

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

RATE IS ILLEGAL

Railway Commission Renders Opinion Against Southern Pacific.

Salem—After due and mature deliberation the Oregon Railroad commission has rendered its opinion finding the \$5 rate per ton of 2,000 pounds upon rough green fir lumber from Portland to San Francisco bay points, is excessive, discriminatory and contrary to the rules, orders and regulations of the Interstate Commerce law, and, unless the Southern Pacific company restores the old rate of \$3.10 per ton upon the same commodity "within a reasonable length of time," about two weeks being considered "reasonable" by the commission in this case, the case will be placed before the Interstate Commerce commission through the medium of the attorney general of the state.

This opinion is the outcome of the hearing of the complaint of the Western Oregon Lumber Manufacturers' association Tuesday against the Southern Pacific's action in putting into effect the \$5 rate, April 18, to curtail the undesirable traffic in lumber from interior points southward.

Whether or not the Southern Pacific sees fit to give heed to this finding and suggestion remains to be seen, but it still leaves the question of a flat rate of \$1 per thousand from valley points to Portland undecided, and this movement, which is being agitated by the valley mill men, is foreign to that embracing the interstate rate, and must be brought before the commission under separate complaint and petition.

TO ENCOURAGE DEBATING.

State Library Commission Proposes to Furnish Books for Work.

Salem—Debating libraries and the organization of a system of debating for the high schools of the state, which means practically the harmonizing of the State university, the Library commission and the public schools of the state in that line of educational development, was what the Oregon Library commission decided to inaugurate at the last regular meeting as one of the principal new features for the ensuing year.

The commission will enlist the cooperation of the high schools of the state in the debating feature, and will furnish all of the books and literature from which to obtain material when a series of debates will be outlined and followed out. The series will close with a joint debate at the university between the winning school teams of Eastern and Western Oregon for the state championship.

These debates will embrace all grades of school work above the ninth, and a separate plan of organizing a contest upon the same basis in declamatory work in grades from the eighth down is also in contemplation.

Elgin Is Going Ahead.

Elgin—Elgin is one among the many Oregon towns that are growing with rapid strides. Several thousand dollars are to be expended the present season for public improvements, chief among which will be the erection of a new and modern school building, which will cost when completed \$20,000. The structure will be constructed of native stone and brick and will have ten rooms. The building will be heated by steam and will have every modern convenience. School Clerk Weiss is now receiving bids for the structure, and it will be completed this season.

Will Fight Closed Season Law.

Astoria—Fred Olson and John Mustik were arraigned in the Justice court on complaints charging them with operating setnets during the closed season in Youngs and Lewis and Clark rivers, respectively. Mustik pleaded guilty and was fined \$50. Olson will fight the charges against him on the ground that the state fishing law does not apply to Youngs river.

Fruitgrowers to Build Warehouse.

La Grande—The special meeting of the Grand Ronde Valley Fruitgrowers' union will soon be called to discuss the plan of building a warehouse in La Grande for the accommodation of the association's business. The officials seem to favor the project, and in all probability the building will be completed in time for the handling of this year's crop.

Eugene Hopes to Be Terminal.

Eugene—It is reported here that the Southern Pacific company is negotiating for a tract of land in Fairmount, a suburb of Eugene, on which to erect car repair shops and terminal buildings. It is said that the company intends to make Eugene a division point for the proposed Klamath extension as well as for the main line.

Hood River Turns It Down.

Hood River—At a special meeting of Pine Grove grange No. 356 the proposition of referring the University of Oregon appropriation bill to the people was turned down by a large majority. The movement is unpopular in this part of the state.

FARMING PAYS AT WOODBURN

Actual Crops Disposed of Show Extra Good Profits.

Woodburn—If the true farming conditions of this section were more widely known in the East there would be thousands more coming to Oregon regardless of whether there are special railroad rates or full fare. Here is only a few instances of how farming in this vicinity pays, reference being made to recent sales of 1906 crops:

P. J. Anderson, ten acres of potatoes, sold for \$1,043.

Martin Bergan, six acres of potatoes, sold for \$750.

Bonnez Bros., one and three-fourths acres of potatoes, sold for \$317.

Hemshorn Bros., four acres of onions, sold for \$800.

Innumerable instances can be given of big profits being made by producers in potatoes, onions, hops, clover seed and other outputs, and the future looks so exceedingly bright that our farmers are preparing to increase their acreage. The markets are all that could be desired.

LANE FRUIT CROP TO BE HEAVY

All Fruits Except Apples Give Promise of Abundant Yield.

Eugene—The fine warm weather of the past two weeks has advanced the buds and blossoms so materially that some prophesy of the 1907 fruit crop can be made.

Every crop but apples promises to be heavy. Apples will not be as plentiful this year as last, although the care that apple raisers are giving their orchards insures a better quality than in years past.

The peach crop, which was the lightest fruit crop in this section last year, if no accident befalls, will be unusually heavy. Cherries, pears, prunes and plums look uniformly well. The yield on smaller fruits will be good.

The grain, hay and grass crop is in good condition for this time of the year.

Offers \$2 for Tidelands.

Salem—Another effort has been made by T. Hendryx, of Portland, who represented himself and nine others to induce the State Land board to consider their application for the purchase of approximately 2,500 acres of tidelands and accretions consisting of a group of small sand islands situated in Catlamet bay, at \$2 per acre, but the only encouragement he and his attorney, G. F. Martin, could secure was that the applications would be placed on file to await the further action of the board after the new law goes into effect increasing the minimum price from \$2 to \$5 per acre.

Oppose Referendum Move.

Brownsville—Ash Swale grange is one of the granges of Linn county that does not take kindly to the proposition to use the referendum on the State university appropriation.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 75c; bluestem, 77c; valley, 72c; red, 74c.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$29.50; gray, \$28 @29.

Rye—\$1.45 @ 1.50 per cwt.

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

Corn—Whole, \$25; cracked, \$26 per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$15 @ 16 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17 @ 18; clover, \$9; cheat, \$9; grain hay, \$8 @ 10.

Apples—Common, 75c @ \$1.25 per box; choice, \$1.50 @ 2.

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; cauliflower, \$1 @ 1.50 per dozen; lettuce, head, 35 @ 45c per dozen; onions, 10 @ 12 1/2c per dozen; radishes, 20c per dozen; asparagus, 11 @ 15c per pound; rhubarb, 3 @ 4c per pound.

Onions—Oregon, \$3 @ 4 per hundred.

Potatoes—Oregon and Eastern, \$1.85 @ 2 per sack; sweet potatoes, 8c per pound.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 22 1/2 @ 25c per pound.

Butter Fat—First grade cream, 26c per pound; second grade cream, 2c less per pound.

Poultry—Average old hens, 15 @ 16c per pound; mixed chickens, 15 @ 15 1/2c; spring fryers and broilers, 22 1/2 @ 25c; old roosters, 10 @ 12c; dressed chickens, 16 @ 17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18 1/2 @ 20c; geese, live, 8c; ducks, 16 @ 18c.

Eggs—19c per dozen.

Dressed Meats—Veal, 5 1/2 @ 8c per pound; beef, bulls, 3 @ 1/2c; cows, 5 @ 6c; country steers, 6 @ 7c; mutton, fancy, 10 @ 10 1/2c per pound; ordinary, 8 @ 9c; spring lambs, with pelts, 13c; pork, 6 @ 9c per pound.

Hops—7 @ 10c per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13 @ 18c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 21 @ 22c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 29 @ 30c per pound.

BUILDINGS UNFINISHED.

Jamestown Exposition to Open 80 Per Cent Completed.

Norfolk, W. Va., April 23.—Despite the energetic efforts of officials and workmen, the Jamestown Tercentennial exposition will be opened this week unready. Many of the structures that are to have domestic and foreign commercial exhibits and shelter the achievements in the industrial arts are incomplete. Yet the sum of what has been done, as compared with the unfinished work, forms a satisfactory result.

In the beauty of the water show with its amazing gathering of foreign fleets, representing the most formidable types of naval fighting machines of nearly every power in the world, and in an opening program with President Roosevelt in the leading role, with diplomatic, military and naval representatives of great and small foreign nations participating, the public will have its recompense.

The grounds and buildings at the exposition are about 80 per cent finished. Several thousand of the most important buildings are built solidly of brick, cement and iron, and these are intended to remain on the grounds as a nucleus of a great park. Regardless of the permanence of the work, however, the exterior of most of the buildings will be ready when the exposition is formally opened on Friday next.

The Jamestown Tercentennial, when completed, will be almost all that is implied in the expression, "a world's fair," but it will not stop there. No other exposition has attempted to show the world the life of the colonists, the hardships of the pioneers who opened the country after civilization had been attained on the seaboard, and the achievement these people worked from the raw material. Twenty-five states will trace their history from their earliest days to the present, and the exhibits will be sheltered by buildings. The state buildings have been grouped along the historic shore of Hampton Roads, and command an excellent view of the navies of the world.

It is this great naval display that will prove the crowning glory of the exposition. Nothing like it has ever before been attempted. There are few harbors in the world that accommodate so large an assemblage of warships. The fleets will number, in addition to several of the best types of each of the foreign naval powers, the Atlantic fleet of the United States navy, under command of Rear Admiral Evans, which is conceded to be the finest organization of fighting machines afloat.

The seal of government sponsorship will be set upon the exposition by the coming of the president of the United States, ambassadors and ministers of foreign governments, the governors and representatives of states and territories and delegations representing important civic bodies.

BIG BENEFIT TO GRAIN CROPS.

Fruit Slightly Injured in Nebraska but Snow Did Great Good.

Omaha, Neb., April 23.—As a result of unprecedented weather that prevailed during the greater part of the month of March, and the freezing weather and heavy snowfall of the past few days, early fruits, such as peaches, plums, apricots, cherries and blackberries in this section have been injured, but the general opinion among those who have the best means of information is that the damage is not as great as has been reported. Indeed, many are of the opinion that, while early fruits have been injured and in some instances completely killed and possibly some of the later varieties have been hurt, the benefits resulting to the grain crops from the snowstorm more than offsets the damage.

"Reports from points along the line of our railroad are not unfavorable," said G. W. Loomis, assistant general manager of the Burlington, today.

"The fruit in the southern part of Nebraska, which the unusual warm weather in March had brought to an advanced state of development, is reported to have been pretty badly damaged, but little or no damage is reported from points north. The snow, however, did a vast amount of good to winter wheat, and has put the ground in fine condition for other farm crops."

Similar reports have been received at the general offices of the Northwestern road.

To Defend Harriman Line.

Topeka, Kan., April 23.—It was rumored here today that N. H. Loomis, general solicitor for the Union Pacific railroad in Kansas, was to be made general counsellor for all the Harriman lines in cases before the Interstate Commerce commission. Mr. Loomis today admitted that such a plan was under consideration. In case the position is created, Mr. Loomis will move to Chicago, where he will have a large corps of assistants. The position is new in railroad circles and is made necessary by the passage of the new rate law.

Pray for Rain in Cuba.

Havana, April 23.—Prayers for rain were offered in churches throughout the island Sunday. No rain has fallen in six months. The country is parched, many cattle are dying and forest fires are devastating vast areas.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

AFTER LUMBER TRUST.

Government Extends Inquiry to Every Producing Section.

Washington, April 26.—The investigation of the lumber trust is now in full swing. It is regarded by the bureau of corporations as the most comprehensive and far reaching of any yet undertaken. The information obtained will be used by the department of justice in prosecuting the trust, if such action is warranted.

A preliminary inquiry regarding prices has already been concluded. Special agents are now being sent to all the principal districts where lumber is produced to ascertain facts relative to production and the restraint of competition. Every section of the country will be visited by these agents.

Data now collected show the steady and uniform advance in prices for all kinds of lumber during the past ten years. There was a remarkable increase of cost prices in 1906. The figures collected show that the diminishing supply of timber is not alone responsible for the great advance in prices.

Commissioner Smith will make a special effort to ascertain why lumber prices were so sharply advanced in 1906. It is believed to have been the result of combination control in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Canal Zone's Health Record.

Washington, April 26.—Health conditions on the canal zone are about as good now as they ever will be, according to a report from Colonel Gorgas, chief sanitary officer, for the month of March, just received at the offices of the Isthmian Canal commission. Since last August the number of sick among the employes has steadily declined until it is now 19.40 men per 1,000 as against 33.72 in August. Among 4,500 Americans, white, employed there were only two deaths from disease during March.

Taft Back at Work.

Washington, April 25.—Secretary Taft yesterday resumed his routine duties at the War department. The fact that it was cabinet day made it necessary for him to cut short the time allowed to callers. It is doubtful if in his Washington experience the secretary has had to deal with more newspaper men than he saw during the day. They were mainly desirous to learn just what the secretary intended to do in answer to the challenge which Senator Foraker had issued in regard to the contest in Ohio.

Immigration Commission Meets.

Washington, April 24.—The commission appointed in pursuance of the action of the last session of congress to investigate conditions in connection with the subject of immigration met today. It is expected that a preliminary investigation of the ports of New York and Boston will be made, and afterward either the full committee or a subcommittee will go abroad to extend the inquiry in the foreign countries from which most of the immigrants come.

No Hope of Agreement.

Washington, April 25.—The Central American controversy is no nearer settlement today than it was yesterday, according to a dispatch received today at the State department from Philip Brown, the American charge at Guatemala, cabling from La Union, Salvador. Mr. Brown stated that the deadlock was still on. He held out no hope of an early agreement.

How Roads May Be Made.

Washington, April 27.—Senators Fulton and Bourne are asking for the assignment of Samuel C. Lancaster, government road expert, to Oregon, Washington and Idaho for one year as instructor in modern road building. Samuel Hill, of the Washington Good Roads association, is here, interested in the project.

Roosevelt Going to Oyster Bay.

Washington, April 24.—President Roosevelt will leave Washington for his summer home at Oyster Bay on June 2. This is much earlier than has been his practice heretofore, but he feels that public business is in such shape that he can leave. The president is to make two speeches on "Georgia Day" at the Jamestown exposition on June 10.

San Domingo Favors Treaty.

Washington, April 25.—Minister Dawson, at San Domingo, cables that yesterday the treaty with the United States was favorably reported to the senate. Its consideration was intrusted to three senators, two of whom filed a report in its favor, and the third a report in opposition.

Stevens Talks With Roosevelt.

Washington, April 23.—John F. Stevens, formerly chief engineer and chairman of the Isthmian Canal commission, talked with the president today about conditions on the isthmus. He said it will take between six and seven years to complete the canal.

RIGHTS IN DANGER.

Opinion of Senator Bourne Regarding National Government.

Washington, April 24.—"In my opinion a great crisis now confronts this country," said Senator Bourne in an interview given here today. "The reactionaries are determined, if possible, to obtain control of the government and use it for their own personal advantage and to the detriment of the people. The true Republican policies, as promulgated by Lincoln and enlarged and exemplified by Roosevelt, are the rights of man and the absolute sovereignty of the people. The issue now before this country is:

"Shall the advocates of the rights and liberties of the people and of the power and majesty of the government, or shall the enemies of both prevail? The people must decide."

Want Republican Convention.

Washington, April 27.—President Roosevelt today discussed national politics and some of the business of the Republican national convention with its acting chairman, Harry S. New, who remained with the president some time. With the newspaper men Mr. New would not talk politics. He said, however, that four cities are already in the field for the honor of holding the next national convention of the Republican party, invitations having been received from Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and Seattle. A selection will be made by the national committee at its meeting here in December.

Borah Denies Rumors.

Washington, April 25.—"I have not come to Washington to make an appeal to the president or to the Department of Justice," said Senator Borah, of Idaho, as he left the White House today after a brief call upon the president. This statement was made by the senator when his attention was called to reports that he had come East to induce the officials here to call a halt upon the Federal officials in his state in the matter of the alleged indictment of persons charged with having been engaged in timber land frauds.

Will Appraise Railroad.

Washington, April 25.—John F. Stevens, formerly chief engineer and chairman of the Isthmian Canal commission, is to be employed by one of the large Eastern railroad companies to make a physical valuation of its property. Mr. Stevens declined tonight to name the railroad with which he is to become affiliated, but admitted that it is one of the large companies of the East. He expects to enter upon his new duties soon.

Many Dead Letters.

Washington, April 27.—All previous records for a day's work in returning letters to writers from the division of dead letters were eclipsed on Monday last when 20,368 letters were returned. The largest number heretofore returned in a single day was 14,488 on March 28 last. The number of letters on hand awaiting return has been reduced to 63,000. A little over a month ago there were over 200,000 of such letters on hand.

Coal Land Laws Codified.

Washington, April 23.—A codification of the coal land laws, combined with regulations for their administration, was issued today by Commissioner Ballinger, of the United States land office. The lands are classified according to values and information as to the price at which the government will sell each tract is disseminated. The price varies from \$10 to \$20 an acre, according to accessibility.

Keeps Attorney General Posted.

Washington, April 25.—District Attorney Ruick went to Baltimore today and conferred with Attorney General Bonaparte regarding the Borah indictment, Idaho land fraud and Haywood-Mcyer case. When he returned to Washington he declined to discuss what took place in Baltimore.

Funston to Command California.

Washington, April 23.—Brigadier General Frederick Funston has been relieved of the command of the Southwestern division, to take effect upon the expiration of his present leave of absence and will proceed to San Francisco to take command of the department of California.

Hero of Russo-Japanese War.

Washington, April 25.—Baron Kuroki, second in command of the Japanese forces in the Japanese-Russian war, will land at Seattle May 2 and come East via the Oregon Short Line. It is possible he will visit Portland on the way. He is here to see the Jamestown exposition.

Not Forbidden to Go to Isthmus.

Washington, April 24.—So far as the Italian embassy in this city has been informed, Italy has issued no decree prohibiting her subjects from going to Panama as canal laborers.