

THE COLUMBIA REGISTER

VOL. I.

HOULTON, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1905.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

A great battle is impending in Manchuria.

Senator Mitchell will endeavor to have his trial in April.

A life saving station is to be established at Nome, Alaska.

Hearst will be an independent candidate for mayor of New York.

The funeral of Grand Duke Sergius will be private for fear of terrorists.

The government has begun a thorough investigation of the beef trust.

King Alfonso, of Spain, is to marry Princess Victoria, of Prussia, daughter of Kaiser Wilhelm.

Japan has a strong fleet in the Indian or an awaiting the arrival of the Russian Baltic squadron.

Kansas will extend the investigation of the Standard Oil to all the trusts and other states offer aid.

Two trainmen and two women were seriously hurt in a wreck on the Northern Pacific near Plains, Mont.

Chinese junkmen have confessed to having murdered a German and a French attaché and one other European while they were attempting to escape from Port Arthur last August.

The senate has ratified the treaty between practically all nations for the exemption of hospital ships in time of war from the payment of all duties and taxes imposed for the benefit of the same.

Fire destroyed two piers and two steamers at Boston.

Utah will spend \$30,000 at the Lewis and Clark fair.

The Cody, Wyoming, bank robbers have been caught in Utah.

Pennsylvania oil men will build a large refining plant in Kansas.

All Panama canal commissioners took fees as Panama railroad directors.

Russian university students have demanded reforms and suspended study.

The president promises a thorough investigation of the Standard Oil company.

Threatening letters sent to the czar have caused martial law to be proclaimed at Tarnkoe-Selo.

The Indian appropriation bill, as reported to the senate, will contain no provision for church schools.

Russian cavalry made a raid around the flank and rear of the Japanese army and drove in all small parties.

Four men were killed and 14 others injured by an exploding boiler at the Provident Coal company, St. Clairsville, Ohio.

The Oregon land fraud trials are to be postponed until June. Attorney Heney expects more indictments when the grand jury reconvenes in April.

Nan Patterson is seriously ill with tonsillitis.

The powers have refused to allow Greece to annex Crete.

A report from Colon says that city is now free from yellow fever.

Three minor Russian officials have been murdered or assaulted by terrorists.

Russian terrorists have threatened the lives of nearly all of the imperial family.

The government has just contracted for 60,000 tons of coal to be delivered at Cavite, Philippine islands.

The United States Cotton Duck corporation in 1904 made a surplus of \$166,085, after paying interest on bonds.

Two members of the Panama canal commission are on their way home to make recommendations to the canal committee of congress for changes in the plans.

New York society women intend to build the Colony club on Madison avenue, New York, for women exclusively.

Special Attorney Heney has arrived in Washington and will make a report on the Oregon land fraud cases and assist in the Hyde-Diamond land fraud cases in California before the supreme court of the United States.

The czar is said to have decided to offer peace.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Wednesday, February 16.

The senate today continued but could not conclude, consideration of the bill making appropriations for the support of the government of the District of Columbia.

In the Swayne trial a number of witnesses were examined for the purpose of ascertaining if the judge was in the habit of traveling on passes.

The question of what the policy of the government should be with respect to the rebuilding of the navy was again threshed out in the house today. At the time of adjournment the navy appropriation bill was still under consideration.

Thursday, February 17.

Aside from two hours spent in routine business the senate today gave its entire attention to the Swayne impeachment trial. Two and a half hours of the time given to that case was spent behind closed doors.

Before taking up the naval bill, which occupied the greater part of its time, the house today entered an emphatic protest against the action of the senate in amending the agricultural bill. After considering the naval bill for the most of the day it was laid aside and several bills of minor importance were passed.

Friday, February 17.

The house today rejected all changes in the original statehood bill by sending it to conference without taking any action on it.

The senate today passed a bill appropriating \$9,940,000 for the District of Columbia, and the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill carrying \$2,156,000.

Only one hour was spent today on the Swayne impeachment trial.

Saturday, February 18.

After an hour spent as a court of impeachment the senate today took up the appointment of a conference committee on the statehood bill. The matter was finally postponed until Monday, when the special order of the day, the eulogies upon the character of the late Senator Quay, was entered upon.

The house passed the pension appropriation bill, carrying \$138,285,200. The District of Columbia appropriation bill was sent to conference, a bill was passed to prohibit interstate transportation of insect pests, carrying with it a fine and imprisonment.

Monday, February 20.

The house passed the naval appropriation bill carrying a total of \$99,914,359. The provision for two battleships as reported by the committee on naval affairs was retained.

Whether the senate conferees on the statehood bill shall represent the party that defeated joint statehood for Arizona and New Mexico or the party that fought for the retention of that provision was debated at length today, but no decision was reached.

The Swayne trial was taken up at 2 o'clock. Two witnesses were examined. After the provisions of the Florida statutes relating to suits of ejectment or disqualification of judges had been read it was announced that the case of the house managers was concluded. The preliminary statement for Swayne was not finished when the court adjourned for the day.

Tuesday, February 21.

The house today passed the Philippine tariff bill, practically as it came from the committee. The river and harbor appropriation bill was then taken up but it was soon laid aside and several measures were passed, the most important of which was the authorization given the secretary of war to return to the several states the Union and Confederate battleflags.

The senate committee today reported that it would be impossible to act on the railroad rate bill at this session without ignoring the railroads. Consideration of the Indian appropriation bill was begun. A short time was given to the defense of Judge Swayne, and the senate began the consideration of the bill for the government of the isthmian canal zone.

Will Have Action on Rates.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Representative Townsend, of Michigan, one of the authors of the Esch-Townsend freight rate bill, had a talk with the president today regarding the prospects for the enactment of the measure into law. Townsend expressed the opinion that there was a chance for the passage of the bill. After his talk with the president, Mr. Townsend said that in the event no legislation on the rate question was enacted at this session, an extra session of congress would be called by the president.

Castro Defies Uncle Sam.

Paris, Feb. 17.—A semi-official dispatch from Caracas, Venezuela, says that under the pressure of President Castro, the court has ordered the sequestration of the landed property of the American Asphalt company. The decision in the case has caused excitement among Americans at Caracas.

Will Confer on Irrigation.

Washington, Feb. 21.—A conference of reclamation engineers has been called to meet at Klamath Falls, April 1, to consider plans and estimates for the Klamath irrigation project. At that meeting it is hoped final plans may be made for buying out owners of the small canals, including the rights of the Klamath Canal company. The government is willing to pay this company \$150,000 to get out of the way. The company demands more, but it is believed will eventually accept this figure.

Can't Compel Judge to Act.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The case of the Caledonian Coal company vs. Benjamin F. Baker, judge of the Supreme court of New Mexico, to compel him to take cognizance of an action against the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad was decided by the Supreme court of the United States today against the company.

MANY MINERS DEAD

Over One Hundred Entombed in Alabama Mine.

EXPLOSION OF DUST THE CAUSE

Details of Cause of Explosion Will Likely Never Be Known—Relief Hurried to Scene.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 21.—By an explosion in the Virginia mine, about 18 miles southwest of Birmingham, at 4 o'clock this afternoon, between 110 and 135 union miners are entombed and it is believed the entire number suffered an awful death. Scores of vigorous rescuers are at work digging into the mine to relieve their friends and comrades in the inside.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by an accumulation of dust, although the mine has heretofore been noted for being entirely free from dust. It is also believed that, as the entire quota has probably been killed, the details of the cause of the disaster will never be known.

The camp is almost isolated from the rest of the world, there is no telephone station at Virginia, and the only wire running to the place is a dispatcher's wire of the Birmingham Mineral railway, on which Virginia is located. Details of the disaster were slow to come in.

The class of miners employed was the best in the district, and all belonged to the United Mineworkers of America. Since the strike has been on in the Birmingham district, many of the most industrious and thrifty miners of Pratt City and other important mining points have removed to the Virginia mines, so that the mines were being worked to their full capacity by the most skilled miners in the community.

Relief trains with surgeons and workmen were dispatched from both Birmingham and Bessemer as soon as the news of the disaster was learned. They began the work of succor in earnest and at midnight had not dug half way through the mass of debris. It is thought it will be 10 o'clock tomorrow before the interior of the stope is reached.

The stopes are well arranged and there has never been the least trouble in the mines before. They are owned by the Alabama Steel & Wire company, but are leased and operated by Reid & Co.

EXTRA SESSION ON RATE LAW.

Will Be Called in October, Earlier Action Being Impossible.

Washington, Feb. 21.—President Roosevelt, who for weeks has been hopeful that some definite action might be taken at the present session of congress on the railroad rate question, practically has relinquished the idea of securing legislation on the subject this winter. It is reasonably certain that he will not call an extraordinary session of congress to meet in the spring, but unless he changes his mind, he will call congress together, probably next October.

Representatives Esch and Townsend, joint authors of the rate bill which passed the house, had a talk with the president today. They outlined the rate situation and conditions as they found it. They agreed with him that the prospect for the enactment of rate legislation at this session was remote. They indicated that if no action was taken at this session, the subject would be considered thoroughly during the coming summer with the idea of presenting a measure at the next session which, very likely, would contain some additional features.

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Railroads Are Tied Up.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22.—The railroad strike situation is reported to be growing worse in the southwest, and private advices are to show the existence of a reign of terror in Tiflis and the Caucasus generally. Many murders by Tartars and Armenians are reported. Communication has been almost cut off, even the telegraphers striking, the few who are still at their keys being kept there with pistols at their heads. The situation in Poland along the Austrian border is also causing great uneasiness.

Investigate Texas Oil Also.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 22.—A petition is being circulated here asking Congressman Pickney to request President Roosevelt to include the Texas oil fields in the investigation of the Standard Oil operations in Kansas.

TERMS OF PEACE.

They Have Been Practically Agreed Upon by Japan and Russia.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22.—Despite the official denials, the Publishers' Press correspondent is in a position to state that the czar and his advisers have of late not only discussed the question of peace with Japan, but have also practically agreed upon certain terms, which are acceptable to the emperor, and, it is alleged, are almost identical with those which have been submitted by the Japanese government to Russia through the agency of the German emperor. It is still denied that such terms were submitted, but it is nevertheless true that they have reached the hands of the czar.

The terms acceptable to both nations, and practically agreed to by the czar, place Korea under Japanese suzerainty and cede Port Arthur and the Liao Tung peninsula to Japan.

Vladivostok, under the stipulations, is to be declared a neutral and open port in place of Port Arthur, the neutralization of which Japan would not agree to. This feature, it is stated, proved one of the most objectionable to Russia, as it was hoped that the disarmament of Port Arthur and its transformation into a purely commercial port, open to all nations, would end the vexing Manchurian question.

The Eastern Chinese railway is to be placed under a neutral international administration, and, in order to provide some sort of safeguard for future peace in Manchuria, that country, as far north as Harbin, is to be restored as an integral part of China.

The main difficulty in the way of bringing about immediate peace seems to be the question of indemnity. It is known that Japan will insist upon a considerable money payment, and Russia is not willing to submit to that condition. The difficulty, however, is by no means insuperable, but if it should prove to be a serious obstacle, the czar will perhaps be willing to risk another battle in the hope of gaining a victory which may make the Japanese more amenable to the Russian arguments.

LIFE IN ONLY ONE.

Blackened and Mangled Corpses Removed from Alabama Mine.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 22.—The scene at the Virginia mine this afternoon, where a terrific afterdamp explosion yesterday afternoon imprisoned 116 men 700 feet below the surface, was the most gruesome and harrowing that has ever been witnessed in this section of Alabama. Of the miners who entered the mines yesterday afternoon, so far only 50 bodies have been recovered. The recovery already of so many dead bodies precludes the idea that any living men remain among the unfortunates still in the mine. The corpses are frightfully mangled and disfigured and identification is almost impossible.

Out of the 50 bodies recovered up to this time, one was found about 4 o'clock which was barely alive. The body was carefully taken from the mine and heroic methods resorted to to bring the man to consciousness. He is still alive, but scant hope is held out for his recovery.

FAVOR COAST SHIPYARDS.

Humphrey Pleads for Differential on Naval Contracts.

Washington, Feb. 21.—An earnest effort is being made by congressmen from the Pacific coast to have inserted in the naval appropriation bill a provision for a 4 per cent differential in favor of shipyards on the West coast in the contract price for warships constructed in these yards. Representative Humphrey, of Washington, today strongly urged the president to advocate such a differential. If adopted, the differential would increase the cost to the government of a battleship constructed on the Pacific coast about \$150,000. This sum, Humphrey explained, would not be in the form of additional profit to the constructing company, as the shipment from the East of necessary material entering into the vessels would amount to \$165,000.

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Houston, Tex., Feb. 22.—A petition is being circulated here asking Congressman Pickney to request President Roosevelt to include the Texas oil fields in the investigation of the Standard Oil operations in Kansas.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Salem, Feb. 16.—The Cascade county bill is only a memory. The committee having it in charge in the senate reported favorably in the morning and a vote was called for. The result was 18 against and 11 for.

Employees of state institutions will be paid monthly hereafter if the governor does not veto the bill passed by the senate.

The house bill providing for a commission to examine the subject of assessment, taxation and collection of taxes was passed by the senate.

Wife beaters are to receive punishment up to 20 lashes according to the senate bill passed by the house.

County and city boards of health are created by a bill which has passed both houses.

The committee having the Jayne local option bill in hand is still wrestling with the measure and does not expect to report before Friday.

It appears probable that the bill appropriating \$70,000 for a new deaf mute school building, passed by the house this afternoon, will go through the senate, as many in that body favor it.

According to joint resolution the legislature will adjourn Friday without day. The work will be well cleared off by that time, say President Kuykendall and Speaker Mills. No official notice will be taken of the developments in the case of Senator Mitchell and an adjourned session will not be held next winter nor the present session prolonged unless something unforeseen should happen in the next two days.

Forty-eight bills were passed by the house today and eight failed. In the senate 16 bills were passed, besides 15 charter bills, and seven were indefinitely postponed. The governor today signed 14 bills.

Salem, Feb. 16.—The bill exempting mining corporations producing less than \$1,000 a year from the corporation tax was passed by the senate today.

A bill was passed tonight creating the office of state engineer, to be appointed by the governor. Commencement of suits are authorized to condemn property where the government may wish to begin construction of irrigation systems. An appropriation of \$5,000 is also made by the bill.

Two hours' work are in sight in the house for tomorrow, but 70 bills are before the senate, besides the Jayne local option bill, which will require considerable time.

The bill taxing sheep driven in from other states has been passed by both houses. The yearly pasturage tax is placed at 20 cents per head, and when sheep are driven through the state the tax is 5 cents per head for each county traversed.

The bill prohibiting the sale of liquor to females under 21 years, and forbidding proprietors of saloons to permit such females in their establishments has passed both houses.

Both houses held sessions tonight.

In the house 39 bills were passed, and six were indefinitely postponed. The senate passed 22.

Salem, Feb. 17.—At 8 o'clock tonight the 23d' biennial session of the Oregon legislature ended and the lawmakers were adjourned without day, after 40 days' labor.

The punishment of wife-beaters by whipping was authorized; small mining corporations were exempted from the corporation tax; railroads are compelled to make connections with each other and transfer cars at reasonable rates, and several fishing laws were enacted for the purpose of guarding against the taking of fish on spawning grounds.

The total appropriations of the legislature aggregate something over \$2,000,000, of which \$500,000 is for the state insane asylum.

After six weeks of turmoil the Jayne local option bill was indefinitely postponed by the senate.

Other measures defeated were to make gambling a felony; to abolish riparian rights; to amend census law so as to make it more applicable to present needs, and to create a mining bureau. Thirteen bills were on third reading in the senate at the time of adjournment and received no attention from the upper house.

Governor Chamberlain will be kept busy for the next four or five days scanning the many bills which were passed at the close of the session.

A compromise was effected by the governor and the legislature whereby

Lane County Teachers' Results.

Eugene—Out of a class of 85 applicants for teachers' certificates at the recent examinations conducted by County Superintendent Dillard, 61 were granted the papers, the superintendent and assistants having just completed marking and grading the papers. Of those who passed the examination, 13 were granted first-grade certificates, 26 second-grade, 46 third-grade and one primary certificate. Eleven persons took the examination for state certificates, and the papers have been sent to State Superintendent Ackerman.

the emergency clause was left off the general appropriation bill and it was signed by the chief executive. He had already written the veto when the change was made.

The senate today passed 49 bills and disposed of 19 otherwise. In the house four bills were passed and five killed or indefinitely postponed.

MANY GIVE UP CLAIMS.

Relinquishments Order of the Day in Southern Oregon.

Grants Pass—Since the recent investigations and indictments following the probing of Oregon land frauds, there has been a general skirmish on the part of many holders of timber claims in Southern Oregon to relinquish their rights and sell improvements to the government. A number who located as homesteaders, and who feel they are not living up to the requirements of the law, desire to secure relinquishments on homesteads, and file on the claims in the regular way for purchase.

The relinquishments are far more general in the matter of homestead entries than any other. In years past claims were taken up as homesteads by the simple act of building a pen and roof for a house and camping for a few months on the property during the summer, more as an outing than for any other purpose. These people now realize that slack methods will not be tolerated in the future, and that the claims are liable to be lost altogether unless they are either "homesteaded" in the real sense of the word, or filed on and bought as claims.

There are a number of cruisers in this section, with headquarters in Grants Pass, and these report that the land fraud cases have not put a quietus on the locating business, as might be supposed, though the class of men now locating are different entirely from that of formerly, as the present locators are men who desire the claims themselves, and not for speculative purposes.

Homesteaders find no trouble in relinquishing and selling their rights to these.

HEAVY DAMAGE TO FALL WHEAT

Many Farmers Expect to Reforest the Frozen Fields.

Pendleton—Farmers coming in from the north and northwestern part of the county believe that the fall sown wheat will be a total loss, as the snow has been blown from the hills and piled in the hollows and has left the fields bare. Some are so sure of the freeze that they are in the city buying drills to reseed their fields as soon as the weather permits.

In the northwestern part of the county, west of Adams and north of Echo, in the low lands where the soil is light very little snow fell and as the ground was exceedingly dry the freeze will be more severe. In the vicinity of Athena and Weston, where the snow was deeper and did not blow off, the wheat is considered safe and will not have to be reseeded.

Lost Mail Sack Found.

Grants Pass—After remaining in the mud and water at the bottom of Williams creek for almost a year, a mail pouch that was swept from the Grants Pass-Williams valley stage during a trip of the fresheet of 11 months ago, has been recovered. The pouch contained letters and parcels of the first class, and has been forwarded by Postmaster Harmon, of this city, to the superintendent of the Pacific coast mail service at San Francisco. The pouch was still in good condition when uncovered.

Eastern Oregon Farmers' Institute.

La Grande—A farmers' institute for Eastern Oregon will be held at Summerville, in the Grand Ronde, 18 miles out of La Grande, beginning March 6 and continuing two or three days. It will be conducted by the professors of the Oregon Agricultural college. Lectures will be delivered on agriculture, horticulture, livestock and kindred topics. Union county will put forth all efforts for the entertainment of all Eastern Oregon visitors on this occasion.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 87c; blue-stem, 94c; valley, 87c per bushel.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.35 @ 1.40; gray, \$1.40 @ 1.45 per cental.

Hay—Timothy, \$14 @ 16 per ton; clover, \$11 @ 12; grain, \$11 @ 12; cheat, \$12 @ 13.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 22 @ 22½c per dozen.

Butter—Fancy creamery 27½ @ 32½c.

Potatoes—Oregon fancy, 75 @ 85c; common, 60 @ 65c.

Apples—4-tier Baldwins, \$1.25; Spitzenbergs, \$1.25 @ 2.

Hope—Choice, 25 @ 26c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 19c @ 20c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 12 @ 17c; mohair, 25 @ 26c per pound for choice.