

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

COMMERCE INCREASES.

American Trade With South America of Great Importance.

Washington—That the commerce of the 20 Latin American republics lying south of the United States is increasing with such strides that it is deserving of particular attention is proved by the special report of John Barrett, director of the International Bureau of American Republics, to the fourth Pan-American conference now in session at Buenos Ayres. After pointing out that the work and correspondence of the bureau have increased 1,000 per cent since the last conference in 1900; that last year it was directly responsible for \$52,000,000 of new trade exchange in the Pan-American field; that it distributes annually 450,000 pieces of printed matter descriptive of Pan-American relations, in contrast to 50,000 four years ago, and that it has been an active and useful factor in numerous ways for the promotion of Pan-American friendship, peace and commerce, the director says:

"The statistics just compiled show that in the year 1909 the 20 republics south of the United States bought and sold in trade with the rest of the world products valued at the surprising total of \$2,127,301,000. Assuming that there are 70,000,000 inhabitants in Latin America, this gives a per capita trade of approximately \$30. The foreign commerce of China and Japan, combined, with a conservative estimate of their population at 350,000,000, was approximately \$1,000,000,000, or only half that of Latin America, giving a per capita of less than \$3 a head, or only one-tenth that of Latin America. This comparison is not in any sense intended as a reflection on Japan or China, but solely to emphasize the remarkable importance and progress of Latin America.

"This grand total represents an almost phenomenal increase in one decade, as over the average foreign trade for the years 1896-7-8, of \$1,203,516,000, or 128 per cent. It must convince the most hard-headed doubter that the 20 nations which reach in unbroken array from Mexico and Cuba south to Argentina and Chile are worthy of the study of the rest of the world and particularly of the United States.

"The total of Latin American foreign commerce for 1909, divided into exports and imports, shows a notable balance of trade in favor of Latin America. The exports were valued at \$1,232,103,000; the imports at \$895,198,000, or a favorable balance of \$336,905,000. Exports, moreover, show an impressive increase in ten years of 143 per cent and imports of 115 per cent.

The United States bought from and sold to Latin America in 1909 products valued at \$589,302,000. Taking this as high-water mark of the trade Latin America and the United States exchanged last year, what becomes of the complaint of the uninformed man that the United States is being outstripped by Germany and France? When the United States buys, as she does, one-fourth of all Latin America sells to the world, and sells to it one-fourth of all it buys, no one can logically say that the United States and Latin America are losing their commerce with each other through the competition of Europe."

Boat to Get New Guns.

Vallejo, Cal.—The cruiser South Dakota, which has just returned from Monterey bay, will go to Mare Island navy yard immediately for extensive battery overhauling. All eight-inch turrets will be remodeled, and heavier, stronger guns with a hydraulic elevating gear for the turrets will be installed. Considerable routine work on the South Dakota has also been authorized.

The cruiser will be in the navy yard for several months, during which time the cruisers West Virginia and Maryland will be undergoing repair. Upon the completion of the work in October, the three ships will leave here for anchorage in San Francisco bay, under sailing orders.

Western Ideas Wanted.

Washington—China is looking for Western ideas for her navy. In September his imperial highness, Prince Tsai Haun, and Admiral Sah, the imperial naval commissioner, will arrive in the United States to study naval affairs. Mr. Calhoun, minister to China, advised the State department that the royal party will sail on the steamer Manchuria, on August 2.

Details for his reception will be arranged soon. A number of American naval officers probably will meet the prince when he lands and escort him to the various naval establishments on his way across the United States.

TROOPS TO SAVE TIMBER.

Plan to Station Regulars in Forest Reserves During Summer.

Spokane, Wash.—President Taft, as commander-in-chief of the army, and Secretary of War Dickington have been requested by the Western Pine Manufacturers' association, of which J. P. McGoldrick of Spokane, is president, acting in behalf of timber owners, lumbermen and settlers in the Northwestern and Pacific states, to station government troops in the national forest reservations from May 1, to September 30, of each year, to the end that the timber resources of the United States may be saved from destruction.

"The fire losses in the forests in the Western states during the last 60 days will amount to at least \$150,000,000," said George M. Cornwall, of Portland, Ore., who presented a resolution embodying the foregoing at the semi-annual meeting of the association, "and it is likely that in addition millions of dollars' worth timber will be destroyed during this and next month unless heavy rains come before the end of the dry season."

Statistics compiled by A. W. Cooper, secretary of the Western Pine Manufacturers' association, show that fully 50 per cent of the standing timber in the United States is located in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and California, where fire patrols are maintained by lumbermen's associations and the state departments. These, however, are inadequate to cope with the fire element.

"There exists a grave menace to standing timber in the national forests on account of fires," Mr. Cornwall said in discussing the use of troops in fighting and prevention, "and this carries with it heavy losses of life and valuable property.

"There are stationed at various posts in the United States thousands of disciplined men, known as government troops, who could be instructed in the methods of fire fighting and patrol duty in the various forests not alone in the Northwestern and Pacific states but throughout the country where forests exist.

"The plan, if carried out, would be to place the troops under the direction of the department of the interior or any other department of the government in the national forests, where they could be instructed in the methods of fighting forest fires, which are usually started as the result of carelessness on the part of hunters, campers, land clearing, lumbermen and railroads.

"These forests require an adequate patrol, regularly established and maintained during the so-called dry season, from May to September. Forest fire fighting is a science and should be taught to the troops as part of the military tactics. Besides no better employment could be found for the soldiers than to utilize them as protectors of life and property during part of the year when men are most needed in the forests of the country.

"We are hopeful that the president of the United States and the secretary of war will look upon our request as a step in the direction of actual conservation of one of the country's chief resources; also that an order will be issued to send the nearest troops into the national forests, which, in several of the northwestern states, are not unlike furnaces at the present time."

Reports from various parts of Idaho, Washington and Montana received in Spokane show that fires have broken out anew in the various reserves, where in addition to more than 2,000 men now at work with dynamite, axes and mattocks, there is an urgent demand for more than double that number to cope with the flames.

In the Lolo national forest in Western Montana and Eastern Idaho, more than 600,000,000 feet of white and yellow pine timber in the path of fires and other districts in various parts of the Northwest are threatened. Representatives of timber companies returning to Spokane from Montana and Idaho say that the fire lines are from eight to 10 miles in extent in numerous places.

Who Will Work on Maine.

Washington—Three persons have been named by Acting Secretary of War Oliver as a board to have charge of the raising of the battleship Maine. The board consists of Colonel Black, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick and Captain Ferguson. They will have charge of the engineering problems encountered when it is finally decided to remove the sunken warship from Havana harbor.

Lemon Rate Reduction Postponed.

Washington—The interstate commerce commission ordered a postponement from September 1 to November 1 of the date on which reduced freight rates on California lemon shipments shall become effective. A cut in the rates from \$1.15 to \$1 per 100 pounds applies to shipments to all eastern points. The order seems to make certain that no further postponement will be possible.

REDUCED RATES DEMANDED.

Eastern Men Say Fight Express Companies to Finish.

Chicago—Commercial organizations throughout the country have decided to engage in a finish fight with the express companies with a view to securing greatly reduced rates.

The first gun in the campaign was fired when the Chicago association of commerce and 123 other influential commercial organizations in all parts of the country led a petition to the Interstate Commerce commission asking that body to make an investigation on its own motion into the charges made by express companies and into the revenues they are enjoying.

Indirectly the attack on the express companies hits at railroad revenues, for a portion of the complaint is based upon contracts entered into between their lines.

The movement against the express companies was started by the Chicago association of commerce and the New York Merchants' association, the former interesting most of the powerful commercial organizations in the West, and the latter influencing those in the East to join the movement.

It is said that sufficient data has been gathered to warrant the commission in reducing express charges by fully 50 per cent.

Among other things the commission is asked to examine closely into the origin and character of the contracts between railroads and the express companies and to make a full disclosure of the names of the stockholders, especially of the railroads holding stock in express companies.

GRAND TRUNK STRIKE WON.

Agreement Reached With Employers for Increase in Wages.

Ottawa, Ont.—The strike of conductors, trainmen and yardmen, which began on the Grand Trunk and Central Vermont systems on July 18, was officially called off.

Under the terms of the agreement signed by President Hays for the railroads and all the union officials, the men will receive, dating back to May 13 this year, an advance of approximately 18 per cent, and beginning January 1, 1912, a rate of wages slightly below the Eastern association schedule, for which they struck, but an advance in many instances of over 30 per cent.

In the case of the Central Vermont, the same settlement applies, with the exception that the standardization to be applied on January 1, 1912, is to be that of the Rutland Railway, a road in the same territory, and not that of the Canadian Pacific, which will only apply to the Grand Trunk system.

Japan's Friendship True.

New York—Speaking from the standpoint of 30 years' experience, the Right Rev. Herriman C. Harris declares that Japanese friendliness for the people of the United States was a striking characteristic not only of the government, but of the people.

"Japan is bound to Great Britain by the close and definite terms of an alliance, but good feeling toward America is inherent among the people; it is traditional. I would not be going too far in saying that the good will toward this country which you encounter everywhere among the people as well as among those in official life is more than a matter of mere friendly sentiment. It has been in evidence in Japan for 50 years and as I said, is something which young generations of Japanese are taught to accept as a part almost of national feeling.

"Now this may sound strange, but I know it is true."

Operation Big Success.

San Francisco—The delegates to the American Osteopathic convention spent the afternoon in a trolley tour of the city and its suburbs. The condition of the 8-year-old Vera Sternemann, who was made the subject of the famous Lorenz operation for congenital dislocation of the hip by Dr. Harry Forbes, of Los Angeles, is rapidly improving and those in attendance reported to the convention that the affected leg of the patient had been lengthened an inch and a half by the bloodless surgical operation.

Press Backing Up State.

Madrid—The Liberal press officially denies the insinuations of the Vatican that it only demanded the withdrawal of the bill prohibiting further religious orders until the concordat had been revised, and also points out that the bill in question did not violate the concordat, which recognizes only three orders. El Liberal says Pope Pius X is now sowing a wind to reap a whirlwind in following the advice of two Spanish cardinals.

Estrada Gains Victory.

New York—Pio Belanos, an Estrada supporter, has received advices confirming the recent abandonment of Acoyapa by Madriz forces under the command of General Vasquez. The dispatch to Mr. Bolanos states that after a decisive battle the Estrada forces took Acoyapa.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

MUCH INSURANCE WRITTEN.

Report Shows Phenomenal Growth of Insurance Business.

Salem—S. A. Kozer, insurance commissioner has completed his first comprehensive report of all the insurance companies doing business in Oregon. It is the annual report of the department and covers the period between March 1, 1909, and when the office was created, to December 31, 1909. It shows a phenomenal increase of legitimate insurance business in Oregon since the enactment of the law in 1909 creating the office of insurance commissioner.

The report contains a statement of the total risks written, gross premiums received, premiums returned, losses paid and net premiums for taxation of all authorized companies and associations, both domestic and foreign, for the year ending December 31. It contains a statement showing the aggregate insurance business transacted within the state since 1896 and the amount of taxes and license fees. It also contains a synopsis of the general annual statements of all companies authorized to transact business in this state.

The total fire risks written last year in Oregon, according to this report, equaled \$202,897,923, of which \$177,192,856 were written by stock companies and \$25,705,067 by mutual companies. There were during the period 82 stock fire insurance companies writing risks in Oregon and 12 mutual companies.

POWER DEAL ABOUT CLOSED.

J. L. Blaisdell Plans Improvements on Myrtle Creek Plant.

Myrtle Creek—Negotiations for the purchase of the electric light and power plant of the Myrtle Creek Water, Light & Milling company by J. L. Blaisdell, of Portland, have been almost completed. Electricity will be supplied to Myrtle Creek and Riddle. This is the beginning of the covering of the entire Umpqua valley with electric transmission lines. Special attention will be paid to the farmers if they wish power for pumping water for irrigation. A 24-hour service will be inaugurated.

This plant will be a temporary one, and will be replaced by a transformer substation. All the small gasoline, steam and water power plants will be eliminated and replaced by transformer substations, which will be supplied by a modern hydro-electric plant which will be located on one of the rivers in the county.

The wires will be strung on high steel towers placed from five to 10 to a mile. The transmission will be 100,000 volts at the beginning and 150,000 volts when conditions demand. Steps have already been taken towards securing a power site on one of the rivers. Mr. Blaisdell was at Riddle recently looking over the town.

Ask for Water Right.

Redmond—The Odin Falls Power company at the last meeting of the council, submitted an ordinance asking for a franchise to furnish the city with water, light and power. The company proposes to generate its power at Odin Falls, on the Deschutes river, and transmit the power and pipe the water to this city. The Crook County Water, Light & Power company of this city, has also asked for a franchise to put in water works, light and power. This company has a project at Cline Falls, four miles from the city, that they are developing.

New Industry at Beaverton.

Beaverton—The plant of the Beaverton Clay Manufacturing company has begun operations. The erection of buildings and the placing of machinery has been in progress for several months. The manufacture of tile will begin about the middle of the month. A large force will be employed and the new industry will mean much for Beaverton.

Enterprise Fall Grain Heavy.

Enterprise—Although the spring wheat in Wallowa county is light, owing to the dry season, the fall grain, now being cut in many districts of the county, is good. The Paradise and Flora districts, north of here, it is estimated that fall wheat will go from 40 to 60 bushels an acre.

Forests Burn Near Grants Pass.

Grants Pass—Forest fires have raged for several days in the mountains near Grants Pass but without any serious damage to personal property, although one or two ranchers would have lost their homes had not neighbors given timely aid.

NO SMUT IN ATHENA WHEAT.

Umatilla Grain Yield Averages 35 to 60 Bushels to Acre.

Athena—Harvest in this vicinity is progressing very rapidly, and with 50 combines and 10 stationary outfits at work in the county, in two more weeks the greater part of the grain will be in the sack. The yield here this year ranges from 35 to 60 bushels per acre. Some wheat is being hauled already into the various warehouses, and according to R. B. Richards, local agent for the Puget Sound warehouse company, the wheat is testing from 60 to 62, and less smut in it than in any previous year.

The best of wheat weather has prevailed in Umatilla county throughout this season. The combine seems to be the favorite reaper. Almost every farmer either has interest in a combine or has one of his own. All the wheatgrowers say they find it saves 50 per cent over the header and thrasher.

WALNUT INDUSTRY.

Secretary of McMinnville Club to Make Long Journey.

McMinnville—The walnut industry of Oregon is to be exploited by a series of lectures illustrated by about 60 stereopticon photo slides, by Colonel J. C. Cooper, secretary of the McMinnville Commercial club.

Mr. Cooper will deliver his first illustrated lecture at Eugene, and later in the week will start East under the direction of the Southern Pacific advertising bureau, his first stop after leaving Oregon being at Cheyenne, Wyoming. He will be routed as far East as Washington, D. C., and will visit and lecture at as many of the government experimental stations as can be reached along the course of his travels, with a view to interesting Eastern people with the rapidly growing importance of walnut culture in this section of the state.

Blast Away "Troy Hill."

Enterprise—The "Troy hill," rising from the canyon in which Troy, of this county, is situated, is being blasted out to facilitate travel, the wagon road originally was one of the most difficult of travel in the county. The hill around which the road winds is 1,500 feet high. The road was about three miles in length up this incline, and so narrow in places that teams could not pass.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem, 96@98c; club, 88@90c; red Russian, 88c; valley, 92c; fortyfold, 92c; Turkey red, 92@93c.

Barley—Feed and brewing, \$24.50 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 ton. Oats—No. 1 white, \$29@30 per ton. Green Fruits—Apples, new, 50c@1.50 per box; apricots, 30c@1.15; plums, 75c@1.15; peaches, \$2.25; peaches, 65c@1.25; blackberries, \$1.50 per crate; watermelons, 90c@1.25 per hundred; cantaloupes, \$1@2.25 per crate.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 60@75c per dozen; beans, 3@5c per pound; cabbage, 2 1/2@2 3/4c; cauliflower, \$1.50 per dozen; celery, 90c; corn, 25c; cucumbers, 50c per box; egg plant, 12 1/2c per pound; green onions, 15c per dozen; peas, 5c per pound; peppers, 50c per box; radishes, 15@20c per dozen; tomatoes, 65c@1.15 per box; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.50; parsnips, \$1@1.25; turnips, \$1.

Potatoes—New, \$1.15@1.25 per hundred; sweet potatoes, 5c per pound. Onions—Walla Walla, \$2.50 per sack; Oregon, \$2@2.25.

Butter—City creamery, solid pack, 34c per pound; butter fat, 34c; country store, 24c.

Eggs—Oregon candled, 26 1/2@27 1/2c per dozen.

Poultry—Hens, 17c per pound; springs, 17c; ducks, 14@15c; geese, 10@11 1/2c; turkeys, live, 18@20c; dressed, 22 1/2@25c; squabs, \$3 per doz.

Pork—Fancy, 13c per pound.

Veal—Fancy, 12 1/2c per pound.

Hops—1909 crop, 8@12c; olds, nominal; 1910 contracts, 13@13 1/2c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 13@17c per pound; valley, 16@18c; mohair, choice, 32@33c.

Cattle—Beef steers, good to choice, \$5.25@5.75; fair to medium, \$4.25@4.75; cows and heifers, good to choice, \$4.25@4.65; 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@9.75.

Sheep—Best wethers, \$3.75@4.35; fair to good, \$3@3.50; best ewes, \$3@3.50; lambs, choice, \$5.50@6; fair, \$4.75@5.25.