

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

TWO MILLION HUNGRY.

Manchurians Subsist on Leaves, Twigs and Bark.

Washington, March 11.—More gruesome stories of the horrors of the Chinese famine reached the State department today from the consul general at Shanghai, who sums up conditions at the beginning of February. One traveler reported passing 13 dead bodies in 13 miles of the road.

The missionaries tell of the natives eating cakes made of leaves and stems, mixed with millet chaff, which they buy with the allowance of the government of three cents apiece. Trees had been stripped of bark, which had been eaten.

Dr. Cochran, an American Presbyterian, missionary, said that in the whole afflicted region there were 2,000,000 starving people. In one village of 100 families, one-third were dead of hunger and pestilence. Snow was falling and many were without proper shelter or clothing.

The missionaries have attacked the work of relief with the greatest system and directness. The families in the provinces of Puchow, for instance, were divided into four classes and enumerated with this result:

"Those who had plenty numbered 17,995; those who could exist till harvest on what grain they had, 209,937; those who had a little grain, but would be in need before the end of February, 150,301, and those really destitute and in need of immediate relief, 197,681."

One thousand dollars raised by the Chinese relief commission of the chamber of commerce of Cincinnati was cabled to Shanghai today by the American Red Cross. The Cincinnati relief commission previously collected a large supply of provisions, now on the way to China on the army transport Buford.

TO STOP FILIBUSTERING.

President Gives This as Reason for Military Movement.

Washington, March 11.—That the administration has decided to dissemble no longer its reasons for the sudden and unprecedented movement of troops to the Mexican border is indicated by a dispatch, received tonight from the staff correspondent of the Associated Press, who is accompanying President Taft on his journey to Atlanta.

The dispatch, dated at Charlottesville, Va., through which place the President's train passed tonight at 7:10 o'clock, is as follows:

"All doubt as to the purpose of the government in sending 20,000 troops to the Mexican border has at last been swept away. The United States has determined that the revolution in the republic must end.

"The American troops have been sent to form a solid wall along the Rio Grande to stop filibustering, and see that there is no further smuggling of arms and men across the international boundary.

"It is believed that, with this source of contraband supplies cut off, the insurrectionary movement which has disturbed conditions generally for nearly a year, without accomplishing anything like the formation of a responsible independent government, will speedily come to a close.

WHEAT ON FARMS SMALLER.

Agricultural Department Shows Farmers Have Reduced Stocks.

Washington.—A statement issued by the department of agriculture shows that on March 1 the quantity of wheat on farms in Oregon was approximately 2,100,000 bushels, 13 per cent of the 1910 crop. This is 200,000 bushels less than on March 1, 1910.

In Washington there was on hand 3,800,000 bushels, or 15 per cent of last season's crop, and in Idaho 2,800,000 bushels, or 22 per cent of the crop.

On March 1, 1910, there was on hand in Washington 6,400,000 bushels, and in Idaho 3,600,000 bushels.

Statistics show that on March 1, 1911, Oregon farmers had on hand 3,200,000 bushels of oats; Washington, 2,200,000 and Idaho 2,100,000.

Pierce Will Follow Ballinger.

Washington—First Assistant Secretary of the Interior Frank Pierce announced that as a matter of courtesy to Walter L. Fisher, successor to Secretary Ballinger, he would tender his resignation soon after the new appointee takes charge of the affairs of the Interior department.

Fisher Confers With Taft.

Washington—Walter L. Fisher, the newly-appointed secretary of the interior, had an extended conference with the President at the White House. Secretary Ballinger, who will turn the affairs of his office over to Mr. Fisher next Monday, was called into the conference.

PINCHOT FIRST TARGET.

Ballinger Will Sue ex-Forester Pinchot for Libel.

Washington, March 9.—Secretary Ballinger has not yet definitely determined upon his plans for instituting libel suits against his detractors, but it is understood he will open proceedings with a suit against Gifford Pinchot, into which he will introduce much evidence that has not yet come to the attention of the public.

He will also institute suit against Collier's Weekly, and possibly may extend his suits to others later on. He will first go to Seattle, however, and probably will perfect his arrangements there. He will leave Washington as soon as his successor arrives and takes his oath of office.

It is understood in Washington that the selection of Mr. Fisher for Secretary of the interior was brought about largely by Private Secretary Norton, who is to retire from the White House in a few years. Norton has been quietly working for some time to bring about the selection of a conservationist for secretary of the interior and last summer at Beverly inspired the story that Ballinger was to retire on September 15.

That story was given the Associated Press and other press associations on the assumption that Ballinger would regard it as a hint, but, when Ballinger saw President Taft he discovered that Norton's advice was purely gratuitous and did not reflect the wishes of the president.

OIL FOR NAVY FUEL.

Admiral Cone Says It Will Soon Displace Coal Entirely.

Los Angeles, March 9.—Questions of vital importance to the United States navy and the country and particularly to the Pacific Coast were discussed before the sixth annual convention of the Navy league of the United States, in session in this city today, by Rear Admiral Hutch I. Cone, U. S. N., chief of the bureau of steam engineering.

The maintenance of a fleet on the Pacific Coast, and the all-important question of fuel and of the use of crude oil for that purpose were the principal topics touched upon by Admiral Cone. In the latter connection he said:

"We are at present designing ships which will be particularly effective in the Pacific because of our large supply of fuel oil on the West coast. So far as can be seen at the present time, the United States navy of the future will consume oil instead of coal. In fact we have already in commission ten destroyers which burn nothing but oil. Battleships being designed for the next year's program are to be vessels that burn oil only."

TAKE UP ALASKA CASES.

New Secretary of Interior Will Investigate Coal Lands.

Washington, March 9.—It was reported today that soon after Walter L. Fisher, the new secretary of the interior, takes office, the Alaska coal land claims will be taken up for settlement.

After referring to Mr. Fisher's services in securing the settlement of the big traction fight in Chicago a statement given out at the White House goes on to say that Attorney General Wickersham, who represented stockholders in the Chicago traction fight, and who visited Alaska last year at the request of President Taft, has now suggested that the method of adjudicating the Chicago controversy might be adopted as an equitable basis for the settlement of the Alaska coal land claims.

In the statement, Mr. Fisher is declared to be a man whose information on such subjects as irrigation, reclamation and water power sites is broad and comprehensive. In politics, it is set out that he is a Republican of strong convictions but independent action.

Fleet Under New Admiral.

Seattle, March 9.—Rear Admiral W. H. Southerland today took command of the second division of the Pacific fleet, United States navy. With no ceremony other than the hoisting of his flag at the masthead of the cruiser West Virginia, Admiral Southerland installed his staff and assumed active command. The second division consists of the cruisers Pennsylvania, Colorado and West Virginia and makes headquarters at the navy yard at Bremerton.

Insanity Case Called Farce.

Washington, March 9.—Ex-United States Senator Pies today characterized as a "farce" the proceedings in Dublin, Ireland, by which the son of Edward Corcoran, of that place is attempting to prove that the latter, because of a weak mental condition, signed away to American lawyers most of the estate inherited from a wealthy cousin, John Sullivan, of Seattle, Wash.

DIAZ IS REASSURED.

Taft Explains—He Has Nothing to Fear From Maneuvers.

Mexico City, March 9.—Setting at rest all rumors that the United States is preparing for intervention in Mexico, President Taft today sent to President Diaz a telegram in which he says: "The military maneuvers being conducted along the frontier in Texas have no significance which should cause concern to Mexico."

The message was transmitted to the department of foreign relations by Fred M. Deering, charge d'affaires of the American embassy. Following is the text:

"I have the honor to advise your excellency that I am in receipt of instructions from my government directing me to inform his excellency, President Diaz, through the medium of your excellency, that the president of the United States wishes to express the hope that no misapprehensions will result from unfounded and sensational newspaper conjectures as to the military maneuvers about to take place in Texas and elsewhere, and to give President Diaz assurance that the maneuvers have no significance that should cause concern to the friendly neighbors of the United States to the South."

A calm and dispassionate view of the mobilization appears to have been taken here by the Mexicans. No excitement followed the appearance of the news. Dailies in Spanish as well as the American morning newspapers give much space to the details of the movement.

In some quarters, nevertheless, the explanation given out at the White House as to the significance of President Taft's order was viewed with skepticism. This was particularly true as relating to American residents in the city, many of whom profess to see in it the first step in a move toward intervention.

ARMY DEFEATS ITSELF.

Internal Dissension Breaks Up Socialist Colony.

Mexicali, March 9.—Without the firing of a hostile gun, the army of liberation, which was to have established a socialistic republic in Lower California, with this little hamlet of adobe houses as the capital, has been beaten. It encompassed its own defeat. When the Federals came, in all probability, they will find nobody to fight. Dissension, rampant for more than a week, reached the crisis today. In the face of the enemy, which is expected to strike a blow any hour, a handful of insurgents manning the rifle pits again voted a lack of confidence in the leaders, Leyva and Berthold. John K. Turner, the writer, said to be close to the revolutionary junta in Los Angeles, declared them both outlaws and asserted the junta would withdraw all support if they did not obey the mandate of the men and step down. In spite of this, Leyva and Berthold remain defiant, standing pat on the coup they worked three days ago when they regained power from Captain Stanley.

REBELS AIMED AT IS BELIEF.

Insurrecto Junta Holds Diaz and "Interests" Aaked for Troops.

Los Angeles, March 9.—That the massing of United States troops along the Mexican border is a spectacular attempt at intimidating the revolutionists, is the belief of the officials of the revolutionary junta here. President Ricardo Magón, of the junta, made the following statement today: "The very fact that no complaint has come from Diaz or his cabinet concerning a movement that could easily be construed as a hostile action is evidence to us that the United States and Diaz are in accord and that the rushing of American troops to the border follows an appeal to this government by Diaz and the moneyed interests of Mexico to lend them as much material support as possible."

"We do not believe the United States will make the mistake of actually sending troops across the border, but will attempt by this show of force to frighten the revolutionists into abandoning active operations, which they never will do."

Intervention Is Predicted.

Mexico City, March 9.—The announcement that American troops would be concentrated on the Mexican frontier created no noticeable excitement among Mexicans today. The newspapers printed the news fully, but without extended editorial comment. The official explanation at Washington that only ordinary maneuvers are contemplated is accepted by prominent Mexicans as sufficient, but the public is skeptical and the move is regarded by some as the first move of American intervention.

Germans Have Not Appealed.

Berlin, March 9.—No requests for the protection of German interests have been received from the legation or consulates in Mexico. In an authoritative quarter the opinion was expressed today that it was natural for the United States, as a neighboring state, to take precautionary measures on the Mexican frontier.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

SETTLING NEW COUNTRY.

Loon Lake District Offers Fine Opportunities to Dairymen.

Marshfield — Loon Lake, a district just over the line of Coos county and in Douglas county, and located between Coos Bay and Drain, is to have a sawmill in addition to other improvements which are being made. The district was for years isolated, without any outlet but a trail. Recently a wagon road was built from Loon Lake to Alleghany, and the result is that a number of farmers are going there to settle. J. McDonald, a member of the logging firm of McDonald & Vaughan, will build this spring a mill at Loon Lake. It will cut about 12,000 feet a day, and will supply the ranchers and settlers with lumber for building. The only structures in the district now are built of shakes. There is about 4,000 acres of fine bottom land, which is attracting the attention of the dairymen, now that the district has an outlet. Besides, an auto line is to be run from Drain to Coos Bay, through the Loon Lake country, this summer, and there is to be some road building which will require lumber.

In the locality there is some 50,000,000 feet of myrtle, maple and other hard woods, and this will be handled by Mr. McDonald in his mill if he can find a market for that class of lumber sufficient to pay him to haul it out.

ENGINE TO CLEAR LAND.

Rich Coquille River Bottom to Be Used for Dairying.

Coquille—S. H. McAdams is constructing a machine which will be used in the clearing of the bottom land on the Coquille river. It can hardly be called a stump puller, although it has many points of a machine of that nature. It consists of a boiler and engine mounted on skids, the engine being equipped with a drum and cable similar to logging engines. The engine is a double cylinder of great power, and the sled or skids are of massive construction. Mr. McAdams says the machine is an experiment, but that he has made a close study of the matter of clearing the bottom land of the Coquille valley, and believes he has the proper kind of a machine for the work.

As yet he has no contracts for clearing, but when the plan is tried out if it proves successful he will have but little trouble in securing plenty of work. The machine will be ready for operation early this month. Considerable interest is being shown in the plan by those who have willow bottom land in this neighborhood.

UMATILLA TO BE OPENED.

Secretary of Interior Will Place Tracts for Homestead Entry.

Washington—The secretary of the interior has issued notice to the effect that lands in the fourth unit of the Umatilla irrigation project in Oregon, will be open to homestead entry on and after March 22, 1911, and that water will be furnished to these lands during the coming season. Water right applications may also be made for lands within this unit heretofore entered and for lands in private ownership.

The fourth unit contains 6,053 acres of irrigable land, of which 2,763 acres are public. Building charge of \$60 per acre is payable in not more than ten annual installments, each payment not less than \$6 per acre except in case of lands hereafter entered when first installment shall be \$12 per acre and subsequent installments \$6 per acre.

New Telephone Line.

Vale—Through the granting of a franchise by the city council last evening Vale is to have a second telephone system within 60 days. The franchise was granted to H. S. Jackson, a new arrival in the city, whose petition was signed by 118 of the business men and residents of the city. The new company is to be incorporated within the next few days and Mr. Johnson states that work will begin at once in this city. The object of the new system is to bring all of the independent lines within the county into the county seat, while at present Ontario is the main central telephone station.

The Malheur Home Telephone company, which has been operating lines in Vale and vicinity for the past several years, is connected with the Bell long distance telephone lines, but does not connect with the independent lines of the county, and it is generally believed that independent telephone connections with every part of the county will benefit Vale to a greater extent on account of the help in securing much of the trade that is now going to Ontario.

CLOSED SEASON NOT MADE.

Master Fish Warden Reports Columbia Tributaries Overlooked.

Salem—Master Fish Warden Clanton has submitted his monthly report, showing receipts of \$112.50 and disbursements, or accounts presented for payment, amounting to \$1,353.52. He calls attention to the fact that the legislature failed to enact a closed season for Columbia river tributaries, and that the closed season on the Columbia river extends from March 1, noon, to May 1, noon, while on the Willamette river and its tributaries, north of the falls at Oregon City, the season does not close until noon March 15 and opens again at noon April 15. No closed season, whatever, he says, exists on the other tributaries of the Columbia river in this state, west of its confluence with the Deschutes river.

He mentions the fact that the launch Astoria, which was damaged by fire, has been placed in first class condition for the closed season on the Columbia. J. D. Mitchell, of Portland, will act as engineer on the launch and will be under the supervision of Deputy Warden Rathbun. The launch Oregon Patrol, it is reported, has also been overhauled and placed in working order for the closed season. This will be manned by Water Bailiff Gor and Engineer F. N. Sweet, both of Astoria.

FORESTRY BOARD FORMING.

Governor West Asks Five Bodies to Select Members.

Salem—Governor West has written to the Oregon State Grange, Oregon Forest Fire association, Oregon Woolgrowers' association, Oregon & Washington Lumbermen's association and the United States Forest service, calling attention to the law passed at the last legislature providing for the appointment of a state board of forestry, which will have charge of the expenditure and of an appropriation of \$60,000 to be used in fighting fires.

"You will note that the law provides that the governor shall appoint as a member of the board someone recommended by you," he says. "In order that the board may be chosen and organization perfected at an early date I would ask that you kindly take the steps necessary to obtain from your body a full and free expression as to its choice."

GRANTS PASS CROP GREAT.

Fruit Inspector Says Yield Will Be Big This Year.

Grants Pass—The fruit crop of this section of Rogue River valley will be among the big yields, according to J. F. Burke, county fruit inspector who has finished inspecting the valley.

Last season he examined 150,000 fruit trees in this county. These figures do not cover the entire field, and a conservative estimate places the number of acres at 3,000.

Commercial pears took the lead in the variety of fruit set out in 1910. Mr. Burke says the greatest danger to commercial orchards is found in the backyard fruit trees in towns. They are hard to spray, owing to the nooks and corners of the premises, and are often neglected for that reason.

The present stage of all the orchards is somewhat backward, owing to the cool weather.

\$194,000 Taxes for Malheur.

Vale — The assessment roll of Malheur county was turned over to Sheriff Kerfoot the first of the month and shows that \$194,000 is to be collected in taxes in this county this year. Of that amount \$35,000 is for the road fund, \$92,210 for the state, county and school tax, and \$23,200 for special city taxes. Of the special city taxes, the city of Vale with its levy of 20 mills, will secure \$9,200; Ontario with its tax levy of 12 mills will secure \$9,120; and Nyssa, with a levy of 14 mills, \$4,800.

Engineer Moves to Asylum Site.

Pendleton—Captain Charles A. Murphy, engineer for the branch asylum, has moved into a residence on the branch asylum site. With his home on the grounds Captain Murphy will supervise work on the lands purchased by the state and perform other duties under the instructions of the state board. He will have charge of the work of laying the water main from the city limits to the branch asylum grounds.

Contract Let for Ashland School.

Ashland—The Ashland school board awarded the contract for the building of a new high school to Snook & Traver, of Salem, Or., that firm being the lowest of six bidders. The bids on the general contract work ran from \$63,000 to \$75,000.