

WEEK'S DOINGS

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Condensed Form.

A felling almost akin to despair reigns in the Russian admiralty.

Forest fires continue to rage in the reserves of Montana, destroying much valuable timber.

Japanese ships are cruising off Chefoo in search of the Russian boats Diana and Novik.

Paraguayans rebels have demanded the city of Asuncion, allowing it 24 hours to surrender.

A cloudburst near Globe, Arizona, caused a loss of several lives and great damage to property.

A Russian gunboat was sunk by coming in contact with a mine near the Liao Tung peninsula.

The Russians will sink their ships at Port Arthur rather than let them fall into the hands of the enemy.

The corporation counsel of Chicago has decided that the packers have no right to house employees in their plants.

Forest fires in Clarke county, Wash., are doing great damage. A number of homes have been burned and much cordwood destroyed.

The Russian Baltic fleet has sailed for the Far East.

General Stoesel made a defiant reply to the Japanese demand that he surrender.

The wheat crop in Eastern Oregon and Washington will be to greatest ever known.

The Russian ships damaged in the recent battles can take no further part in the war.

The Grand Army has elected General Wilton Blackburn, of Massachusetts, commander in chief.

It is believed that the raids of the Russian squadron will not cost ship money more than \$250,000.

Indications are more favorable than ever that Russia will agree to the American definition of contraband of war.

The Japanese consul general at Shanghai has notified the total that a fleet is coming to seize the Russian war vessels there.

The Japanese are making a final assault on Port Arthur, and reports say they have already sacrificed 20,000 men.

Japan has demanded the surrender of Port Arthur.

A Georgia mob overpowered the militia, seized two negro murderers and burned them alive.

Great Britain, in her answer to Russia, contends that foodstuffs cannot be classed as contraband.

The government is experiencing trouble in securing Oregon gold for the Lewis and Clark souvenir gold dollars.

The Russian admiralty is still in the dark as to the fate of Witthoft's ships not heard from since the Port Arthur battle.

America deems that Japan was in the wrong in taking the Russian torpedo boat from Chefoo and that the vessel should be returned.

It is now certain that the Japanese have taken important land positions at Port Arthur, the fire from which compelled the Russian fleet to leave the harbor.

To date the Russian navy has lost seven cruisers and one battleship besides those which have just taken refuge in neutral ports and disarmed.

St. Petersburg expects the fall of Port Arthur by any moment.

The Malheur irrigation withdrawal has been increased 25,000 acres.

Japan is laying in great quantities of supplies for a winter campaign in Manchuria.

The Japanese navy is co-operating with the army in the final assault on Port Arthur.

Admiral Togo sowed many mines in the path of the Port Arthur fleet.

Over 300,000 acres of land in Eastern Oregon in forest reserve withdrawals have been restored to entry.

The national encampment of the G. A. R. is being held in Boston. It is estimated that 50,000 veterans are present.

The commander of the Japanese fleet is reported to have notified the Russian commander of Port Arthur that if he sinks the vessels in the harbor the town will be shelled with lyddite.

Great Britain will reply to Russia that she cannot concede that the Knight Commander was sunk lawfully.

A launch turned turtle at a Potomac regatta and ten people were drowned.

Fire at New York gas tanks caused a great panic, many people in fleeing forgetting their children.

The Russian flagship Czarovich was badly damaged in the recent battle and may be dismantled at Tsing Chou.

FURTHER CHECK TO FRAUD.

Public Land States are Divided into Districts.

Washington, Aug. 20.—To render the inspection of the service of the general land office more effective, the acting secretary of the interior today divided the public land states into nine inspection districts, placing a special agent in charge of each.

Oregon has been made a special district with Special Agent Thomas B. Neuhansen, of Minnesota, in charge. Washington is another separate district with Edward W. Dixon, of Oregon, in charge, while Idaho and Montana combine to make another district under Harry H. Schwartz, of South Dakota.

These special agents were selected from the list of five land office because of their proficiency and adaptability for the service and will receive \$1,500 instead of \$1,200 as heretofore with an allowance of \$3 per day for subsistence.

Nicholas J. O'Brien will be in charge of the Idaho-Montana district.

Oregon and Washington are the only states that constitute separate districts. The experience of the past two years has demonstrated that with all special agents reporting direct to the general land office at Washington it has been almost impossible to keep check on those who go wrong.

Special agents in charge of the districts will have headquarters at local land offices to be selected by them. Each will have a civil service clerk, whose salary will be \$1,000 per annum.

TO SAVE TIMBER.

Fire Alarm System May Be Put in Reserves.

Washington, Aug. 20.—The agricultural department is considering the advisability of installing wireless telegraphy in forest reserves throughout the West with a view to making the system of forest protection more effective. While the present ranger system is quite successful, numerous large fires have occurred in reserves patrolled by rangers because of their inability to reach the fires at the time of their origin.

Secretary Wilson's idea is to provide each reserve with a practical fire protection system that can be used to give an alarm the moment fire is discovered and get the settlers and the rangers to the scene without delay.

While not satisfied wireless telegraphy can be employed with good effect, Secretary Wilson believes the plan worthy of investigation, and has directed Chief Moore, of the weather bureau, to tour the Black Hills reserve in South Dakota with a view of determining the possibilities of this new service.

It is found wireless telegraphy is too expensive or impracticable, Chief Moore will report on some other fire alarm system which will be effective in reaching rangers in all parts of the reserve, as well as settlers upon and adjacent to the reserve.

If some system can be devised that will not be too expensive, Secretary Wilson will recommend its adoption and ask congress to make the necessary appropriation for equipping all the forest reserves in the West.

It is believed such a fire alarm system will be especially valuable and practicable in a reserve like the Black Hills, where large mining interests are conducted within the reservation and employ a large force of men.

Secretary Wilson will not go into details in discussing his plan, nor will he show how it is proposed to use wireless telegraphy. He wishes little publicity given the proposition until Chief Moore reports.

Can't Stop Use of Wine.

Washington, Aug. 20.—Despite the protest of the Christian Endeavor societies of Connecticut, the traditional bottle of wine will be broken across the prow of the battleship Connecticut when she is launched.

Tenders His Resignation.

London, Aug. 20.—The correspondent of the Standard at Tientsin says that Lieutenant Newton McCully, of the United States navy, and Lieutenant Decuville, of the French navy, have left that port.

Cruisers Heard From.

London, Aug. 20.—A dispatch to the Central News from Vladivostok says the cruisers Rosina and Gromobol, of the Vladivostok squadron, have returned there.

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

FINE TIMBER DESTROYED.

Fire on McCully Mountain Supposed to Have Been Set by Campers.

Albany—The forest fires which have been raging in the mountains of Oregon for the past ten days are having the usual effect on valley towns. A pall of smoke, so thick that the eyes burn, hangs over Albany, and the horizon is narrowed down to a very short distance. The sun looks like a ball of fire, being almost hidden from view by a part of the flames.

The smoke in Albany is particularly bad because of a fire in close proximity to the city. Just east of Albany, which is only about 15 miles from Albany, is a fire which has been burning for several days, and is doing incalculable damage. The fire is on the side of McCully mountain, which is covered with one of the finest bodies of timber in the county. There had been a number of fires in that section for some time, but all were under control and the loss was normal.

BRING HIGH PRICE.

Last Year's Hops Sell Well, and Picking Soon Begins.

Salem—Krebs Brothers, hopgrowers and dealers, have reported the purchase of 136 bales of 1903 hops from the A. J. Lee Hop company at 25 cents. This is the highest price paid for some time. Speaking of the hop situation, Leonard Krebs said that the greatest danger is that growers will begin picking too early. Some are talking of beginning September 1, which Mr. Krebs says is fully a week too soon.

ROAD TO AID THREE COUNTIES.

Albany—Word has been received in Albany by Ed Dorgan, the timber locator, from the interior department at Washington, D. C., that Albany claimants of timber land—in the Klamath and Lake counties districts—will have to wait some time yet before receiving their patents.

All the claimants have proved up on their claims and hold receipts from the local land officers, but Messrs. Jones, Erickson and Brown, the special agents sent out by Secretary Hitchcock, have recommended that the land be held up for further investigation. This is a great disappointment to the holders, who have waited for a long time for their patents.

Crops in John Day Valley.

Prairie City—The hay crop in the John Day valley is this year as good as usual, on an average. While some stockmen are complaining over a slight inferior crop, others have harvested a superior one over those of previous years.

Hop Market to Open.

Salem—Though 20 to 21 cents is freely offered for contracts for 1904 hops, nothing of consequence is being done in this market. Growers are preparing for the harvest, which will begin about September 8 to 10, and are worrying very little about prices.

Urges Fruitgrowers to Organize.

La Grande—A meeting of Grand Ronde horticulturists was held at the Commercial club last week. Professor S. B. Green, of the Minnesota Agricultural college addressing the meeting, who came here with Colonel Judson, of the O. R. & N. The professor urged the necessity of organization of the fruitgrowers, and believes the Grand Ronde one of the grandest fruit sections he has had the pleasure of looking over in the West.

Wheat Crop Ready.

Salem—Because spring wheat is ready to harvest, farmers are hauling little grain to town now, and there is little activity in the wheat market. All the flouring mills in this vicinity are paying a premium of 2% cents above the export quotations, and buyers for export are meeting the milling price.

Forest Fires Create Havoc.

Eugene—A number of forest fires are creating havoc in Lane county. Considerable damage has already been done and heavy losses are feared. A large fire is now burning in some of the finest timber on the McKenzie river. Several fires prevail.

Harvester Burns in Field.

Wasco—While the harvest crew were at dinner the combined harvester of Henry Howell, near Wasco, caught fire and burned up completely. The cause of the fire is unknown. Loss \$2,000, with no insurance. Only a small lot of wheat was burned.

Wheat Market.

Portland—Walla Walla, 70¢@78¢; bluestem, 81¢@82¢; valley, 80¢. Tacoma—Bluestem, 83¢; club, 77¢; Walla Walla—Bluestem, 72¢@73¢; club, 80¢.

La Grande—Forty 5, 68¢; club, 70¢. Albany—73¢.

HOP MEN IN HIGH GLEE.

Crop Will Be Large, and Quality Better Than Last Year.

Albany—Prospects are very bright for Lane county hopgrowers this year. The yield is expected to be fully as large as that of last year, and the quality of the product much better.

The weather has been all that hop men could desire, and the crop is free from vermin. Picking will commence the last of this month. The prices for picking will be the same as last year. But few contracts for sale of hops have been made up to this time. The prevailing price for those few sales that have been made is 20 to 21 cents. Although growers have made no effort to sell their hops before the season is fairly opened, yet there does not seem to be any disposition to hold the crop, as there was last year.

Land Patents Held Up.

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STILL A MIGHTY HOST.

Twenty-Six Thousand Veterans Parade, Despite the Heat.

Boston, Aug. 18.—If anything were needed to prove that the Grand Army of the Republic is still in fact a mighty host, it was to be found yesterday when, with a half million civilians looking on, 26,000 survivors of the union forces of the Civil war assembled here from all sections of the United States and marched through the streets of Boston. Five and one-half hours were required for the parade to pass a given point.

MINING THE DEFENSES.

Japanese are No Longer Using Guns in Higher Positions.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 18.—A dispatch received from Chefoo tonight and giving undated dispatches from Port Arthur, says the Japanese during a bombardment occupied strongly fortified positions with a number of siege guns. After two hours, several of the Japanese guns were silenced.

Remove Name's Stigma.

Salem—That the name of the Oregon State Reform school be changed to Oregon State Industrial school, is one of the recommendations made in the biennial report of Superintendent N. H. Looney. This change is advised because the present name is to many a stigma of disgrace when applied to youths whose characters are not formed.

Incorporate at \$1,000,000.

Eugene—The Willamette Valley Electric railway company, which last week secured a franchise from the trolley lines along Lane county roads, has filed articles of incorporation with the county clerk. The incorporators are: Congressman J. F. Wilson, of Prescott, Ariz., and M. F. Taft and W. J. Wiley, also of Prescott. The capital stock is \$1,000,000, divided into shares of \$1.

Sulphite Mill Closed.

Oregon City—Having on hand a large surplus of the mill's product, the Crown Paper mills has temporarily closed down its sulphite mill, throwing out of employment 40 men. The wood mills of both local paper companies have suspended operations also, because of the low stage of the river.

Fire Now Imperils Port.

London, Aug. 18.—A dispatch to the Central News from Tokyo says a big oil warehouse at Port Arthur is blazing furiously and that the position of the besieged is such that the Japanese are urging them to surrender.

PEACE EFFORT FAILS.

Mayor Harrison Unable to End the Packers' Strike.

Chicago, Aug. 18.—The effort of Mayor Harrison to end the meatpackers' strike accomplished nothing. In fact, conferences with the packers and labor leaders were not held as expected. Without waiting for the time set, the packers sent a committee to Mayor Harrison and informed him it would do no good to arrange a joint conference with the strike leaders.

The committee contended that the packers had already won the strike and had no reason to meet the strikers. The packers told the mayor he should consider that they controlled Chicago's greatest industry and had such vast interests at stake that they could not be dominated by their employees, that they would be fair, that prices of meat had not been raised and would not be raised because of the strike, that they could not accept anybody's intervention.

On the other hand, the strike leaders were equally antagonistic. President Donnelly declared he did not expect to be present at the time the conference was to meet. He said his reason was that at the hour named he had to address the Hog Butchers' union.

"And the hog butchers are a great deal more important to me than the mayor," said the head of the strikers. "Harrison was too long getting in. He has heard our say for fair police treatment and has ignored it. He need not think that now he can snap his fingers or whistle and have us come to do his bidding."

The mayor is reported to have said in reply that he was satisfied that his good offices were useless and he would make no further effort to bring about a meeting between the packers and strikers.

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Five and one-half hours were required for the parade to pass a given point. It was a severe strain on the old soldiers, but generally the veterans stood the hardship well. More than three score of them dropped from the rank from exhaustion and heat prostration, and were cared for at the hospital. The death of one soldier marred the otherwise happy day.

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FURIOUS GALE

North St. Louis is Swept by a Tornado.

LOSS WILL REACH \$100,000

One Person Killed and Fifty Probably Injured—Many Miraculous Escapes—Wires are Down.

St. Louis, Aug. 22.—A tornado of extreme fury swept down upon the residence portion of North St. Louis late today, resulting in the death of one person, injury to probably 50, and damage to property estimated at \$100,000.

The atmosphere became murky and a dark cloud was noticed in North St. Louis approaching from the southwest. Suddenly, an arm seemed to shoot down like a gigantic cable, twisting and turning. The end touched the ground at Nineteenth and Angelou streets, and with incredible swiftness and force swept east along Angelou (or ten blocks). Then it turned north and swept three blocks along Broadway, when it jumped eight blocks northeast to the foot of Bremen street and the river, where much property along the river bank was destroyed.

The tornado then jumped to about the middle of the river, and encountered a ferryboat, which was turned and tossed about, but was not sunk. The tornado once more lifted and struck the Illinois shore near Madison, where it demolished several dwellings, the Federal hall and blew down a portion of the Madison cooper works, killing John Ellington.

Severe damage was done to buildings at Venice and Granite City, which adjoins Madison. One person was killed in the former city and a number injured.

So quickly did the tornado sweep through North St. Louis that the citizens could scarcely comprehend what had happened. In the stillness that followed, cries were heard on all sides as the terror stricken persons ran about the streets. Not a telephone, telephone or trolley pole was left standing along the street swept by the tornado, and trees were piled in heaps. The path of the tornado was about a block and a half wide along which houses were unroofed, window panes broken, several factories partially demolished and the streets littered with debris.

HUNGER MAKES THEM BOLD.

Packing-House Strikers Try to Kill Steers, and Pierce Battle Ensues.

Chicago, Aug. 22.—The fiercest riot of the stockyards strike occurred tonight when hungry dwellers of the packinghouse district sought to capture and kill eight steers that had escaped from the yards. The mob numbered 4,000 persons, and the steers were cleared only after 120 policemen in five squads had charged the rioters on four sides.

Shots were fired and scores of rioters were clubbed. Few arrests were made, as the police contented themselves with dispersing the mob. In no previous riots were clubs used so freely.

Fire in the northeast corner of the stockyards gave rise to exciting rumors that incendiaries were at work. Sparks, presumably from a passing locomotive, fell into a pile of hay. The blaze was quickly extinguished.

A new source of trouble developed in the strike situation today when the grease wagon teamsters voted to handle nothing for meat dealers who are "unfair." The teamsters will not haul any refuse except for dealers who patronize the independent packers only.

President Donnelly has had a conference with the executive board with the "League of American Business Men," which was organized to raise funds for the strikers. A committee was formed to extend the movement to all parts of the city instead of confining it to the stockyards district. The league has raised the race issue, taking the ground that if the packers will not end the strike all the white residents will be driven from the stockyards region and that the place will become a negro settlement with a population of at least 70,000 men, women and children.

Will Emerge a Cruiser.

Odesa, Aug. 22.—In spite of the action of Great Britain in protesting against the passage through the Dardanelles of the volunteer fleet steamers St. Petersburg and Smolenik, it is learned on excellent authority that secret orders have been issued to the Sarafoff, a sister ship to the St. Petersburg, to make the journey shortly. She will be sent out as a hospital ship, but singularly enough during the last week ammunition hoists have been placed in position, while it is known she carries a battery of rapid fire guns.

Utah Makes a Bid.

Salt Lake City, Aug. 22.—The city council committee on public grounds has made a strong bid for the permanent home of the American Mining congress. The committee decided to offer to donate to the congress the fine vacant lot due north of the city and adjacent to the site for its permanent home. The lot is about 50x105 feet and is to be given on the sole condition that the congress erect a suitable buildings upon the site.

Russia Buys More Steamers.

Brussels, Aug. 22.—Russia continues to secure modern steamers for use as transports. She has purchased the 4,400 ton Tiberius and the 3,500 ton Caladius, both English built boats of high speed.

FEAR OF SHARKS.

No More Reserves to Be Created in the State of Oregon.

Washington, Aug. 17.—The interior department will not create any more forest reserves in Oregon at this time because it is afraid in so doing it would open up endless opportunities for land operators.

This is the explanation given today by an official who is handling forestry matters under Secretary Hitchcock's direction. While the bureau of forestry, recommending the establishment of Blue mountain reserve, has carefully drawn its boundaries so as to exclude practically all private holdings, yet if a reserve should be created on those lines, the department fears that after the reserve was created, great numbers of speculators would file entries and settle on land in the reserve prior to the time when the original withdrawal was made.

The department officials admit it would be a comparatively easy thing for speculators to bring forward witnesses to swear falsely as to their having established residence on this land, and it would be almost impossible for the government to secure evidence of these entries. Once speculators established their right to the reserve lands, they would be entitled under the law to relinquish them and make selections of more valuable lands elsewhere.

"But," says this official, "as reserves are not created and land simply remains withdrawn from entry, no base for lieu selections can be created, and the government is not in danger of losing by unfair exchange."

FLEET WILL QUIT SMYRNA.

American Minister Will Not Need It, Now Turkey Has Victories.

Constantinople, Aug. 17.—A satisfactory solution of the American school question has at last arrived. This matter, which is the most important of the American demands, was settled by extending too American schools the same treatment as that accorded to the schools under the protection of other powers.

A settlement of other matters affecting American interests in Turkey, of secondary importance, has also been effected, and United States Minister Leishman has telegraphed to Rear Admiral Jewett, in command of the United States squadron sent to Smyrna, instructing him to salute the batteries on land and depart.

The sitting of the council of ministers at which the settlement was agreed upon, was a long one, and it was not until six o'clock that an agreement was reached. The delay in the settlement is believed to have been caused by the intervention of the palace functionaries, whose policy, in order to retain the sultan's favor, consists of combating the rights and privilege of foreign subjects.

ONLY PROPELLER REMOVED.

Japanese Towing Destroyer Report She Could Have Injured Them.

Chefoo, Aug. 17.—The Russian torpedo boat destroyer Ryshehteln, flying the Japanese flag, was sighted near the Elliott island on the evening of August 12. She was being towed by a Japanese torpedo boat destroyer. A second one acted as escort.

The report that the Japanese had left the Ryshehteln at some Chinese port probably arose from the report brought by a junk to the effect that when passing Yung Ching bay south of Shantung promontory, she saw one of the two Russian destroyers which went ashore there.

Japanese arriving here from Dalny communicated with the destroyer escorting the Ryshehteln and they were informed that a careful examination of the Ryshehteln after her capture by the Japanese showed that the Russians had not rendered her completely ineffective before her capture. A torpedo was still in a torpedo tube, its propeller only having been removed.

The torpedo towed by rowboats might have been used effectively against the Japanese. It was also stated that while the breeches of her guns had been unhinged several remained on board. The Japanese consul here states that his government has no idea of returning the Ryshehteln.