

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

COMPLAIN OF GRAZING RULE.

Oregon Stockmen's Grievances Are Taken Up by Senator Fulton.

Washington—Senator Fulton has received many letters of complaint from stockmen of Oregon, who express dissatisfaction with the manner in which the forest service is managing the summer range in forest reserves. The sheepmen of Umatilla county feel that they have been unfairly treated in the distribution of range in the Wenaha reserve, and the sheep and cattlemen whose stock is permitted to graze in the Cascade reserve feel that they are paying too much for the privilege. So far as the Cascade reserve is concerned, the sheepmen object to paying 6 cents a head for the grazing privilege when sheep are permitted in other reserves at 4 and 5 cents each.

The forest service explains that the grazing season in the Cascade reserve is longer than in the reserves where the fee is smaller. So far as the Wenaha reserve is concerned, the range has been apportioned for the coming season, and it is too late to bring about a readjustment. To ascertain all the facts, with the view to laying the matter before the forest service in its true light, Mr. Fulton has requested the stockmen of Oregon to furnish him with accurate data, that he may adjust these matters before another grazing season opens.

The Dalles to Portage.

The Dalles—A company of local capitalists, under the name of the Columbia Transportation company, has bought the steamer George W. Simons from the D. P. & B. N. Co. It will be operated between Cascade Locks and the lower terminus of the state portage road. The boat will leave Cascade Locks at 6 o'clock in the morning and reach The Dalles at 10, making all way landings. It will lie here an hour, then run to the lower terminus of the portage, and returning will leave for Cascade Locks at 2 o'clock. It is the purpose of the company in buying and operating the boat to afford people along the Columbia opportunity to make The Dalles their trading point.

Many Buy Wallowa Timber.

Wallowa—Locators have been doing much business the past three months on account of a wild rush by local men and outsiders to secure claims in the pine, fir and tamarack forests of Wallowa county. Sections which sold at \$1.25 an acre were bought first, and only those claims remain which are in the \$2.50 sections. There are but a few more claims open for location, and it is expected the locating season will be closed within 30 days. Capitalists are buying much of this timber, and from individual holders claims purchased for less than \$500 are selling at from \$1,000 to \$1,600 each. These carry from 1,000,000 to 3,000,000 feet to the quarter section.

Enterprise Still Capital.

Wallowa—The Wallowa county commissioners, at their last meeting, accepted the offer of F. D. McCully, L. Knapper and Aaron Wade, to build a wooden structure in Enterprise large enough to meet the county's requirements for a courthouse, and to lease the same to the county for five years at an annual rental of \$650. The building is to be completed by August 1. It will be of wood, but comparatively safe, as it will be equipped with a fireproof vault. The board thus settled further controversy for five years regarding the permanent location of the county seat.

Fight for a County Seat.

Canyon City—The fight for the county seat now being waged between Canyon City, the present capital, and Prairie City, long aspirant for the honor, is waxing red hot. The laws of Oregon provide that a vote must be ordered by the county court if a petition, signed by not less than three fifths of the registered voters, is presented. The promoters of the removal have organized an improvement association, and among other things have secured subscriptions amounting to \$20,000 for a new courthouse.

Lane Fruit is Unharmed.

Engene—Dr. H. F. McCormick, Lane county fruit inspector, says it is his opinion that the freezing weather of the past few days has done no material damage to the fruit in this vicinity. Each thaw has been accompanied by cloudy weather. Had the sun shone warm and bright each morning the crop would have been ruined.

Hop Sale at Woodburn.

Aurora—Ed Herron, the hopbuyer, this week bought the Joe Kennedy hop crop of 72 bales at Woodburn, paying better than 9 cents. The hops were shipped direct to London. M. H. Gilbertson, Uhlman Bros.' agent here, went to North Yakima a few days ago to look after several big lots of hops there.

CREATED AT LAST.

President Sets Aside Blue Mountains for Timber Purposes.

Washington—President Roosevelt, on recommendation of the forest service, has signed a proclamation creating the Blue mountain forest reserve in Eastern Oregon, to embrace 2,627,270 acres. The reserve as created follows the general lines of the temporary withdrawal made three years ago, with the exception of 200,000 acres in the valley of the Silvies river, which has been eliminated because of the agricultural nature of the land. Around the edge of the withdrawal small tracts of agricultural and school land have been eliminated and the boundaries are so drawn as to exclude all land lying along the border which has passed into private ownership under any public land laws. The original Blue mountain withdrawal embraced more than 3,000,000 acres. About 500,000 acres have been left out, so as to make the reserve a compact body of forest land.

Long Winter in Wallowa.

Wallowa—Snow covers the entire Wallowa valley and county, varying in depth from five inches on the Innaba and Grand Ronde river bottoms, to 17 inches on the foothills of the Joseph mountains. Stockmen are somewhat anxious concerning feed. The unusual long season will necessitate using much more hay than is customary in average winters. Though this is a hay producing county, and though great crops of hay were put away last season, and much old hay was left over, it is expected that there will be no surplus.

Columbia County Breaks Record.

Salem—Columbia county breaks the record in the matter of payment of state taxes this year. State Treasurer Moore received a draft last week for \$6,360, the amount of general state and school tax, and \$265, the amount due for the support of the Agricultural college, from Columbia county, for the year 1906. Only half of this amount was due. The rest need not have been paid until December 31.

Luckiamute Mohair Pool.

Independence—The Luckiamute mohair pool has been organized at Arlie and has the following officers: President, A. C. Staats; secretary, Maurice Fowle; I. M. Simpson, A. C. Staats and Maurice Fowle were elected a board of managers. The new association already has a membership of 35, representing 3,093 fleeces. It is probable 15 more names are to be added to the membership soon.

Cattle Bring Higher Price.

Pendleton—Three cars of cattle were shipped to Seattle from Pendleton a few days ago, bringing \$4.50 per hundred pounds. This is about 1 cent a pound higher than the last shipment made.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 68c; bluestem, 69c; red, 66c; valley, 69c.

Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$27.50; gray, \$27 per ton.

Barley—Feed, \$23.50@24 per ton; brewing, \$24@24.50; rolled, \$24.50@25.50.

Buckwheat—\$2.25 per cental.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17@18 per ton; valley timothy, \$8@9; clover, \$7.50@8; cheat, \$6@7; grain hay, \$7@8.

Apples—\$1.50@2.75 per box.

Vegetables—Asparagus, 8½@9c per pound; cabbage, 1¼@1½c per pound; cauliflower, \$2@2.25 per crate; celery, 75@90c per dozen; rhubarb, \$1.50 per box; sprouts, 8@10c per pound; turnips, \$1@1.25 per sack; carrots, 65@75c per sack; beets, 85c@1 per sack.

Onions—No. 1, 75@90c per sack; No. 2, nominal.

Potatoes—Fancy graded Burbanks, 50@55c per hundred; ordinary, nominal; sweet potatoes, 2¼@2½c per pound.

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

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 16c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 14@14½ per pound; mixed chickens, 13@13½c; broilers, 28@29c; young roosters, 13@13½c; old roosters, 11c; dressed chickens, 15@16c; turkeys, live, 16@17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18@20c; geese, live, 8@9c; geese, dressed, 10@11c; ducks, 16@18c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, choice, 10@10½c per pound; prime, 8½@9½c; medium, 7@8c; olds 5@7c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 16@21c per pound; valley, 24@26c; mohair, choice, 25@28c.

Veal—Dressed, 3½@8c per pound. Beef—Dressed bulls, 2½@3c per pound; cows, 3½@4½c; country steers, 4@5c.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 8½@9c per pound; ordinary, 4@5c; lambs, 8@9½c.

Pork—Dressed, 6@6½c per pound.

CUT AWAY THE RED TAPE.

Purpose of Bill Regulating National Reclamation Work.

Washington, March 20.—In its general operation, the National reclamation law has proven quite as effective as its framers expected; indeed, the general work of national irrigation is progressing satisfactorily. In the administration of the Reclamation service, however, there has been some slight friction which has resulted in delays that have been bothersome, if nothing more.

No one can realize this more than the chief of the Reclamation service, Mr. Newell, and the director of the Geological survey, Mr. Walcott. To obviate these delays, the reclamation authorities have explained the situation to the president and he has approved their recommendations and at the joint request of these officials a bill has been introduced in congress which will, if enacted, prove of very material benefit to the Reclamation service.

Most of the friction and delay complained of is the result of red tape that exists between the Reclamation office and the Interior department proper. Their dealings are not direct, and in the roundabout course they follow many delays are likely to occur. The bill that has been laid before the house by Representative Cooper does away with this red tape by providing a more direct means of communication, at the same time giving the Reclamation service more leeway. The director of the geological survey is made the director of the Reclamation service and he goes ahead with his plans, merely submitting them to the secretary for approval and not for review.

Another important change is made by the bill in the matter of apportioning and expending money for reclamation works. At present this money is entirely under the control of the secretary. At this time there is a very strong sentiment in congress against allowing cabinet officers to handle such funds in a free manner; and the tendency is to restrict lump appropriations and stipulate the various purposes for which the money is to be used. The Cooper bill permits the Reclamation service to send to congress each year a statement of the expenditures which it proposes to make during the following 12 months, so that congress shall specifically authorize the various expenditures. Thus, while the Reclamation service will retain the right to say how the funds shall be apportioned, their findings are always subject to the approval of congress.

Notwithstanding this bill is approved in its entirety by President Roosevelt and by the house leaders. Representative Mondell, of Wyoming, chairman of the irrigation committee, says it is faulty and has asked permission to make certain amendments.

GREAT TRADE WITH EUROPE.

Our Exports Passed the Billion-Dollar Mark in 1905.

Washington, March 20.—Europe takes two-thirds of the exports of the United States and supplies practically one-half of the imports, says a bulletin issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor. Of the \$1,021,000,000 worth of merchandise sent to Europe in 1905, \$239,000,000 was manufactures, the other \$782,000,000 worth being largely foodstuffs and manufacturers' material.

In 1900 the exports to Europe crossed the \$1,000,000,000 line, and since then have averaged about \$1,050,000,000 per annum. In 1900 the exports to all sections of the world other than Europe were \$354,000,000 in value; in 1905 they were \$498,000,000, the growth since 1900 in exports to the non-European countries having been proportionately greater than to Europe.

Prior to 1890, the share of the imports drawn from Europe averaged about 55 per cent; in 1905, it was 48 per cent. This reduction, the bulletin says, is apparently accounted for by the growing demand in the United States for tropical and subtropical products, which are supplied almost exclusively by the other grand divisions of the world. The value of these products into the United States in 1905 was \$508,000,000, against \$303,000,000 in 1895.

Crushed With Iron Hand.

Sukhum, Transcaucasia, March 20.—The manner in which General Alikanhoff has crushed the revolution in the government of Kutais by razing towns, executing ringleaders of the movement and driving sympathizers with it to the mountains, has produced such resentment that acts of terror and the throwing of bombs at the troops are frequent. General Alikanhoff has proclaimed and is enforcing martial law with terrible vigor and revolutionaries and other persons caught with arms are immediately shot.

Pest in Eastern Persia.

Askabad, Russia, March 20.—News received here from Seistan, in Eastern Persia, says that a pest is spreading, that the populace is becoming panic stricken and that many persons are fleeing.

GIFTS ARE ILLEGAL HAS NOT THE POWER

Opinion of Judge in New York Insurance Investigation.

JEROME ASKS FOR WARRANTS

If Intent Was to Defraud, Perkins Committed Larceny, Says the District Attorney.

New York, March 24.—If the grand jury which is investigating some of the conditions developed by the recent legislative investigation reaches the conclusion that contributions of insurance company funds to political campaign committees were made with intent to defraud the true owner of this property, it must find that larceny has been committed. This opinion was expressed today by Justice O'Sullivan in the Court of General Sessions, in answer to a presentment on the subject submitted to him by the grand jury. Judge O'Sullivan added that it is not within the province of the court to say whether or not there was such intent. That is a question which the jurors must determine for themselves from all the facts and circumstances in the case. He charged the jury to make a thorough investigation into all the facts and to place the responsibility for such crimes, if they find that crimes were committed.

Mr. Jerome was in court today and, when Judge O'Sullivan had delivered his opinion, the district attorney asked the jury to remain, as he desired to address it upon the subject in question. He declared that Judge O'Sullivan had misconceived the subject which he had considered, and that, if the court held to its opinion, it would be the duty of the grand jury to return indictments against George W. Perkins, ex-vice president of the New York Life Insurance company, for larceny, and against George B. Cortelyou, chairman, and Cornelius N. Bliss, treasurer, of the Republican National committee, as receivers of stolen goods.

GOVERNMENT MAY APPEAL.

Wants to Punish Officers of the Beef Trust with Corporations.

Washington, March 24.—President Roosevelt held an extended conference today with Attorney General Moody, Secretary Taft and James R. Garfield, commissioner of corporations, concerning the adverse decision rendered in Chicago by Judge Humphreys in the beef packers' case. No details of the conference were obtainable at the white house, but it is certain the attorney general proposes to look carefully into the law bearing upon the matter, with a view of ascertaining whether an appeal from the decision of Judge Humphrey by the government will lie.

Despite the decision relieving the individual officers of the packing corporations prosecution will continue, of course, but it was the desire of the government to place responsibility for the violations of the law upon officials of the corporations where they are found to be guilty of such violations. In such efforts as may be made by the attorney general and other officials of the department of Justice to secure an appeal from the decision of Judge Humphrey, this point will be kept to the front. It could not be decided at the conference today whether an appeal from the decision would lie, but that question will be gone over carefully, and if, in the opinion of the law officers of the government, a foundation for an appeal can be made, it will be taken.

States Should Interfere.

Chicago, March 24.—The committee appointed in Chicago last February at the conference of governors, attorney generals and insurance commissioners, with instructions to prepare a form of laws for better regulation of life insurance companies, with a view to their ultimate adoption in several states, concluded its deliberations tonight and adjourned after declaring itself in favor of interference by the states in the internal affairs of the insurance companies and in favor of a standard form of policy.

Test of Battleship New Jersey.

Quincy, Mass., March 24.—The battleship New Jersey, constructed for the government by the Fore River Shipbuilding company, left today for an unofficial test of her engines. The official trip will be held on March 28 or 29, when she will be required to make 19 knots an hour.

Congress Cannot Control Life Insurance Affairs.

OPINION OF HOUSE COMMITTEE

Are Unanimous That the Decisions of the Supreme Court Are Against Federal Control.

Washington, March 22.—That there is no constitutional authority for Federal control of insurance or other state corporations other than railroads is to be the conclusion reported to the house by the judiciary committee. The report has been drafted by Chairman Jenkins, of the committee, and is now in the hands of members of the committee for their perusal. An unofficial poll of the members indicates that with practically no exceptions they concur in the correctness of this conclusion.

The report collates all the important court decisions on the matter involved, treats each exhaustively and reduces the whole problem to these two principles:

First—The Supreme court of the United States has declared and has never been shaken or weakened in maintaining, first, that insurance is not commerce, and second, that congress cannot impair the police powers of the states.

Second—The advocates of Federal regulation concede, according to the report, that insurance is not commerce.

The report sets forth section 8 of article 1 of the constitution as conferring the only power possessed by congress to regulate commerce.

PACKERS ESCAPE LAW.

Judge Gives Immunity to Individuals But Not Corporations.

Chicago, March 22.—All of the packers who were indicted by the Federal grand jury last summer upon charges of being in conspiracy in restraint of trade and commerce were today granted immunity from criminal prosecution under the indictment. While the individuals are to go free, the indictments found against the corporations, of which some of the indicted individuals are members and others are employees, are to stand.

The decision to the above effect was handed down this afternoon by Judge J. Otis Humphrey, in the United States District Court.

Immediately following the dismissal of the jury, District Attorney Morrison raised the question of the date for the trial of the corporations. He asked that the case be set for trial and that it commence within two weeks. This met with a storm of protest from the attorneys for the packers, who insisted that they would be unable to prepare for the case before the fall of this year, pleading the number of witnesses whom it would be necessary to bring to Chicago, the strain of the present trial, and various other reasons. After some discussion, Judge Humphrey directed that the lawyers agree among themselves upon a date and notify him of their decision next week.

BUY OUT GREAT LAND OWNERS.

Kutler Proposes to Divide the Land Among Peasant Proprietors.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—M. Kutler, ex-minister of agriculture and now candidate of the Constitutional Democrats for election to the lower house of the national parliament, today began publication of an interesting series of articles on the agrarian question. He says the only solution of the problem, which is a most crying issue before Russia, is the expropriation of the land of the big proprietors for the benefit of the peasants, who, he contends, have a moral right to the land, much of which was stolen from their ancestors by the Boyars when the latter reduced them to slavery.

Pattison's Case Serious.

Columbus, O., March 22.—Governor Pattison's illness took a serious turn today, and his physicians were at his bedside until midnight. Dr. Wilson said that the governor was quite ill today, after having spent a very bad night, but that he was resting more comfortably tonight. There had been an increase of pain, which had raised the patient's fever to 103 degrees. Dr. Wilson declared that there was no danger when he left the governor's bedside, although the governor is a very sick man.

Gross Earnings Tax Invalid.

Austin, Tex., March 22.—The Court of Appeals of this, the Third district, today declared unconstitutional the law passed at the last regular session of the Texas legislature assessing a special 2 per cent tax on the gross earnings of all railroads.