

FARMERS OF FOUR STATES

Coming Session at Salem Will Be Important Affair.

WIL' DISCUSS STATE FAIRS

Fruitgrowers, Stockmen, Hopgrowers and Horticulturists Will Be Present at This Important Meeting.

Salem, Or., Jan. 29.—The farmers' congress to be held in Salem February 7 and 8 will probably be the most important meeting of the kind ever held in this state.

The gathering will be of more than state importance, for the agricultural interests of California, Washington and Idaho will also be represented. It will be more than a meeting of farmers, as that term is generally understood, for fruitgrowers, stockmen, hopgrowers, horticulturists, in fact, men of all occupations related to agriculture, will be present. The congress is intended to comprehend all the departments of the diversified agricultural industries of the coast, and it is expected that a permanent organization will be effected.

This movement was started by the Salem chamber of commerce, working in unison with the state board of agriculture, and one of the chief objects to be attained is the arrangement of dates of the state fairs of Oregon, California, Washington and Idaho so that there will be no conflict. By such an arrangement horsemen and exhibitors will be enabled to make the circuit of the coast states each season, and the various fairs will be improved accordingly.

Secretary of State Dunbar has offered the use of either of the legislative chambers for the congress, and it is expected that the meetings will be held in one of these spacious halls. The date has been arranged so as to be convenient for those who may come from various parts of the state to attend the meeting of the League of Republican clubs, to be held in Portland February 6. Secretary H. B. Thielsen, of the Salem chamber of commerce, has prepared a programme for the congress and all who attend the sessions will be assured a rare treat.

MERCHANTS ARE PLEASED.

Change Satisfactory—They See Benefit Coming to Business Interests.

Chicago, Jan. 29.—George H. Medhurst, a prominent merchant of Hong Kong, while in Chicago today, on his way to London, said:

"The commercial interests of Hong Kong look with favor on the American rule of the Philippines. In the past it has been the misfortune of those islands to have been most wretchedly governed, and in general the conditions which have obtained there have tended to check progress on the part of the people and the development of the undoubtedly great natural resources of those islands. Under the rule of this country, all those conditions will be changed, the resources of the islands will be developed, business will expand greatly and the policy of this country will make them inviting fields for commercial venture and enterprise."

"The business interests of Hong Kong will unquestionably be benefited by these changed conditions and in other ways we hail the advent of the United States into the Orient."

Philippine Scientists.

San Francisco, Jan. 27.—Father Jose Algue, director of the Manila observatory, the largest of the kind in the Orient, and his assistant, Father Jose Clos, have arrived here, en route to Washington, with many folios of valuable scientific data, which they hope to have published by the government. They have come to America upon the urgent invitation of President Schurman, of Cornell university, who was president of the Philippine commission, and also by the request of Governor-General Otis, of the Philippines.

Both of them are Spaniards and Jesuit priests. Father Algue is a typhoon expert, and his companion is an authority on earthquakes. They bring with them besides 12 manuscript volumes on scientific subjects, many valuable maps of the Philippine islands.

Six Americans Shot.

El Paso, Jan. 29.—The mail tonight from Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, brings the news that a report is current there that six Americans, David Cusick, John Eldredge, George Lunt, Charles Burns, Lon Webster and Henry Williams, were shot last week near the foot of the Bacatate mountains, east of Guaymas, by order of General Torres, who is in command of the Mexican troops now operating against the Yaqui Indians in Bacatate range.

It is further reported that the matter was brought to the attention of the American consul at Guaymas, but the latter declined to act. It is said the Mexican troops found the Americans in friendly intercourse with the Yaquis, whom the troops have surrounded in the range. Some of the Americans are known here, and are prospectors. Americans at Guaymas warn all Americans to keep away from Yaqui country.

GLOOM IN ENGLAND.

Fear That The War Office Is Withholding Bad News.

London, Jan. 29.—Seven days of fighting have left the main Boer position intact, and General Buller 700 weaker, according to the official casualty lists, which seemingly do not include the Spionkop losses, as those last forwarded do not mention General Woodgate's wounding.

England is possessed by a sense of failure, though not a word in criticism of her generals and soldiers is uttered. Not much effort is made to place a happy construction upon General Buller's 18 words, telling of the retirement from Spionkop, and there is an uneasy impression abroad that worse news is yet to come. At one of the military clubs tonight, the statement passed from one person to another that the war office had received an unpleasant supplementary dispatch from General Buller, which was being held up for 12 hours.

Spencer Wilkinson, in the Morning Post, writes as follows of the Spionkop losses:

"This is a serious matter, and an attempt will not here be made to minimize it, for no greater wrong can be done to our people at home than to mislead them about the significance of the events of the war. The right way is to tell the truth, as far as we know it."

But the facts from the neighborhood of the Tugela are scantier than ever. The censorship now is simply prohibitive, and something is wrong with the cables. The break on the east coast lines has been repaired, but the cable between San Thome and Loanda, on the west coast, is now interrupted. "More troops!" is the only suggestion here as to the way to break the Boer resistance. Mr. Wilkinson regrets that General Buller has not 20,000 more men, declaring that if they would not make victory certain, his enterprise without them is helpless.

The Spectator, dealing with the necessity of large additional military preparations, says: "It may be that we have yet another cycle of disasters in front of us."

The transport Assaye arrived at Cape Town last Friday, with 2,127 officers and men. The first portion of the Seventh division is afloat. Hence, with the 10,000 men of this division, and about 9,000 now at sea, it lies in the power of Lord Roberts to reinforce General Buller heavily. This course is advised by several military writers.

Although England's nerves are severely tried, her nerve is absolutely unshaken, and probably nothing that can happen in South Africa will change in the slightest degree her intentions. She will continue to receive bad news, if it comes, with dignity, and will maintain her determination to win at last.

Department of Commerce.

Washington, Jan. 29.—The question of establishing a department of the government to be known as the department of commerce, with a cabinet officer at its head, has been discussed at considerable length by the senate committee on commerce. The discussion was based upon a very complete report on the subject prepared by Senator Nelson.

It is proposed to include in the new department a bureau of manufactures, and to transfer from the treasury department the life-saving, lighthouse, marine hospital and steamboat inspection service, the bureaus of navigation, immigration, statistics and coast and geodetic surveys; to transfer from the interior department the commission of railway, the census office and the geodetic survey, and from the state department the bureau of foreign commerce. The department of labor and the fish commission are also placed under this supervision.

Robert's Salary.

Washington, Jan. 29.—The question of salary and mileage allowed for Mr. Roberts is to be considered by the house committee on account. There is about \$1,000 on mileage, and a like amount for salary, conditionally due Mr. Roberts, but there is some doubt as to whether those sums should be allowed. The attorney-general, on application, has refused to pass on the subject, as it is not in his jurisdiction, and the controller of the treasury has also referred the matter back to the committee on accounts. The latter body will now seek to get at the law in the case and reach a decision.

Investigation of Wardner Troubles.

Washington, Jan. 29.—The house committee on military affairs today agreed to proceed with the investigation of the Idaho labor troubles February 14, and it was arranged that the governor and auditor of the state and Major-General Merriam should be asked to appear at that time. Sulzer, of New York, and Lentz, of Ohio, who have been urging the inquiry, are to furnish the names of additional witnesses to be examined.

Diamond Robbery in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Jan. 27.—Diamonds valued at \$6,000 were stolen from the safe in the office of Joseph K. Davidson & Son, manufacturing jewelers. That the thief was in possession of the combination is evidenced by the fact that there was not a mark on the safe.

Samuel W. Nealy, while temporarily insane, hanged himself at The Dalles. He was 78 years old.

THE ARID REGIONS.

Twelfth Census Will Show Present Condition and Values of Agriculture in Arid, Sub-Humid Sections.

The preliminary work of the census office in collecting data relative to the arid and sub-humid regions shows that during the past 10 years vast areas have been reclaimed by irrigation, both by ditching from running streams and drilling for subterranean waters.

Where only a few years ago the sage brush struggled for existence in the midst of a waste of alkali and sand, today are fields of waving grain and blossoming orange-groves. Hundreds of miles of canals and ditches have been constructed; hundreds of wells have been sunk, and thousands of acres of land have been cultivated in zones where once the desolation of Sahara reigned.

Moistened by fresh waters and fertilized by the rich silt of the swift mountain streams, once trackless wastes and desolate valleys in the arid Southwest, have become as fertile as the famous valley of the Nile, and send forth crops of endless variety and exceeding abundance.

Irrigation is intensive farming. Where the water supply is ample, it is sure farming. There are no failures, and crops are enormous. The experienced irrigator is like the trained engineer with his hand on the lever. The movements of his hand regulate the amount of water supplied to his fields as those of the engineer control his engine.

In most of the irrigable sections of the West, fertilizers have never been used, although the land has been constantly cultivated for over two centuries. In many sections fields may be seen which have yielded successive crops of wheat for 40 years and show no diminution of productive strength.

Wonderful progress is shown in the methods of constructing canals, dams, and pumping machinery, and in the manner of distributing water. Modern inventions in machinery have greatly lessened the time, labor, and cost of construction and management, and made possible many gigantic enterprises of land reclamation and water utilization.

Mountains have been tunneled and whole rivers have been lifted from their beds and spread over the valleys precisely as wanted. High up in the ranges and on the elevated plateaus immense storage reservoirs have been constructed to impound the flood waters of the streams so that the thirsty land below shall not suffer during the long rainless summer.

As the successful solution of the problem of conservation of flood waters means the reclamation of millions of acres of public land, the people naturally ask the government to promote measures having this end in view. To this demand the government responds. Lands containing excellent reservoir sites have been set aside and a thorough study of the sources and permanence of the water supply of arid regions has been made to enable congress to legislate with intelligence upon this important subject.

In aid of this work the twelfth census will endeavor comprehensively to show the present condition and values of agriculture in the arid and sub-humid regions; the length, irrigable extent and cost of the various canals, wells and ditches; the character, volume and constancy of water supply; systems employed in distribution; amount paid for water and the crops, acreage and yield of irrigated farms.

This effort will be successful if those interested in irrigation shall heartily co-operate with the census office and its agents.

Within a brief period the main schedules for taking the census of irrigation will be distributed, and Director Merriam requests that all recipients prepare properly to fill them out and to return them promptly.

Pacific Coast Notes.

Mormon elders are holding meetings at points in Walla Walla county.

Baker City's special tax to continue her schools was carried by a vote of 50 to 1.

Eagle Valley has a "whisky wagon,"—presumably a concern that peddles fire water.

Another sawmill will soon be in operation on the Sinslaw. It will be owned by Saubert & Co., and will cut about 30,000 feet daily.

The Marshfield Sun understands that the Western Union Telegraph company will extend its line to all points in the county the coming summer.

There will be no debate this winter between the state universities of Oregon and California, but effort will be made to have a "meet" next winter.

A barrel of whisky, supposed to have come from the wreck of the Brother Jonathan, which was lost off Crescent City in 1865, was washed ashore last week, says the Marshfield Coast Mail.

The barrel is in good condition, and the whisky should be of rare quality.

A river steamer is being built on the Coquille by D. T. White, Alex Snyder and John Moonaw, which is to have a speed of 14 knots an hour. It is the intention to make two round trips per day between Coquille City and Bandon during the summer months.

MINES AND MINING.

Mayor Cashel Tells of the Richness of the Cape Nome District.

Mayor Cashel, of Nome, tells of its wonderful riches:

When I first came to Nome, on June 27, from Dawson, some men were working on the beach to see what they could get out of it. They worked quietly at first, but pretty soon the news of the richness of the beach got out. Business men quit their business in town and went to the beach to work. The whole shore became an attraction.

As regards the gold, there are two, and sometimes three, pay streaks. In the first the gold is almost always found in a strata of ruby sand, especially when found above bed rock. This bed rock is really a false rock, for it consists of a stratum of clay or sand. It varies. I think that below it is another bed rock.

When gold is found on this so-called bed rock it is sometimes deposited with a sediment of the character of ruby sand, and sometimes otherwise. This ruby sand is nothing more than iron. The water runs over the tailings in the color of blood. The redder it is the richer the deposit.

I don't like to theorize as to where the gold comes from, but the gold is nearly always coarser near the shore than at the edge of the tundra, giving the impression that it comes out of the sea, because the finest particles are found deposited at the furthest point from the present surf action. Within a radius of two miles on the beach—from the spit to the northwest—I counted personally, about August 15, 280 rockers. There were at least two men to each, and away beyond these rockers, below the Indian village for seven or eight miles, was an almost continuous line of men.

Taking it as a conservative average, I should think 2,500 men were working on the beach between the mouth of Snake river and Cripple river. I judge very few men made less than \$10 a day, and the average was at least an ounce a day, or \$16.

I know personally two men who took out \$13,000 between July 15 and October 4. These were Cummings and Missouri Bill, and there were others that I know in a short space of time took out lots of gold. J. W. Logan, a San Francisco newspaper man, and three associates, took out \$7,000 in 30 days and left the country. They just worked one little draw. This is conservative.

I made myself, under favorable circumstances, \$100 a day for a time. Any man who went on the beach and would work ten hours a day made big money. Most men didn't work hard, and in a great many instances they rocked over and lost more than they saved. The appliances were crude and the men inexperienced. But after the introduction of copper and silver plates, better results were obtained. I estimate that an average of 2,000 men were working on the beach and that they made \$1,500 each. This would bring the product up to \$2,000,000, and I believe that at the least the product was from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000. They worked nearly thirteen miles of this beach.

Mines in Rossland Streets.

Several promising quartz claims have been located in the streets of Rossland, B. C. A shaft has been sunk to a ledge uncovered by a street grade at First avenue and St. Paul street and a shaft in fine ledge matter has been sunk on the Paris Belle on Butte street, and as good croppings as have ever been found in the camp were recently discovered in a basement of a residence. It is stated that lying between Monte Cristo and Butte streets there is every indication of an immense body of ore.

The Rossland Miner says that on account of the surface of the Paris Belle being covered with houses, the work of prospecting and development has been prosecuted under difficulties, but it is being accomplished along practical lines.

Paint Mine Bounded.

The announcement of a paint mine and iron deposits, near Scappoose, in Columbia county, have led Portland capitalists to investigate. After a careful survey of the country by competent engineers and expert mineralogists, a half section of land owned by Frank Payne, on the north fork of Scappoose creek, was bonded for \$53,000 by a Portland syndicate. An amount sufficient to satisfy Mr. Payne that the investors mean business has been paid, and if the weather shall permit, work on permanent improvements will soon be started.

Lead Furnace Resumes Work.

The removal of the duty on pig lead, resulting from Canadian bullion being refined in the United States, has already had its effect in the "blowing in" of the lead furnace at the Trail, B. C., smelter. This smelter has a stock of ore sufficient to keep it in operation for two or three months, independent of any new purchases.

Prove an Exception to Dulness Shown in Other Lines.

WOOLEN GOODS ACTIVE.

Bradstreet's review says:

Exceptions to the quiet and even dullness shown by the many lines of trade and speculation are found in the active demand for woolen goods for next fall's delivery, and in the active call for dry goods on spring account. In the latter direction, prices show special strength, and the bulk of the business placed in woolens has been at an advance of 25 to 40 per cent. In other lines, notable steadiness is shown in prices. Weather conditions throughout the country part of the week have been against trade in seasonable goods, and there is very general complaint of large stocks of winter goods in the hands of this branch of trade. Another effect of the usually mild weather is that shown in the Northwestern lumber business. The lack of snow will probably insure a reduction on the cut of last year, and this, combined with smaller stocks, points to at least a maintenance of present lumber quotations.

Woolen manufacturers have constituted an exception to the general quiet. They opened their order books this week, and an unusually heavy volume of business is reported to have been recorded. Cotton goods are reported in good demand in nearly all markets, and the confidence as to spring business in dry goods and clothing is a notable feature, in sharp contrast, in fact, with the reports received from retailers as to the present season's business in winter-wear goods. Scarcity of water is complained of as limiting the output of New England cotton mills, which are reported as backward in deliveries.

Business failures for the week number 252, as compared with 255 last week, 246 in the week a year ago, 288 in 1898, 326 in 1897, and 393 in 1896.

Canadian failures for the week number 252.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, \$1.50@1.75 per sack. Lettuce, hot house, \$1.25. Potatoes, new, \$16@20. Beets, per sack, 75@85c. Turnips, per sack, 60c. Carrots, per sack, 50c. Parsnips, per sack, 75@85c. Cauliflower, 75c@\$1 per dozen. Cabbage, native and California, 75c@\$1.00 per 100 pounds.

Apples, \$1.25@1.50 per box. Pears, \$1.00@1.25 per box. Prunes, 60c per box.

Butter—Creamery, 29c per pound; dairy, 17@22c; ranch, 34c per pound. Eggs—20c.

Poultry—13@14c; dressed, 14@15c. Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$18.00@19.00.

Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22