

COLUMBIA REGISTER

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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.

Portland is shipping cattle to Japan. King Oscar says he does not favor a forcible union with Norway.

A severe wind storm has wiped out the town of Anawa, Wisconsin.

All telegraph operators on the Northern Pacific railway are ready to go on strike.

The Union passenger depot at Louisville, Kentucky, has been burned. Loss, \$350,000.

A Boston man has been arrested in Kingston, Jamaica, for taking photographs of the fortifications.

Witte says that while he favors peace with Japan, he will not agree to it at any terms that may be offered.

Unusually heavy rainstorms are reported in various parts of Germany. Immense damage has been done to crops.

The Chinese government is sending a number of its aristocrats to various countries to study foreign ways. It is regarded generally as a step in the right direction.

Within nine days 98 infants under one year of age have died in Cleveland, Ohio. The health authorities are making a close investigation into the sanitary conditions of the milk supply.

The Japanese are driving the Russians north.

New York City has purchased a home for convicts.

Sweden will send an ultimatum to Norway and is ready for war.

Japan is well pleased at the appointment of Witte as a peace envoy.

Terrorists have attempted to take the life of the governor general of St. Petersburg.

It is fully settled that Witte is to be one of the Russian peace envoys and will be given full powers.

During the past two years the United States government has spent \$73,000,000 more than it has taken in.

A move is said to have been started to force the czar to abdicate and that he will turn the affairs of the government into other hands to administer for his son and heir.

An aged man living under the name of Livingston has his home at Freeport, Illinois. He greatly resembles pictures of John D. Rockefeller's father and it is believed by many that he is.

The president has signed a proclamation opening to homesteaders and townsites the Utah reservation in Utah. The reservation contains 2,445,000 acres, but lands reserved for military, forestry and other purposes will leave only 1,069,000 available for entry.

The kaiser is trying to prevent Norway from becoming a republic.

The mutineers of the Russian battleship Potemkin have all been shot or are in chains.

A party has been formed by prominent Italians for the exploration of the upper Amazon river.

Minister Witte has had a stormy interview with the czar and may refuse to act as a peace envoy.

Major Langitt, government engineer, with headquarters at Portland, is to be succeeded by Major Boessler.

Indiana officer have arrested 11 men believed to be a gang who have been systematically robbing freight cars of silk.

Chief Forester Pinchot has ordered that forest supervisors must accept no fees for services performed, under pain of dismissal.

During a high wind, following a severe rain and electric storm, the walls of a brick building in course of construction at Winnipeg, Manitoba, fell, burying a number of people. It is feared at least ten are dead.

The battleship Oregon holds the trophy for high scores in gunnery among all battleships of the American navy.

The salaries of the Russian plenipotentiaries have been fixed at \$200 per day each, besides an allowance of \$7,500 for traveling and other expenses.

The British navy is to be concentrated near home.

Dynamite has been found in the czar's palace at Moscow.

A great German naval demonstration is to be made off Sweden.

WANT A LONG CONTRACT.

Only Terms on Which Japanese Will Work on Canal.

Seattle, July 18.—Japanese labor contractors will not agree to the Isthmian commission's programme of experimenting with the labor of different countries. A recent dispatch from Washington says the commission has decided to secure 2,000 laborers of different nationalities under a 500-day contract, with the idea in view of renewing the contract for such laborers as were found satisfactory.

The question of employing Japanese laborers on the isthmus was first taken up with the commission and Secretary Taft by the Oriental Trading company, of Seattle. This is the most important labor contracting firm in the Northwest.

Vice President C. T. Takahashi said today that his company would not agree to such a proposal. "There is no money in such a short contract," he continued. "If we could get a four-year or a five-year contract, Japanese laborers could be supplied. As it is the laborers would have to be brought from Japan and returned to their homes after the work was completed. To collect 2,000 men, carry them to the isthmus and then return them to their homes after a 500-day contract had been completed is not practicable.

"Our proposal to supply Japanese labor has been before the commission and Washington officials for some time. We have not been notified that an experimental contract might be made and I do not think we would accept a contract if offered one."

The Oriental Trading company proposed to provide its own foremen, choosing men accustomed to directing railroad and similar construction work.

MINERS IN TERROR.

Appeal to Government for Protection Against Outlaws.

Seattle, July 18.—Miners operating on the creeks near Fairbanks, Alaska, have appealed to the United States government for protection from outlaws who are terrorizing that district.

General Constance Williams, in command of the Department of the Columbia, has been instructed by the War department to investigate, and if conditions are as bad as the miners claim, troops will be rushed into the Tanana country. The telegraph lines into Fairbanks are down and General Williams' investigation is likely to be delayed for several days. In the meantime a large Alaska community is terrorized, for the situation is even worse than that which existed at Skagway during the "Soapy Smith" days.

Telegraphic advices from the North declare that hold-ups and the boldest of robberies are becoming so frequent that an attack on some of the banks is feared by the miners. The mine owners are afraid to either bring their dust into town or keep it at their camps. The outlaws are holding up strong pack trains and robberies at camps are so numerous that they have become expected.

The miners in the Tanana country have but a few weeks in which to make their annual cleanup and the depredations of the outlaws threaten the year's business. The district about Fairbanks has had a remarkable winter and the cleanup would be the heaviest in the camp's history if the miners are able to work. Fear of losing everything by robbery is holding back the spring cleanup.

Independence for Corea.

Honolulu, July 18.—Coreans here have raised a fund to send Rev. P. T. Yon, a Korean Methodist minister, to Washington to see President Roosevelt for the purpose of asking that efforts be made by the United States in the forthcoming negotiations to bring about an agreement by which the Korean nation will become independent within 20 years if it shows fitness for self-government. Rev. Mr. Yon will solicit the good offices of President Roosevelt to ask Japan to grant independence as the United States did Cuba.

Captain King in Blackmar's Place

Baltimore, July 18.—By the death of General Blackmar, Captain John R. King, of this city, senior vice commander in chief, becomes, under the laws of the G. A. R., acting commander-in-chief, and will continue such until the next National encampment. Captain King is pension agent for Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia and West Virginia, and has an office in Washington.

Ripe Fruit Can Be Carried.

Sacramento, Cal., July 18.—Harold Powell, of the United States Department of Agriculture, says he has demonstrated conclusively that ripe fruit, well refrigerated before shipment will arrive sound under ordinary railroad refrigeration, even after being from 10 to 15 days on the way.

Packing Plant is Destroyed.

Columbus, O., July 18.—The plant of the Columbus Packing company on the South Side, was destroyed by fire today. Loss, \$185,000. The fire is believed to have been of incendiary origin.

CLAIMS INNOCENCE

Williamson Denies Entering Plot to Suborn Perjury.

KNEW GESNER LOANED MONEY

Cross Examination by District Attorney Heney Brings Out This Fact from Witness.

Portland, July 18.—After the counsel for the defense places several witnesses on the stand this morning to show that the timber claim of Marion R. Biggs, one of the defendants in the trial of Representative Williamson and Dr. Gesner, was valuable for timber, all of the evidence will have been laid before the jury. By refusing to permit the defense to place on the stand a long list of witnesses to prove the good character of the three defendants, Judge De Haven shortened the trial and for the next few days the courtroom will be ringing with the voices of the attorneys making their argument to the jury.

Yesterday morning Representative Williamson took the stand in his own behalf and declared to the jury that he was innocent of the charge of conspiring to cause certain applicants for government timber land to commit perjury. He was inclined to be combative under cross-examination but District Attorney Heney, apparently had no desire to press the witness to the point where he would lose his temper. During the direct and redirect examination, Representative Williamson frequently turned full upon the jury and delivered his evidence at various times directly at the 12 men who will later pass judgment upon him. Naturally his testimony was the feature of the day, and while he made a good witness for himself, Mr. Heney nevertheless got admissions from him that tended to show that he knew that Gesner was making loans to entrymen.

TO TAKE VLADIVOSTOK.

Japanese Hope to Capture Fortress Before Envoys Reach America.

Tokio, July 18.—Judging from the activity at present being displayed at the Navy department, it seems certain the investment of Vladivostok can be expected before the end of this week. All arrangements are known to have been completed, and it is reported, evidently upon the best authority, that Admiral Togo's entire fleet will sail from Sasebo before nightfall. In addition, an army of invasion, which was landed from transports in Peter the Great bay very recently, is already moving to complete the investment by land. Since June 1, 50 ocean-going foreign steamers have been placed under the Japanese flag, laden with ammunition and supplies, and will accompany Togo's fleet.

It is the hope of the Japanese government that Vladivostok will be taken before the peace envoys land on United States soil. With this object in view, nothing is to be left undone to make the campaign, as planned, brief and eminently successful.

HEAT IS KILLING.

Temperature in Metropolis of United States Causes Prostrations.

New York, July 18.—After a respite of one day, the hot wave that swept over New York last week, causing scores of deaths and hundreds of cases of prostrations, returned today with renewed intensity, the temperature being by far the highest of the season. The highest point reached was at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the weather bureau thermometer touched 95 degrees. In the streets, however, the heat was much greater, some thermometers recording as high as 103.

While the heat was intense, the air was stirred by light breeze, and the general suffering was somewhat mitigated by the absence of the excessive humidity that prevailed last week. It was largely owing to this that only two cases of death directly resulting from heat were reported.

Nothing to Investigate.

Caracas, July 18.—Venezuelans were very much surprised on receiving the news that President Roosevelt had appointed Judge Calhoun a special commissioner to Venezuela to investigate the claims of America. The Constitution, the government organ, says: "If the claims of Americans or others existed, they would have been already heard before competent authorities. It may be the president requires information regarding the case of the New York & Bermudez Asphalt company, which is still pending."

Assistant Engineer of Canal.

San Antonio, Tex., July 18.—Jackson Smith, formerly passenger agent of the National railroad of Mexico, has been appointed assistant to Chief Engineer Stevens, of the Panama canal, according to a telegram received here tonight.

NEW TRIAL DENIED.

Judge De Haven Denies Motion in Mitchell Case.

Portland, July 16.—"The motion in arrest of judgment will be denied.

"The motion for a new trial will be denied.

"Is the defendant in court?"

Senator John H. Mitchell was not in court when Judge De Haven pronounced the words quoted from his decision in answer to the motions made last week by his attorneys. Senator Mitchell was represented by Judge Bennett and ex-Senator Thurston, and while Judge De Haven did not say that he would have rendered judgment upon the senator, had he been in court, it is believed from the fact that he asked if "the defendant was in court," that he would have done so. Senator Thurston, when Judge De Haven put his query, rose and stated that he wished further time in which to draw up a bill of exceptions, and he was given until a week from Monday morning to present them.

This means another ten days before Senator Mitchell will have judgment pronounced upon him. The senator's counsel informed the court that by tomorrow they would have their bill of exceptions ready and in the hands of United States District Attorney Heney, so that he might in turn have his answer ready by the time that the case will again be taken up by the court. Judge De Haven seemed willing to grant the delay, and as there was no objection from Mr. Heney, His Honor set Monday, July 31, as the day for receiving the exceptions.

BIGGS TESTIFIES FOR DEFENSE.

Vigorously Denies Any Thought of Perpetrating Fraud.

Portland, July 16.—This coming week, unless some unforeseen accident should occur, will see the end of the Representative Williamson, Dr. Van Gesner and Marion R. Biggs trial. Yesterday Marion Biggs, who is the United States land commissioner, took the stand in his own behalf, and when Judge De Haven adjourned court until Monday morning, he had passed through the hands of the district attorney. On the whole, he made a fair witness for himself, and the two defendants charged jointly with him in the alleged conspiracy. Under the skillful hands of Attorney Wilson, Biggs told a plausible story, but District Attorney Heney, during the course of an extremely rigid cross examination, tangled the witness up several times.

From the beginning of his testimony to the end, Biggs contended that he was innocent of any wrongdoing, and he denied having any part in the alleged conspiracy of suborning entrymen to commit perjury.

DIES AT BOISE.

Commander-in-Chief of G. A. R. Was Touring Northwest.

Boise, Idaho, July 16.—General W. W. Blackmar, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, died at 5 o'clock this evening of intestinal nephritis. His wife was with him during his illness. The body will be embalmed and taken to the home of the family in Boston.

The general arrived here on the 10th on a tour, during which he intended to visit Grand Army posts throughout the Northwest. He was ill when he arrived and gradually failed. The seriousness of his condition was kept from the public at the request of his wife.

General Blackmar was born July 25, 1841, at Bristol, Pa. He enlisted in the Fifteenth Pennsylvania cavalry and subsequently joined the First West Virginia. He served with distinction throughout the war and at Five Forks was promoted on the field by General Custer to the rank of captain. Through the three administrations of Governors Long, Talbot and Rice he was judge advocate general of Massachusetts. At the last National encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic he was elected commander-in-chief.

Costly Dirt in New York.

New York, July 17.—From the exempt tax list, as published today in the City Record, some idea of the value of earth in that part of the globe covered by New York City may be gathered. The total estimated value of real property which pays no taxes is more than \$1,000,000,000, and it is safe to say that the real worth of the property is more than \$2,000,000,000. Adding to this more than \$5,000,000,000 of real estate which was taxed, the actual value of the city is more than \$7,000,000,000.

Canal Laborers Leaving.

Panama, July 17.—Owing to dilatory methods of paying laborers, a general exodus of workmen is taking place among employes of the canal. Reports from Culebra indicate that, because they cannot get paid, laborers are quitting in scores, and have taken to the woods of bananas and other tropical fruit to ward off starvation.

DEFENSE TESTIFIES

Gesner Says There Was No Intent to Break Laws.

TIMBER LAND DEALS LEGITIMATE

Testimony of Witnesses that Implied Contracts Had Been Made is Vigorously Denied.

Portland, July 15.—Dr. Van Gesner, partner of Representative Williamson and Marion R. Biggs, United States land commissioner, two of the defendants in the case now on trial before Judge De Haven, testified yesterday in their own behalf. Dr. Gesner passed through the rigid cross examination conducted by District Attorney Heney, and, although his original story was not shaken much, he was forced into several admissions that will be used when the government comes to make its argument. This morning Marion Biggs will be subjected to cross examination and unless court should adjourn at noon, it is possible that Representative Williamson will take the stand.

Dr. Gesner, in answer to the questions asked by Attorney Wilson, gave his version of the way in which he had started out to obtain the timber lands which since have involved him in the case at bar. He admitted having made the loan to a number of the entrymen, but said that he did so in order to protect the property he already had in that section of the country. Dr. Gesner denied that he had any contracts with the various entrymen, and stated there had been no conspiracy with Mariog Biggs and Representative Williamson. The witness gave a history of the war between the sheep and cattlemen, in which the now famous "30-30" men played such an important part in the Horse Heaven country. The entrymen, he testified, had first approached him and asked him to lend the money with which to file on the claims. He stated that he agreed to furnish them the money, providing they would give him the use of the land for a range for his sheep. For the use of the range he had agreed not to charge them interest on the loans. He said that the sheepshooters had established a dead line and in order to protect his property he was forced to secure more range and thought that he had gone the right way about it, when he made the loans to the entrymen who came to him, and asked for financial help.

Before agreeing to furnish the money to the entrymen, Dr. Gesner stated that he had first consulted Biggs and had engaged him as a lawyer. He also consulted Attorney Barnes, and had been assured by both that what he intended to do was legal, provided he did not enter into a contract with the entrymen before they made their filings.

MONOPOLY IS AT AN END.

Pacific Mail No Longer Controls the Traffic of the Isthmus.

New York, July 15.—The contract between the Panama Railroad company and the Pacific Mail Steamship company, under which the latter has for years enjoyed the exclusive privilege of handling freight on the Pacific side on through bills of lading, terminated today. Hereafter all carriers will be on a parity in respect to transit facilities on the isthmus.

Mr. Bristow in his recent report on the Panama railroad recommended that if the Pacific Mail Steamship company withdraws its present Panama line an effort be made to induce some other company to establish a first-class service between the important Pacific coast ports of the United States and Panama. Upon excellent authority it can be stated that the government does not anticipate that the Pacific Mail will carry out its threat to take its vessels from the Panama-San Francisco service, nor does it expect the abrogation of the contract to affect in any way the shipment of merchandise from New York to San Francisco.

Balfour Opposes Conscription.

London, July 15.—In the house of commons tonight Premier Balfour referred to the speech of Field Marshal Lord Roberts in the house of lords Monday last, in which the latter said that the armed forces of Great Britain as a body were absolutely unfitted and unprepared for war, and declared emphatically that the choice lay between conscription and some practical system of universal training. The premier said he could never be led to believe that conscription could be successfully adopted in England.

Must Keep Cuban Cities Healthy.

Havana, July 15.—President Palma has vetoed the action of congress which continued in effect the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30. His reason for so doing is that the old budget did not include any provision for the sanitation of cities.