

NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

FIR BLOCKS ARE THE BEST.

Oregon Product Excels Other Woods for Switch Blocks.

Salem—Another instance of the superiority of fir wood over the harder varieties of forestry products for commercial and industrial purposes is illustrated in a communication to the railroad commission received from Manager E. Lyons, of the Northern Pacific Terminal company, of Portland, who states that fir wedges will be used in future for switch and frog blocks in place of hard wood blocks because it is superior adaptation to this use has been demonstrated fully by past experiments.

Mr. Lyons' letter is in reply to a notice from the commission calling attention to the dereliction of the company in permitting switch and frog blocks to remain out of place in the terminal yards, and Mr. Lyons assures the commission that this matter, the blame for which he attaches to the neglect of the track department, will be attended to more carefully in the future. He says that the hard wood blocks work out of place on the light track and under heavy traffic, while fir blocks remain securely wedged where driven.

TRUE TO MONMOUTH.

Alumni and Friends Rally to Support of "Mother Normal."

Monmouth—The conditions required by the new state board of normal schools will be met by the Monmouth school and it will continue to run. President Ressler says that the canvass for funds has proceeded far enough to justify him in making this definite announcement, although only one day's time was given to meet the terms imposed by the board.

Many letters are being received from the alumni of the school sending in their pledges and assurances of loyal support, and the loyalty of the citizens of Monmouth, which has always been an important factor of the "mother normal," is again manifested in the quick response with pledges to complete the cash deposit asked by the board.

By the loyalty and sacrifice of the faculty all department of the school will be maintained the same as heretofore and the institution will open promptly at the announced time.

Good Coal in Lane County.

Eugene—There is no longer any doubt that coal exists in reasonably large quantities in Lane county and two months will see the commodity from the mine of the Spencer Butte Coal & Petroleum company, on the local market. This concern has been developing its properties for several months past, and now knows definitely just what it has. The mine is ten miles west of Eugene, and includes 301 acres of land. Considerable of the land consists of a hill about 400 feet high, and large croppings show near the base of this hill, a six and one-half foot vein being an average of the croppings measured.

Moore's Heads Blind School.

Salem—County Superintendent E. T. Moore has been elected superintendent of the State Blind school to succeed George W. Jones, who has accepted a position as superintendent of the state blind school of Illinois. Moore is a graduate of Monmouth Normal school, a teacher of several years' experience in the public schools and has served seven years as superintendent of the Marion county schools. Mrs. Moore will succeed Mrs. Jones as matron of the institution. The change will take place September 1.

Operate Free Ferry.

Salem—At a meeting of the Marion county commissioner's court the city of Independence was granted the right to operate a free ferry across the Willamette at the point where the city is situated. The sum of \$1,000 will be paid to George Jones who has been operating the ferry up to the present time and the counties of Polk and Marion will each contribute \$25 towards its support.

Farmers Will Hold.

La Grande—Threshing in the Grand Ronde valley is now well under way, and grain is being delivered to different warehouses. A few sale contracts for wheat have been made at 68 cents per bushel, the purchaser being the flour mill companies. Most of the farmers do not care to sell now and are holding with the hope of receiving 75 cents.

Pheasants Will Be Plentiful.

Albany—The Chinese pheasant season is rapidly approaching and the fields are filled with these fine game birds. Reports from all sections of the county are to the effect that the birds are very numerous, and hunters are anticipating great sport in hunting them, the greatest game bird in the West.

ABANDONS SCHOOLS.

Board of Regents Will Let Drain and Monmouth Go Alone.

Salem—The board of regents of Oregon state normal schools has rescinded its action of July 18, ordering that the Monmouth and Drain normals be operated this year and instead a resolution was adopted declaring that the schools shall not be operated unless donations are received and that "no donations shall be received without the express understanding and agreement that no claim will be made for repayment by the state or legislature."

The faculty already elected at Monmouth was discharged and the executive committee authorized to elect a new faculty when funds are available. No faculty has been elected by Drain normal. Ex-President Ressler, of Monmouth, says that his institution will meet the conditions imposed and that the school will run next year. Ex-President Briggs, of Drain, could not say what the friends of that institution will do.

BIG PRUNE CROP.

Picking Will Begin About September 1 in Linn County.

Albany—Prunes are surely a bumper crop this year and the picking in most of the orchards hereabouts will begin about the first week in September. Growers are experiencing small difficulty in obtaining pickers on account of the high wages to be paid. The prevailing wages for pickers is 6 cents per bushel, this being an advance of 1 cent over the amount paid last year. It is said that a good picker can clear about \$3 per day and that children should be able to pick on an average of about 30 bushels per day and thus earn \$1.80.

It is an interesting fact that while the prune industry was considered a failure a few years ago, on account of the lack of a market, this condition has been eliminated and growers will receive on an average of 50 cents per bushel for all they can produce and bring into the market. The orchards that have been properly cared for will do better this year.

Constructs Mill License Law.

Salem—Attorney General Crawford has construed the definition of what constitutes a mill, factory or workshop, for the purposes of inspection and levy of fees to include all institutions where machinery is operated for manufacturing purposes, whether conducted solely by the owner of the plant or not. Under this interpretation all little shops wherein articles of furniture, etc., are made, come within the meaning of the act and the owners will be required to pay the annual license fee of not less than \$5.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—(New crop)—Club, 78¢@79¢; bluestem, 80¢@82¢; valley, 80¢; red, 78¢@77¢.

Oats—(New crop)—No. 1 white, \$23.50; gray, \$23.

Barley—(New crop)—Feed, \$22@22.50 per ton; brewing, \$24@24.50.

Corn—Whole, \$28; cracked, \$29, per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$17@18 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$21@23; clover, \$9; cheat, \$9@10; grain hay, \$9@10; alfalfa, \$13@14.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 32½¢@35¢ per pound.

Poultry—Average old hens, 13¢@13½¢ per pound; mixed chickens, 12½¢; spring chickens, 14½¢@15¢; old roosters, 8¢@9¢; dressed chickens, 16¢@17¢; turkeys, live, 15¢@16¢; turkeys, dressed, choice, nominal; geese, live, 8¢@10¢; ducks, 10¢.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, candled, 25¢@26¢ per dozen.

Veal—Dressed, 6½¢@8½¢ per pound.

Pork—Block, 75 to 150 pounds, 8¢@8½¢; packers, 7½¢@8¢.

Fruits—Apples, \$1@1.75 per box; cantaloupes, 65¢@1.10 per crate; peaches, 50¢@1 per crate; blackberries, 5¢@7¢ per pound; prunes, \$1.50@1.75 per crate; watermelons, 1¢@1½¢ per pound; plums, \$1.50@1.65 per box; pears, \$1.50 per box; apricots, \$1.50@2 per box; grapes, \$1.25@1.75 per box.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.75 per sack; carrots, \$2 per sack; beets, \$2 per sack; asparagus, 10¢ per pound; celery, \$1.25 per dozen; corn, 25¢@35¢ per dozen; cucumbers, 10¢@15¢ per dozen; lettuce, head, 25¢ per dozen; onions, 15¢@20¢ per dozen; peas, 4¢@5¢ per pound; pumpkins, 1½¢@2¢ per pound; rhubarb, 3½¢ per pound; beans, 3¢@5¢ per pound; cabbage, 2½¢ per pound; squash, 50¢@1 per box; tomatoes, 60¢@90¢ per crate; sweet potatoes, 5¢@5½¢ per pound.

Onions—\$2.25@2.50 per hundred.

Potatoes—New, \$1@1.25 per hundred.

Hops—4¢@6¢ per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 16¢@22¢ per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20¢@22¢, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 29¢@30¢ per pound.

ANXIOUS FOR TRIAL.

Borah Will Do Nothing to Impede Legal Proceedings.

Boise, Idaho, Aug. 23.—The statement made by Attorney General Bonaparte that Senator Borah was to be given an immediate trial was shown to District Attorney Ruick, and he was asked if he had received any word from Attorney General Bonaparte respecting the trial of Senator Borah. He replied that he had nothing to say. When asked as to the date for the convening of court next month, he replied that the session would take up September 9.

The matter referred to is the reported indictment of Senator Borah by the United States grand jury that sat here in March. No official statement on the subject had ever been made until the attorney general gave out the statement sent from Washington. The understanding is that an indictment was found charging the senator with having had some irregular connections with timber transactions under which the Barber Lumber company acquired title to certain timber lands. Great secrecy was maintained about the whole matter at the time the grand jury was in session and nothing whatever of an official character had been given to the public until the department of justice gave out the statement that an immediate trial was to be given the senator. That is the first official utterance indicating an indictment was found.

IMBUED WITH HOPE.

Portland Operators Far From Discouraged Over Situation.

Portland, Aug. 23.—There was nothing in the countenances of the little group of telegraph operators gathered in the strike headquarters at the Esmond hotel last night that would indicate discouragement over the situation. They discussed with earnestness various phases of the progress of the strike. They say:

"We have the wires tied up all over the country in spite of reports to the contrary. Why, if a man puts a message on the wire, say, at Chicago for a coast point it is more than likely to go up into the air before fairly getting underway. He has no way to find out whether it got started, even, or not."

"We have daily reports from the chief officers in the East and letters in every mail and can say that Portland seems to have a better service today than any place in the country, and you know what we have here. The latest we have from Chicago is the dispatch received this evening stating that out of the 1,700 operators in that city we have not lost a man through desertion. "We also hear that a strike has taken effect among the strikebreakers in that city. It seems that the company makes no distinction between first-class operators and novices in the matter of pay."

MANNING WILL PROSECUTE.

District Attorney Will Investigate Failure of Portland Bank.

Portland, Aug. 23.—Two announcements stand out as the most important developments yesterday in the Oregon Trust & Savings bank failure: District Attorney Manning's statement that he would prosecute the officers and directors of the bank if his investigations warranted such action, and President W. H. Moore's assurance that the bank's assets would be able to pay the depositors dollar for dollar if he were given reasonable time, unhampered by criminal prosecution or Federal bankruptcy proceedings.

Sitting as a grand jury this morning, District Attorney Manning will hear the testimony of depositors who entrusted funds to the Oregon Trust & Savings bank on Tuesday, the last day of its existence. If this evidence shall be that officials of the bank accepted deposits after the institution was insolvent, active prosecution will be started and Mr. Manning promises to land the guilty in the penitentiary.

A complaint has been made out for the arrest of the officers of the bank and a Tuesday depositor will sign the complaint today, should Mr. Manning's investigation prove the truth of the accusations already made by late depositors.

Specimen for Mining Congress.

Joplin, Mo., Aug. 23.—The production of lead and zinc in the Missouri-Kansas district this year will be larger than ever before. Last year the production amounted to more than \$15,000,000. During the 32 weeks of this year the district has produced almost \$12,000,000 worth. Great care is being taken to get fine ore specimens for the exhibit to be made at the American Mining congress which convenes here in November. Recently a piece of lead ore weighing 1,500 pounds was hoisted from a mine at Granby, Mo.

Jews Yet to Conquer World.

The Hague, Aug. 23.—The close today of the eighth International Zionist congress, which has been in session in this city since August 14, was marked with great enthusiasm. Dr. David Wolff, of Cologne, delivered the closing speech. He said, among other things, that the Jewish people must yet conquer the world.

HAPPENINGS GATHERED IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D. C.

PREPARE TO MOVE BIG FLEET.

President Orders Navy Department to Complete All Details.

Washington, Aug. 27.—President Roosevelt has issued official orders to the Navy department to arrange all details of the forthcoming cruise of Admiral Robley D. Evans' battleship fleet to the Pacific. This order has been issued with instructions that each bureau head will be directed to take up its particular line of work in order that the 16 battleships may be in prime condition to start from Hampton Roads about September 1.

The bureau chiefs will undoubtedly be expected to make estimates and report on their line to the department. It has been estimated roughly that the coal supply necessary for the fleet, in addition to the amounts being sent to the Pacific, will be something over 100,000 tons.

Provisions and supplies will be arranged for, and all possible attention will be given that everything be in readiness when Admiral Evans takes command early in December.

VALUE OF SIGNAL SERVICE.

General Allen Urges Strengthening of This Division of Army.

Washington, Aug. 27.—Brigadier General James Allen, chief signal officer of the army, in his annual report, urges a considerable strengthening of the arm of the service in his charge. He says it is believed that by the development of the power of accurate control upon the field of battle through perfect lines of information it would be possible for the commander who first utilizes it to the limit for tactical purposes to gain as decisive victories in the future as any that have ever been gained in the past. General Allen points with regret to his inadequate forces, saying that there is a shortage both in officers and men throughout the service, and submits a scheme for a general increase in the corps so as to have 1,500 privates and a proportional number of officers secured in part by detail from the line.

Ask Guard for Operators.

Washington, Aug. 23.—Representatives of the telegraph companies visited the War department today, asking for soldiers at Ash Fork, Ariz., to protect the operators against another attack. General Bell advised them to apply to the governor of Arizona. If the governor decided that troops are necessary, he would so request President Roosevelt, who undoubtedly would honor the request.

Keeps Ahead of Budget.

Washington, Aug. 22.—Pan-American canal construction work is proceeding faster than was calculated in the estimate presented to congress. "This year's work will cost \$8,000,000 more than the appropriation, owing to the rapidity of construction. Colonel Goethals, however, will continue to work in advance of the appropriation, expecting that congress will make good."

Navy Officials Start.

Washington, Aug. 24.—Brigadier General Murray, chief of artillery, and Commander Spencer Wood, of the navy, started for the Pacific coast, where they will lay out the so-called defense sea areas, similar to those established on the Atlantic coast. They will visit Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and San Diego.

Federation Asks Damages.

Washington, Aug. 24.—President Gompers said today that the American Federation of Labor would probably sue the National Manufacturers' association on the charge of the conspiracy in beginning a concerted effort for injuring organized labor.

Seek Bank Clerk and \$11,000.

Washington, Aug. 24.—Edwin H. Potts, until a few days ago a trusted employe of the American National bank, is being sought by the police on a charge of stealing \$11,000 worth of Erie railroad stock certificates.

Faster Work on Canal.

Washington, Aug. 22.—The Isthmian canal commission will expedite canal excavating 20 per cent by contracting for 14 new steam shovels in addition to the 60 now working.

Railroad Selection Approved.

Washington, Aug. 23.—The secretary of the interior has approved the selection of 400 acres of land by the Northern Pacific railroad in the Coeur d'Alene land district, Idaho.

Hold Examination at Boise.

Washington, Aug. 23.—The Civil Service commission announces that clerk-carrier examinations for the post-office service will be held at Boise, Idaho, August 28.

Ordered to Bremerton Yard.

Washington, Aug. 24.—Assistant Engineer A. C. Bastrom, U. S. N., has been ordered to duty at the Puget sound navy yard.

WOULD MAKE RED WHITE.

Experts Find Signal Lights Have Two Meanings on Railroads.

Washington, Aug. 22.—The board of experts appointed to investigate the signal system of railroads of the United States will be confronted at the outset with the fact that there has been completed a more or less startling revolution in block-signal practice during recent years. This is nothing less than changing the universal and time-honored white light from a safety signal to a danger signal.

Ever since block-signaling went into effect on American railways, and even before that time, the white light at night has been notice of safety to men on "head end." It still is so on a majority of lines, but generally managers throughout the country have decided almost without exception that the best signal practice discards the white light as a sign of "clear ahead" and transfer its meaning to "something wrong; stop immediately."

This revised language has become such because of the fact that it has been discarded from the signal lexicon of the best authorities and by many of the largest railway systems of the United States.

HARRIMAN WAS OWNER.

In Control of Chicago & Alton When Granted Immunity.

New York, Aug. 23.—A Washington special to the Herald says:

That E. H. Harriman was in control of the Chicago & Alton railroad when it made its "immunity" bargain with the department of Justice and gave evidence which led to the imposition of a \$29,240,000 fine upon the Standard Oil company was established today, when it was officially learned that the promise of immunity was extended in June, 1906. The Alton, under the joint control agreement revealed by the Interstate Commerce commission, is now controlled by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad, dominated by the Moore brothers, but in June, 1906, it was controlled by Mr. Harriman.

Whether Mr. Harriman knew of the immunity bargain cannot be learned here and will not be known until C. B. Morrison, who, as United States District attorney in Chicago, gave the promise of immunity with the approval of Attorney General Moody, arrives here on Monday.

Uncle Sam Makes Good.

North Yakima, Wash., Aug. 22.—Mrs. Wilbur Spencer, who lost \$109 in paper currency in a fire which destroyed her home in Tappanish some time ago, has recovered \$40 of it from the United States Treasury. Mrs. Spencer found the charred remnants of two \$20 certificates after the fire and gave them to Cashier Goodrich, of the local bank. Mr. Goodrich forwarded the two pieces of paper to the treasury, together with affidavits setting forth the facts of the case, and a reply was promptly received.

Northwest Postal Affairs.

Washington, Aug. 22.—Rural route No. 4, has been ordered established October 16, at Vancouver, Clark county, Washington, serving 500 people and 115 families.

Albert L. West has been appointed regular, with W. J. Edwards substitute, rural carrier for route No. 3 at Sherwood, Oregon. Joseph Trecker has been appointed postmaster at Goshen, Wash., vice P. G. Cooke, resigned.

Goes Over the Testimony.

Washington, Aug. 21.—Attorney General Bonaparte conferred several hours today with District Attorney Sims, of Chicago, going over the testimony taken in the Standard Oil trial at Chicago to determine to what extent the evidence given by Harriman and other Chicago & Alton officials would render them immune to prosecution growing out of the so-called Alton deal.

Redding Man Recommended.

Washington, Aug. 17.—Senators Perkins and Flint have recommended that Judge Edward Sweeney, of Redding, be appointed superintendent of the mint at San Francisco to succeed Frank Leach.

Wireless Stations on Coast.

Washington, Aug. 21.—The Army and Navy departments have arranged to co-operate in maintaining wireless communication between Nome and St. Michaels, Alaska, and Seattle and San Francisco.

Buffalo to Aid Cutter Patrol.

Washington, Aug. 21.—Naval transport Buffalo sailed for Puget sound yesterday to assist the revenue cutters in patrolling the sealing waters in the vicinity of the Pribiloff islands.

Portland Man Gets Clerkship.

Washington, Aug. 21.—Jack J. Wochow, of Portland, has been appointed a clerk in the office of the shipping commissioner at San Francisco.