

"Hew to the Line, Let the Chips Fall Where they May."

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SAY CRESCENT WILL BE OPENED TUESDAY

SLATER AND HOFFMAN TO RESUME WORK THEN—WILLIAMSON TELLS SITUATION.

Active preparations for re-opening and testing the production of oil expected to be found in the Crescent well near Tenino will be undertaken next Tuesday by John C. Slater and associates, according to Emery C. Williamson, secretary-treasurer of the company, a period of approximately 45 days having elapsed since the casing in the well was last cemented. If Slater does not undertake the work at that time or continues to delay it for other than mechanical reasons, Williamson, in a public statement published below, says the officers of the company will proceed with the work.

Tacoma stockholders of the Crescent company, headed by C. Christopher, who drilled the first well in the district some 12 years ago, have lately been stirring up quite a hornet's nest over the company's contract and dealings with Slater and his field superintendent, J. V. Hoffman, and at a meeting the latter part of last week demanded that the officers of the company re-open the well and threatened court action unless they did. The statement published below was Williamson's reply to the various charges made by Christopher at this meeting.

Wait Until Next Week.

Monday night, however, at another meeting, the Tacoma stockholders voted to wait until June 15, to see if Slater would resume work on the well, and set another meeting for June 16. If he proceeds to test the production they believe the well will show, upon statements said to have been made by Hoffman that he could "shoot the oil over the derrick after three hours' work," they will be content; if he does not, they say they will "start something." To add to the excitement, Watson & Fullerton, Centralia grocers, attached the company's property to protect a \$90 bill. Williamson, in defending the attachment, said the firm had never presented a bill.

Christopher has instituted other meetings of stockholders at Tenino and Centralia, wherein he has reiterated his charges against the Crescent company. Locally, however, there is strong confidence in the old officers of the company and belief that they made the best deal they could with Slater at a critical time in the company's affairs, and local people are disposed to wait and see if Slater resumes work next week.

Williamson's statement, explaining the situation in which the company finds itself, follows:

Statement to Stockholders.

To the Stockholders of the Crescent Oil Company and the General Public Interested in Oil Development: Gentlemen:

The charge that the Crescent well is being delayed to the injury of its stockholders is false. It was cemented on May 5th, and on advice of the manufacturers of the cement used, the well is not being disturbed until 45 days have expired from time of placing the cement in the well. The officers of the Crescent Oil Company believe that Mr. Slater will conscientiously go to work to finish the well on the 15th of this month. We will tolerate no delay except of mechanical necessity and if Mr. Slater does not open the well, we will take immediate steps to do so.

The charge that Crescent has been impoverished of its leases is false. Mr. Christopher, who has made the charges, knows that it is false. The secretary of the company personally showed him and his expert accountants, who recently investigated this company, a greater volume of leases than the Crescent had one year ago, to wit, in excess of 4,000 acres, and Mr. Christopher then personally admitted to the secretary that Crescent had made good absolutely as to holding leases.

The sub-lease to John C. Slater of a part of Discovery lease is the highest royalty yet contracted in this field and many experienced oil men have stated that it is the best Crescent

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BIG TENINO MILL BURNS.

Fire Destroys Plant Wednesday Night—Damage \$75,000.

Damage of from \$60,000 to \$75,000 was caused when the Tenino Mill company's plant, one of the two mills operating in that city, was burned to the ground Wednesday night by a fire believed to have started from an explosion in the boiler room. The company's mill and entire stock of lumber were completely destroyed, only the office being saved.

The fire was discovered about 10 o'clock and in spite of the strenuous work by a big crowd of volunteer firefighters, the plant was in ruins by 11:30. The mill was built about three years ago and was owned by D. A. and Frank Clark. It employed 75 to 100 men.

REMOVE DANGERS AT GRADE CROSSINGS

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ELIMINATING CONDITIONS THAT CAUSE ACCIDENTS.

Three crews, each consisting of an engineer and assistant, equipped with gasoline speeders, are making a critical investigation and map of every grade crossing in the state for the public service commission, with a view of eliminating conditions which are at present one of the most frequent causes of railroad accidents.

The engineers are traveling over some 6,000 miles of railroad and are investigating and mapping nearly 5,000 crossings. Each map shows the road and railroad, gives the traffic on each, and shows the length of view which a person approaching would have of an approaching train at various distances from the track. All obstructions to view also are mapped.

Upon receiving the maps from the engineers the public service commission notes changes required to better safety conditions and notifies the railroad or county authorities charged with the duty of maintaining the crossing. The changes are often merely the removal of brush, the lowering of an embankment, etc. The commission also requires 25 feet of level road on each side of the track, and an approach on a grade of not more than 5 per cent, to prevent the "killing" of an automobile engine on the track, the cause of several fatal accidents in recent years.

Aside from the numerous improvements required, the commission, when the investigation is completed, which will be within about 90 days, will select a number of the most dangerous crossings for elimination by grade separation, requiring the railroad and county to divide the cost. Arrangements also will be made for moving some dangerous crossings, to obtain a better view or grade, and some double crossings are being eliminated by moving the location of the road for a short distance to the other side of the track.

The appointment of Attorney John S. Jurey, one of the prominent Democrats of Seattle, to the King county superior court to fill the vacancy occasioned by the recent death of Judge John E. Humphries, was announced the fore part of this week by Governor Ernest Lister.

WILL TOUR PENINSULA

Olympians to Spend Three Days on Auto Trip Over New Highway.

With eight or ten autos and 40 to 50 passengers already assured, Olympia will be well represented in the first formal tourist trip over the new Olympic highway, scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week under the leadership of the local Chamber of Commerce. This is primarily a "trade-boosting" trip, to link the Olympic peninsula cities more closely to Olympia, and also to herald to the world the scenic beauties of the new highway.

Detailed plans for the trip are now being prepared by Secretary H. L. Whiting of the Chamber, after a trip

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BRYAN QUITS CABINET—GERMAN NOTE IS FIRM

RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY OF STATE CREATES STIR THROUGHOUT WORLD—CULMINATION OF DIFFERENCES OVER NEGOTIATIONS WITH KAISER—NEW STATEMENT REITERATES DEMAND FOR REPARATION ON LUSITANIA AFFAIR.

BRYAN'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION.

"My Dear Mr. President: It is with sincere regret that I have reached the conclusion that I should return to you the commission of secretary of state with which you honored me at the beginning of your administration.

"Obedient to your sense of duty and actuated by the highest motives, you have prepared for transmission to the German government a note in which I cannot join without violating what I deem to be an obligation to my country, and the issue involved is of such moment that to remain a member of the cabinet would be as unfair to you as it would be to the cause which is nearest to my heart, namely, the prevention of war.

"I, therefore, respectfully tender my resignation, to take effect when the note is sent, or, if you prefer, at an earlier hour. Alike desirous of reaching peaceful solution of the problems arising out of the use of submarines against merchantmen, we find ourselves differing irreconcilably as to the methods which should be employed.

"It falls to your lot to speak officially for the nation; I consider it to be none the less my duty to endeavor as a private citizen to promote the end which you have in view by means which you do not feel at liberty to use.

"In severing the intimate and pleasant relations which have existed between us during the past two years, permit me to acknowledge the profound satisfaction which it has given me to be associated with you in the important work which has come before the state department, and to thank you for the courtesies shown.

"With the heartfelt wishes for your welfare and for the success of your administration, I am, my dear Mr. President,

"Very truly yours,

(Signed) "Washington, June 8, 1915." "W. J. BRYAN.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

"My Dear Mr. Bryan: I accept your resignation only because you insist upon its acceptance; and I accept it with much more than deep regret, with a feeling of personal sorrow. Our two years of close association have been very delightful to me. Our judgments have accorded in practically every matter of official duty and of public duty until now; your support of the work and purposes of the administration has been generous and loyal beyond praise. Your devotion to the duties of your great office and your eagerness to take advantage of every great opportunity for service that offered, has been an example to the rest of us. You have earned our affectionate admiration and friendship. Even now, we are not separated in the object we seek, but only in the method by which we seek it.

"It is for these reasons that my feelings about your retirement from the office of secretary of state go much deeper than regret. I deplore it. Our objects are the same, and we ought to pursue them together. I yield to your desire only because I must and wish to bid you Godspeed on the parting. We shall continue to work for the same causes even when we do not work in the same way.

"With affectionate regard, sincerely yours,

"WOODROW WILSON."

With William Jennings Bryan's retirement Wednesday as secretary of state, after his dramatic resignation accepted at Tuesday's cabinet meeting by President Wilson, the United States sent to Germany a note reiterating its demand for reparation for the loss of American lives in the sinking of the Lusitania and setting forth clearly the earnest desire of the American government that Germany signify her early adherence to the principles of international law—that neutrals be permitted to travel on unarmed ships without being subject to the dangers of submarine warfare.

The note, though firm, was couched in very friendly terms. President Wilson and his advisers had worked on it for 10 days and as finally sent, it had the united support of the cabinet behind it. The one man who opposed it because he believed it might precipitate war—W. J. Bryan—had resigned the portfolio of secretary of state the moment the note was dispatched. Counselor Lansing succeeding him.

Mr. Bryan's first act as a private citizen was to issue a statement, received with undisguised amazement in official quarters, explaining his reasons for leaving the cabinet and announcing that he intended to lay his view of what the American policy toward Germany should be before the public for judgment. While differing with the president in the policy toward Germany, Mr. Bryan let it be known he intended to support Wilson politically.

Refused Two Suggestions.

In his explanation Mr. Bryan revealed that the president had not felt justified in adopting two suggestions made by his secretary of state—that an offer should be made to Germany to submit the questions in dispute with the United States to an international commission for investigation during a year's time and that meanwhile Americans should by proclamation be warned not to take passage on any belligerent ships or on American vessels carrying ammunition.

President Wilson made no comment on the statement. The president stands unalterably on the principle that the United States at this stage in its history cannot afford to surrender any of its rights; that the American people had fought in 1812 for their rights on the high seas and could not sacrifice those rights with the nation's rise and growth to a position of command as a world power.

Surrender of Treaty Rights.

High officials generally held the view that Mr. Bryan's statement constituted a virtual surrender of American rights guaranteed not only by international law, but by specific treaties between the United States and Germany.

Mr. Bryan's suggestion that Americans do not take passage on American ships carrying ammunition was in direct conflict, it was pointed out with the treaty of 1828 between Prussia and the United States where, in either party in time of war is given the right of free access to belligerent ports for commerce in arms and ammunition and other contraband. Moreover, the right of an American citizen to sail on an unarmed and unresisting merchant ship of any nationality in time of war is held by the president and his advisers to be an inalienable privilege founded on the international law of centuries.

Resignation Is Made Dramatically.

The resignation of Mr. Bryan, three times Democratic candidate for the presidency of the United States, the man most responsible for Wilson's nomination in the last Democratic convention, and author of nearly 30 peace treaties with the principal nations of the world, came as a dramatic sequel to his disagreement with President Wilson over the government's policy toward Germany, as revealed in his letter of resignation and the president's acceptance. It caused a sensation in the national capital scarcely paralleled in recent years. Ambassadors, ministers and

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AGED INDIAN WOMAN DIES.

Mary Stillman, Once the Wife of Chief Leschi, Passes Away.

Funeral services were held at Mud Bay last Sunday, under the auspices of the Indian Shaker church, for Mary Stillman, a famous Indian woman, 100 years old, one of the wives of Chief Leschi who was hanged in the Indian wars during the sixties, and a member of the Squaxon Indian tribe, who died Saturday morning on the old Mud Bay Charley ranch, now owned by Bert Weaver.

She was born in 1815 and lived in this vicinity all her life. After the death of Chief Leschi she married William M. Stillman, a white man, who is now in the 80's and nearly blind. She had been confined to her bed a week before her death.

LARGEST CROP OF WHEAT IN HISTORY

FEDERAL EXPERTS PREDICT A BILLION BUSHEL PRODUCTION OF THIS CEREAL.

A billion-bushel wheat crop, the greatest ever grown in the world's history, is indicated for the coming harvest in this week's forecast by the federal crop reporting board on the growing winter and spring wheat crops.

Should that enormous quantity be harvested, the United States would have upwards of 385,000,000 bushels of wheat during the coming year to supply the demands of the warring European nations, which are expected to increase rather than diminish. Domestic consumption this year probably will reach 535,000,000 bushels for food purposes and about 80,000,000 bushels for seeding.

Basing its forecast on the condition of the growing crops on June 1, the crop reporting board estimated the final production of winter and spring wheat combined would be 950,000,000 bushels. In 1914 the production was 891,000,000, while the average for the past five years is 686,000,000.

The actual production, however, will be greater or less than the figures stated in proportion as conditions from June 1 to harvest time are better or worse than usual. A billion-bushel harvest, with good growing conditions, is not improbable in view of the fact that in the record crop year of 1912 the prospects increased 37,000,000 bushels from June 1 to harvest.

Largest Area Ever Planted.

Influenced by the prospective heavy European demands for grain, American farmers last fall sowed the largest area ever planted in this country to winter wheat—40,169,000 acres, and this spring 19,248,000 acres were sown to spring wheat, exceeding last year's area by almost two million acres. Winter and spring wheat areas combined show an increase of 11 per cent over last year's acreage.

The wheat sown last fall came through the winter in splendid condition, but deteriorated during May. Spring wheat was somewhat hindered by cool and wet weather, but on June 1 showed a condition 1 per cent better than the average for the last ten years.

REFERENDUM WINS OUT

Big Petitions Filed Against Seven Measures of Last Legislature.

Referendum petitions carrying from 35,140 to 52,347 names were filed with the secretary of state Wednesday by Miss Lucy R. Case, secretary of the Joint Legislative committee and the Washington State Referendum League, and Richard Mansfield White, against seven of the measures passed by the last legislature, and the margin above the 19,102 names needed is so great that it is believed assured that the measures in question will be held up until the general election in November, 1916.

The measures and number of signatures on each are:

Referendum No. 3—Requiring signing of initiative and referendum petitions.

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MILLER CASE TO BE FINISHED SATURDAY

STATE COMPLETES ITS TESTIMONY THURSDAY—TRIAL ATTRACTS MANY SPECTATORS.

Resting its case late Thursday afternoon, the state completed its testimony in the prosecution of A. L. Miller, former sales agent of the Union Lumber company, on the charge of first degree murder arising out of the shooting of William Chatten, manager of the mill, and the defense first placed two character witnesses on the stand.

The testimony introduced by the state was largely a repetition of that brought out in Miller's preliminary hearing shortly after his arrest. The only new witness was David Hume, an employe of the mill for about two years, and at the outset he was interrupted by objections by the defense.

Prosecuting Attorney George F. Yantis, in an explanation given the court, said he desired to obtain from Hume testimony to the effect that one Sunday night, a week or two prior to the shooting, he had seen Miller walking back toward Union Mills from the next station, Kyro, after apparently having taken the evening train for Tacoma, the circumstances being similar to those on the night of the shooting.

Many Women Hear Trial.

Every day since the trial started, at 1:30 Monday afternoon, the courtroom has been crowded with spectators, from one-half to two-thirds of them being women. Sitting alongside the prosecuting attorney is Judd Greenman, foreman of the mill, while Miller is sitting with his counsel, Vance & Parr, and his wife, three children and brother are nearby. S. H. Chatten, brother of the murdered man, is also here.

More than two days and a half were given over to the selection of the jury, the following being finally chosen: Mrs. E. M. McClintic, J. B. Sudman, S. A. Black and Carl Wicks of Olympia; T. F. Giles, Gull Harbor; W. B. Taylor, South Bay; T. J. Mounts, Gate; J. E. Rutledge and R. O. Garrett, Little Rock; Robert Johnson, Tumwater; R. T. Frits, Lacey, and J. W. Wade, R. F. D. No. 2, Olympia.

As the next step in the case, Prosecuting Attorney Yantis, in his opening statement to the jury, told the details of the shooting and of Miller's actions on that evening. Taking up the defense, Attorney T. M. Vance made quite a lengthy statement, pointing out that Miller had been an employe of the Chatten's for years; that he and his family had been urged to come to Union Mills by William Chatten, the victim of the shooting; that, as salesmanager and later bookkeeper, Miller's movements were directly under Chatten's control.

"Deliberate Ruination of Home."

Further outlining the testimony to be presented by the defense, Attorney Vance said: "Shortly after the Millers moved to Union Mills, the older man, friend and patron of the family, being attracted by the beauty of Mrs. Miller, started a long series of acts—being enabled in this course by his control over the husband's every movement—whereby he sought to encompass the deliberate ruination of the home."

From this point Attorney Vance told how Miller, hearing rumors, had gone to Chatten and how the latter had denied them vehemently. Later domestic difficulties arose in the Miller family, until the relations became strained and Mrs. Miller suggested a divorce, "the result," so the attorney said, "of Chatten's constant urging."

Miller, however, would not consider a divorce, the attorney continued, and seriously thought of quitting his job at the mill and moving somewhere else with his family, and, on the night of the shooting, got off the train at Kyro and walked back to his home with the intention of resigning his place the next morning. Arriving at the house he saw a man enter, then later leave, and in a fit of passion shot him.

Miller himself will take the stand before the defense concludes its case, and Mrs. Miller is also expected to testify. The case will probably go to the jury some time Saturday.