

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

STATE TREASURY FLOURISHES

Increase in Taxes and License Money Indicates Prosperity.

Salem—If the business done by the departments of the state government, and the reports of those departments may be considered as barometers of the general prosperity of the state, then the state at large is in a very flourishing condition. Chief Clerk F. K. Lovell, of the secretary of state's office, states that in some divisions the work of that department has increased over 50 per cent in the past year. After deducting insurance fees, which have been paid to the insurance commissioner since March 1, the secretary of state's office has paid into the treasury from October 1, 1908, to September 30, 1909, fees amounting to \$63,334.55, as compared to \$53,052.06 from October 1, 1907, to September 1, 1908.

Automobile licenses issued for the first six months of 1909 reached the total of 1664, as compared to 643 for the same period in the preceding year. Cash statement of the state treasurer for the nine months ending September 30, 1909, shows a larger balance in the common school fund than ever before in the history of the state. The first mortgage loans now amount to \$4,534,434.62; school district bonds, \$186,825; certificates of sale of state lands, \$548,586.02; a total irreducible school fund of \$5,269,845.64. The agricultural college fund amounts to \$189,819.03, and the university fund to \$95,136.75, a total educational fund of more than \$5,500,000. There was an increase of first mortgage loans during September of about \$34,000.

The treasurer's cash summary shows cash on hand January 1, 1909, \$892,147.44; receipts, \$2,392,514.36; transfers, \$34,874.35; disbursements, \$2,657,482.73; cash on hand, September 30, 1909, \$627,179.07; total, \$3,319,536.15.

FISH MONOPOLY BROKEN.

Interests of Late E. D. Hume to Be Sold at Public Sale.

Marshfield—The monopoly of the fishing rights held for so many years by the interests of the late E. D. Hume will soon be broken, as the entire estate is to be sold at public sale this month. After Mr. Hume's death the fisheries and cannery were closed, but were opened for a short time this fall. On account of the approaching sale, the fisheries were closed after 400 cases of canned salmon had been shipped. Since they were closed, the Union Fisheries company is said to have made a haul with seines which netted 1800 fish. The gasoline schooner Gerald C., which was formerly owned by the Hume estate, has been sold, and has made her last trip to Rogue river. She will be taken to Astoria.

For over 30 years E. D. Hume controlled the fishing rights, owning both sides of the river for 12 miles up from the bar. He had his own fish hatchery and canning plant, and made a fortune out of the business. The people in the Rogue river valley assert that it is the finest fishing stream in the country.

Squatters Make Filings.

Marshfield—About 40 men have filed homestead claims in townships 24 and 25, range 9. It was unsurveyed land, the survey of which has been accepted, and those who filed were persons who had squatted on the land some years ago. There was little opportunity for new homesteaders, for the reason that scrip has been placed on all of the land by the Northern Pacific and other large interests. Those who filed for homesteads claim that they have a squatter's right, and some declare they will take the cases to court to defend their claims.

Roseburg Signs Contract.

Roseburg—All members of the Roseburg committee signed the contract for construction of the Roseburg-to-Coos Bay electric railroad. Messrs. Kuetner and Haas, of Portland, with whom the contract is made, will build the line. They are expected here in a few days, and will then post a bond in the sum of \$100,000 for construction of the road within two years. Surveyors will be put into the field at once.

Debates Topic Is Chosen.

University of Oregon, Eugene—With Superintendent A. M. Sanders, of Albany, president, and Professor E. E. Doxon, of the mathematical department of the University of Oregon, secretary, the Oregon High School Debating League starts on a prosperous year. The league now contains practically every four-year high school in the state.

Albany—One of the biggest shipments of sheep ever made from the Willamette valley was loaded at the Albany depot. Approximately 2500 sheep were loaded, and the shipment file- 24 single-deck cars. A special train will carry the sheep to Portland. The animals were collected in Llan and Benton counties by W. D. Brown, of Corvallis.

Large Land Tract Sold.

Oregon City—H. A. and J. L. Kruse have sold 140 acres of land near Willamette to George McBride, a son of Supreme Court Justice McBride, who will plat the property into five-acre tracts. The price was \$125 per acre.

MACHINES PICK BERRIES.

Cranberry Culture Extensive Industry on Coos Bay.

Marshfield—During the season of harvesting cranberries on Coos bay, which is now coming to a close, employment is furnished to many persons. Indians and halfbreeds are especially good at the work, and some are quite expert. They gather at the cranberry ranches at picking time and come from all parts of the county.

On the William Frazier place, on North inlet, big bunkhouses are provided for the pickers, and they furnish their own meals. They are paid 50 cents a box for picking, and some make excellent wages. On some of the places patent pickers are used. These patent pickers consist of a box arrangement that opens and shuts with teeth in front. The box is closed over a bunch of berries and by pulling the device the berries are removed from the vines and left inside the box. After the picking the marsh is flooded and the loose berries which may have fallen on the ground float on the water and are gathered up.

Mr. Frazier bought the ranch of the late Mr. McFarland, who was the pioneer cranberry man of the Pacific coast. This is his first season on the place, but he understands the business, as he was formerly in the cranberry commission business in another city. The yield from the ranch this year will be nearly 1000 boxes, and Mr. Frazier will leave soon for Portland to look after the marketing of his crop. There are near Coos bay several other bearing marshes, besides new ones which have been planted, and which will produce within a few years.

National Bank for Bandon.

Washington—The application of J. W. Roberts, of Pierre, S. D.; H. L. Houston, A. McNair, O. A. Trowbridge, E. E. Oakes and F. E. Stearns to organize the First National bank of Bandon, Or., with \$25,000 capital, has been approved by the controller of the currency.

Thirteen More Lawyers Let In.

Salem—Clerk Moreland, of the supreme court, announced that the 13 applicants for admission to the bar of Oregon, who took the examination last week, passed a satisfactory examination and all will be admitted.

State Raises Land Price.

Salem—At a meeting of the state land board it was decided to increase the price of indemnity selection land from \$8.75 to \$10 an acre. The state still owns about 90,000 acres of this class of land. The new price goes into effect at once.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, 98c; club, 89c; red Russian, 87½c; valley, 91c; ste, 89c; Turkey red, 89c; forty-fold, 92c.

Barley—Feed, \$26.50; brewing, \$27.50 @ 28 per ton.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$27.50 @ 28 per ton.

Corn—Whole, \$35; cracked, \$36 per ton.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, \$14 @ 17 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$18 @ 19; alfalfa, \$14; clover, \$14; cheat, \$13 @ 14.50; grain hay, \$14 @ 15.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 36c; fancy outfit creamery, 33 @ 36c per pound; store, 23½ @ 24c. (Butter pat prices average 1½c per pound under regular butter prices.)

Eggs—Oregon, 33 @ 34c per dozen; Eastern, 28 @ 30c per dozen.

Poultry—Hens, 14 @ 14½c; springs, 14c; roosters, 9 @ 10c; ducks, 15 @ 16c; geese, 9 @ 10c; turkeys, 17 @ 18c; squabs, \$1.75 @ 2 per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, \$14 @ 15c per pound.

Veal—Extra, 10 @ 10½c per pound.

Fresh Fruits—Apples, new, \$1.25 @ 2.50 per box; pears, \$1 @ 1.75 per box; peaches, 75c @ \$1 per crate; cantaloupes, \$1 @ 1.50 per crate; watermelons, 1c per pound; grapes, 75c @ \$1.10 per crate, 10 @ 15c per basket; casabas, \$1.25 @ 1.50 per dozen; quinces, \$1 @ 1.25 per box; cranberries, \$9 per barrel; huckleberries, 9 @ 10c per pound.

Potatoes—Buying prices: Oregon, 60 @ 65c per sack; sweet potatoes, 2c per pound.

Sack Vegetables—Turnips, 75c @ \$1 per sack; carrots, \$1; beets, \$1.25; rutabaga, \$1.25 per sack.

Onions—New, \$1.25 per sack.

Vegetables—Cabbage, 1 @ 1¼c per pound; cauliflower, 50c @ \$1 per dozen; celery, 50 @ 70c per dozen; corn, \$1 @ 1.25 per dozen; eggplant, \$1.25 per box; garlic, 10c per pound; horseradish, 8 @ 10c per dozen; peppers, 5 @ 6c per pound; pumpkins, 1 @ 1½c; radishes, 15c per dozen; sprouts, 5 @ 6c per pound; squash, 1½ @ 1¾c; tomatoes, 50 @ 60c.

Cattle—Steers, top quality, \$4.25 @ 4.35; fair to good, \$4; common, \$3.50 @ 3.75; cows, top, \$3.25 @ 3.35; fair to good, \$3 @ 3.10; common to medium, \$2.50 @ 2.75; calves, top, \$3 @ 3.25; heavy, \$2.50 @ 4; bulls, \$2 @ 2.25; stags, \$2.50 @ 3.50.

Hogs—Best, \$7.25 @ 7.5; fair to good, \$7.50 @ 7.75; stockers, \$6 @ 7; China fats, \$7.50 @ 8.

Sheep—Top wethers, \$4 @ 4.25; fair to good, \$3.50 @ 3.75; ewes, ½c less on all grades; yearlings, best, \$4 @ 4.25; fair to good, \$3.50 @ 3.75; spring lambs, \$5 @ 5.50.

Wool—1909 Willamette valley, 30 @ 34c; Eastern Oregon, 28 @ 29c; mohair, 1909, 32 @ 34c.

WU TALKS WITH SPIRITS.

Eminent Chinese Minister Attends Seances in Washington.

Washington, Oct. 15.—Talking his first nibble at the mysteries of spiritism last Sunday night, Minister Wu Ting Fang, the best educated Chinaman in the world, returned to the "mediums" last night for a full bite. He left the "seance" chock full of information from the spirit world, for through the "medium" he is supposed to have consulted the spirits of the late President McKinley and his own dead mother. And the latter talked in real Chinese language.

Minister Wu doesn't say he is a convert to spiritualism. In fact, he tries to avoid the subject entirely while talking with newspaper men. He admits, however, that he is interested, and that he may attend other "seances" before retiring from his post in the near future.

His first experience occurred last Sunday night at a public meeting, where anonymous Chinese spirits were described to Dr. Wu by a "trance medium," as hovering in the distinguished diplomat's immediate vicinity. Dr. Wu exhibited great interest.

Last night he went again, this time to a smaller seance at a private house. Dr. Wu refused last night to discuss his experience or impressions, and even showed solicitude lest his presence at the seance should be the subject of newspaper mention. The woman medium who officiated—a different one this time—brought to him messages purporting to come from the late President McKinley, who was an intimate friend of Dr. Wu, and also from the minister's own mother. The latter was the more startling because, apparently, delivered in the Chinese language.

These messages are claimed by the spiritualists to be brought to the medium in trance by the spirit of a 16-year-old American Indian girl, under whose "control" she speaks in broken English; yet the conversation between Dr. Wu and the medium, while ostensibly under this "control," was somewhat extensive, lasting fully five minutes, and seemed to be in the Chinese vernacular, question and answer, unintelligible to the auditors, passing back and forth with considerable freedom. There was every evidence that the diplomat perfectly understood the communication which apparently appeared to come from the spirit of Dr. Wu's own mother. It was asserted that the medium and her "control" are both absolutely ignorant of the Chinese language.

JAPAN MUCH DISTURBED.

Americans and British to Build Railroad in China.

Washington, Oct. 15.—American and British capitalists have about completed arrangements with the Chinese government to build a railroad from Chin Chow Fu through Mongolian territory to Tsitsihar, a distance of about 400 miles. This fact seems to have disturbed the equanimity of Japan.

Published reports from Peking indicate that Japan has given China notice that it will maintain its right under the two treaties concluded last month to be consulted with respect to Manchurian railways. Japan says it reserves decision with regard to subsequent action.

Among officials here it is regarded as doubtful if Japan will be permitted to interfere, without objection, in this or other enterprises in China or Manchuria in which Americans are interested. The fact that an objection to the construction of the proposed Chin Chow Fu-Tsitsihar road is hinted at by Japan is regarded here as tending to support allegations of monopolistic inclinations on the part of Japan.

The proposed railroad through Mongolia will be about 400 miles in length to Tsitsihar, and, if extended on the Amur, its total length will approximate 600 miles. The fact that it will tap the Russian Trans-Siberian road at Tsitsihar is thought to explain the supposed uneasiness of Japan, and, inasmuch as the Chinese Eastern and South Manchurian lines, because of its more direct route and shorter distance to the south, would be likely to become a strong competitor to the latter road, which is now controlled by Japan.

Government officials here regard Japan's opposition to the Hamintun-Fakumen line as retarding the development by China of a portion of her territory, and as in direct violation of article 4 of the treaty of Portsmouth, which states that "Japan and Russia reciprocally engage not to obstruct any general measures common to all, or steps which China may take for the development of commerce and industry in Manchuria."

Great Northern Exhibit at Billings.

Billings, Oct. 15.—G. J. Ryan, general industrial agent of the Great Northern, has applied for space 80 feet long in the exhibit hall of the international dry farming exposition which will be held at Billings in connection with the fourth dry farming congress, October 26-28. The Great Northern is expected to have one of the largest collective exhibits of dry farmed products displayed. It will be representative of the crops that are being produced on the non-irrigated lands along the line of the railroad.

Standard Oil Is Golding.

Coalinga, Cal., Oct. 15.—A report is current here tonight that the Standard Oil company has purchased nine of the leading oil properties of this and the Kern river oil field for more than \$5,000,000. The price stated is greater than the sum involved in any previous oil transaction on the coast.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

WHOLE WORLD TO TOAST.

Taft Writes Sentiment for Portola Festival Day.

San Francisco, Oct. 16.—The toast composed by President Taft, which will be drunk all over the world at the hour when the Portola festival opens here next Tuesday, has been received by the committee in charge of the celebration. The toast follows:

"Since Portola looked through the Golden Gate, San Francisco has twice become the imperial city of the Pacific, first by the energy of a pioneer race and steady growth into the Western metropolis; second, after complete destruction by the great flames and in the face of insurmountable obstacles by a regeneration so rapid and complete as to be the wonder of the world. May her future growth be as remarkable as her past, and may her civic righteousness and the individual happiness of her citizens keep pace with it."

Arrangements have been made for the drinking of this toast in all foreign countries where Americans gather, and by official and civic organizations throughout the United States. With the drinking of the toast the school children will arise and cheer the rebuilt city. Everywhere the drinking of the toast and the cheering of the children will be timed to agree with the hour of the opening of the festival, which begins at noon (Pacific time), October 19.

IMMIGRANTS ARE HELD UP.

Forced to Mortgage Homes to Purchase Tickets.

Washington, Oct. 14.—"These poor people on the other side are made by the steamship agents to mortgage their property in order to procure their tickets to come here. The matter has gone to such a length that it has been taken up by the state department with the Greek foreign department."

This statement was made by Assistant Commissioner-General of Immigration Larned in the course of the recent hearing of the representatives of newspapers, who urged the conserving of the immigrants' rights of appeal and the placing of men representing the various nationalities that supply the large number of immigrants on the special boards of inquiry.

Secretary McHarg asked questions to bring out details.

"Is it not well known," he asked, "that this business is stimulated by steamship companies and tickets sold at exorbitant rates?"

"The business doesn't exist among the Christian people. I have no knowledge of it," replied Louis N. Hammerling, of counsel for the complainants.

"But it was brought to your attention?"

"Yes."

"The immigrant finds that he has to pay 6 per cent on twice the amount of money it should have cost for tickets," interjected Mr. Larned.

"Is not the person with the prepaid ticket more or less likely to become a public charge?" continued Mr. McHarg.

"He is confronted with the debt which is usurious and a great burden. He is confronted with two or three times the normal cost of transportation, though if he had paid his fare out of his own pocket he could buy his own ticket at a normal cost."

Appeals to Grand Jury.

Annapolis, Oct. 16.—It is said that the mother of young Lieutenant James N. Sutton, Jr., of Oregon, who met his death at the Naval academy during a fight with brother officers, will lay charges against certain of the marine officers before the federal grand jury at Baltimore.

At the second investigation of the death of Lieutenant Sutton last August, Mrs. Sutton charged that her son had been murdered.

Uncle Sam to Print Postals.

Washington, Oct. 13.—Press manufacturers will soon be asked to furnish proposals for building presses to print about 800,000,000 postal cards annually at the government printing office. The government printing office will not have to begin printing the cards before about February 1, 1910. To avoid delay in turning out enough cards to keep the postoffice department supplied at all times, duplicate machinery will be installed.

Postal Receipts Grow.

Washington, Oct. 13.—The percentage of increase of postal receipts at Portland for September, as compared to September last year, was greater than at any other postoffice in the United States except Seattle and New Haven. Seattle's big increase was due to the exposition.

Dominican Order Elected.

Washington, Oct. 14.—The Very Rev. Lawrence L. Kearney, O. P., of Zanesville, O., was yesterday for the fourth time elected provincial of the Dominican order in the United States. The Very Rev. T. P. O'Rourke, O. P., of this city, was elected socius to the provincial.

Dominican Revolt Suppressed.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The American legation at San Domingo has telegraphed the state department that a slight local uprising near Monte Christi under the leadership of Generals Navarro and Rodriguez, has been suppressed.

TIN SOLDIERS ARE PAST.

All Members of Militia Must Hereafter Be Real Fighters.

Washington, Oct. 19.—January 21 next will be a critical date in the history of the national guard, it was announced today, for thereafter no portion of the money appropriated by congress for the support of the militia can be paid to any organization that fails to conform to the standards of the regular army.

Next year, for the first time in its history, the militia, or so much of it as remains under the caption, "The National Guard," will be found a changed body, with the latest pattern of military rifles; clothed from head to foot in regular army gear; supplied with all regular equipment, and with ranks filled to the requirements of the law.

In Nevada, it is said, there is not a single company of the national guard able to establish a claim to a dollar of the large appropriations made by congress.

BEST ENGINEERS LOST.

Competent Men Find Private Enterprises Pay Better.

Washington, Oct. 13.—The extensive development of irrigation in the West by large corporations during the past few years is making it extremely difficult for the United States reclamation service to retain its experienced engineers. Those engineers who have successfully built big projects for the government, and demonstrated their competency to handle such undertakings, can readily command salaries far in excess of what they are paid by the government.

From time to time during the past year very tempting offers have been made to a number of the best engineers in the reclamation service, and several have been unable to withstand the lure of higher salaries. The latest of them to leave the government service was Ira W. McConnell, the engineer who had charge of the construction of the Gunnison tunnel, in Colorado, recently opened by President Taft. Several others have gone before, and it is feared that still others will follow.

Market in East Expands.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Extensive purchases in the United States by members of the honorary commercial commission of Japan of a large variety of manufactured articles which heretofore have not found a market in the Orient cause American trade experts to look for a heavy increase in trade between the United States and Japan. In spite of the fact that the distinguished Japanese visitors have been received hospitably by every city they have thus far visited, it has been apparent in a number of places that the real purpose of the commission in coming to this country is not fully understood.

Horses Supplant Dogs.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Horses are superseding dogs in the transportation of mails in Alaska. A load of mail weighing not less than 3000 pounds is often drawn over the frozen roads of Alaska by one horse attached to a sled. In a short time, it was said today, the postoffice department expects to make announcement of the awards of contracts for the transportation of mails in Alaska for the four years' period from July 1, 1910, to July 30, 1914.

Minister to China Is Deposed.

Washington, Oct. 14.—Charles R. Crane, of Chicago, minister to China, today was practically deposed by a demand from Secretary Knox for his resignation. Thus a new chapter in American diplomacy was written. A citizen chosen with special regard for his qualifications for the post was recalled before he had embarked from San Francisco, and was discharged from his high office because of alleged indiscreet disclosures through the press.

4345 Desert in Ten Months.

Portland, Oct. 15.—That there have been 4345 desertions from the United States army since the beginning of the year is shown by circulars received by United States Marshal Reed yesterday. The army follows the plan of police departments in combing the Union for deserters, and sends broadcast a full-face and profile view of every deserter. A special file of the army circulars is kept by Marshal Reed, the number stamped on the latest one received showing the runaways from January 1, 1909, to date exceed 4000.

Taft Will Leave It to Knox.

Prescott, Ariz., Oct. 15.—President Taft evinced great interest today in the press dispatches from Washington concerning the Crane case, but gave out no statement regarding it, the intimation being that there will be no statement from Mr. Taft at any time. Secretary Knox is in full control of the state department, and it is presumed that he has been authorized by the president to accept Mr. Crane's resignation forthwith.

Hear Klamath's Pleant.

Washington, Oct. 15.—According to the revised schedule, the senate irrigation committee, which will reassemble at Denver November 1, will spend November 10 inspecting the Klamath irrigation project and listening to settlers who have suggestions or complaints to offer. This will be the only stop in Oregon. At least seven members of the committee will be present.