

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Informa- tion of Our Readers.

Negotiations have been closed for the establishment of a shingle mill in Reedsport.

South Umatilla county plans to erect a \$35,000 school building for high school purposes only.

It has definitely been decided by the Graves Canning company to erect a \$16,000 cannery at Woodburn.

An epidemic of smallpox has hit the state school for the deaf, and 70 children are now under quarantine.

The state securities commission has approved a bond issue of \$17,000 for the Hood River Irrigation district.

Plans for the formation of a Linn county chamber of commerce were launched at a meeting of the Albany chamber.

The Coquille corn show had a larger line of exhibits this year than had been shown before, a total of 3000 ears having been offered for exhibition.

Recent rains so saturated the ground that a portion of the paved highway about a mile south of Roseburg has been undermined and made unsafe for travel.

Charles D. Latourette, a prominent Oregon City attorney, recently presented to Oregon City ten drinking fountains, seven of which already have been installed in Main street.

Representative Hawley hopes to complete his work with the house committee on committees in time to leave for Oregon this week. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Hawley.

A special school election to authorize the floating of \$28,000 in bonds for the construction of a new school building in Bend has been announced. The election has been set for March 29.

First Lieutenant Ralph M. Wilcox, of Portland, and Second Lieutenant Lewis C. Beebe of Cottage Grove, have been awarded distinguished service crosses for extraordinary heroism in action.

Of 410 accidents reported last week to the state industrial accident commission, one was fatal. The victim of the fatal accident was James McCann, who was killed in connection with shipbuilding in Portland.

Mrs. J. R. Norton of Hood River was drowned in the Sandy river, about 20 miles east of Portland, when an automobile in which she was riding with her husband left the grade, crashed down the embankment and into the stream.

Nine million dollars is now available for road and trail construction, maintenance and survey work within the national forests of Oregon and Washington, according to an announcement made in Portland at the district forest headquarters.

Branford Zanatta, unnaturalized Italian, was arrested near Prineville by Deputy United States Marshal F. B. Tichenor. He is accused of threatening to kill President Wilson if prevented from bringing his wife to this country from Italy.

It is costing \$2.12 a thousand feet more to produce lumber in western Oregon and western Washington than the mills are able to get for it, according to figures presented at a meeting of the West Coast Lumbermen's association in Portland.

The legislature just closed exceeded all records for bills passed, although lagging behind the three preceding sessions for the number of bills introduced. The number of bills finally passed was 436 out of 821 introduced, or over 50 per cent passed.

Ninety per cent of the votes cast at the special election in Umatilla county favored the issuance by the county of \$1,050,000 in road bonds. Less than 5000 votes were cast against the proposal and only four of the 64 precincts, all small ones, returned unfavorable majorities.

The chambers of commerce of North Bend and Marshfield have jointly appealed to the commissioners of the port of Coos bay to take steps toward securing for the harbor a powerful harbor tug. The plan is to have the tug for aiding in unloading large vessels and for towing over the bar.

Bids opened by the county court for \$277,000 worth of Douglas county road bonds were disappointing to the officials, and acceptance of proposals was deferred. Morris Bros. of Portland bid approximately 95 cents on the dollar, while the bid of Freeman, Smith

& Kamp of Portland was a trifle less than 94 cents.

Deputy Fish Warden Larson, who is patrolling the Columbia river during the closed season, reports that thus far there have been practically no violations of the law, but a strict watch is to be kept with a view of punishing everyone who attempts to fish during the closed season. That many salmon are re-entering the river is indicated by the fact that immense herds of seals are seen in the various sections of the stream.

According to orders from Receiver W. F. Turner, operation on the Pacific & Eastern, which extends 33 miles from Butte Falls to Medford, owned by the Hill interests, ceased Friday, and the railroad will be sold within a fortnight. Receiver Turner offered to keep the railroad in operation for several months longer provided Medford citizens and Butte Falls timber owners put up a \$25,000 cash bond to insure against loss in operation, but the offer was refused.

Instructions to send a competent man to make a thorough examination of the watersheds and storage reservoir sites of the Deschutes irrigation project have been given by Secretary of the Interior Lane to the reclamation bureau. Word of the order was brought from Washington by A. D. Anderson, representative of the north unit irrigation project in Jefferson county, who has returned from the national capital. Professor Crosby of Boston has been authorized to make the survey as soon as weather conditions permit.

Road concessions are granted to the state commissions in regard to railroad functions by the railroad administration in an order by Director General Hines, received by the public service commission. Mr. Hines orders that before rates of any importance are granted, either interstate or intrastate, they shall be submitted to the state commissions interested for suggestions and advice. He orders also that state commissions shall have control of police regulations over railroad lines, such as spur tracks, crossings, scales and physical condition of track and equipment and station facilities.

After a trial lasting four days James Fullerton of Eugene was found guilty by a jury in circuit court of the charge of libel against the University of Oregon, its president, P. L. Campbell, and the students. Mr. Fullerton had been indicted by the grand jury on the charge of libel for utterances in the Oregon Hornet, a small monthly publication printed by him.

That work will be started in the near future on three fishways at falls below Bend in the Deschutes river was the statement of Master Fish Warden R. E. Clanton. The concrete ladders are provided for by a \$5000 appropriation made by the last legislature, and when installed will make available hundreds of miles of spawning grounds for Columbia river salmon.

That the Smith industries on Coos bay are likely to open again is admitted generally since it became known A. H. Powers was ordering his foremen to return to Powers by March 15. Rumor says that activities there will be increased and the seven camps will cut 1,000,000 feet of logs each day. This is taken to mean that the mills will be operated on a scheme of larger output.

Laws enacted by the 1919 legislature will become effective on May 29, unless they carry the emergency clause or the referendum is applied. This statement was issued by Secretary of State Olcott. He said that the session laws will be available for distribution by May 20. Laws not carrying the emergency clause are effective 90 days from the end of the session.

Governor Olcott has let it be known that in event an adjudication may be obtained of the question of whether or not he would still remain governor in event he resigns as secretary of state and it is determined by such adjudication that he will remain governor and not automatically forfeit the office by so resigning, he will surrender the office of secretary of state and name a successor for that office.

A herd of 26 registered Guernsey cattle has been given the Oregon agricultural college by W. B. Ayer of Portland, former federal food administrator for Oregon, and owner of the Foot-hill farm at Carlton. The college herd is now one of the largest among those maintained by agricultural colleges of the country—109 head. The value of the gift is estimated at between \$7500 and \$10,000, but to the state it is expected it will be worth many times that amount.

HALF MILLION MEN TO BE HELD IN ARMY

Force of 509,909 Will Remain in Service Until Congress Outlines Strength.

Washington.—The war department will hold an army of 509,909 until congress provides otherwise, Chief of Staff March announced.

This army will not be reduced under any circumstances, March stated, until congress passes a law outlining the permanent military organization. He declared that the United States could not get along with a small army. This is the strength asked by the war department in the military bill which failed to pass congress.

Demobilization figures given by General March show 419,555 men sailed for the United States up to March 2, and 354,824 had landed in the United States up to March 7. The number ordered demobilized is now 1,613,000.

The total American battle casualties during the war were 246,197, March announced. Americans who took part in action against the enemy in France numbered 1,399,000, he added. These included 1,100,000 divisional troops, including replacements; 240,000 corps and army troops, 50,000 in the service of supply.

The list of divisional totals shows that the 91st (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Utah) lost 5828.

**\$750,000,000 TOTAL
OF AMERICAN CLAIMS**

Washington.—Claims already filed with the state department by American citizens against the central powers for payment for loss and injury of life and destruction or injury of property already aggregate \$750,000,000, it was announced.

The depredations for which damages are asked in these claims were all committed by the central powers before the United States threw off the role of neutrality and entered the war against Germany, it is assumed, for had they been committed while the United States was in the war, these claims probably would come under the head of indemnity, while some of the claims probably would not be warranted had the depredations been inflicted while America was a belligerent.

The claims of American citizens, when all have been received, passed to establish their validity and compiled, will be presented to the American delegation at the peace conference, who in turn will submit them for insertion in the treaty of peace. A large staff of workers of the state department has been engaged in the compilation of these claims.

That two main branches of co-operative work among the farmers of Klamath county—the promotion of sulphuring of the alfalfa lands and eradication of the squirrel, under the leadership of the new county agricultural agent, E. H. Thomas, will be immediately launched, was decided at a meeting at Klamath Falls of the executive council of farmers. The fight against the ground squirrel is to be a strenuous one. Poison will be used in all sections of the county.

Twelve days were spent in covering a distance of 23 miles by state employes who arrived in Bend from Elk lake, bringing with them 649,000 freshly gathered brook trout eggs which were immediately taken to the new hatchery six miles from Bend as the first to be placed in the troughs at the new plant. Snow ranging in depth from two to 12 feet impeded the progress of the egg carriers, and on the last two days of the trip they subsisted entirely on a diet of beans.

Central road projects, including The Dalles-California highway branch road north through Bend, and the east and west road from Klamath Falls to Lakeview, will be undertaken at once by the state highway commission, according to Commissioner R. A. Booth, who addressed a banquet at The Dalles, attended by delegates from Wasco, Sherman, Crook and Klamath counties. Besides state and national appropriations which already have been made available for these projects, Mr. Booth announced that the forest service has just promised the state that it would assist in building roads through forest reserves on a 50-50 basis.

Release Soldiers When Folks Are Ill.

Washington.—General Pershing has been authorized by the war department to send to the United States for the purpose of immediate discharge, individual officers and drafted or enlisted men, upon presentation of convincing testimony to the effect that there exists sickness or other distress in the family of the officer or soldier concerned.

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