

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

AID FROM STATE.

Is Necessary in Road Construction, Says Convention.

Corvallis—The voice of the Good Roads convention is unanimously for state aid in the construction of public roads. No resolution to this effect was adopted, but throughout the two days' session the idea came to the front at unexpected times and always with the apparent approval of the delegates. It was injected into the proceedings by an Alsea farmer, who declared that there ought to be state aid, so that Portland would have to help pay the price, because all that Portland is or all that she hopes to be has come or is to come from the products of the farms, mines and mills in the territory of which she is the commercial mistress. This brought Judge Webster into the open, and he declared his approval of the sentiment expressed by the Alsean, and announced a belief that state aid should be vouchsafed in road construction, the state to pay about 50 cents every time a certain community struggling with a road raised 50 cents.

HAILEY ON SUPREME BENCH

Governor Chamberlain Will Appoint Pendleton Man.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has announced that he will appoint T. G. Hailey, of Pendleton, to succeed Justice Wolverton on the supreme bench. This appointment was expected, but came much sooner than anticipated, for there is really no vacancy as yet.

Governor Chamberlain has been considering the matter of an appointment to the supreme bench ever since it became probable that one of the superior judges would be appointed to the Federal bench. He had therefore weighed the qualifications of available men and was ready to make a selection.

By announcing the appointment at once, the governor has saved the trouble of receiving and considering the flood of recommendations and applications that would soon have been pouring in.

Books for Christmas.

People who buy books for children usually take what they can get most easily, or what the clerk recommends. Everyone likes to make a good investment, to get value received. The Oregon Library commission makes this possible in so far as children's books are concerned, for it has published for free distribution a list of something over a hundred titles of children's books for Christmas gifts and for the home library. There are notes on the books, and prices are given—ranging from 15 cents to \$3. Any one may get this list by applying to the secretary of the commission at Salem.

Big Ranch Sold.

Pendleton—One of the biggest ranch deals in the history of Eastern Oregon was just consummated here, in which the ranches and sheep of Charles Cunningham, the Umatilla county sheep king, were sold to a company composed of J. N. Burgess, J. M. Keeny, R. A. Kelsay and Dan J. Malarkey. The price paid was in the neighborhood of \$200,000. The deal has been pending since October, when an option was given the purchasers for \$5,000. About 20,000 acres, 20,000 sheep and 1,000 tons of hay are included in the deal.

More Smallpox at Eugene.

Eugene—Two more cases of smallpox have been reported to the health authorities, and the houses of A. J. Pickard and Warren Luckey are now in quarantine. Earl Luckey, son of Warren Luckey, was taken down and began to break out while in the school room, but it is not believed the other students were endangered, because the disease had not reached the stage where it would become contagious. Strict measures are in force for stamping out the disease as quickly as possible.

May Replace Woolen Mills.

Albany—A proposition which would allow Albany to regain some of the payroll she lost through the burning of the Albany woolen mill last spring, has been received from an Eastern man who will remove a six set woolen mill plant to Albany, if local capitalists will furnish the buildings. Besides having double the capacity of the old mill, the new concern proposes to operate in connection with the woolen mill a knitting mill and a clothing manufactory.

Use Wagons in Lieu of Cars.

Athens—On account of the scarcity of cars, the Preston-Parton Milling company is obliged to employ teams to haul wheat overland to keep their mills running. The conditions are growing worse daily at the mills, which are congested with the large amount of accumulated flour, there being several hundred thousand barrels on hand awaiting shipment. Just when this condition will be relieved is hard to state.

ELABORATE PREPARATIONS.

Seven States Will Be Represented at Fruitgrowers' Convention.

La Grande—Elaborate preparations are being made in this city for the entertainment of the Fruitgrowers' convention here January 3 to 5. Secretary C. D. Huffman, of this place, has received many communications from delegates, and Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Utah, Montana and Wyoming will be represented.

The exercises will probably be held in the opera house, and the commercial club hall will be utilized for an exhibition room. Hood River has signified its intention of having an exhibit here, and many other fruitgrowing communities are arousing interest. La Grande will be well represented. A large number of growers of this valley will save their best fruits for the occasion, and anyone alone is able to make a creditable showing. One flouring mill is considering erecting a huge pyramid of flour reaching to the ceiling to advertise the grains.

A strenuous campaign will be started soon and delegates from all over the valley will be asked to prepare the exhibit.

Fishing Law is Defied.

Tillamook—Although the fishing season for Tillamook closed on the 20th, fishing is in full blast on Tillamook bay, and Elmore's cannery is also running to its capacity and is receiving a large quantity of fish, as there is a fine run of silversides, and the fishermen are doing well. The cannery has agreed to take all the fish, and as it has a lot of empty cans on hand that it wants to fill this season, no attention is being paid to the closed season by the cannery people. Only one or two fishermen have stopped fishing and complied with the law.

Much Work for Wolverton.

Salem—There are 34 cases to be decided by the Supreme court, presumably before Judge Wolverton leaves the bench. These cases have all been argued before the court. Twenty-four of these cases were heard at the recent session of the court at Pendleton. Ten cases heard in this city have not been passed upon. Among the latter is the noted Marquam case, which the court has had under advisement for several months. If all these cases are decided before Judge Wolverton retires, it will require at least two weeks.

New Road in Baker County.

Baker City—Private advices received from engineers in the field state that surveys have been approved for building another railroad in Baker county, connecting Union with the Cornucopia timber country. The promoters are after timber traffic and nothing else. For obvious reasons the names of the promoters and financiers are kept quiet for the present. The money is guaranteed in New York.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 71@72c per bushel; bluestem, 73@74c; valley, 74@75c; red, 67@68c.

Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$26.50; gray, \$26.50 per ton.

Barley—Feed, \$22 per ton; brewing, \$22@22.50; rolled, \$23@23.50.

Rye—\$1.50@1.60 per cental.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$15@16 per ton; valley timothy, \$11@12; clover, \$8@9; grain hay, \$8@9.

Fruits—Apples, \$1@1.50 per box; huckleberries, 7c per pound; pears, \$1.25@1.50 per box; quinces, \$1 per box.

Vegetables—Beans, wax, 12c per pound; cabbage, 1@1½c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.75@2.25 per crate; celery, 75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50@60c per dozen; pumpkins, ¼@1c per pound; tomatoes, \$1 per crate; sprouts, 7c per pound; squash, ¼@1c per pound; turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, 65@75c per sack; beets, 85c@1 per sack.

Onions—Oregon yellow Danvers, \$1.25 per sack.

Potatoes—Fancy graded Burbanks, 65@70c per sack; ordinary, 55@60c; Merced sweets, sacks, \$1.90; crates, \$2.15.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 25@27½c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 35c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 10c per pound; young roosters, 9c; springs, 11½c; dressed chickens, 12@14c; turkeys, live, 16c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18@20c; geese, live, 8½@9c; ducks, 14@15c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, choice, 10@11½c; olds, 5@7c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 16@21c; valley, 24@26c per pound; mohair, choice, 30c.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 1@2c per pound; cows, 3@4c; country steers, 4@4½c.

Veal—Dressed, 3@7½c per pound.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 7@7½c per pound; ordinary, 4@5c; lambs, 7½@8c.

Pork—Dressed, 6@7½c per pound.

GREATEST HARVEST IN HISTORY

Present Year Was Record Breaker in United States.

Washington, Nov. 28.—"Wealth production on the farms of the United States in 1905 reached the highest amount ever attained in this or any other country—\$6,415,000,000."

In the first annual report of his third term Secretary of Agriculture Wilson presents an array of figures and a statement representing products and profits of the farmers of this country, which he admits "dreams of wealth production could hardly equal."

Four crops make new high records as to value—corn, hay, wheat and rice—although in amount of production the corn is the only one that exceeds previous yields. In every crop the general level of production was high and that of prices still higher. Beside the enormous yield of wheat the secretary estimates that the farms of the country have increased in value during the past five years to a present aggregate of \$6,133,000,000.

"Every sunset during the past five years," he says, "has registered an increase of \$3,400,000 in the value of the farms of this country."

Analyzing the principal crops for the year, the secretary says that corn reached its highest production at 2,708,000,000 bushels, a gain of 42,000,000 over the next highest year, 1899; hay is second in order of value, although cotton held second place during the two preceding years. The hay crop this year is valued at \$60,000,000. Cotton comes third, with a valuation of \$575,000,000; wheat, \$525,000,000; oats, \$282,000,000; potatoes, \$138,000,000; barley, \$58,000,000; tobacco, \$12,000,000; sugar, cane and sugar beets, \$50,000,000; rice, \$13,000,000; dairy products, \$50,000,000, an increase of \$54,000,000, over last year.

PLENTY OF MONEY.

Secretary of Interior Has Not Been Furnished Proper Figures.

Washington, Nov. 28.—When the secretary of the Interior and the Reclamation service reach an understanding as to the extent and condition of the national reclamation fund, it is expected that a number of new irrigation projects, including projects in Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington, will be approved and placed under contract. But until there is a complete understanding, the present chaotic condition must continue, and inactivity will be the rule, save on projects that are actually under contract.

The great misunderstanding that now prevails is as to the amount of money available for use, and the restrictions under which that money may be expended. The Reclamation service has its own set of figures, but those figures do not coincide with the figures which have been furnished Secretary Hitchcock by the men in his own department upon whom he relies. The secretary, confronted with very different financial statements, from sources which ought to agree, has concluded that neither is right, yet he is unable to figure out for himself just how much money he has to spend, and how much he has spent in the 3½ years the reclamation law has been in force.

WRECK TAKES FIRE.

Fourteen Persons Lose Lives in Massachusetts Disaster.

Lincoln, Mass., Nov. 28.—Fourteen persons were killed, 25 were seriously injured, and probably a score of others cut and bruised in the most disastrous railroad wreck recorded in this state for many years. The wreck occurred at 8:15 o'clock, at Baker's Bridge station, a mile and a half west of Lincoln, on the main line of the Fitchburg division of the Boston & Maine railroad. The regular express, which left Boston at 7:45 o'clock for Montreal, by way of the Rutland system, crashed into the rear end of an accommodation train bound for points on the Marlborough branch, and which started from Boston at 7:15.

Of the dead, a dozen were passengers in the two rear cars of the Marlborough train. The other two were Engineer Barnard, of the Montreal express, and his fireman. No passengers on the express train were injured. Of those who lost their lives, a number were apparently instantly killed in the collision, while others were either burned to death or died from suffocation.

Oppose Rate Legislation.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—An organized movement on the part of railroad employes in every branch of the service has been put on foot to secure concerted action against the Roosevelt idea of rate legislation. Preliminary steps have already been taken by a committee of the brotherhoods of railroad men for a general mass meeting. Rate regulation, in the opinion of the employes, means a subsequent reduction in wages for them, and they propose a strong organization to oppose traffic rates.

Famine in Part of Japan.

Victoria, B. C., Nov. 28.—Famine prevails because of the failure of the rice crop in Northeast Japan. The government has begun relief measures.

SIDETRACK TARIFF

Rate Regulation the Only Problem Before Coming Session.

CONCENTRATION OF ATTENTION

President Will Not Give Senate Any Excuse to Avoid Action by Debating in the Air.

Washington, Nov. 28.—For various reasons President Roosevelt will not urge congress at the approaching session to take up the question of tariff revision. He believes the railroad rate question is the most vital issue which confronts the people of the United States today, and he is therefore unwilling to bring to the front any other problem whose discussion would tend to postpone, if not defeat, legislation on that subject. He proceeds on the theory that the worst evil should be first cured. After four years' experience in the white house, and with a comprehensive knowledge of the methods resorted to by congress to defeat legislation which is distasteful, the president is fully aware that he would materially decrease the chances of getting rate legislation if he should make tariff revision an issue of equal importance with the regulation of freight rates. He is aware that the senate would quickly seize upon this opportunity and concentrate its attention on a tariff bill, not so much with any idea of modifying the Dingley tariff as to distract attention and sidetrack the rate bill before it reached a critical stage.

There is other legislation which the president hopes to have passed besides the railroad rate bill, but he is more anxious about that measure than any other, and he will concentrate his efforts to secure such a law as will, in his judgment, effectively check discriminations of all sorts. He wants a law which will apply the "square deal" rule to railroad business, and if his influence, backed by public opinion, can bring it about, such a law will be written on the statute books before the first session of the Fifty-ninth congress adjourns.

CANAL ENGINEERS DEPART.

Ridicule Reports They Have Changed Decision on Sea Level.

Washington, Nov. 28.—The five foreign delegates to the board of consulting engineers of the Isthmian Canal commission left for New York today, and will sail for their homes. They will meet again in Brussels during the first days of January. General Davis will go to that city as representative of the American members of the board, and will take with him the documents, which are not yet drawn up, and which then will have to be signed by the foreign delegates.

Speaking of published stories that they had reconsidered their first vote, one of the delegates made the following statement:

"Whatever we have had to say will be found in the report which will shortly be in the hands of President Roosevelt. That we should change our vote on a subject to which for three months we had given the closest attention, and should change it merely because some parties are not contented with it, is a great absurdity."

Leave Isle of Pines to Cuba.

Washington, Nov. 28.—The Cuban government will be permitted to settle to its own satisfaction the existing trouble on the Isle of Pines. The State department has so announced. Of course, if American citizens were to be unduly persecuted or maltreated because of any exercise by them of their right of freedom of speech or assembly, this government will take steps to secure for them justice. But if those Americans on the islands place themselves outside the pale of the law by refusing to recognize the authority of the Cuban government, they will have to take the consequences.

Pesthouse Was Burglarized.

Butte, Mont., Nov. 28.—A Great Falls dispatch to the Miner states that the people of Teton county are in a furor over what is believed to be a threatened epidemic of smallpox as the result of burglarizing of the pesthouse. Several smallpox patients were confined in the detention house and the place has never been fumigated to the extent that it is believed that all danger of contagion is past. The people have been publicly warned by the health officials to be on the alert for any appearance of the disease.

Governor of Moscow Dismissed.

London, Nov. 28.—The correspondent of the Standard at Moscow says that General Drunovo, governor of Moscow, has been dismissed in disgrace owing to the revolutionary proceedings of the congress of peasants.

MAY LOSE POSITION.

Mitchell Likely To Be Displaced on Senate Canal Committee.

Washington, Nov. 27.—Apparently Senator Mitchell is to be deprived of the chairmanship of the committee on interoceanic canals when the senate reorganizes next month. This has not been definitely decided, but it is the consensus of opinion of arriving senators that Mitchell will have to relinquish his chairmanship in order that some active member of the canal committee can preside at its meetings this winter.

Congress must appropriate money early in the coming session for continuing work on the Panama canal, and must decide whether the canal shall be built with locks or at the sea level. This legislation, together with all other legislation pertaining to the canal and the canal zone, must be considered by the canal committee, and will be one of the most important topics to be considered. Because of its importance, senators believe the canal committee should have an active chairman, who can not only preside at committee meetings, but who can vote both in committee and in the senate, and who can furthermore take charge of canal legislation after it has been reported to the senate.

AMEND IMMIGRATION LAWS.

Sargent's Plan for Keeping Out All Undesirables.

Washington, Nov. 27.—Radical changes in the immigration laws will be made next year, if the suggestions of Commissioner General Sargent are put into effect. Mr. Sargent is anxious to have limits placed on the number of immigrants, and that persons who are either too young or too old to support themselves should not be permitted to disembark. This would not, however, apply to those who can furnish guarantees that they are on their way to relatives.

Mr. Sargent believes that by an arrangement with foreign governments the useless traffic of deportation of immigrants unfit to land here could be stopped. Before an immigrant is permitted to take passage for America, he should undergo an examination at the point of embarkation.

HITCHCOCK TO RESIGN.

Rumor That Western Congressmen Have Got His Scalp.

Washington, Nov. 27.—The fact leaked out tonight from a responsible source that at a recent cabinet meeting Ethan Allen Hitchcock, secretary of the Interior, expressed a desire to tender his resignation July 1 next. The same authority announces that Vespasian Warner, of Illinois, now commissioner of pensions, is to succeed him.

It is said the proposed change in the cabinet has been brought about by members of congress from western states, who charge that Mr. Hitchcock, in operations against land grabbers, has permitted his personal feelings to enter into the prosecutions. While this charge had been often repeated, it is said that the retirement of Mr. Hitchcock will be wholly due to the desire of the president to surround himself with younger men.

MILLION WOMEN FIGHT SMOOT.

Characterize Him as a Man Sanctioning Practice of Polygamy.

Philadelphia, Nov. 27.—A meeting of the executive committee of the National League of Women's organizations, formed two years ago to oppose the continuance in the United States senate of Senator Reed Smoot, of Utah, was held here today. Women from all sections of the country were present. It was announced that a petition would be presented to the senate asking for the exclusion of Mr. Smoot on the ground that "he is a member of a hierarchy whose president and a majority of the members practice and teach polygamy." The memorial will state that "Mr. Smoot has never raised his voice against these doctrines, and the Mormon hierarchy has broken its covenants which it gave to the United States when statehood was granted."

Summoned by Judge Hunt.

Helena, Nov. 27.—United States Judge Hunt today ordered Frederick A. Hyde, John A. Benson and other Californians to appear and answer on February 5 the complaint charging them with having fraudulently obtained a forest reserve scrip, under which 4,000 acres of Montana land was secured from the government. The government seeks to have the land retored to it. There are a number of Montana corporations and individuals who are also named as defendants in the bill of complaint filed.

Will Cut Forests and Crops.

Libau, Nov. 27.—Agrarian disorders have broken out in the Baltic province. A peasant meeting adopted resolutions to cut forest on private land and to appropriate crops. The governor general has issued a proclamation to the troops to fire on such offenders, and saying that the participants at such meetings will be court martialed and sent to distant provinces.