

NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

PAY OF TEACHERS.

Receiving Highest Salaries Now in History of State.

Salem — Salaries of public school teachers in Oregon are now higher than ever before in the history of the state. Thirty years ago the average monthly salaries were \$45.68 for males and \$33.64 for females. During the '90s, when times were good, salaries increased and those of male teachers reached the highest point just before the panic of 1893. The average salary paid to men in the public schools was then \$51.11.

The salaries of female teachers touched the highest point in 1891, when the reports showed an average of \$42.43. The compensation of instructors in the public schools then started on a decline and so continued until 1897, when men were receiving an average of \$41.75 and women \$33.97. For the last nine years salaries have been steadily advancing and have now reached an average of \$60.02 for men and \$44.95 for women.

Multnomah county pays the highest salaries, but of the outside counties Lake pays the highest to men and Harney the highest to women.

OREGON RANGE FREE.

Grazing Tax Law is Declared To Be Unconstitutional.

Salem — The Oregon Supreme court has declared the grazing tax law of 1905 unconstitutional. The decision will have no very far reaching effect, for it has not been generally enforced or observed. A test case was brought up from Umatilla county, with the result that there is one more ray of light cast upon the problems of tax legislation in Oregon. The decision will likely be of advantage in some respects to the legislature of 1907, which will give particular attention to the enactment of tax laws.

Briefly stated, the 1905 statute was declared void because it is a revenue tax law and not a license law. It possessed the language and elements of a tax law and not of a license law. The act provided that a tax of 20 cents a head shall be paid upon all sheep owned by non-residents and brought into this state for pasturage.

Schools Show Good Advance.

Salem — Material advancement is shown in the conditions of the schools of the state by the figures contained in the summary of Superintendent Ackerman's annual report, which he has just given out for publication. By this statement it is shown that the school population has increased by at least 5,000 during the past year, and the total days' attendance has been increased to at least a million. Notwithstanding this latter increase, however, the average daily attendance has fallen off by over 100 days, but the average months school taught during the year has advanced from 6.05 to 6.19.

Will Add Two Grades.

Lebanon — At a recent meeting of the voters of the local school district it was decided to lease the Santiam Academy building and grounds and add the 11th and 12th grades to the present high school course. The change will become effective October 1. The following corps of instructors has been elected for the ensuing year: Principal, E. K. Barnes; vice principal, Frank McDougal, of Dallas; assistants, Mrs. C. F. Bigbee, Miss Harriet Alexander, of Gresham; Miss Mary McCormick, Miss Margaret Cotton, Miss Tressa Moffitt, of Salem.

Pay Hop Pickers by Weight.

Woodburn — At a meeting in this city recently of the Willamette Hop-growers' association, 85 hopmen were present. It was decided that all growers should endorse the system of picking by weight, but at the same time it was left to the discretion of growers whether to pick by weight or to use measuring baskets of nine bushels each. The general opinion was expressed that the price of picking should be 50 cents per box or \$1 per 100 pounds.

More Power is Needed.

La Grande — Owing to the increase in demand for electric power, the electric company has been unable to get along with the energy developed at the Cone power house and it was found necessary this week to use some of the power from Morgan lake. In all the company is now using 700 horse power, and this amount will be gradually increased.

Postoffice for Myrick.

Pendleton — The postoffice at Myrick station has been re-established, after having been discontinued for several months. It is a fourth class office and the postmaster is William Love. Myrick is a small station on the line of the W. & C. R. R., 12 miles northeast of Pendleton. It is in the midst of the rich wheat growing section.

FARMERS ARE INDEPENDENT.

Can Hold Their Wheat Until the Price Suits Them.

Salem — That the farmers of the Willamette valley are less under the control of warehousemen and millers than ever before is asserted by W. A. Taylor, a prominent Waldo Hills farmer, who has taken the lead in the task of breaking the hold of the buyers of wheat.

"Farmers are this year buying their sacks to a greater extent than ever before," he says, "and they are under no obligations to any buyer. They are entirely free to sell when they can get the highest price. Then many farmers are planning to store their grain on their farms until they get ready to sell, instead of hauling to a warehouse immediately. They will make a sale first and haul the grain afterwards, and get better terms."

"I have noticed," continued Mr. Taylor, "that millers and warehousemen are pretty anxious to get possession of wheat and have been offering inducements to get farmers to store grain in their warehouses. Notwithstanding the declaration that no more sacks would be lent, sacks have been offered in the hope that thereby the intending buyer would secure an advantage. Not many of the farmers are tying themselves up, however."

Files on Big Power Site.

Eugene — S. W. Curtis, of San Francisco, said to represent the Pittsburg Reduction company, of Niagara Falls, an aluminum manufacturing concern, has filed notices of location of a power site on Horse creek, a tributary of the McKenzie river, in the vicinity of Foley springs, 60 miles east of Eugene. He files on 20,000 miners' inches under a six-inch pressure, and it is estimated that 30,000 horse power can be generated. Mr. Curtis declines to make any statement regarding the intentions of his employers, but it is presumed that they may, some time in the future, establish a manufacturing plant in Eugene or vicinity.

Lack of Cars Closes Plant.

Eugene — The Royce & Peterson excelsior plant has closed down here on account of the failure of the Southern Pacific to furnish cars. All warehouse space has been exhausted, and there was no recourse but to stop manufacturing. The company's plant at Junction City can run about two weeks longer, and then it will have to shut down if cars are not available.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat — Club, 67¢@68¢; bluestem, 70¢@71¢; valley, 71¢; red, 64¢@66¢.
Oats — No. 1 white, \$22@22.50; gray, \$20@21.
Barley — Feed, \$20 per ton; brewing, \$22.50; rolled, \$23@24.
Rye — \$1.30 per cwt.
Corn — Whole, \$26; cracked, \$27 per ton.
Hay — Valley timothy, No. 1, \$11@12.50 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$16; clover, \$7@7.50; cheat, \$6.50; grain hay, \$7; alfalfa, \$10; vetch hay, \$7@7.50.

Fruits — Apples, common, 50¢@75¢ per box; fancy, \$1.25@2; apricots, \$1.25@1.35; grapes, \$1@1.75 per crate; peaches, \$1@1.10; pears, \$1.75; plums, fancy, 50¢@75¢ per box; common 50¢@75¢; blackberries, 5¢@6¢ per pound; crab apples, 75¢ per box.
Melons — Cantaloupes, \$1.75@2 per crate; watermelons, 1¢@1½¢ per pound.

Vegetables — Beans, 5¢@7¢; cabbage, 1½¢@2¢ per pound; celery, 85¢@1 per dozen; corn, 15¢@20¢ per dozen; cucumbers, 40¢@60¢ per box; egg plant, 10¢ per pound; lettuce, head, 25¢ per dozen; onions, 10¢@12½¢ per dozen; peas, 4¢@5¢; bell peppers, 12½¢@15¢; radishes, 10¢@15¢; per dozen; rhubarb, 2¢@2½¢ per pound; spinach, 2¢@3¢ per pound; tomatoes, 60¢@90¢ per box; parsley, 25¢; squash, \$1@1.25 per crate; turnips, 90¢@1 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack.

Onions — New, 1½¢@1½¢ per pound.
Potatoes — Oregon Burbanks, 70¢@75¢; sweet potatoes, 4¢@4½¢ per pound.
Butter — Fancy creamery, 22½¢@25¢ per pound.

Eggs — Oregon ranch, 21½¢@22¢ per dozen.

Poultry — Average old hens, 13¢ per pound; mixed chickens, 12½¢@13¢; springs, 13½¢@14¢; old roosters, 9¢@10¢; dressed chickens, 14¢@15¢; turkeys, live, 16¢@22¢; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20¢@22½¢; geese, live, 8¢@10¢; ducks, 11¢@13¢.

Hops — 1906 contracts, 18¢@20¢; 1905, nominal; 1904, nominal.

Wool — Eastern Oregon average best, 15¢@19¢ per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20¢@22¢, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 28¢@30¢ per pound.

Veal — Dressed, 5½¢@8¢ per pound.

Beef — Dressed bulls, 3¢ per pound; cows, 4½¢@5½¢; country steers, 5¢@6¢.

Mutton — Dressed, fancy, 7¢@8¢ per pound; ordinary, 5¢@6¢; lambs, fancy, 8¢@8½¢.

Pork — Dressed, 7¢@8½¢ per pound.

REVOLT GAINS HEADWAY.

Cuban Insurgents Capture Another Town From Government.

Havana, Aug. 24. — Pino Guerrera, the insurgent leader in Pinar del Rio, today followed up the capture of San Luis, by taking San Juan de Martinez, the terminus of the Western railroad, and by threatening to wreck the railroad and all its property unless the company ceases forwarding troops for the government.

Alarmed by these insurgent successes, the government has ordered from an American arms manufacturing company four rapid-fire guns and that these pieces be manned by ex-members of the artillery branch of the American army now here. If these guns prove to be effective, four or more additional guns will be ordered, and it is expected that experienced gunners will be procured in the United States to man them. The United States has not been asked to do anything in the premises.

The subject of American intervention is not much discussed here, and is regarded as a remote possibility, there being general confidence that the government will be able to restore order in a short time.

The killing of the insurrectionary leader, General Quentin Bandera, today in an engagement between rural guards and a band of his followers is regarded as dealing the insurrection a heavy blow.

Public opinion appears to vary according to locality, from enthusiastic adherence to the government to open rebellion. In this city the general attitude is one of loyalty, but there has been nothing which could be fairly described as a general rising of the people in defense of the government.

NOT ENOUGH MONEY FOR ALL.

Deficiency in Appropriations for Maneuvers of State Troops.

Washington, Aug. 24. — After a month of hard work, Assistant Secretary Oliver, of the War department, concluded that he had finally made a satisfactory adjustment of the many difficulties in apportioning the appropriation of \$700,000 for pay of the militia at the maneuvers in different camps throughout the country, but it appears that all is not satisfactory. In some cases more state troops than had been given in the schedule were sent into the camps and more expense was thus added. This caused a deficit in the allotment of funds, especially in the matter of pay for the state troops. The pay department of the army decided to pay the troops as long as the funds lasted, those who came last going unpaid. Another adjustment may be made after the camps have finished their work, as some camps may not use all the money allotted to them and the funds can be used to make up the deficit elsewhere. It is possible that congress will be asked to make an appropriation to cover the deficit and the state troops pain next winter.

GET-RICH-QUICK FIRM OUT.

Postal Department Arrests Operators of Fake Mexican Companies.

Chicago, Aug. 23. — The operations of the Tabasco-Chiapas Trading & Transportation company and the Lu Me Ha Mills company, Mexican investment concerns, with offices at 16-20 River street, were stopped today by the United States postal authorities. Henry D. Bushnell, president, and I. B. Miller, secretary and treasurer, were arrested and held in bonds of \$2,000 each.

It is alleged by the postal authorities that the operations of Bushnell and Miller, which have covered a period of five years, have netted them \$850,000 from innocent investors. The two companies were capitalized for \$2,000,000 and according to their literature operated large coffee plantations and owned several lines of steamers. The postal authorities declare that such is not the case, and that Miller and Bushnell have been paying dividends to investors from the money taken in for stock in the concern.

To Educate Russian Children.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 24. — With a view to submitting to the next session of the council of the empire and the lower house of parliament a bill for universal primary education, the cabinet, at a session held on Tuesday, decided that such a bill should be drafted by a special commission. The ministry of public instruction submitted statistics showing that there are in the empire 12,736,000 children of school age, of whom only 5,389,000 are receiving primary education. There are less than 90,000 primary schools in Russia.

Another Purchase of Silver.

Washington, Aug. 24. — The director of the mint Wednesday purchased 100,000 ounces of silver at 67 cents an ounce to be delivered at New Orleans. The price paid last week was 66.62 cents.

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