

WILLING TO BE GOOD

Railroads Hold Out Olive Branch to Commerce Commission.

ALL BIG ROADS OF ONE MIND

Death Knell to Illegal Practices Will Be Sounded at St. Paul Meeting Within Few Days.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—The railroad interests of the entire country have decided to hold out the olive branch to the government and join hands with the Interstate Commerce commission to secure a rigid enforcement of law. To this end two moves have been begun, one embracing all the railroads east of Chicago and St. Louis, and the other taking in all railroads west of the same points.

The Eastern movement was begun several weeks ago, and the commission has been asked to meet a committee of railway men in a conference regarding the situation in the East. The Western movement is of more recent date and J. C. Stubbs, traffic manager of the Harriman lines, is in charge of it. Yesterday Mr. Stubbs wired the Interstate Commerce commission asking for an early conference between that body and a committee representing every Western railroad, to discuss plans for a joint effort to prevent further violations of the laws governing transportation. It is expected a date will be set before the close of the year, and the conference is likely to take place in St. Paul next Friday, when the commission has a hearing in that city.

The railroads insist they are in earnest and that, if the commission is in sympathy with the move, it means the death knell of the freight rebate, the secret rate or "midnight tariff" of preferential rates, of arrangements with industrial railroads, of the payment of unlawful commissions, and, in short, the end of everything which comes within the purview of the interstate commerce act or the Elkins amendment.

ALL RAILROAD BIDS REJECTED.

Government Will Again Offer Concessions in Philippines.

Washington, Dec. 23.—All the bids for concessionary contracts or grants for the construction of railroads in the Philippine islands, recently submitted to the bureau of insular affairs, were today rejected because of the departures from the terms of the circular calling for proposals. Secretary Taft, after a number of conferences with Governor Wright and Mr. Forbes, of the Philippine commission, and Colonel Edwards, chief of the insular bureau, today decided to re-advertise the proposals, and January 20, at 10 a. m., has been fixed as the date for the opening of new bids. The terms will be modified in some particulars.

Where bidders propose to construct the road without guarantee they will be limited in their bids only by the terms of the Philippine government railroads acts of 1902 and 1903. But where bidders wish to take advantage of a guarantee of a certain interest on their investment, they can vary from the original invitation to bid only in point of time or on the cost of construction per mile as affected by contractors' profits.

ALL RUSSIA PARALYZED.

Empire Tied Up by General Strike and Food is Scarce.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 23.—With the strike in force throughout the entire empire, conditions are again becoming more and more alarming. While it is certain that the strike leaders are absolutely opposed to violence, it begins to look as though they would be unable to control the forces. Famine is the one thing to be feared, inasmuch as the supplies of food within the city have been heavily drawn upon during the last 30 days, and now that all the output of the foodstuffs is at an end, prices are beginning to advance and the common people must certainly suffer.

French Ship on Voyage.

Paris, Dec. 23.—A cruiser detached from the French squadron at Saigon, French Indo-China, is now proceeding to Shanghai. The officials here say this is a measure of precaution, as no French interests have as yet been disturbed. The recent disturbances occurred in the international concession, which is separated from the French concession. An official dispatch from from Peking today says an imperial edict just issued, following energetic protests on the part of foreign ministers, promises to end the trouble.

Troops to Suppress Revolt.

Paris, Dec. 23.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Petit Parisien, in a dispatch dated yesterday, says that the government is preparing to suppress the revolt along the Baltic.

INSURGENTS RULE ON BALTIC.

Gunners Refuse to Fire and Ships Cannot Be Trusted.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—The Daily News correspondent sends the following from St. Petersburg:

Expectation of the downfall of the government continues to grow in this city. Insurgents still hold Riga, Reval and other Baltic towns. The garrisons in these provinces are insufficient to put down the armed rebels and the artillerymen refuse to fire on them. Strikes of railroad workers and crews of steamships prevent the forwarding of troops and ammunition to the revolted provinces.

Though the government has been urged to dispatch a fleet to the Baltic ports Admiral Birleff hesitates to make any move, fearing that his sailors will join the rebellion.

Dispatches received from Manchuria today report the situation of the army as desperate. Many officers are in hiding from their own troops, fearing for their lives. The men are burning and pillaging everything within their reach, while the civil population has fled.

Revolutionary proclamations have been posted about in the barracks and in the streets. Dissensions among the chief officers seriously complicate matters. The soldiers accuse the commissaries of stealing large quantities of supplies and have burned their houses.

WORK DONE ON IRRIGATION.

Great Amount of Construction Done by Reclamation Service.

Washington, Dec. 18.—A resume of the work performed by the Reclamation service to date shows that 77 miles of main canal, 54 miles of distributing system and 186 miles of ditches have been constructed, including dams, headworks, etc. Tunnels having a total length of three and one-half miles have been driven, including more than a mile of the great Gunnison tunnel. More than 250 miles of telephone lines have been installed and are in operation; 126 miles of wagon road, many miles of which were cut out of solid rock in almost inaccessible canyons, 147 bridges and 50 office and other buildings have been constructed.

The works above mentioned have called for the excavation of 9,350,000 cubic yards of rock and earth, the laying of 70,000 cubic yards of concrete, 12,000 cubic yards of riprap, 150,000 linear feet of sheet piling and 10,000 feet of bearing piles have been driven. There have been purchased 130,000 pounds of railroad iron, 250,000 pounds of structural steel, 600,000 pounds of cast iron, 1,750,000 feet of lumber, and 78,000 barrels of cement. The government has erected a cement mill at a cost of more than \$100,000, which has already turned out 15,000 barrels of cement, and is now furnishing about 300 barrels a day. The sawmills operated by Uncle Sam have cut 2,880,000 feet of lumber from the government reserves.

HOLD UP TRAIN.

Safes of North Coast Limited Ripped Near North Yakima.

North Yakima, Dec. 18.—Overland limited No. 1, due here at 2:50 o'clock p. m., but running almost five hours late, was held up at Hillside, in the Yakima canyon, 11 miles north of this place, at 7:15 Saturday evening. The express car was dynamited, two safes blown open and all contents of value taken.

From a good source it is learned that there was little currency in the safes on the limited at the time of the holdup. The main contents consisted of drafts, etc.

City Marshal Curren has ordered the arrest of every stranger seen in North Yakima who comes anywhere near answering the description given of the holdup men. Up to midnight last night there have been four arrests. One man was arrested by Officer Lane who answered the description perfectly. He was taken off a passenger coach on a train coming from the scene of the holdup, and was wet to the skin. It is thought he may be one of the men.

It is thought possible the bandits may have crossed the Columbia and be headed for British Columbia.

High Price for Portrait.

London, Dec. 18.—The famous Whistler portrait of the late Sir Henry Irving as King Philip II of Spain, was sold at auction today among the remainder of the actor's effects for \$25,200. Sargent's portrait of Ellen Terry in the character of Lady Macbeth realized \$6,300. The Whistler picture goes to America. The name of the purchaser of "The Whistler" was carefully withheld by the representative of a firm of book-keepers of London, who bid it in. It is rumored, however, that J. Pierpont Morgan was the actual purchaser.

Finds Millions in Ground.

Winnepeg, Man., Dec. 18.—Anthony Blum, of Boston, principal owner of the Laurentine mine in the Manitou district, 200 miles east of here, has unearthed walls of gold that assay \$400,000 to the ton. There are millions in sight. It is the richest discovery ever made in gold mining. He spent ten years off and on in the district and has made much money.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

GUIDE TO ELECTIONS.

Explanation of Complicated Primary System by Secretary Dunbar.

Salem—The adoption of the direct primary law has given Oregon such a complicated system of elections that not even the accomplished politician can carry in his mind all the details of the proceedings leading up to the general election of state, district and county officers. One of the most difficult things to ascertain and remember is the dates upon which the various steps in the nomination and election of officers must be taken. In fact, the ordinary citizen cannot figure out the dates if he has the statute before him, for the language varies and different methods of computing time must be adopted.

The following list contains all the dates of interest to the voter and the candidate for offices as figured out by Secretary of State Dunbar:

Registration—Registration books opened by county clerks Tuesday, January 2.

Registration books closed for primary election April 10, 5 p. m.

Registration books opened after primary election, April 25.

Registration books closed for general election, May 15, 5 p. m.

Initiative petitions—Number of signers required to initiate laws or amendments, 7,489.

Last day for filing initiative petitions, February 3.

Last day for filing pamphlets opposing measures, February 5.

Direct primary election—County clerks give notice of primary election not later than March 21.

Last day for filing petitions for placing names on ballot for state, congressional and district officers, March 30.

Last day for filing petitions for county offices, April 4.

Date of primary election, April 30.

Canvassing votes of primary election for state offices, May 5.

General election—Last day for filing certificates of nomination for state offices by assembly of electors, April 19.

Last day for filing nominating petitions for state offices, May 4.

Last day for filing certificates of nomination for county offices by assembly of electors, May 4.

Last day for filing nominating petitions for county offices, May 19.

General election, June 4.

It should be explained that petitions for nominations for district offices, such as circuit judge, district attorney, joint senator and joint representative must be filed in the office of the secretary of state, and not with county clerks.

ORGANIZE SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

State Library Commission Passes an Important Resolution.

Salem—The State Library commission, composed of Governor Chamberlain, W. B. Ayers, President Campbell, of the State University; Miss Isom, librarian of the Portland library, and State Superintendent of Schools Ackerman, met in bi-monthly session last week, and Miss Marvin, the secretary, submitted an elaborate report dealing with the work of the commission from its organization to date, and with the methods to be employed in the organization of local libraries.

With regard to school libraries, the commission decided to ask for bids for all school libraries to be submitted next June. A rule was adopted by the commission prohibiting schools from purchasing dictionaries, sets of supplementary readers and general encyclopedias with money belonging to their library funds.

Miss Marvin reports that several cities in the state would soon employ trained librarians to look after their libraries.

Buy Chittim Trees.

Eugene—Realizing that the supply of chittim bark (Cascara Segrada) will be exhausted in this part of the state within a few years, Dr. L. W. Brown recently contracted for 1,000 sprouts of the chittim tree, which he will set out on his farm southwest of this city. The sprouts, when planted, grow very rapidly, and it will not be very many years until they are large enough to peel the bark from. The last load of the young trees on the contract has been delivered and in the early spring he will plant them.

Surveying Weed Road.

Klamath Falls—Some excitement was caused in Klamath Falls recently by the arrival of Engineer D. D. Griffiths with a crew of a dozen railroad engineers and surveyors and the announcement went forth that they were the advance guard of the California Northwestern Railroad company, successor to the Weed Railroad company, which is to receive a bonus of \$100,000 to build a railroad into the town.

Fruit Men Meet at La Grande.

La Grande—The next annual meeting of the Northwestern Fruitgrowers' association will be held in La Grande January 3-5.

SERVICE IMPROVED.

Southern Pacific Arranges New West Side Time Card.

Portland—Requests for better freight service on the Southern Pacific between Portland and Corvallis have been fruitful, for the company has arranged a supplementary timecard which will give that territory a daily freight in each direction instead of a tri-weekly service.

Simultaneously with the inauguration of the new train, the St. Joseph-Lafayette cut-off is opened, and this means the eight and one-half miles of track between Lafayette and Whiteson, on the Yamhill division, will not be used to any extent and may be abandoned entirely.

The principal advantage in the new passenger time schedule will be that residents of Dayton and Newberg can ride into McMinnville, the county seat, and return home the same day, as the trains will be operated via Dayton and McMinnville.

There are no stations on the Yamhill line between Lafayette and Whiteson, and but two spurs, so it is figured no particular harm will result if that portion of the road is torn up. The determination of the Southern Pacific to place a daily freight train on the route pleases shippers, both in Portland and along the West Side division. For some time a strong effort has been made by the shippers of McMinnville, Dayton, Forest Grove and Hillsboro to secure a better service, but this could not be satisfactorily arranged until the cut-off was completed, which cost \$43,647.

Good Library at Asylum.

Salem—The lack of a supply of good books for the prisoners at the state penitentiary formed the subject of comment in the report of Secretary Cornelia Marvin to the Oregon Library commission. What is true of the prison is true also of other state institutions, and Miss Marvin is leading a movement to provide the state's charges with good reading matter. At the insane asylum a large library was found, but it is used by comparatively few patients. Miss Marvin remarks upon the fact that the insane asylum has a large library of unusually good books without great use, while across the way, at the prison, there is nothing to be used and a great demand.

Weyerhaeuser Road for Lumber.

Klamath Falls—Following the definite announcement that the Klamath Lake railroad interests have been purchased by the Weyerhaeuser Lumber company it is announced that the Weyerhaeuser people do not contemplate building to this city, but will only aim to use the road as an outlet for the large timber interest they hold in this part of the country. They will remodel the roadbed, cutting out the switch-back in getting from the Klamath river bottom to Pokegama, by driving a long tunnel.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 70@71c; bluestem, 72@73c; red, 66@67c; valley, 72c per bushel.

Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$27; gray, \$26.50 per ton.

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

Rye—\$1.50 per cental.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$14.50@15.50 per ton; valley timothy, \$11@12; clover, \$8@9; cheat, \$8.50@9.50; grain hay, \$8@9.

Fruits—Apples, \$1@1.50 per box; pears, \$1.25@1.50 per box.

Vegetables—Beans, wax, 12c per pound; cabbage, 1@1½c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.25 per dozen; celery, 45@75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50@60c per dozen; peppers, 6c per pound; pumpkins, ¾@1c per pound; sprouts, 7c per pound; squash, ¾@1c per pound; turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, 65@75c per sack; beets, 85c@1 per sack.

Onions—Oregon, \$1@1.25 per sack.

Potatoes—Fancy graded Burbanks, 65@75c per sack; ordinary, 55@60c per sack; Merced sweets, sacks, \$1.90; crates, \$2.15.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 27½@30c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 31@33c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 10@11c per pound; young roosters, 9c; springs, 10@11c; broilers, 12@13c; dressed chickens, 12@12½c; turkeys, live, 16@17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18@21c; geese, live, 9@10c; ducks, 15c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, choice, 10@11½c; prime, 8½@9½c; medium, 8c; olds, 5@7c.

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

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

Veal—Dressed, 3@8c per pound.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 6@6½c per pound; ordinary, 4@5c; lambs, 7@7½c.

Pork—Dressed, 6@7c per pound.

THE BIRDS' NEW WAYS.

Instances Where They Changed Habits to Meet New Conditions.

Among the familiar examples of the changes in the habits of birds which have resulted from association with mankind are those of the chimney swift, or popularly named chimney "swallow," says Forest and Stream, which formerly nested in hollows of trees and now in all settled regions uses the chimneys of houses, and the barn and cave swallows, the former originally nesting in caves and now building on the beams and rafters of barns, and the latter, once a cliff-dweller, now attaching its curious mud tenement under the shelter of the eaves of barns and dwellings. In a series of interesting notes in the Auk on the changes in the habits of birds, George F. Breninger records having observed in Mexico the old and the new way of swallow nesting. In the ancient town of Turpan he found numerous instances of barn swallows nesting in the living rooms, and in the unsettled portion of the State of Chihuahua, a hundred miles back from the railroad, on one of the large haciendas—a region devoid of the time-honored adobe—barn swallows still nested on the rocks.

Mr. Breninger notes other changes in the nesting habits due to the removal of large timber. There is, for example, the Lucy's warbler, which normally nests in natural cavities in the trunks of trees, most commonly in the mesquite; but in the vicinity of Tucson, where the larger trees have been cut away, the warblers have in some instances had recourse to building their nests in the abandoned nests of other species, in one case in the hole in a bank of earth, and most curious of all among the small limbs of a mesquite tree.

In timbered countries the flickers cut holes in the trunks of trees for their nests. In some sections where the large trees have been removed and the flickers have no longer such nesting sites, they have taken to the telegraph poles. "Along the railroad between Benson and Bisbee, Ariz.," writes Mr. Breninger, "the telegraph poles and fence posts show evidence of the work of woodpeckers, all by the Texan woodpecker. Throughout this region trees are few, and the woodpeckers are forced to use anything that is dead and large enough to permit of a nesting cavity being excavated in it. Dead stalks of the century plant are often used. About Phoenix, Ariz., this woodpecker is common, timber suited to their needs is still in abundance, and the poles along the railroads and elsewhere are untouched. In some parts of Mexico the work of woodpeckers on telegraph poles has reached the stage of a nuisance and a source of much outlay of money to keep the line in repair. Over a piece of road running between San Luis Potosi and Tampico the nuisance has become so great that the management has threatened to dip the poles in a solution of creosote."

HOME HINTS AND HELPS.

Bill Nye Furnished These Out-of-the-Ordinary Ones.

If your hands are badly chapped, wet them in warm water, rub them all over with Indian meal, then put on a coat of glycerine and keep them in your pockets for ten days. If you have no pockets convenient, insert them in the pocket of a friend.

An excellent liniment for toothache or neuralgia is made of sassafras, oil of organum and a half-ounce of tincture of capsicum, with half a pint of alcohol. Soak nine yards of red flannel in this mixture, wrap it around the head and then insert the head in a haystack till death comes to your relief.

To remove scars or scratches from the limbs of a piano, bathe the limb in a solution of tepid water and tincture of sweet oil. Then apply a strip of court plaster, and put the piano out on the lawn for the children to play horse with.

To soften water for household purposes, put in an ounce of quicklime in a certain quantity of water. If it is not sufficient, use less water or more quicklime. Should the immediate lime continue to remain deliberate, lay the water down on a stone and pound it with a baseball club.

To give relief to a burn, apply the white of an egg. The yolk of the egg may be eaten or placed on the shirt bosom, according to the taste of the person. If the burn should occur on a lady, she may omit the last instruction.

To wash black silk stockings, prepare a tub of lather, composed of tepid rain water and white soap, with a little ammonia. Then stand in the tub till dinner is ready. Roll in a cloth to dry. Do not wring, but press the water out. This will necessitate the removal of the stockings.

To clean ceilings that have been smoked by kerosene lamps, or the fragrance from fried salt pork, remove the ceiling, wash thoroughly with borax, turpentine and rain water, then hang on the clothes line to dry. Afterward pulverize and spread over the plaster bed for spring wear.