

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.

Taft says the people favor a contract system for the Panama canal.

A personal feud may cause war between Guatemala and Salvador.

Harriman says he may seek a job on the Interstate Commerce commission.

The San Francisco chamber of commerce is said to oppose separate schools.

Cubans are talking of fighting America because the rural guards have been increased.

The country home of Wanamaker, near Philadelphia, has burned, entailing a loss of \$1,000,000.

Japan has asked permission to decorate the American ambassadors to Russia and Japan during the recent war.

Fulton has asked the government to provide two dredges for the Pacific coast, one for Oregon and one for Washington.

Hill says he may double track the Great Northern its entire length in order to accommodate the fast growing business.

Both the Russian and Japanese governments will erect memorials at Port Arthur to their fallen soldiers in the defense and capture of that fortress.

The Brazilian government is to send a squadron to the United States for a friendly call. It is announced that all negroes will be taken from the ships before they start.

The French cabinet proposes an income tax to relieve the poor.

The price of all grade of diamonds has been advanced 5 per cent.

Rebels are reported to have defeated government forces in Argentina.

Egyptian explorers have found the mummy of the famous Queen Teie.

Rain is increasing the discomforts of the Kingston earthquake sufferers.

There is not a wheel turning on any railroad between Spokane and the coast.

Alton B. Parker believes the president right in his stand in the Brownsville affair.

Troops have been called to stop rioting among Japanese miners in Japan. Many have been killed.

The project to connect Lake Washington and Puget sound with a canal has been revived in congress.

John D. Rockefeller has given \$32,000,000 of first-class securities for general education throughout the United States.

More than 5,000 bushel of seed wheat has been donated by Oregon growers to be used in the famine district of China.

The temperature is 5 below zero at Kansas City.

The Thaw trial is now fairly begun. Insanity is the plea of the defense.

New Jersey Republicans have nominated Frank O. Briggs as United States senator.

Many reports are being received of people being frozen to death in North Dakota.

Snow and slides have blocked all trains on the Northern Pacific so that no Eastern mail can reach Tacoma.

The raise granted postal clerks will add \$68,000 to the salaries of those in Oregon and \$100,000 to those of Washington.

The O. R. & N. between Portland and The Dalles is in worse shape than for years. Several work trains are hemmed in on both sides.

During the January just passed twice as much excavation was done on the Panama canal as in any January when the work was under French control.

Southern Pacific trains, while still running, are all behind time and have to proceed carefully on account of soft tracks and uncertain bridges and embankments.

Besides fighting for territory in the Northwest, the Harriman and Hill managements have entered into a wordy war regarding the merits of the methods employed by each, which does not appear to furnish more cars to the shipper than the territory fight.

The king of Siam is to visit the United States.

An explosion of gasoline started a \$100,000 fire in Chicago.

China is to resuscitate its navy. Ten million dollars is to be provided yearly for the work.

OPPOSES CONTRACT PLAN.

Chief Engineer Stevens Wants to Dig Panama Canal.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Chief Engineer John F. Stevens wants to dig the Panama canal, and if he cannot dig the big ditch without the medium of a contractor, there is likely to be another vacancy at the head of affairs on the isthmus. This is understood to be the secret of the mysterious holding up of the award of the Panama canal contract that has excited interest and curiosity for the last two weeks.

Everybody has been wondering why the administration has been delaying action on the Olliver bid for digging the canal. One theory has been that it was due to a fight between rival financial interests, those represented by the contractors underbid by the Olliver firm being credited with the efforts to throw out the lower bidder and take the prize. There have been tangles regarding Mr. Olliver's partners. Finally a positive decision from President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Taft and Chairman Shonts, of the Canal commission, has been postponed for two weeks longer, ostensibly to complete a full examination of the Olliver bid, but in reality, it is believed, to solve the problem presented by Mr. Stevens' position.

OPPOSED TO DISCRIMINATION.

Los Angeles Chamber on Separate Schools for Japanese.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The president today received a telegraphic copy of a resolution adopted yesterday by the Los Angeles chamber of commerce upon the Japanese school question, which expresses the belief that the public sentiment of California, especially of the southern part, upon the question of the exclusion of the Japanese from the general public school system of the state has been to some extent misrepresented and is largely misunderstood. The sentiment is expressed that on the main question, whatever may be the diversity of opinion upon the constitutional and legal phases, the board is assured that "the general trend of public opinion in Southern California is decidedly adverse to any discrimination against the Japanese as a people in the matter of public school privileges, and the belief that this opinion is based upon consideration of equity and justice is held altogether independent of any attitude which the Japanese government has assumed or may assume in regard to the question."

CALLS BOOKER SENATOR.

Foraker Takes a Fling at Activity of Negro Leader.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Five witnesses were examined today in the Brownsville inquiry by the Senate committee on military. All were members of the discharged battalion of negro soldiers except ex-Sergeant Luther Thornton, of company B. He testified that, when aroused by the firing on the night of August 13, he was under the impression that the barracks were being fired upon by the people of the town.

The next witness called for by Senator Foraker was Winter Washington, and Senator Overman asked if he had said Booker Washington.

"No," said Mr. Foraker, "Booker Washington is too busy attending to his senatorial duties to come here." He referred to the interest of Booker T. Washington in the question of having a negro appointed to a Federal position in Ohio, patronage which has been regarded as belonging to the senators from Ohio.

Washington's idea of the Brownsville affair was that "Mexican Greasers" and "Texas cowboys" had done the shooting in order to make trouble for the negro soldiers.

MAUSERS SMUGGLED AS BOOKS.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 8.—Mail advices from Shanghai state that, owing to an accident at the wharf there, the discovery has been made that arms and ammunition have been smuggled through Shanghai to the disaffected districts where rebellion is in progress. A Chinese newspaper reports that 50,000 Mauser rifles and 5,000,000 rounds of ammunition have been imported into China from Japan by the revolutionary party. Dr. Sun Yat, who is one of the prime movers of the rebellion, is at Tokio, as head of the rebel junta there.

MORE MONEY FOR PACIFIC LIGHTS.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The senate's commerce committee reported the house omnibus lighthouse bill with amendments added giving \$20,000 for rebuilding the lighthouse at Cape Arago and \$120,000 for a lighthouse vessel at Oxford Reef.

RIGHT OF WAY ACROSS FORT COLUMBIA.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The senate today passed Senator Fulton's bill authorizing the Ilwaco railroad to build across the Fort Columbia reservation and quarantine station grounds on its way from Ilwaco to Knappton.

EARTHQUAKES CHANGE ISLAND.

Montevideo, Feb. 8.—A report has reached here by passengers on the steamer Elka that earthquakes have changed the appearance of New Year's island and that a portion of the island has sunk several meters.

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Friday, February 8.

Washington, Feb. 8.—A new high record in the way of passage of private pension bills was made by the house today, when 725 bills were passed in an hour and a half.

The naval appropriation bill, carrying \$95,425,000, was taken up and under the order of general debate speeches were made by Lamar of Florida on the railroad rate bill, Higgins of Connecticut favoring the creation of the White Mountain and Appalachian forest reserves, and Mondell of Wyoming on the "limitations of Federal authority" and the withdrawal of coal lands from entry.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The senate today passed the Indian appropriation bill. Frazier made an address maintaining state's rights, after which the army appropriation bill, carrying a total of \$81,500,000 was taken up.

The army measure was partly read for approval of committee amendments and adjournment was taken shortly before 6 o'clock, when it became apparent that considerable debate was to be occasioned by an amendment to permit the government to receive reduced rates from the railroads for the transportation of troops and supplies for the army and to allow army officers and their families to accept free transportation. The adoption of this amendment would be a modification of the railroad rate bill passed at the last session of congress.

Thursday, February 7.

Washington, Feb. 7.—The house today completed and passed the river and harbor appropriation bill, carrying more than \$80,000,000, with sundry amendments, all of which were suggested by the chairman of the committee, Burton. Among the important amendments adopted were:

For the maintenance and continuing of the improvement of the Chicago river, \$200,000, being an increase of \$180,000.

A survey of the Missouri river was authorized, from its mouth to Sioux City.

A bill amending the naval appropriation bill was taken up and made the continuing order.

Washington, Feb. 7.—The Indian appropriation bill received rough handling by the senate today. The amendments of the committee, especially those suggested by the special committee which went to the Indian Territory last summer to investigate conditions, were nearly all rejected on points of order.

The provision which allowed full-blood Indians of the Indian Territory to sell their surplus land was defeated by a vote of 31 to 32, which leaves in force the provision of the law known as the McCumber amendment, prohibiting the alienation of such land for 25 years.

The debate on the bill today was confined to the amendment allowing land alienation. Stone made the principal speech for the amendment and Spooner the principal argument against it.

Wednesday, February 6.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The Indian appropriation bill again was in the sole topic of discussion by the senate today, but little progress was made. The day was spent in a discussion of the proposition to repeal the restrictions on the alienation of surplus land in the Indian Territory. No conclusion was reached on this matter when the senate adjourned.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The advocates of a 14-foot channel for the Mississippi river from Chicago to St. Louis and the gulf met defeat when the house in committee of the whole, during consideration of the rivers and harbors appropriation bill, voted to stand by the recommendation of the committee in opposition to the project. Although there was much speechmaking on the part of the friends of the measure, they secured only 43 votes for the amendment, as against 415 against it.

Earlier in the day Dalzell of Pennsylvania offered an amendment providing for the continuance of work on dam No. 7 on the Ohio river, but it was defeated on a test vote which showed that the chairman of the rivers and harbors committee, Burton, had a large majority of the house with him as to any amendment to the bill.

After completing 72 pages of the bill the house adjourned.

Tuesday, February 5.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The senate

Steamers in Dire Peril.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 6.—Two unknown ocean steamers, one of which is known to be disabled and the other thought to be, are anchored tonight in a dangerous position at Ketch harbor, a few miles west of this city, and the lives of those on board are in peril. The ships are less than a quarter of a mile off shore and within 100 yards of the breakers. A tremendous sea is running. The steamers have fired several guns and are sending up rockets, but owing to the terrific sea no aid could be given the vessels tonight.

spent the entire day in considering the Indian appropriation bill, but without concluding the question of amendments. The army appropriation bill was reported and will be taken up as soon as the Indian appropriation bill has been disposed of. The bill carries \$81,500,000.

The principal items in the increase in the military bill are: Washington-Alaska cable, \$190,000; signal service in Cuban pacification, \$50,000; contract surgeons, \$60,000; regular supplies, \$596,643; barracks and quarters, \$1,372,227; transportation, \$702,964; increase incident to the passage of a bill extending and promoting the efficiency of the artillery corps, \$6,221,160.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Several test votes were taken by the house committee on public lands to determine the attitude of the committee towards President Roosevelt's policy of leasing government coal lands. The committee voted against the general leasing system for coal lands, but by a vote of 5 to 4 favored a bill to lease such lands in limited areas.

Another vote showed that the committee favors the renting instead of the present system of selling land, but with modifications in the present plan, which will make fraud more difficult.

Monday, February 4.

Washington, Feb. 4.—The senate occupied the first two hours of its session today in perfecting the house bill permitting the government to take an appeal on points of law in certain criminal cases. The bill is intended to reach cases similar to that against the meat packers.

The bill was laid aside to permit further discussion of Carter's resolution aimed at the recent order of the secretary of the interior preventing the issuance of land patents to entrymen until after an examination on the ground by a special agent. Heyburn continued the remarks he began several days ago and Newlands followed in defense of the secretary.

Bacon made a brief statement intended to show that Beveridge had been in error regarding the operation of the child labor law in Georgia.

Washington, Feb. 4.—The house passed a number of important bills today, including the McCumber service pension bill, the omnibus lighthouse bill and the omnibus revenue cutter bill. The omnibus lighthouse bill carries a total appropriation of \$1,598,500 for the lighthouse establishment and an additional sum of \$195,000 for additional lightkeepers.

The house, by a vote of 10 to 65, concurred in the senate amendments to the urgent deficiency bill, loaning the Jamestown exposition \$1,000,000 and safeguarding the loan by a lien on the gross receipts.

Bills providing for the protection of game in Alaska and authorizing a refund of certain taxes continued under the revenue act of 1898 were also passed.

Saturday, February 2.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Two hours were spent today by the house on the rivers and harbors appropriation bill, speeches against the measure being made by Hepburn, Clark of Missouri and Kiefer. Impressive eulogies were delivered on the late Senator Gorman of Maryland. Out of respect to the memory of the late Representative Flack, whose death was announced, the house at 4:05 adjourned until Monday.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The senate devoted most of the day to the reading of the Indian appropriation bill for the adoption of committee amendments. Several bills authorizing the construction of bridges and one extending the terms of leases in the Yellowstone National Park were passed. After a brief executive session the senate adjourned at 3:30 o'clock out of respect to the memory of the late Representative Flack, of New York.

Reducing Lewis County Debt.

Chehalis.—Last week County Treasurer Summersett paid off \$10,000 of the old funding bonds of Lewis county, and took up interest coupons amounting to \$2,750. The county commissioners expect this year to materially cut into the old debt of the county, it being possible that the reduction will amount to between \$30,000 and \$40,000. Last year's tax-roll footed up to \$213,809.69, while this year's total is \$291,799.05, an increase of \$77,989.36.

Seeks a Terminus.

Sin Francisco, Feb. 6.—Strakenouchi, manager of the Osaka Shoshen Kaisha Steamship company, arrived yesterday on the America Maru from Yokohama for the purpose of selecting a Pacific Coast terminal for his line. The company operates freight steamers from Japan to Vladivostok, Corea, Shanghai, Formosa and Hongkong, and is desirous of extending its line to this coast. Manager Strakenouchi will look into the facilities here and will also visit Portland, Seattle and Tacoma, and perhaps Santiago, before deciding.

RAISE ALL RATES

General Advance in Freight Inaugurated by Eastern Lines.

Chicago, Feb. 6.—The first step was taken here today in a plan to inaugurate a general increase in freight rates throughout the country in such a manner as to bring millions of dollars added revenue to the railroads and at the same time greatly facilitate the movement of traffic.

As the result of a meeting, which was attended by executive officials of railroads east of Chicago, and having a total of more than 100,000 miles of lines, a vote is being taken upon a proposition to increase the rates of nearly all of the main commodities fully 10 per cent by decreasing the minimum which it is permitted to load into a freight car.

The railroads interested in the initial movement extend through all the territory east of Chicago and north of the Ohio river, clear to the seaboard and north into Canada. In this territory freight rates are controlled by the association known as the Central Freight association. The action will undoubtedly be followed by the lines south of the Ohio river, and then by the lines west of Chicago to the Pacific coast.

It is difficult to estimate how much the proposed increase will bring the railroads in added revenue, but the sum will be a big one. Traffic officers, however, state that it will not be sufficient to offset even the increased expense to the railroads occasioned by increased wages, estimated at between \$100,000,000 and \$110,000,000 annually.

DISAGREE ON FAIR BILL.

Washington Senators and Representatives at Cross Purposes

Washington, Feb. 6.—On Thursday the senate committee on expositions will meet in the room of Senator Ankeny to consider and probably report the Ankeny bill making an appropriation for the Alaska, Philippine and Hawaiian exhibits at the Seattle exposition in 1909. If the bill is reported its passage by the senate is certain to follow.

The house members of the Washington delegation disapprove of the course of the senators and have urged that no action be taken on the bill this session. While it can pass the senate, it is absolutely certain that it cannot get through the house this session, for the chairman of the house committee is not only opposed to this exposition appropriation, but has said he will not call his committee together to consider the bill. Moreover, having appropriated liberally for Jamestown, the house leaders will not consider the senate bill this winter.

In view of this situation the house members charge that the senators are placing them in an embarrassing position by pressing the bill at this time, but their protests are falling on deaf ears.

HEYBURN PUSHES THE ISSUE.

Moves Resolution and Amendments Dealing With Land Question.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Senator Heyburn yesterday introduced a resolution compelling the secretary of the interior to disregard the order of the president and issue patents on all land and mineral applications where the proofs submitted show full compliance with the requirements of law, and where no protest has been filed against the granting of such patents. The senator expressed the opinion that by the adoption of this resolution a large percentage of the land business of the country will be resumed, being now tied up.

Mr. Heyburn also introduced an amendment to the sundry civil bill providing for the completion of the survey of public land in Idaho to be made by a rectangular system of survey, without waiting for the requests or demands of settlers, and appropriating \$200,000 for making the surveys. He also proposed an amendment to the agricultural bill providing that none of sections 16 or 36 shall be included in any forest reserve where such sections were granted to the states by the act of admission to the Union, or the enabling act, and that land more valuable for grazing than for timber shall not be included within the forest reserves.

No Excitement in Japan.

Tokio, Feb. 6.—The view taken here of the American-Japanese situation, arising from the San Francisco school incident, is illustrated by the following official statement, which was issued today: "Since the talk of war was first transmitted from America we have carefully watched the development of feeling here. There has not been the slightest excitement anywhere in the country. The talk of war is completely ignored here, and implicit confidence is reposed in President Roosevelt and his government."

Snow Smothers New York.

New York, Feb. 6.—For more than 24 hours New York has been in the grip of a fierce northeast snow storm. Ten inches of snow fell in the 24 hours ending at 8 a. m., equaling the amount that has fallen within any similar period for several years.