

NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE STATE OF OREGON

FAIRGROUNDS A DELIGHT.

Attractive Plan of Beautifying is Being Carried Out

Salem—Not the least important of the many improvements being made at the fair grounds in preparation for the Greater Oregon State fair, September 16-21, is the transformation of the unsightly and barren wastes of dry grass and weeds into beautiful landscape effects. This is the first appeal to the artistic sense that has been attempted along this line, and, although it has been found impossible to make all the needed changes in one year, the most glaring faults have been remedied. The concessions have all been removed to one district, and dozens of unsightly shacks destroyed. New walks have been laid throughout the grounds, the idea being to combine beauty with convenience as far as possible. Buildings have been moved whenever necessary, and other conditions made to conform to the new arrangements. The walks will all be of fine gravel, dressed with granite sand.

The main improvement is noticeable in the square between the main pavilion and the dairy building, which has been moved to a site northeast of its old position. The visitor is no longer confronted with the row of candy stands and lunch counters of all sizes, ages and colors, and the expanse of dry grass which formerly assailed the eye. The only remaining relic of the old regime is the fountain, with its familiar figure in the center, but even this has been repainted and remodeled until it is hardly recognizable, and is now surrounded with a bed of flowers, and a winding path.

There are many other flower beds also, in the shape of crescents, stars and other designs, and all will be in blossom fair week. The big center bed contains large, spreading palms. Where there are no flowers green lawns have been planted. Water has been piped to this section, and the work of beauty is being rapidly completed.

A pretty feature is the statues which will be placed in this square. Just east of the main wing of the pavilion, the large, reclining figure, representing the state of Oregon, was seated last year, and will again occupy the same position. In front of the pavilion, the fountain and its small statue have already been noted. Back of this fountain, the large standing figure of Ceres, goddess of agriculture, which last year was located in the pavilion, but seemed rather cramped and out of place, will be set up. On either side of this statue two smaller images will be placed, making five pieces of statuary in all. They will be set upon suitable bases and bordered with flower beds. All these statues were secured from the Lewis and Clark exposition of 1905 in Portland.

Public Wharf at Oregon City.

Oregon City—After trying for more than a year to bring about the establishment of a public wharf in Oregon City, the promoters of the project have at last been successful and the city council has authorized the establishment of a grade on Moes and Eleventh streets from Main street to the water front, this action being taken preliminary to the improvement of the streets leading to the site of the proposed dock. The cost of the new wharf will be about \$1,500, the money being subscribed with the provision that the streets be improved by the city.

Fruit Goes Out by Carloads.

Freewater—The Freewater Canning and Preserving company has leased its cannery to the Webber-Russell Canning company of Seattle. This firm is shipping by carloads peaches, pears and prunes to the coast cities. Ranchers everywhere are complaining of their inability to secure pickers, and a far more serious shortage in fruit boxes. However, the fruit season in this vicinity has been unexcelled for three years, and six and seven carloads are being shipped daily to eastern points.

They Seek the Noble Elk.

Albany—To kill an elk is the pronounced ambition of most of the hunters who are now leaving for the mountains in this part of the state. After a closed season of several years, it will be lawful to kill elk after the 15th of this month, for a period of one month. Each hunter is limited by law to one elk, but the members of the hunting parties now equipping for the mountains will be satisfied with this legal limit, though they are very desirous of killing that one.

Has Brood of 220 "Chinas"

Albany—Chris Van Dran, of this city, has raised 220 Chinese pheasants this season. He has been more successful this year in hatching and raising the birds than ever before. Van Dran was one of the pioneer pheasant raisers of Oregon, but this is the largest brood he ever raised in one season. The demand for Chinese pheasants is such that he could easily sell twice as many as he raises and could contract for all his brood in advance.

GOOD OUTLOOK FOR OREGON.

Large Freshman Class Enters State University This Year.

Eugene—Prospects are the best for a banner year at the University of Oregon. The freshman class will in all probability number 200, an increase of 50 per cent over last year. One favorable sign of the growth of the university in attendance and in its standing among the institutions of the West is the fact that a large number of Portland students who have been attending Berkeley and Stanford will this fall transfer to Oregon. Freshmen from Portland will number about 50.

A great advance is also noticed this year in the standing of the high schools throughout the state. Scarcely a high school from Roseburg to Pendleton but that will send from one to a dozen students to the university. The unsettled status of the normals will also contribute to the attendance at Oregon.

Accommodation for the increase has been seen to, and a good sized women's dormitory has just been completed. The new library, which has been under construction since about June 1, has been completed and accepted. The time for moving in has not been definitely set.

The campus this year will be a great improvement over the past. Captain Briggs has kept a small force steadily at work on the grounds all summer, and is getting them in splendid condition, in appearance very much like the Lewis and Clark fair grounds.

TUTTLE ACT INVALID.

Unequal Assessment Makes New Road Law Unconstitutional.

Salem—In a decision just rendered Judge William Galloway, of the State Circuit court for Marion county, declared the Tuttle good roads law, as enacted by the legislative assembly of 1905, unconstitutional, because of its provisions of unequal assessment of costs for such improvement. The question was raised in the case of the St. Benedictine Abbey vs. the Marion County court and other county officials, in connection with the proposed construction of a macadam road between Marquam and Silverton for a distance of four miles. The law provides that the cost of such improvement shall be assessed to the property located within a radius of one mile upon each side and at each end of the proposed improvement, and the plaintiff complained that, under this system, a property owner at either end of the stretch of road to be improved would be doubly assessed in case the improvement be extended.

PORTLAND MARKETS

Wheat—(New crop)—Club, 82c; bluestem, 83c; Valley, 80c; red, 78c. Oats—(New crop)—No. 1 white, \$23.50; gray, \$23. Barley—(New crop)—Feed, \$22.50@23 per ton; brewing, \$24@24.50; rolled, \$24.50@25. Corn—Whole, \$28 per ton; cracked, \$29. Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$17@18 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$19@20; clover, \$11; cheat, \$11; grain hay, \$11@12; alfalfa, \$12@13. Butter—Fancy creamery, 32½@33c per pound.

Poultry—Average old hens, 13c per pound; mixed chickens, 12c; spring chickens, 12½c; old roosters, 8@9c; dressed chickens, 16@17c; turkeys, live, 15@16c; geese, live, 8@10c; ducks, 10c.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, candled, 27@28c per dozen.

Veal—Dressed, 6@8½c per pound.

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

Fruits—Apples, \$1@1.50 per box; cantaloupes, 50c@1.00 per crate; peaches, 40@85c per crate; blackberries, 4@5c per pound; prunes, 50@75c per crate; watermelons, 1@1½c per pound; plums, 50@75c per box; pears, 75c @ \$1.25 per box; grapes, 50c@1.50 per box.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.75 per sack; carrots, \$2 per sack; beets, \$2 per sack; asparagus, 10c per pound; beans, 3@5c; cabbage, 2c; celery, 75c@1 per dozen; corn, 25@35c per dozen; cucumbers, 10@15c per dozen; lettuce, head, 15c per dozen; onions, 15@20c per dozen; peas, 3@5c per pound; pumpkins, 1½@2c per pound; radishes, 20c per dozen; rhubarb, 3½c per pound; squash, 50c@1 per crate; tomatoes, 30@50c per crate; sweet potatoes, 2½c per pound.

Onions—\$2.25@2.50 per hundred.

Potatoes—New, \$1@1.15 per hundred.

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

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

IS THORNLESS WONDER.

Burbank Tells Irrigation Congress of Latest Creation.

Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 6.—Most interesting among the addresses delivered at the Irrigation congress yesterday was one by Luther Burbank, the wizard, who told of efforts to produce a thornless cactus. Resolutions on national land policy were adopted and a slate for officers prepared by the committee on organization.

A resolution was introduced by the Outdoor League department of the California club, through its chairman, Mrs. Lovell White, declaring that Niagara Falls are menaced with destruction through the rapacity of the power companies located on both sides of the river. The resolution, which was referred to the committee on resolutions, urged that the congress approve the act of the American Civic association in its attempt to preserve unimpaired Niagara Falls, and urging congress to enact necessary legislation.

Luther Burbank, the expert on plants, who appeared before the congress Wednesday night, was again called on for an address. He told the congress of his experiments in trying to produce a thornless cactus. He had all but succeeded, he said, a lack of nutrition being the only obstacle to be overcome. He predicted that this thornless cactus would become the great fodder of the arid region, for all kinds of stock relish it and fatten quickly. About 200 tons can be grown per acre, an extraordinary output compared with other kinds of feed. The development of the high nutrition is being assiduously pursued by Mr. Burbank, and the grazing men will soon have some important news from the wizard.

The congress adopted a resolution declaring that there should be no thought of making a profit for the government through the sale of timber or granting of grazing privileges. Bona fide miners, stockmen and farmers should be only charged a rate for such privileges which would meet the government expenses.

Other resolutions adopted provide for the establishment of bureaus of hydrology and drainage in connection with irrigation work. A resolution calling on congress to aid irrigation in any way possible was also passed.

ONLY ONE FLEET.

Roosevelt Does Not Propose New One for Atlantic.

Washington, Sept. 6.—It is authoritatively stated at the Navy department that President Roosevelt does not contemplate the creating of two battleship fleets. Nor does Secretary Metcalf, nor even the general board, which is supposed to represent the extreme views in naval development, favor either the division of the present magnificent fleet under Admiral Evans' command or the creation of another fleet in order that there may be a formidable American navy in both oceans—the Atlantic and Pacific.

On the contrary, it is regarded at the Navy department as better policy to maintain one perfectly equipped, well drilled fleet, free to move at will to any part of the globe at short notice, and the present plans contemplate the increase of the strength of the existing Atlantic fleet from 18 to 28 battleships. This will afford a command as large as can be properly directed by any one officer and it will moreover add mark the capacity of ports and dry docks in any particular section of the world.

So it is asserted positively at the department that there is not the least intention of keeping the battleships which will go to the Pacific permanently in those waters. That fleet, it is added, will surely return to the Atlantic seaboard after it has fulfilled its mission and demonstrated the feasibility of transferring such a vast naval force between oceans.

It is suggested at the Navy department that before the gathering of a similar number of naval vessels in the Pacific becomes necessary the problem will be solved by the completion of the Panama canal.

It is pointed out at the department that, even were the president or the department so disposed, it would be impossible for them to provide for another such fleet as Admiral Evans' present command without congressional authority.

Antwerp Strike is Serious

Antwerp, Sept. 6.—Militia controlled the situation here today, though the rioters attacked a number of freight cars in which strikebreakers were riding. About 3,000 of the locked out laborers, porters and men in similar trades, who struck in sympathy with the locked out laborers, held a meeting during the day and adopted a resolution setting forth that they were not responsible for yesterday's disorders. Twenty rioters were wounded last night by the sabers or revolvers of the police in dispersing them.

Would Use Bears as Dogs.

Copenhagen, Sept. 6.—Captain Amundsen, who in 1905 concluded the navigation of the northwest passage, is making plans for a larger expedition to the polar regions. He is credited with the intention of using polar bears in the same manner as dogs are used now.

HAPPENINGS GATHERED IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D. C.

LATIN-AMERICAN COMMERCE

Total Has More Than Doubled During Past Ten Years.

Washington, Sept. 4.—According to official figures, the trade of the United States with the Latin-American countries in the fiscal year just ended aggregated more than \$600,000,000, against \$234,000,000 in 1897. In Latin-American countries are included British Honduras, British and Dutch Guiana, and the West Indian islands under British, Dutch and Danish control.

The imports from the same countries in 1907 amounted to \$350,000,000, against \$155,000,000 in 1897, having thus a little more than doubled during the decade, while the exports thereto aggregated \$255,000,000 in 1907 against \$80,000,000 in 1897, having a little more than trebled during the decade. From the Latin West Indies and the French West Indian possessions the imports in 1907 were \$124,000,000, against \$24,000,000 in 1897, and the exports thereto in 1907 \$82,000,000 against \$17,000,000 in 1897.

Comparing the trade of 1907 with that of 1906, a gain of over \$20,000,000 in exports is shown, composed almost exclusively of manufactured articles, which form nearly 6 per cent of the exports to Cuba, about 70 per cent of those to Mexico, and about 85 per cent of those to Central and South America, while from all of the countries in question, the imports consist chiefly of foodstuffs and manufacturers' materials.

UNCLE SAM FIGHTS PLAGUE.

Roosevelt Orders the Public Health Service to Aid San Francisco.

Washington, Sept. 7.—By direction of President Roosevelt, the public health and marine hospital service has assumed charge of measures to stamp out the plague in San Francisco. This step was taken today by request of Mayor Taylor, of San Francisco, who added that the city would do all that is possible towards providing funds to carry on the work.

Acting promptly on telegraphic instructions from Oyster Bay, Surgeon General Wyman issued the necessary orders and advised the mayor of San Francisco that the corps of the service officers already on duty there would be augmented and that additional measures would be taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Great Engineering Feat.

Washington, Sept. 5.—A report has just reached the State department of what is declared to be the greatest engineering work of the kind ever attempted on the European continent. It is to be a canal under the Rove mountains to connect the port of Marseilles more directly with the river Rhine. Consular Clerk M. B. Kirk, of Paris, reports that the minister of public works in France and the counsel general of bridges have recently reported the expenditure of over \$15,000,000 for the construction of the tunnel canal, which is to be four and one-half miles long, 73 feet wide and 43 feet above the water level to the vaulted room. It will be completely lighted by electricity and possess a small railroad running along the side.

Evans' Fleet Starts North.

Washington, Sept. 5.—Admiral Evans has taken his big battleship fleet on a cruise northward from Hampton Roads. It is understood at the Navy department that the fleet will make no haste in going north, but will engage in drills and various kinds of fleet and squadron maneuvers on the cruise. The fall target practice is to begin next Monday and this will be the last opportunity the big ships will leave have to test their guns before they drop anchor in Magdalena bay, on the West coast of the continent.

Colonel Halford Retires.

Washington, Sept. 6.—Lieutenant Colonel Elijah W. Halford, pay department, U. S. A., was relieved today, having reached the statutory age of 64 years. Colonel Halford was attached to headquarters of the department of California, at San Francisco, and was one of the most widely known officers in the pay corps of the army. He was private secretary to the late President Benjamin Harrison from 1889 to 1893.

Philippine Wood for Lead Pencils

Washington, Sept. 4.—It is learned from Manila that samples of Philippine woods believed to be available for making lead pencils have been sent to New York to be tested. Lead pencil woods have become so scarce that if the Philippine woods are satisfactory it will create a large market therefor. The samples shipped to New York are of red lauan and balbalcan.

Northwest Postal Changes.

Washington, Sept. 4.—Neils A. Jensen has been appointed regular, Thomas Johansen substitute, rural carrier, route 2, at Enumclaw, Wash. Robert Patrick has been appointed postmaster at Newcastle, Wash., vice Eli Manning, resigned.

LANE'S NORTHWESTERN TOUR

Will Hear Rate Cases in Portland, Spokane and Seattle.

Washington, Sept. 5.—Interstate Commerce Commissioner Lane will be in Portland September 16 to hear arguments on complaint of the Oregon Railroad commission against the Chicago & Alton and various other roads, the commission alleging that the rate on denatured alcohol shipped from Chicago and Missouri river points is excessive.

Before reaching Portland Mr. Lane will hear arguments at Spokane, September 9, on complaint of the city of Spokane against the Northern Pacific, Great Northern and O. R. & N., alleging that their rate on sheet steel from Pittsburgh to Spokane is excessive and out of proportion to the rate from Pittsburgh to Seattle. On September 13 Mr. Lane will hear arguments at Seattle in several cases against the Northern Pacific, in which it is alleged that its rates on shingles from Avon and Edgcomb, Wash., to points in Minnesota and Texas are unreasonable.

OREGON LEADS ALL STATES.

Contributes Most to Reclamation Fund—General Increase Shown.

Washington, Sept. 10.—Oregon again leads all states in its contribution to the reclamation fund. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1907, the total receipts from land sales in Oregon amounted to \$1,429,760, nearly three times the receipts in the previous year, when the total was only \$545,346.

Last year, when timber entries in Oregon were tied up, North Dakota forged ahead of Oregon, but this year the receipts in that state were but \$300,000 less than in Oregon. There has been a general gain in land receipts through the West, Washington increasing from \$542,677 in 1906 to \$768,937 in 1907, and Idaho showing an increase from \$351,963 to \$709,169.

The total receipts from all states amount to \$9,484,938, and amount to and out of this total approximately \$8,000,000 will go into the reclamation fund, swelling the total to more than \$40,000,000.

Has Scent of Lumber Trust.

Washington, Sept. 5.—An investigation of the lumber industry is being directed by Herbert Knox Smith, commissioner of the bureau of corporations, which may develop sufficient information to warrant the government's proceeding against the lumber trust. At present the inquiry is proceeding in Wisconsin and Michigan and in the Southern states. It is along purely economic lines to develop the amount of standing timber. After the source of supply is ascertained, Mr. Smith will inquire into the cost of production.

Roseburg National Bank Licensed

Washington, Sept. 6.—The controller of the currency has approved the application of A. C. Masters, C. W. Parks, I. Abraham, J. F. Baker, N. Rice and E. V. Hoover to organize the Roseburg National bank, with capital stock of \$50,000. F. P. Hill has been appointed a guard in the Cascade national forest, Oregon, and Thomas Monroe to a similar position in the Imnaha national forest. Mrs. Olive C. Swenning has been appointed a clerk, temporarily, in the Cascade forest.

Old Rumor Killed Again.

Washington, Sept. 6.—Rumors originating in Portland to the effect that headquarters of the department of the Columbia were to be removed from Vancouver barracks to Seattle are flatly discredited by Adjutant General Ainsworth, the one man above all others who keeps posted on such matters. When the attention of Senator Bourne was called to this rumor he took it at once to General Ainsworth, and secured from him a flat denial.

Army Depots at Walla Walla.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The inspector general of the army in his annual report, urgently recommends the establishment of a depot at Fort Walla Walla, Wash., for the purchase and training of horses for army purposes, also the establishment of a depot for the mounted service, where all manner of supplies for the cavalry and artillery can be stored. This recommendation has the favorable endorsement of the quartermaster general.

Naval Station for Pacific.

Washington, Sept. 10.—That a strong recommendation will be made by Rear Admiral Capps, chief of construction of the navy, for building a naval station at San Diego is practically assured. It is believed his views are endorsed by Rear Admiral Cowles, the president's brother-in-law.

New Chief for Creeks.

Washington, Sept. 6.—The president today authorized the secretary of the interior to appoint Subchief Mety Tinger, of the Creek Indians, to succeed General Pleasant Porter as chief of the tribe.