

THE COLUMBIA REGISTER

VOL. I.

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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.

Strikes and peasant revolts are being renewed in Russia.

Japan is raising the sunken Russian ships at Port Arthur.

The president has announced his intention to change the canal commission.

Kuropatkin has been appointed commander of the First Manchurian army.

Russian bureaucrats are being driven to make peace by terms dictated for a new French loan.

The United States government has called for arbitration of the Venezuelan dispute, with the alternative of force.

Over 3,000 men have been thrown out of employment as the result of the shutdown of the Havemeyer sugar refinery in Brooklyn.

A new island has risen in the sea of Japan, caused by the action of a volcano. The mikado's flag has been raised on its top, which has a circumference of two and three-fourths miles.

Although the city ordinances of New York forbid the erection of brick and stone buildings in frosty weather, some 75 flat buildings have been finished since January 1, and now that the mortar is thawing they are falling down.

News of another crushing blow to the Russian army is being withheld.

A Chicago judge says a woman has a right to kill her husband in self-defense.

Italy has sent a warship to Santo Domingo to demand the payment of her claims.

An addition is being built to President Roosevelt's summer home at Sagamore Hill, L. I.

The war party in Russia is caricaturing Roosevelt and trying to draw France and Germany into war.

The governor of Viborg province, in Southern Russia, has been mortally wounded by a terrorist.

Two masked men held up messengers of the Pacific Coast Oil company near Berkeley, Cal., and secured \$10,000.

The Chicago council has taken away the franchise of the largest street railway. The property is valued at \$36,000,000.

One of the most perplexing questions confronting the administration is the Panama canal. It is admitted that the commission is a failure.

The United States court of claims has awarded the Cherokee Indians \$4,500,000 for lands secured in 1838 but never entirely paid for. Of this amount \$1,111,284 is principal and the balance interest.

Chinese complain of outrages by Japanese.

There is a great rush of homeseekers from all parts of the East to the Northwest.

Porch, a small town near Hobart, Oklahoma, has been wrecked by a cyclone.

The armored cruiser Washington has been launched at the Camden, N. J., ship yard.

Secretary Hay's health has broken down and he may resign. He has gone to Europe for a rest.

Root, Taft and Knox are three strong Republicans who are already being spoken of as the next candidate for president.

French faith in Russia's ability to cope with the Japanese has been severely shaken by the latest defeats to the czar's arms.

The Missouri legislature elected William Warner, Republican, of Kansas City, United States senator to succeed Francis M. Cockrell.

Oyama announces that he will enter Harbin on April 10 and that Vladivostok will also be in possession of the Japanese on that date.

A special wire will run from Portland to the White house and by pressing a button the president will open the Lewis and Clark fair next June.

ex-senator Hawley, of Connecticut, is dead.

The czar is breaking down under the continued nervous strain.

The Japanese are pursuing the Russians beyond Tie pass and are inflicting terrible loss.

Twenty thousand prisoners were captured by the Japanese when Tie pass was taken.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Wednesday, March 15.

Republican leaders of the senate are all at sea respecting the action advisable to take in regard to the Santo Domingo treaty. Recognizing that the Democrats control more than one-third of the votes, and that two-thirds are required to ratify the convention, the Republican leaders think that the treaty should be withdrawn by the president. On this subject the senate and the president do not agree, and the idea prevails that, after one or two days more of inconsequential discussion, the special session of the senate will be allowed to adjourn without date, and the treaty lapse. But this plan is not popular in the senate and a way to avoid it is being sought.

Thursday, March 16.

Senator Morgan occupied practically the entire time in opposition to the Santo Domingo treaty in the executive session of the senate today.

A new plan suggested is to let the whole matter go over until the next regular session of congress, when a joint resolution will be passed to authorize the president to do the very things that are proposed by the treaty.

Friday, March 17.

In the executive session of the senate today Morgan continued his speech of yesterday. He spoke until 4:45 p. m., when Forsaker took the floor in defense.

Adjournment is looked for tomorrow. It is not determined whether the treaty will be recommitted or whether it will be allowed to lapse without action of any kind.

Senator Spooner discussed briefly the relations between the Philippines and this country, and said he believed the time would come when the islands would have their own government.

Saturday, March 18.

The special session of the senate was at 3:30 today adjourned without day. All the nominations sent in were confirmed with the exception of five, the most important of which was that of Judge James Wickersham to succeed himself as judge of the District court of Alaska. Several unimportant treaties were ratified, but beyond these matters no legislative business was transacted. Most of the session was devoted to the Santo Domingo treaty and to adjournment no action had been taken on the matter and it was allowed to remain on the calendar.

CHECK PUT ON DEFICIENCIES.

Congress Provides Against Expenditures in Excess of Appropriations.

Washington, March 20.—One of the wisest acts of the late congress was the insertion of a provision in the general deficiency bill that became a law on March 3, that hereafter deficiencies shall not be created except upon some great emergency. Officers of the government have been altogether too free in making contracts and purchases without regard to the appropriations on hand, trusting that the deficiencies would be supplied.

When a deficiency bill amounts to the enormous figure of \$31,000,000, it gives the members of congress some cause for alarm, and it seems some method was necessary to compel officers not to make these enormous expenditures for which no provision of congress had been made. The creating of deficiencies was in a way unlawful, and if congress desired, it could repudiate these expenditures. But very seldom has any just expenditure been refused in a deficiency bill, although sometimes criticised.

Small Hope for Kuropatkin.

London, March 17.—The advice from the Far East are believed here to indicate that General Kuropatkin and his forces in Manchuria will be forced to surrender to the Japanese within a very short time. The correspondent of the London Daily Mail at St. Petersburg, telegraphing late last night, says that advice received by the Russian war office indicate that a very large force of Japanese have succeeded in carrying out Marshal Oyama's enveloping movement and is now far to the northward of the fleeing Russian columns.

Peabody is Seated.

Denver, March 17.—James H. Peabody today won his contest for the office of governor, from which he retired on January 10 after serving a term of two years, but his victory was achieved only after he had given his pledge to resign and surrender the chair to Lieutenant Governor Jesse F. McDonald. The vote in joint convention of the general assembly by which Governor Alva Adams was ousted and Governor James H. Peabody installed was 55 to 41. Ten Republicans voted with the Democrats for Adams.

Bomb for Pobiedonosteff.

London, March 17.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg to the News agency reports that late last night a bomb exploded on the tramway line close to the residence of M. Pobiedonosteff, procurator of the Holy Synod. No one was injured.

EXPLODING BOILERS

Kill at Least Sixty Persons at Brockton, Massachusetts.

THEIR BODIES ARE CREMATED

Shoe Factory Swarming With People Ripped Asunder by Bursting Boiler and Burned.

Brockton, Mass., March 21.—At least 60 persons were killed early today by the explosion of a boiler in a large shoe manufacturing establishment in the Campbell district conducted by the R. B. Grover company. The explosion was immediately followed by a flash of flame which consumed the factory, a long, four-story structure, as if it were a house of cards, and incinerated an unknown number of men and women who were unable to extricate themselves from the mass of tangled wreckage formed by the terrific upheaval in the boiler room. More than 50 of the employees in the building were maimed, burned or bruised by the time they reached safe ground.

The fire extended from the factory to seven other buildings in the vicinity and destroyed them. One of these buildings was a three-story wooden block, the others being cottages of small value and a blacksmith shop. The wooden dwellings near the engine room were practically demolished by the flying boiler, but none of their occupants were seriously injured. The total financial loss is estimated at \$250,000, \$200,000 of which falls on the R. B. Grover company.

It may never be known just how many persons perished in the wreckage. No one knows exactly how many persons were in the factory. The number has been estimated at 400, but Treasurer Charles O. Nelson said tonight he doubted whether there were so many at work. Two hundred and fifty survivors have been accounted for, and at midnight the remains of 50 bodies had been recovered from the ruins, the search being continued all night.

SAY AMOUNT IS EXORBITANT

America and Britain Hold Out Against Paying Samoan Claim.

London, March 21.—The Associated Press understands that there are no prospects of an early settlement of Germany's claim of \$120,000, when divided between the United States and Great Britain, is conceded to be not worth haggling over, but the two governments stand together on principle on the refusal to settle.

The claim for \$120,000 includes moral damage, and the American and British experts to whom the accounts were submitted report that the claim represents ten times the actual losses. Germany has been informed that the two governments are anxious to settle, and would be willing to pay any reasonable sum, as other claims are awaiting the result of this settlement.

BIG GUNS MAY TALK.

French Warships Ordered to Proceed At Once to Venezuela.

Washington, March 21.—The French Cable company complications have reached a crisis, and Minister Bowen has informed the State department that the French minister at Caracas, by instructions of his government, has notified the Venezuelan government that there must be no further proceedings on its part toward the cancellation of the company's franchise or interference with its property.

Further, Mr. Bowen reports that two French warships, the cruisers Duplex and Jurien de la Graviere, have been ordered post haste to Venezuela to act in accord with the instructions of the French minister. The warships are now in the Caribbean sea.

Fighting Hawaiian Forest Fires.

Honolulu, March 21.—Five hundred or more persons, mostly plantation laborers, were today fighting the forest fires at Wahiawa. The fire is now believed to be under control. About 2,000 acres were burned, being mostly land recently acquired by the United States for a military reservation. A trail 30 feet wide was burned around it. The forest is being patrolled tonight. The fires in Olaa and Kona are also believed to be under control. Rain helped to extinguish the fires in the Olaa district.

Witte Asked Peace Discussion.

Paris, March 21.—In the course of an interview in the Matin today, Viscount Hayashi stated that M. Witte, when in Berlin last July, sent an emissary to London asking the Japanese minister there to meet him to discuss peace. Minister Hayashi consented, but received no further communication.

CONFERENCE ON IRRIGATION.

Experts from Western Government Stations Meet in California.

San Francisco, March 21.—At a small but very significant conference of half a dozen irrigation experts connected with the experiment stations of the United States Agricultural department on the Pacific coast, held yesterday and today at the University of California, important plans were made for the future of irrigation and drainage investigation in all the western states. The meeting was attended by Professor Elwood Mead, chief of the irrigation bureau of the Department of Agriculture; Professor Samuel Fortier, of Montana; Professor G. H. True, of Nevada; Professor O. L. Waller, of Washington; Professor J. H. Withycombe, of Oregon; and Professors E. W. Hilgard, R. H. Loughridge, and E. J. Wickson, of the agricultural experiment stations at Berkeley.

The chief task of the conference was the preparation of plans for experiments to determine the quality of water which will give the best results in irrigation under different conditions. This is an undertaking almost limitless in extent. In addition to this, a campaign of education is being arranged.

Professor Elwood Mead, who has just arrived in California to commence his series of annual lectures at the State university, is very hopeful over the future of irrigation on the coast.

Professor Withycombe reported on the work and its possibilities in Oregon. He will return north and continue the measurements of streams.

Today's conference is considered as opening new possibilities in irrigation on the Pacific coast.

SLAUGHTER BY BULGARIANS.

Greek Village Attacked and All Male Inhabitants Slain.

Constantinople, March 21.—Advice received from Salonica state that the Bulgarian bands are again causing trouble, and that reports of outrages are coming in rapidly. The result of this is that the relations between Greece and Bulgaria are again stretched near to the breaking point, the former government alleges that the Bulgarian government is not making any effort to keep these bands under control but permits them to ravage at will on condition that they confine their assaults to Greeks and Turks.

At a monastery near Vodena a band of armed Bulgarians attacked a party of Greek priests and the latter must have been killed had not a party of Greeks come to their rescue and attacked the Bulgarians. The latter were beaten back, leaving 15 dead behind.

Angered at their losses the Bulgarians attacked the villages of Mossimerion and ruthlessly massacred all of the male inhabitants and carried off the women and children. They then terrorized the entire district of Vodena and so far have managed to escape the troops that were sent to punish them.

CASTRO SEIZED COAL MINES.

Protest Entered by Italian Government for Operating Company.

New York, March 21.—The Herald this morning prints the following dispatch from Port of Spain, Trinidad:

News has reached Port of Spain that the governor of Barcelona, Venezuela, has received from President Castro orders to take possession at once of the coal mines of Guantamarical, situated near Barcelona, and leased in 1898 for 33 years by the Venezuelan government to an Italian company.

The same day the Venezuelan troops took possession of the mines by armed force, as in the similar case of the New York and Bermudez company, this notwithstanding the protest of the Italian government. The action has been taken without a judgment of the court of Caracas.

The Italian legation has been notified and Baron Aliotti, Italian charge d'affaires, is represented as having entered a protest.

Spartan Runs on a Rock.

Block Island, R. I., March 21.—The steamer Spartan, of the Boston and Philadelphia steamship company, ran aground on the southeastern end of Block island during a fog early today while on her way from Providence to Philadelphia. A 15-foot log was stove in the ship's bow and soon the vessel sank so her decks were awash. Tonight the vessel is rapidly breaking up. The crew of 23 remained aboard the ship during the day, but were taken off tonight. Wreckers have been sent to lighten the cargo.

Meat Too High for the Poor.

Mexico City, March 21.—Meat dealers are exercised over the rise in the price of meat, which has been advanced from 25 to 50 per cent in the last month, and charge that there is a meat trust at work. The situation is serious, as meat is almost beyond the means of the lower classes.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

RESUME WORK ON UMATILLA

Irrigation Project Has Attention of Government Engineers.

Pendleton—John T. Whistler, engineer of the reclamation bureau for Oregon, says work will be resumed on the Umatilla irrigation project in a short time. The engineers will continue their investigations of the John Day river proposition and ascertain if the river can be diverted from its channel over the desert lands of Southern Morrow county.

The feat would be a difficult one, and, contrary to the belief of the public, who think the river would leave its channel at the headwaters of Willow creek, the canal would necessarily follow the deep canyon of the river for miles, emerging to the top at a point west of Lone, Morrow county, and take an easterly direction toward Umatilla county until the grade necessitated running north to the Columbia. This project would probably cost from \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000, but Mr. Whistler states that should it be found that 250,000 acres could be reclaimed it would be feasible. Should the amount of land be much smaller than this it will be deferred until such a time as lands are of a sufficient value to warrant the expenditure of such a sum, or at least until the reclamation fund reaches such an amount as to warrant the commencement of such a scheme.

Other investigations in the Umatilla project proper will be continued, as a site was found late last fall which might prove feasible. The character of the soils in that district is such that great care is being exercised upon a site. Some have proved after tests to be of such a nature as not to hold water through the hot season and would lose a great amount by the percolation through the sides and bottom of a reservoir.

Instructions for Taking Census.

Salem—Secretary of State Dunbar has issued the blanks and instructions to county assessors governing the taking of the state census of 1905. Supplies will be sent to each assessor in a day or two. The legislature, at its last session, having failed to pass any act amending the old census law, Secretary of State Dunbar has adhered closely to the law, out of date though it is. Two blanks are provided, one for the enumeration of inhabitants and the other for the enumeration of industrial products. For the convenience of assessors the military roll was included in the enumeration of inhabitants. The instructions given are very complete and if studied and carefully followed the census should give a very accurate collection of statistics.

To Exhibit Sumpter Ores.

Sumpter—The building which will contain the permanent ore exhibit of the Sumpter mining district, is complete in its interior decorations and now ready for the reception of a display specimen. The object of the exhibit is the concentration at one point of the many different kinds of minerals that are produced in this district. This will permit of inspection of ores without the necessity of visiting the many different sections where they are found. Many visitors from the East, visiting the Portland exposition, are expected to stop over and inspect this section, and the mineral display will be one of the most important objects to attract their attention.

Umatilla County Booklet.

Pendleton—The Commercial association is preparing matter for a booklet containing information of Umatilla county, to be distributed among the incoming homeseekers to induce them to locate in the county. A number of the newspaper men and business men have been asked to contribute articles for the book, and it will be printed as soon as possible. Fifty thousand copies will be printed for distribution among the visitors who pass through to the Lewis and Clark fair this summer.

To Work in Santiam District.

Portland—There will be more or less of a rush into the Santiam district as soon as the snow melts, but advisers say that there is considerable snow in the mountains as yet. Late last season silver values were found in that country for the first time, although some finds of ore had been made there for years past. Ore has been assayed from that district, which carries as high as 3,000 ounces to the ton of silver. How extensive the ore bodies are will be determined during the present season as fully as possible.

Wildwood Mill to Start.

Cottage Grove—The Wildwood Lumber company, which owns a large sawmill near the end of the Oregon & Southeastern track, above Wildwood, has decided to put the mill into active operation. There are plenty of logs close to the mill. I. L. Smith, a well known sawmill man, has been put in charge.

NUMBER ALL NOSES.

New Legislative Apportionment to Be Made in 1907.

Salem—A new legislative apportionment, based upon the state census of 1905, must be made by the legislature of 1907, and for that reason it behooves each county to see that a full enumeration of inhabitants is made this year. The growth of Eastern Oregon and the city of Portland in the last five years is supposed to have been more rapid than the growth of the Willamette valley counties, and if the state census should show much of a difference, Multnomah county and Eastern Oregon may profit by securing larger representation in the legislature.

From computations made by Labor Commissioner O. P. Hoff last summer, that official reached the conclusion that some of the older settled valley counties are not increasing very rapidly in population. His report showing that opinion raised a storm of criticism from the counties that received an unfavorable showing, but Commissioner Hoff asserted that his computations were made according to plans approved by the best statisticians, and he anticipates that the census will bear out his figures.

The apportionment into senatorial and representative districts is not always made in strict compliance with the constitution, and therefore some counties get a larger representation than their population entitles them to, while other counties get less. Should the legislature of 1907 be actuated by a desire to follow the constitution, there might be some important changes in the apportionment of representatives.

Water War On.

Klamath Falls—The Klamath Canal company ordered the headgate of its canal opened on Link river and the water went coursing down the canal through the tunnel, under Ankeny canal, down Eleventh street, in Klamath Falls and out onto the flats bordering Lake Ewauna. Immediately Sheriff Obenchain served the manager of the company with an order from the court directing him to shut off the water, because the property owners on Eleventh street brought suit against the company for damages, as the secretary of War had notified the company that taking water out of Link river would be illegal. The company will now undoubtedly have the attention of the United States district attorney.

Oregon Hops are Dirty.

Silverton—Fred Arthur has just returned from a four months' visit in England, and among other things he brought back a sample of choice hops upon comparison with which the best hops of Oregon are found to be less clear and bright in appearance. Mr. Arthur says that although many of Oregon's hops found a market in England this year the buyers there complain that the hops are too dirty and that instead of getting better they are picked less clean each year. He fears that the reputation of Oregon hops will suffer unless there is an improvement in the picking.

Klamaths Must Pay Taxes.

Salem—Attorney General Crawford has rendered an opinion in which he holds that the Indians of the Klamath reservation, who have just received their allotments from the government, are subject to government under the laws of this state, and are entitled to enjoy the same privileges as other citizens. This means that the lands held by these Indians are subject to taxation the same as those of white men. Although the act making this allotment passed congress in 1899, it has just been approved by the president.

Prune Trees About to Bloom.

Corvallis—By the latter part of this week the Italian prunes in the big 155-acre orchard north of Corvallis will be in full bloom. The event is nearly a month ahead of time, the usual date being about the middle of April. Five years ago the same orchard began blossoming March 11, and that season yielded a heavy crop. Peach, almond and apricot trees in the vicinity have nearly finished blooming.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 86 @ 87c; bluestem, 94c; valley, 87c, per bushel. Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.37½ @ 1.42; gray, \$1.50 per cental. Hay—Timothy, \$14 @ 16 per ton; clover, \$11 @ 12; grain, \$11 @ 12; cheat, \$11 @ 12. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 18c per dozen. Butter—Fancy creamery, 27½ @ 32½c. Potatoes—Oregon fancy, 85 @ 95c; common, 65 @ 80c. Apples—Fancy, \$1.75 @ 2.50 per box; choice, \$1 @ 1.25. Hops—Choice 1904, 23½ @ 24c per pound. Wool—Valley, 19 @ 20c; Eastern Oregon, 12 @ 17c per pound; mohair, choice, 25 @ 26c per pound.