

EXPLORER BACK FROM POLAR TRIP

Rumors That South Pole Has Been Reached.

Norwegian Traveler Arrives at Tasmania—Four Others in Field and Interest Grows.

Hobart, Tasmania.—Captain Raold Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer, has reached here on his return from his South Polar expedition.

London—Excitement was caused in London by a rumor that Captain Robert F. Scott, the British Antarctic explorer, had reached the South Pole. An evening newspaper printed the rumor, which is without confirmation from any source. Mrs. Scott, wife of the explorer, and officers of the Geographical society say they have not heard from him.

If the rumor proves true, Captain Scott will have the distinction of having won a veritable race to the southern extremity of the earth, several expeditions under flags other than England's being now in the Antarctic.

Captain Scott, of the British Royal Navy, is at the head of an expedition which included 60 men, 20 Siberian ponies, 30 dogs and two motor sledges, which left England in July, 1910, on the Terra Nova.

Four other expeditions are seeking the South Pole. The most important of these is that of the Norwegian captain, Raold Amundsen, who is utilizing the Fram, the celebrated Polar ship which Dr. Fridtjof Nansen used in his explorations in the Arctic ocean.

Another expedition is that of the Austrian, Dr. Mawson, who was one of the members of the Shackleton expedition. His vessel, the Aurora, left Australia in November, 1910.

The German expedition, under Lieutenant Fitchner, of the Bavarian army, sailed from Buenos Ayres October 5, last year.

A Japanese expedition under Lieutenant Shirase left Sydney harbor on November 20 last.

OROZCO PROCLAIMED LEADER

Other Rebel Generals Recognize New Rule in Chihuahua.

El Paso, Tex.—A special news dispatch from Chihuahua says that Pascual Orozco was proclaimed generalissimo of the rebel forces. According to the telegram, his leadership was acknowledged by the other insurrecto generals, Salazar, Campa, Hernandez and Ponce.

The announcement was received enthusiastically by the soldiers, who cried, "Viva libertad," and "Death to Madero."

Orozco issued a proclamation declaring that the present movement knows no party, that the fundamental law of 1857, guaranteeing the fullest liberties to the people, shall govern, and asserting that a rebel army of 5,000 men would begin the campaign against the City of Mexico within a few days.

Madero to Resign, Is Report.

Mexico City.—The receipt of President Madero's resignation [and also that of Vice President Suarez] would not surprise members of congress when that body meets on April 2, or soon thereafter. The report originated among members of congress. In fact, Madero's and Suarez' resignations are said to be expected, in which case, according to the best information obtainable, General Trevino would be the choice of congress.

May Call Militia Soon.

Washington, D. C.—Activity of the division of military affairs of the War department, in connection with general staff and quartermaster departments, gives rise to the report that the militia of several states will be ordered to mobilize on short order and possibly ordered to the Mexican border to supplement regular troops, unless more quieting word comes from Mexico.

No-Toll Bill Possible.

Washington, D. C.—No decision on the question of the Panama canal tolls was reached by the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce and it is possible that the bill will be reported without any toll provisions. The majority is believed to favor a paragraph to the bill which would give the president authority to make the rules and regulations governing canal tolls.

Robber Turns Motorman.

Oakland, Cal.—A young man, stylishly clad, turned robber here, held up the motorman and conductor of a Grand Avenue streetcar, robbed the conductor of \$17.40, forced both men to get off the car and ran it himself to within a few blocks of the business center of town, where he disappeared.

APPLE FOES WAVERING.

Eastern Commission Men Offer Compromise to Westerners.

Washington, D. C.—The Eastern commission men who are backing the Sulzer apple box bill, on which a hearing will be held Thursday, are proposing to compromise with the Western members of congress and the Western apple-growers who have prepared to attack the measure, and have suggested their willingness to strike from the bill all reference to the apple box bill if the Western men would then withdraw their opposition.

The suggestion was not entirely satisfactory to the Western men here, for they said that if all reference to the box were eliminated from the Sulzer bill it would be brought up again next year as a separate measure, and it was preferable to settle the issue at this session and be done with it.

Oregon and other Western growers are strongly opposed to that provision of the Sulzer bill which establishes the grades of apples. They hold that this section is clearly discriminatory against Oregon and Washington apples and would not enable Western growers to have their best apples marked as grade A. At the hearing Thursday, provisions of the Sulzer bill will be assailed by the Western men present and an effort will be made to have the bill amended to adopt the Oregon box as the standard and to readjust the grades so that the finest Oregon apples may go into the market as grade A, with other grades for inferior fruit. If these changes can be made, Western apple growers will support the bill.

THREE-YEAR BILL MODIFIED.

Subcommittee Drafts New and Easy Homestead Provisions.

Washington, D. C.—The subcommittee of the public lands committee having in charge the Borah-Jones three-year homestead bill has agreed tentatively to several amendments which will be laid before full committee for adoption. Instead of granting six months' leave of absence, the bill will provide that the "settler or his family" shall reside upon the land at least seven months in each year, and before final proof is made will require that a habitable house shall be erected upon the land, as evidence of intention to make it a home.

No provision has yet been adopted requiring any specific amount of cultivation, this subject being still open, but an amendment has been agreed upon making the bill applicable to all pending unperfected homesteaders' entries, so that, if it is passed, homesteaders now striving to comply with the law may secure title after three instead of five year's residence.

The amendments adopted will not meet the opposition raised by the Interior department and further protest from that quarter is expected.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN LEAVE

Americans Left in Madera Are Armed and Capable.

El Paso — One hundred and fifty Americans, mostly women and children from the American lumbering town of Madera, were brought into El Paso, by the Mexico Northwestern railway from Pearson, their first stopping place after leaving Madera. Another train bringing refugees from Chihuahua is expected over the Mexican Central.

With the exception of a small hospital staff at Pearson, every American woman and child in the towns of Madera and Pearson, Mexico, is on United States soil.

These assert that for weeks they virtually have been isolated and living in a state of terror. With neither wire nor train communication and mails demoralized, they have been cut off completely from the outside world and almost constantly have been menaced by marauding bands. Business at Madera, they say, is nonexistent. It was reported by refugees, the mills of the Madera Lumber company were closed, hundreds of workmen being thrown out of employment.

Battleship Utah Swift.

New York—Word reached the navy yard here that all previous speed records for battleships in the United States navy had been broken by the battleship Utah, with an average speed of 22 knots in her four-hour full power run off Provincetown. The designed speed of the vessel, an oil and coal burner, was 20.75 knots. American battleship speed laurels have been held by the Delaware, which in her preliminary trial made 21.56 knots.

Army Staff Is Revised.

Washington, D. C.—Carrying out the theory upon which it was founded, that the general staff of the army shall be kept supplied with new blood by continually displacing the officers who have seen four years' service by men called in from the field, nearly two dozen changes in that body have been announced.

REBELS IN FULL CONTROL.

Mexican Forces Gathering for March to Capital.

Chihuahua—Rebels are in control of the entire state of Chihuahua. Colonel Pancho Villa and his forces are still in the state but so outnumbered as to be ineffective.

The column under General Salazar and Campa moved to the city from Sauz and with Orozco's men are in camp at the edge of the city. All saloons are closed by order of Orozco. An immense crowd welcomed the column from Juarez.

Under Orozco's immediate command are 600 former government troops. The rebel generals declared that the numerous volunteers who were offering themselves will soon swell the rebel army to 5,000 men, who will be taken south to secure control of Durango, Torreon and all other towns between here and the City of Mexico.

The misunderstanding by which General Salazar delayed entering Chihuahua apparently has been cleared up. On the surface at least, all distrust of Orozco has disappeared.

A report from Parral says that Jose de Luz Soto, with a small detachment of Federals has joined Villa.

Diaz Outlines His Position.

Paris—"What I promised my compatriots was that I would return should war break out against a foreign enemy, and not that I would return to take part in the struggle of the parties. I have no intention of intervening in the strife of the parties, especially while they have not recovered their reason."

This declaration was telegraphed by General Porfirio Diaz in connection with a report that he had written a letter to a friend in New York saying he was ready to return to Mexico if the country needed him.

POLICE RAID SUFFRAGETTES

Arrest Editors and Capture Offices of Suffragette Publication.

London—In pursuance of the determination of the government fully to test the efficiency of the existing laws to deal with the latest tactics of the militant suffragettes, before resorting to special legislation to make the funds of the [suffragette] societies liable for damages done by their members, the police raided the offices of the Women's Social and Political union.

They arrested Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Pethick Lawrence, joint editors of "Votes for Women." The police also arrested later in the night Miss Christabel Pankhurst. They took possession of the offices.

The leaders of the union are charged with being responsible for the latest window smashing campaign.

Presumably they will be tried under the conspiracy laws. Members of the union said the new departure of inflicting hard labor sentences upon those convicted of taking part in the recent demonstration and in arresting the leaders would produce a bigger crop of volunteers for militant work.

The weakness of the suffragist cause, however, is seen in the fact that the great majority of women denounce the militant actions, which they assert are being carried too far.

There is ample evidence that the recent window smashing has alienated public sympathy.

While the militant suffragettes were vainly trying to break through the cordon of police about Parliament Square, 200 medical students organized a raid on the suffragette premises, to pay them back in their own coin.

Marching to the building occupied by the Women's Press in Charing Cross road, where there was a big display of suffragette literature, they bombarded it with stones, smashing all the windows, to an accompaniment of cheers from delighted spectators.

Finder of Money Loses.

Kansas City—A. W. Foster cannot have the money he picked up on the floor of a Kansas City safe deposit company. The court of appeals declared the money should remain with the deposit company. Foster upon finding \$180 on the vault floor turned it over to the officers of the company. No owner for the money was found and he brought suit to recover it. A jury awarded him the find and the deposit company appealed.

Chinese Looters Spare Foreigners

Pekin—Chang Ting Fu, an important city on the railroad about 160 miles southwest of Peking, has been added to the list of places which have been looted and burned. No details have reached here, but it is thought there need be no fear for foreigners there, because the mutineers everywhere are observing the same rule of not touching strangers.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

APPLE CROP GAINING.

Cold Weather in Hood River Zone Presages Big Yield.

Hood River—With every indication pointing to the biggest crop of apples by far that the Hood River valley ever had, the Growers' union, individual shippers and merchants are making active preparations for an increased local storage capacity to handle the fruit, which present estimates place at upwards of 1,000,000 boxes. With work begun and plans under way, the storage plants of the community will have their capacity greatly enlarged before the fall harvest begins.

"While we will make no definite plans until after the annual meeting of the stockholders here in April," says C. H. Sproat, manager of the local union, "we propose to make a great increase in our storage warehouses." The union made the purchase last year of a number of lots adjoining the present storage and refrigerating plant. The present capacity of the union building is 40,000 boxes. It is hoped that at the meeting a strong concerted action will be made to increase this capacity to several hundred thousand boxes.

FAMILIES COME WEST.

Colonists' Children Will Assist in Work on Home Farms.

Hood River—Since the westbound trains filled with homeseekers have been passing through Hood River the past week, about ten families have stopped to make this valley their future home. A significant fact about newcomers this year is that all seem to have made definite plans before leaving their Eastern homes.

Many have relatives who have already secured places for them. Friday a family with ten children arrived from Missouri. The children will assist in raising strawberries.

The colonists do not linger long in the city, but strike straight for the communities they have chosen for home spots in the country. The class of homeseekers coming this year is especially gratifying to Hood River people.

MAN FILES ON LOST ACRE.

Government Surveyors Overlook Land Which Becomes Valuable.

Roseburg—An unusual transaction was recorded at the Roseburg United States land office when John McNeill, of Southern Oregon, filed upon an acre of land abutting the city limits of Medford, omitted from the territory embraced in government surveys. In the event McNeill resides on the land continuously for 14 months he can purchase the same from the government for \$2.50, and should he wish to waive this payment he can secure a government patent to the land at the expiration of five years.

Berry Output Increases.

Portland—An increased production of strawberries is expected in the Hood River and Mosier districts this year, and the O. W. R. & N. company is preparing to give the growers special service to Eastern points where the berries are sold.

In 1910 the Hood River districts exported 62 carloads of berries from the state. This year the output will be approximately 100 carloads, according to early estimates. They are shipped to points in North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and as far East as Chicago.

Big Crop in Grand Ronde.

Imbler—The estimate now for the fruit crop of the Grande Ronde valley for 1912, including pears and peaches, is 1,000 carloads. The fruitgrowers are agitating the marketing problem and the president of the Eastern Oregon district fruitgrowers' association has issued a letter to the growers to get their reports for 1911 and their ideas as to a selling agency. About 75 inches of snow has fallen over the grain section of the Grande Ronde valley and furnished excellent protection for the winter grain.

Farmers Give Land For Railway.

Eugene—So anxious are farmers along the river road northwest of Eugene to have the Portland & Eugene electric line extended into their territory that they have offered to deed to the county six feet more land along their property to make the road 66 feet in order that a 40-foot strip might be turned over to the electric company. The question of a franchise for the railway company will come before the court for hearing soon.

Traps Six Wild Animals.

Albany—R. S. Leeper, of Albany, presented the skins of four wildcats and two coyotes at the county clerk's office here and collected the state bounty. He trapped the animals in the Upper South Santiam river region.

TO INOCULATE SOIL OF OREGON

Agricultural College Giving Free Bacteria to Farmers.

Corvallis—Free bacteria for the raising of leguminous crops, such as alfalfa, peas, beans, and clovers, will be furnished to the farmers of Oregon upon request by the department of bacteriology at the Oregon Agricultural college. The experiment station experts have been busy preparing this material for the inoculation of soil for some time, and will send full directions for its use with each culture. Those desiring the material should send their requests at least two weeks in advance of the time they wish to use it, stating what leguminous crops they desire to raise, and how much land they intend to plant.

Anyone who has examined the roots of a thrifty plant of this sort of crop knows that there are found on the roots small lumps, known as nodules. Scientific study has shown these to be caused by bacteria infecting the roots, and that unless these are present, a good stand will not be obtained, showing that the bacteria are necessary to the full growth of the plant. If the soil does not contain the bacteria, a good catch of the crop may not be expected. By using these cultures the proper bacteria may be introduced into the soil. Where a crop has never been grown on a particular piece of land, as where alfalfa is being introduced, or when the stand obtained has not been satisfactory and it is known that the lack was not that of sufficient lime, such cultures can be used with good effect. They will not, however, correct lime deficiency, nor will the bacteria thrive in acid soil. For this reason, lime should be applied where needed before the culture is used.

FARM IS WORLD PROBLEM

Samuel Hill Says Country Must Be Made Attractive.

Portland—That the problem of inducing people to go back to the land can only be solved by providing good roads, telephones, good schools, rural delivery, was the declaration of Samuel Hill, pioneer in the good roads movement in the Pacific Northwest, in an address delivered in Westminster Presbyterian church, dealing with the building of highways.

He pointed out that between the years 1870 and 1900 the proportion of the population engaged in agricultural pursuits had been reduced one-half. This, he declared, was one explanation of the high cost of living. He said the problem of putting people back on the farm and keeping them there is not only a national one, but is one with which the whole world is called to deal. To keep people on the land, he asserted, required that they should not only have improved facilities, but that they should have markets for their products. Good roads over which to haul these products were shown by the speaker to be indispensable in the solution of this economic problem.

15 CENT MEALS STARTLE

State Auditors Gasp at Assessor's Expense Account.

Salem—Fifteen-cent meals and beds for 50 cents a night, charged by Assessor Strain, of Umatilla, against his expense on a state account, caused the auditing department in Secretary Olcott's office to gasp. Strain was here recently attending a state meeting of the assessors of the state. He reported no expense for carfare. For three days he charged 45 cents a day for meals, or 15 cents a meal, and 50 cents a night for lodging.

His three days' stay here at the assessors' meeting will cost the state \$2.85, which is considered a record-breaker.

OREGON FRUIT IN GERMANY

Grande Ronde Apples Make Big Hit in Europe.

La Grande—Returns have been received from the Grande Ronde apples which were shipped to Germany. They averaged \$1.82 the box. With the remittance came a most flattering report that the apples were received in the best of condition and that the box of extra fancy apples shipped gratis with the shipment to Emperor William of Germany was well received and much appreciated. From present indications the Grande Ronde valley expects to market most of its apple crop this year in Germany.

Fruit Buds Not Injured by Cold.

Brooks—The cold weather of last week is ended and a careful inspection of the fruit buds discloses very little harm done. Pear buds, which were a little in advance of the season, are slightly blackened on the outside, but the heart is not affected.