

OREGON RETAILERS WELCOMED TO CITY PROSPECTS BRIGHT FOR CENTRAL FRUIT SELLING AGENCY

GREAT GAIN TO FRUIT MEN IS SEEN IN MOVE

Kirby S. Miller, Manager Rogue River Fruit and Produce Association, Back With Word That Other Districts Are Investigating Matter.

FOUR GREAT DISTRICTS TO FORM CENTRAL AGENCY

In This Way the Great Crop of Fruit Produced Each Year in Northwest Can Be Sold to Best End.

Greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm with which the plans of the Hood River Fruit & Produce association to have the Hood River, Wenatchee, Yakima and Rogue River fruit associations combine in one great selling agency by purchasing the controlling stock in the Northwestern Fruit exchange, and thus secure the advantage of this concern's present connections, have been received, Kirby S. Miller, manager of the local association, returned this morning from a two weeks visit at Hood River, Wenatchee and Yakima. The associations at those points, states Mr. Miller, are much interested in the proposed plan and are now investigating the matter. Hood River is now at work on the matter and when they make a report Wenatchee and Yakima will get busy.

Is Local Idea.

The idea of combining the associations of these four great districts in the northwest came from the local association which sent Mr. Miller to the other districts to discuss the matter. It is believed that the formation of such a selling agency is feasible and will be of incalculable benefit to the industry. The idea grew out of a feeling that if the four districts could get together the northwest would escape the chaotic disaster which overtook California and other sections, and would mean an advance of five years in marketing fruit. This season the northwest will market 25,000 cars of apples, 15,000 of which, at least, will be produced by these four districts.

The plan as it stands now, according to Mr. Miller, is to merge the selling departments of the Hood River, Rogue River, Yakima and Wenatchee unions into one central agency, which will direct the marketing of the fruit of the four big unions in this and coming years. It is proposed to take over the business of the Northwestern Fruit exchange, which has its headquarters at Portland. The exchange, in the past two years, has perfected its selling system until it now has an outlet in all the markets, large and small, in the United States and also good prospects for doing business in foreign countries. Such a system would be invaluable to the four large unions, as it would not only give them an additional outlet, but by the purchase of the business of the exchange, they would thus remove a strong competition from the field.

Means Advantage.

The carrying out of these plans means a cooperation of the association and the selling force, rather than the selling force and the consumer. At the present time but 40 per cent of the price paid by the consumer is received by the grower. The remainder goes largely to the middleman and for transportation. As the association sells in carloads it cannot reach the consumer direct but it can eliminate the middleman to a great degree and sell direct to the wholesaler.

The distributive system is comprehensive, reaching the entire country, and the purchase of the Northwest Fruit exchange means the taking over of more than 100 branch agencies, and would give cooperation with such organizations as the Florida Citrus union, the American Cranberry exchange, the Georgia

ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY IS URGED BY TAFT

President Sends Message to Congress as Result of the Investigation Carried on by a Commission Appointed One Year Ago.

SEVERAL CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION SOUGHT

Would Wipe Out Revenue Cutter Service and Group Lighthouse and Life Saving Services Together.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 17.—Greater efficiency and more economical methods in the administration of the business of the government was urged today by President Taft in a special message to congress. Enabled to investigate public business by an appropriation of \$100,000 made June 25, 1910, the president appointed a commission of economy and efficiency and as a result of their work the message was submitted. The commission, the president says, has entered upon the preparation of three separate tabulations. The first deals with the manner in which the services of the government should be grouped into departments, the second and third series of reports deal with the activities of particular services and the form of organization for the performance of particular business operations.

Among the recommendations of the commission is that the revenue cutter service, which costs the government \$2,500,000 each year, be abolished and its work performed by other services. The commission estimates that this would save \$1,000,000 annually. The commission also urges that the lighthouse and life saving services be administered by a single bureau instead of, as at present, by two bureaus located in different departments. This would save \$100,000 annually.

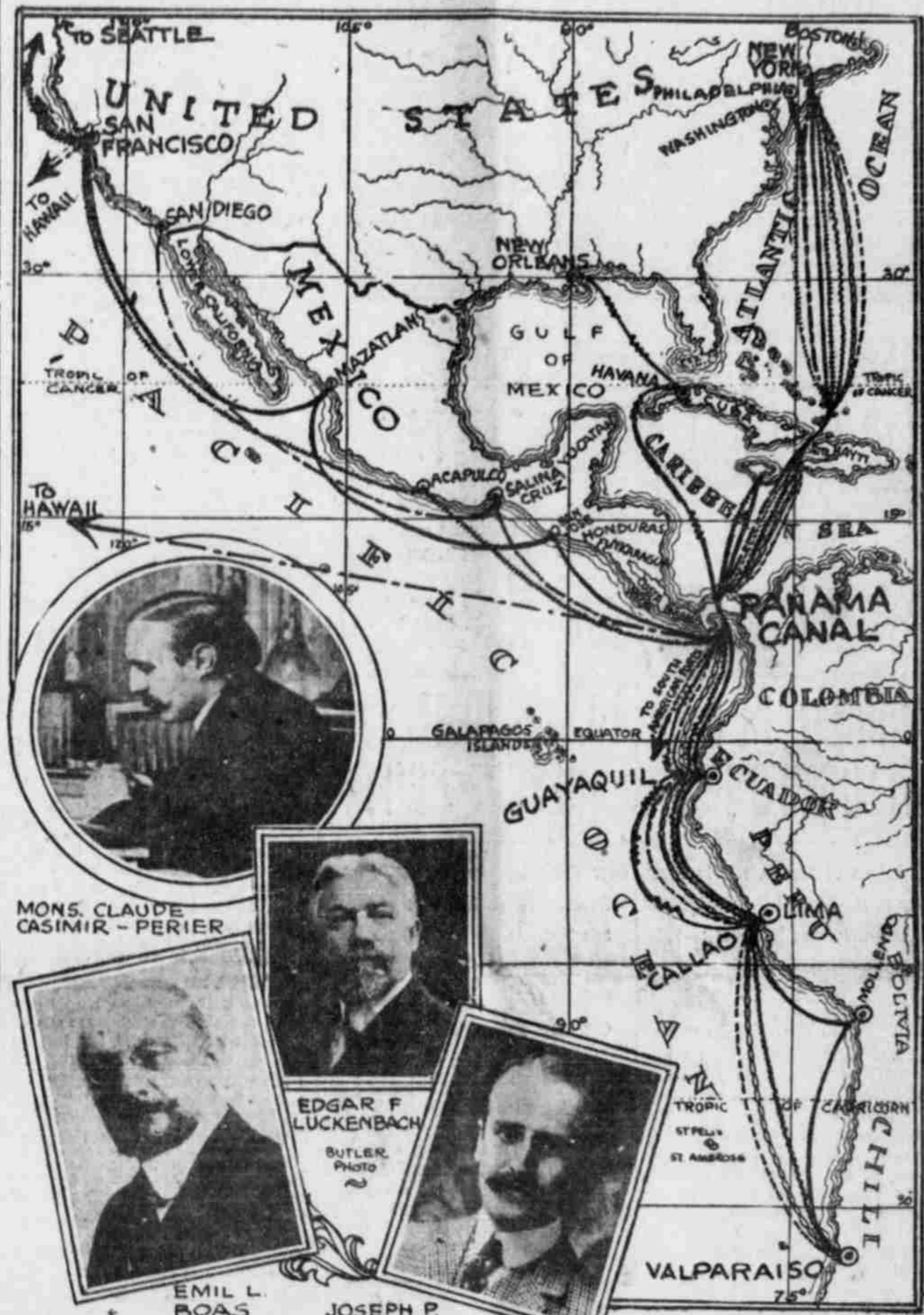
Another abolition recommended is that of the returns office of the department of the interior. It was also pointed out that whereas the annual transportation cost to the government is about \$12,000,000, the country gets no consideration from the public carriers. The president advocates more businesslike methods in arranging for and paying for these services.

NOMINAL CHANGE IN NEW YORK MARKET

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—Today's stock market opened with nominal changes. Trading was light with the exception of Canadian Pacific, which lost a point. Lehigh Valley rose 1/2 a point. Later selling forced Union Pacific down a point and United States Steel, American Smelting and Hill stocks were decidedly heavy. Telegraph and telephone issues were in good demand, but the standard stocks were dull and lacked yesterday's firm undertone. The market closed steady. Bonds were firm.

Fruit exchange, the Carolina Fruit exchange, the Virginia Fruit exchange and a dozen other such associations, and allow the use of the force for an all the year service. Mr. Miller will return to Hood River next week to address the stockholders of the Hood River association. In the meantime he will take up the matter with the members of the local association.

DELAY IN DECIDING PANAMA CANAL TOLLS TIES UP MILLIONS



KEY TO ROUTES—
ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY (PROBABLE ROUTE)
HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE (PROBABLE ROUTE)
AMERICAN-HAWAIIAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY
EDGAR F. LUCKENBACH STEAMSHIP COMPANY
NEW YORK AND SOUTH AMERICAN LINE
SOUTH AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY
W. R. GRACE AND COMPANY
NEW ORLEANS AND CALLAO LINES (PROBABLE ROUTES)

Failure of the government authorities at Washington to determine what tolls, if any, are to be charged for vessels using the Panama canal is arousing shipping men and exporters in this and other ports to demand that there be a prompt settlement of the matter. Congress is now wrestling with the problem of tolls, but it may not be settled at this session. There is a decided clash on the subject of whether American vessels should pay or not. How much toll foreign or domestic vessels must pay depends on the result of the fight in congress. Plans for the building of vessels and for the extension of trade, involving the expenditure of millions of dollars by American business men, are held up pending action in Washington. Foreign shipping interests, anxious to make use of the canal, are astounded by the delay, which they declare is sure to mar the opening if not injure for years one of the most stupendous engineering works in the history of the world. Emil L. Boas of the Hamburg-American line, Mons. Casimir-Perier, Joseph P. Grace and other big steamship men anxiously await immediate action.

CUBANS OBJECT TO INTERVENTION

Fear Landing of American Troops Again Will Mean End of Freedom—Nunez Says They Will Fight Americans as They Did Spaniards.

HAVANA, Jan. 17.—President Gomez conferred today with the leaders of the veterans' movement and all parties of politicians are to frame a reply to the warning of the United States. The belief here is general that if American troops again occupy the island, Cuba's independence will be gone. President Gomez expects to reply that the government will be able to prevent any outbreak. Efforts today are being made to conciliate General Nunez, leader of the "veterans' movement." Nunez announced before the meeting with the Gomez partisans that he would not consent to an American occupation.

FRANKLIN TO FACE TRIAL

Judge Willis Refuses to Grant Motions to Set Aside Information Charging Detective With Attempted Bribery.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 17.—Superior Judge Frank Willis today denied both motions of attorneys for the defense to set aside information charging Bert H. Franklin, former detective for the McNamara defense, with bribery and attempted bribery of Juror Robert F. Bain and Prospective Juror George N. Lockwood, in the McNamara trial. Judge Willis set Tuesday, February 27, as the trial date.

WEST TO PROTECT PRISON POLICY

Unofficially Announced That Governor Will Leave Giving of News Regarding Prisoners to Discretion of Prison Officials in the Future.

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 17.—The unofficial announcement of Governor West that hereafter he would leave it to the discretion of prison officials as to whether news regarding the escape of convicts should be made public is believed to indicate that West is determined to protect his prison policy from bitter attacks which have been launched against it by a number of Oregon newspapers. Under West's policy a large number of felons have been paroled from the state penitentiary, and he has either commuted sentence or reprieved every murderer sentenced to

COUNTY TAX LEVY WILL BE 11 OR 12 MILLS

County Court is This Afternoon Considering Levy But Has Not Yet Fixed the Amount for Roads or General Fund.

STATE LEVY IS FIXED AT 2.8 MILLS BY COURT

Road Tax Will Probably Be Five Mills—General Tax to Be About Two Mills.

The county court is this afternoon fixing the 1912 tax levy for the county and state. It will be between 11 and 12 mills.

At a late hour this afternoon the county court had not decided upon the exact amount needed for the road and general funds. The tax levy fixed as follows: State 2.8 mills School 1.6 mills High schools3 mill Armory and fair4 mill If the road tax levy is fixed at 5 mills and the general fund at 2 mills as expected the total tax levy will be 12.1 mills. This with the 9.5 mill tax levied by the city and the 8 mills levied by the school board will make a total of 29.6 mills on property in Medford. It may be that the road levy will be fixed at 4 mills, which will make the total levy for county and state only 11.1.

Among the special items covered by the levy is \$7000 for an Ashland armory, \$2000 for a county fair, \$2500 for experiment farm and \$4000 for the county jail. The school levy is made to cover \$8.15 for every pupil, as demanded by the new state law. Petitions had been received to increase this to \$10 per pupil. All road work was ordered stopped, pending decision by supreme court upon the road bonds, and the county road master's office ordered closed. This means that Roadmaster Harmon's services will be dispensed with for the time being, at any rate. No road work will be done until spring opens.

ATTORNEYS HURL CHARGES TO AND FRO IN WILDE CASE

PORTLAND, Jan. 17.—An excellent opportunity, which was not passed up, for attorneys in the Wilde case to hurl recriminations at each other was offered during the forenoon session when Venireman Martin Sattler, a painter, stated that he had been approached and sounded concerning his views of the case. Sattler's statement was made just at the close of his examination. Instantly lawyers for the prosecution and defense were on their feet charging their opponents with jury tampering.

CAN'T HOLD HANDS IN PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PORTLAND, Jan. 17.—Holding hands while attending public school in Portland was forbidden by the school board in a formal announcement today. Fear of the disease microbe, instead of the kissing bee, actuated the order. Unknown Steamer Sinks. ABERDEEN, Scotland, Jan. 17.—A large steamer sank off Peter head today with all hands, after foundering. Life savers sighted the vessel in distress, but all attempts to reach her were prevented by the heavy seas. The name of the vessel has not been learned. Following is a list of the names of those in attendance from out of town: J. C. Mann, Dan Kellaher, George Hockenyoos, Ray Chisholm, W. F. Greer, H. W. Mathison, A. L. Graff, F. L. Shull, C. B. Merrick, Leo R.

OREGON RETAIL MERCHANTS IN SESSION HERE

Large Number of Delegates on Hand for the Sixth Annual Convention—Two-day Session Replete With Matters of Interest.

COMMITTEE GREETED DELEGATES AT GRANTS PASS

Convention Will Come to an End Thursday Evening With a Banquet at the Medford.

The sixth annual convention of the Oregon Retail Merchants association is in session today at the Nataratorium, the greater number of the delegates having arrived in the city this morning. The morning session of the convention was devoted for the greater part to addresses of welcome and preliminary business. This afternoon the merchants will take up the real work of the session.

The Medford Merchants' association had every plan for the convention arranged for the reception and entertaining of the delegates. A large committee of local business men visited Grants Pass this morning and there welcomed the delegates traveling south on train 15. On arrival in this city the party was conducted to the convention hall at the Nataratorium, and also to their apartments in the hotels of the city.

Several banners of welcome were displayed in the city, and all of the cluster light poles were decorated in honor of the advent of the convention. Representatives from every town of size in the state are on hand for the convention. The convention will gather in session this evening, Thursday morning and Thursday afternoon. Tomorrow evening a huge banquet will be given at the Medford. A number of features have been arranged for the entertaining of the delegates, a principal feature being automobile drives throughout the city and valley to all points of interest.

The convention was called to order this morning by President Garnett, president of the Medford Merchants' association. This was followed by an invocation by Rev. Shields, after which Mayor Canon made an address of welcome, as did President Colvig of the commercial club. Mayor Canon's address was responded to by J. C. Mann of Portland, while President Colvig was answered by J. L. Stockton of Salem.

The report of Secretary C. B. Merrick showed that the organization was at this time in a more flourishing condition than it had been at any time since it was organized six years ago, during all of which time Mr. Merrick has been secretary. His report showed there was \$1031 in the treasury at this time and a prospect that this amount would be increased to over \$1500 in the near future.

President Bell appointed the following committees: On credentials, W. M. Green, Eugene; Geo. Hockenyoos, Portland; M. Tillery, Corvallis.

Order of business—Theo. Roth, Salem; E. Hauki, Astoria; E. N. Warner, Medford.

Auditing—G. A. Scott, Dallas; O. I. Circle, Eugene, Mr. Prouty, Albany. Resolutions—Max O. Burin, Salem; John Collier, La Grande; J. C. Mann, Portland; F. R. Wetherbee, Eugene; W. F. Isaacs, Medford; Geo. Johnson, Corvallis; A. G. Binckerhoff, Carlton.

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