

# NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

## NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

### ENGINEERS PLAN TRIP.

All Reclamation Projects Are to Be Thoroughly Inspected.

Washington—The board of army engineer officers appointed to examine all government reclamation projects will leave Washington soon and travel westward to the state of Washington, inspecting projects en route.

The board's itinerary is not definitely fixed, as the members are not able to anticipate the amount of time required on various projects, but their first inspection will be of the North Platte project, Nebraska. They then go to Goshen Hole, Wyo., which is the proposed extension of the North Platte project; thence to Bellefourche, Huntley, Shoshone Dam, Wyoming; Lower Yellowstone and Williston, N. D.; Milk river, Sun river and St. Mary's, Montana; thence to the Yakima valley, where all the subsidiary projects will be gone over.

The board then goes south to examine the Umatilla project and particularly the proposed West side extension.

Turning east, they will inspect the Boise-Payette and Minidoka projects, in Idaho, and stop next at Strawberry Valley, Utah. Beyond that point their route has not been mapped.

They may turn back to California or decide to go on to Colorado and then south and west, but before returning to Washington will visit all projects, including the Klamath. It is the present intention of the board to make only one report, covering all the projects. The board will travel as a unit, and not divided into two parties, as at first proposed.

### CHINA IS AFRAID OF LOANS.

People Fear Foreign Financiers May Get Control of Kingdom.

Washington—Some light on the nature of the opposition in China to the \$40,000,000 foreign loan for the construction of the Sze Chuan and Canton-Hankow railways has reached the State department through articles in the Chinese papers of the Hankow Hupeh province. These articles were printed, it is understood with official consent.

"The merchants of Hupeh urge the people to take shares in the Sze Chuan and the Canton-Hankow railways. We (the people) are in a sad plight.

"You (China) are so poor that everyone wishes to come to your aid. You say you have plenty of money, but you are unwilling to part with it. You also say you have money to loan, then why don't you use your own money to construct these lines. If you do not the foreigners will come under false pretenses and destroy your nationality, and cut off your supplies. England used this diabolical system to obliterate Egypt, otherwise how could she have got it?"

Just about the time China was to close the negotiations with England, France, Germany and America for the loan of money to build the roads, protests from the provinces caused a delay in the completion of the loan. Recently the foreign governments joined in a note asking for early action by China.

### Revenue Service Gets Wharf.

Washington—Captain of Engineers J. H. Chalker, of the revenue cutter service, has been detached from duty at Honolulu and ordered to Port Townsend, Wash., where he will take charge of rebuilding the old naval wharf and storehouse at Eliza island, which, under a recent act of congress, has been transferred to the revenue cutter service. The appropriation for this work is now available, and it is the intention of the department that work shall begin at once. Ultimately this wharf will be converted into a joint coaling station for both the revenue cutter service and the navy. For the time being, however, it is to be used exclusively by the revenue cutters.

### Rodgers to Hunt for Son.

Washington—Rear Admiral John A. Rodgers, commandant of the Bremerton navy yard at Puget Sound, Washington, has retired at the statutory age limit of 62 and will go to Alaska to take up the hunt for his son, who was lost in the wilderness there a year ago. Captain Vincent L. Cottman, who has been captain of the Bremerton yard, has been appointed commandant.

### Anti-Weed Crusade Aided.

Washington—Stimulating the government's country-wide anti-weed crusade, Acting Secretary of the Treasury Andrew has ordered all customs officers to take two-ounce samples of all importations of grass, clover and forage plants and forward to the seed laboratory of the department of agriculture here.

### PINCHOTISM IS COSTLY.

Revenue Cutters Not Allowed to Buy Good Coal at \$5 a Ton.

Washington—Pinchotism in Alaska is not only injuring the people of the Pacific Coast, who are deprived of a superior coal at reasonable price, but is actually costing the United States government money. This is illustrated by the case of W. G. Whorf, who has long been struggling to secure title to 66 acres of reasonably good coal lands at Port Graham, in the Cook's Inlet region of Alaska.

Some years ago Whorf went on this land, discovered coal, and sought to make entry. The coal land laws were not then applicable to Alaska, and he was temporarily restrained. However, when congress extended the coal land laws to the territory, he made his filing, established his home upon the land, proceeded with his development work, and sought in strict conformity with the law to obtain title.

He went onto this land alone. He made an individual entry for his own use and benefit, met all the requirements of the law, but is held up under the prevailing policy of sewing up Alaska's resources so that no one can use them.

In the course of his development work, Whorf mined considerable coal, and in years past has been selling it to the revenue cutter service for \$5 a ton. Notice has been served on him, however, that he can no longer mine coal for market, inasmuch as he has not been granted a patent, and the revenue cutter service has been forced to buy British Columbia coal, of no better grade, for which it pays \$14 a ton, or \$9 more than Whorf was asking.

### INTEREST RATE GROWING.

Census Report Shows Cities Are Paying More on Bonds.

Washington—Based upon its investigations into the question of municipal indepteness made for the year 1908, the Census bureau has issued a statement showing a gradual increase in the interest rate paid by cities on their funded indebtedness. According to this showing the average rate was 3.85 per cent in 1906, 3.89 in 1907, and 3.92 in 1908.

These figures are on face values and admittedly do not represent the absolute rate, as on the \$187,083,286 worth of bonds sold in 1906, an aggregate premium of \$5,325,651 and an aggregate discount of \$484,456 was paid. Only 11 cities are represented as having made sales at a discount.

As indicated by the statement the cities of more than 300,000 population with the best credit rating were:

Detroit, 3.37 per cent; Boston, 3.64 per cent, and Philadelphia, 3.79 per cent. The best cities of between 110,000 and 300,000 were:

Indianapolis, 3.49 per cent; Cambridge, 3.56 per cent; Worcester, 3.69 and Fall River, 3.79.

Cities of more than 300,000 with the highest net rate were San Francisco, 4.30 per cent, and New York, 4.19 per cent. Other cities of from 100,000 to 300,000 with the highest net rates were:

Los Angeles, 4.49 per cent; Memphis 4.34 per cent, and Jersey City, and Omaha, 4.27 per cent each.

### Emergency Cars for Mine Accidents.

Washington—To be ready for immediate call for assistance at mine disasters, two portable rescue stations fitted up on specially constructed railroad cars have been ordered by the Federal bureau of mines for use in the West. The first of the new cars to be built will be assigned to Billings, Mont., as its general headquarters, and will answer emergency calls anywhere in Montana and Northern Wyoming. The second car has not yet been assigned.

### New Orleans May Land Exposition.

Washington—Reports in Washington indicate that at least three Southern states outside of Louisiana are preparing to swing the Panama-Pacific exposition in 1912 for New Orleans. With this end in view, it is said, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama may get legislative appropriations which will assist New Orleans in raising the \$7,500,000 necessary to locate the exposition.

### Patents to Oregon Inventors.

Washington—Patents have been granted Oregon inventors as follows: James F. Chilcote, Portland, lever mechanism; James N. Stoney, Portland, memorandum case and register; Frank B. Van Cleave, Echo, folding stapler; Samuel C. Sherman, Portland, trade mark on remedy for inebriety.

### Columbus, Ohio, 181,000.

Washington—The census bureau has announced that the new enumeration showed the population of Columbus, Ohio, to be 181,500.

### EARTH TRULY OLD.

Not Less Than 55,000,000 Years, Is New Estimate.

Washington—Old Mother Earth, like femininity through all time, but with far greater success than most of her sex, has defied man to learn her age. Scientists still admit their defeat. Their latest estimate credits her with "not above 70,000,000 years or below 55,000,000 years."

This estimate, to which official sanction is given through publication by the Smithsonian Institution, is the result of studies by Frank Wigglesworth Clark and George F. Becker, of the United States Geological Survey.

Professor Clark in a paper entitled "A Preliminary Study of Chemical Denudation," presents a review of available data from a chemical point of view. Mr. Becker discussed the question in a paper on "The Age of the Earth" from a more philosophical point of view.

The age of the earth has always been a subject for discussion among men of science and largely without any definite agreement among the representatives of the different branches of studies on account of the different points of attack.

Briefly, the more recent discussion as to the earth's age has placed time as follows:

Lord Kelvin, in 1862, 20,000,000 to 400,000,000 years, with a probable 98,000,000 years.

Clarence King and Carl Barus, in 1893, 24,000,000 years.

Lord Kelvin in 1897 revised his figures to 20,000,000 to 40,000,000 years.

Da Lapparent, in 1890, 67,000,000 to 90,000,000 years.

Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, in 1893, maximum age 70,000,000 years.

J. J. Jolly, in 1899, age of the ocean 80,000,000 to 90,000,000 years.

W. J. Sollas, in 1909, age of the ocean, 80,000,000 to 150,000,000 years.

### PEARY QUILTS TALK.

Lecture Platform Proves Other Than Big Success.

New York—Commander Robert E. Peary is done with the lecture platform, at least as far as America is concerned, and he probably will never deliver another address on a box-office-receipt basis in any country in the world.

His tour in the United States, following his return from the North Pole, proved disastrous both financially and in amount of enthusiasm he awakened.

It cost the Civic Forum thousands of dollars, and the explorer didn't get anywhere near the amount of money he expected.

When he left for England a few months ago he said he would never lecture here again. "Peary has a right to be sore at American people," his friends say. "They paid their money for a gold brick, but wouldn't subscribe to the genuine article."

Cook made a clean-up, some say as much as \$75,000, in his few lectures here before his story was attacked.

It was in the South where Peary received the worst frost. He was booked for six cities, but two of these were cancelled because of poor business, while the other engagements showed a deficit.

### TRAINWRECK ATTEMPTED.

Grand Trunk Engineer is Warned and He Slows Down.

Toronto, Ont.—An attempt was made to derail a Grand Trunk local passenger train near Brockville, but the engineer received warning and slowed down in time to pass safely over the spot where spikes had been pulled and rails loosened. Troops have been sent to Brockville to replace the militia there.

Superintendent Brownlee said the company would be prepared to accept any amount of freight in a day or two. On all divisions there was a good movement of freight.

President Garretson, of the Order of Railway Conductors, arrived here from Cedar Rapids, Ia., and President Lee, of the Trainmen, from Cleveland. Both declared they are not here to draw up any new programme and that the fight against the Grand Trunk was now on to the finish.

### Prison Restores Reason.

Denver—Imprisonment in a railroad culvert for a week without food or water appears to have restored the reason of Mrs. Catherine Krouse, aged 60 years, of this city, who wandered from the home of her daughter a week ago and was found by a train crew. The woman was found tightly wedged between two planks in the culvert. Her body was covered with bruises, but as she was carried into the home of her daughter she talked coherently for the first time in months, but could not remember leaving her home.

### Forbidden Drug is Found.

St. Louis—The third raid of Chinese restaurants within three weeks resulted in the seizure of opium worth \$18,750 at retail by revenue officers, who believe St. Louis is the headquarters for the Middle West for the distribution of the forbidden drug.

# INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

### FINE TIMBER BURNING.

Forests Ablaze in Yellow Pine Section Near Medford.

Medford—A forest fire is raging about nine miles out of Butte Falls, and about three miles square of yellow pine timber is said to be burned over. The timber is said to be valuable, averaging 4,000,000 feet to the quarter section.

The fire originated in the embers of the small fire on Fourbit creek inside the national forest. A stiff breeze is fanning the flames and driving the flames westward.

A force of 25 men under the direction of John Holst, ranger, is fighting the flames and a call has been sent to Medford for more men. The Iowa Lumber company, on whose land the fire is burning, organized a force of fire fighters at Butte Falls and sent it to help the government forces.

Manager Hafer, of the lumber company, says that the fire will do but little damage as long as it is in the yellow pine, which is not brushy, but fears are entertained that the fire will reach the Douglas fir belt, a short distance to the west, where the fire will be more disastrous, as that kind of timber is very brushy.

There are no settlers in the burned area.

### USE CURRENT MOTORS.

Malheur County Farmers Organize to Irrigate 12,000 Acres.

Ontario—The Snake River Irrigation district, limited, is a new corporation organized in Malheur county for the purpose of irrigating the lands comprising 12,000 acres located between Malheur Butte, two miles west of Ontario, and on the north side of the Malheur river, and west of the Snake river, and extending to a point opposite Weiser, including the famous Dead Ox flat.

These lands are to be irrigated by means of current wheels to be installed in the Snake river, the wheels to be run by the power of the water. This is a new plan of pumping for irrigation purposes in Oregon and Idaho. This plan has been tried out at Pasco on the Columbia river, where water for irrigation purposes has been successfully lifted 220 feet.

The plan of the Snake River Irrigation district is to install two of these pumping wheels in the Snake river, one of which will be at the mouth of Jacobsen's gulch, five miles north of Ontario. One of these plants will lift the water 45 feet above the river. The other plant will lift the water 103 feet above the river.

Work on the first lift has been commenced and it is expected to have this finished within 90 days. Thirty men are at work.

### DRAW 260 FEET IN LENGTH.

Albany Has Longest Wooden Span in Whole World.

Albany—Work has begun on the construction of a new draw span in the big Corvallis & Eastern railroad bridge spanning the Willamette river at this city. A draw 260 feet long will be built, replacing one of similar length and new pivot pier constructed beneath it. This pier will be 22 feet in diameter at the top and 34 feet in diameter at the bed of the river. This 260-foot draw is the longest wooden draw span in the world. Local railroad men say there is no other draw in existence so long as this one which is not constructed of steel. For many years the local bridge has held this record. The next longest wooden draw span, which was 240 feet in length, was on a wagon bridge in California, which has recently been replaced with steel, so now the local bridge has by far the longest swinging wooden span on earth.

### Corporations Pay Up.

Salem—Oregon corporations are not to be sued in the United States court for failure to pay the taxes provided by the new revenue law. Only two companies are delinquent and both of them have made arrangements to pay their corporation tax before the end of July. All the others have paid.

Of the 7,000 Oregon corporations which were required to submit reports of their business for the year 1909, only between 900 and 1,000 were found to have earned a net income of more than \$5,000. The taxes assessed against the corporations which earned more than the exempted amount of \$5,000 net income, range from sum of 20 cents to \$14,000.

### New Town Springs Up.

Vale—Brogan, the new town of the Willow River irrigation project, now has train connections with Vale, the last rail in the Brogan yards having been placed. Temporary service is being maintained by the construction train. Less than a year ago the town-site of Brogan was a wilderness of sagebrush land, but now it is a town of several hundred people and has six modern white pressed brick buildings.

### ENGINEERS START SURVEYS.

Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Will Construct Cut-Off.

Astoria—A force of Astoria & Columbia River railroad engineers has arrived from Portland and are making detailed surveys for the proposed cut-off at Tongue Point.

The cutoff is to start at the commencement of the big curve a short distance west of the John Day river and run through the bluff several hundred feet south of the present track. It will then follow the short line back of the Hammond Lumber company's mill and continuing along on solid ground to a point about 200 feet west of the Astoria Box company's plant, where it will connect with the existing trestle.

The main object in making the change is to do away with the heavy curve at Tongue Point, as well as with a long stretch of trestle that is expensive to keep in repair.

A cut is to be made through the bluff at the point and the earth secured there will be utilized to fill in the grounds at the depot.

### APPLE CROP TO BE SAVED.

Court Appoints a Receiver to Care for Hood River Orchard.

Hood River—In order that a \$15,000 apple crop on a 30-acre Hood River orchard, the title to which is in litigation, may not be wasted, C. H. Sprout has been appointed receiver on behalf of the United States court.

The property was formerly owned by Oscar Vanderbilt, who sold to Minette Thullen, Bishop and Joseph Thullen. Differences as to the payment of the purchase price caused the matter to be brought to the attention of the courts.

Since the suit was started the apples have begun to ripen and it was shown the court that the value of the product to be harvested is at least \$500 per acre. The bond of the receiver was fixed at \$5,000.

### Fire Destroys Mill Flume.

Eugene—Fire has broken out anew on the logged-off land of the Booth-Kelly Lumber company above Wendling and has destroyed about 1,750 feet of log chute. All the company's employes, numbering 300 in that section, are again at work in an effort to keep the fire out of the standing timber.

### Mile of Cement Walk to Be Laid.

Jacksonville—More than a mile of new cement walk will be laid in Jacksonville this summer. Surveys have been completed on Oregon, California and Fifth streets and work has begun. The council will endeavor to rush the work to completion this summer.

### PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem, 94@95c; club, 86@87c; red Russian, 85c; valley, 86@87c.

Barley—Feed and brewing, \$24 ton.

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

Corn—Whole, \$32; cracked, \$33 ton.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$28@28.50 ton.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 33c; fancy outside creamery, 31@33c per pound; store, 23c; butter fat, 33c.

Eggs—Oregon candled, 26 1/2@27c; Eastern, 24@25 1/2c per dozen.

Poultry—Hens, 17@18c; springs, 19@20c; ducks, 15c; geese, 10@11c; turkeys, live, 18@20c; dressed 22 1/2@25c; squabs, \$3 per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, 12 1/2@13c per pound.

Veal—Fancy, 12@12 1/2c per pound.

Green Fruits—Apples, new, \$1.25@1.50 2 per box; Lambert cherries, 12@15c per pound; apricots, 50@60¢ per box; plums, 50@60¢; pears, \$2.25;

peaches, 40¢@1.25; loganberries, \$1@1.25 per crate; blackberries, \$1.40@1.50 per box; watermelons, \$1@1.25 per hundred; cantaloupes, \$2.75@3.50 per crate.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 60@75¢ per dozen; beans, 3@5¢ per pound; cabbage, 2 1/2@2 1/2¢; cauliflower, \$1.50 per dozen; celery, 90¢; cucumbers, 50¢ per box; egg plant, 12 1/2¢ per pound; green onions, 15¢ per dozen; peas, 6¢ per pound; peppers, 10@12 1/2¢; radishes, 15¢@20¢ per dozen; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.50; parsnips, \$1@1.25; turnips, \$1.

Potatoes—New, 1 1/2¢ per pound.

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

Cattle—Beef steers, good to choice, \$5.25@6; fair to medium, \$4.25@4.75; cows, and heifers, good to choice, \$4.25@4.50; fair to medium, \$3.50@4; bulls, \$3@3.75; stags, \$2.50@4.50; calves, light, \$5.75@6.75; heavy, \$3.50@5.

Hogs—Top, \$10@10.25; fair to medium, \$8.60@8.75.

Sheep—Best wethers, \$4@4.25; fair to good, \$3@3.50; best ewes, \$3@3.50; lambs, choice, \$5@6; fair, \$4.75@5.25.

Hops—1909 crop, 10@13c; old, nominal; 1910 contracts, 13c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 13@17c per pound; valley, 15 1/2@18c; mohair, choice, 32@33c.