

Rogue River Courier

WEEKLY EDITION

EXPLORER SCOTT LEAVES MESSAGE

DYING MAN WRITES OF DISASTROUS EXPEDITION.

SHORTAGE FOOD AND FUEL

Intrepid Polar Traveler Tells Causes of Defeat After Having Reached South Pole.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—Captain Robert F. Scott, British explorer, and four of his 65 companions in an expedition to the south pole, are dead. This, so far as can be learned by fragmentary dispatches from New Zealand late tonight, is the truth sifted out of a mass of reports received today, which, at first, were taken to declare that every man with Scott had met death in an Antarctic blizzard at McMurdo Sound.

Earlier dispatches received here and which were relayed from Wellington, New Zealand, after the receipt there of wireless messages from the Terra Nova, Scott's supply ship, said the "entire Scott party" were dead. This now is believed to refer to the "flying squadron" of four men who, with Scott, started January 4, 1912, for the pole from a point 150 miles south. It is believed that after reaching the pole, Scott and his companions—Dr. Wilson, Captain Oates, Lieut. Bowers and Petty Officer Evans—were overwhelmed by a blizzard on their return journey and that other members of the expedition later found their bodies with notes of the trip which attained for Scott his life's ambition and also cost his life.

LONDON, Feb. 11.—With death staring him in the face, with no possible successor at hand, Captain Robert F. Scott, British polar explorer, who perished after reaching his goal on January 18, 1912, wrote with his dying hands the story of his quest into the White Antarctic that all the world might know.

Found beside his stiffened corpse when rescue came too late, Scott's story was cabled here today from New Zealand and given to the world under his laconic title, "Message to the Public."

Word for word, it reads: "The causes of this disaster are not due to faulty organization but to misfortune in all the risks that had to be undertaken."

"First, the loss of pony transport in March, 1911, obliged me to start later than I had intended and obliged limits of stuff transported to be narrowed."

"Second, the weather throughout the outward journey, especially a long gale in 83 degrees south, stopped up, and the soft snow encountered in the lower reaches of Beardmore Glacier again reduced our pace."

Provision Reserve Low.

"We found these untoward events with a will and conquered, but it ate up our provision reserve. Every detail of food supplies, clothing and depots made on the interior ice sheet and on the long stretch of 800 miles to the pole and back worked out to perfection. The advance party would have returned to the glacier in fine form and with a surplus of food but for the astonishing failure of a man we had least expected to fail. Seaman Evans was thought to be the strong man of the party and Beardmore Glacier is not difficult in fine weather, but on the return trip we did not get a single completely fine day, and this, with a sick companion, enormously increased our difficulties."

Evans Injured and Dies.

"But all the facts above enumerated were as nothing to the surprise awaiting us on the barrier. I maintain our arrangements for returning were quite adequate and that no one would have expected the temperatures and surface which we encountered at this time of the year. On

the summit, in latitude 85 degrees to latitude 86 degrees, we had minus 20 to minus 30.

"On the barrier, in latitude 82.10, a thousand feet, we had minus 30 during the day and minus 47 at night pretty regularly, with a continuous heavy wind during the day marches. These circumstances came on very suddenly and we knew we were in for sudden and dangerous adventure.

"Surely misfortune could scarcely have exceeded this last blow. We arrived within 11 miles of our old One-ton camp, with fuel for one hot meal and food for two days. For four days we have been unable to leave the tent and a terrific gale has been blowing about us. We are weak. Writing is difficult."

Has No Regret for Journey.

"But for our own sake I do not regret this journey which has shown us that Englishmen can endure hardships, help one another and meet death with as great a fortitude as ever in the past. We took risks. We know we took them. Things have come out against us, and therefore we have no cause for complaint. We bow to the will of Providence, determined still to do our best until the last."

"But if we have been willing to give our lives to this end, it is, we feel, for the honor of our country, and we appeal to our countrymen to see that those who depend upon us are properly cared for. Had we lived I would have had a tale to tell of the hardihood, endurance and courage of my companions which would have stirred the hearts of all Englishmen."

"These rough notes on our dead bodies must tell the tale, but surely a rich country like ours will see that those who depend upon us are properly provided for."

"(Signed),

"R. SCOTT, March 25, 1912."

The keen edge of grief felt yesterday by the English race over the death of Captain Scott and four members of his exploring expedition was worn off today by realization that Scott attained his life's ambition before he died.

"Antarctic travel," said Vice-President Freshfield, of the Royal Geographical Society, "would not be what it is—a training ground for the highest qualities of the British race—if these perils could be avoided."

The heroic deeds of Scott and his party have caused a glow of pride in every Englishman that the sting of death cannot dim and the nation's patriotic spirit is more aroused over the affair than by any happening of recent years.

Sorrow for the widow, who is speeding across the Pacific ocean on the steamer Aorangi, six days out from San Francisco, to welcome Captain Scott, is universal.

"I want to be the first to hear the story from his own lips," she said before starting on the last leg of the 15,000 mile journey. Relatives who fear she will be unable to withstand the shock of the explorer's death are trying to reach her by wireless in the hope of breaking the news as gently as possible. So far all efforts have failed.

TO OPERATE SUCKER CREEK PLACER MINE

Dr. W. B. Pickrell, of Spokane, who was here last fall at which time he and associates purchased the Briggs placer mine on Sucker creek, has returned and left Tuesday morning for the property, where he will institute some extensive improvements. A sawmill will be erected on the property, and lumber made for the flumes and sluice boxes, and a giant will be put in operation as soon as possible. Water from Grizzly gulch and Sucker creek will be brought to the mine through the ditches, and it is expected that the mine can operate the year round.

WILSON WELL GUARDED.

PRINCETON, N. J., Feb. 14.—President-elect Wilson's body guard was doubled today and hereafter four secret service men will attend him day and night. He went to Philadelphia today to see a dentist.

CANNERY PLAN OF COMMERCIAL CLUB

NEED OF CANNING ESTABLISHMENT RECOGNIZED.

COMMITTEEMEN ARE ACTIVE

Rogue River Fishing Question is Also Subject of Discussion by Local Organization.

Salmon fishing and canneries were the subjects that held the attention of the Commercial club at its monthly session Monday night, the meeting being one of the best attended of the winter.

Will Investigate Cannery.

T. E. Hill, manager of the Leonard Orchards Co., introduced the subject of a cannery in Grants Pass to care for the surplus fruits and vegetables of the valley. He had recently returned from a visit of some of the canneries of the Willamette valley, and told of the success that had attended the operation of the institutions there. He believed that the time was now opportune for the rejuvenation of the old cannery, and that upon the installation of a cannery plant would depend the financial success of the Rogue river farmer. Valuable argument along the same line was offered by Messrs. R. L. Coe, S. H. Riggs, A. N. Parsons, M. O. Evans and others, and the chairman was authorized to appoint a committee of five members to act with a committee from the Pomona grange to the end that the cannery proposition be investigated and one started this summer if possible.

The committee as named by President Hobart, is as follows: A. N. Parsons, Wilford Allen, H. T. Pritchard, C. H. Demaray and T. E. Hill.

Resolve on Fish Question.

Progress of legislation for the opening of the Rogue to commercial fishing was reported, and discussion brought out the unanimous sentiment of the club members against the opening of the river at all unless it could be opened at Grants Pass on equal terms with the lower river.

Under a compromise measure reported by the fish committees of the house, Grants Pass was to have thirty days of commercial fishing, the season to extend from April 15th to May 15th. The cannery at the mouth of the river was given extended open seasons both during the spring when the chinook were running, and in the fall for the silversides, salines being permitted during the fall. This measure would be valueless to Grants Pass, and the commercial club adopted a resolution to be sent to Governor West opposing the opening of the river at all unless the same conditions can be given our fishermen here as are to be accorded those of the lower stream. The business men were also requested to write the governor along the same line, as the enactment of such a measure would give the corporation at the mouth of the river a practical monopoly of the fisheries industry.

SUPT. CAMPBELL OF S. P. HERE.

Superintendent D. W. Campbell of the Southern Pacific railway company, accompanied by A. W. Perley, former inspector of tracks and equipment in the state of Washington, arrived here Wednesday night in their special car, which was attached to No. 19. They remained in this city over night, and the car was taken on to Medford by one of the local engines Thursday morning. At the Bear Creek city the gentlemen will meet with the county court and discuss certain road work that is under consideration in Jackson county, the work being in the nature of crossings, etc.

T. J. Mackin returned home Friday from a trip to Kennet, Cal.

RAILROAD BILL PASSES.

A telegram from Representative Blanchard announces that the "railroad" bill, giving to municipalities the power to own and operate railroads, etc., within and without the city, had passed the house at 3:45 this afternoon.

CAL-ORE. ELECTRIC CO. BRINGS SUIT

The California-Oregon Power Co. has instituted proceedings in the United States district court at Portland to stop the city of Grants Pass, through its mayor and council, from putting into effect certain reductions in rates charged within the city by the power company for electricity for light and power.

Nearly a year ago the council passed an ordinance making maximum charges that public service corporations could charge for electric service and for water within the city. The California-Oregon company continued to collect at its old rate, and rendered bills to the municipality at the old rates. The council audited the bills at the rate established by the new ordinance, and the company accepted these warrants only as partial payment, and now brings suit to recover the difference, the amount named being \$3,266.10. Injunction is also asked to prohibit the city from interfering with the company agents pending the hearing of the case, a recent ordinance having been enacted to put into effect the reduction of the rates.

The power company maintains that the law of 1905, under which the city attempted to reduce the rates is illegal and that the ordinances enacted under it are void. Should the federal court support this contention it will mean that municipalities have no right to fix rates for electricity for heat, light and power.

Copies of the complaint in the suit were served upon the various members of the city council Tuesday forenoon.

"ROGUE RIVER PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATION"

A letter to the Commercial club from Geo. Sanders, who is at present in Chicago, announces the organization of the "Rogue River Public Service Corporation," the purpose of which company is announced upon the printed letter head as the manufacturing of hydro-electric power and current and the providing of water for irrigation and for domestic purposes. Geo. Sanders is president of the company; Frank M. Favre, vice president; Ovando C. Beebe, treasurer; Robert E. Gaut, consulting engineer, and Geo. W. Soranson secretary. The principal place of business is Grants Pass, Oregon, but offices are maintained at both Chicago and Indianapolis, and the company is incorporated under the laws of the state of Oregon.

It is said that the new company has its plans well along toward maturity for the taking over of the ditches, dam, etc., of the old irrigation company, and will soon be in a position to assure the Rogue valley an adequate supply of water for irrigation purposes. It is also a part of the plan of the company to develop the water power of the Rogue and sell electrical current. Mr. Sanders is expected to return to this city in the near future and assume direction of the development work.

ETHEL'S JEWELS ARE STOLEN.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Search is being made today in all parts of the city for \$20,000 worth of jewels stolen from the hotel apartments of Ethel Barrymore, the actress. Many of the missing gems were gifts from her husband, Russell Colt.

Numbered among the jewels were Miss Barrymore's engagement ring and a gold and diamond pendant containing two poison cells once the property of the famous Borgia family.

\$200,000 BOND SALE SATURDAY

COUNCIL PUTS OVER ACTION TILL FEBRUARY 15TH.

BUYERS ASKED MORE TIME

Ordinances Are Passed Refunding Unexpended Street Grade Assessments.

The sale of the \$200,000 municipal bond issue for which bids were called has been postponed by the council till Saturday evening, February 15th, this action having been taken because of requests of various bond buyers who maintained that they had not had sufficient time in which to examine into the conditions and legality of the issue, and thus were not prepared to make intelligent bids at this time. The one bid upon the table was not opened, but was laid over till Saturday evening. Other houses notified the council that if the matter was not disposed of Monday evening to notify them and they would send their personal representatives here to enter into negotiations.

Mayor Smith said that this procedure was not unusual, and he anticipated that with the arrival of the representatives of the bond-buying houses they would be able to close up the sale in a short time. To give these men time to get here the meeting was set for next Saturday night.

Refund Ordinances Passed.

Ordinances refunding to the property owners along recently improved streets were passed, the contracts in most cases having been under the estimates of the engineer upon which the assessments were made. The refunds on the various streets were ordered as follows: Washington Boulevard, \$1,398.16; Evelyn avenue, \$818.52; Manzanita avenue, \$279.49; alley in block 32, \$239.03. The cost of the work on Lawbridge avenue had exceeded the estimates by \$369.87, and the property holders along that thoroughfare will be assessed that amount to make up the deficit. Ordinances were passed providing for the bonding of the above streets in the amount of the assessments. The ordinance for the bonds for the improvement of H and Fourth streets was also passed.

City Attorney's Compensation.

The mooted question of the compensation of the city attorney during the progress of the building of the Grants Pass-Crescent City railroad was again up for consideration, and an ordinance introduced by Mr. Culbertson on the subject was passed. This ordinance provides that the council may pay the attorney an additional salary of \$50 per month, in excess of his present salary of \$75 per month, during such time as it thinks the extra work demands the increase. At a previous meeting an ordinance had been passed making the salary of the attorney \$125 per month, but this was not approved by the mayor, and he has filed a message vetoing the same with the city auditor.

The ordinance making effective the recent resolution of the council regarding wages paid city laborers was passed. Under this ordinance the minimum wage to be paid for municipal labor shall be \$2.50 per day, and eight hours shall constitute a day's labor. The provision for fifty cents per hour overtime was stricken out.

PLUNGES 19 STORES DOWN TO DEATH.

CHICAGO, Feb. 14.—Plunging 19 stories down an elevator shaft in the McCormick building after attempting to board a moving elevator, Edwin Rubel, scion of a wealthy family, was instantly killed. An investigation into his death is being held today.

MEXICAN REVOLUTION MAY BRING IN U. S.

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 13.—The battle between the Madero and Diaz forces for control of Mexico City was resumed at 8:10 a. m. today. Except for the fact that the belligerents had drawn somewhat closer, the position of the two forces were practically the same as yesterday.

Madero's forces assumed the aggressive today and supplied with additional ammunition pressed heavier guns into service. Diaz replied with cannon and machine guns.

Bursting shells are still falling in territory outside the fighting zone, thereby jeopardizing the lives and property of American, English, German and other foreign residents.

Americans and other foreign residents of the capital spent a night of terror. Marauders, liberated convicts of Belem prison, roamed the residence district, pillaging, sacking and burning deserted houses. This continued until daylight.

Thousands of foreigners, representing all nationalities, flocking to the American quarter last night, Ambassador Wilson pressed 20 automobiles into service and before daylight these had carried 700 Americans out of the danger zone. Despite the white flags the machines were fired on several times but no casualties resulted. After all American women had been conveyed to points of safety, the automobiles were turned over to the representatives of other countries. Thousands of natives are fleeing from the city amid great confusion.

Dead Choke the Streets.

Practically no effort has been made to move the dead and wounded and the capital's blood bespattered streets are literally choked with torn and dismembered bodies. Many of the wounded have died from a lack of medical attention and the city is threatened with pestilence as a result of the presence every where in the business district of decomposing bodies.

Mexico City's public buildings today present a dismantled front. Nicked, dented and damaged by hail storms of bullets, the loss to public buildings alone will run into millions. The loss of life has been fearful, but the exact figures will never be known. Conservative estimates cannot be made until either Madero or Diaz emerges from the conflict victorious and the work of removing the bodies from the streets starts. Many non-combatants, including women and children have been killed by stray bullets and burning shrapnel. Three Americans, including two women, are known to have been killed and a score of others injured. The loss of both the federal and rebel forces already is believed to exceed 1,000 and today's battle is almost certain to swell the death list by a thousand more.

Appeals Are Unheeded.

Frantic appeals by American Ambassador Henry Lane Wilson and the German and Spanish ambassadors have gone unheeded by both Madero and Diaz. Madero has expressed a willingness to move the seat of government if the situation does not improve within a day or two but this is as far as he will go.

Diaz flatly refused to listen to any sort of a peace proposal, unless it involves complete surrender by Madero.

SIX MEN ARE LOST ON FISHING TUG.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 14.—Hope is abandoned here today for the six men aboard the fishing tug Sunbeam, which is two days overdue after starting out on a fishing cruise to a point forty miles distant from here.

MONTANA STATESMEN ENGAGE IN FIST FIGHT.

HELENA, Mont., Feb. 14.—With both showing they know how to "slug," Senator Fred Whiteside of the Flathead district and Representative Lovelace of Park county, engaged in a fist fight on the floor of the house of representatives, following a dispute over the appointment of a committee.