway, Light & Power company, of St. Joseph, Mo. Donovan declares Mr. Harriman agreed to give him 25 per cent of any sum received for the property over and above \$1,100,000. He says that Mr. Harriman sold his interest for \$4,400,000 less \$100,000 commission to brokers. Mr. Harriman has filed an answer in which he denies making any contract with Donovan.

Praise Given Shackleton.

London, March 26.—Lieutenant Shackleton's discoveries have brought a chorus of praise and admiration. Louis Charles Bernachi, who was physicist to the Discovery Antarctic expedition in 1901-1904, said in an interesting talk today that the sledge journey of 126 days under such conditions as were described is one of the most magnificent feats in the annals of polar exploration. A man working in the Arctic requires 36 ounces of food daily, but the Shackleton party cut themselves down to 20 ounces.

Investigate Land Frauds.

Washington, March 26.—Additional special agents to investigate alleged land frauds in the West were appointed today by Secretary of the Interior Ballinger.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

DUNIWAY HURRIES WORK.

State Printer Expects to Have Session Laws Ready Next Month.

Salem—State Printer Duniway states that he expects to have the laws of the 1909 session printed and ready for distribution about 70 days after the adjournment of the regular session of the legislature. The volume will include the laws of the special session also.

If the work is completed in 70 days, it will be much quicker than it has ever been done before, although the nearest approach to the time was made by Mr. Duniway two years ago. The state printer has already printed and delivered a large number of special copies of the water code and the insurance code, as per resolutions passed by the legislature. The tax commission law and the military code are also well under way. All these measures bear the emergency clause.

The state printing office has been equipped with thousands of dollars' worth of new material, including a latest model linotype, and the printing of the laws and other work is being greatly facilitated as a result.

WHEAT LAND RENT HIGH.

\$10 an Acre for Summer Fallow Crop Obtained at Athena, Oregon.

Pendleton—Word has been received that Mrs. Isabella Taylor has rented her wheat farm near the town of Athena in the northeastern part of the county for a cash rental of \$10 per acre per summer fallow crop. The lease on these terms is to cover a term of six years. This is one of the best wheat raising sections of the county and even of the Northwest, and while this price seems to presume a great deal in favor of the continued productivity of the land, the records of the past years prove that it is a good investment even at this seemingly over boosted price. The investors of this section seem to have faith in the recent prediction of James J. Hill that we are not increasing our production of wheat as fast as the population is growing and that prices must continue to advance. It is from near this section that there was a reported advance sale of wheat at a dollar a bushel, which is a record price for the Northwest.

Never Knew Cattle to Be So High.

Weston—J. F. Thompson, who has followed the stock business for 25 years in this locality, and is ranging about 300 head of cattle on the breaks of the Umatilla river, says he has never known beef cattle to reach such a high figure as at present in the local markets. He finds it difficult to evade buyers who are offering 4 cents for cows and 5 cents for steers. Mr. Thompson has a carload of heaves engaged for shipment April 1, but beyond this has made no contracts. He is in the market for stock cattle, but finds little or no stock offering. He looks for continued good prices in view of the big packing house enterprises now under way at Portland.

Wants Guns From the Oregon.

Salem—The Salem board of trade will make an effort to secure for the capitol grounds two of the six-inch guns from the dismantled battleship Oregon. The guns are about 30 feet long and properly mounted would be an imposing addition to the beautiful lawn in front of the state house. It is thought the guns may be obtained from the War department for the state for the cost of transportation.

Irrigation Company Makes Progress.

Grants Pass—The Josephine County Power & Irrigation company is making splendid progress in the construction of the irrigation canals for Grants Pass and vicinity. The work is being rushed that a large portion of the arid territory to be benefited will have water this year. Three crews are at work, besides a number of teams with graders and scrapers.

Clean Up Weston Brickyard.

Weston—Work has been begun on the cleaning up of the Weston brickyard preparatory to the spring burning, which will begin in April, according to Manager P. T. Harber. Orders, it is said, are being received from several points, and a run of four months is anticipated. A crew of 30 men will be put to work.

Curricula Board Reappointed.

Salem—Governor Benson has reappointed the board of higher curricula. The only change was the substitution of A. G. Beals, of Tillamook, for A. W. Prescott, of Salem, who has accepted the position as private secretary to United States Senator Bourne.

Crater Lake Road Sure.

Jacksonville—The County court of Jackson county has entered and ordered the appropriation of \$50,000 toward construction of the Crater lake road. This will supplement the appropriation of \$100,000 made by the recent legislature.

NEW PLAN ADOPTED.

La Grande to Expend \$100,000 on Irrigation System.

La Grande—Co-operative promotion of a \$400,000 irrigation project to irrigate 20,000 acres of land in this valley has been abandoned and in its stead a \$100,000 corporation formed.

This decision was reached by 100 land owners in a meeting which assembled at noon, and by 4 o'clock \$32,000 had been taken in stock. A large proportion of the subscriptions came from small land holders. Scores of men and firms have expressed a willingness to take stock. When \$50,000 is subscribed the incorporation will take place, officers elected and a head secured which can direct the placing of engineers in the field, secure complete dam site and rights of way.

Sufficient stock to permit incorporation will be secured, it is believed, next week, and then the proposition will assume tangible shape. According to plans construction of the huge dam in Meadow Brook, 18 miles distant will be under way next fall. The dam site will be bonded to build the dam. The price of water will be \$2 an acre, with a yearly maintenance fee of \$1 to stockholder and non-stockholder alike.

Will Can Asparagus.

Eugene—George A. Dorris, who has raised asparagus for the markets of Portland, Seattle and Eugene for the past three years and now has 25 acres of it on his farm near Eugene, has begun the erection of a cannery on his place for the purpose of canning the vegetable. He will also handle the product of a 50-acre patch now being set out by F. E. Dunn and A. C. Woodcock on a tract of land which they recently purchased for that purpose. Mr. Dorris has experimented with asparagus raising for a number of years and has made a success of it.

Busy Year for Grant.

Prairie City—"Business conditions in Grant county are better than I have ever seen them," states R. T. McHaley, one of the prominent stockmen of the county. "The stock industry is flourishing, the best of prices prevailing for cattle, sheep and horses. Stock has wintered well and the range promises early grass in more abundance than usual."

Realty Men Get Together.

Roseburg—A meeting of representatives of all the real estate firms in the city was held at the Commercial club rooms and an organization perfected to be known as the Roseburg Realty board.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem milling, \$1.20@1.25; club, \$1.08@1.10; red Russian, \$1.06@1.08; bluestem, shipping, \$1.15@1.17; valley, \$1.10.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$40 per ton.
Barley—Feed, \$31 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$13@15 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$16@18; clover, \$12@13; alfalfa, \$14.50@15; grain hay, \$13@14; chest, \$13.50@14.50; vetch, \$13.50@14.50.
Butter—City creamery, extras, 34c; fancy outside creamery, 32@34c; California, 32@33½c; store, 18@20c. Butter fat prices average 1½ cents under regular butter prices.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 20@21c.
Poultry—Hens, 15½@15¾c; broilers, 24@25c; fryers, 18@20c; roosters, old, 10@11c; young, 14@15c; ducks, 20@22½c; geese, 10c; turkeys, 18@19c; squabs, \$2.50@3 per dozen.
Veal—Extras, 10@11c; ordinary, 7@8c; heavy, 5c.
Pork—Fancy, 9½@10c; large, 8@8½c.
Apples—65c@\$.25 per box.
Potatoes—\$1.40@1.50 per hundred; sweets, 2½@2½c pound.
Vegetables—Turnips, \$1 sack; carrots, 90c sack; parsnips, \$1.50 sack; beets, \$1.75 sack; horseradish, 10c per pound; artichokes, 75@90c per dozen; asparagus, 9@15c per pound; beans, 25c; cabbage, 3½@3¾c per pound; cauliflower, \$2.50; celery, \$4.75 per crate; lettuce, head, 85c per dozen; onions, 40@50c per dozen; parsley, 35c per dozen; radishes, 35c per dozen; rhubarb, \$2.25 per box; spinach, \$1@1.25.
Onions—Oregon, \$1.75 per hundred.
Hops—1909 contracts, 10@10½c per pound; 1908 crop, 7@7½c; 1907 crop, 3@4c; 1906 crop, 1½@2c.
Wool—Eastern Oregon contracts, 16@18c per pound; valley, 16@17c; mohair, choice 23c per pound.
Cattle—Top steers, \$5.25@5.50; fair to good, \$4.75@5; common to medium, \$3.25@4.50; cows, top, \$4.25; fair to good, \$3.50@4; common to medium, \$2.50@3.50; calves, top, \$5@5.50; heavy, \$3.50@4; bulls and stags, fat, \$3@3.50; common, 2@2.75.
Hogs—Fat, \$7.25; fair to good, \$6.75@7; stockers, \$5.50@6.50; China fats, \$6.75.
Sheep—Top wethers, \$5.75@6; fair to good, \$4.75@5.25; ewes, ½c less on all grades; lambs top \$6.50@6.75; fair to good, \$6@6.50.

NEAR SOUTH POLE.

British Expedition Reaches Point III Miles From Object.

London, March 24.—Lieutenant E. H. Shackleton, of the British navy, a commander of the Antarctic expedition which returned on the barkentine Nimrod to Invercargill, N. Z., today, succeeded in getting within 111 miles of the south pole.

Lieutenant Shackleton left his permanent quarters last autumn for a dash to the south pole and has succeeded after an arduous sledge journey of 1,708 miles, which occupied 126 days, in reaching 354 miles nearer the pole than the point attained by the Discovery expedition, of which he was an officer.

As the expedition to the south was undertaken rather for the purpose of geographical survey than with the idea of reaching the pole itself, it may be said to have succeeded beyond the most sanguine expectations. Shackleton made some departures from the usual preparations for a journey across the snow and ice. He took with him a motor car, which could be converted into a sledge and substituted ponies for dogs and light woolen clothing for heavy clothes.

Summarized, the results of the expedition are that a point was reached within 111 miles of the south pole; that the magnetic pole also was reached; eight mountain chains were discovered, and 100 mountains.

Mount Erebus, 13,120 feet high, was ascended by the party; a new coast and high mountains were located running west from Victorialand, and coal fields were discovered in the Antarctic continent.

The theory of the existence of an area of atmospheric calm around the south pole was disproved.

VENGEANCE FEARED.

Woman Suspect Utters Threat Upon Arrest for Kidnaping.

Cleveland, March 24.—"I am the one who planned the whole thing; there will be trouble for me and hell in Sharon tomorrow."

These words, spoken to Captain of Police Shattuck yesterday by a woman he had arrested in company with a man on suspicion of being implicated in the kidnaping of Willie Whitta, of Sharon, O., have stirred the police to new efforts to run down the band who stole the lair away from his school. While the police were at first inclined to think that their prisoners, who carried the sum of \$9,989 with them, were the entire kidnaping gang, the woman's words are regarded as a threat and the police now think that possibly one or two other members of the gang are still at large and that revenge for the capture of the ringleaders will be taken on the boy.

Extra precautions to guard the Whitta lad at his home will be taken to make the carrying out of any such threat an impossibility and anyone found lurking around the premises will be instantly arrested.

OFF TO AFRICA.

Roosevelt Party Leaves New York for Wilds of Jungle.

New York, March 24.—Waving a parting farewell with his black slouch hat as he stood on the captain's bridge of the steamship Hamburg, ex-President Theodore Roosevelt sailed away yesterday for his long planned African hunt. He left amid cheers of thousands of persons that swarmed the Hamburg-American line pier, amid the whistles of countless river craft and thunderous reverberations of the ex-president's salute of 13 guns from Forts Hamilton and Wadsworth.

Beside Mr. Roosevelt stood a young lad, seemingly dejected, as he wistfully gazed at the cheering multitude on the pier below. It was Kermit Roosevelt, son of Mr. Roosevelt, who accompanied his father as official photographer of the expedition. Father and son, both clad in brilliant buff hued army coats, remained on the bridge on the trip down the bay and acknowledged with sweeps of their hats the salutes of the vessels. The demonstration was unofficial, but many high in the affairs of the nation were present.

Criminal Career Alleged.

Reno, Nev., March 24.—Charging that under the guise of conducting a hotel in Reno, George and Frederick Elkins, wealthy hotelmen, have been for months acting as the intermediaries for thieves and robbers, the police arrested George Elkins tonight on a ranch near town, which it has been found has been the hiding place for a vast quantity of merchandise, said to have been stolen from box cars and warehouses in this city. The arrest followed an investigation resulting from the accidental discovery of the merchandise.

Asks for Exclusion Law.

Sacramento, March 24.—The assembly adopted today the substitute resolution offered by the senate committee on Federal relations, asking congress to enact a general Asiatic exclusion law, including Japanese.

HARRIMAN HILL PACT

Big Railroad Magnates Hold Conference in California.

NORTHWEST WILL BE DISCUSSED

Traffic Arrangement Would Mean the Abandoning of Harriman Line to Puget Sound Points.

San Francisco, March 27.—That the Harriman and Hill railroad forces are getting together and that an agreement in regard to Oregon affairs is impending became apparent yesterday. After E. H. Harriman and Lewis W. Hill, president of the Great Northern, had met at Paso Robles Thursday night, they came on to San Francisco together yesterday on Mr. Harriman's private train and were in conference most of the morning. After their arrival here they were met by C. H. Nutt, general manager of the Northern Pacific; J. P. O'Brien, of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company and Southern Pacific in Oregon; E. E. Calvin, vice president of the Southern Pacific, and William F. Herrin, and arranged in an informal talk, which occupied half an hour, for a conference to take place today between Mr. Hill, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Nutt for the purpose of discussing traffic affairs. Beyond simply stating that such a conference would take place today, the officials refused to give any information as to what the probable result of the conference would be, preferring not to make public any of their plans until after they have held their meeting.

The presence of Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Nutt implies clearly that the conference will relate to points where the Harriman and Hill lines come into competition in Oregon and Washington. There is still time to make a traffic arrangement in regard to business between Portland and Puget sound, for construction of the Harriman extension northward from Portland has not progressed so far but that more money would be saved by abandoning some of the work already done than by completing the line.

BOYCOTTS OUR GOODS.

Japanese Use Pretext of "Pure Food Law" As a Reason

Victoria, B. C., March 27.—That a boycott of American goods under guise of enforcement of a "pure food law" has been started in Japan is the statement of a weekly newspaper published at Yokohama. The paper says:

"For some unexplainable reason excepting that action has been taken under the 'food law,' Japanese officials, backed up by police officers, have been calling upon foreign and native grocers and confiscating their stocks of certain brands of goods. Strange to say, the goods confiscated have been American goods only, and the officials do not even look at the British, German and French goods. Another feature of these strange proceedings was that nearly all the articles confiscated bore the stamp of the American health board and each package was printed with all the names of the ingredients contained."

Castro is Furious.

Bordeaux, March 27.—"If I am a criminal, why haven't my accusers the courage to allow me to return to Venezuela and defend myself?" exclaimed Cipriano Castro this afternoon, when an agent of the French steamship company officially informed him that he must leave the steamer Guadaloupe, on which he sails today, before that vessel reaches Venezuela. "All I ask is the right to a fair trial," he declared. "I am prepared to accept the result. The refusal of Gomes to permit me to enter Venezuela is overwhelming proof that they have no case against me, but realize that, if I set foot on Venezuelan soil, their game is up."

No New Trial for Road.

San Francisco, March 27.—District Judge Van Fleet, in the United States Circuit court, refused today to grant the petition of the Southern Pacific railroad for retrial of the ten charges of cruelty to animals brought by the appellant. The case was the outcome of violations of the law prohibiting the keeping of cattle in transit in the cars longer than 28 hours without unloading for food, water and rest. The railroad attorney argued that the law was unconstitutional.

Buried Weapons Found.

Frontera, Mex., March 27.—During the work of excavation going on here, are acceptable with an immense assortment of prehistoric arms was uncovered. The entire deposit is in an admirable state of preservation. A great many of the arms are strange to the collections now extant. A complete suit of armor, made from copper, is among the articles, and many kinds of weapons.