

## LEXINGTON WHEATFIELD

S. A. THOMAS, Publisher

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 pope has issued an encyclical denouncing French church laws.

The last horse car line in New York City is to be equipped for electricity.

Thousands of Chinese in the famine district are living on grass and roots.

Congressman Charles Curtis has been nominated for senator by Kansas Republicans.

Hearst has won the first point in his appeal to oust McClellan as mayor of New York.

A resolution has been introduced in the Idaho legislature favoring exclusion of Japanese coolies.

Japan has given no reason for not sending the squadron to visit the Pacific coast as planned.

Alaskans are endeavoring to have the president's order withdrawing coal land from entry removed.

A move to investigate Gugenheim's purchase of a senatorship has been squelched by the Colorado legislature.

The Union Pacific will probably be ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission to sell the stocks of other roads.

Fire that started in a tobacco warehouse at Lancaster, Pa., spread to other property, entailing a loss of \$1,000,000.

Russia is preparing to build several warships.

The 1907-08 Japanese army and navy budget carries \$95,000,000.

The president is expected to send another message to congress on negro troops.

The train service between San Francisco and Los Angeles is at a complete standstill, owing to washouts.

Several Japanese have applied to Texas Federal officers for citizenship papers. They were told to wait.

It is conceded by many that Hearst stands a fair chance of wresting the New York mayoralty from McClellan.

Congressman W. A. Smith has been made the caucus nominee by the Michigan legislature for Alger's place in the senate.

### PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 66c; bluestem, 68c; valley, 66c; red, 64c.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$25@26; gray, \$24.50@25.

Barley—Feed, \$21.50@22 per ton; brewing, \$22.50; rolled, \$23@24.

Rye—\$1.40@1.45 per cwt.

Corn—Whole, \$26; cracked, \$27 per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$13@14 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$14@16; clover, \$8@8.50; cheat, \$7.50@8.50; grain hay, \$7.50@8.50; alfalfa, \$11.50; vetch hay, \$8@8.50.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 30@35c per pound.

Butter Fat—First grade cream, 33½c per pound; second grade cream, 2c less per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 32½@33c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 14@15c per pound; mixed chickens, 13@14c; spring, 14@15c; old roosters, 10@11c; dressed chickens, 16@17c; turkeys, live, 17@17½c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20@22c; geese, live, 10@12c; ducks, 14@15c.

Veal—Dressed, 5½@9c per pound.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 1@2c per pound;

cows, 4@5c; country steers, 5@5½c.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 8@9c per pound; ordinary, 6@7c.

Pork—Dressed, 6@8½c per pound.

Fruits—Apples, common to choice, 50@75c per box; choice to fancy, \$1@2.50; pears, \$1@1.50; cranberries, \$11.50@12 per barrel; persimmons, \$1.50 per box.

Vegetables—Turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, 90c@1 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack; horseradish, 9@10c per pound; sweet potatoes, 3c per pound; cabbage, 2c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.25 per dozen; celery, \$3.75@4.25 per crate; onions, 10@12½c per dozen; bell peppers, 8c; pumpkins, 2c per pound; spinach, 4@5c per pound; parsley, 10@15c; squash, 2c per pound.

Onions—Oregon, \$1@1.25 per hundred.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, \$1@1.30; common, 75@90c.

Hops—11@13½c per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13@18c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@23c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 20@28c.

## MEET AT ALBANY.

Producers and Shippers Unite in Demanding Legislation.

Albany, Or., Jan. 11.—If any particular point touching on the derelictions or iniquities of the railroads was overlooked at the car shortage meeting in Eugene last month, it was supplied at the Shippers' and Producers' convention held in this city yesterday. The meeting, like its predecessor at Eugene, was held for the purpose of impressing on the members of the legislature the necessity for railroad legislation.

The people are so terribly in earnest and so unanimous in their demands for remedial railroad legislation that practically every other matter to come before the legislature has been lost sight of. The attendance yesterday included a large number of people who were at the Eugene meeting, and if there has been any change in their feeling towards the railroads it has not been in favor of the corporations. Both in the sentiments openly expressed and in private conversation there are plenty of indications that the people are "hursing their wrath to keep it warm" until they can get action at Salem.

At this meeting, as at Eugene, there were none of the "cinch-bill" type of politicians, and but little unreasonable abuse of the railroads. The attendance was made up of people who have been so seriously hurt in a financial way by the car shortage that they are becoming desperate and are prepared to go to most any length to improve conditions. The details of the form to be taken by the proposed legislation have not yet been worked out. As a matter of fact, they are no farther along than when they were at the Eugene meeting, and the Albany convention might not inappropriately be termed a ratification meeting inspired by the Eugene affair.

### MOVES TO SEATTLE.

Interstate Commerce Commission to Meet in Sound City.

Chicago, Jan. 11.—The investigation by the Interstate Commerce commission into the traffic alliances and other business deals of the railroads controlled by E. H. Harriman, was completed today, so far as Chicago is concerned, and the commission adjourned to meet in Seattle January 21, when the case will be resumed. James H. Hiland, third vice president of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad; Julius Kruttschnitt, director in charge of maintenance and operation; E. A. McCormick, assistant traffic director of the Harriman lines, and J. A. Munroe, freight traffic manager of the Union Pacific, testified today.

Testimony showing that the consolidation of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific had eliminated competition to a certain extent was given by Mr. Hiland and Mr. Kruttschnitt, who admitted that the purchase of rolling stock for both systems was practically under his control. Mr. McCormick was questioned regarding the advertising department of the system. But declared each road had its own bureau of publicity.

After the commission adjourned this afternoon it was said that after the commissioners had concluded their investigation in the West the hearing would be resumed in New York. At that time, Mr. Harriman, William Rockefeller, Standard Oil officials and others, including H. H. Rogers, H. C. Frick and James Stillman, would be called before the commission.

### ANNUL TIMBER AND STONE ACT

Senate Committee Proposes to Sell Timber and Keep Land.

Washington, Jan. 10.—The senate public lands committee today agreed to report favorably the bill to repeal the timber and stone act and substitute therefor a law directing that the government retain title to its remaining timber lands, selling only the timber, at not less than appraised value. As this bill virtually creates forest reserves of all government timber land, the land can never pass to private ownership, and hence can never be taxed.

To compensate for this loss of taxes, Senator Fulton secured the adoption of an amendment to the bill stipulating that 25 per cent of the money derived from timber sales shall be paid to the counties in which the timber is cut.

### Heaviest Rain in Years.

Los Angeles, Jan. 11.—In amount of precipitation, the storm that has drenched Southern California during the past four days is the heaviest in 18 years. The total precipitation is nearly four inches, of which 1.4 has fallen during the past 24 hours. The storm has been severe in its effects north and east of Los Angeles. Landslides south of Santa Barbara had, at last accounts, tied up four or five passenger trains bound for this city. Four or five lives are known to have been lost as an indirect result.

### Car Shortage Closes Flour Mills.

Minneapolis, Jan. 11.—Because they could not get cars in which to ship their products, the leading flour mills of the city have been forced to close down temporarily. Three hundred men are out of work.

## PLAN TOO SWEEPING

Western Men Do Not Like President's Order.

### BLOCKS THE WAY TO PATENTS

Hansbrough Has Bill to Sell Timber and Keep Land—Several Bills to Lease Coal Land.

Washington, Jan. 12.—Western men in congress do not take kindly to President Roosevelt's order holding up every public land entry, pending investigation of each individual case by special agent. The president, upon advice of Secretary Hitchcock, made this order in the expectation that congress, in order to relieve the congestion, would hastily appropriate money to permit the employment of a vast number of special agents, but it seems that no such liberality will be shown if the Western men adhere to their present opinion. They are now, in most instances, inclined to believe that the president's order was too sweeping and that it will work more harm than good. Mr. Hitchcock, however, is firmly convinced that this is the only way to head off fraudulent entries. But as one experienced Westerner said: "Who is to guarantee the honesty of several hundred special agents?"

Senator Hansbrough, chairman of the committee on public lands, will renew his fight to secure the repeal of the timber and stone act and the substitution of a law authorizing the sale of government timber at not less than its appraised value. Mr. Hansbrough has drawn a new bill which shall reserve to itself title to all public timber land and sell only the timber. The bill stipulates that persons residing in the immediate vicinity of any government timber land may take, without cost, not to exceed 100,000 feet, B. M., in any one year, for their own use for farm and domestic purposes. Timber land shall remain open to entry under the mining and coal land laws, and timbered land chiefly valuable for stone shall be subject to entry under the placer mining laws. Persons developing claims on forest land may cut therefrom not to exceed 100,000 feet, B. M., in any one year, provided they need such timber in developing and operating their claims.

Coupled with and very similar to the legislation providing for the disposal of public timber are the various bills now pending proposing to regulate the use of coal, gas and oil on government land. There are many bills for this purpose, all drawn along one general line. In the main they propose that the government shall retain title to coal, oil and gas bearing land and shall permit the development of their resources on a royalty basis. This land is now tied up under a sweeping withdrawal ordered by the president, and until some sort of legislation is enacted it will be impossible for private capital to get hold of and develop the coal, gas and oil resources on any part of the public domain.

### ALASKA LEADS THEM ALL.

Mint Director Estimates Total Gold Production for 1908.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The director of the mint today made a preliminary estimate of the production of gold and silver in the United States during the calendar year 1908.

Of the more important increases in the production of gold as compared with 1905 Alaska stands first with a gain of \$6,316,000; Nevada comes next with \$45,000,000, and Arizona third, with \$523,000. Colorado shows a loss in gold production of \$2,900,000 and California a loss of \$564,000.

In silver production Montana shows a loss of 2,000,000 ounces, Colorado a loss of 65,000 ounces and Utah a gain of 2,217,000 ounces. The figures for all the states show a net gain in gold production of \$7,920,700 and a net gain in silver production of 82,100 ounces.

### Small Sum for Forts.

Washington, Jan. 12.—In presenting the fortifications bill to the house in committee of the whole today, Representative Smith, of Iowa, stated that only once in 13 years had so small an amount been carried in a fortifications bill. The bill carries \$132,000 to make 14-inch guns. He said the members of the appropriation committee found themselves between two conflicting elements, the one "thinking that we were progressing too rapidly in the defense of our possessions, and the other that we were proceeding too slowly."

### Tennessee Backs Up Roosevelt.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 12.—The house of representatives adopted a joint resolution indorsing the action of President Roosevelt in dismissing the battalion of negro soldiers in connection with the rioting at Brownsville.

## OPPOSE CHINESE LABOR.

Congressional Committee Has Formed Decided Opinions on Canal.

New York, Jan. 9.—The congressional committee of 12, headed by Congressman McKinlay, of California, which has been inspecting the work on the isthmian canal, arrived here today on the steamer Panama from Colon.

The members of the committee said their observations were that work on the canal is progressing favorably, and that the employes were well satisfied.

In speaking of his visit to the isthmian Senator Flint said:

"I found everything in excellent shape and work progressing very favorably on economic lines. The men were well housed and fed, but the chief difficulty of the future, to my mind, is the building of new houses. I am emphatically of the opinion that there is absolutely no necessity for the employment of Chinese labor in completing the canal."

Mr. McKinlay said:

"We investigated thoroughly the work done and the conditions prevailing on the isthmus. I am satisfied that there is not the slightest necessity for the employment of Chinese on the work. The canal zone is getting very healthy, and it seems to me to present a fine field for American workmen without employing Chinese. The work is progressing satisfactorily and I feel assured that the canal will be completed within a reasonable length of time."

Congressman F. S. Dickson, of Illinois, said he was opposed to the employment of Chinese labor on the canal. He said the men now there were doing good work, were contented, and resented the criticisms regarding conditions in the canal zone.

### HURRY REPORT ON TARIFF.

Experts Reminded German Treaty Will Need Legislation.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The State department has intimated to the experts who were sent to Germany to confer with German experts and to compare notes relative to the complaints against the American tariff schedule that it would like to have a report before the middle of February. This request was made necessary by the fact that if any legislation is necessary to give effect to the recommendations of the tariff experts, at least two weeks' time will be required to perfect it.

While it is hoped by the department that as the result of their conferences with the Germans, the American experts will be able to recommend some changes in administration that could be effected by a mere amendment of the rules by the secretary of the treasury, it is regarded as probable that the changes recommended will be such as will require legislation. In this latter case if congressional action upon the propositions cannot be expected before the adjournment of the present session, then it will be necessary to ask the German government to again extend the provisions of the present German law admitting America to the privileges of the minimum tariff in Germany.

### PLOT TO MURDER.

All White Officers Doomed to Death by Negro Soldiers.

El Reno, Okla., Jan. 9.—Belief of the army officers at Fort Reno that a conspiracy to murder every white officer at Fort Reno, beginning with Captain Edgar Macklin, against whom every negro soldier at the post entertains a personal grudge as a result of the affair at Brownsville, Tex., and the discharge of the negro soldiers that followed, and then proceeding down the list of officers, became known today as a result of the preliminary hearing in the case of Edward L. Knowles, corporal of company A, Twenty-fifth infantry, who was found guilty of assault with intent to kill Captain Macklin, on the night of December 21. Knowles was bound over to await the action of the Canadian county grand jury at the spring term of court.

Every effort has been made by the officers at the post to keep the alleged conspiracy a secret, but it is learned that an investigation is being made at several army posts, and within a short time several arrests of members of the troop recently discharged in disgrace are expected to follow.

### Buy Flour for Chinese.

San Francisco, Jan. 9.—Major Charles R. Krauthoff, of the Subsistence department, U. S. A., has been authorized by the American National Red Cross society to purchase 600,000 pounds of flour to be used in China. E. H. Harriman has offered the use of his line for transportation of this commodity free of charge, and the flour will be sent on the steamer Coptic. It will be sent to the United States consul at Shanghai, who will then distribute it among the famine-stricken residents of China. The Coptic sails January 15.

### Big Stove Works Burns.

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 9.—Fire destroyed the major portion of the Michigan Stove works on Jefferson avenue tonight, causing a loss estimated at \$7750,000. The entire plant covered an area of 10 or 12 acres. The office building, the foundries and part of the storage building were saved.

## TEN MILLION SUFFER

Chinese Refugees Swarming Into Cities in Search of Food.

### NEARLY FOUR MILLION STARVING

All Sufferers May Die Unless Charity Comes to Aid—Hundreds Perish Daily.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 10.—The steamer Shinano Maru, which arrived today from the Orient, brought further advice regarding the appalling famine in Central China. The extent of the famine area is bounded on the south by a line from the sea through Huinan and along the Huai river in North Anhui, on the west by a line from Oehou to Kweichow, north from the eastern corner of Honan to the sea which bounds the eastern side.

The worst conditions are expected to set in after Chinese New Year in mid-February. The population affected is set at 10,000,000, of which Viceroy Tuan Fang estimates that 4,000,000 are in actual want, mostly starving. The famine area is about 40,000 square miles, embracing between 20 and 30 large walled cities, besides the scattered country population. The figures given from nine large cities show 800,000 starving refugees have already collected, with no account of those who have migrated south or congregated in walled cities outside the famine area.

Mr. Bostwick, sent from Shanghai to investigate, says all these refugees may perish from starvation unless fed by government or public charity. He estimates the daily expenditure to feed the 4,000,000 now starving at \$20,000, while the period of relief must be extended over some months.

With tens of thousands of starving huddled in the walled cities it is feared epidemics will add to the horrors of the famine.

The North China Daily News, of Shanghai, publishes many telegrams from missionaries in the famine area. A typical one from Hsichoufu says:

"Half people actually without provisions daily and die. Many leave country. Numberless brigandages and murders. No local relief hoped for."

### THIRTY-FOUR BURNED.

Explosion Scatters Molten Iron With Fearful Results.

Pittsburg, Jan. 10.—Three workmen were killed, seven fatally injured and 24 are missing as the result of an explosion tonight at the Eliza furnaces of the Jones & Laughlin Steel works. Gas, accumulating at the base of the furnaces, became ignited. In the resulting explosion tons of molten metal were showered around the furnace for a radius of 40 feet, overwhelming the workmen in a fiery flood.

While the mill officials are inclined to believe all of the missing men were not cremated in the molten metal, nothing definite is known as to their whereabouts. Only one man, George Knox, has appeared since the explosion. He says everything happened so quickly that he doubts whether the men escaped.

The scenes about the entrance to the mill were pathetic when the families of the victims learned of the disaster. Women, men and children gathered before the gate and made frantic efforts to gain admittance. Several of the frenzied women rushed upon the officers and tried to fight their way into the mill. Children ran through the streets crying that "Father is dead." Later it became necessary to call additional police, forcibly to escort the women and children to their homes.

The officials at the mills refused to allow anyone to enter the yard where the furnace is located. Information was refused to newspaper men, the officials saying that later they might issue a statement. A heavy guard of foreign workmen was placed at the yard entrance and even the police were powerless to get past.

### Uncle Sam Does Not Need Money.

Washington, Jan. 10.—The secretary of the treasury will immediately notify the depository banks, with which the temporary deposits of about \$12,000,000 were recently placed to be returned January 20 and February 1 that the dates for the return of the deposits have been extended so as to require the funds to be repaid to the treasury, one half on February 1 and one half on February 15. It is stated in explanation of this change in date that there is no particular need for the money at this time.

### Another Candidate for Bullets.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 10.—General Dratschvsky, ex-Russian inspector general of railroads in Finland, has been appointed prefect of St. Petersburg in place of the late Von der Launitz, who was recently assassinated.