

COLUMBIA REGISTER

Published Every Week

HOULTON.....OREGON

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

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

Extreme heat is killing many in Italy and Germany.

Terrific heat has killed many people in New York and Pittsburgh.

Norway has offered to make Prince Charles, of Denmark, her king.

Lord Roberts declares that the British army is in bad condition and could not withstand invasion by another power.

Dr. Sven Hedin, the Swedish explorer, sounds a warning against Norway, who, he says, is preparing to attack Sweden.

Reform leaders at Moscow are determined, if Nicholas continues in his present unyielding attitude, to elect a new czar.

Forest fires are threatening the Lick observatory, in which is located the famous Lick telescope. The fires are within eight miles of Mount Hamilton, on which the observatory is located.

The appointment of Charles G. Macon as American minister to Panama, while at the same time permitting him to hold the office of governor of the canal zone, has created an excellent impression in all circles at Panama.

Assistant Secretary of State Pierce has announced that the peace envoys of Russia and Japan have agreed upon Portsmouth, N. H., as the meeting place of the sessions of the peace conference to be held outside of Washington.

The crew of the Russian battleship Potemkin has surrendered.

France and Germany have reached an agreement about Morocco.

Fire in the business section of Spokane destroyed \$120,000 worth of property.

The foreign press generally praises Elihu Root and say he is a fit successor to the late Secretary Hay.

John F. Stevens, new chief engineer of the Panama canal, is on his way to the isthmus to take charge of the work.

Two blocks of the business and residence section of Goldfield, Nevada, have been destroyed by fire. Loss, \$200,000.

Three more of the convicts who recently escaped from the government prison on McNeil's island have been taken. The other four are likely to be captured soon.

Pittsburg has been stirred by the revelation of the fact that the millionaires of the city are paying scarcely any taxes. H. C. Frick, worth possibly \$70,000,000, pays taxes on \$10,000.

Advice from various parts of Russia show that the effects of the war are telling terribly upon that unhappy country. Foreign merchants are closing their stores for lack of business and native merchants are barely kept alive.

Baron Komura, Japanese peace envoy, has sailed for the United States.

A crisis is approaching in the Norway-Sweden matter. Swedish troops are being mobilized along the frontier.

Elihu Root will assume the office of secretary of state soon, but will not be able to give it his entire tie until September.

President Roosevelt is determined to eliminate entirely the use of any "pull" in securing promotions in the army and navy.

The Sioux river is on a rampage at Sioux City, Iowa, and has overflowed thousands of acres of crops and has washed away many houses.

Dunnite, a new explosive, is claimed to be the most effective in the world. A small charge will crumple in the side of the heaviest armored vessel.

It is said that the Russian Reactionary party desires to dethrone the czar and put in a stronger ruler who will be able to restrain the reform party.

A report from Odesa says that a part of the Black sea squadron met and engaged the rebel ship Potemkin. The vessel escaped. The entire fleet has been ordered to capture or destroy the Potemkin.

One lesson gained by the American navy as the result of the Far Eastern war is the uselessness of the conning tower on war vessels. The Japanese gunners invariably disabled the machinery in these towers early in battle.

Germany has forbidden French Socialists to speak in Berlin.

SAKHALIN A POWERFUL LEVER

Japan Now Given Opportunity to Increase Her Demands on Russia.

St. Petersburg, July 11. — With the Japanese flag hoisted for the first time on Russian soil after 18 months of war, the importance of the landing on the island of Sakhalin is generally admitted both in newspaper comment and in government circles. Complete occupation of the island is regarded as a foregone conclusion.

The Novoe Vremya voices the general sentiment in holding that control of Sakhalin puts a powerful lever in the possession of Japanese diplomacy, which finally has something tangible in its hands to throw upon the scales with the sword in the coming conference.

There is a divergence of opinion with regard to the effect it will have upon the negotiations at Washington, some of the irreconcilables declaring that it makes peace at the present juncture more impossible than before, as Japan will be able to demand the cession of the islands and a heavy indemnity as well, at which terms peace will be too costly, but the more prevalent view is that Japan has now in her hands enough trumps to take the game.

The attack on the island certainly dissipates one of the hopes of the peace advocates, who have been suggesting that its voluntary cession might be an offset with Port Arthur and the Chinese railway against the payment of a large part or all of a monetary indemnity. No further report of the landing operations has been received.

CHINA ASKS REPRESENTATION.

Japan Will Oppose Appearance at Peace Conference.

Washington, July 11. — China's request to be represented in the Washington conference, on the ground that she is vitally interested in its proceedings, has been received by the president and informally transmitted to the belligerents. Whether the president has received the formal replies cannot be learned, but it can be stated that, while Russia is inclined to favor the suggestion, Japan will not consent to it. Japan has already made public her assurance that Manchuria is to be restored to China. That is one of the principles for which she says she has been fighting. Japan regards herself as fully capable of executing this promise without the assistance of China, and in view of China's inability before the war to cope with Russia in Manchuria, the Japanese government is unable to see what possible service a Chinese representative would be in the Washington conference.

Moreover, the Japanese have all along taken the position that when peace negotiations were begun they would be conducted directly with Russia. It is altogether unlikely that the Washington government will press the claim of China, and the official view here fails to sympathize with the idea.

REVOLT IN ARMY.

Officers Sentenced to Death and Cossacks Routed by Rebels.

Vienna, July 11. — Dispatches received here from St. Petersburg state that 24 officers of the Russian army have been court-martialed and sentenced to be shot within the last few days for refusing to obey orders to proceed to Manchuria. They set up in their defense that other officers who possessed of private fortunes had succeeded in evading the orders to go to the front by bribing the officers of the general staff, whose duty it was to make the assignment of officers to proceed to the front.

A Lithuanian regiment refused to carry out an order given by a brigade commander, and a detachment of Cossacks was detailed to place the rebels under arrest. When the mounted troops tried it they were fired on by the Lithuanians and a sanguinary encounter followed, which resulted in 200 Cossacks being killed or wounded. The rebels were finally placed under arrest in barracks.

Alaska Exhibit for Fair.

Seattle, Wash., July 11. — J. J. Underwood, arrived from Nome this morning on the steamer Zealandia with the Alaska exhibit for the Lewis and Clark exposition at Portland. The value of the exhibit, of which Mr. Underwood will have charge, is over \$50,000, and the two principal features are a \$25,000 gold brick and \$10,000 worth of nuggets from the Peterson clean-up in the Portland bench claim. It is the intention of the exhibitors to display the resources of Alaska in a thoroughly creditable manner.

End Gambling in Mexico.

Mexico City, July 11. — It is stated that no more gambling licenses will be issued after August 1, when all existing licenses expire. Governor Tandas, of the Federal district, announces that he determined to extirpate gambling in this city.

BRISTOW REPORTS

Commissioner to Examine Trade Conditions Affecting Canal.

END PACIFIC MAIL CONTRACTS

Advices Government to Open Panama Route, Cancel Monopolist Contracts and Open New Lines.

Washington, July 11. — The report of Joseph L. Bristow, who was appointed a special commissioner to investigate trade conditions and other matters affecting the Panama railroad and steamship companies, was made public today. The report discusses from several points of view the question of what policy should be pursued by the government in the management of the railroad, and makes a number of important recommendations. Among these are the continuance of the railroad as a commercial line, with improved facilities for handling commerce, including double tracking and re-equipping the line with modern rolling stock; the enlargement of its port facilities, the retention of the steamship line between New York and Colon, the cancellation of the contracts with the Pacific Mail Steamship company and the South American lines, and the opening of the ports of Colon and Panama to all steamship lines on equal terms; and in certain contingencies the establishment by the railroad of steamship lines between Colon and Gulf ports and Panama and important United States Pacific coast ports. It is recommended that in traffic connections American steamship lines be favored as far as consistent with the treaty obligations of the United States.

Mr. Bristow spent several months in his investigation, visiting the Isthmus of Panama, important ports on the western coast of Central America, the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico and the Pacific coast of the United States. His report reviews the entire history of the railroad and discusses allegations that its local freight and passenger charges were excessive and its traffic contracts with steamship lines monopolistic.

NEW TRIAL ASKED.

Judge De Haven Listens to Mitchell's Attorneys in Land Case.

Portland, July 11. — Whether or not Senator Mitchell will have a new trial without appeal to the higher courts of the United States now rests with Judge De Haven. Yesterday morning, and for a part of the afternoon, the court listened to the arguments of ex-Senator Thurston, Judge Bennett and of Mr. Heney, contending for and against the motion entered in behalf of the defendant.

At the conclusion of Judge Bennett's argument the court announced that he would take the matter under advisement and would decide upon it at his leisure, as soon as it might be.

J. N. Williamson felt the first direct breath of the government's case against him yesterday afternoon, when John S. Watkins testified in the Federal court that he had met the congressman in the woods near Prineville, and that Williamson had taken his day-book from him and entered in it the descriptions of the land he desired him and his wife and brother-in-law to file upon under an implied contract to deliver the claims to the firm as soon as patented. The witness further testified to his tacit contract with the firm of Williamson & Gesner, and to his intention to pay for the filing fees and other expenses incident to securing the claim out of his own money, in order that he might thus avoid illegality and keep himself clear of the law. It was the first tightening of the web which the prosecution promises to weave around the three defendants.

The rest of the session of the afternoon, delayed as it was by the argument upon the Mitchell motion for a new trial, followed the lines shown by the witnesses of the preceding days.

More Teamsters Will Strike.

Chicago, July 11. — Five hundred additional teamsters will go on strike Wednesday morning if the Chicago Cartage company, organized by the city express companies, attempts today to deliver goods to the boycotted houses with nonunion men. This was decided last night at a meeting of the Teamsters' Joint council, after the Department Store Drivers union had threatened to abandon the strike unless the united drivers employed by the city express companies quit work if their employers attempt to work nonunion men.

Japanese Spread the News.

Sipinghai, Manchuria, July 11. — The news of the mutiny in the Black sea reached the Russian army through the Japanese, who fired night shells charged with proclamations conveying the information into the Russian advanced posts, scattering the proclamations.

WITNESSES FORGET.

Important Testimony in Land Fraud Cases Hard To Get.

Portland, July 9. — Three witnesses now have been heard in the trial of Representative Williamson, Dr. Van Geener and Marion R. Biggs, whose cases are being heard before Judge De Haven. They have given damaging testimony, but it has been literally dragged from them, and yesterday morning when Henry Beard was testifying, Judge De Haven turned to District Attorney Heney and said: "Mr. Heney, you may lead the witness, for it seems as if this is the only way you can get anything out of him."

This statement came from the court after his honor had listened to the examination of Campbell Duncan, Green Beard and his son Henry. Hardly had the direct examination of Duncan gotten under way than inferences that witness for the government had been tampered with were being brought out. Duncan had a splendid ability to forget. His memory in connection with the talks and deals that he had with the defendants was conveniently a blank. So was that of Green Beard, who was another of the men who had taken up a timber claim, which, it is alleged, was taken for Dr. Geener and Representative Williamson. His son Henry was also suffering from a bad memory, but after a severe shaking up both by Mr. Heney and Judge Bennett, he blandly admitted, when he was closely pressed by Judge Bennett, that he had committed perjury in swearing to his timber entry affidavit.

Shortly after the morning session convened, ex-Senator Thurston rose to make inquiry concerning the motion for a new trial for Senator Mitchell. Counsel explained that he was a long way from home and that nothing save the pending motion was keeping him in Portland. Judge De Haven then announced that he would take up the Mitchell case at 10 o'clock Monday.

TAFT'S ACTION CRITICISED.

President and Cabinet Say He Was Harsh With Wallace.

Chicago, July 10. — A special telegram to the Evening Post from its Washington correspondent says:

"It is learned on high authority that President Roosevelt is not entirely pleased with the way in which Secretary Taft treated Engineer John F. Wallace, and this is one of the reasons why the construction of the isthmian canal is to be entrusted to Secretary Root."

"In plain language, several members of the cabinet have expressed to President Roosevelt their disapproval of the treatment accorded to Wallace by Taft. They say Taft did wrong in flying into a rage and telling Wallace he did not wish to receive any report from the latter on the canal problem. The view of these cabinet members is that, if Mr. Wallace, whose reputation as an engineer is beyond question, found natural obstacles to the construction of the canal that baffled engineering generally, Mr. Taft might have found it out, and that he should have accorded Wallace the private audience that he sought and not have required the presence of Mr. Cromwell, an outsider."

JAPANESE LAND ON SAKHALIN.

Important Card is Played to Influence Terms of Peace.

St. Petersburg, July 10. — A landing of Japanese troops on the island of Sakhalin was officially reported tonight, and startles military circles in St. Petersburg, though it has been realized since the defeat of Admiral Rojestvensky that the Japanese were able to take possession of the island as soon as they thought fit. The strength of the landing force cannot be ascertained, but the garrison of the island is too weak to offer an effective resistance.

Though the Japanese seem unwilling to risk a grand battle with General Linievitch, pending the peace meeting at Washington, the landing of troops on Sakhalin is considered to express Japan's decision regarding the formal conclusion of a general armistice, namely, that in the interim before the meeting it is necessary to occupy the island whose possession is an important card in Japan's diplomatic contest at Washington.

Missouri River Rises.

Omaha, Neb., July 10. — The rapid rise of the Missouri river at this point has caused the breaking of dikes into two lakes north of the city, with the result that the river may cut a new channel, endangering the utility of the double-span drawbridge of the Illinois Central. Many residents along the Nebraska side of the river have been compelled to flee from their homes. South of the city, on the Iowa side, the bottoms are flooded for miles, doing thousands of dollars worth of damage to crops and other property.

May Break Out When Lid is Off.

Odesa, July 10. — It is officially announced that quiet prevails in Odesa, but it is feared in many quarters that an outbreak will follow the lifting of the state of siege. The governor general today issued a proclamation threatening those circulating false reports with punishment under military law.

ALMOST BANKRUPT

Philippine Government Only Kept Up by Sale of Bonds.

FILIPINOS REFUSE TO PAY TAXES

Purpose of Taft's Visit to Islands is to Place Government on Safe Financial Basis.

Washington, July 8. — Secretary Taft is hastening to Manila to prevent an utter collapse of the civil government there as administered by Governor Wright. The mystery of his mission and the urgency with which it is undertaken are gradually being revealed. Early action of a remedial character is necessary to prevent the government from becoming bankrupt through shortage of revenue receipts.

Governor Wright has not made progress in dealing with the Filipinos. He has asked them to obey the laws and let it go at that. He has not sought to harmonize differences and secure their co-operation. As a result, the Filipinos are now refusing to pay taxes. They knew nothing about land and revenue taxes until American rule was made effective. Taft succeeded in inducing the natives to pay these taxes. Under Wright they refused payment. It is impossible to sell the land for delinquent taxes.

The decrease in Philippine revenue has been so great that nothing but bond sales has prevented a collapse of the government. The money derived from selling bonds and certificates of indebtedness has furnished sufficient funds to maintain affairs up to this time, but the sums borrowed must eventually be repaid, and the situation has grown serious.

Mr. Taft has gone to determine what can be done to develop revenues and to place the government on a safe financial basis. Mr. Taft also desires to confer with Governor Wright on the friar land question. The entire matter was adjusted after tedious deliberations, and an arrangement reached satisfactory to the president and Mr. Taft. The titles were defective, and it was agreed to have new transfers made. Governor Wright was asked for his approval and refused to give it. It is considered imperative that this troublesome question should be settled.

TO MAKE ISTHMUS HEALTHY

Shonts Tells How Commission Will Care for Employees.

Washington, July 8. — Life on the Isthmus of Panama is to be made healthful, comfortable and enjoyable before the real work of digging the canal is begun, according to an announcement of policy made today by Chairman Shonts, of the Panama Canal commission. Mr. Shonts said: "Our first duty is to create sound underlying conditions. This is now vastly more important than the moving of dirt. The men must have suitable houses in healthy surroundings; they must have wholesome and nourishing food at reasonable cost; they must have suitable transportation facilities to get to and from their work, and they must have opportunity for recreation."

"It will be the policy of the commission to provide these essentials as quickly as possible, and to only increase the working force, aside from the mechanics necessary to provide these necessities as fast as the facilities indicated can be furnished."

"So much has been said by the press of an exaggerated character about health conditions there that it may be wise to recapitulate the facts regarding yellow fever. There have been between 9,000 and 10,000 employees on the isthmus since the disease first appeared in May. During that month there were 20 canal employees stricken and two deaths. In June 30 canal employees were stricken and there were four deaths, two of those dying being Americans appointed in the United States and two persons appointed locally on the isthmus."

Russia Will Make Protest.

St. Petersburg, July 8. — General Linievitch's telegraphic report to the emperor charging the Japanese with using dum dum bullets will probably be made the subject of a communication to the powers protesting against the violation of the Geneva convention. Among the Liberals a story is being industriously circulated and believed that Japan will demand that the treaty of peace, if concluded, shall be submitted for the ratification of the Russian people, in order to insure its observance in case of a change of government.

Refunding Hawaiian Debt.

Washington, July 8. — President Roosevelt has approved the issue of \$600,000 of bonds by the Territory of Hawaii to refund the gold bonds of the Republic of Hawaii, issued under act of the legislature of June 13, 1896.