

The Aurora Borealis

VOL. I.

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BRIEF NEWS OF THE PAST WEEK

Condensed Dispatches from All Parts of the Two Hemispheres.

Interesting Events from Outside the State Presented in a Manner to Catch the Eye of the Busy Reader—Matters of National, Historical and Commercial Importance.

A forest fire threatens to burn the house at Ballston, N. Y., where Grant died.

Forest fires in Pennsylvania have already burned over 30,000 acres, and are still burning.

A New York lawyer has just been arrested for defrauding a woman many years ago.

W. B. McAllister, of Omaha, has been appointed land agent for the Southern Pacific.

Four out of a party of seven lost their lives when a launch was wrecked on the Long Island sound.

The students of the Missouri school for the blind have taken to roller skating, and make quite a success of it.

Long dry spells have dried up many rivers in the East, and forest fires cover the whole Atlantic coast with smoke.

The trans-Atlantic liner Mauretania lost a propeller blade in a storm, and for hours lay helpless. There was a panic among the passengers.

Zia Bey, head of the Turkish secret police under the old regime, has had to flee the capital for his life, and says he is coming to Oregon to live.

The battleship fleet has sailed from Albany, Australia, for Manila.

Von Buelow declares Germany is in favor of peace and arbitration.

A retired steel magnate of New Jersey was shot and killed by his confidential clerk.

Orville Wright was badly hurt and his companion killed while making a trip in his aeroplane.

A Swedish explorer has just reached Simla, India, after nearly a year spent in the interior of Tibet.

Colonel Stewart has been ordered back to his lonely post at Fort Grant, without taking the riding test.

Mexican and Japanese sailors fought desperately on a wrecked ship to escape from drowning, but all were finally saved.

Letters have been made public which seem to prove that Senator J. B. Foraker is in the pay of the Standard Oil company.

It is said alarming cholera reports have been sent out from certain cities in China in order to get contributions from superstitious Chinese.

J. J. Hill says the day of cheap wheat is over, that the food problem is a serious one, and that the government should be building schools of agriculture as well as warships.

Taft will make three big campaign tours.

Chicago's population is placed at 1,924,060 by the recent school census.

Seattle banks will sell the bonds of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition.

A Minnesota woman walked 350 miles to visit the grave of her husband near Chicago.

French troops routed a strong tribe of Congo natives who trade in contraband arms and slaves.

A negro was lynched for shooting a white man in Louisiana, though the latter was not seriously hurt.

A Baptist moderator in Kentucky died of heart failure when his son was arrested for selling liquor.

The French press is irritated by the German criticism of the Franco-Spanish note regarding Morocco.

Chicago health officials found fish that had been stored 16 months in the warehouse of the Booth company that failed recently.

Four crooked bankers arraigned in Judge Dunne's court in San Francisco broke down and wept, and pleaded for a reduction of bail.

A commission appointed to investigate New York's high buildings has decided that they cannot be limited as to height, but restrictions providing for light and air can be enforced.

Evelyn Thaw, reduced to poverty, will return to the stage.

A Southern woman led a mob of lynchers against the assailant of her daughter.

A Canadian Pacific strikebreaker at Winnipeg nearly caused a riot by shooting one of the strikers.

A practical joker at Windsor, Mo., touched off a car of powder, killing seven persons and injuring 30.

The president of the Chicago school board favors spanking as the best method of overcoming the "frat evil."

Stockholders and directors of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad are coming to the Pacific coast.

NEGLECTS GRAND CANAL.

China Laying Up Trouble for Future, Says Critic.

Shanghai, Sept. 21.—A writer in the North China Herald protests against the ruin which is being allowed to overtake the great triumph of engineering, the Grand Canal of China. The government, he points out, is allowing the canal to go to decay. The lower stretches have within the past few months been allowed to become the habitat of organized and aggressive river pirates, who fire into steam launches and plunder passenger boats and cargo boats indiscriminately. In the upper regions of the canal there is, on the other hand, a constant shortage of water, or so much that it cannot be utilized. A more perfect provision by nature of vast natural dams in the great lakes of southwest Shantung and northern Kaingsu it would be difficult to find anywhere, but they are either unused or misused.

The writer goes on to allude to the silting-up of the erratic Yellow river, which is now in many places as much above the level of all the surrounding country as the second story of a house above the ground. Those who know best, he says, predict another tremendous calamity from this source in the not distant future. Then there will be exclamations of surprise that it did not come sooner, and howls for funds for "relief." Millions of Chinese will be impoverished, hundreds of thousands of them will be rendered homeless, and tens of thousands of them drowned and starved.

IOWA SYSTEM NOT LEGAL.

Federal Court Strikes at Evasion of Prohibition Law.

Davenport, Ia., Sept. 21.—According to a decision rendered Saturday by Judge Smith McPherson, of the United States circuit court, the Iowa mulct law system, under which saloons are now operating, is illegal. Judge McPherson further declares the Iowa mulct law is no license system and that there has been no license system in Iowa for the last quarter of a century, and for that time there has never been a lawful sale of liquor as a beverage within the state of Iowa. He further holds that no person under any circumstances, can lawfully sell liquor as a beverage in Iowa. The decision was made in a suit of the United Breweries Companies of Chicago vs. the Civic Federation of Davenport. The complainants charged the federation with a conspiracy, and sought to enjoin them from abating property on which a saloon had been closed. Judge McPherson denied the application for a writ of injunction. Under the mulct law Iowa saloonkeepers have been paying \$600 annually as a tax, with the understanding that it legalized their sale of intoxicating liquors and gave them relief from the old prohibitory law, which is still on the statute books.

BIG GUNS ROAR IN PARIS.

Sleep Almost Impossible to Citizens During Military Maneuvers.

Paris, Sept. 21.—Sleep in Paris has been almost out of the question these last nights, and Parisians and their American and other foreign visitors are getting a very good idea of what it feels like to be in a besieged city. The French military maneuvers this year are on a larger scale than ever before, more than 100,000 men taking part in them, and every effort has been made to keep the conditions as nearly as possible to those of actual warfare. A supposed German army is endeavoring to repeat what the Prussians did in 1870-71, while a French army is defending the city with bulldog-like tenacity.

This is why you drink your absinthe amidst the thunder of guns which roar and belch fire from every fort in the triple line of defenses which surrounds Paris like a wall of steel, and fond though the French are of military display and the smell of powder, they begin to wish it was all over, that they might eat and sleep in peace.

Plan Present for Kaiser.

Berlin, Sept. 21.—The rumors prevailing regarding the existence of profitable diamond fields in German Southwest and Southeast Africa are about to receive confirmation. The colonial secretary, Herr von Dernburg, will on his return from Africa present the kaiser with a golden casket full of rough diamonds from the German colonies. The casket, which has been manufactured by a Cape Town jeweler, is five inches long and two inches wide. The lid of the box is inset with seven large diamonds.

Heads Off Hill's Road.

Winnipeg, Sept. 21.—By the purchase of the Alberta Irrigation company's line in South Alberta for \$20,000,000, the Canadian Pacific railroad intends making the Crow's Nest Pass the main line to the Pacific coast to head off the Great Northern, which road, it is said, has been trying to get control of this railway for years.

NEWS NOTES GATHERED FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF OREGON

BENTON COUNTY WINS.

Great Variety of Splendid Produce Takes First Prize.

Salem.—Benton county has won first place in the county exhibit competition, and can now claim to be the banner agricultural county of the state. The awards were made by the three judges, Charles Cleveland, of Gresham; F. H. Scribner, of Wilson; and R. L. Swaggert, of Umatilla county. Lane county was given second place, Yamhill third, Multnomah fourth, Polk fifth, Columbia sixth and Clatsop seventh.

Benton's victory was won by a splendid display put up by Frank Groves, of Corvallis, who evidently spared no effort to make the exhibit complete. While his commercial apple pack is not so large nor so attractive as that from Yamhill, he covered a wider range of products, and excelled in other particulars. Neither Benton nor Lane made a particularly strong feature of any one line of products, and the general public had difficulty in deciding which county made the better exhibit.

Marion county had an exhibit which would have been a strong rival for first place, but this county is barred under the rules, because the fair is held here, and Marion would have an advantage in that respect. Benton's display comprises about every product that can be grown in Oregon. The peaches, apples, plums, prunes, grapes, garden vegetables, seeds, grains, grasses, dairy products, etc., are all represented by specimens of surpassing excellence.

ONE TRUANT OFFICER BEST.

County School Superintendents Make Recommendations.

Salem.—Twenty-eight county superintendents were in attendance at the conference of superintendents here. A general informal discussion was had and a number of resolutions were adopted proposing changes in the plan of school management. Among other things it was recommended that there be one truant officer for each county instead of several, as at present; that the county court be authorized to pay tuition in high schools for children who have no high school opportunities in their own districts; that county institutes be held for four days instead of three, and that teachers receive pay for five days instead of three; that the holding of the eighth grade examinations be again placed in the hands of the teachers, but with uniform questions, as at present.

Infected Orchard Razed.

Grants Pass.—The first instance of the real enforcement of the fruit inspecting law to a letter was exemplified in the destruction of the orchard on the Cass place, just south of town. The fruit trees on this place have stood for several years without any care, because the estate was in litigation in the courts. The authorities had notified the owners and parties interested, but no heed was taken. Finally the county fruit inspector ordered the trees all grubbed up, as they were deemed a public danger and nuisance.

Complaint Against Rates.

Salem.—Another complaint relative to excessive tariffs on grain from eastern Oregon to Portland has been filed by George Peeler of Pendleton in the office of the railroad commission. The complaint covers virtually the same points as were covered by the investigations of the railroad commission, for which hearings were ordered to be held the latter part of the month, both at Wasco and Pendleton.

Contract for Hatchery Let.

Tillamook.—Master Fish Warden McAllister has let a contract to F. A. Erickson of Salem to build the Trask fish hatchery, the contract price being \$1,802. Work to commence immediately. No bids were received from Tillamook. Superintendent Sprague will be retained at the Trask hatchery. He is at present placing the Walla Walla hatchery in working order.

Milk Factory for Eugene.

Eugene.—It is practically assured that Eugene will have a milk-condensing plant that will handle 20,000 pounds of milk daily, and which will be in operation within half a year. Some days ago C. E. Rogers was here looking over the situation for his associates. It is stated positively that the project will be pushed to completion at an early date.

Wallows to Have Courthouse.

Enterprise.—The county court has accepted plans for a courthouse, to cost \$30,000. Bids for foundation and basement will be advertised for immediately in order that the foundation at least may be put in this fall. Wallows county has been set apart from Union county 20 years, and this will be the first courthouse erected in the county.

Notaries Commissioned.

Salem.—Commissions as notaries have been issued to L. F. Falkenstein, North Bend; T. W. Pittenger, G. C. Moser and Edwin G. Amme, Portland.

TREE YIELDS \$25 IN NUTS.

Linn County Soil is Well Adapted for English Walnuts.

Albany.—A big walnut tree in the yard of the residence of L. E. Blain, in this city, shows the possibilities of walnut culture in this part of the state. Though it stands on the poorest kind of land for fruit growing, and has never received scientific culture, the tree this year produced \$25 worth of nuts. This shows the immense profit of an acre of similar trees. The nuts have not yet been picked, but it is conservatively estimated that the tree contains at least 100 pounds. Mr. Blain never seels the nuts, keeping them for his own use, but this week he refused an offer of 25 cents a pound for the entire product of his tree.

This tree is 14 years old, and stands 30 feet high. It is a French walnut of the Mayette variety. Mr. Blain believes that had it been properly trimmed when young and placed in good soil, like that of the Santiam bottoms, in this county, it would have attained its present growth and bearing qualities in seven or eight years. Young trees now growing under these conditions give evidence of verifying that belief.

Walnut culture has received a big impetus in Linn county in the past year, and many small orchards are being planted. The acreage was approximately doubled during the past year, and there are now about 300 acres devoted to commercial walnut growing in this county. All of these trees were planted in the last three or four years, however, and are not yet bearing for the market, but in a few years the walnut output of Linn county will be notable.

New Mill Soon Ready.

Waldport.—The new shingle mill building is nearing completion and will soon be in operation. The company has purchased 500 cords of shingle bolts from William Brooks and will begin hauling next week. Mr. Daly of Portland has the contract for the hauling and will put on a number of logging teams. The bolts will be hauled from the Brooks farm, four miles below Waldport, across to Waldport slough and brought down by scow. The company has made extensive plans for the manufacture of shingles and a large number of men will be given employment.

Japs Get Big Tract.

The Dalles.—The Columbia Land & Produce company, a corporation of Japanese which was incorporated some few weeks ago, has purchased about 1,000 acres of land on Eight Mile, to be prepared at once for planting to fruits and garden truck. The produce raised on the place will be principally marketed in Portland. If the growing of produce is given as much scientific attention as the purchase of the land, Portland market will receive some excellent produce next year.

To Continue Publicity Work.

Marshfield.—The Marshfield chamber of commerce will keep open for another year. The annual subscriptions have expired, but more money has been subscribed, and the publicity work will be continued. It was decided to retain Walter Lyons as secretary for the next year.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 88c per bushel; forty-fold, 90c; Turkey red, 90c; five, 88c; bluestem, 92c; valley, 88c.

Barley—Feed, 25c per ton; rolled, 27.50@28; brewing, 26.50.

Oats—No. 1 white, 22.50@23 per ton; gray, 22.50@23.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$14 per ton; Willamette Valley, ordinary, \$11; Eastern Oregon, \$16.50; mixed, \$13; clover, \$9; alfalfa, \$11; alfalfa meal, \$20.

Fruit—Apples, new, 50c@51.25 box; peaches, 25@26c per box; pears, 20c@21c per box; plums, 50c@51 per box; grapes, 75c@1.50 per crate; figs, \$1 per box.

Potatoes—80c@81 per hundred; sweet potatoes, 2c per dozen.

Melons—Cantaloupes, 75c@81 per crate; watermelons, 16@17c pound; casabas, 22@25 per dozen.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.50 per sack; carrots, \$1.75; parsnips, \$1.75; beets, \$1.50; artichokes, 65c per doz.; beans, 5c per pound; cabbage, 2c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.25 dozen; celery, 75c@81 per dozen; corn, 12c per dozen; cucumbers, 30c@40c per box; egg plant, \$1.25 per crate; lettuce, head, 15c per dozen; parsley, 15c per dozen; peas, 6c per pound; peppers, 6@10c per pound; pumpkins, 10@12c per pound; radishes, 12c per dozen; spinach, 2c per pound; sprouts, 10c per pound; squash, 40c per dozen; tomatoes, 25@40c.

Butter—Extras, 21c per lb.; fancy, 27c; choice, 25c; store, 18c.

Eggs—Oregon extras, 28@29c; firsts, 25@26c; seconds, 22@23c; thirds, 15@20c; Eastern, 25@27c per dozen.

Poultry—Mixed chickens, 11@11½c pound; fancy hens, 12½@13c; roosters, 10c; spring, 13@14c; ducks, old, 12@12½c; spring, 14@15c; geese, old, 8c; young, 10c; turkeys, old, 17@18c; young, 20c.

Veal—Extra, 24@25c per pound; ordinary, 20@21c; heavy, 5c.

Pork—Fancy, 8c per pound; ordinary, 6c; large, 5c.

DRAINS OUT CRATER.

Wonder Performed by Earthquake in Hawaiian Islands.

Honolulu, Sept. 5, via San Francisco, Sept. 16.—A slight earthquake was felt on the island of Hawaii Friday night, September 4, and at midnight the molten lava in the pit of the volcano of Kilauea suddenly ceased rising and immediately began to run out below, the surface looking like the water in a bathtub from which the plug had been pulled.

The molten lava ran rapidly away, lowering the level instantly and continuously until by Saturday morning, or in something like seven or eight hours, the 900 feet depth of lava in the pit had all run out, and, except for the cooling sides of the pit, there was no fire seen or heat felt. As the lava lowered in the pit the walls scaled off in great masses, dropping into the molten lava below them. The few who were fortunate enough to see this wonderful phenomena describe it as most awe-inspiring.

The lava in the pit, then about 900 or 1000 feet deep, began to rise nearly three years ago, and had been rising gradually since, until it was within about 100 feet of the top of the pit. It is supposed that the earthquake opened some fissure below by which the lava flowed out, perhaps under the sea.

On Saturday night another slight earthquake was felt, and at midnight Saturday it was observed that activity in the pit had begun again, molten lava being thrown up in fountains more than 100 feet high, and at latest accounts the lava had again risen 400 feet in the pit.

DIE IN FOREST FIRES.

Flames Overcome White Man and Six Indians in Minnesota.

Duluth, Minn., Sept. 16.—Grand Marais is girdled by roaring mountains of fire and smoke, and it is believed that a man named Monker and six Indians, cut off from town by fire in their efforts to save homesteaders at Nestor, have perished in the flames. This is the news brought in at noon today by Adjutant-General Wood and officers of the Minnesota naval militia, who arrived on the Gopher from the north shore. They say the ranger is not yet over by any means. Lutzen, a small settlement near Grand Marais, is in the greatest danger, say the naval militiamen. It is surrounded by fire, and everything here seems doomed to destruction, although it is not thought that any loss of life will occur.

At Colville, six miles from Grand Marais, everything went, says General Wood.

"The situation looks very bad at Chicago Bay," said Commander Eaton, "and some people wanted us to declare martial law there, but we did not deem it necessary. However, we left ten men from the ship there. Forty men from the boat were left to fight the fire at Lutzen, and 20 more were left at Grand Marais." The officers of the Gopher declare that the gravity of the situation on the north shore has not been exaggerated in the least.

SUBMITS TO TERMS.

Mulai Hafid Agrees to Be Bound by Algeciras Act.

Paris, Sept. 15.—The Franco-Spanish note on the subject of the recognition of Mulai Hafid as sultan of Morocco was yesterday transmitted to the powers signatory to the Algeciras convention.

Mulai Hafid's letter to the diplomatic corps at Tangier reached Paris yesterday. He announces his proclamation as sultan, which, he says, obliges him to execute the engagements of the Algeciras act.

Mulai Hafid agrees to recognize the treaties concluded by his predecessors, notably that of the Algeciras act, which he considers the basis of the prosperity and progress of the empire from both the political and economic standpoints, since it guarantees independence for the country and provides useful reforms. Mulai Hafid concludes with expressions of hope that the powers on an equal footing will aid him in the elaboration and execution of the proposed reforms.

Fire in Tunnel Kills Two.

Detroit, Sept. 16.—It is believed today that more bodies may be recovered from the new tunnel under the river here, in which a fire last night is known to have cost two lives. More than 200 workmen were in the tunnel when the fire broke out, and several were overcome. Had the accident not occurred just at midnight, while about one-third of the force was at lunch, the list of fatalities would probably have been much greater. The fire, which is still burning, destroyed all of the work on the Canadian side of the tunnel.

Merchants to Visit Japan.

San Francisco, Sept. 16.—The delegation of Pacific coast merchants who will visit Japan this fall will sail September 25, on the Tongo Maru, for Yokohama. They will represent Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Eureka, Fresno, Los Angeles, San Diego and other cities. They will stay in Japan until early in November.

PUTS \$4,000,000 AT EACH PLATE

Pittsburg Steel King Gives a Novel Dinner Party.

W. H. Singer Celebrates "His Golden Wedding by Fulfilling Promises Made Years Ago, to Distribute Wealth Among Youngsters in Time to Do Them Some Good."

Pittsburg, Pa., Sept. 17.—At the golden wedding supper recently given by him and his wife, W. H. Singer, one of the Pittsburg steel magnates, distributed \$16,000,000 among his four children, each child getting \$4,000,000. Through the filing of certain papers in the Allegheny county courthouse yesterday this fact came out, and was later admitted by the Singer family, which is one of the best and oldest in Pittsburg. The millionaire invited his children to assist in celebrating his golden wedding anniversary on May 27. The children were the only guests, and each found by his or her plate a small "dinner favor," consisting of checks, bonds and deeds amounting to \$4,000,000.

The Singer children who received \$4,000,000 each are:

William Henry Singer, Jr., landscape painter, now in Norway.

George Singer, iron manufacturer, Pittsburg, now in the White mountains on his vacation.

Mrs. William Ross Proctor, wife of a Philadelphia architect.

Marguerite Singer, youngest daughter, now living with her parents.

Mr. Singer made his fortune in iron as a member of the famous iron firm of Singer, Nimick & Co. He also is connected with many banking institutions in Pittsburg, and is considered one of the very rich men of the country, his remaining fortune, after giving his children their share, being probably \$15,000,000.

Mrs. Singer, who has a fortune of her own, made through investments by her husband, received several pieces of valuable real estate as her golden wedding present.

A peculiar feature of the case was made known late yesterday. William Henry Singer, the son, who chose an artistic career rather than the iron business as his life's work, will scarcely be able to enjoy his millions in America, owing to the great fear his wife bears for the "Black Hand." She received a threatening letter at her home in Sewickley, and it frightened her into hysterics. Her husband was finally compelled to take her abroad. It is said they will remain permanently in Norway, as Mr. Singer expects, in spite of his wealth, to spend all his time in painting.

Mr. Singer is following the policy laid down by his life-long friend, Charles Lockhart, of the Standard Oil company, who some years before his death, invited all his children to a dinner party, at which, under each plate, was found \$1,000,000. Lockhart and Singer many years ago promised each other that they would begin to distribute their wealth among their children "in time to do the youngsters some good."

GETS ANOTHER ROAD.

Union Pacific Secures Control of Chicago & Northwestern.

Chicago, Sept. 16.—A report from Wall street of a traffic agreement between the Union Pacific and the Chicago & Northwestern, amounting to complete control of the latter road by the former, gained strength yesterday in financial circles on the refusal of Marvin Huggitt, president of the Northwestern, to discuss statements made in the Wall Street Summary under the head of "Harriman Properties."

The report is that the Harriman interests have absorbed the Chicago & Northwestern by the simple device of a guarantee on the stocks of the latter company. It is pointed out in the article, which appears to be inspired, that the strategic position of the Chicago & Northwestern is such that it will not come within the meaning of the law that prohibits merging or single control of parallel competing railways.

Lightning Slays Birds.

San Francisco, Sept. 17.—The Pacific Mail liner City of Para, which arrived yesterday from Panama and way ports two days ahead of time, was struck by lightning during a heavy electrical storm encountered August 30, when steaming from Acapulco to San Jose de Guatemala. The vessel was struck several times. The only damage sustained by the liner was the loss of the foretopmast, which was shattered into splinters. In the morning after the storm had passed, thousands of dead birds were gathered up on the bridge, awnings and decks.

Indian Murders Recklessly.

Denver, Colo., Sept. 17.—Frank Howe, a 15-year-old Indian boy, got possession of a revolver today, and riding through the streets of Pagosa Junction at breakneck speed, shot and killed Amee Baker, the 4-year-old daughter of James Baker, a member of the Ute tribe. The lad continued on his wild dash to the hills and disappeared.