

LEXINGTON WHEATFIELD

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LEXINGTON.....OREGON

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

The canvass of the New York election shows gains for Hearst.

California politicians are now becoming involved in the insurance scandal.

The strike in Poland is believed to have been broken and the country is settling down.

Indications are that a new register of the Lewiston land office will not be named for some time.

Secretary Root is preparing to initiate negotiations for the settlement of all pending disputes with Canada.

Many women are going to Panama to work as servants in the various camps along the route of the canal.

A prairie fire near Aberdeen, S. D., caused a loss of livestock, grain and farm buildings estimated at \$500,000.

A fire which started in a Knoxville, Tenn., paint store destroyed \$200,000 worth of property before extinguished.

European nations are not pulling together in their demonstration against Turkey and the sultan doesn't seem badly scared.

The contributions for the relief of the Russian Jews totals \$740,000 from all parts of the world. Of this \$370,000 came from the United States.

All of Mayor Dunne's plans for immediate municipal ownership of the Chicago street railways have been shattered by the council reaching an agreement with the companies placing the time ten years hence.

Speaker Cannon has declared against tariff revision.

The new king of Norway will receive a salary of \$200,000 annually.

Governor Folk, of Missouri, says the reform movement now on will last.

The president has removed Register West, of the Lewiston, Idaho, land office.

More than 300,000 has been raised in the United States for the relief of the Russian Jews.

Austria fears her Polish subjects will revolt if Russian Poland is successful in securing autonomy.

The Riverside Bridge works, at Martin's Ferry, Ohio, has burned. The loss will reach \$100,000.

Many Russian capitalists are selling their government and other securities and leaving the country.

Democratic and Republican members of the house will each hold caucus December 2 to nominate house officers.

President Mellen, of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, has declared himself in favor of railroad rate legislation.

The board of canvassers working on the returns of the New York election have found many places where the tally sheets and returns do not agree.

Germany denies she will interfere in Poland.

Thomas Lawson has been arrested for libel.

Balfour threatens to resign if followers don't unite.

Russian workmen have ordered a new general strike.

Garfield is at the head of an inquiry into rebates on oil.

Burke, a mining town in West Virginia, has been entirely destroyed by fire.

Advices from Singapore, China, says the anti-American boycott is strong there.

London proposes to establish its own electric lighting system at a cost of \$40,000,000.

The State department knows nothing of the proposed Anglo-Japanese canal at Nicaragua.

New York has had its first snow storm of the winter.

Secretary Root is working on the new treaty with Germany.

Washington's congressional delegation will work for an appropriation for the mouth of the Columbia.

American residents on the Isle of Pines will send a delegation to congress to prevent ratification of a treaty conveying the island to Cuba.

Riots are occurring in Vladivostok.

The American Mining congress is in session at El Paso, Texas.

CASTRO REFUSES TO PAY MORE

Keeps Back Second Installment on Plumley Award.

Paris, Nov. 17.—The foreign office is advised that President Castro yesterday refused to pay the second installment of the Plumley arbitration award. The arbitration covered damages sustained by French citizens in Venezuela during the revolutionary periods prior to 1903.

Judge Frank Plumley, of Northfield, Vermont, was president of the arbitration committee, which met at Northfield last year. The judgment was in favor of France, which was awarded about \$650,000, and President Castro paid the first installment of the award three months ago. The second payment was due yesterday, but was not paid.

Apparently the Venezuelan President's failure to pay the installment was on the ground that diplomatic relations between France and Venezuela are interrupted. The officials here decline to admit that this justified President Castro in not paying the installment. The incident is considered to be a further provocation.

CZAR HELPS PEASANTS.

Remits Millions Due on Lands and Makes Purchase Easy.

London, Nov. 17.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg to Reuter's Telegram agency says that an imperial manifesto granting land concessions to the peasants was issued this morning. By its terms the land redemption tax payments from January 14, 1906, will be reduced by one-half, and from January 14, 1907, the payments will be totally abolished.

At the same time the capital of the Peasant bank is increased and the bank is granted additional loan privileges with the object of facilitating to the utmost the purchase of lands by peasants.

It is estimated that the amount of taxation thus lifted from the peasants by the manifesto will aggregate \$40,000,000, while the extension of the field of operations of the Peasants' bank will enable vast tracts of crown and private lands gradually to become the property of the peasants.

PRETENDER LEADS PEASANTS.

Army of 50,000 Supports Usurper's Claim to Czardom.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 17.—A false emperor has suddenly made his appearance near Penza, and already his followers number 50,000. This is the startling report received this afternoon in a dispatch from Simbirsk. Penza is in the heart of the vast region extending westward from the Volga, where agrarian uprisings on a large scale have occurred, and if the report turns out to be true that the pretender to the throne has placed himself at the head of the peasantry, the government will soon face, besides its other troubles, a formidable agrarian rebellion. It required a year to suppress the famous rebellion led by Pugacheff, who impersonated the dethroned and murdered Peter II in the time of Catherine II. That uprising was started in the same region on the banks of the Volga.

STORM CLOUD IN AFRICA.

Germany Protests Against an Anglo-French Agreement in Liberia.

Washington, Nov. 17.—The State department has learned that Germany has protested to Great Britain and France against the conclusion of certain negotiations now on foot between those two governments and the government of Liberia. Liberia wished to borrow some money and is willing to hypothecate certain territory as security. Germany sees in this proposition a threat of undue expansion of British and French influence in that quarter of Africa. The State department has not felt called upon so far to take any action in this matter, and in fact regards the communication merely as information.

Anarchy at Vladivostok.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 17.—The latest reports from Vladivostok indicate that the rioting has not yet been suppressed. Both sailors and fortress artillerymen participated in the outbreak. The commandant lost his head, the situation got beyond control, and energetic measures were not taken until a large part of the city had been destroyed. The population is still seeking refuge on the vessels in the harbor. According to one report from Vladivostok, 300 rioters, mostly sailors and artillerymen, were killed or wounded.

Standard Oil's Big Dividend

New York, Nov. 17.—The Standard Oil company has declared a quarterly dividend of \$10 a share. The previous dividend was \$6 a share and the dividend at this time last year was \$7 a share. Today's declaration brings the total dividends for the year to \$40 a share. Last year it was \$36.

APPROVE PROJECTS

Hitchcock Will Reverse Himself on Irrigation.

TO THE BENEFIT OF NORTHWEST

Had Taken Bad Advice—Walcott Removes Objections to Umatilla, Okanogan and Sunnyside.

Washington, Nov. 18.—Secretary Hitchcock is preparing to reverse himself and approve the Umatilla irrigation project in Eastern Oregon, as well as one or more projects in Washington. This, at least, is the inference to be drawn from an authorized statement made at his office today to the effect that action on the Umatilla project would be taken some time next week which would be satisfactory to the people of Oregon, and that similar action was to be looked for on one or more Washington projects. It is not known at this time what Washington projects will be approved, further than that the choice will lie among the Tieton, Okanogan and Sunnyside schemes, all of which have been favorably recommended by the Reclamation service.

This announcement from the secretary's office was made after a conference between Mr. Hitchcock and Director Walcott, of the Geological survey, who is the intermediary between the secretary and the Reclamation service. This afternoon Mr. Walcott returned to the secretary all papers bearing on the Umatilla, Okanogan and Tieton projects and, in addition to the original recommendations, submitted unanswerable arguments showing that all these projects are not only feasible and desirable, but that there is no feature about them to which objection can be legitimately raised.

In point of fact, Mr. Hitchcock, shortly after taking adverse action on the Umatilla, Tieton and Okanogan projects, saw that he had acted on bad advice, and realized that his position would become untenable. He saw that he had made a blunder which would have to be rectified, and he has cautiously been feeling his way back to solid ground. He is not yet ready to make the final leap, but is preparing for it and, when he does, Oregon and Washington will benefit. Incidentally it might be mentioned that the men who gave the secretary bad counsel have heard from it, and have been warned to display more intelligence and common sense in future.

ONLY AMERICANS AS CONSULS.

Root Will Not Appoint Foreigners if He Can Help It.

Washington, Nov. 18.—Not a single foreigner has been appointed to the American consular service abroad since Secretary Root assumed office. He feels that it is his duty to "put none but Americans on guard." Aside from the fact that a foreigner naturally might be expected to take less interest than an American in the development of our trade abroad, it is felt that in time of political stress, wherein relations might become strained, no such test should be placed upon the loyalty of a foreign consular agent to his native country as would be imposed by requiring him to do his full duty to the country which merely employed him.

So although a number of vacancies have occurred in these posts since Secretary Root assumed office, he has held consistently to the policy above laid down, and where it has not been possible to find Americans to fill the vacancies, the offices have been allowed to remain vacant. Of course, the vacancies cannot continue indefinitely, but the secretary hopes that, with the pressure of the business world behind it, congress will yield to his appeal for more liberal compensation for these small posts, so as to enable him to send out American officials.

Ballot Reform in New York.

New York, Nov. 18.—At a conference yesterday between representatives of organizations interested in ballot reform, a resolution was adopted declaring that ballot reform in New York should proceed on the lines of the Australian ballot as in use in Massachusetts. As the representative of the Corrupt Practices association, D. Cady Herrick asked the support of the conferees for a bill which his organization intends to present to the legislature and which he said would be drawn so as to do away with election corruption.

Plan International Parliament.

Paris, Nov. 18.—Representatives of the parliaments of the principal nations will assemble here November 18 to consider the American appeal for a permanent international parliament and a general arbitration treaty, as presented at the Brussels parliamentary congress by Congressman Richard Bartholdt, of Missouri, who represented the United States at the congress.

IRRIGATION MUDDLE.

Oregon and Washington Suffer From "Too Many Cooks."

Washington, Nov. 15.—"The Malheur irrigation project in Eastern Oregon is reeking with graft," said a high official of the Interior department today, "and until this graft has been eliminated the government will not adopt and build the project which the Reclamation service has prepared. The government does not propose to be held up."

This statement was made by an official very close to Secretary Hitchcock, and he, apparently, knows whereof he speaks, for he but recently returned from Malheur county, where he made careful investigation into the entire irrigation situation, and found such conditions as warranted him in recommending against the immediate construction of that project. It is his candid opinion that the time is remote when the government will undertake the construction of the Malheur project; indeed, he has doubts whether that project will ever be built by government aid.

There is no just reason why the Umatilla project should be delayed one day. It has been demonstrated that there is money available; the technical objection is trivial and ought to be waived. The Maxwell company merely asks to retain 300 acres, with water right, but Mr. Hitchcock rules that, under the law, this company can have but 160 acres, with water right, overlooking the fact that the three members of the Maxwell company, should they make entry individually, could each hold 160 acres, or 480 acres in all, with water rights attached.

The same thing is true of the Sunnyside project in the Yakima valley, in Washington. The Sunnyside canal owners are willing to sell out for \$1,500,000, but they ask to retain more than 160 acres of the land they now own, with water right attached, and the secretary is unwilling to grant them this privilege. So he holds up that project, which in the opinion of the reclamation engineers is very attractive and can be acquired to advantage at this time.

Representative Jones, through his secretary, today made inquiry as to why Mr. Hitchcock refused to approve the Tieton and Okanogan projects, and found, as previously stated, that both were sidetracked "because there is no money." Nearly a year ago Mr. Hitchcock allotted \$2,800,000 for the construction of the Palouse project, but the reclamation engineers recommended indefinite postponement of this undertaking, and it has been temporarily abandoned because of excessive cost. It has been decided to withdraw this allotment, which contains enough money to build the Tieton and Okanogan projects, and purchase the Sunnyside canal as well, yet the department still cries "no money." There is much quibbling among officials over the exact status of irrigation projects in Oregon and Washington, but the situation is as represented: There is money enough in both states for immediate work, but Mr. Hitchcock refuses to authorize its expenditure.

Bargain in Irrigation Works.

Washington, Nov. 15.—A nonpartisan delegation from New Mexico called on the president to discuss with him the proposed sale to the government of an irrigation project which has been built to irrigate the Pecos valley. The dam and its contingent system were constructed by private individuals at a cost of \$750,000. Last spring a flood carried away a part of the dam and left the reservoir practically dry. The farms, orchards and gardens, which were irrigated by the system, are threatened with total destruction unless the dam is rebuilt. The delegation proposes to sell the entire plant to the government for \$150,000. The president promised to give full consideration to the proposition.

Unrest Still Prevails in Odessa.

Odessa, Nov. 15.—Considerable unrest continues to pervade this city. Looting and attacks on individuals are reported to have occurred in various quarters. The new prefect up to the present time has not taken any drastic measures and in consequence the people fear to leave their homes after nightfall. The university opened today. A number of policemen have resigned, and it is openly asserted that they secured sufficient plunder during the disturbances to make them independent.

Mutiny at Vladivostok.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 15.—The latest advices from Vladivostok, received at an early hour this morning, state that the mutiny there is now under semi-control, although the danger is by no means over. The Chinese quarter has been entirely destroyed by fire, and the loss of life is reported to be very large but, owing to the strict censorship, it is impossible to secure details.

STORM STOPS RIOTS

Russian Capital Held In Grasp of Fierce Blizzard.

FOREIGNERS TERROR STRICKEN

Fear Escape May Be Cut Off—Are Advised to Leave Country Without Delay.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 16.—A fierce northeast blizzard and snow, which blew down on St. Petersburg tonight, prevented bloodshed in the Russian capital. The bitter cold, by forcing the strikers to remain indoors, did more to preserve order than all the Cossack cavalry patrolling the streets. Heavy military reserves are stationed in all the industrial districts, but up to midnight there was no rioting. There were rumors of collisions in different parts of the city, but on investigation they turned out to be false.

The Social Democrats had an impressive response on the part of all organizations of workmen to their summons for a general political strike to demonstrate their solidarity with the struggle of their Polish comrades for autonomy, and to protest against the execution of the mutinous sailors at Cronstadt.

The situation has caused a renewal of the panicky feeling among the inhabitants, whose nerves were already shattered by the events of the last fortnight, and hundreds of persons who had just returned are again leaving for Finland. The foreign residents are becoming more and more alarmed, and many of them are hastily preparing to go abroad for the winter. In case the Finnish Socialists should join their Russian comrades and tie up the Finnish railroad, the only egress would be by water, and the freezing of the gulf of Finland a fortnight hence would close the last exit.

MAY BUY OUT THE SETTLER

Possible Compromise, as War Department Committed Itself.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Senor Quesada, the Cuban minister here, called at the State department today and seemed to be considerably agitated over the news of the movement in the Isle of Pines to oppose the formal transfer of the island to Cuba.

The contention of the American residents is that, as they own in fee simple five-sixths of the ground, and as the remaining one-sixth is in the hands of one or two Spanish families, the 1,200 native residents being non-property owners, they should have a right to be heard by this government. A suggestion has been made here that it is known to have received serious official consideration to the effect that, in view of the fact that the War department actually did at one time give ground for a belief on the part of some persons that the Isle of Pines was American, it would be only just for this government to pay these settlers for the land.

TAFT IN WASHINGTON AGAIN

Denies Story He Will Transfer Canal Affairs to Root.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Secretary Taft arrived in Washington from Hampton Roads at 7 o'clock this morning. Immediately after he called at the executive office and saw the president when the latter came to the office.

Secretary Taft made it clear today that he had no intention of relinquishing supervision of Philippine affairs. During his temporary absence in Panama it was reported that matters relating to the Philippines were to be transferred to the State department and hereafter be under the direction of Secretary Root.

"That story," said Secretary Taft, "originated in the mind of the man who wrote it. There is absolutely no foundation for it, whatever."

Colorado is Dammed.

Los Angeles, Nov. 16.—Local Southern Pacific officials state today that the engineers and rippers who have been at work for months past at Salton sea, in an effort to check the flow of water from the Colorado river, have been successful and that the waters are now practically under control. Experiment after experiment has proved unsuccessful, and the railroad company has been compelled to build several successive new tracks to get away from the encroaching waters, at a heavy expense.

Battleship Oregon Ordered Home

Washington, Nov. 16.—Orders have been given by the Navy department for the return of the battleship Oregon from the Philippines to the United States at an early date. Two cruisers of the Denver class will be sent to the Philippines later on. The Oregon will bring back a crew of men whose enlistments are about to expire.