

MIDDLE WEST IS BURIED IN SNOW

Three States Swept By 40-Mile Blizzard.

Trains Stopped and Held Fast in Drifts—Mississippi High and Damage Threatens.

St. Louis, Mo.—Sixteen inches of snow, driven by a 40-mile wind, with a minimum temperature of 24 degrees, were features of a storm which is sweeping Eastern Missouri, Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky.

The wind has drifted the snow to a depth of several feet, hampering traffic on all transportation lines. Streetcar and railroad traffic at Taylorville, Ill., are at a standstill.

Baltimore & Ohio passenger train No. 125, which left there at 9:30 p. m., is stalled in a drift five miles from the city. The passengers have no food, but are making themselves as comfortable as possible and are keeping warm, as the train carries plenty of coal. Passenger train No. 1, on the Chicago & Illinois Midland, is snow-bound at Kincaid, six miles west of Taylorville. A relief train sent out from Taylorville failed to reach the passenger train, and it, too, is snow-bound.

There was a break in the ice gorge in the Missouri River at Kansas City, causing a rush of heavy fies down the Missouri River, sinking the tug Omaha and caving in the sides of a large barge. Three river men narrowly escaped death when the tug was sunk. Colder weather north of Kansas City is believed to have lessened the danger to boats moored in the river.

Unless there is a further rise in the river there, sending more ice against the piers of the James-street bridge, closed to traffic two days ago, it is believed the structure will stand. The weather bureau predicts warmer weather for Kansas, and if a thaw comes higher water is certain.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, SUFFERS FROM \$7,000,000 FIRE

Houston, Tex.—In the wake of the most destructive fire in the history of Houston, smoldering wreckage covers an area about one and one-half miles in length and varying in width from 200 yards to half a mile in the north-eastern section of the city.

More than a dozen of the city's most important industrial enterprises are in ruins; 200 or more dwellings and store buildings are in ashes, and approximately 1,000 persons are homeless.

An accurate statement of the monetary loss is not yet possible, but the most conservative is that it will reach \$7,000,000, while the insurance carried will not exceed 40 per cent.

Except for a few minor burns and bruises, no casualties attended the fire.

Breaking forth in an untenanted rooming house known locally as "the madhouse," shortly after 1 o'clock in the morning, and at a time when a fierce gale was blowing from the Northwest, the fire made rapid headway. The flames swept toward the southeast, generally making a clean sweep of its path.

Four hours later the area of destruction had been defined, but the work of the fire fighters was not then ended, for all over the blackened districts piles of burning debris still demanded their attention.

"MY HAT'S IN RING," SAYS T. R.

Ex President Gives Characteristic Answer to Cleveland Throng.

Cleveland, O.—"My hat is in the ring."

That is what Theodore Roosevelt said here when an admiring Cleveland crowd sought to learn whether he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for president.

In the course of the brief stay of Colonel Roosevelt in Cleveland W. F. Eirick, well known locally in politics, greeted the ex-president, whom he knows well.

"I want a direct answer, Colonel," said Mr. Eirick. "All your friends want to know and want to know now, whether you are to be a candidate."

"My hat is in the ring," replied Colonel Roosevelt. "You will have my answer Monday."

Snow Impeding Railroads.

Kansas City—Carried on a 40-mile wind, a heavy snow storm swept Southern and Southeastern Kansas, Northern Oklahoma and Southwest Missouri and continues unabated. In Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri the local weather bureau promises snow and wind.

In the western and central sections of Kansas the snow is drifting fast and already is impeding railroad traffic.

AVIATOR LOST ON ICE.

Meets Disaster On Lake Erie and Escapes By Chance.

Erie, Pa.—Earl Sandt, a youthful aviator, the first birdman to fly over the Great Lakes from the United States to Canada, came to grief ten miles out on Lake Erie from Northeast, Pa., when attempting a return flight to the American shore.

While high in the air and 20 miles west of his course, the engine of his biplane stopped. For a while he glided, but suddenly the machine overturned and he was buried unconscious in the wreckage on the ice. How long he remained in this condition Sandt does not know. When he recovered he was saturated with blood from many cuts.

Aided by a pocket compass, Sandt walked ten miles to the American shore, landing at Northeast at 10 o'clock at night. He was found staggering along the shore by boys who were skating and was carried to a hotel. Word then was telephoned to this city.

Sandt is not injured seriously. He was brought here from Northeast at midnight in a special car. Thousands of persons, a brass band and loud blasts from shop whistles greeted him.

MEXICAN FEDERALS WIN.

Rout 2000 Rebels in Fierce Battle With Heavy Loss.

Mexico City—According to a report received here, 900 Federalists attacked 2,000 rebels near Cuernavaca, routing the revolutionists. The Federalists regained control of Cruz de Piedra, Santa Carla and Huistitlac. The rebels were commanded by a brother of Emilio Zapata. It is unofficially reported that 80 men were killed in the engagement.

The town of Aladama, Chihuahua, surrendered to the Vasquistas, without resistance. Forty conspirators were captured.

According to dispatches, General Robles, in command of the Federal forces, led an attack on Zapatistas entrenched in and around Santa Maria. He used artillery freely and drove the rebels from their positions. No estimate of casualties is given. A report says that the rebels also were defeated in a fierce fight near San Pedro, north of Torreon.

El Paso, Texas—In spite of his reported loyalty to President Francisco I. Madero, of Mexico, Vasquistas at Casas Grande has issued a manifesto naming General Pascual Orozco, commander-in-chief of the revolutionists. No recent word has been received here from Orozco, who at present is in Chihuahua.

Reports from Juarez say that a dozen arrests have been made there of persons charged with inciting mutiny.

Another report says that hundreds of rebels are now operating near Juarez and an attack upon the city is feared.

Y. M. C. A. Indorses Pool.

Walla Walla—That the college students may not have to frequent pool halls in order to play the game, the Y. M. C. A. of Whitman has taken up a movement to have billiard and pool tables put in the Billings Hall dormitory for the use of the boys. This movement is finding a hearty response and it is believed there will be no opposition. Local men are donating money for the purpose.

George Cole, student manager, who last year was expelled from the Methodist conference for dancing and upholding card playing, but who was later reinstated, is at the head of the movement for the billiard and pool tables. He is a senior, chairman of the managerial board, one of the best athletes in school and one of the most popular men of the institution.

Freight to Be Checked.

San Francisco—Attorneys representing 35 railroads have agreed before the State Railroad commission to meet the demand of shippers for the issuance of "clean bills of lading." Heretofore the railroads have refused to be accountable for shortages in freight where the carrier's agents had not checked personally the goods to be shipped. Shipping interests insisted that all freight should be so checked, and this demand has been acceded to.

Investigate High Cost of Living.

New York—Magistrate Murphy announces that he will inquire into the high cost of necessities. District Attorney Whitman probably will prosecute criminally a number of speculators in butter, eggs, vegetables and meats. The proceedings were first centered on butter and eggs. It is believed there will be 150 defendants in criminal actions as a result of the probe.

Morse on Way to Recovery.

Atlanta, Ga.—Charles W. Morse, the former banker, recently pardoned for wrecking a New York bank, after serving two years of a 15-year sentence, will recover sufficiently to again enter Wall street activities, according to Dr. A. L. Fowler, Morse's personal physician.

FOR COMPENSATION LAWS.

President Asks That Congress Fix Scale for Accidental Injuries.

Washington, D. C.—In a special message to congress the president urges the passage of laws providing for the compensation of railroad employes for accidental injuries, to be fixed in accordance with the positive scale recommended by the employers' liability and workmen's compensation commission. The message declares that the theory of the commission is that each employe be insured against injury sustained in work, without reference to contributory negligence and without common law limitation on the liability of the employer. The message says:

"The details of the measure are admirably worked out. They provide medical and hospital service for the injured man, notice of injury to employer where such notice is not obviously given by the accident itself, and the fixing of compensation by agreement. The amount of recovery is regulated in proportion to the amount of wages received, the compensation to be made in the form of annual payment for a fixed number of years or for life. The fees paid to attorneys are to be specifically remedied, and the remedies offered are exclusive of any others."

President Taft declared that the greatest evil the law would destroy is the multitude of suits under the common law, which are now clogging the courts, postponing final adjustment through the law's delay.

DECLARE FOR PARCELS POST.

Objection to New Appropriation Bill May Be Made.

Washington, D. C.—Democratic members of the house committee on postoffices and postroads have agreed to incorporate in the appropriation bill provisions for a general parcels post. They also have agreed upon a general domestic rate of 12 cents and a maximum of 11 pounds. This is the present international parcel post rate. They would also provide for a rural parcels post, the rate to be 5 cents for one pound and 2 cents for each additional pound.

It was reported that some Republican members of the committee would approve the recommendation and that the bill would pass the house.

Members of the committee, however, expect to encounter some objection, on the ground that new legislation is proposed in an appropriation bill. They are discussing now how to get around these objections under the rules.

Secretary MacVeagh sent to congress an estimate of the postmaster general of \$400,000 for operating the postal savings banks during the next fiscal year, in addition to the unexpended \$500,000 appropriated last year.

RECALL NOT REQUESTED.

Columbia May Be Told That Knox Contemplated Settlement.

Washington, D. C.—President Taft took up the Colombia situation with his cabinet and later discussed it with Huntington Wilson, acting secretary of state.

No official statement was made of what action had been taken by this government. It was declared authoritatively that the United States did not contemplate asking for the recall of Senor Ospina, the Colombian minister.

A report was current that a full explanation of the attitude of the United States in the present controversy had been cabled to American Minister Dubois at Bogota, so that he might informally advise Colombia.

It is believed that the Colombian government now will learn from Mr. Dubois that Secretary Knox did intend the initiation of some negotiations that might terminate the troubled relations that grew out of the revolt of Panama from Colombia. Whether in view of such information Colombia might issue a special invitation to Mr. Knox is said to be based on the character of the negotiations which he would begin, the Colombian government being most insistent on arbitration through The Hague tribunal, rather than through any commission of diplomats.

Bill Provides for Title.

Washington, D. C.—Representative Taylor of Colorado, introduced a bill providing that homesteaders on government irrigation projects shall receive patent after five years' residence and compliance with the homestead laws, their unpaid water charges to be a lien against land until fully met. He also proposes that water payments shall hereafter be made to the official agents on each project, instead of at local land offices.

Clark is for Borah Bill.

Washington, D. C.—Speaker Clark became interested in the Borah-Jones three-year homestead bill and gave his promise to use his best efforts to have it favorably reported by the public lands committee and passed by the house.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

4700 ACRES WITHDRAWN.

Land Under Columbia Southern Project Acted On.

Salem—Withdrawal of 4,700 acres under the defunct Columbia Southern project was agreed to by the Desert Land board, expiration on this being due shortly.

The board took this step to protect the land against being thrown open for entry and to give the Oregon-Washington Finance company, which is attempting to place the old project on its feet, a better chance.

Representatives of the Oregon-Washington Finance company report that they are making excellent progress toward financing the plan, and while they may not complete their efforts successfully before the time limit expires, they believe they can do the work within a reasonable time and place the project on its feet.

This segregation embraces 27,000 acres in Crook county on the West side of the Deschutes river near Laidlaw. The segregation was originally made on behalf of the Three Sisters Irrigation company, which proposed to reclaim the lands from the regular flow of Tumalo creek.

This company subsequently assigned its interests to the Columbia Southern Irrigation company, which in turn transferred them to the Columbia Southern Irrigating company.

The company sold water rights for 17,929 acres inside the segregation and 1,360 acres outside. It was soon discovered, however, that the regular flow of Tumalo creek was sufficient for only about 2,000 acres, and as a result the board endeavored to have the company complete a storage plan for the reclamation of lands, but the company refused, a receiver was appointed and a suit was commenced to cancel the company's contract, but in this the state lost.

OREGON HEN ENROUTE.

Poultry Demonstration Car to Be Sent Out April 1.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—A new activity of the extension division of the Oregon Agricultural college is about to be launched, when a poultry demonstration car is sent out, to travel over the Southern Pacific lines.

In consultation with Assistant General Freight Agent Lounsbury, and State Superintendent of Schools Alderman, Prof. Hetzel, director of extension at the college will make out the itinerary of the car, and arrange to have the school children in each town where the car stops dismissed for that day, that they may attend the lectures and demonstrations.

The car will arrive in Corvallis about March 15, and Prof. James Dryden, of the college, will equip it, probably using much of the material shown in the egg production exhibit at the close of farmers' week. During the trip, C. C. Lamb, foreman of the college poultry plant, with an assistant, will be in charge, and will deliver the lectures. The Southern Pacific railroad has agreed to carry the car without expense to the college over all its lines, attaching it to regular trains, and leaving it at the stations scheduled.

BREWERS REJECT PLAN.

Doubt Practicability of Scheme to Grow Own Hops.

Portland—The brewers of the United States have decided not to go into the hop-growing business. The scheme, hatched by E. Clemens Horst to unite the brewers and Pacific Coast hopmen into a great hop-producing monopoly has fallen by the wayside, like so many other schemes designed to put the humble hop-grower out of business.

At a meeting of the United States Brewers' association, held in New York City recently, the Horst project was turned down, as not practical from a brewer's standpoint. It is said there was much unfavorable comment at the meeting on the manner in which the names of leading brewers were used without authority in trying to further the movement.

Oil Company Will Search.

Albany—Having leased 2,941 acres in Southern Linn county, the California Oil company will make extensive operations in searching for oil. The land is situated seven miles east of Harrisburg. The company in its leases agrees to pay the owners of the land a royalty of one-eighth of all oil or other mineral products discovered. The company also agrees to begin work within three years, and if it does not do so must pay rental.

Single Tax is Big Loser.

New Era—At one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held by the Warner Grange, over 100 members present unanimously indicated their opposition to the single-tax idea.

WOODRATS BLAMED.

Porcupines Also Said to Be Damaging Valley Timber.

Cottage Grove—No positive clews have been obtained as yet as to what manner of animal is doing the mysterious damage to the timber on the Storey-Bracher tract, near here. The guesses vary from a woodpecker to a rökarebor, and include pine squirrels, wood beavers, woodrats, goats, pocket gophers, worms, sidehill augurs, flying squirrels, mountain beaver and porcupines. The majority of opinions seems to be that it is either woodrats or porcupines. A peculiar feature is that but few porcupines have ever been seen in this county.

Those who believe woodrats are doing the work say their nests will either be found in the tops of the trees or in mounds near the base of the trees. None of these indications have as yet been found in this instance.

Those who believe it is the work of porcupines say that the porcupines usually will be found in the tops of trees in which they are working and believe that the pests will be found hiding in some of the big trees which, on account of their great height and thick foliage, would afford ideal hiding places. Only one person has reported having seen any porcupine work in this country before, and he reports that he had some fruit trees destroyed.

ASSISTING HORSE BREEDERS

Animal Husbandry Department at College Listing Sale Animals.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—Prof. E. L. Potter, of the animal husbandry department of the Oregon Agricultural college, in his capacity of secretary of the State Stallion Registration board, has issued to all owners of stallions or jacks in the state a letter in which he offers to keep on file in the office of the board a list of all such animals as are for sale, provided that they are properly registered. The purpose of the board in establishing this list of registered animals for sale is to encourage still further the raising of well-bred horses. From time to time in the past there have been inquiries as to a place of purchase by men interested in breeding good animals. Already the board has a list of considerable size from which prospective purchasers may choose. The service to both buyer and seller is entirely without fee.

NEW OFFICE FAVORED.

Argument for Aid to Governor to Be Printed in Pamphlet.

Salem—Giving as the proposed order of succession under the prospective constitutional amendment creating the office of lieutenant governor as governor, lieutenant governor, president protem of the senate and then speaker of the house and urging that the amendment will prevent the secretary of state from holding two offices at the same time, the argument in favor of creating this office was filed with the secretary of state.

This argument will be printed in the initiative and referendum pamphlet to go before the people at the next general election.

Steelhead Run Improving.

Astoria—During the past few days the run of steelheads that had dropped down to almost nothing has increased materially and fairly good catches have been made, the best hauls being made in the bay almost opposite the city. On account of the water being muddy, the fish do not appear to go up the river as rapidly as usual, but are hanging about in the bay. A few Chinook salmon also are being taken, and they are not only of good size, but also of excellent color and flavor.

Cottage Grove Grange Now Leads.

Cottage Grove—By the taking in of nearly 40 members recently, Cottage Grove Grange outdistanced Evening Star Grange at Portland, until then largest in the state, and the local grange now bears that proud distinction. There was a large attendance of Grangers from the surrounding country and an all-day session was held, with dinner at noon.

Many Hunters' Licenses Issued

Pendleton—Over 250 hunting and fishing licenses have already been issued this year in Umatilla county. This is more than two and one-half times the number issued during the first two months of 1911. The greater number of licenses is attributed to the increased activity on the part of the deputy game wardens.

Station at Fry to Have Shed

Salem—The State Railroad commission has been advised that the Southern Pacific has agreed to the construction of a shelter shed at Fry, a station near Albany.