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OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

TO BROADEN ENGINEER COURSE

Increased Attendance at Agricultural College Forces Enlargement.

Corvallis—The proposed expansion of the department of mechanical engineering at the college, determined on at the annual board meeting, is in part made essential by the largely increased attendance of students, which last year nearly touched 700. The present plan was installed when the attendance was less than half that number.

While the change is being made, it is planned to broaden and perfect the course of instruction. The matter is in the hands of a committee that, with President Gatch, is to perfect plans. One feature in contemplation is the addition of a graduate year to the course, so that many students now going abroad for further instruction, such as Cornell, Berkeley, Stanford, and so on, can get it at their home college. President Gatch's recommendations on the subject embody the establishment of a foundry and pattern making course.

Action taken for the improvement of the mining department embodies the purchase of addition equipment. The old chemical laboratory now houses the department and there is already fair eqipment for laboratory work, but it is proposed to perfect the work in this line. Chester Proebstel, who was elected as instructor in the enlarged department, is a graduate of the college, who spent last year in the mining department at the University of California. He is a Portland boy.

Plan Big Vinegar Output.

Eugene — The Ingham & Zimmer Cider and Vinegar company, a well known manufacturing concern of Eugene, has just filed supplementary articles of incorporation with the Lane county clerk changing the name to the Ingham Vinegar Co. The owners of the Northwest Conserving Co.'s big plant at Tacoma, have purchased an interest in the local plant and the one at Medford, operated by the same company. The contract has just been let for the erection of new buildings for the Medford plant, the capacity of which is 4,000 barrels per year. The Eugene plant will be enlarged to the same capacity.

Miners Less Hostile.

Sumpter—Quite a number of sheepmen have driven their flocks into the Sumpter district this season, and all state that grass conditions were never better than at present. A more peaceful understanding seeems to exist between miners and stockmen, as less threats are heard against the latter than in former seasons. This is accounted for from the fact that the ranges are in better condition and that there is plenty of feed to go round without sheepmen encroaching on the domain of the miners. No reports are received that the sheep are being ranged on the government reserve in this vicinity.

Fair Grounds Are Improved.

Salem — When improvements now under way are completed ten days hence, Oregon will have the best state fair grounds on the Pacific coast. California is making improvements which may possibly bring the exposition grounds of that state up to the same standard as those in Oregon, but for the present it is declared that Oregon fair grounds will be the best. The improvements made here were paid for with the appropriation which would have been used for the premiums if the annual state fair had been held.

Healthy People at Sumpter.

Sumpter—From investigations made here during the past month it is learned that Sumpter is without doubt the most healthful town in the state. At present there is not a case of sickness in the town that can be considered dangerous. Nor has there been a death from disease during the last six months. Accidents at the mines have furnished several funerals at the city cemetery during that time, but none of these can be considered as belonging to the town.

Many Threshers Are Running.

The Dalles—The past few days have been the longest continuous hot spell recorded in Wasco county for several years. The hot spell is not doing any damage to grain, as everywhere it is too far advanced to be injured by heat. However, it is hastening harvesting, as spring grain is now ripe and must be harvested along with fall grain. Most of the threshers are now running, and good yields are reported.

Smelter Has Big Run Ahead.

Sumpter—Concentrates are being received here daily for the smelter from the big producers of the Cracker creek district. The ore bins at the smelter are rapidly filling up and a large supply will be received this season from other sections near by, thus insuring steady operation of the plant for an indefinite period.

FARMERS HOLD THEIR WHEAT

Are Offered 70 Cents at Pendleton, but Expect Highor Price.

Pendleton—W. S. Byres, the miller, has purchased a few small lots of wheat in the vicinity of Pendleton for 65 cents, part of the wheat being club and part bluestem. He is offering 70 cents for No. 1 bluestem, with few farmers willing to accept this price, believing that a short time hence will bring them an advance over the present prices. The farmers who sold early last year missed the popular prices by nearly 12 cents a bushel, as the price rose from 55 to 77 cents a bushel. For fear of being in the wrong this year, many will hold until the market is established at a solid mark.

Mr. Byers has also purchased a lot of barley from E. L. Smith, paying 85 cents a hundred, with the understanding that all Mr. Smith wished to turn in would be taken at that price. The amount sold in the transaction is not known.

Schools of Baker County.

Baker City—The annual report of County School Superintendent John A Payton, just filed, shows there are 5,348 persons between the age of 4 and 20 years in Baker county, 4,046 of whom are enrolled in the different schools. The number of teachers employed is 102, with an average salary for males of $62.5 per month; females, $48.47. The receipts for the past year to the county school were $99,757.28, while the expenses amounted to $77,187.89, leaving a balance of $22,574.32. The estimated value of school houses, grounds, etc., is $154,805. The average district tax is 8.1 mills.

Hop Yards on the Market.

Salem—Krebs Bros., reputed the most extensive hopgrowers on the coast, are said to be in the market for the sale of their hop ranches in this and Polk counties, aggregating 1,053 acres, of which 624 acres are set to hops. It is reported that the price set upon the Independence yards, consisting of 400 acres of hops, which will come in full bearing this season, is $150,000, and that two offers have been received upon them, neither of which has as yet been accepted. The price fixed on the Brooks yard of 224 acres is not given.

Building for Medical Department.

Salem—Plans have been completed for the erection of a $15,000 building for the medical department of Willamette university. The building will be located on the northwest corner of the college campus and will be of brick and three stories high. Money for the construction of the building has already been subscribed.

O. A. C. Regents' Election.

Corvallis—J. K. Weatherford was reelected president, John D. Daly secretary and B. F. Irvine treasurer at the annual meeting of the board of regents of the Oregon Agricultural college held here. Their terms are for two years each.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat — Club, new, 72@73c per bushel; bluestem, new, 77@80c; valley, new, 75c.

Barley, —Feed, $21.50@22 per ton; rolled, $23@24.

Oats—No 1 white, feed, $29@30 per ton; gray, $29.

Hay — Timothy, $13@15 per ton; clover, $8.

Fruits — Apples, new, 90c@$1.75 per box; apricots, 90c@$1 per crate; peaches, 75@90c per crate; plums, 25c @90c per crate; Loganberries, $1.25 per crate; blackberries, 5@6c pound; cherries, 7@12½c per pound; currants, 8c per pound; prunes, 85c@$1; raspberries, $1.25 per crate.

Vegetables—Beans, 1@4c per pound; cabbage, 1@1½c per pound; cauliflower, 75@90c per dozen; celery, 75@ 85c per dozen; corn, 75c@$1 per bag; cucumbers, 25@50c per dozen; lettuce, head, 10c per dozen; parsley, 25c per dozen; peas, 2@5c per pound; tomatoes, 85c@$1 per crate; turnips, $1.25 @1.40 per sack; carrots, $1.25@1.50 per sack; beets, $1@1.25 per sack.

Potatoes—Oregon, new, 50c@$1 per sack.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 20@22½c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 21½@22c doz.

Poultry — Average old hens, 13@ 14c; mixed chickens, 12@12½c; old roosters, 9@10c; young roosters, 11@ 12c; turkeys, live, 18@19; geese, live, 6@7c; ducks, old, 13c; ducks, young, 10@14c per pound.

Hops—Choice 1904, 17@19c per pound.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 19@21c; lower grades down to 15c, according to shrinkage; valley, 25@27c per pound; mohair, choice, 31c per pound.

Beef — Dressed bulls, 1@2c per pound; cows, 3½@4½c.

Mutton — Dressed, fancy, 5c per pound; ordinary, 4c.

Veal—Dressed, 3½@7½c per pound.

Pork—Dressed 6@7½c per pound.

SENTENCE PRONOUNCED.

Six Months in Jail and Fine of One Thousand Dollars for Mitchell

"The judgment of the court is that the defendant be imprisoned for the term of six months in the county jail of Multnomah county, in this city, and pay a fine in the sum of one thousand dollars."

Portland, July 26.—Judge John Jefferson De Haven pronounced judgment upon United States Senator John Hipple Mitchell in the Federal Circuit court yesterday morning, and when the last words of the stern jurist had died away in the depressing silence, the gray bearded man, who has sat for almost a quarter of a century in the most august legislative body in the world and read the plaudits of statesmanship at the hands of a trusting constituency, heard himself sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the Multnomah county jail and decreed to pay a fine of $1,000. And when it was all over and the hush had yielded to the shuffling of many feet, John H. Mitchell, United States senator and septuagenarian, arose and walked slowly from the courtroom bowed and shaking beneath the weight of every one of his 70 years.

Ex-Senator John M. Thurston made a plea for his aged client, and sought to stay the judgment of the court by the argument that the court has no jurisdiction to pronounce a penalty that will detain a member of the United States senate from being in attendance upon its sessions. But this was to no avail, and a moment later Senator Mitchell was degraded to the level of all convicted criminals before the law.

Notice of an appeal was given and execution stayed, but should the highest tribunal in the land affirm the action of the lower court and the hand of executive clemency be not extended in mercy, the senior United States senator from Oregon will pass a portion of the last days of his life in the dingy shadows of the Multnomah county jail, and be forever barred from holding public office.

DENY CONTRACT.

Witnesses Called by Prosecution Favor Defense.

Portland, July 26.—Impressive was the object lesson given to Williamson, Gesner and Biggs, charged with subornation of perjury, in the Federal court yesterday morning when they sat by and heard sentence pronounced upon Senator Mitchell. Two witnesses who did not appear in the former trial were examined in the morning, and they told of the entry upon lands at the suggestion of Gesner, who loaned them money to make proof. However, the testimony of both was rather favorable to the defense, as both stated there was no contract with Gesner to transfer the lands to him upon proof being completed, and they said they felt at liberty to sell to anyone else if they received betters offers from them. A feature of the morning's session was the decision by the court that to prove its case the prosecution must show perjury in filing on the lands involved, and not when final proof was made.

Both witnesses were unwilling to tell all they knew. Both had known the defendanst for years, and showed disposition to help them out of their dilemma as much as possible. However, there were valuable points in the testimony for the prosecution.

COLLECT TREE SEEDS.

Forest Service Plans Planting Seedlings on Semi-Arid Reserves.

Washington, July 26.—The forest service is planning to collect tree seeds on a very large scale next autumn. The work of reforestation in the Western reserves is calling for the production of many millions of seedlings annually, and the service has already established six forest nurseries for this purpose in different parts of the semi-arid West. Nursery work or planting is now in progress in the Santa Barbara San Gabriel, Modoc and Warner mountain reserves in California, the Pike's Peak and Gunnison reserves in Colorado, the Dismal river reserve in Nebraska, the Gila river reserve in New Mexico, and the Salt Lake reserve in Utah.

Boycott Popular in China.

Paris, July 26.—Mr. Liou, the first secretary of the Chinese legation, in an interview in the Matin, gives his views on the Chinese boycott of American goods. He says: "The boycott of American goods is gradually extending, and will probably gain considerably in Southern China. The Chinese press is taking an active part in the boycott, in the struggle over which China has nothing to lose. The movement is very popular and will only cease when the United States modifies certain laws affecting our countrymen."

Secretary Wilson Ill.

Washington, July 26.—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson is confined to his room as the result of an acute attack of indigestion. He was taken ill yesterday, but continued at the department throughout the day. He is improving rapidly and is expected to return to duty shortly.

SERIOUS CHARGES

Land Fraud Defendants Accused of Changing Applications.

DONE BY COMMISSIONER BIGGS

Mysterious Note Signed by Witness Also Has Place in Proceedings of the Trial.

Portland, July 27.—Prosecution in the trial of Williamson, Gesner and Biggs on a charge of subornation of perjury in the Federal court scored yesterday and added important evidence to its case. The striking features of the testimony were the admissions of Jeff D. Evans, the first witness called in the morning, that the numbers of his claim in the original application he filed before United States Commissioner Biggs had been changed at The Dalles land office upon the receipt of a letter by the officials from Biggs, in which the latter said the change would save trouble, and was at the request of Evans. Evans testified that he had never requested the change nor did he know of the change until he was shown the application at the former trial, with the original number scratched out and others written in.

A further feature of his testimony was the identification of a promissory note, made in favor of Gesner and signed by the witness, for $426.10, the money advanced by Gesner to make final proof. Evans testified that, although the signature was unquestionably his own, he had never, to his knowledge, signed any note for the money advanced by Dr. Gesner, and had been told by Biggs, who handled the whole affair, that, while a note would be required from some entrymen, it was not to be asked of Evans.

RIGHT SIDE UP.

Bennington in Condition to Tow to Mare Island Yard.

San Diego, Cal., July 27.—The gunboat Bennington is again afloat on an even keel, and will be towed to the Mare Island navy yard to be thoroughly examined and repaired. She will be taken up by the Iris, escorted by the powerful naval tug Fortune, but it is now doubtful if she will get away before the arrival of the Chicago.

Admiral Goodrich is expected to arrive on his flagship tonight or early tomorrow, when an investigation of the disaster will be begun. Much interest centers on the question of what was the steam pressure on boiler B at the time of the explosion, it being understood that the safety valve had been set to blow off at 140 pounds.

Examination of the inside of the ship shows that the hull has been damaged but little, if any. The water which poured in and caused the listing came through the blow hole, which had been broken by the force of the explosion.

JUDGE COTTON DECLINES.

Decides to Refuse Bench After Conference With Harriman.

Portland, July 27.—William W. Cotton, with a commission already in his possession, has concluded to decline the appointment as United States judge for the district of Oregon. Private advices to this effect have been received and the fact has been absolutely confirmed. Mr. Cotton left New York for Oregon last night, after a conference with the Eastern officials of the Harriman lines, and today the fact of his intention to decline the judicial position offered him by the president became known.

While no information has been received giving a reason for this action on the part of the Federal judge-appointee, it is generally believed that inducements have been offered him that by the Harriman system that make it worth while for him to decline the bench and remain where he is with additional powers and financial consideration.

Floating Exposition Ready.

New York, July 27.—Plans have been completed for an effort by an exporting company of this city to extend American commerce to foreign countries. A floating exposition will be equipped and sent on a tour of the world. The "American Floating Exposition," as it will be called, will start from New York in January, 1906. It will carry a limited number of samples of various merchandise of American manufacture, the samples to be displayed at each of the ports where stops will be made.

Only Impartial Inquiry.

Washington, July 27.—Secretary of the Navy Bonaparte, when asked today for a statement of the disaster to the Bennington, promised the public that there would be no whitewash and that, so far as the service itself was concerned, he would make a scapegoat out of no one.