

LEXINGTON WHEATFIELD

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LXINGTON 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 Nebraska legislature has passed an anti-pass bill.

The British premier favors action on disarmament at The Hague.

Reform of land laws will go over to the next session of congress.

Russian terrorists have planned a wholesale massacre of officers.

The president may create many forest reserves before the new law takes effect.

Forty-two Greek laborers were injured in a smashup of a construction train on the Salt Lake road at Leith, Nev.

Railroads affected by the 2-cent passenger rate laws passed in several states will combine to carry the fight into the courts.

Fighting between Nicaragua and Honduras is now general. The former seems to have the advantage, though Salvador is helping Honduras.

Sylvester R. Rush, of Nebraska, has been appointed special assistant to the attorney general. He is to have charge of the land fraud investigations in the Northwest. He has had much success in convicting land thieves in Nebraska.

Chinese famine sufferers are dying by thousands.

Hill has purchased the Astoria & Columbia River railroad.

A number of senators and representatives will visit Hawaii this summer.

General Koselevky was assassinated after joking about threats made to kill him.

The National Arbitration and Peace congress will meet in New York April 14 to 17.

President Roosevelt and Secretary Root have been asked to urge the people to help the Russian famine sufferers.

A Baltimore & Ohio express train was wrecked near Connellsville, Pa., and two persons killed and eight injured.

The Iowa legislature has adopted a resolution calling on congress to call a convention to amend the constitution so that United States senators may be elected by direct vote of the people.

The San Francisco water board has revoked the franchise supplying the city with water on the ground that the company has been collecting excessive rates. The property is estimated to be worth \$5,300,000.

The French accuse the church of having meddled in politics.

The St. Paul railroad has stopped all improvements till popular wrath cools.

Sixteen children and their teacher were burned to death in a Montreal school.

Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia narrowly escaped being blown up by a terrorist bomb.

Stoessel is called a coward by Smirnoff, one of the generals at Port Arthur during the siege.

Fire at Los Angeles destroyed property valued at \$200,000. Firemen rescued 12 people from the flames.

A British naval paymaster at Victoria, B. C., is to be court martialed because his carelessness caused a loss of \$1,550.

The English parliament will arrange a loan of \$5,000,000 for Kingston, the money to be used to rebuild the business portion of the city.

George Von L. Meyer, former American ambassador to Russia, has returned to the United States to become postmaster general in President Roosevelt's cabinet.

The Texas senate has voted to exonerate Senator Bailey.

A Denver man has confessed to killing his wife that he might marry another woman.

The senate has approved of another Federal judge for the Northern district of California.

The senate has refused to consider a measure to reduce tariff on sugar, tobacco and rice from the Philippines.

Secretary Shaw will leave the cabinet March 4 to become president of the Carnegie Trust company, of New York.

Pittsburg has just had a fire in the heart of the business district, the loss amounting to several hundred thousand dollars.

MUST NOT OWN PROPERTY.

California Legislature Passes a Bill Against Orientals.

Sacramento, Cal., Mar. 1.—The lower house of the legislature today passed a sweeping anti-Japanese and anti-Chinese measure, introduced by Assemblyman Drew, of Fresno. The bill is known as the "anti-alien property holding bill." It is aimed at the Japanese and Chinese property owners in this state and is intended to prevent them from acquiring and owning property for a longer period than five years. In urging the passage of the bill Drew stated that since January 1 of this year one-third of the property transfers in Fresno had been to Japanese.

The bill provides that any alien who does not become a citizen of the United States shall acquire and hold title to land in this state for not more than five years. If within that time the alien does not become a citizen, the district attorney shall compel the sale of his land or houses. Japanese and Chinese are not specifically named, but, as they cannot become citizens, the bill is aimed directly at them and precludes them from owning property for more than five years. The measure also provides that no contract, agreement or lease of real estate for a longer period than one year shall be made to any alien and any lease, agreement or devise of real estate made to any alien for a longer period shall be null and void.

The impression is given out that if the bill reaches the governor he will sign it.

LABORATORY FOR NORTHWEST.

Agricultural Department Will Establish One Soon.

Washington, March 1.—In the near future the department of Agriculture will locate a pure food laboratory in some Northwestern city and make it headquarters for the examination of all food products imported into that section from abroad. Investigations are now being made to determine whether it shall be located at Portland or Seattle.

Senator Bourne is urging the department to locate the laboratory in Portland, but before this can be done Portland must convince the department that its food imports exceed those of Seattle, or else offer advantages in the way of quarters that cannot be obtained at Seattle. The department desires to locate the laboratory in a public building.

It is of the greatest importance to Portland to make a creditable showing, for if the laboratory is located there rather than at Seattle, it will have a tendency to increase importations of food products at that port, where they can be properly examined, rather than at other ports where there would necessarily be delay.

Mr. Bourne is looking to the chamber of commerce to support him in his efforts.

STICKS TO HERMANN.

Former Private Secretary Says Good Things for Defendant.

Washington, March 1.—The prosecution in the trial of Representative Hermann consumed today in a futile attempt to break down the evidence given yesterday by Elliott P. Hough, former private secretary to the defendant, which was most favorable to Hermann. Hough had been put on the stand by the prosecution with the expectation that his testimony would be damaging to the defendant, and District Attorney Baker was incensed that he should give evidence so much in Hermann's favor as his statements yesterday that Hermann and John A. Benson, who is under indictment for alleged land frauds, were not good friends; that, if official letters got into Hermann's private books it was through his fault; and that it had been the custom of all outgoing commissioners previous to Hermann's time to take their private letterpress copybooks with them.

Christian H. Muller and Alexander E. Foster, who had been messengers in the land office under Hermann and who destroyed the letterpress copybooks by his recitation, testified to the part they had played. Mr. Muller received an order from Hermann three weeks before the latter retired to take the letterbooks, about 35 in number, from Hermann's private room.

Beatty to Continue Duties.

Boise, Idaho, March 1.—"In answer to a telegram received from the attorney general asking me to withhold my resignation for a time," said Judge J. H. Beatty, of the United States District court, today, "I sent a telegram stating that I would willingly continue the duties of my office until after the March term. If by that time my successor has not been named, I shall probably urge the people in Washington to push matters." The telegram to Judge Beatty arrived some days after his resignation had started for Washington.

Favors Philippine Bank Bill.

Washington, March 1.—The house committee on insular affairs today decided to make a favorable report on the Philippine agricultural bank bill as passed by the senate.

PROCEEDINGS OF OREGON LEGISLATURE

Saturday, February 23.

Salem, Feb. 23.—The legislature which adjourned today went down in history as the most lavish Oregon has ever had. A grand total of \$3,500,000 has been appropriated.

The senate refused to adopt the house bill changing the brush fire law.

The house reconsidered a vote of yesterday and passed two bills giving farm laborers and threshermen liens on crops for money due them.

Indorsed by nearly every assessor in the state, the bill providing for an equitable system of assessing the timber lands of the state went down to defeat in the senate.

The house finished up its business at 11:30 but it was 2 o'clock before the senate was through, and it was necessary for the house to continue in session until that time.

It was announced to the members of the legislature that it would be more convenient to buy tickets at the depot than to pay fares on the train. Passes would not do, as the new anti-pass law is in effect.

PASSED IMPORTANT BILLS.

What the Legislature Accomplished During the Session.

Salem—Many important bills passed both houses of the Oregon legislature at the session just ended, and a considerable number were defeated. The appropriations are very large—amounting to some \$3,500,000—and no bills passed raising any considerable amount of revenue by new methods.

Several bills for new revenue were defeated. Among them was that of Representative Beals to tax timber holdings on the basis of cruising submitted to assessors by their owners. Another was that prepared by the late tax commission and introduced by Representative Freeman taxing public service corporations on their capitalized net earnings. A third was that of Representative Settlemier for collection of taxes on land that had escaped taxation in the last six years.

One of the defeated measures of large moment was that of the Portland board of trade, for control of the water powers of the state. Another was that for a \$60,000 appropriation for extension of the portage road to The Dalles.

First of all the enactments was that for a railroad commission. The bill for this law was introduced by Representative Chapin and the three commissioners already have been appointed—T. K. Campbell, C. B. Aitchison and Oswald West.

Representative Jones, of Polk, is father of a successful bill appropriating \$300,000 for free locks at Willamette falls, contingent on the national government's appropriating an additional sum sufficient to provide the locks and maintain them.

Representative Eaton, of Lane, has the credit of having secured enactment of a bill granting to the State university an annual standing appropriation of \$125,000.

Representative Jackson, of Douglas, introduced a successful bill appropriating \$100,000 for National Guard armories.

Representative Perkins, of Jackson, has the credit of securing for fruitmen a law to prevent false labeling and branding of packed fruit, and of another law to prevent false marking of nursery stock. A third bill of his permits orchardists to kill birds that destroy crops, but this bill is in danger of a veto.

Representative Slusher is father of a successful bill creating a sheep commission and a sheep inspector, and authorizing inspectors of the bureau of animal industry to exercise police powers in the state for eradication of sheep scab.

Representative Settlemier's bill passed both houses to appropriate \$100,000 for the Seattle exposition in 1909.

Representative Edwards was promoter of an important enactment to raise the per capita tax of school districts to \$7.

Representative Vawter of Jackson had a bill passed to create one board of regents for all the normals, also to appropriate \$40,000 for the Ashland normal. Representative Barrett of Umatilla did the same for the Weston normal, in the sum of \$35,000. Senator Loughary secured enactment of his bill providing \$36,000 for Monmouth and Representative Jackson put a successful rider on it appropriating \$27,000 for Drain. Representative Carter of Benton secured passage of a \$125,000 appropriation for new buildings at the State Agricultural college, and Senator Johnson of a \$75,000 appropriation for maintenance.

Representative Beals is author of an enactment creating the office of cheese, dairy and creamery inspector, as deputy to the state dairy commissioner.

Representative Driscoll introduced the bill for the act creating the Port of Columbia District of Multnomah, Columbia and Clatsop counties, for regulation of towage and pilotage at the mouth of the Columbia river.

Senator M. A. Miller, of Linn, has to his credit a compulsory education law, which promises to be the most effective measure of the kind ever proposed in Oregon.

Among the most important senate bills enacted was the Haines banking bill, which, though acknowledged to be imperfect, is believed to be a wise measure for the reason that it is the beginning of state supervision of banking.

Senator M. G. Miller, of Linn, was the author of a bill that has passed both houses providing for the loaning of surplus funds in the state treasury to banks giving security and paying interest on daily balances.

Senator F. J. Miller, of Linn-Marion secured the passage of bills for the establishment of an institution for the feeble-minded, an institution for which there has been general demand in order to place under control a class of people not fit for the asylum but who ought not to be at large.

Senator Sichel fathered two bills that will have considerable effect. One provides for the working of husbands who fail to support their families, and the payment of \$1.50 a day to the family for their support. The other provides a uniform insurance policy.

Senator Coshov will be remembered kindly by all jurors hereafter, for he secured the enactment of a law raising the fees of jurors from \$2 to \$3 a day.

Senator Hart of Baker was author of the bill which places restrictions upon the pasturing of foreign sheep in Oregon, so as to protect Oregon sheepmen.

Senator Malarkey introduced three measures which will be of considerable importance. One limits the hours of labor of trainmen, another makes the husband's courtesy the same as a wife's dower, and the third provides for the building of a bridge across the Willamette at Oswego, thus affording the means of taking the trains off Fourth street in Portland.

Senator Mault of Jackson remembered the widows and orphans by securing the enactment of a law which raises from \$3,000 to \$7,500 the amount that may be recovered for acts causing death.

Senator Calk framed the bill which has passed providing for the appointment of two Supreme court commissioners to assist the court in catching up with its work.

Senator Kay pleased the merchants everywhere by securing the enactment of a law which provides for the garnishment of wages of public employees. Such employees are very often judgment proof without such a law.

Senator Schofield fathered a number of fishery laws, and has had the census law amended so that it is now suited to modern conditions.

Senator Nottingham interested himself in the improvement of public morals as usual, and secured the enactment of a law for the punishment of persons guilty of enticing away children under 18 years for immoral purposes.

Senator Bingham was father of a new forest fire law, the efficiency of which has yet to be shown. It requires the burning of the debris of logging operations, and there were conflicting opinions as to the practical working of the measure.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 70c; bluestem, 72c; valley, 70c; red, 68c.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$29; gray, \$28.50.

Barley—Feed, \$22.50 per ton; brewing, \$23; rolled, \$23.50@24.50.

Rye—\$1.45@1.50 per cwt.

Corn—Whole, \$24.50; cracked, \$22.50 per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$14@15 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17@18; clover, \$9; cheat, \$9; grain hay, \$9@10; alfalfa, \$14.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 32½@35c per pound.

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

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 18@19c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 14@15c per pound; mixed chickens, 14@14½c; spring, 13½@14c; old roosters, 9@10c; dressed chickens, 14@15c; turkeys, live, 16c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18@20c; geese, live, 9@10c; ducks, 16@18c.

Apples—Common, 75c @ \$1.25 per box; choice, \$1.50@2.50.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$1@1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack; horseradish, 7@8c per pound; sweet potatoes, 3½c per pound; cauliflower, \$2.50 per dozen; celery, \$3.50@3.75 crate; sprouts, 9c; rhubarb, 11c per pound; asparagus, 17c per pound.

Onions—Oregon, \$1@1.15 per hundred.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, \$1.40; common, 75c@1.

Veal—Dressed, 5½@9c per pound.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 2½@3½c per pound; cows, 4½@5½c; country steers, 5½@6½c.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 8½@9c per pound; ordinary, 6@7c.

Pork—Dressed, 6@9c per pound.

Hops—8½@10½c per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13@18c, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@23c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 27@30c per pound.

LET NO CONTRACT.

President Decides to Let Army Engineers Dig Canal.

Washington, Feb. 27.—By an order addressed to Chairman Shonts of the Isthmian Canal commission today, President Roosevelt, as far as lay in his power under existing law, transferred to the engineer branch of the army the responsibility for the further construction of the Panama canal. He also formally recorded the abandonment, for the present at least, of the project of having the canal work done by contract on the percentage system. Another feature was the announcement of the resignation of John F. Stevens as engineer in chief of canal construction. Mr. Shonts is in New York, where he will tomorrow preside at a meeting of the directors of the Panama Railroad company, of which he is president, and will formally resign that office.

The president intends that there shall be an entire reorganization of the commission with three army officers of the engineer corps as its leading members, who are to have charge of the engineering features of the canal work. The chairman and engineer in chief of the commission will be Major G. W. Goethals. His associates will be Major DuB. Gaillard and Major William L. Siebert, to rank in the order named. These officers are all comparatively young, ambitious and energetic.

Senator Joseph S. C. Blackburn, of Kentucky, who will retire from the United States senate on March 4, is to be made a member of the reorganized commission.

HELPED LAND THIEVES.

Informer About Frauds Betrayed by Hermann.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Interest in the trial of Representative Hermann was revived today by the introduction in evidence of letters written him in 1901 by Benjamin T. May of La Grande, calling his attention to specific land frauds in Oregon and a later letter criticizing Hermann for omitting to make an investigation of the alleged frauds, and also for having made known to interested parties the name of the informer.

After their identification by May, the letters were read to the jury. The first was from May to Hermann and informed him that sawmill owners were securing title to public land in the Blue mountains by fraud. Their plan was to get an employe to file on a certain tract and, when the claim was proved up, the employe was to deed the property over to them and receive \$50 for his work. One firm kept a man employed to look out for the best timber land and to secure it in this manner for his firm. In the year preceding the writing of this letter May charged that this firm had placed on record about 60 deeds secured in this manner. May concluded his letter with the statement that he was a poor laborer and had no ax to grind and only desired to keep out land grabbers.

HARRIMAN EXPLAINS.

Tells Interstate Commerce Commission a Few Things.

New York, Feb. 27.—An assertion by E. H. Harriman that Stuyvesant Fish was deposed from the presidency of the Illinois Central because of misconduct as to the funds of the company was a leading feature of today's session of the Interstate Commerce commission. Mr. Harriman was the only witness of the day, the events brought out by his testimony making the hearing a memorable one.

Other features of Mr. Harriman's testimony follow:

A continued refusal to answer questions relating to individual stock transactions.

Explanations of the transfer of 300,000 shares of Southern Pacific stock to William G. Rockefeller during the attempt of James R. Keene to secure control of the road, and of the delayed announcement of the dividends on Union Pacific and Southern Pacific.

Attempts of the government to show that the Union Pacific charges unfair rates, stifles competition in the vast territory traversed by its lines and its dividend of 10 per cent and its expenditure of \$240,000,000 on betterments came from an unfair toll on its patrons.

Miners Vote for Advance.

Butte, Mont., Feb. 27.—The vote of the Miners' union on the increase of wage scale resulted 2,349 in favor and 1,068 against, the new scale of \$4 to take effect May 1. Many miners did not vote. The mines of Butte will continue in operation, notwithstanding the demand, but development work in all of the Amalgamated properties will cease. Officers of the union are emphatic, however, that there will be no strike. Companies will devote all time and energy to taking out ore and making copper.

Two-cent Fare is Law in Indiana.

Indianapolis, Feb. 27.—The governor today signed the 2-cent railroad fare act. It has no emergency clause, and goes into effect with the publication of the new laws about May or June.