

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

LUMBER CUT GAINS.

Increase for Whole Country 34 Per Cent in Year.

Washington—The lumber cut in the United States during the calendar year 1909 was 44,585 million feet, board measure, as against 33,324 million feet in 1908, and 40,256 million feet in 1907. This was an increase of 34.2 per cent over 1907. The output of lath and shingles during 1909 was 3,712 million and 14,945 million respectively. The increase in the production of lath in 1909 over 1908 was 24.3 per cent and over 1907 1.3 per cent, while the corresponding increases for shingles were 23.4 per cent and 26.4 per cent.

This information appears in a preliminary comparative report covering 1909, 1908 and 1907, which was transmitted to Census Director Durand by Chief Statistician William M. Stewart.

The substantial increase over the two preceding years was general, few of the individual states showing a decreased cut. The figures show a conspicuous increase in the cut of the Southeastern states, including all those on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Virginia to Texas and Kentucky and Tennessee.

The proportion of the total lumber cut of the country contributed by New York and the New England states did not vary materially during the three years, being 9 per cent in 1907, 9.6 per cent in 1908 and 7.5 per cent in 1909.

Although the wood pulp industry continues to make heavy and increasing draft upon the supply of spruce, this tree still practically shares with white pine the place of first importance among the lumber timbers of this region. In 1909 its contribution to the total lumber cut of this group of states was 28.8 per cent, while that of white pine was 31.1 per cent.

The relative importance of the Lake states—Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin—in lumber production continues to decrease steadily, as the supply of white pine stumpage grows less.

The Pacific Coast states, with an output of 28.3 per cent larger in 1909 than in 1908, and 2.2 per cent greater than in 1907, nevertheless, contributed a smaller proportion of the total cut of the country in 1909 than in either of the preceding years, the per cent for 1909 being 15.5, for 1908 16.2, and for 1907 16.8. Douglas fir was far in the lead, as lumber material in these states during the three years, the production from this species constituting 68.1 per cent in 1907, 66.1 per cent in 1908, and 68.5 in 1909. It contributed 79.2 per cent of the total production in Washington in 1909, and 82.2 per cent in Oregon, while redwood formed 45.6 per cent of the total output of California.

Of the total production of lumber in 1909 soft woods supplied 33,875 million feet, or 76 per cent, while hard woods contributed 10,693 million feet, or 24 per cent. Soft woods contributed 1 per cent less of the total production in 1909 than in 1908 and 1907, in each of which years they formed 77 per cent of the total.

OIL LANDS NEAR COAL.

Deposits in Alaska Believed to Be Extensive.

Seattle—President Taft's order withdrawing Alaska oil lands from settlement was not unexpected, being in line with the administration's policy of restoring all Alaska coal lands to the public domain and letting congress legislate for their disposal. The oil lands are in or near the coal fields. Gushers were tapped in the Katalla coal fields and coal claims now cover the oil land.

Clarence Cunningham, who located the famous group of coal claims that figured so prominently in the attacks on Secretary Ballinger, went to Alaska to prospect for oil, and Indians showed him the enormously rich coal areas. The oil deposits of Alaska have not yet been thoroughly prospected, but are believed to be extensive.

In the sandstone and shale beds of the Yukon and Koyukuk valley, heavy seepage of oil has been noted, but no effort has been made to segregate the land from the government domain for exploitation.

A lake covered with oil has been discovered within the region about 300 miles north of Kotzebue sound, and it is believed that good gushers could be found here at shallow depth.

Towns Show Big Growth.

Washington—The population of Youngstown, Ohio, is 79,066, an increase of 34,181 or 76.2 per cent over 44,885 in 1900.

El Paso, Tex., 39,279, an increase of 23,373 or 146.9 per cent over 15,906 in 1900.

Canton, Ill., 10,453 compared with 6,564 in 1900.

East Chicago, Ind., 19,098, compared with 3,411 in 1900.

TAFT IS OFF TO PANAMA.

Leaves on Cruiser Tennessee for Visit of Inspection.

Charleston, S. C.—President Taft has sailed for the isthmus of Panama to get in personal touch with conditions along the big canal. President Taft visited the isthmus just before his inauguration in 1909, but since then various executive and engineering problems have arisen, and congress must soon frame legislation as to rates of toll, form of government, the regulation of the sale of coal, the disposition of the Panama railroad and many other things. The president expects to make various recommendations regarding the canal at the coming short session of congress.

Mr. Taft sailed on the armored cruiser Tennessee, with the cruiser Montana as convoy. While officially known as cruisers, these vessels have the general proportions of the battleships of a few years ago, although they could not stand up very long against a modern Dreadnaught.

Both cruisers have a speed of 22 knots and will make the trip to Colon in four days. Mr. Taft expects to be on the isthmus four days and is due back in Charleston November 22. He will stop over a few hours in Richmond on the 23d.

President Taft's special squadron is under the command of Rear Admiral Staunton, with the Tennessee as flagship. Admiral Staunton, Captain Quimby, of the Montana, and Rear Admiral Ford, commanding the Charleston navy yard, were at the depot to greet the president when he arrived. The members of his party were driven to the home of Mayor Rhett for breakfast. Later the president reviewed groups of white and colored school children.

Mr. Taft went aboard the Tennessee launch at the custom house wharf. As he made his way up the starboard gangway of the big gray cruiser his flag was run up and he was received with a ruffle of drums a blare of trumpets and all the ceremonies accorded the commander in chief of the American armed forces.

The president is making a purely business trip to Panama and accompanied only by his brother, Charles P. Taft, Secretary Norton, two aides, a physician and a stenographer.

POWERS MAY LOSE SEAT.

Kentucky Democratic Delegation to Ask Congress to Act.

Louisville—Reports which were freely circulated here are that there is a movement under way to have the nine Democratic representatives of the Kentucky delegation make a concerted effort to have Caib Powers ousted from his seat as representative of the Eleventh Kentucky district. Congress, it is reported, will be asked to deny Powers his seat on the ground that he has thrice been convicted of felony and has not been acquitted by a jury. Governor Willson's pardon, it is contended, does not have the same effect as an acquittal on the charge of complicity in the Goebel assassination.

Holiday Silver May Be Minted.

Washington—Treasury officials may have to change their minds, after all, and order the mints to click off a million bright silver coins for the Christmas holidays. It has been customary to do so for many years, but as the treasury has on hand about \$22,000,000 in good coins, even though they are not bright and shiny, it had been decided, in the interest of economy, that no new ones would be turned out. But the wail of protest which is said to have originated with the small boys has gathered momentum. The indignation of the demands of the merchants has grown and the subtreasuries have been besieged with demands for new money until all the assistant treasurers are calling for help. The New York treasurer came to Washington to inform Treasurer McClung and George Roberts, director of the mint, that banks in New York are being almost mobbed by merchants who want bright new coins to give out to their customers during the holiday season.

Mint Will Be Closed Permanently.

Washington—George E. Roberts, director of the New Orleans mint, said that the mint would be abandoned for the present. When operations may be resumed there is not known. "There is not enough work to keep all the mints in operation," said Mr. Roberts. "It is with difficulty that three are kept working."

Los Angeles Has 319,198.

Washington—The population of Los Angeles, Cal., is 319,198, as compared with 102,479, as announced by the census bureau. This is an increase since 1900 of 267,199, or 21.5 per cent.

ESKIMOS DISCREDIT COOK.

Missionaries Get Terse Story of Wanderings in Arctic.

Chicago—Dr. Frederick A. Cook is further discredited in a special cable dispatch to the Chicago Daily News from its correspondent in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The story is the first publication of Knud Rasmussen, the Danish explorer, as sent by him to his wife in Copenhagen, and now given out by her.

Contained in the story are purported statements of Cook's two Eskimo companions in the Polar quest, Itukusuk and Apilak, in which they confirm Commander Robert E. Peary's charge that Cook traveled in a circle and never even approached the Pole.

Rasmussen, in the story, is quoted as saying he did not himself interview the man, but that their statements were taken by the Rev. Gustav Olsen and Kateket Sechmann Rosebach, missionaries.

The dispatch to the Daily News says:

"Already in 1909 when I was on an expedition to Greenland," writes Rasmussen, "there existed grave doubts as to whether Dr. Cook really had reached the Pole, so I determined to find out from his two Eskimo companions, I secured their statements through the missionaries."

This is the story of the Eskimos, as given in the dispatch:

"We traveled from Annatook with eight sledges in company with Dr. Cook, at the first sunshine, February. From there to Ellsmere we slept only once on the ice. It took four days to cross Ellsmere land. Eighteen days out our companions left us. We then had gone only about 12 English miles from land.

"The ice was fine and there was no reason to stop, for anyone who wanted to go on could do so. The 19th day Dr. Cook took observations with an instrument he held in his hand and we then changed our course westward.

"We left here a lot of food for men and dogs and one of us went ahead to examine the ice. He reported it in good shape, which it was, but Dr. Cook looked at it and said it was bad.

"On they way back we stopped at open water near the land. We stopped one day and went over to Ringnas island before the snow had melted (April).

"One day I (Apilak) came upon Dr. Cook sitting down and drawing a map. I looked at it and asked him: 'Whose route are you drawing?'

"My own," replied Dr. Cook.

"But that was a lie, because he drew the map a long way out at sea, where he had never been.

"We continued to shoot bears on the ice, until we had enough for the dogs. We do not know how many nights we slept on this part of the journey. The small rivers had only begun to break when we reached Hell's Gate.

"Here as Dr. Cook directed, we left our dogs behind, although they were fat from the bear meat. We had crossed the great sound and had to push our boat along the ice.

"Dr. Cook said: 'We will reach human beings (Baffinland) within two days.'

"We had slept twice when he looked ahead and said he saw a tent, but it was only a stone. We kept hunting for human beings a long time. Then we came to an island on which elder birds were resting. We followed the land past Cape Sparbo and when our provisions were nearly gone we returned toward Cape Zeddon, where we arranged for wintering.

"It was yet twilight the whole night and we built a house of peat and stone, just as we do at home. We caught walrus, musk ox and bear for winter. It was a fine autumn and we had made provisions for the winter. During the dark time we were inside most of the time making clothes."

Germany's Budget Grows.

Berlin—The Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung prints the details of the budget for 1912, showing expenditures of 2,924,945,136 marks, approximately \$12,975,545. The estimate includes for the army \$203,941,844, an increase of \$20,214,155, of which amount \$1,976,124 is for additions to the peace footing. The navy estimate is \$112,639,849, an increase of \$4,128,482. The budget requires a loan of \$24,438,982 to balance the expenditures as against \$47,962,290 borrowed to balance the present budget.

Poisoned Wine Kills.

Vancouver, B. C.—Four Frenchmen engaged in a drinking bout in a house in the Fairview section of Vancouver. Their port wine disagreed with them, and when the police were called to the house after midnight they found one man lying dead beside a table on which was a half-emptied bottle of port that is thought to contain strychnine. Two others were almost dead from the effects of the liquor and were taken to a hospital, where they are critically ill. The fourth man had disappeared and the police are seeking him.

'Frazzle' Is Remembered.

New York—The following telegram was received at Tammany hall from a Democrat in Oyster Bay: "Rosevelt's own district: Dix, 218; Stimson, 158. Beaten to a frazzle."

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

BURNED AREAS RESEEDED.

Forest Service Men Plant Larch and Pine Near Bear Creek.

Walla—Local officers of the Forest service have begun to plant 45 acres of an old burned area on the headwaters of Bear creek to European larch and Scotch pine. They are using the seed-spot method. In all over 300 acres have been planted in the Walla national forest this year, but all but the Bear Creek burn are in areas burned over this year.

The Bear Creek burn, which is several years old, is on the watershed of Walla's water supply and as it has not reforested from natural sources, the forest service has resorted to artificial means to better protect the storehouse for the city's summer supply of water. The method used consists of digging seed spots six feet apart each way and planting the tree seeds. While the loss of seed in this manner is a very large percentage, it is considered one of the most economical ways of reforesting burned over areas.

The work is under the direction of Supervisor H. W. Harris, and six men are employed.

WAY TO IMPROVE ROADS.

What is Known as "Splitlog Drag" Being Introduced.

Portland—The Pacific Highway association is sending out information in regard to the operation and construction of the "King Drag" or "Split Log Drag" for the immediate improvement of road conditions on the Pacific Coast. This information has been sent to every county commissioner in the counties of the state of California, Oregon and Washington, through which the proposed Pacific highway will pass, in order to put this inexpensive method of road improvement into wider fields, not alone for the Pacific Highway but for general thoroughfares.

Great encouragement is being constantly afforded the Pacific Highway association in this endeavor to better the road conditions, especially by the Seattle Automobile club, which at its last meeting voted to affiliate and financially assist the P. H. A.

Railroad Reaches Butte Falls.

Cottage Grove—The Pacific & Eastern railroad has reached Butte Falls. The last bridge was crossed Sunday and work will be rapid from this time on until the line is ready for use to the timber city.

The road is planning to inaugurate a regular train service to Butte Falls as early as possible. In all probability an excursion will be run in the near future, giving all an opportunity of inspecting the new line.

The Pacific & Eastern belongs to the Hill people and consists of 30 miles of standard track between Medford and Butte Falls. The line is surveyed and ready for grading from Butte Falls to a point on the main line of the Oregon Trunk coming down the Deschutes country.

100,000 Acres Will Be Reclaimed.

Crescent—Actual work of reclaiming several thousand acres of land near Crescent will be inaugurated early in the spring. All the necessary surveying has been completed.

Some 100,000 acres of land will be irrigated with water to be taken from Crescent and Fish lakes. The project, it is understood, is fathered by the Hunter Land company, of Portland, who own about half of the land affected. The rest will be watered in conjunction with the government reclamation service. About 100 miles of canal will be required. All the land lies west of Crescent, and it now is covered for the most part, with black pine. The country is said to have great promise as a dairying region.

One Teasel-Grower Left.

Oregon City—With the sale of the Samuel E. Gregory farm, at Carus, there remains only one teasel grower in Clackamas county. He is George E. Gregory, at Molalla.

Gregory brothers came here 15 years ago, and George Gregory bought the teasel farm of J. N. Sawtell, at Molalla. S. E. Gregory has just disposed of his ranch, 57 acres, with the buildings and 25 acres of timber, to Noah Christner, of Eugene, for \$150 per acre. The other 120 acres were purchased by Herman Smith, of Aurora, for \$90 an acre. The new owners will not attempt teasel raising, but will confine their labors to general farming.

Mr. Gregory will go to the Palouse country, in Washington, where he believes opportunities for successful teasel growing are better than here.

Coos County Dry.

Marshfield—Complete returns show that Coos county has gone dry by 23 votes. It is held by the wet faction that the Marshfield charter is such that the city can continue the saloons regardless of the county, but others claim that this matter must be decided in court. This is the first time the county ever went dry.

TAXABLE LAND \$9,500,000.

Benton County Richer by \$2,000,000 Than Year Ago.

Corvallis—The tax roll of Benton county for 1910 is made up and will soon be turned over to the proper officials. The figures show the total taxable property in the county is \$9,500,000.

The total amount for 1909 was \$7,500,000, an increase of over \$2,000,000. This increase comes from an increase in the assessment of railroad timber and speculative holdings. These properties heretofore have been assessed a very low figure and in some places were never assessed. The several items as shown are as follows:

Tillable land, \$2,249,900; non-tillable land, \$4,002,976; farm improvements, \$356,375; town lots, \$1,191,545; improvements on town lots, \$466,075; machinery, etc., \$67,060; merchandise, etc., \$184,355; shares of stock, \$51,540; farm implements, \$48,675; household furniture, \$78,905; horses and mules, \$166,870; cattle, \$60,130; sheep and goats, \$13,188; swine, \$3,845; dogs, \$1,075; total, \$8,960,514. Railroads and public utilities, \$540.

Grand total, \$9,500,514.

RAILROADS RUN AT LOSS.

Pacific & Eastern Report Shows Deficit of \$15,400.

Salem—Deficit in railroad operation is shown by the annual report of the Pacific Eastern which has just been filed with the state railroad commission. The income account and operating revenue show a deficit, net, of \$15,400.23. The total operating revenues are reported as \$9,557.69.

D. M. Rohlbrough, of Aurora, has complained to the commission that he shipped an emigrant car from Burley, Idaho, to Newberg, Or., and he was told the charge would be \$128, but when the car arrived he was charged \$198, he alleges. He asks the commission to determine if he can be rebated for an overcharge in this case.

Thomas A. Jensen, of Portland, complains that he shipped a piano from Watertown, S. D., to Portland and was charged \$37.34 for the shipment. This rate, he asserts, is an outrage.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, 77¢@78¢; club, 75¢; red Russian, 73¢; valley, 78¢; 40-fold, 76¢.

Barley—Feed, \$20¢@20.50 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$25 per ton; middlings, \$33; shorts, \$27; rolled barley, \$24¢@25¢.

Hay—Track prices: Timothy, Willamette valley, \$19¢@20 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$21¢@22¢; alfalfa, new, \$15¢@16¢; grain hay, \$14.

Corn—Whole, \$31; cracked, \$32 ton.

Oats—White, \$27¢@28 per ton.

Poultry—Hens, 17¢; springs, 15¢; ducks, white, 16¢; geese, 11¢; turkeys, live, 20¢; dressed, 23¢@25¢; squabs, \$2 per dozen.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, candled, 40¢; current receipts, 38¢; Eastern, 30¢@32¢ per dozen.

Butter—City creamery, solid pack, 36¢ per pound; prints, 37¢@37½¢; outside creamery, 35¢@36¢; butter fat, 36¢; country store butter, 24¢@25¢.

Pork—Fancy, 12¢@12½¢ per pound.

Veal—Fancy, 85 to 125 pounds, 12½¢@13¢ per pound.

Apples—King, 40¢@75¢ per box; Wolf River, 75¢@81¢; Waxen, 85¢@1.25; Baldwin, 75¢@1.25; Northern Spy, 75¢@1.25; Snow, \$1.25@1.50; Spitzenberg, \$1.25@2; Winter Bananas, \$1.75@3.50.

Green Fruits—Pears, \$1.25¢@2 per box; grapes, \$1.15¢@1.25; 17½¢ per basket; cranberries, \$8.50¢@9 per barrel; quinces, \$1¢@1.25 per box; huckleberries, 6¢@8¢ per pound; persimmons, \$1.85 per box.

Vegetables—Beans, 10¢@11¢ per pound; cabbage, ¾¢@1¢; cauliflower, 40¢@51¢ per dozen; celery, 50¢@80¢; pumpkins, 1¢@1½¢ per pound; sprouts, 7¢@8¢; squash, 1¢@1½¢; tomatoes, 50¢@60¢ per box; carrots, \$1¢@1.25 hundred; parsnips, \$1¢@1.25; turnips, \$1.

Onions—Oregon, buying price, \$1.10 per hundred.

Hops—1910 crop, 12¢@14¢; 1909, nominal; olds, nominal.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 13¢@17¢ per pound; valley, 17¢@19¢; mohair, choice, 32¢@33¢.

Cattle—Beef steers, good to choice, \$5.25¢@6.65; fair to medium, \$4.50¢@5; choice ayed heifers, \$4.50¢@5; good to choice beef cows, \$4.25¢@4.70; medium to good beef cows, \$3.50¢@4; common beef cows, \$2¢@3.50; bulls, \$3.50¢@4; stags, good to choice, \$4¢@4.50; calves, light, \$7¢@7.50; heavy, \$3.75¢@5.

Hogs—Top, \$9.25¢@9.60; fair to medium, \$9¢@9.25.

Sheep—Best valley wethers, \$3.25¢@3.50; fair to good wethers, \$3¢@3.25; best yearling wethers, \$4.25¢@4.75; best valley ewes, \$3¢@3.50; lambs, choice mountain, \$5.25¢@5.50; choice valley, \$4.75¢@5.