

# NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

## NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

### GENERAL WOOD AT HEAD.

Has Passed From Civilian Life to Position Second Only to President.

Washington—Major General Leonard Wood is now chief of staff of the United States army, second in command only to the president of the United States. He succeeds Major General J. Franklin Bell, who has held the office for a number of years.

General Wood's appointment is interesting to military, naval and administration circles. He has long shown reform tendencies, and it is expected that his incumbency will result in reforms in various branches of the army. It is believed that General Wood will work for more rigid physical tests for those seeking enlistment, and that he will at once try to bring about a closer relationship between the army and the national guard.

Brigadier General William H. Carter becomes assistant chief of staff, succeeding Brigadier General Tasker H. Bliss, who is stationed at San Francisco. Brigadier General Thomas H. Barry becomes commander of the military academy at West Point.

### NEW JAP ALLIANCE DUE.

Declaration Made That Germany is Being Sought as Ally.

Berlin—A new political alignment, with Japan breaking away from England as soon as the present treaty between these two has expired, is predicted by Professor Albrecht Wirth, one of the most prominent Pan-German politicians and writers.

"Japan will not renew her alliance with England," Professor Wirth declared. "England knows this and is taking the necessary precautions to strengthen her position in the Far East. She is enlarging and modernizing her Singapore fortifications."

"Japan is seeking other alliances and has offered to come into the triple alliances with Germany, Austria and Italy. She has also offered to conclude a defensive and offensive alliance with Turkey, and has suggested a quintuple league with Germany, Austria, Italy, Turkey and herself as members."

### POSTAL SHOWING GOOD.

Over \$10,000,000 Reduction is Made in Deficit for Year.

Washington—More than \$10,000,000 reduction in the postal deficit was made in the first nine months of the fiscal year just ended, according to returns received by Postmaster General Hitchcock. Such a reduction is unprecedented in the history of the department. The deficit for the nine months was \$2,709,000, as against \$12,832,000 in the same period of the preceding fiscal year.

In the third quarter of the fiscal year ending March 31, the postal service earned a surplus of \$1,363,000, the revenues for the quarter amounting to \$58,934,000, and the expenditures to \$57,561,000. The latter showed an increase of 10 per cent over those of the same quarter last year, while the former showed an increase of less than four per cent.

### Protest Action of Norway.

Washington—Announcement of the attitude of the government against the recognition by Norway of the Madriz blockade at Bluefields, Nicaragua, may be made at the State department soon. A telegram in answer to protests from New Orleans against the Norwegian action is being prepared by Acting Secretary of State Wilson. United States Consul Moffatt, of Bluefields, threw some light on the situation.

It appears in Mr. Moffatt's dispatch to Washington that Michael J. Clancy, for some time the American Vice-Consul at Bluefields, also had been acting in a similar capacity, for Norway. Clancy's report of the situation at Bluefields to the Norwegian Consulate at Havana is said at the State department to have been declared by Moffatt as misleading and improper. As a result it is said at the department that Norway doubtless obtained a wrong impression of conditions.

It is also intimated that Mr. Clancy will no longer continue as American Vice-Consul at Bluefields.

### Taft Writes to Mikado.

Beverly—President Taft sent a message of thanks to the emperor of Japan for the cordial welcome extended to Secretary of War Dickinson as follows: "I wish to express to your majesty my deep appreciation of the generous and courteous hospitality extended to Secretary Dickinson and his party while in Japan. The expression of cordial welcome evoked strengthens the bond of friendship between the two countries."

### Coxswain Commits Suicide.

Vallejo, Cal.—J. A. Nelson, a coxswain on the cruiser California, committed suicide by hanging aboard that vessel at the Mare Island navy yard. Ill health and despondency are believed to have caused his act.

### IS HORNET TO CARRY ARMS?

Converted Yacht May Attempt to Aid Estrada Faction.

Washington—If the converted yacht Hornet, which the government has just sold to Isaac Stein, of New Orleans, the highest bidder at the condemnation sale, is going to Nicaragua to serve as the nearest approach to a navy that the Estrada forces can secure, the Washington authorities have not received any official word of that fact.

There is nothing, however, to prevent either faction in Nicaragua from acquiring the discarded naval vessel, under certain limitations. The vessel could carry arms as a cargo, but it could not be equipped as an armed vessel and sent out of an American port.

The Hornet, when built 20 years ago, cost this government \$117,500, and was sold a few days ago for \$5,100. She is a tidy steel craft and could be of more use to the Estrada forces than the Venus and the little antiquated tug San Jacinto are to the Madriz forces in Nicaraguan waters.

The Stein shipyard deny that they bought the Hornet to fit her out as a Nicaraguan revolutionary warship. The Hornet is on her way from Norfolk to New Orleans.

### ICE CREAM CONES SEIZED.

Borax Content to Be Made Basis of Federal Prosecution.

Washington—Prosecution against manufacturers of ice cream cones containing borax are to be instituted by the government under the pure food law. Large seizures of cones were made recently in different parts of the country by the department of agriculture. Analysis of the cones seized showed them to be deleterious to the human stomach.

The cones, by chemical test, were also found to contain saccharine and benzoate of soda, but it was said at the department that proposed prosecutions would be based solely on the presence of borax, inasmuch as saccharine was still under investigation and benzoate of soda had been held harmless when used in small quantities.

Inspectors will continue to make seizures where cones are found to contain borax. Manufacturers using borax content this ingredient is necessary to make the cones old their shape.

### Taft Receives Honor.

Washington—In accepting the honorary presidency of the second international conference of American Students, in session at Buenos Ayres, President Taft directed Acting Secretary of State Wilson to make a response.

"The pleasure of the president in accepting this compliment and in thus lending his patronage to the congress," said Wilson, in his telegram, "is greater because of his conviction that the Association of Scholars and the interchange of students among the universities of the American republics should be a potent factor in cementing international good understanding between the people of all our countries."

### Bank Notes Fluctuate.

Washington—Hovering close to the \$700,000,000 mark, the volume of National bank notes outstanding fluctuates from week to week, although secured by United States bonds and by lawful money.

The aggregate now is \$711,964,360, which is \$1,466,272 less than at the beginning of the fiscal year, and \$278,481 below that of June 10 last, but \$22,044,286 more than on July 1 of last year.

Of the present aggregate only \$22,585 consists of gold notes.

### Banks Getting Anxious.

Washington—Applications are pouring in from banks throughout the country whose officials are anxious that their institutions be made depositories under the postal savings bank law. They come to the secretary of the treasury, the attorney general and to the Postoffice department. Formal replies are sent but no information is yet available as to where such depository banks will be located.

### Ministry is Anti-American.

Washington—Consul Olivares, of Nicaragua, strongly intimates that the new ministry is likely to be unfriendly to the United States. Mr. Olivares advises that the new war minister is bitterly anti-American, and is the author of several incendiary articles against the government of the United States and American interests in general, which have been published recently in the censored press at Managua.

### Wickersham Going North.

Seattle—United States Attorney General George W. Wickersham and Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor Charles Nagel will start on their Alaska tour from Vancouver, B. C., on the government fisheries steamer Albatross.

### FAMOUS PICTURE STOLEN.

One of World's Great Paintings Now in New York City.

Paris—The Cri de Paris says that Leonardo de Vinci's masterpiece, the "Mona Lisa" portrait, was stolen from the galleries of the Louvre one night about a month ago through the complicity of a high official of the museum. A copy of the painting was put in the frame in place of the original.

The paper asserts that the genuine painting is now in New York. It says that a New York millionaire collector, whose initials are J. K. W. W., has the original. None of the important dealers or art collectors on this side of the water could shed any light upon the possible identity of "J. K. W. W." The canvass of art collectors who might come under the category of "New York millionaires," failed to reveal one whose initials even remotely correspond with the ones mentioned in the dispatch from Paris.

Leonardo de Vinci's portrait of "Mona Lisa," also called "La Gioconda," or "La Gioconda," is one of the world's famous paintings. In European art circles it is considered to rank second in value only to the Sistine Madonna, by Raphael. Both are priceless.

It is a matter of gossip, though no official verification can be had of the rumor, that the British government offered £1,000,000 for "La Gioconda," and that the offer was refused.

The most striking feature of the portrait is the mysterious smile that lurks in the eyes and lips.

### TIMBER WORTH \$500,000 GONE

Large Crews Fighting Fires in Wisconsin Districts.

Wausau, Wis.—The fires at Galloway, which have caused disastrous losses in that vicinity, are reported to be fairly under control. The flames are still extending for five miles east of Eldron to Pike lake village, and large crews of men are fighting the fires throughout the standing timber portion in that district.

The loss in standing timber and logs, according to a conservative estimate, was \$500,000.

The Jacob Mortensen Lumber company, which owns a large tract of standing timber near Galloway, has a large crew of men fighting the fire.

The Hatton Lumber company are protecting their timber. If the wind keeps down, it is expected the flames will soon be under control.

In addition to the fire at Galloway numerous small fires have started in the southeastern portion of Marathon county, the western part of Shawnee county, and northeastern portion of Portage county. Conditions now are reported favorable.

The towns of Irma, Gleason and Bloomville are still safe, but the fires are still raging around them.

### GRASSHOPPERS ON WAY.

Swarms of Black Insects are Devouring Crops in Manitoba.

Gretna, Manitoba—The black grasshopper, or black locust, the greatest pest that has ever attacked the crops of Manitoba and the Northern states, has arrived in swarms, and the injurious insects are headed north, having come from Dakota, where they have already done great damage to the grain crops and the gardens.

The black grasshoppers are to be seen in great numbers and are attacking gardens, showing a special fondness for cabbage. Where they do not find succulent garden forage, they attack the standing grain and strip the straw bare in an incredibly short time. "Tim" O'Brien, the veteran customs collector at Neche, N. D., recalls that in the years 1871 to 1874 the black grasshopper was a terrible pest, stripping the whole country bare, and eating the bark off the poplar trees when they had cleaned everything else green off the face of the earth. They came suddenly after a long dry spell in 1871 and at times were in such swarms that their flight obscured the light of the sun.

In 1874, after doing tremendous damage, they disappeared as suddenly as they had come.

### Volcano is Cooling Off.

Juneau, Alaska—Mount Shishaldin, the volcanic peak on Unimak island, which was recently reported as emitting a great sheet of fire, is now only smoking, and the sides of the mountain are covered with snow, indicating that there is no great heat within, according to Captain Will Gregory, of the lighthouse tender Armeria, which arrived here direct from Unimak. The keepers of the Scotch Cap light house, on Unimak island, almost in the shadow of the smoking volcano, express no alarm.

### \$40,000 Stolen on Liner.

Hamburg—It is reported here that thieves on board the Hamburg-American liner Amerika robbed Eva Stradford, of New Jersey, of jewels valued at \$40,000. The Hamburg police believe the thieves belong to an international band working on trans-Atlantic liners.

# INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

### STATE'S PROGRESS GREAT.

State Engineer Lewis Says Irrigation Work is Revelation.

Salem—After traveling 1,000 miles through Central and Southern Oregon, half of the distance by automobile and stage, State Engineer John H. Lewis is back at the state capitol and reports that development work and advancement of Carey act projects are a revelation to him.

"During the past few years the development work has been remarkable," he asserts. "At Prineville they are expecting a big rush of settlers because of the recent opening of the road land grants and prospects are bright for a branch of the Oregon Trunk up Crooked river."

"At Laidlaw the indications point to a reorganization of the Columbia Southern project and it is probable construction work will be resumed for the purpose of reclamation of 30,000 acres of valuable land."

"Irrigation development is causing signal activity at Bend. In addition to this factor, timber, railroad construction and waterpower development are all opening a great era for that already prosperous community. Lots that sold for next to nothing on the main street of the town ten years ago are now going at \$4,000. Many new houses are being erected and a great rush of settlers is expected."

"Forty miles south of Bend heavy machinery is being assembled and construction work is beginning on an irrigation project to water 30,000 acres. Development work here is in charge of the Deschutes Land company. The main line of the Oregon Trunk will go directly through this project and the Natron-Klamath line is to pass within a few hundred feet of the dam site in Crescent Lake, which supplies water for the project. La Pine is the townsite for this development work and there is now talk of moving Rosland, the old town, to La Pine so that it will be on the railroad. From La Pine already can be heard the sound of blasting on the Natron-Klamath line, where work is being carried on over the mountain. Every blast is cheerful news to the people of the Deschutes."

"At Paisley the 12,000-acre Carey act project is being delayed because of conflict in water rights."

"At Lakeview the dam and main canal of a 50,000-acre private project are nearly complete and the land under the canal sold."

"Perhaps of all prospective projects in Southern Oregon the one in Warner Lake valley I found had the more numerous interesting features. This is 40 miles east of Lakeview and \$30,000 has already been expended in surveys looking to the development of 100,000 acres of land. This valley is 80 miles long and runs from five to 15 miles in width, between rock bluffs 3,000 feet high. The land here will be developed by the state under the Carey act. The company doing the work is under \$7,000 bonds to make a complete investigation and is apparently going ahead in good faith, notwithstanding there are immense obstacles blocking the path."

"A canal of 1,000 second-foot capacity will have to be constructed for 15 miles along an almost vertical rock cliff and three miles of dikes, 40 to 50 feet in height, must be constructed across a peat bog, in addition to several storage sites, long flumes and inverted siphons."

"The tract, however, is very desirable, and lies well for irrigation, having an excellent climate, and with railroad facilities, which have been definitely promised, may prove very feasible to irrigate."

### Wasco Out of Debt.

The Dalles—Wasco county is practically out of debt and has \$41,095 in its general fund with which to meet current expenses, according to the semi-annual report of the county treasurer just published. During the past six months it expended \$29,714.70 on roads and highways, which was its heaviest expense. Its next heaviest expense was its state tax, the half-yearly payment being \$12,441.18.

### Booth-Kelly Lands Burned.

Eugene—The Booth-Kelly Lumber company's logged-off land above Wendling is being swept by fire, which has been burning now several days. So far the company has been able to keep the fire out of the standing timber, but the mill was forced to close down on account of a shortage of logs.

### New Block at Klamath Falls.

Klamath Falls—The two story building which L. F. Willis is to erect on the lot where the Masonic hall now stands will be 50x106 feet, and will have two store rooms on the main floor and office rooms on the second floor. The entire front of the building will be of plate glass.

### Weston Harvest Starts.

Weston—Harvesting is starting in here. A few outfits have already begun work on the lighter lands. Crops around the immediate vicinity of Weston will be average, from all indications, and of good quality; much better than last year.

### EXPECT 25,000 DELEGATES.

Portland Plans to Entertain National Woolgrowers' Convention.

Portland—That Portland will reap fully \$2,000,000 as a result of the National Wool Growers' convention and the National Sheep show January 4, 5, 6 and 7, 1911, is the belief of persons prominently identified with commercial activity in the city.

The National Wool Growers' Convention and Sheep Show, the first ever held in Oregon, is expected to bring into Portland fully 25,000 delegates and persons interested in the sheep and wool business.

Members of the Portland Commercial club and Oregon Wool Growers' association met with George S. Walker, secretary of the National Wool Growers' association, and formulated plans for the largest convention and show ever held in the history of the sheep or wool industry in the United States.

A number of innovations are to be introduced at the Portland show. Among these will be an exhibition of collie and shepherd dogs, of which the Northwest has many breeders and fanciers. This exhibition will be for both exhibition and "working" animals. The latter will be "worked" as on a sheep range for the edification of the visitors.

Arrangements are being made by C. B. Minton, secretary of the show, for a monster exhibition of Angora goats simultaneously with the sheep show. Always heretofore at the annual show this feature has been neglected, but at the January show it is planned to make this a stellar attraction. "The brand of mohair grown in Oregon exceeds that of any part of the United States," said Mr. Minton, "and as the industry is much followed in Oregon, we hope to have fully 1,000 thoroughbred Angora goats at the exhibition."

Not only will awards be given to prize sheep, but the fat stock and mutton will have a special department with cash awards. This is also an innovation.

Negotiations have been opened to obtain the armory for the sheep show and the convention sessions.

### FRUIT IN JEOPARDY.

Decision in Peacock Mills Case May Stop Water.

Walla Walla—Attorney C. M. Rader of Walla Walla, discussing the decision of Judge Bean at Pendleton, in the famous Peacock Mills water case, said that several hundred acres of land now irrigated in the Milton-Freewater section, will be deprived of water unless the decision is overruled by the Supreme court of Oregon. The case has been in the courts for five years, and involves a water right arrangement in which priority in water right acquisition enables a holder to deprive a more recent securer of a water right of his water in times of drouth.

### PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem, 88@90c; club, 83@84c; red Russian, 81c; valley, 86c.

Barley—Feed and brewing, \$20@22 per ton.

Hay—Track prices: Timothy, Willamette valley, \$18@19 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$20@22; alfalfa, new, \$13 @14.

Corn—Whole, \$32; cracked, \$33 per ton.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$26@27.50 ton. Butter—City creamery, extras, 31c per pound; fancy outside creamery, 30 @31c; store, 23c; butter fat, 31c.

Eggs—Oregon candled, 26½@27c per dozen; Eastern, 24@25½c.

Poultry—Hens, 18@19c; springs, 20c; ducks, 15c; geese, 10@11c; turkeys, live, 18@20c; dressed, 22½@25c; squabs, \$3 per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, 12½@13c per pound. Veal—Fancy, 12@12½c per pound.

Green Fruits—Apples, new, \$1.25@2.25 per box; Lambert cherries, 12½c per pound; apricots, 50c@51c per box; plums, 50c @ \$1.25; peaches, 50c @ \$1.25; Loganberries, \$1@1.50 per crate; blackberries, \$1.50@2 per box; watermelons, 1½c per pound; cantaloupes, \$3.50@4.25 per crate.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 60@75c per dozen; beans, 3@5c per pound; cabbage, 2½@2½c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.50 per dozen; celery, 90c; cucumbers, 50c per box; egg plant, 12½c per pound; green onions, 15c per dozen; peas, 5c per pound; peppers, 10@12½c; radishes, 15@20c per dozen; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.50; parsnips, \$1@1.25; turnips, \$1.

Potatoes—Old Oregon, 75c@81c per hundred; new, 1½c per pound.

Onions—Walla Walla, \$2.50 per sack; Hood River, \$2.25.

Cattle—Beef steers, good to choice, \$5.20@5.60; fair to medium, \$4.25@4.75; cows and heifers, good to choice, \$4.25@5.10; fair to medium, \$3.50@4; bulls, \$3@3.75; stags, \$3.50@4.50; calves, light, \$5.75@6.75; heavy, \$3.50@5.

Hogs—Top, \$10@10.25; fair to medium, \$8.60@9.75.

Sheep—Best wethers, \$3.75@4; fair to good, \$3@3.50; best ewes, \$3@3.50; lambs, choice, \$5.50@6; fair, \$4.75@5.25.