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## MAY FORFEIT LANDS.

Congress Authorizes Important Suit Against Harriman Railroads.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—By the overwhelming vote of 245 to eight, the house adopted today without amendment, the senate joint resolution authorizing the attorney general to file suits against the Oregon and California Railway company for forfeiture of a part of 2,800,000 acres of land grants in the western part of Oregon. It is claimed by the government, by reason of breaches and violations of acts making the grants, that the railroads had forfeited all right to the land in question.

The land lies along the Oregon & California railroad and was granted to the company in 1866. Before being patented the government amended the grant so that the company would be forced to sell batches of ten acres at \$2.50 per acre to actual settlers.

Since 1893 the Harriman management is alleged to have sold 1,000,000 acres for as much as \$10 an acre. The company is holding 2,000,000 acres as an investment. Claiming that this disregard of the law has led to the devastation of the country and defeated the object of settlement for which the grant was made, the department of justice seeks to take the matter to the courts, but it is necessary to have congress authorize the suits.

### Washington News Notes.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—All bids recently asked for construction of sluiceway and flume in connection with the lower Yellowstone irrigation project having been rejected, the informal proposal of James Burton of Delhi, Iowa, has been accepted and the contract awarded to him.

A bill was passed by the house under suspension of the rules by which the mining laws were amended so as to permit the entry of mineral lands as oil lands where it has been demonstrated that oil is present. Three years are allowed in which to base an undertaking and sink the first well.

A high official connected with the office of the attorney general of the United States stated that he believes that before the end of the year over 2,000 anarchists will be deported from the United States as a result of the investigations which have been going on under the orders of the department of justice.

### The Glacier National Park.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The senate committee on public lands today authorized a favorable report on the bill to establish the Glacier national park in Montana. The bill establishing Glacier park was introduced by United States Senator Thomas H. Carter, who suggested the name for the reservation. The proposed park lies immediately south of the Canadian boundary line, in Flathead county, and is an area about 50 miles north and south by 40 miles east and west. It includes the principal glacier in the United States territory outside of Alaska, and some of the most rugged and picturesque mountain scenery on the continent. There are many mountain peaks more than 11,000 feet high in this region, and great fields of ice. Within the reservation and within a few hundred yards of each other rise springs which find their way to the Hudson bay, the Pacific ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

### Will Benefit Railroad Employees.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—President Roosevelt today signed the employers' liability bill upon receiving an opinion from Attorney General Bonaparte that the measure was constitutional.

The bill makes railroads or other common carriers, while engaged in interstate commerce, liable for the injury or death of an employee, if the injury or death results in whole or in part from the negligence of any of the officers, agents or employees of such carriers or by reason of any defect or insufficiency in equipment. This provision is made applicable to carriers in the territories, the District of Columbia, the Panama canal zone and other possessions of the United States.

### British Statesman Is Dead.

LONDON, April 22.—Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, until two weeks ago premier of Great Britain, and one of the most eminent statesmen of his time, died this morning of heart failure. It was generally believed that Sir Henry's health had been improving and the announcement of his death this morning came as a shock to all classes. While he had ostensibly

retired from public life, the political situation, it is predicted, will be seriously complicated by his death.

### Montana Senators Object.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Both Senator Carter and Senator Dixon of Montana, will oppose the amendment offered by Senator Piles of Washington, in the senate to the naval bill which provides for an increase in the number of battleships to be built to four. Senator Dixon stated today that he is against the amendment, while Senator Carter said he would support the committee's report, which provides for only two battleships.

### Terminal Charge Condemned.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—By a decision of the interstate commerce commission today the rates on livestock shipped to Chicago from the southwest are held to be sufficient to carry a delivery at the Union stockyards and the imposition of any terminal charge in excess of \$1 is declared unreasonable. Chairman Knapp filed a dissenting opinion.

### Employers' Liability Bill.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—A government employers' liability bill was introduced yesterday by Representative Jones of Washington. It provides for compensation to army laborers, mechanics or other civilian employees of the United States or to their heirs, in case of injury or death by accident while engaged in their regular work, the sum in no case to exceed \$5,000.

### Perished in Prairie Fire.

VANCOUVER, B. C., April 23.—A dispatch from Battleford, Saskatchewan, says: Anna Matthews is the only survivor of a family of five, as a result of prairie fires in the Tramping Lake district. The father went to fight the flames, which were creeping down on the little house, and perished in the attempt. The house took fire and Anna, 18 years old, with her clothes ablaze, carried her 5-year-old brother and sister to a place of safety and returned for her mother, but was too late. She fought her way again through the fire, only to find that the other children had wandered into the fire and perished.

### Alberta Official Absconds.

WINNIPEG, April 23.—The Alberta government last night issued a warrant for the arrest of Captain Sartobole, prominent in social circles and who is a collector of internal revenue for that province. Ten days ago he mysteriously disappeared and it is alleged he is \$7,000 short in his accounts. It is believed he has escaped into Montana.

### Railroad Business Improves.

SEATTLE, April 24.—C. M. Levy, third vice-president of the Northern Pacific, in charge of the operating department, in an interview for the Post-Intelligencer, said that his company would spend \$1,500,000 in the next sixty days for freight cars in anticipation of increased business. "Business has steadily increased since the first of the year," said Mr. Levy. "January was our lightest month, but there was a slight improvement in February. March was a great deal better than the previous month and the records for April indicate that the traffic is continuing on the upward trend. The Northern Pacific will finish a great deal of line improvement work this year. Grades have been reduced and curves straightened out at various places."

### Wealth From Sage Brush.

HAMMOND, Ind., April 24.—Sylvester Sparling, an employe of the Reid, Murdoch company of Chicago, has patented a process that will convert the sagebrush of the great barren western wastes into millions of money and utilize it in a scientific way. A company of Hammond business men will incorporate for a quarter of a million of dollars to subscribe for the erection of a plant in Nevada, which will make the utilization of sagebrush possible.

The product to be derived from the western weed is potash, obtained now from wood by the Sparling process. Sixty-one per cent of potash is found in sagebrush ashes, where the wood ashes only contain 21 per cent. This is due to the fact that the desert plants take up more mineral than those which do not grow in an alkaline soil. In addition to potash, wood alcohol, oil of creosote and acetone are by-products obtained from sagebrush.

## THE DEADLY TORNADO.

Violent Storms Cause Enormous Damage in Several States.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 24.—Reports up to midnight indicate that 150 persons were injured in storms of great violence which passed over sections of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama today. Several towns were almost totally swept away, and the property damage will reach large figures. Most of the killed were negroes, whose cabins were swept away like so much paper.

Natchez, Miss., reports that of 64 persons killed in that section only two were whites.

Late reports from Amite, a small town in southern Louisiana, says that the town was almost entirely destroyed and estimates place the number killed between 25 and 50, while at least 25 were injured.

PARIS, Texas, April 24.—About 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon a tornado destroyed the eastern portion of Deport, a town twenty miles southeast of Paris, killing W. R. Isbell, a druggist and wounding several others. The Isbell family was at supper when the storm came and Mrs. Isbell and the four children ran to the storm house and were unhurt. Mr. Isbell remained in the house and was crushed to death when it fell.

BANCROFT, Neb., April 24.—A tornado swept through Cuming county and into Thurston county yesterday and three people are known to have been killed, a number injured and a number of houses destroyed. The tornado struck the house of John Mangleson, near Pender, Neb., and then swooped up into the air, taking the wreckage of the house and both Mr. and Mrs. Mangleson and a baby. All were killed, their bodies being carried a mile.

### Clark Buys Coal Lands.

TRINIDAD, Col., April 23.—Former United States Senator W. A. Jerome of Montana, who left here for Jerome, Ariz., today after returning from a trip of inspection to the coal property in this vicinity in which he had held an option for two years.

"I have closed a deal with Charles Francis Adams of Boston for 12,000 acres of coal land, 20 miles west of Trinidad," said Mr. Clark, today. "I don't care to name the consideration, but it was around the million mark."

### Montana Matters in Congress.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Senator Carter's bill for a survey allotment for the Fort Peck reservation was taken before the house committee on Indian affairs today, having passed the senate, with amendments agreed to by Carter.

The senate and house have adopted the conference report on the Indian appropriation, which includes the usual appropriations for the Indians in Montana, and also an appropriation of \$30,000 for the purchase of lands for the Rocky Boy Indians of Montana, and an increase of \$300 in the salary of the agent of the Flathead Indian reservation. The bill now goes to the president for his signature, and will become a law July 1, the beginning of the fiscal year.

### Montana Rancher Is Missing.

MINNEAPOLIS, April 25.—Coroner Kistler is of the opinion that the body of a man found in the Mississippi river here April 13 is that of R. R. McBride, a wealthy ranch owner of Montana, and inclines to believe that McBride was murdered for his money, as he was known to have \$400 on his person when he arrived in Minnesota. When the Paynesville bankers received a letter from a bank at Forsyth, Montana, where McBride had a large amount of money on deposit, inquiring as to his whereabouts, search was begun for him. Mr. Blaisdell, his business associate, read a description of the floater found in the river. A comparison of descriptions convinced him that the body was that of McBride. It will be exhumed.

### British Cruiser Sunk.

SOUTHAMPTON, April 25.—The American line steamship St. Paul, which left Southampton on her regular voyage, bound for New York, this afternoon, in a dense snowstorm, rammaged and destroyed the British second-class cruiser Gladiator off the Isle of Wight. The first reports stated that from 20 to 30 of the Gladiator's crew had been drowned.

The Gladiator's crew numbered 450 men, and Captain Walter Lumsden was the last to leave his ship. Only a few men then were missing, and it was

thought that most of them had been saved by a boat which had put out from Yarmouth.

### Big Blizzard in England.

LONDON, April 26.—A remarkable blizzard, the worst experienced in the south of England since 1881, continued practically all over the United Kingdom, throughout Friday night and Saturday, until Saturday midnight. It was accompanied by a violent gale and low temperature, and in many places the snow drifts are eight feet deep. Railway traffic has been seriously delayed and telegraph and telephone systems are completely disorganized. Tramway cars and motor-cars have been snowed up in every section of the country. Many of the outlying districts are isolated, and some deaths from exposure are reported.

### DEATH LIST GROWS.

Number of Victims of Tornado Increased by Later Reports.

NEW ORLEANS, April 25.—Probably half a thousand lives lost, a hundred or more persons fatally injured, and many times this number painfully hurt, together with a property loss running into the millions, is the record so far of a tornado that originated in the West two days ago, sweeping Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. It has left a path of death, desolation and want in its wake, seriously interrupted all communication between cities in the South and brought about chaotic conditions in many smaller towns.

Mississippi, already a sufferer from more than one tornado this year, has again borne the brunt of the winds and rains. Estimates of the number of those who lost their lives in that state place the number between 150 and 175, with a thousand or more injured.

In Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia the death lists are also large, with serious loss of life in Arkansas and Tennessee. Authentic information is in many instances lacking, owing to the crippled facilities for communication, and the lack of time to form anything like an accurate estimate of the damage done in many sections.

Several places have issued appeals for aid and in Mississippi, Governor Noel has been asked to provide tents for the homeless.

The tornadoes lasted in all a period of nearly two days. It was Thursday night that damage by tornadoes traveling eastward was first reported from points in Texas. This was followed during the next 24 hours by similar reports from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. Last night Alabama came within the flight of the storm and today reports of serious damage by the winds in Georgia have been recorded.

### Train Robbers' Disappointed.

BUTTE, April 23.—Another attempt to hold up the North Coast Limited train, westbound, the crack overland flyer of the Northern Pacific, was made this evening at a point between Welch's Spur and Homestake, 15 miles east of Butte, the scene of the recent holdup of the Northern Pacific, when Engineer Clow was shot. Several torpedo explosions brought the train to a stop in a portion of the country very rough. Engineer Hanscombe detected something wrong in the stopping of the train in that locality, and observed extreme caution in alighting. Evidently the nerve of the would-be bandits failed when they saw the holdup was suspected, as four men with guns in their hands disappeared among the rocks in the direction of Butte. The engineer and fireman hurriedly got up steam and a quick run was made into this city.

### The Montana Silver Service.

DILLON, April 25.—The silver service which the state of Montana will present to the armored cruiser bearing the name of the state has been received here from New York by Huber Bros., the contractors who were awarded the business. The service is on display in the store windows of the firm and is being admired by many citizens.

The service will cost the state \$5,000, and called for 1,395 ounces of silver, wrought in beautiful design, symbolic of the state from which the great fighting vessel takes its name. The service actually contains 1,587 ounces of silver, or 192 ounces more than the contract calls for. No charge will be made against the state for this. The silver is valued at \$3.50 an ounce when worked up into the silver service. This represents an additional cost of \$682, which will be borne by the contractors.

## FOR LARGER NAVY.

Congress Provides For Construction of Two Modern Battleships.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—By an overwhelming vote President Roosevelt's four battleship program failed in the senate, just as it did in the house. The amendment for four battleships was introduced by Senator Piles, and the fight for its adoption was led by Senator Beveridge. Twenty-three votes were cast for the increased program, the number being largely made up of recently elected senators. Fifty senators voted to support the house and the recommendation of the senate naval committee in favor of building only two battleships.

Two battleships in a year is what the president says he has accomplished through his fight for his naval program. Had he been victorious in having four such ships authorized at this session, the United States could have dictated terms of disarmament to the nations of the world. This statement made tonight, following the passage by the senate today of the naval bill calling for new battleships, is understood to reveal the president's source of strength in the naval fight which has been waged so strenuously. Furthermore, the two ships this year with the promise of two ships each year to follow, which the president has accepted as a bona fide stipulation on the part of the senate, means simply a program which will place the United States in the front rank of naval progression.

### Will Command The Montana.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—Captain Alfred Reynolds, United States navy, a native of Virginia, will command the new armored cruiser Montana. Orders have been issued by the navy department detaching Captain Reynolds from the command of the Franklin, now at Norfolk, Va., and ordering him to duty in connection with fitting out the Montana, preparatory to his taking the command of the new addition to the navy. The Montana will probably be placed in commission early in June. The department has received very flattering reports of the trial trip of the new vessel, which recently occurred at Rockland, Me., and the ship has been pronounced entirely satisfactory to the department. The Montana was built at the Newport News, Va., shipyards.

### Fleet Will Make Record Trip.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—A total of approximately 42,500 miles will have been covered by the Atlantic battleship fleet when it arrives at Hampton Roads, February 22 next, according to the estimates made by naval officials. The distance to be covered, according to an itinerary made public today, for the voyage of the fleet from San Francisco to the Philippines, thence to China and Japan and back to Manila is 16,218 miles. The longest lap of this distance is from Honolulu to Auckland, 3,850 miles, said by naval officials to be the greatest steam-

ing distance ever made by a battleship fleet in the American navy without stopping for coal. This will require slightly over 16 days, and during about six days of that time the department expects to be in touch with the fleet through the operations of the wireless telegraph apparatus aboard the battleships and the auxiliaries, and the cable stations at the Fiji Islands.

### Half Million Lost In Mails.

LONDON, April 27.—The London postal authorities have learned that two bags of mail from this city containing securities and other valuables worth \$500,000 were stolen in New York the latter part of last month. According to the reports received one of the bags was designed for St. Louis and was shipped to New York on March 26; the other designed for Brooklyn, which arrived in New York March 27. Both bags disappeared in transit between the steamers and the postoffices. It is stated that they were handed over to the mail boats and accepted for. Efforts have been made to keep the theft a secret while the investigation is going on.

### Winter Is Lingering.

ST. PAUL, April 27.—A northwest gale which blew from 32 to 35 miles an hour all night, brought with it a snow storm which covered everything with a wet, sticky snow today. Street car service was delayed and much inconvenience was caused.

DENVER, April 27.—The damage by frost the past two nights in the orchards in the Arkansas and Grand valleys and other fruit-growing regions of Colorado is estimated at \$1,000,000. The cold was combated with smudge fires and it is believed the loss, though heavy, is less than that caused by the April frosts last year.

### Three Train Robber Suspects.

BUTTE, April 24.—The Northern Pacific Railway company tonight posted a bulletin offering a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the bandits who last night attempted to hold up the North Coast Limited near Homestake, 15 miles east of this city. Three men, Rudolph Wenck, Paul Filetus and Al Teasdale, are under arrest for the attempted hold-up. The latter undoubtedly had nothing to do with it, but happened to be in the neighborhood. The other two admit that they had a hand in it, but claim it was under duress.

Wenck says he is a railroad section hand, not working at present, traveling along, and when he came to the place where the holdup occurred, a man pointed a gun at him and commanded him to assist him in holding up the train. The man kept him by him from 1 o'clock in the afternoon until the time of the attempted holdup. Filetus came along later and was also impressed by the robber. He told them of his plans which were to stop the train, detach the forward cars and run about a mile beyond the little tunnel and there dynamite the express car.

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