

FLOUR MILLS BURN

Portland Company Sustains Loss
of \$425,000 to Plant.

WILL REBUILD WITHOUT DELAY

Insurance Amounted to \$325,000—
Spontaneous Combustion Was
Cause of Conflagration.

Portland, Sept. 16.—Spontaneous combustion and subsequent explosion of flour dust on the fourth floor of the local mill of the Portland Flouring Mills company, set fire to the plant at 8:40 o'clock yesterday morning and almost completely destroyed the machinery and buildings. The loss is estimated at about \$425,000 on machinery, structures and grain, with insurance amounting to \$325,000. The boiler room, main engine, warehouse and contents were saved.

Customers of the Portland Flouring Mills company will not suffer as a result of the disastrous conflagration of yesterday. Receipts of grain will not be lessened and business of the company will be handled as usual. In addition to the mill destroyed, the company operates 14 others, and it is the intention to divert a portion of the product of these mills to Portland for the purpose of protecting customers in this district. Oriental orders now on hand, and orders for shipment to California will be promptly filled.

Work of rebuilding the plant will begin as soon as possible. As soon as the insurance adjusters complete their work, the process of tearing down the wreck will commence. The new plant will be larger, and modern in every respect.

Two firemen were severely injured and a Japanese killed during the progress of the fire.

RUSSIA SENDS TROOPS.

Czar Is Massing Great Army in Siberian Territory.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 16.—Russia is massing a great army in Siberia, four or five barracks are being built and extensive fortifications made and speculation as to a second war with Japan is a common topic of conversation among the Russian military men, said A. B. Denbigh, a Russian who returned from Siberia and Mongolia by the steamer Kaga Maru today.

"I was told that there were at least 500,000 troops in Siberia," said Mr. Denbigh. "Troops are quartered everywhere. The number of troops are from four to five times the number in Siberia before the war. At Vladivostok, before I left, there was a review of 55,000 troops and not one man was taken from the fortifications. I suppose at least as many more could have been prepared."

Denbigh brought news of a rich gold strike by Russians in Mongolia, about 50 or 60 miles distant from Kiekt, the big walled city which has been for centuries one of the stopping places of the tea caravans from China.

PRESIDENT DIAZ AGED 79.

Mexican Ruler Celebrates—Workmen Move Him to Tears.

Mexico City, Sept. 16.—General Porfirio Diaz, president of Mexico, celebrated his 79th birthday anniversary yesterday. He received greetings from many foreign countries. The diplomatic corps and consular body were early at the palace. United States Ambassador Thompson and Consul General Drier, of Sweden, congratulated the president. Diaz, who is in splendid health, feelingly answered these salutations. A body of workmen expressed the hope that Diaz might yet rule Mexico for many years, and their enthusiasm moved the president to tears. President Diaz has occupied his office for 32 years. He has been renominated for the term commencing in 1910 and ending six years later.

Governor Johnson Serious.

Rochester, Minn., Sept. 16.—Governor John A. Johnson, who was operated on in St. Mary's hospital here yesterday for an intestinal abscess, was somewhat improved late last night and his physicians said that he would survive the night. Dr. C. F. McNevin, house physician, issued the following bulletin: "Governor Johnson has taken a turn for the better. His pulse is better, being down to 140. His abdominal pains have been relieved by vomiting and he has apparently passed the first crisis of the shock."

Lovett Chairman of S. P.

New York, Sept. 16.—The board of directors of the Southern Pacific railway today elected Judge Robert S. Lovett chairman of the executive committee of the board. Jacob Schiff and William Rockefeller were elected members of the directorate and also members of the executive committee.

TAFT SMILE WINS.

President Beams His Way Into Favor With Chicagoans.

Chicago, Sept. 17.—President Taft smiled his way into the hearts of 500,000 Chicagoans yesterday. Geniality and "Bill" Taft—for that's what the multitudes called him—ruled the city for 15 hours. From the moment he arrived until he entered his private car to leave, through all the automobiling and speechifying and handshaking and excitement, there was one thing which shone as brightly as the sun of a perfect day. It was the famous smile. That smile was commented upon everywhere. It was cheered and it made those who saw it feel more pleased with the world and with themselves. Good humor, jollity, happiness—these followed Mr. Taft like attendant guardians wherever he went.

And in response to that smile Mr. Taft got the smiles and laughter of the throngs, as well as their shouts and applause. All the way through the 16 miles of streets which he traveled during the day in a motor, at the West Side ball park, at the Orchestra Hall meeting, at the bankers' ball, Mr. Taft saw thousands upon thousands of faces which smiled at him and which cheered him.

"It's grand," said the chief executive before he had been in the city five minutes. "I'm really vastly glad to be here."

As his automobile swept down Michigan avenue in the midst of 150,000 school children, he turned to his aide-de-camp, Captain Archibald W. Butt, U. S. A., and his voice was just an atom husky.

"This is wonderful, Butt," he said. "The cheering of the children is most pleasant to me, and yet affecting, for we know that the cheering of the children is sincere."

At the great bankers' ball there were silks and white shoulders and jewels; there was rhythm of waltz music and glow of pendant lights; there was dancing by blushing debutantes and epigrammatic foreign consuls; there was promenading by prominent bankers and dowagers and beauties and politicians. And the chief individual figure of the scene was the big man in evening dress who smiled and smiled and smiled.

Unqualifiedly President Taft is in favor of union labor. This was the subject of his main speech today, and in plain terms he upheld organization, but demanded that the rights of non-union labor be protected. Next to this in national importance was his denouncing the present court system. He deplored delays in the administration of justice and announced an intention to urge congress to make a change.

MONEY FOR WIDOW.

Mrs. Harriman Is Made Only Beneficiary in Will.

New York, Sept. 17.—A hundred brief words, weighted each with approximately \$1,000,000 and containing in their entirety the last testament of E. H. Harriman, given out yesterday, make his widow, Mary Averill Harriman, one of the wealthiest women in the world.

It perhaps is the briefest will on record for the disposal of an estate of such magnitude. All his property is left to Mrs. Harriman. Wall street estimates that Mrs. Harriman will inherit in realty and personal property between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000. Mr. Harriman's private fortune is supposed to have been greater than this by many millions, but there is reason to believe that his unmarried daughters, Mary and Carol; his married daughter, Mrs. Robert Livingstone-Guerry; and his two sons, William Averill and Roland, a boy of 14, together with his surviving sister, Mrs. Simons, and other relatives, have all been substantially provided for with gifts out of hand.

The will is dated June 8, 1903, and is witnessed by Charles A. Peabody, president of the Mutual Life Insurance company, who drew it, and C. C. Tegethoff. Mr. Peabody was Mr. Harriman's close personal friend.

Mr. Harriman, by making no bequests to children or relatives, avoided the large share of the enormous inheritance tax which, under the laws of the state of New York, would otherwise be imposed.

Fires Destroy Homes.

Oxnard, Cal., Sept. 17.—A great forest fire is burning tonight in the hills. Telephone messages from Somis at 6 o'clock called for all available men to fight the flames. Four families were burned out in Las Posas hills today. Hundreds of tons of hay and beans were burned. Several hundred men fought the fires all night, and have the biggest task yet before them in saving the ranchers' homes. The fires began early Monday morning, and have burned in varying directions ever since, devastating a solid stretch of 30 miles of hills.

Canada Helps Travelers.

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 17.—The Canadian Railway commission has made an order commanding all railroads in Canada, which do an international business, to direct their conductors to prevent any undue interference with passengers in Canada by United States immigration officials.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

OPENING AT LAKEVIEW.

Every Participant Sure of Securing Land or Lot.

Lakeview—The distribution of the lands of the Oregon Valley Land company, owners of the old Oregon military road grant, and the Heryford cattle company's lands, not only is the largest private land opening in history, but it differs in many ways from land allotments made by the United States government. In the Lakeview opening every participant gets a tract of land and a town lot. There are no blanks.

Three hundred thousand acres of land are being distributed practically without expense to the public. The lands were cut into 11,992 tracts, varying in size from 10 acres to 1,000 acres, and that number of contracts were sold for \$200 each, every contract being good for a tract of land and a Lakeview lot. The purchasers live in every state in the Union, but the bulk of the contracts were sold in the Middle West. About 3,000 contracts were sold in Nebraska, 2,000 in Kansas, and smaller allotments in Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma and other states. Nearly 1,000 contracts were bought by Oregon and California people.

FOREST FUND IS \$33,120.47.

Oregon School Fund Is Increased by

UMATILLA WHEAT CROP.

Flood of Gold Follows the Harvest in Prosperous Grain Center.

Pendleton.—The lure of \$3,000,000 in bright gold pieces, without taint or reserve, sends a thrill through the people of Umatilla county, at this season of the year that cannot be appreciated by any one who has not felt the charm of the grain fields when each golden head nods to the thrifty farmer its readiness to be converted into gold for his purse as reward for his efforts during the 12 months closing with the gathering in of the sheaves. The call of the grain fields has been heard, the tremendous task of saving the harvest has been performed, the marketing of the grain is the duty which calls forth the best judgment and tact of the farmer, in this county, where to raise grain successfully and largely is the ambition of every owner of land.

Umatilla county farmers have just finished harvesting a crop of grain that will place fully \$3,000,000 in their purses. The crop will net about as much money as any produced in the county, inasmuch as the price to be received will be much higher than was taken for the "bumper" crop of 1907, when Umatilla county produced more than 1 per cent of all the wheat grown in the United States. Umatilla county is easily the grain center of Oregon, producing practically one third of all the state. There was a time when Umatilla county "took off its hat," metaphorically speaking, to the Willamette valley in the growing of grain, but that day has long since passed into history.

Hay Prices High.

Klamath Falls—Despite the fact that the hay crop is fully up to the average and the acreage is larger than heretofore, stockmen complain about excessive prices. Alfalfa is held at \$8 and \$10 in the stack. Last year the crop was not quite up to the average and the price ranged from \$7 to \$8.50. It is contended by stockmen that unless the producers sell for less money there will be a shortage in the regular number of cattle to be wintered in the Klamath basin.

Alfalfa Brings High Prices.

Freewater.—The alfalfa crop in the Hudson Bay country is almost entirely in stack. This section received its name from the fact that the Hudson Bay company in the early days of Oregon wintered their stock in this valley. The climate is milder than that of the surrounding country. Large bands for Spokane and Seattle markets are wintered here. The crop will be about 20,000 tons and ranchers are getting \$9 and \$10 a ton at the stack.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem, 97c; club, 87c; red Russian, 85c; valley, 90c; 87c; Turkey red, 87c; 40-fold, 89c. Barley—Feed, \$26.50; brewing, \$27.50 per ton. Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$13@15 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$16.50@17.50; alfalfa, \$14; clover, \$14; cheat, \$13@14.50; grain hay, \$15@16. Butter—City creamery, extras, 36c; fancy outside creamery, 33@36c; store, 21@22c per pound. Butter fat prices average 1 1/2c per pound under regular butter prices.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, candled, 31c per dozen. Poultry—Hens, 15 1/2@16c per pound; springers, 15 1/2@16c; roosters, 9@10c; ducks, young, 14c; geese, young, 10c; turkeys, 20c; squabs, \$1.75@2 per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, 10c per pound. Veal—Extra, 10@10 1/2c per pound. Fruits—Apples, \$1@2.25 per box; pears, 50c@1.25; peaches, 65c@1.25 per crate; cantaloupes, 50c@1.50; plums, 25@75c per box; watermelons, 10@1 1/2c per pound; grapes, 60c@1.25 per basket; casabas, \$1.75@2 per crate; quinces, \$1.50 per box.

Potatoes—\$1 per sack; sweet potatoes, 20@2 1/2c per sack. Onions—\$1.25 per sack.

Vegetables—Beans, 4@5c per pound; cabbage, 1@1 1/2c; cauliflower, 75c@1.25 per dozen; celery, 50c@1; corn, 15@20c; cucumbers, 10@25c; onions, 12 1/2@15c; peas, 7c per pound; peppers, 5@10c; pumpkins, 1 1/2@1 3/4c; squash, 5c; tomatoes, 35c@40c per box.

Hops—1909 Fuggles, 20c; clusters, nominal; 1908 crop, 17c; 1907 crop, 12c; 1906 crop 8c per pound.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 16@23c per pound; valley, 23@25c; mohair, choice, 24@25c.

Cattle—Steers, top, \$4.25; fair to good, \$4; common, \$3.50@3.75; cows, top, \$3.25@3.50; fair to good, \$3@3.25; common to medium, \$2.50@2.75; calves, top, \$5@5.50; heavy, \$3.50@4; bulls, \$2@2.25; stags, \$2.50@3.50.

Hogs—Best, \$8; fair to good, \$7.75@7.85; stockers, \$6@7; China fats, \$7.50@8.

Sheep—Top wethers, \$4; fair to good, \$3.50@3.75; yearlings, best, \$4; fair to good, \$3.50@3.75; ewes, 1/2c less on all grades; spring lambs, \$5@5.25.

HARRIMAN IN TOMB.

Services Attended Principally by Employees of Estate.

Arden, N. Y., Sept. 13.—Through the quiet aisles of Ramapo woods, the body of Edward Henry Harriman was carried yesterday from the great house he never lived to see completed, and laid in its last resting place on the Arden hillside.

The rulers of Wall street came from New York to pay their last tribute, but the most prominent part in the ceremony was taken by the men who knew him best as a country squire and master of the great estate, which covers 43,000 acres of hill and valley.

His general superintendent, his master carpenter, his master mason and the managers and assistant managers of his dairies, his farms and his trotting stables bore his coffin. The funeral was private and only those who were personal friends of the family and had received invitations from Mrs. Harriman were admitted. The out-of-town party arrived at Arden at 3:15 p. m. on a special train.

The first service was holy communion, celebrated at 10 a. m. by the Rev. J. Holmes McGuiness, at the Harriman home, on Tower Hill. At 11 o'clock there came a public memorial service at St. John's church for the employees of the farm and parishioners, who, on account of lack of space, were unable to attend the funeral service later. Mrs. Charles D. Simons, Mr. Harriman's sister, her husband, two daughters and Orlando H. Harriman, a brother-in-law, were the only relatives present.

Elaborate precautions were taken to preserve the privacy of the afternoon service. Several scores of employees, aided by a number of policemen, guarded all roads over which the funeral procession passed and kept watch at intervals of 20 yards around the patch of woods which includes the Harriman burial plot.

The casket—one solid mass of lilies of the valley and green vines with an immense bunch of crimson roses on top—was carried to the altar by eight bearers in black and wearing black skull caps. The regular funeral service was conducted by Dr. McGuiness, assisted by Rev. G. Nelson, archdeacon of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. A male quartet and the choir of Grace church, New York, sang "Abide With Me" and "There is a Land of Pure Delight." Mr. Harriman's favorite hymns. The service lasted but 20 minutes. Then the bearers carried the casket to the burial plot, 100 yards up the hill. There was no room inside the burial ground for more than 15 or 20 beside the mourners and the two officiating clergymen. Others stood on the road outside and looked over the stone wall.

Several hundred Harriman employees and their families stood with bared heads outside the church during the service.

CHILDREN GREET TAFT.

Spectacular Feature Given President When He Goes to Chicago.

Chicago, Sept. 13.—The sound of 150,000 children's voices singing "Columbia the Gem of the Ocean," in unison will greet President Taft with half an hour after he steps off his special train in Chicago next Thursday morning, according to official plans for the celebration of the coming of the nation's chief executive, announced tonight.

The board of education this afternoon officially designated Thursday as "Taft day" and declared a holiday for all public schools. The committee from the commercial bodies which is in charge of the entertainment of the president has completed the arrangements and it is proposed to make the demonstration by the school children the most spectacular feature of the president's visit. Places have already been arranged for 150,000 children in the parks through which the president will pass during the parade arranged for his party.

The president will remain in Chicago from 11:15 a. m. Thursday to 2:45 a. m. Friday, when he will depart for Milwaukee.

Practical Joke Wins Farm.

Hamilton, Ohio, Sept. 13.—Miss Etta Ross, of this city, a stenographer employed by Slayback & Harr, lawyers, has been notified that she has drawn a 160-acre tract in the government land lottery at Spokane, Wash. Miss Ross and Miss Blanche Maguire of this city were in Spokane at the time of the drawing on a pleasure trip. Purely for amusement they deposited the 25-cent fee and made a drawing. Miss Ross' joke made her one of the three Ohioans to win a free quarter section.

Haul \$90,000,000 Through Streets. Chicago, Sept. 13.—More than \$90,000,000 in cash and securities was carried through downtown streets in an immense van, when the Continental bank moved from LaSalle and Adams streets to its new quarters at Clark and Monroe streets. The van was guarded by a squad of heavily armed police.

FOR POSTAL BANKS

President Taft Declares Party Is Bound by Plank.

POINTS TO SUCCESS IN CANADA

President Says Government Has Now Reached Stage Where It Must Be More Than Police Force.

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 18.—President Taft devoted his principal address in Milwaukee at the State Fair grounds, yesterday, to the subject of postal savings banks, which he strongly endorsed before a large and enthusiastic gathering that overflowed the grandstand. The president said that the postal savings bank plank in the Republican platform bound everybody who called himself a Republican.

"If they do not like a plank in a platform," said Mr. Taft, "or if they don't like the platform itself, they cease to be Republicans or they are Republicans with an exception, and that indicates a free and enlightened and discriminating people. But I am here to uphold the doctrine of postal savings banks because I believe they will fill a long-felt want in this country. In the first place it is said the postal savings bank is a very paternal institution; that it has a leaning toward Socialism—state Socialism—and that it purports to take the banking business out of the hands of private persons and put it into those of the government. No, I am not a Socialist, and I am not a paternalist, and I am not in favor of having the government do anything that private citizens can do as well or better; but there are conditions. We have passed beyond the time of what they called the 'Laissez Faire' school, which believed that the government ought to do nothing but run the police force, and we do not recognize the necessity for the interference of the government because it has great power and great resources behind it, and because sometimes it can stand the lack of an immediate return on capital to help out. We did it in our Pacific railroads. We have done it in a great many different ways, and in this particular postal savings bank business the government is especially fitted to do what any system of private bankers can do.

"The great usefulness of the postal savings banks lies in the great encouragement to thrift on the part of those who are just wavering in the balance whether they shall save the money or use it because they don't know where they can put it safely.

"Canada has the postal savings bank, and what is the result along the border in the Northwest? You find Americans going up to the border and making deposits in those savings banks. Why? Because they have the guarantee of the Canadian government."

President Taft said the government had issued upward of \$700,000,000 2 per cent bonds of the United States and floated them at par, at 2 per cent or a little more.

"We did it by getting the banks into a corner so they had to have, under the law, some government security, and so they were obliged to buy those 2 per cent bonds," he said. In closing, President Taft said:

"We are looking forward, I hope with confidence, to a readjustment of our whole financial system. Certainly it needs it, and it has been suggested that the savings bank might well wait that. I am bound to say that I don't see the necessity for involving them. It seems to me that one system can stand by itself, and if we adopt the savings banks they will easily be worked into a general system of banking, because the savings banks will furnish us five or six hundred millions of dollars, and that is a very tidy pile to have around for the government to use legitimately in order to carry on any financial operations."

Old Kindness Rewarded.

Methuen, Mass., Sept. 18.—One of those strange legacies bobbed up in Methuen today when it became known that Mrs. George Bramer had received from attorneys in the Seilly islands the information that G. Ribstock, a man whom she and her mother befriended in Bermuda, had willed her about \$1,000,000 in railroad stocks and bonds. When Mrs. Bramer met Ribstock in Bermuda she then was unmarried, and with her mother did many little kindnesses for him in his old age. He was 80 years old at the time.

Harriman's Property Estimated.

New York, Sept. 18.—According to a Wall street publication, "it can be stated on the highest authority" that Mr. Harriman's property amounted to between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000.