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NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

A decisive struggle is on for control of Zion city.

The number of railroad accidents in Great Britain is increasing.

Three persons were killed by the collapse of a building in Cincinnati.

Secretary Straus is formulating a plan for an industrial peace commission.

Two of the largest copper mines in Minnesota have decided to decrease their output 50 per cent.

Many Japanese who have passports for Mexico land in the United States but fail to go on to their destination.

H. H. Rogers is in such poor physical health that he is unable to appear in court in a case against the Standard Oil company.

James J. Hill, now that he has turned all business affairs over to his son, will spend the rest of his life in recreation and rest.

A grand jury at Jackson, Miss., has returned indictments against the Illinois Central and Yazoo & Mississippi Valley railroads for giving passes.

The government is trying to prevent another coal famine in the West.

Secretary Metcalf urges the need of government drydocks on the Pacific.

The Western Union claims there has been a break in the operators' strike at Cleveland, Ohio.

A newspaper office at Joplin, Mo., has been dynamited because it fought the lawless element.

Count Okuma says the San Francisco riots were backed by the city, while Vancouver fought the rioters.

An effort to have Stensland, the defaulting president of the Milwaukee avenue bank, Chicago, pardoned, has failed.

There is an unconfirmed report that the battleship fleet will leave for the Pacific November 17 instead of December 17.

Roosevelt has approved the orders to Admiral Evans to use his own judgment in visiting Portland with the fleet of battleships.

The next encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic will be held at Toledo, Ohio. Judge Charles Burton, of Nevada, Mo., was elected commander-in-chief at the Saratoga meeting just ended.

Hundreds of Jews are being tortured and burned in Russia.

The jury in the Tiley L. Ford case, San Francisco, has been secured.

Japan deplores the outbreak against her subjects at Vancouver, B. C.

Admission of Oriental adults to the Chicago schools is meeting with strong opposition.

French and Spanish troops have attacked and routed the Moors and burned their camp.

Striking telegraph operators in Chicago have received strike pay and whatever dissonance existed has disappeared.

The trans-Atlantic liner Lusitania has established a new record for speed across the ocean, making the trip in less than five days.

The Anglo-American polar expedition under Mikkelson and Ledwidge reports finding a deep sea north of Alaska but no continent.

A Great Northern passenger train was held up near Rexford, Mont., by two masked men. They secured a large amount of registered mail but found the express safe, which they dynamited, empty.

Jamestown has offered a prize of \$2,500 for the most successful ship.

Canada will apologize to Japan and is negotiating to restrict immigration.

Telegraph operators on the Northern Pacific are said to be considering a strike.

The question of the battleship fleet visiting Portland has been left to Admiral Evans.

The situation in the telegraphers' strike at Portland remains unchanged. Few messages are being sent or received.

The trial of Tiley L. Ford chief counsel of the United Railroads of San Francisco, charged with bribery, has commenced.

The French government has decided that Morocco must pay damages to foreigner.

YEARN FOR STATEHOOD.

Governor of New Mexico Urged to Call Convention.

Santa Fe, N. M., Sept. 16.—Delegates Andrews, national committeeman, Lamar H. O. Bursum, chairman of the Republican central committee, ex-United States Attorney Childers, Judge A. L. Morrison, General John P. Victoria, a Democrat, Postmaster Walters and other citizens today called upon Governor Curry to urge him to call a constitutional convention within two months so that a constitution may be drafted, submitted and adopted by the people before Congress meets after the holidays, with a plea for admission to statehood. It is proposed to call together the delegates elected to draft the constitution under the joint statehood plan a year ago, most of whom have expressed willingness to serve without compensation.

Governor Curry declared himself in hearty accord with this plan and promised to take action after his return from a consultation with President Roosevelt.

Within the past few days nearly every newspaper in New Mexico has come out in favor of holding a constitutional convention this fall and sentiment for statehood is practically unanimous.

CITY BURNED LIKE TINDER.

Particulars of Hakodate Fire Show Destruction Was Great.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 16.—The steamer Shawmut, which arrived last night from Manila via Japan and China with a cargo of hemp, tea, silk and general freight and 40 saloon passengers, including many naval, military and civil officers from the Philippines, brought further news of the great fire at Hakodate.

It seems the big conflagration originated in a soap factory near the Higashigawa school and spread with great rapidity, sweeping away hundreds of bamboo houses. During the fire a powder magazine at Kishomachi exploded, involving much loss of life. In all 300 lives were lost during the conflagration and 13,000 homes burned, a strong wind fanning the fire, which spread with great rapidity.

All the foreign consulates, administrative offices, banks, company offices, schools, theaters, etc., were burned with the exception of the American consulate, courthouse, railway station and the customs house.

One steamer, the Nanay Maru, was burned and sank in the harbor.

CEMENT, \$1 A BARREL.

New Factory in Montana May Become Boon to Northwest.

Helena, Mont., Sept. 16.—Work has begun on the construction of a \$600,000 cement plant at Three Forks, a town east of Helena, at the junction of the Gallatin, Madison and Jefferson rivers, on both the Northern Pacific and St. Paul railroads. As a result of cheap basic materials, the company proposes marketing the product at \$1 a barrel, as against \$4 at present.

The plant will have an ultimate capacity of 1,000 barrels a day, and will be the largest of its kind in this section of the Northwest. The company has a fully subscribed capital of \$2,400,000, and is said to have five miles of limestone and silica lands.

James and Hyrum Pingree, of the Pingree National bank, of Ogden, Utah, are at the head of the enterprise, while C. Boettcher, of the Billings sugar factory, F. T. McBride, a Butte lawyer, and Joseph Scovcroft, of Utah, are the main factors.

Strike Hampers Traffic.

St. Paul, Sept. 16.—A general strike of boilermakers on the Chicago & Great Western, Great Northern, Omaha, Northern Pacific and Soo railroads was called Saturday. The boilermakers are aided in their fight by their helpers and in the case of the Great Western the machinists in the big shops at Oelwein went out in sympathy. The strike of boilermakers followed a refusal of the railroads to accede to a demand for 45 cents an hour east of the Missouri river and 47½ cents west of that river.

Boycott Dishonest Roads.

New York, Sept. 16.—By the use of a rigid boycott on unscrupulous lines and by the elimination of insidious preferences to favored shippers, the latter declared to be worse than open rebates, the railway magnates of the East propose to make a strenuous effort to reduce the impending fall car shortage, which admittedly is threatening the industries of the entire country.

Oppose All Expositions.

Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 16.—Senator E. J. Burkett, who leaves this evening for Washington, today declared that he would fight the Alaska-Yukon exposition appropriation in congress. He declared that the exposition at Jamestown had been a lamentable failure and he would oppose all such projects in the future.

DOUBLE-TRACK ROAD

Harriman to Spend \$75,000,000 on Immediate Improvement.

ELECTRIC POWER IN MOUNTAINS

Plans Approved for Low-Grade and Double-Track Line From Chicago to Pacific Coast.

Chicago, Sept. 14.—As a result of his trip throughout the West and owing to his unbounded faith in the continued prosperity of the country, E. H. Harriman has approved plans for the spending of between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000 to complete what he believes will be the best double-track transcontinental railway system in the country.

His plan contemplates the construction of a low-grade double-track railway from Chicago to the Pacific coast at San Francisco, Portland and Seattle, and its operation over the mountain sections by electricity, generated by water power from the Rockies and the Sierras. The completion of this enterprise practically will have the effect of adding three single-track roads, so far as capacity to handle tonnage is concerned, to the transcontinental system.

Mr. Harriman contemplates the improvement of the mountain section of the Southern Pacific by building an entirely new line for a distance of 32 miles between Rocklin and Colfax, Cal. This will have a grade of 78 feet to the mile and will be used as an up-hill track. The present line, with its grade of 116 feet to the mile, will be used as the downhill track.

The company has just completed the lengthening of all sidings on the Sierra mountains so that each will hold 42 cars and three locomotives, such as are used in taking a single freight train over the mountain division. Borings are being made and shafts sunk for the new summit tunnel, which is to be five and one-quarter miles long and which is to lower the grade by a total of 750 feet.

It is expected that 450 miles of the double tracking of the Union Pacific will be completed by the close of the year.

AFRAID OF LANDIS.

Judge Who Fined Standard May Not Grant Alton Immunity.

Washington, Sept. 14.—Judge Kene-saw W. Landis, famous for having imposed the record fine on the Standard Oil company, is causing considerable uneasiness in the department of justice because of his apparent determination to prosecute the Alton railroad. The determination of the judge would not give concern, but for the fact that this road was promised immunity by the government if it would give up information which would enable the government to convict the Standard Oil company. The Alton road fulfilled its part of the contract; its evidence accomplished all that the government sought, and now the Alton is asking the government to live up to its agreement and overlook the sins of the railroad, which are contended to be of much less importance than the sins of the convicted Standard Oil company.

The curious thing about the situation is that Judge Landis is not necessarily bound by any immunity promise given by the department of justice. He knows that ex-Attorney General Moody authorized the giving of such a pledge, and he knows that, if Mr. Moody or the present attorney general had full say, the Alton road would be protected, simply and solely because of the promise of the government. But under our system of government the department of justice can not dictate to Judge Landis, nor can the president by any legal right direct this judge as to what course he shall follow. So far as criminal prosecutions are concerned, Judge Landis is supreme in his own jurisdiction, and if he sees fit to disregard the promise of immunity, there is no power in the government that can check him.

Try to Avert Car Famine.

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 14.—Efforts to avert a repetition of the car famine of last winter were put into effect by the car service committee at an important conference here. Representatives of nearly all important trunk lines are in attendance. Conferees admit that an alarming shortage of rolling stock confronts the railroad, but refuse to state whether any line of action to avert conditions as bad, if worse, than prevailed last winter, had been agreed upon at the conference just held.

Biggy Is Appointed Chief.

San Francisco, Sept. 14.—The board of police commissioners today elected W. J. Biggy chief of police. Mr. Biggy served a short time as chief of police under Mayor Phelan several years ago. For the past nine months he has been an editor of the Superior court, acting as custodian of Abraham Ruef, an important factor in the local graft cases.

NEW RIOT AMONG CARMEN.

San Francisco Police Are Accused of Shooting at Strikebreakers.

San Francisco, Sept. 13.—Another scene of riot was enacted at the Twenty-fourth and Utah streets car barn last night, following the arrest of William A. Bruce, a nonunion carman, on complaint of two young women that he had annoyed them by a remark as they passed. Bruce resisted arrest and was severely clubbed. The police allege that they were then attacked by numbers of nonunion men. A riot squad of 25 patrolmen under Lieutenant Tobin came up and in a fight a score of heads were broken by clubs of the police and a number of arrests were made. Eventually the nonunion men were driven back into the car barns. The police say that the carman who started the row is an ex-convict.

Mayor Taylor has increased the Mission patrol by 22 men, in accordance with his promise of yesterday. The pickets' tent at Twenty-fourth and Potrero streets, a block from the company's barn, is to be removed. It has been a headquarters for trouble for weeks past.

The Chronicle commenting upon the furious rioting in the Mission district, when five nonunion car operatives in the employ of the United Railroads were shot by union pickets and policemen, charges flatly that the police ambushed the nonunion men and fought against them side by side with their union tormentors. The Chronicle points out that the patrolmen—Wade, Bigelow and Miller—who shot down the carmen, were appointed to the police force from the teamsters' and carmen's unions soon after the commencement of the streetcar strike, when a Union Labor police commission and a crooked chief of police were in control.

LAND HINDUS AT VICTORIA.

Monteagle Turns Back, Fearing Violence at Vancouver.

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 13.—Advice from Vancouver state that the mayor of Vancouver has warned the captain of the steamer Monteagle, which has on board 114 Japanese, 149 Chinese and 941 Hindus, destined for this port, that he would be unable to guarantee a safe landing here, because the unionists have expressed their determination to resist the immigration of any more Asiatic laborers. The steamship authorities feared to assume the risk and the vessel has been turned back to Victoria, where the Asiatics will be landed.

Vancouver is reported as being comparatively quiet, but an outrage by two Chinamen yesterday has again inflamed the people. The Mongolians, while passing along one of the main streets, saw a white baby sitting on the doorstep. They snatched it up and threw it into the middle of the street, which was busy with traffic. It fell among the horses' feet and narrowly escaped death. Beyond being bruised it was not much the worse. An angry crowd started in pursuit. The Chinese had a good start and escaped. The fact that no arrests have been made has not tended to allay the temper of the people.

CHARGES AGAINST RUICK.

Said to Have Forced Grand Jury to Indict Borah.

Boise, Idaho, Sept. 13.—Judge Dietrich in the Federal court yesterday issued an order for a special grand jury to appear on Thursday, September 19. The order was issued at the instance of Judge M. C. Burch, special assistant attorney general of the United States, who is here for the purpose of inquiring into matters in connection with the Idaho land frauds.

It is understood here that the order was really the result of a plea in abatement filed by the attorneys for Frank Martin, one of the men indicted with Senator Borah and others, which plea makes serious and sensational charges of misconduct on the part of United States Attorney Ruick.

These charges are that Ruick used intimidation and coercion in securing the indictments of Borah and his fellow defendants, and are supported by the affidavits of three of the grand jurors.

Hoch's Fighting Blood Is Up.

Topeka, Sept. 13.—Kansas politicians are strongly of the opinion that Governor Hoch will call a special session of the legislature if the railroads persist in their determination to ignore the 2-cent fare order. The governor has not been notified of the action of the roads except through the newspapers. He declares that Kansas will have a 2-cent fare rate or it will be cancelled in the state around her.

A conference was held by Governor Hoch, Attorney General Jackson and the attorney for the railroad commission.

No Hope for Arbitration.

The Hague, Sept. 13.—The belief is rapidly growing among the delegates to the international peace conference that there is no hope for a permanent arbitration court, owing to the German opposition. The delegates are greatly discouraged, although the kaiser's opposition to the plan has long been intimated.

RESTOCKING THE RANGES.

Serious Problem as Viewed by State Veterinarian of Washington.

During the past few weeks Dr. S. B. Nelson, state veterinarian of Washington, has spent considerable time in Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin counties, examining many bands of sheep that are kept in these counties, as to their general health, with particular reference to "scab." Recently, in discussing things of interest he had observed in going from one sheep camp to another, Dr. Nelson came to the problem of "restocking the ranges," which is now so absorbing to stockmen.

"One of the serious problems now confronting the stockmen of this state is the question of restocking the ranges with the original bunch grass," he said. "Old settlers tell us that when they came here forty years ago, the bunch grass was from two to three feet tall, and very heavy. The promiscuous grazing of the stock over the ranges has put them in their present bare, or semi-bare, condition. The reclaiming of these vast tracts of grazing land is a problem to which the agricultural departments of various institutions have given a great deal of attention."

"Some seven or eight years ago I rode over these same ranges and found the bunch grass practically all gone in many places. This condition could be observed for miles and miles as the ranges were ridden over. Recently I was very much astonished in passing through these same regions to find that thousands of acres had been fenced, while equally large tracts were not fenced, but were held as summer range by sheepmen who practically controlled them. I observed that these ranges, bare several years ago, were, at the time of my visit, covered with a luxuriant growth of bunch grass, standing from eighteen to thirty inches high. In places the grass was so heavy that it could not be mowed for hay. I was also much surprised to see that in places that had been protected for a less number of years, the heavy bunches of grass were scattered, and between the big bunches, bunches from two to three years old were well started. It was very easy to pick out a bunch of two-year-old grass from among a number of the older bunches. In looking into this question I discovered how it was that these ranges had been restocked."

"The sheep are kept on these winter ranges from the time they come out of the mountains in the fall, during September and early October, until after lambing, and a short time the following spring. Early in the spring the sheep eat the young, tender bunch grass, but the sheep are well scattered (a good herder nearly always keeps his sheep scattered) the bunch grass as it gets older becomes tougher, and the sheep do not like it so well. By the latter part of April and early in May, the sheep prefer the many weeds, especially sunflowers, never touching bunch grass at all. Many, many times during my trips through these counties, I saw bands of from fifteen to twenty-five hundred sheep grazing in bunch grass from one foot to eighteen inches high and never touching it. They were picking out the little weeds in between the bunches of grass, and wherever there were areas of sunflowers, they would eat the flowers perfectly clean wherever they went."

"From the first to the fifteenth of June the sheep are taken into the mountains and kept until the latter part of September. Now when the sheep are brought back in September, the bunch grass has seeded, the seed being scattered over the ground. The fall rains seem to soften the bunch grass, making it tender so that the sheep eat it greedily. In this way, by eating the early shoots before the grass goes to seed, and then eating this mature, semi-cured grass after it has gone to seed, the seed is saved on the ground and reason, and the stand of bunch grass is continually increased."

"This has demonstrated to me very strongly, that if men owning large areas of grazing land expect to keep their ranges up to the present standard, or even increase the stand of bunch grass, that they must of necessity protect the bunch grass at least every other year, during its seedling time; that is, from the time the seed begins to form until the mature seeds are shattered on the ground. I am convinced that the problem of restocking the ranges may to a very large extent be solved by fencing the grazing lands, and, at intervals, resting them."

WRITES OF OREGON.

Sidelights on Beaver State by Professor of Cornell.

In his recent book on "How to Choose a Farm, With a Discussion of American Lands," Professor Thomas F. Hunt, of Cornell university, devotes several complimentary paragraphs to farming conditions of the Pacific Northwest and to the resources of Oregon in particular. Professor Hunt accomplishes his descriptions with tables of statistics which throw several interesting sidelights on the conditions existing in the Beaver State.

"This region is characterized by its immense forest resources, its fishing industries, and the high production of wheat by dry farming in the eastern part of Washington and along the Co-

lumbia river in Oregon," writes Professor Hunt of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. "One-third of the area is covered by forests of immense commercial value, while at least one-fifth more is covered by trees of less importance. In Western Oregon and Washington are to be found millions of acres of the densest forests, with coniferous trees of great height, and large diameters, of which the Douglas fir and the red cedar are perhaps the most important. It is not uncommon for five acres of land to cut a million feet of lumber."

"Wheat and hay constitute about one-third the value of all crops. While general farming is somewhat more developed than in the Rocky Mountain states, the grazing of livestock is still one of the principal industries. Certain areas in Oregon, Washington and California furnish ideal conditions of soil and climate for the production of hops. These three states produce two-thirds of the product of the United States."

"The Cascade mountains divide this region, climatically and agriculturally, into two parts. Between the Cascade mountains and the Coast range are fertile, well-watered valleys, already thickly populated. Upon the western coast, owing to the Japan current, the temperature is the most equable in North America. The climate is more like England than that of any other part of the United States."

The soils are mostly of a volcanic origin and are unusually fertile and enduring. The prairies consist of an expanse of rolling hills. The layout of the farms and general aspect of the improvements are similar to those in the newer portions of the North Central states. The people are mostly native-born Americans from the older settled states. There is a general air of hopefulness and prosperity among them."

"There are still 30,000,000 acres of unappropriated and unreserved public lands ready for entry in this region. While some of this is forest land and some is arid, this region probably contains the best large body of public yet open for settlement in the United States."

Oregon, Washington and Idaho are credited with about 90,000 farms. The area in farms is about 25,000,000 acres, the improved area being about 9,000,000 acres for the three states. The average size of the farms is a trifle over 250 acres, and the average size of improved farms is nearly 100 acres. The state of Oregon alone has about 11,000,000 acres of land in farms and ranches, which is estimated to be worth about \$13 per acre.

EXPERIMENTS WITH HYBRIDS.

Pullman Station Develops New Varieties of Wheat.

The Washington State college experiment station at Pullman has brought a line of experiments with Little Club and White Truck wheat to a point where definite statements concerning results can be given. These hybridization experiments were begun in 1899 by Professor E. E. Elliott. One long-headed variety which is now growing in the eighth generation produces more straw than any other hybrid heretofore grown on the station farm. Because of this and that it will withstand cold nearly as well as Jones' Five, the station staff believes it will be well adapted to the dry section included in the greater portion of the Big Bend country. A length of six inches and 100 grains to the head is not unusual in this variety.

Another hybrid is remarkable for the stiffness of the straw. On the farm a plot of Red Russian and Arcadian were out to the ground by squirrels, while the hybrid variety was left unharmed. The stem grows too short to be suitable for dry land, but it is the most stable variety yet produced and in several instances produced 60 bushels per acre.

A long stem hybrid has the peculiarity of growing with surprising uniformity of height, and the staff say this wheat should be well adapted to threshing with a combined harvester. The evenness in length, and the fact that it shatters but little, makes it one of the most desirable hybrids brought out on the college farm.

EXCELLENT COAL PROSPECTS.

Much Interest Aroused in Deposits Around Ashland.

The recent work in developing the various coal prospects found in the vicinity of Ashland, Oregon, has met with so much success and has attracted such widespread attention that it promises to insure sufficient perseverance in work along this line to determine the real extent of the coal deposits which, beyond doubt, exist in this section. There is no question about the coal being found and the quality of it, but there are skeptics as to the extent of the deposits. The scarcity and high price of wood for fuel has prompted and encouraged the coal prospecting to a large extent, and the opening up of coal beds of ample extent would be a welcome solution of the fuel problem, which is a serious one and promises to be more serious before another winter is over. The inability to secure woodchoppers during the past year or two has greatly curtailed the wood output and has resulted in soaring prices.

The British soldier is now to possess three shirts instead of two.