

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.

The Roumanian revolt is quieting down.

The president has called an election in the Philippines.

All labor troubles around Butte have been adjusted for the time being.

St. Louis brewery workers threaten to strike and the city is facing a beer famine.

The disarmament question is likely to be barred from The Hague peace conference.

Republican members of the Tennessee legislature propose Roosevelt for a third term.

The Nebraska legislature has passed a direct primary a copied after the Oregon statute.

Spreckels had guaranteed the cost of a thorough housecleaning of grafters at San Francisco.

The Western Union Telegraph company has raised its rates, in some cases as much as 20 per cent.

The census bureau estimates that the population of the United States has increased 8,000,000 in the past six years.

The Colton, Cal., death list as the result of the train wreck is placed at 22 and at least six more of the injured will die. A green switch crew is blamed with the accident.

Mediation in the Central American war has been postponed.

The San Francisco investigation may spread to every city on the coast.

Evidence is being secured which points to telephone bribery in Oakland.

Mrs. Thaw is said to be breaking down under the strain of the trial of Thaw.

Congressman Scott, of Kansas, predicts the completion of the Panama canal in seven years.

Eight men have been arrested at Butte for trying to influence voters at the primaries just held.

The bill for the recount of the ballots cast for mayor of New York in November, 1905, has passed the New York legislature.

A cigarette started a fire in the general shops of the El Paso & Southwestern railroad at Carrizozo, N. M. The loss is placed at \$190,000.

Big shipments of flour are being hurried from Minneapolis to San Francisco, where a government transport will take it to the famine sufferers of China.

Ex-President Cleveland has just celebrated his 70th birthday.

The whole of Roumania is in revolt and the capital threatened.

San Salvador has asked Mexico to intervene in the Central American war.

Foraker has called for primaries in Ohio to decide preference for president.

Immense land frauds are to be investigated by a Federal grand jury at Cheyenne.

A deadlock has been reached between Western railroads and trainmen on the question of wages.

Premier Stolypin, of Russia, has agreed to abolish court martial, as at present exercised.

France announces her determination to get redress from Morocco for the murder of a French subject.

A commission in lunacy has been appointed in the Thaw case and the trial has adjourned until the commission reports.

The Nebraska legislature has passed a law to tax railroads on the same basis as the holdings of private individuals.

The California flood has made produce scarce in San Francisco.

Taft continues to be boomed for president, but third term talk for Roosevelt grows.

The government is making active preparations to start the land fraud trials in Colorado.

Jerome has found that New York police have been compelled to contribute to political funds.

Speaker Cannon and the congressional party have been allowed to land at Panama after being held in quarantine several days.

Heney denies that his prosecution of San Francisco grafters has any political significance or that it is a blow aimed at organized labor.

WRECK IN CALIFORNIA.

At Least Twenty-Six Persons Killed and a Hundred Hurt.

Colton, Cal., March 29.—One of the most disastrous wrecks in the history of the Southern Pacific railroad occurred one and one-half miles east of this town shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when westbound train No. 9 from New Orleans for San Francisco ran into an open switch, while going at the rate of 40 miles an hour, and ten of the 14 coaches were derailed with frightful results. Twenty-six people are known to have been killed and the final list will total much higher than this number. The injured number about 100, many of whom are seriously injured and will die.

The wrecked coaches were hurled in every direction. Four of them were smashed into splinters. Most of the dead were Italians from New York and New Orleans, going to San Francisco. They occupied the smoker and day coach.

But two Americans are known to have been killed, although several of those among the injured will undoubtedly die within the next few hours.

Out of 80 Pullman passengers, but two sustained serious injury. The three Pullman coaches and the diner, which were on the rear of the train, did not leave the track. The occupants of these cars were practically unharmed.

L. R. Alvord, W. K. Davis and W. G. Gusemeyer, members of the switching crew who are accused of leaving the switch open and causing the wreck, were taken into custody and held in bail of \$1,000 by Coroner Van Wye.

TRY MEDIATION.

Knapp and Neill Will Attempt to Adjust Railroad Dispute.

Chicago, March 29.—Government intervention will be tried in an effort to avert the great railroad strike which threatens to paralyze the business of the West. In response to the appeal of the railroad managers, Chairman Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce commission, and Commissioner of Labor Neill will arrive in Chicago Saturday morning and offer mediation in the controversy. Failing to adjust the matter in a conciliatory manner, they will endeavor to bring about arbitration under the provisions of the Erdmann law.

The labor chiefs will await the arrival of the government officials before ordering a strike. If the good offices of Mr. Knapp and Mr. Neill result in bringing greater concessions to the employees than have yet been offered, the strike may be averted. The employees, however, say they will not accept arbitration and today again declared their position that nothing short of greater concessions from the railroads will prevent them from walking out.

President Roosevelt has been following closely the developments in the situation here and Messrs. Knapp and Neill will undertake the delicate work imposed on them by law with full consciousness that the president is extremely solicitous that all differences be settled by arbitration.

The general managers said that no attempt would be made to operate trains if the employees struck.

NO ADVANCE IN LUMBER RATES

Northern Roads Deny Present Intention, but Are Investigating.

St. Paul, Minn., March 29.—An official statement was made by traffic men of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads today that it is not contemplated to make any immediate change in lumber rates from Puget sound to St. Paul and Missouri river cities, as the lumbermen have advised the Interstate Commerce commission in Washington. A joint statement was made by the lines as follows:

"We have not considered an increase in Pacific Coast Missouri-River lumber rates, except as they may have been involved in discussions covering the general rates and cost of service. No immediate changes are contemplated."

While the statement gives generally the situation, it is asserted the lines are closely investigating conditions governing the transportation of lumber, which have changed considerably since the industry on the coast started.

Burning Gas Terrifies Farmers.

Sapulpa, I. T., March 29.—The gas well two miles east of here that caught fire Saturday is still burning fiercely. After 14 days of work the well was capped. But the great volume of gas found another way out through the crevices and for half a mile it spread open the earth. At one place a hole three feet wide and 20 feet long was torn. Then the gas caught fire and has been burning ever since. At one place a sheet of flame 20 feet long and 15 feet high is blazing. Tons of rock and shale were thrown from the cracks.

Faculty Rebukes Magoon.

Havana, March 29.—The directors of Havana university held a meeting today and entered a protest against the recent action of Governor Magoon in licensing two American doctors to practice in Havana without first passing an examination in the University of Havana, as required by law.

SCHMITZ'S VILE PLAN

Has Desperate Scheme to Prevent Franchise Revocation.

TRIES TO BUY OFF SUPERVISORS

Have Enough Resign to Make His Veto Effective—Sweeping Reforms Are Instituted.

San Francisco, March 30.—Mayor Schmitz has opened negotiations with certain members of the boodling board of supervisors in the hope of consummating a bold coup. The plan of the mayor is to purchase the resignation of enough members of the board to make his veto power sufficient to prevent the revocation of the franchises of the big corporations which obtained their permits through the illegal use of money. It requires 14 members of the board to override the mayor's veto. If he can secure the resignation of five out of the 18 he will be able to check by his veto any of their reform measures adopted under the swish of F. J. Heney's big stick. It is a desperate game, doomed to failure almost at the outset.

The "reformed" board of supervisors, acting under the direction of the district attorney's office, gave another startling exhibition today of a desire to be good, when it made plans for the abolition of a score of ornamental officials. James Devoto, attorney for the board of public works at a salary of \$250 per month, will be decapitated. Other officials, who under the Ruff regime have done nothing but draw salaries, will be dropped. In the course of the next few weeks reforms will have been instituted which will save the city \$100,000 a year.

FAMINE WOULD RESULT.

Railroads Hold Out Gloomy Prospect if Strike is Called.

Chicago, March 30.—Famine in supplies of food, coal and manufacturing materials for Chicago and many other cities throughout the entire West was predicted today, if the impending railway strike became a reality. Railroads of the entire West will be allowed to remain completely paralyzed in case the strike of trainmen and conductors on 43 traffic systems is ordered. This course has been practically decided on by the general managers of the systems.

A meeting of the managers was held today and the impracticability of filling the places of 45,000 men who are talking of a walkout was discussed. No move has been made to hire men to run trains. In fact, no preparations is being made by the railway managers.

"If these men strike it would be almost, if not entirely, impossible to operate the railroads," said an official high in railroad circles. "It is as good as certain that freight traffic will be entirely shut off. Consider what it would mean, if Chicago were to be isolated for 24 hours. What would happen if the milk supply were interrupted or the immense importations of perishable freight halted by a tie-up of the roads."

HILL MAY ISSUE NEW STOCK.

Minnesota Supreme Court Holds Restrictive Law Invalid.

St. Paul, March 30.—The State Supreme court today upheld the Great Northern railroad in its contention that it had the right to issue the \$60,000,000 of stock authorized by the board of directors some months ago, and which was enjoined by Attorney General Young, who claimed that the company should first come before the state railroad and warehouse commission and submit to an examination to show the necessity and the purpose of the issue.

This contention of the state was upheld by Judge Hallam in the Ramsey County District court, who ordered an injunction to issue. The Supreme court today reverses that decision. The opinion of the court was unanimous. Chief Justice Start delivered the opinion of the court.

Sailors Loot Steamer

Norfolk, Va., March 30.—One hundred sailors from the battleship Connecticut, while on the way from Wiltoughby to Fortress Monroe upon the passenger steamer Ocean View today, without apparent cause took forcible charge of the steamer and put the crew to rout. The sailors broke windows and doors, drove the cooks from the galley, poured out all provisions aboard, dumped on deck the fire in the stoves, turned steam on the fire-extinguishers and did other damage. Their names are not known.

Tobacco Buildings Burn.

Danville, Va., March 30.—A disastrous fire broke out in South Boston, Va., 32 miles northeast of here, late this afternoon, and, spreading rapidly, destroyed the tobacco buildings, causing a loss of \$900,000.

TRIAL DRAGGING.

Juror in Hermann Case Drops Asleep in Court Hours.

Washington, March 27.—That interest in the trial of Binger Hermann is lagging was strikingly illustrated today, when one of the jurors fell asleep in the midst of the testimony of Harry C. Robertson, formerly private secretary to Senator Mitchell. The testimony produced this week has not been startling, in fact it covers ground already gone over by other witnesses, it being the intention of District Attorney Baker by preponderance of evidence to convince the jury that Hermann had an important motive in destroying his so-called private letter books. The testimony, however, is largely technical and uninteresting.

Mr. Robertson's testimony today covered the same ground as his testimony in Portland. He showed the close relations that existed among Hermann, Mitchell, Mays and Puter, testified as to their correspondence regarding land matters, since proven fraudulent, and to that extent materially aided the prosecution.

Had Mr. Robertson been permitted to tell extensively of his relations with Hermann in 1896-97, when the latter was first in congress, he could have materially offset some statements of those who appeared as character witnesses for the defendant. Before court opened Mr. Robertson talked freely with District Attorney Baker about his relations with Hermann while serving him as private secretary and an attempt was made to bring out these facts, but objection was made by counsel for the defense, inasmuch as they had no direct bearing on the case at bar, and the court sustained the objection. For that reason Mr. Robertson's testimony was robbed of considerable interest.

INQUIRY IN OAKLAND.

Telephone Companies Pursued Same Tactics in That City.

San Francisco, March 27.—The grand jury investigation took a leap today across the bay and landed in Oakland. It was shown during the examination of witnesses that the Home Telephone company and the Pacific States Telephone company had been engaged in a battle over a franchise similar to the warfare here which resulted in wholesale bribery. It developed that Halsey was in Oakland and that Detwiler was there also. These are the men accused of bribing the San Francisco officials.

Aside from this revelation, the inquiry failed to reveal anything of a sensational nature. At the end of the session District Attorney Langdon said the day had been spent in "filling in." Testimony was given which serves to supply some of the missing links in the general recital of bribery.

The grand jury will soon begin to reveal the part played by Mayor Schmitz in the boodling transactions. The mayor, it is estimated, received close to \$750,000 as the result of his operations.

CALL ELECTION IN PHILIPPINES

If Peace is Complete, President Will Order Commission to Act.

Washington, March 27.—The Philippine commission has been instructed to cable to inform President Roosevelt by tomorrow whether a condition of general and complete peace, with recognition of the authority of the United States, has continued in all that portion of the archipelago not inhabited by Moros or other non-Christian tribes for the past two years. If the answer is in the affirmative, the president will direct the commission to call a general election on July 30, next, for the choice of delegates to the first popular assembly of the people of the Philippines.

The proposed assembly consisting of the two houses, the upper composed of the Philippine commission and the lower of the delegates to be elected, will take over all the legislative power now exercised by the Philippine commission alone. Under an act of congress none of the members of the non-Christian tribes can participate in the elections.

Bonilla Ordered Surrender.

Managua, Nicaragua, March 27.—It is stated upon the highest authority here that President Bonilla, of Honduras, after his retreat to Amapala, following the defeat of the Honduran-Salvadoran forces at Choluteca by the Nicaraguan army, ordered from Amapala the surrender of Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, to the victorious troops. The city is now in the possession of the Honduran-Nicaraguan government junta. Senor Barahona, Honduran minister of war, was mortally wounded, and many captured.

Honduras Retakes Trujillo.

New Orleans, March 27.—A private telegram received here today said that the Hondurians had recaptured the port of Trujillo. This was the first Caribbean port of Honduras taken by Nicaragua.

GOVERNMENT TO ACT

Railroads Invoke Erdmann Act to Secure Arbitration.

ALL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE FAILED

Strike Would Tie Up Every Railroad from Chicago to Coast—Lines Involved.

Chicago, March 28.—The United States government will be asked to intervene to prevent a strike of the conductors and trainmen on the Western railroads and, if the plans of the managers do not miscarry, the whole matter will be submitted to arbitration for settlement. Late last night the general managers gave out a statement declaring they will demand arbitration under the Erdmann act. A strike of the men would interfere with interstate commerce. The railroad officials believe they can prevent a strike by asking the government to step in and take command of the situation.

The Erdmann act passed in 1898 provides for the arbitration of labor differences, where interstate commerce is involved, by the chairman of the Interstate Commerce commission and the commissioner of labor.

The strike has been agreed upon already by the railroad employes by referendum vote. The officers were authorized to call the men out if the terms put up to the railroad managers were not accepted. Determining the time for the suspension to take effect is a mere detail and that probably will be decided today at a meeting of delegates at the Sherman house.

The railroads involved are:

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe coast lines, Burlington, Canadian Pacific, Canadian Northern, Chicago & Northwestern, Chicago & Alton, Chicago & Great Western, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, Colorado Midland, Colorado & Southern, El Paso & Southwestern, Frisco System, Great Northern, Houston & Texas Central, Illinois Central, Kansas City Southern, Missouri, Kansas & Texas, Northern Pacific, Oregon Short Line, San Antonio & Arkansas Pass, Southern Pacific Atlantic system, Texas & Pacific, Duluth, Missabe & Northern, Fort Worth & Denver City, Frisco in Texas, Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe, Houston, East & West Texas, International & Great Northern, Minneapolis, St. Paul & North Star, Missouri Pacific, Oregon Railway & Navigation company, St. Louis Southwestern, San Pedro, Los Angeles Salt Lake, Southern Pacific system, Wisconsin Central, Yazoo & Mississippi Valley.

SCHMITZ TO PROVE INNOCENCE.

Says He Will Then Give no Quarter in Libel Suits.

San Francisco, March 28.—In a statement today to the Associated Press, Mayor Schmitz denies the truth of charges published in the local papers to the effect that the prosecution has abundant evidence that Schmitz profited to the extent of not less than \$662,000 from participation in the boodling operations now being investigated by the grand jury.

"These charges," said the mayor, "are maliciously false, and as soon as I am afforded the legal opportunity, I shall prove them to be so." After declaring that he is anxious for a speedy trial, he says:

"It is notoriously unfair that I should be brought to trial before any judge in this city and county," all of whom he alleges to be biased, and declares it is outrageous that he should be kept "for months under this foul cloud with the prospect that the trial will be delayed for another four months."

The mayor says this is no time for libel suits, but, when he has been tried and judged by a jury, he will give no quarter.

Charge Based on Wreck.

New York, March 28.—Indictments charging manslaughter in the second degree were returned today against the New York Central railroad, Ira A. McCormick, general superintendent of the company, and Alfred H. Smith, one of the vice presidents, in connection with the wreck of the Brewster express on the Harlem division of the railroad last month. McCormick and Smith pleaded not guilty and were released on \$10,000 bail each. The grand jury also handed up many recommendations to the state railroad commission.

No More Negro Troops.

Houston, Tex., March 28.—Announcement was made today at the local recruiting station that orders have been received from the War department at Washington, instructing that no more negroes be accepted for service in the army, also that negro troops in the United States will be dispatched forthwith to the Philippines.