

Cream of the Week's News.

Published Every Day in the Daily Coast Mail.

Portland, Sept. 13—The fires on the lower Columbia have extended so that for many miles the river is practically ablaze on both sides. The smoke is so dense that the river steamers are guided by compass only.

Most of the logging camps are wiped out, including Benson's and Oak Point, where hundreds of men were employed.

The homes of many settlers have been burned and possible their livestock

The Upper Columbia from Cascade Locks to Bridal Veil falls is aflame. All trains are running with the greatest difficulty and considerable danger.

Late reports from the towns of Lentz, Harmony and Gresham, show hard fire fighting and the people struggling desperately to save their belongings.

Many who are not burned out have their effects loaded upon wagons and are ready to flee at any moment.

Astoria, Sept. 13—The steamer Columbia left here Friday morning for Portland but owing to the dense smoke on the lower river soon lost her bearings. At last accounts she was fast in the mud some distance above her starting point.

The fires all over the state are spreading with a probability that many lives will be lost.

The situation in the Gresham and Troutdale district is desperate as is also the case at Oregon City.

Most of the logging camps on the lower Columbia river are burned out. The whole country is a sea of flames and farmers are spending sleepless nights fighting fires.

Smoke is dense here and ashes are falling. The darkness in the city necessitates lights.

Corvallis, Sept. 13—A wide expanse of timber on the south side of Mary's peak and Grass mountain in the same vicinity is burning, some of which is reported to be tracts recently taken by timber claimants. In another section 10 miles south of Corvallis also the fire is reported as spreading.

The fires that threatened Summit station on the Corvallis and Eastern R. R. have been driven back by the efforts of the inhabitants and the situation is better.

It is not believed that any ranchers have suffered seriously. The loss is confined to timber only.

Tacoma, Sept. 13—Fires continue throughout eastern Washington with no possibility of abatement until the rains come.

Six lives are reported lost.

All the Northern Pacific bridges and trestles near Elma have been burned.

The forests in Cowlitz and Clark counties along the Columbia are ablaze.

The towns of Rayville and London, in Chehalis county, are destroyed and thirty square miles of Mason county is ablaze. It is impossible to get details from Grays Harbor.

Portland, Sept. 13—Major Kinney, chief engineer of the Great Central, returned last night from a trip to Coos Bay.

He had spent two weeks on the Bay and in Roseburg and announced that he had settled the route of the railroad from Coos Bay to the Southern Pacific and it would practically be the route of the Coos Bay Roseburg and Eastern R. R., forming a junction with the S. P. at Roseburg.

The plan is to build to the present line of the Coos Bay, Roseburg and Eastern at both ends and buy the Spreckels road if it can be had on reasonable terms, if not to parallel the road.

This does away with all possibility that the road will get out by way of Drain or Eugene. It is definitely settled that it will go to Roseburg.

Another important announcement is that Nelson Bennett, the well known contractor who built several hundred miles of the Northern Pacific, will undertake the contract for the railroad to connect that part between Empire City and Roseburg.

The contract will be formally awarded at the first meeting of the board of directors, which will be in a day or two. That part of the road will be in operation within 15 months from the date of the contract. The work will be done through the instrumentality of the Empire Construction Company.

Trenton, Sept. 13—The American Molasses Company with capital of three million secured a charter here today. It is looked on as a new trust.

Lynn, Mass., Sept. 15—Chief Justice Horace Gray of the United States Supreme Court died today from paralysis.

Colobo, Ceylon, Sept. 15—The British steamer Nithsdale foundered near the island of Carfar today. The captain and thirteen of the crew are believed to be drowned.

Scranton, Sept. 15—Three Italian laborers going to work on a sewer this morning were mistaken for non union miners and were attacked by strikers. One man is reported dead and two are lying in a critical condition in the Lackawanna hospital.

Tamaqua Sept 15—Although the operators have made no decisive gains toward peace, this morning three washeries of the Reading company were opened with non unionist men. Fifty extra deputies were on the ground.

Wilkesbarre, Sept 15—A mob of strikers attacked two non union miners returning from work this morning near Pittstone. One was fatally injured. The other escaped.

Portland, Sept. 15—Twenty-three people are dead from fires in Clark county, Washington. Many districts are still out of reach, and the exact extent of the

disaster is not known. Thousands of acres are burned over and hundreds of people are homeless and utterly destitute. The list of dead will reach fifty.

Reports from different parts of the state are to the effect that the forest fires are abating and in many places are entirely under control.

Wherever possible fire fighting has been going on day and night. In many cases the men were obliged to return to their homes worn out and exhausted from the heat and smoke. From Bridal Veil it is reported that two unknown men were burned to death.

Tacoma, Sept. 15—An immense fire is raging on the Cowman river, in Cowlitz county. There the fire is sweeping everything before it.

Settlers are escaping and taking refuge in the waters of the Cowman.

Losses are estimated at \$300,000 in Clark county, \$400,000 in Chehalis county. Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific and Thurston counties have suffered equal devastation.

Relief committees are busily working to aid the homeless.

Astoria, Sept. 15—A slight fall of rain this morning extinguished most of the fires in this vicinity. At Oak Point and Skamokawa on the north side of the Columbia the fires are still burning but are not so extensive as on Saturday.

Eugene, Sept. 15—The Booth-Kelly Company have the fire on the Mobawk controlled. The damages are nominal. The two fires on the McKenzie river are not so bad.

Wilkesbarre, Sept. 16—Conyngam colliery without warning opened this morning. Mobs of strikers gathered but no demonstration or effort was made to prevent the non-union men from going to work.

New York, Sept. 16—The Kron Prinz Wilhelm broke the western transatlantic record, arriving this morning after a voyage from Cherbourg, France, 3047 miles, in 5 days, 11 hours and 57 minutes. Lowering the record, previously held by the Deutschland, 26 minutes.

Glasgow, Sept. 16—It is authoritatively announced today that Sir Thomas Lip-ton will issue a challenge for the America cup by the end of this week. Dennis Bros. will be the builders of the new yacht. Five designs have been submitted and final details will be settled tonight.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Thirty-three painters employed on the White House struck today. They are members of the Brotherhood of Painters and object to the presence of three members of the Amalgamated Painters, New York independent organization.

The strikers are affiliated with the American Federation, and appealed to President Gompers for an order for a sympathy strike.

F. S. Dow starts today on a trip to Gold Beach in the interest of the firm he represents, the Standard Oil Co. and Sperry Flour Co.

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