PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DEALS WITH TRUST EVIL

Would Have a "Trust Overseer" and O. K. for "Good" Combinations.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—President Taft's message to Congress, read in both houses today, was devoted wholly to the subject of trusts and the enforcement of anti-monopoly laws.

The President begins by saying the message is one of several he shall send to Congress before the Christmas holidays; that the number of important subjects to be treated is too large for one. He then reviews the anti-trust law and the Supreme Court decisions in the tobacco trust cases. He says:

This message is the first of several which I shall send to Congress during the interval between the opening of its regular session and its adjournment for the Christmas holidays. The amount of information to be communicated as to the operations of the Government, the number of important subjects calling for comment by the Executive, and the transmission to Congress of exhaustive reports of special commissions, make it impossible to include in one message of a reasonable length a discussion of the topics that ought to be brought to the attention of the National Legislature at its first regular session.

It has been said that the court, by introducing into the construction of the statute common-law distinctions, has emasculated it. This is obviously untrue. By its judgment every contract and combination in restraint of interstate trade made with the purpose or necessary effect of controlling prices by stifling competition, or of establishing in whole or in part a monopoly of such trade, is condemned by the statute. The most extreme critics cannot instance a case that ought to be condemned under the statute which is not brought within its terms as thus construed.

Court Power Limited.

The suggestion is also made that the Supreme Court by its decision in the last two cases has committed to the court the undefined and unlimited discretion to determine whether a case of restraint of trade is within the terms of the statute. This is wholly untrue. A reasonable restraint of trade at common law is well understood and is clearly defined. It does not rest in the discretion of the court. It must be limited to accomplish the purpose of a lawful main contract to which, in order that it shall be enforceable at all, it must be incidental. If it exceed the needs of that contract, it is void.

The test of reasonableness was never applied by the court at common law to contracts or combinations or conspiracies in restraint of trade whose purpose was or whose necessary effect would be to stifle competition, to control prices or establish monopolies. The courts never assumed power to say that such contracts or combinations or conspiracies might be lawful if the parties to them were only moderate in the use of the power thus secured and did not exact from the public too great and exorbitant prices. It is true that many theorists, and others engaged in business violating the statute, have hoped that some such line could be drawn by courts; but no court of authority has ever attempted it. Certainly there is nothing in the decisions of the latest two cases from which such a dangerous theory of judicial discretion in enforcing this statute can derive the slightest sanction.

We have been 21 years making this statute effective for the purposes for which it was enacted. The Knight case was discouraging and seemed to remit to the states the whole available power to attack and suppress the evils of the trusts. Slowly, however, the error of that judgment was corrected, and only in the last three or four years has the heavy hand of the law been laid upon the great illegal combinations that have exercised such an absolute dominion over many of our industries. Criminal prosecutions have been brought, and a number are pending, but juries have felt averse to convicting for jail sentences, and judges have been most reluctant to impose such sentences on men of respectable standing in society, whose offense has been regarded as merely statutory. Still, as the offense becomes better understood and the committing of it partakes more of studied and deliberate defiance of the law, we can be confident that juries will convict individuals and that jail sentences will be imposed.

Size of New Companies.

Objection was made by certain independent tobacco companies that this settlement (Tobacco Trust) was unjust because it left companies with very large capital in active business, and that the settlement that would be effective to put all on an equality would be a division of the capital and plant of the trust into small fractions in amount more nearly equal to that of each of the independent companies. This contention results from a misunderstanding of the anti-trust law and its purpose. It is not intended thereby to prevent the accumulation of large capital in business enterprises in which such a combination can secure reduced cost of production, sale, and distribution. It is directed against such an aggregation of capital only when its purpose is that of stifling of competition, enhancing or controlling prices, and establishing a monopoly. If we shall have by the decree defeated these purposes and restored competition between the large units into which the capital and plant have been divided, we shall have accomplished the useful purpose of the statute.

It is not the purpose of the statute to confiscate the property and capital of the offending trusts. Methods of punishment by fine or imprisonment of the individual offenders, by fine of the corporation or by forfeiture of its goods in transportation, are provided but the proceeding in equity is a specific remedy to stop the operation of the trust by injunction and prevent the future use of the plant and capital in violation of the statute.

I venture to say that not in the history of American law has a decree more effective for such a purpose been entered by a court than that against the Tobacco Trust.

It has been assumed that the present pro rata and common ownership in all these (tobacco) companies by former stockholders of the trust would insure a continuance of the same old single control of all the companies into which the trust has by decree been disintegrated. This is erroneous and is based upon the assumed inefficacy and innocuousness of judicial injunctions. The companies are enjoined from co-operation or combination; they have different managers, directors, purchasing and sales agents. If all or many of the numerous stockholders, reaching into the thousands, attempt to secure concerted action of the companies with a view to the control of the market, their number is so large that such an attempt could not well be concealed, and its prime movers and all its participants would be at once subject to contempt proceedings and imprisonment of a summary character. The immediate result of the present situation will necessarily be activity by all the companies under different managers, and then competition must follow, or there will be activity by one company and stagnation by another. Only a short time will inevitably lead to a change in ownership of the stock, as all opportunity for continued co-operation must disappear. Those critics who speak of this disintegration in the trust as a mere change of garments have not given consideration to the inevitable working of the decree and understand little the personal danger of attempting to evade or set at naught the solemn injunction of a court whose object is made plain by the decree and whose inhibitions are set forth with a detail and comprehensiveness unexampled in the history of equity jurisprudence.

The effect of these two decisions has led to decrees dissolving the combination of manufacturers of electric lamps, a Southern wholesale grocers' association, an interlocutory decree against the Powder Trust with directions by the Circuit Court compelling dissolution, and other combinations of a similar history, are now negotiating with the Department of Justice looking to a disintegration by decree and reorganization in accordance with law. It seems possible to bring about these reorganizations without general business disturbance.

Movement for Repeal.

But now that the anti-trust act is seen to be effective for the accomplishment of the purpose of its enactment, we are met by a cry from many different quarters for its repeal. It is said to be obstructive of business progress, to be an attempt to restore old-fashioned methods of destructive competition between small units, and to make impossible those useful combinations of capital and the reduction of the cost of production that are essential to continued prosperity and normal growth.

In the recent decisions the Supreme Court makes clear that there is nothing in the statute which condemns combinations of capital or mere bigness of plant organized to secure economy in production and a reduction of its cost. It is only when the purposes or necessary effects of the organization and maintenance of the combination or aggregation of immense size are the stifling of competition, actual and potential, and the enhancing of prices and establishing a monopoly, that the statute is violated. Mere size is no sin against the law. The merging of two or more business plants necessarily eliminates competition between the units thus combined, but this elimination is in contravention of the statute only when the combination is made for the purpose of ending this particular competition in order to secure control of, and enhance, prices and create a monopoly.

The complaint is made of the statute that it is not sufficiently definite in its description of that which is forbidden to enable business men to avoid its violation. The suggestion is, that we may have a combination of two corporations, which may run on for years, and that subsequently the Attorney-General may conclude that it was a violation of the statute, and that which was supposed by the combiners to be innocent then turns out to be a combination in violation of the statute. The answer to this hypothetical case is that when men attempt to amass such stupendous capital as will enable them to suppress competition, control prices and establish a monopoly, they know the purpose of their acts. Men do not do such a thing without having it clearly in mind. If what they do is merely for the purpose of reducing the cost of production without the thought of suppressing competition by use of the bigness of the plant they are creating, then they cannot be convicted at the time the union is made, nor can they be convicted later, unless it happen that later on they conclude to suppress competition and take the usual methods for doing so, and thus establish for themselves a monopoly. They can, in such a case, hardly complain if the motive which subsequently is disclosed is attributed by the court to the original combination.

New Remedies Suggested.

Much is said of the repeal of this statute and of constructive legislation intended to accomplish the purpose and blaze a clear path for honest merchants and business men to follow. It may be that such a plan will be evolved, but I submit that the discussions which have been brought out in recent days by the fear of the continued execution of the anti-trust law have produced nothing but glittering generalities and have offered no line of distinction or rule of action as definite and as clear as that which the Supreme Court itself lays down in enforcing the statute.

I see no objection—and indeed I can see decided advantages—in the enactment of a law which shall describe and denounce methods of competition which are unfair and are badges of the unlawful purpose denounced in the anti-trust law. The attempt and purpose to suppress a competitor by underselling him at a price so unprofitable as to drive him out of business, or the making of exclusive contracts with customers under which they are required to give up association with other manufacturers, and numerous kindred methods for stifling competition and effecting monopoly, should be described with sufficient accuracy in a criminal statute on the one hand to enable the Government to shorten its task by prosecuting single misdemeanors instead of an entire conspiracy, and on the other hand, to serve the purpose of pointing out more in detail to the business community what must be avoided.

The President recommends Federal incorporation, and refers to his special message to Congress on January 7, 1910, when he pointed out the disturbance to business that would probably attend the dissolution of offending trusts, saying:

If the prohibition of the anti-trust act against combinations in restraint of trade is to be effectively enforced, it is essential that the National Government shall provide for the creation of National corporations to carry on a legitimate business throughout the United States. The conflicting laws of the different states of the Union with respect to foreign corporations make it difficult, if not impossible, for one corporation to comply with their requirements so as to carry on business in a number of different states.

I renew the recommendation of the enactment of a general law providing for the voluntary formation of corporations to engage in trade and commerce among the states and with foreign nations. Every argument which was then advanced for such a law, and every explanation which was at that time offered to possible objections, have been confirmed by our experience since the enforcement of the anti-trust statute has resulted in the actual dissolution of active commercial organizations.

Recreative Laws Urged.

It is even more manifest now than it was then that the denunciation of conspiracies in restraint of trade should not and does not mean the denial of organizations large enough to be intrusted with our interstate and foreign trade. It has been made more clear now than it was then that a purely negative statute like the anti-trust law may well be supplemented by specific provisions for the building up and regulation of legitimate National and foreign commerce.

The drafting of the decrees in the dissolution of the present trusts, with a view of their reorganization into legitimate corporations, has made it especially apparent that the courts are not provided with the administrative machinery to make the necessary inquiries preparatory to reorganization, or to pursue such inquiries, and they should be empowered to invoke the aid of the Bureau of Corporations in determining the suitable reorganization of the disintegrated parts. The Circuit Court and the Attorney-General were greatly aided in framing the decree in the tobacco trust dissolution by an expert from the Bureau of Corporations.

For Special Bureau.

I do not set forth in detail the terms and sections of a statute which might supply the constructive legislation permitting and aiding the formation of combinations of capital into Federal corporations. They should be subject to rigid rules as to their organization and procedure, including effective publicity, and to the closest supervision as to the issue of stock and bonds by an executive bureau or commission in the Department of Commerce and Labor, to which in times of doubt they might well submit their proposed plans for future business. It must be distinctly understood that incorporation under a Federal law could not exempt the company thus formed and its incorporators and managers from prosecution under the anti-trust law for subsequent illegal conduct, but the publicity of its procedure and the opportunity for frequent consultation with the bureau or commission in charge of the incorporation as to the legitimate purpose of its transactions would offer great security against such successful prosecutions for violations of the law as would be practical or wise.

Such a bureau or commission might well be invested also with the duty, already referred to, of aiding courts in the dissolution and re-creation of trusts within the law. It should be an executive tribunal of the dignity and power of the Controller of the Currency or the Interstate Commerce Commission, which now exercise supervisory power over important classes of corporations under Federal regulation.

The drafting of such a Federal incorporation law would offer ample opportunity to prevent many manifest evils in corporate management today, including irresponsibility of control in the hands of the few who are not the real owners.

I recommend that the Federal charters thus to be granted shall be voluntary, at least until experience justifies mandatory provisions. The benefit to be derived from the operation of great businesses under the protection of such a charter would attract all who are anxious to keep within the lines of the law. Other large combinations that fail to take advantage of the Federal incorporation will not have a right to complain if their failure is ascribed to unwillingness to submit their transactions to the careful official scrutiny, competent supervision and publicity attendant upon the enjoyment of such a charter.

The opportunity thus suggested for Federal incorporation, it seems to me, is suitable constructive legislation needed to facilitate the squaring of great industrial enterprises to the rule of action laid down by the anti-trust law. This statute as construed by the Supreme Court must continue to be the line of distinction for legitimate business. It must be enforced, unless we are to banish individualism from all business and reduce it to one common system of regulation or control of prices like that which now prevails, with respect to public utilities, and which when applied to all business would be a long step toward state socialism.

Efficacy Seen.

The anti-trust act is the expression of the effort of a freedom-loving people to preserve equality of opportunity. It is the result of the confident determination of such a people to maintain their future growth by preserving uncontrolled and unrestricted the enterprise of the individual, his industry, his ingenuity, his intelligence, and his independent courage.

For 20 years or more this statute has been upon the statute book. All knew its general purpose and approved. Many of its violators were cynical over its assumed impotence. It seemed impossible of enforcement. Slowly the mills of the courts ground, and only gradually dig the majesty of the law assert itself. Many of its statesmen-authors died before it became a living force, and they and others saw the evil grow which they had hoped to destroy. Now its efficacy is seen; now its power is heavy; now its object is near achievement. Now we hear the call for its repeal on the plea that it interferes with business prosperity, and we are advised in most general terms, how by some other statute and in some other way the evil we are just stamping out can be cured if we only abandon this work of 20 years and try another experiment for another term of years.

It is said that the act has not done good. Can this be said in the face of the effect of the Northern Securities decree? That decree was in no way so drastic or inhibitive in detail as either the Standard Oil decree or the Tobacco decree; but did it not stop for all time the then powerful movement toward the control of all the railroads of the country in a single hand? Such a one-man power could not have been a healthful influence in the Republic, even though exercised under the general supervision of an interstate commission.

Do we desire to make such ruthless combinations and monopolies lawful? When all energies are directed, not toward the reduction of the cost of production for the public benefit by a healthful competition, but toward new ways and means for making permanent in a few hands the absolute control of the conditions and prices prevailing in the whole field of industry, then individual enterprise and effort will be paralyzed and the spirit of commercial freedom will be dead.

MESSAGE TO BE BRIEF.

President Will Confine Remarks to One Subject Only.

Washington, D. C.—President Taft's message at the opening of congress will be a novelty, aside from its brevity. It will deal exclusively with the trust problem. There will be a mere reference to other subjects that are to receive consideration in the messages that will follow.

The old-fashioned "regular" message to congress, in fact, has been listed with things archaic and is to be superseded by a series of special messages, each dealing with a specific subject, the first being that on the relation of the government to business. Succeeding state papers will include:

A special message on colonization and problems confronting the development in Alaska.

Special message on the regulation of stock and bond issues, transmitting the report of the stocks and bonds commission.

Special message on tariff revision, based on the report of the Tariff board on the wool schedule and a later one on the cotton schedule.

Special message on postoffice affairs, including the report of the commission on second class rates and parcels post.

Oxford Stands by Classics.

Oxford—Advocates of the abolition of the study of Greek at Oxford university suffered another reverse. They tried to insert the edge of a wedge by passing a statute allowing students of mathematics and natural science to omit Greek. The proposal was rejected at a convocation by a vote of 595 to 380.

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Doings of the World at Large Told in Brief.

General Resume of Important Events Presented in Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

Five Northwest states will combine forces to fight forest fires.

George B. Moffatt, builder of the Oregon Electric railway, died at Portland.

Burning of a big St. Louis hotel caused many accidents to guests who were forced to jump.

John D. Rockefeller and several other officers of the Standard Oil company have "resigned."

A decision by the Supreme court opens the way for the prosecution of the Alaska coal land frauds.

President Gompers says the grand jury may examine all labor union books in his care at any time.

Theodore Vail, president of the Western Union and Bell telephone systems, would buy all independent lines.

Detective Burns says McNamara and McManigal carried on the work of dynamiting with a regular monthly allowance of $1,000.

The river and harbor bill to be introduced at this session of congress includes an appropriation of $1,000,000 for improvement of the Columbia.

The fourth Marquis of Waterford met a violent death, in accordance with a curse made by a peasant woman that no Marquis of Waterford should ever die in bed.

Burglars robbed a University of Washington club house of $250 worth of clothing and jewelry, while 15 girls huddled in their rooms on the upper floor afraid to make an outcry.

Governor Foss, of Massachusetts, fears that government restraint of business may be worse than restraint of trusts.

Japanese Baron Cottu has succeeded in negotiating a loan of $30,000,000 for China among French and Belgian captalists.

It is reported that Italians are being crucified and buried alive by the Turks and Arabs.

China is beginning to believe that the new premeir, Yuan Shi Kai, aspires to become emperor.

England is considering a loan of $150,000,000 to build warships to preserve her two-to-one percentage with the German navy.

A Wisconsin detective who had not seen his parents for 15 years, found them both serving life sentences in prison for murder.

Russia is said to have been involved in a plot to assassinate the American treasurer general of Persia.

A San Francisco fireman climbed to the fourth floor of a burning apartment house and rescued two canary birds at the immiennt risk of his own life.

The Standard Oil trust ceased to exist as such, according to law, on December 1. About 30 subsidiary corporations are now supposed to be independent.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Export basis: Bluestem, 81c; club, 77c; red Russian, 75c; valley, 77c; forty-fold, 78c.

Corn—Whole, $37; cracked, $38 ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, $23 per ton; middlings, $31; shorts, $24; rolled barley, $35.

Oats—No. 1 white, $31.50 ton.

Hay—No. 1 Eastern Oregon timothy, $18@18.50; valley, $15@16; alfalfa, $13@14; clover, $11@12, grain, $11@12.,

Barley — Feed, $35@37 per ton, brewing, nominal.

Fresh Fruits—Pears, 50c@$1.50 per box; grapes, $1.25@1.50 per box; cranberries, $11.50@13 per barrel.

Apples—Jonathans, $1.50@2.25 per box; Spitzenburg, $1@2.25; Baldwin, 75c@$1.50; Red Cheek Pippin, $1.25@1.75; Northern Spy, $1.25@1.75; Winter Banana, $2@3; Bellflower, $1@1.25.

Potatoes — Buying prices: Burbanks, 90c@$1.20 per hundred.

Onions—Buying price, $1.25 sack.

Vegetables — Artichokes, 75c per dozen; cabbage, 1@1½c per pound; cauliflower, $1.90@2 per crate; celery, 75c per dozen; garlic, 10@12c per pound; lettuce, 65@75c per dzen; pumpkins, 1@1½c per pound; sprouts, 8@9c squash, 1½@1½c; carrots, $1 per sack; turnips, $1; beets, $1; parsnips, $1.

Butter — Oregon creamery, solid pack, 36c; prints, extra; butter fat, 1c less than solid pack.

Poultry—Hens, 15c; springs, 14c; ducks, young, 16c; geese, 13@14c; tnrkeys alive, 20c; dressed, choice, 23c.

Eggs—Fresh Oregon ranch, candled, 47½@48c per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, 8@9c per pound.

Veal—Fancy, 12½@13c per pound.

Hops—1911 crop, 44@45c; olds, nominal.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 9@16c per pound; valley, 15@17c; mohair, choice, 35@37c

Cattle—Choice steers, $5.50@5.65; good, $5.35@5.50; choice cows, $4.60@4.75; fair, $4.50@4.60; extra choice spayed heifers, $5@5.40; choice heifers, $4.80@4.90; choice bulls, $4.25@4.50; good, $3.75@4; choice calves, $7@7.75; good, $6@6.50.

Hogs—Choice light hogs, $6.55@6.75; good to choice hogs, $6.35@6.50; fair, $6.20@6.25; common, $5@6.

Sheep—Choice yearling wethers, $4@4.40; choice twos and threes, $3.85@4; choice killing ewes, $3.25@3.60; choice lambs, $4.50@4.75; good to choice, $4@4.25; culls, $3@3.75.

CONGRESS CONVENES.

Trust Probing Committees Busy—Persia Makes Appeal.

Washington, D. C.—With congress in full swing the message of the president, covering the subject of trust regulation, was read in both houses. There was a general resumption of activity in collateral matters.

The sugar trust inquiry was resumed by the house special committee. Another special committee of the house discussed the agricultural department inquiry centering on Dr. Wiley. Representative Hamlin urged that the bill requiring that expenditures from the secret fund of the State depatment be reported to congress.

The steel trust investigating committee decided to confer on its procedure, in view of the government's suit. Speaker Clark refused to act on a memorial asking Representative Littleton's expulsion.

The president, in a resolution, was asked what countries had applied for free admission of their print paper and pulp wood.

Speaker Clark received unofficial appeal for American intervention in Persia.

The senate committee investigating Lorimer's election, resumed its sessions, and the Stephenson sub-committee decided to report to the full committee if possible before the holiday recess.

Senator Smith turned back to the treasury $3,000 pay for senatorial services while governor of Georgia.

About 200 recess nominations, mostly of postmasters, army an navy officers, were submitted by the president.

Poindexter, of Washington, criticised the court of commerce decision in the Spokane rate case.

Abrogation of the Russian passport treaty was proposed in a bill by Culberson, of Texas, and a petition was presented by Martine, of New Jersey.

Repeal of Canadian reciprocity was proposed is a bill by Heyburn, of Idaho.

M'NAMARAS GO TO PEN FOR DYNAMITE OUTRAGES

Los Angeles—Two brothers—James Barnabas McNamara and John J. McNamara, natives of Cincinnati—the one slim, droop-shouldered and sallow-faced, with small eyes, and the other a broad, robust man of ruddy countenance—felt Tuesday the strong hand of justice, which they long had thought to evade, the former being sentenced to imprisonment for life, and the latter to 15 years in the penitentiary.

It was the retaliatory action of the law against the lawless methods which John J. McNamara, secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, thought it necessary to pursue in coping with what he regarded as the all-powerful opposition of capital.

Though the younger brother, James B., in formally presenting his confession to the court, declared that he intended no murder when he placed 16 sticks of dynamite beneath the Los Angeles Times building on October 1, 1910, 21 persons being killed by the terrific explosion, John J. McNamara, recounting to his attorneys his principles, broke down as he muttered that he fought against great odds in the best way he could. It was a sequel to the courtroom scene earlier in the day, when he received his sentence in tears of abject surrender.

For the crime of the Times building explosion James B. was punished; for directing the destruction by dynamite of the Llewellyn Iron works, wherein no lives were lost, John J. was sentenced, yet hardly a few hours had passed when the word went forth that subpoenas would be issued for both men to appear before the Federal grand jury to divulge further details of their dynamiting conspiracies.

The United States government now will demand of them information concerning interstate trafficking in dynamite which is alleged to have resulted in more than a hundred explosions at bridges and factories where labor warfare was involved.

Westerners to Be Heard.

Washington, D. C.—Under arrangements made by Senator Chamberlain Pacific Coast delegates to the Rivers and Harbors congress, that convened here Wednesday, will be given a hearing by the house committee on rivers and harbors. This will enable delegates to make whatever statements they desire in behalf of projects in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California. Members of congressional delegations from these states are also invited to attend the hearing.

United States Accused.

New Orleans—In a 200-page book published here, Juan E. Paredes, ex-special minister of finance of Honduras, declares the American state department encouraged the Bonilla revolution in Honduras last winter in an attempt to force the Honduran government to sign the Morgan loan agreement. Paredes says the Washington state department virtually submitted to President Davila, of Honduras, this ultimatum:

"The protectorate and the Morgan loan, or the revolution."

German is Arrested As Spy.

Portsmouth, Eng.—Heinrich Grosse, a captain in the German merchant marine, was arrested on the charge of being a spy and arraigned at the police court here. Captain Grosse has been in Portsmouth several weeks. He was interested, it is charged, in findng out the amount of reserve coal held in the naval docks, and the number of men stationed at the naval barracks in readiness to complete the complements of reserve ships of the navy.

Postal Clerk Fined One Cent.

Chicago — A man in the United States district court was fined 1 cent. Judge Landis heard his admission that he had accepted a check for $12 for a money order, a technical violation of the postal laws, and named the fine as 1 cent. The prisoner was Edward Komie, a druggist in charge of a postal substation.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

TO FIGHT FOREST FIRES.

Delegates From Northwest Coast States Begin Campaign.

Portland—Representing 30 per cent of the timber in the United States, 140 of the leading loggers, lumber manufacturers and practical conservation experts of Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and California gathered in Portland to attend a forest fire conference of the Western Forestry and Conservation association.

Conservation of the forests and the best methods for conserving this resource formed the central thought of the addresses before the convention.

The addresses consisted principally of a discussion of forest fires from the standpoint of the slashing menace, the logging hazard and railroad fires. Speakers were generally agreed that the proper time for burning slashings was in the fall, following the early rains, when weather conditions would permit. At the same time, however, it was conceded that this subject, like the tariff, was a local issue, the solution of which depended in large measure on local conditions. Instead of resorting to the enactment of arbitrary legislation requiring the burning of slashings within a prescribed period, speakers recommended education on the part of the various associations as the most direct means of regulating the destruction of debris and minimizing the danger from loss by fire.

VINEGAR FROM CULL FRUIT.

Professor Advises Use of Low Grade Fruits.

Corvallis—"We should be shipping out train-loads of high grade vinegar, jellies, jams, canned apples and evaporated fruits," said Professor C. I. Lewis of the Oregon Agricultural College division of horticulture in a recent address before the Hood River Fellowship association, on the utilization of low grade apples. He advised cooperative vinegar and evaporating plants for growers, to handle the culls.

"Many communities make a serious mistake," continued Prof. Lewis, "in making these plants too expensive. Elaborate machinery is installed, tying up capital in unnecessary machinery. The result is that many thus prove failures. By using proper precaution in establishing by-product factories and employing men who understand the business, we will be able to manufacture our culls into products that we can dispose of at handsome profits."

FREIGHT GOES TO BURNS.

Auto Trucks Carry Big Loads From Bend in Record Time.

Bend—The success of the auto truck as a freight-carrier in that portion of Central Oregon not yet penetrated by railroads was shown by the first trip from here to Burns and return by the Central Oregon Trucking company's cars. The two big Packard machines made the 300 miles with a perfect score, the drivers declaring the road excellent.

The cars left here Monday afternoon, arriving at the Harney county seat at 11 a. m. Wednesday. Their actual running time was 19 hours. One car carried 7,200 pounds of freight and the other 7,600. The biggest part of it was for Bill Hanley and was delivered to his ranch near Burns.

The return trip was made in 14 hours' actual running time. About as much freight was brought back as taken from here, consist.ng mostly of hides.

HUGE RANCH TO BE DIVIDED

Colony of Omaha Business Men Settle Along Rogue River.

Gold Hill—The Tillson ranch, near the Foots Creek store, nine miles west of here, will be subdivided into small tracts and sold. It adjoins what is known as the Compton colony, a community of people who came here this summer from Omaha and bought tracts from the McDonald ranch, building themselves neat bungalows and starting in at once to bring their land to a high state of productivity by means of irrigation and careful cultivation.

Several have installed pumping plants on Rogue river, which flows past their places.

Wasco Hops Are Best.

The Dalles — Wasco county has gained a National reputation for growing some of the finest hops in the United States. News has just been received here that Houser & Mertz, of Tygh Valley, were awarded first premium for American-grown hops at the Third International Hop and Malt exhibition, which was held at Chicago, October 11 to 30. The same firm won first honors for the state of Oregon and also drew down a cash award of $160 for the best display at the exhibition.

Pioneers to Buy Island.

Klamath Falls—The Pioneers' Society of the Klamath Basin will incorporate in order to carry out the plans made at the meeting a week ago. The purchase of Willson's Island is recommended by the committee appointed to look after the proposal. The price is set at $4,200. Ex-Mayor W. T. Shive, Justice of the Peace Charles Graves and Caleb T. Oliver, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, who are the committee, report that over half the money with wihch to buy the island has been secured.

Teach Farmers Good Roads.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—Good roads will be made the subject of two courses of instruction at this winter's short course at the Oregon Agricultural College, one being primarily for farmers and the other for supervisors. The course for farmers will deal mainly with the cheaper methods of construction and the more common road problems which will confront them on their market roads.

SELL POULTRY TRACTS.

Establish Industry on Large Scale in Douglas County.

Oakland—One of the important developments projects launched recently in the Umpqua valley is the new enterprise of the Oakland Poultry Products company, organized and incorporated last week by Portland capitalists. The company has obtained title to a tract of 900 acres located one and one-half miles from Oakland, in Douglas county, and is preparing plans to conduct an extensive poultry and egg producing business.

The property is in the heart of the poultry center of the Northwest, and is declared to be particularly well adapted to poultry raising. The tract adjoins the 1640-acre farm purchased a few days previously by a Chicago syndicate to be used for colonization purposes.

It is the purpose of the Oakland Poultry Products company to subdivide the farm into ten-acre tracts. Settlers will be urged to engage chiefly in poultry raising, as it is pointed out that larger returns are received from poultry products on a less initial investment than from any other farming activity. The company will organize an extensive selling agency and will take charge of the marketing of the products raised by the settlers.

In connection with the enterprise one of the features of the poultry culture will be a free educational department. An Eastern expert has been engaged to teach the settlers the modern methods of poultry growing. In addition to individual assistance on the farms, the superintendent will give weekly lectures, touching upon all phases of the subject.

Before the next hatching season the company will have in operation a 20,000 capacity incubator to supply the market with one-day old chicks. It is also planned to rent compartments to persons who have eggs to be hatched. The company has 1,000 White Leghorns to provide for the first egg supply.

As soon as the enterprise is well under way the company announces that it will open branch stores in the large cities in the Northwest to handle the products for the trade demanding the highest class poultry and fresh guaranteed eggs.

The general manager of the company said recently that the plan of the project has been completed and that work on the development of the poultry co-establishment at Oakland would be started at once.

"Scientific poultry raising is one of the big needs of the Northwest," said the manager. "When approved methods are used in connection with this activity there is no industry that will give such substantial returns. We can raise poultry here to as good advantage as in other parts of the United States."

WALDO BORE DONE.

Tunnel Gives Outlet to Lake in Cascade Mountains.

Springfield — The tunnel through rock to Waldo Lake, at the summit of the Cascade mountains 100 miles east of this city, which was started three years ago by the Waldo Lake Irrigation & Power company, was completed this week and the crew of laborers which has been at work on the tunnel have been laid off.

The tunnel, which averages eight feet square, is 535 feet long and allows the water of the big lake to empty into the North Fork of Salmon creek, which is a tributary of the upper Willamette River.

This company was organized five years ago by A. R. Black, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and the plan is to utilize the waters of the lake to irrigate large tracts of land in the upper Willamette valley. After leaving the lake the water will flow down Salmon creek into the Wiilamette river and will be diverted from that stream in the vicinity of Springfield and Eugene. Montana capitalists are associated with Mr. Black in the enterprise. They have expended many thousands of dollars in blasting the tunnel through the rock and next summer will begin the work of building concrete headgates. It will be necessary to pack all of the material to the lake from Hazel Dell, nearly 30 miles, with horses, as there are no roads leading to the lake.

Water Ditches Are Built.

Lakeview—Surprise valley soon will be irrigated with water furnished by the Modoc County Irrigation company, which is building a large ditch from Cowhead lake, ten miles east of Fort Bidwell. A great power project also is a part of the enterprise. The power house will be established near Cowhead lake. After the water passes through the power house for the generation of electricity it will be carried in a large ditch 25 miles down the east side of the valley. The ditch will water 20,000 acres.

Canadians Look to Oregon, Now.

Hood River—Two prominent Canadian horticulturists, Fred H. Grindley, of Montreal, and William H. Bunting, of Ontario, were here in conference with C. H. Sproat, manager of the Hood River Apple Growers' union, as to methods of handling fruit through the union. Mr. Bunting is in this country representing the Dominion department of agriculture, which is in charge of the special inquiry into the conditions surrounding the fruit industry of Canada. Both men expect to visit the Wenatchee fruit belt.

Water Tracts; La Grande.

La Grande—The La Grande Irrigation company has completed its incorporation papers and within the next ten days earth will be moved in constructing main laterals for the irrigation of about 10,000 acres in Southern Union county. The incorporators are J. E. Reynolds, J. D. McKennon, F. L. Meyers, who are stockholders with the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company; M. H. Davis and L. A. Lewis, both of Boise.