

# THE RIVER PRESS.

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No. 23

## ALDERMEN WERE GRAFTERS.

Pittsburg City Officials Indicted For Accepting Bribes.

PITTSBURG, March 22.—Nine more councilmen confessed their guilt to Judge Robert S. Frasier today. Probably two more confessions will be received. Those caught in the prosecutor's dragnet from now on, it is said, will be prosecuted.

At noon 20 former and present members of the municipal legislative machine of the city had received immunity at the hands of the judge and the prosecutor.

With the full confession of two of the ring leaders of the graft councils of 1908 and the confession of William Brand, former president of the common councils expected hourly, material is in the hands of the district attorney to indict many more persons for grafting.

John F. Klein was before the grand jury the greater part of the day and continued his narrative of councilmanic graft. Klein recounted some of his experiences in handing out the money to the councilmen.

"There was one fellow," he said, "who was a daisy; a regular Shylock for the dough. In the South Seventh street bid I handed him \$81. He looked at me for a few minutes and then yelled like a stuck pig for an extra 10 cents. You know \$81.10 was the standard price in that deal. Well, he got the extra 10 cents all right."

District Attorney Blakely as soon as the councilmen bribe-takers have been rounded up, will go after the bribe-givers. They are said to be bank officials whose names have never before been mentioned in connection with the graft probe of the last two years.

## Pensions For Ex-Presidents' Widows

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The senate committee on pensions agreed today to report favorably bills to grant pensions of \$5,000 a year to Frances Folsom Cleveland, widow of former President Grover Cleveland, and Mary Lord Harrison, wife of former President Benjamin Harrison.

At the same time the committee declined to report a bill which would place former President Roosevelt on the retired list as commander-in-chief of the army and navy and give him \$10,000 a year for the remainder of his life.

The bill which would give \$10,000 a year to Mr. Roosevelt does not mention him specifically by name, but applies to "ex-presidents of the United States."

## Pinchot May Meet Roosevelt.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Washington has awakened up to the fact that Gifford Pinchot, whom President Taft recently removed from the position of chief forester of the United States, was on the ocean already four days out on the steamer President Grant, on his way to meet ex-President Roosevelt, probably at Naples.

Mr. Pinchot is due at Hamburg next Monday. Colonel Roosevelt is to arrive at Naples on the following Saturday.

The widely current rumor here is that Mr. Pinchot goes to meet the returning traveler in compliance with a summons received by cable Friday. Nobody in a position to know would either confirm or deny this part of the story. There is no disposition to deny that Mr. Pinchot's principal errand abroad is to meet Mr. Roosevelt. It is to be taken for granted the ex-president will receive from the deposed chief forester his first direct information bearing on the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy from any of the principals in that dispute.

## Switchmen Get More Pay.

CHICAGO, March 23.—An increase of three cents an hour to switchmen and \$5 a month to switch-tenders and towermen of the several roads, is granted in a decision of the federal arbitration board. The increase is retroactive going into effect February 10, 1910, on the railroads which became involved in a wage controversy with the Switchmen's Union of North America.

The advance is justified by the arbitration board on the grounds of increased cost in living approximating 25 per cent in the last four years. An increase in the pay of assistant yard masters was denied.

## Champion Pugilist in Jail.

NEW YORK, March 23.—Jack Johnson, the champion heavyweight pugilist, was placed under a bond of \$5,000 and committed to the Tombs prison until the bail is forthcoming, in the case in which he is charged with assaulting Norman Pindera, a diminutive negro in an up-town cafe, which came up before Judge Mul-

queen in the general sessions court today.

The big pugilist had been under \$1,500 bail before it was increased to \$5,000 today. While process servers were hunting today for Pindera much doubt existed as to whether the long anticipated trial set for Monday on the assault charge would be held.

Failure to bring the case to trial today would cause it to go over to the April term of court, about the time Johnson expects to begin preparing for the final stages of his training for the championship fight with Jeffries.

## Will Protect Squatters' Rights.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Secretary Wilson has just issued an order providing for a more liberal treatment of bona fide squatters upon unsurveyed land which has been included within national forests since the time of actual occupancy of the land by the squatter.

Under the homestead law it is impossible for any one to secure legal title to unsurveyed public land, but occupancy pending a survey is recognized as giving a prior claim to land after survey, under what is known as a "squatters' rights." A squatter who had, in good faith, taken possession of a piece of national forest before the national forests were created is not dispossessed of his claim by the forest service, and if he lives upon it and cultivates it until the land has been surveyed, he is able to get his homestead just as though he had settled on any part of the unsurveyed public domain.

## IT WAS ROOSEVELT DAY.

Former President Receives Big Ovation At Old Cairo.

CAIRO, Egypt, March 24.—This has been Roosevelt day in Cairo, the old and new civilization of the Egyptian metropolis co-operating to give the distinguished American a welcome that in cordiality and enthusiasm surpassed that received by any other foreigner within the memory of the present generation. Said an American tourist:

"New York's reception may be on a grander scale, but this old town has set us a lively pace."

The train from Luxor, bearing Colonel Roosevelt, Mrs. Roosevelt, Kermit and Ethel drew into the station a few minutes after eight o'clock this morning and the visitors' first view of the capital was across a sea of faces that appeared to surprise the former president, accustomed as he is to waiting crowds.

For days the one topic of conversation had been the expected arrival of the American statesman and hunter; in the restaurants, on the streets and in the corridors of the hotels, his name was heard continually. The season for the hotels is nearly closed, but hundreds of Americans and other tourists remained for today's demonstration. An hour before train time an enormous crowd gathered at the railway station and there was a good deal of jostling for points of vantage.

## Great Northern Is Criticized.

SEATTLE, March 24.—The coroner's jury, which has been investigating the Great Northern disaster at Wellington, Wash., in which ninety lives were lost March 1, brought in a verdict today finding that the avalanche resulted from causes beyond human control.

Although the verdict does not fix responsibility for the disaster upon the Great Northern Railroad company the company is criticized for not having placed the trains in the best place to avert an accident and routes that if a siding east of the station had been used the train would have been out of danger. The Great Northern officials were criticized for having paid the labor engaged in clearing the track only 15 cents an hour, out of which they had to pay their board. The jury's report says that as a result of the company's paying such small wages 35 men left the work when their services were most needed and the jury censured the railroad for not maintaining enough men to clear the track notwithstanding the cost of labor.

## Wants Big Damages.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—One quarter million dollars as damages for alleged conspiracy and libel, are demanded of Thomas F. Walsh, the mine owner of Colorado and Washington in a suit filed today in the supreme court of the District of Columbia, by Dethlef C. Hansen, a New York lawyer.

Hansen alleges that Mr. Walsh caused the publication in a Denver newspaper July 12, 1905, of a statement in which he referred to Hansen as a "blackmailer and perjurer."

## RIVERS OF FIRE.

New Craters on Mount Etna Emit Streams of Lava.

CATANIA, Sicily, March 25.—An official report on the volcanic disturbances in the Mount Etna district made public this forenoon, while confirming the gravity of the situation, holds out the hope that the worst is over. The craters that may properly be described as new appear to be only four in number. They have opened at the foot of Mount Etna.

The four streams emitted from these craters have united at the foot of Mt. Castellazzo and formed a great river of lava that is bringing death and desolation into the invaded districts. Plants, trees, whole vineyards and orchards have been destroyed by the consuming flood. This morning the lava river had extended nine miles from its source.

Even in this city there was little sleep for any one last night. The greatest anxiety was felt for friends and relatives and their property interests in the threatened districts by those who well knew the possibilities of the disaster.

In the path of the advancing flood the people are in a great terror and thousands had abandoned their homes at daylight. The roaring of Mount Etna continued without interruption today and a rain of cinders fell for miles around. Several houses of peasants already have been destroyed and it is feared that if the flow does not cease soon the flood will enter Borello. Caravans of peasants carrying all their household goods and all of their transportation possessions are moving to places of safety. In their distress they presented a pathetic sight. At many homes the molten mass has entered and caused destructive explosions.

## Firemen Will Not Strike.

CHICAGO, March 24.—Terms of agreement in the federal mediation in the controversy between the 27,000 firemen on western roads and the railway managers were reached at an early hour this morning. The demands of the firemen for a 12 1/2 per cent increase in pay will be arbitrated under the Erdman act.

Any fireman temporarily promoted to be an engineer, after having had the position for sixty days, establishes his seniority and must be reduced irrespective of which union he is a member of. The agreement on all except the wage question was a compromise on both sides. On the wage question both sides agreed to abide by the decision for the arbitration board, which is to be selected later.

## Poultry Trust Indicted.

NEW YORK, March 23.—The so-called "poultry trust" was indicted in New York today. The live poultry dealers of the city are charged by the grand jury with conspiracy in restraint of trade under the general business laws of the state. Nearly 90 defendants are named in three blanket indictments.

## One Dollar a Day For Veterans.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—One dollar a day for all old soldiers incapacitated in the service is provided in a bill reported favorably from the house committee on military affairs today by Representative Sherwood. The bill has been before the committee six or seven years and comes before the house now as an amendment to a measure introduced by Representative Townsend, providing for the retirement of army officers at the age of 70 on one half or one third pay, dependent upon length of service.

## Twenty Dead in Fire.

CHICAGO, March 25.—It is said there were 22 employees on the fifth and sixth floors of the Fish furniture building, which was destroyed by fire today. While some of these may have escaped, it is believed all are dead. It will be hours before the exact number can be ascertained. A girl who jumped from a third story window died in a hospital.

Ladders were raised to the sixth floor, the topmost one, in an effort to rescue anyone who might be alive. The fire is said to have started from an explosion of benzine in the repair room on the fourth floor.

## Drouth Affects Livestock.

BISBEE, Ariz., March 25.—Unless rains come soon the loss to livestock in southern Arizona and northern New Mexico will be severe. County Supervisor G. J. McCabme is back from a tour of inspection and says many cattle are dying from lack of food.

SAN ANTONIO, March 25.—Rail-

roads operating out of San Antonio have orders for 4,200 cars between now and April 10 to handle the greatest rush of cattle ever known from this section to Oklahoma pastures. The drouth and high prices of feed is causing ranchmen to move their cattle.

## Destructive Prairie Fires.

PIERRE, S. D., March 24.—Two prairie fires did heavy damage in the gale that swept through the state yesterday and last night. A strip of country two miles wide and ten miles long in western Sully county was burned over, barns, sheds and out-buildings and farm machinery being totally destroyed.

ALLIANCE, Neb., March 24.—Reports received at 6 o'clock tonight from towns along the Burlington railroad east of here state prairie fires are raging in Hooker, Thomas and Blaine counties. The forest reserve of Halsey called for help from the Burlington railroad to relieve the worn-out fighters.

## Pittsburg Graft Exposures.

PITTSBURG, March 25.—The graft investigating grand jury returned three important indictments today. Accompanying the returned true bills, the jury handed down a twenty-page typewritten statement covering the whole graft exposure. This statement, it is said, contains the names of everyone so far connected with the anti-graft crusade and lays bare the entire councilmanic frauds of the past three years.

The startling phase of the presentment is the large sums of money which, according to the grand jury, have been passed in the various bribe giving and taking processes.

## BIG RUSH FOR LAND.

The Northern Pacific Railroad Sells Tracts in Eastern Montana.

ST. PAUL, March 25.—With eyes red from lack of sleep bankers, doctors, business men and farmers stood in line at the St. Paul general offices of the Northern Pacific from 8 o'clock yesterday afternoon until 8 o'clock this morning, for a chance to buy large tracts of North Dakota and Montana land, 250,000 acres of which was put on the market today by the railroad company.

Each man was given a number and when it was called he was allowed to select any amount of land in any locality he desired. One of the first sales was to a banker who took thirty square miles.

"I offered a Glendive banker who was eight numbers ahead of me \$2,000 and my number for his chance," and he just laughed and said: "You could not get it for a cent less than \$10,000."

The land lies largely along Yellowstone river, is virgin prairie, all rich and easily cultivated, and is being sold by the company at from \$2 to \$18 an acre.

The Montana land is along the eastern boundary. The land in North Dakota is in Norton, Billings, McKinzie and Hettinger counties, comprising a portion of the territory which the road received from the government in the days when it was built.

One man took his place in line yesterday at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and with a rocking chair and his meals brought to him, remained in place until the sale opened this morning. He bought land for six other men and took a dozen sections. No. 2 was George Biesegi of Stewart, N. D., who came at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. He bought six sections. There were 87 men in line by the time the office opened, and from the time taken to buy land, the sale will continue most of tomorrow.

## Washington News Notes.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The conference committee on the agricultural appropriation bill has accepted the senate amendment increasing by 25 per cent the payment to state and territories from the net receipts of timber sales and grazing permits on the forest reserves. This will give Montana \$109,445 this year for school and road purposes. The total payments to the states and territories containing reserves will be \$618,130.

The senate irrigation committee today ordered a favorable report on the bill authorizing the secretary of the interior to use his discretion about suspending water payments on government irrigation projects when he is convinced that settlers, through no fault of their own, have been unable successfully to produce crops sufficient to enable them to make their payments. The bill is designed to meet individual cases where settlers experience hardships due largely to climatic conditions.

## MONTANA BRIEFLETS.

SHORT ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE.

What Has Happened in Montana During the Past Few Days.

GREAT FALLS, March 23.—Edward Tibbets, a mining engineer, was bound over to await the action of the district court today with bonds in the sum of \$500 for the alleged forging of two checks on the Great Falls National bank, each for \$40, which he had cashed in the restricted district.

LEWISTOWN, March 23.—The local land office is swamped with business this week. On one day the entries numbered 76, almost twice as many as were ever filed before on a single day, and the cash receipts for that one day exceeded \$7,000. Two public sales resulted in \$15.50 per acre being realized, which is the highest price ever paid for public land at such a sale.

DILLON, March 23.—John S. Dunkin, aged 55 and a resident of Beaverhead county since 1884, sent a bullet crashing through his brain in a South Montana street lodging house yesterday and the dead body was found some hours later. The testimony at the inquest showed he had been drinking heavily and there was some evidence to lead to the belief that Dunkin was despondent over a love affair.

ANACONDA, March 23.—The merger of the Butte properties in the Anaconda company, as proposed at today's meeting of that company, includes practically all the producing properties of Butte, except the North Butte company, the properties owned by W. A. Clark, the East Butte and a few minor properties. The total annual output of the companies included in the merger is about 275,000,000 pounds of copper, 12,000,000 ounces of silver and \$1,200,000 in gold.

MILES CITY, March 23.—The thermometer at the government weather station registered 88 degrees yesterday. Monday the warmest was 78 and Sunday it was 82. The weather bureau records at the station which include all of the old Fort Custer records and extend clear back into the hazy '80, fail to show a single day in March in former years in which the temperature rose as high as 82 degrees, let alone 88, and there is likewise no March month recorded that will ever bear comparison with the present month.

LEWISTOWN, March 24.—Several Judith basin farmers are preparing to use oxen in breaking ground this spring. Horses are very scarce and high, and until traction engines are more numerous, it is likely that oxen will be utilized quite extensively in furnishing motive power for plowing.

HELENA, March 24.—The largest filing fee ever received by the secretary of state of Montana was taken in today by Secretary Yoder when the Anaconda Copper Mining company paid \$12,500 for filing the certificate of the increase of capital stock to \$150,000,000, of from 125,000 shares at \$25 each to 6,000,000 shares.

HELENA, March 24.—Word of the drowning at Hauser lake late yesterday afternoon of an Austrian laborer was received here today. The man, whose name is not known, was fishing above the temporary dam. His boat approached too close to the mouth of the flume—the largest in the world—was sucked in and spewed out a third of mile down stream, where the boat overturned. The body was hurled into the water and disappeared. It has not been found.

LEWISTOWN, March 25.—The local woolgrowers are once more being interviewed by outside sheep buyers, but very few transactions are being made, as the flockmasters appear unwilling to sell, even at the almost unprecedented prices now being offered. A good many mixed wethers have been sold in the Musselshell country at six dollars a head, but it is now too near the wool and lambing season to expect further heavy sales.

HELENA, March 25.—Prosecutions are soon to be started in several Montana counties against perhaps twelve or fifteen persons on the charge of violating the animal inspection laws. Dr. M. E. Knowles, state veterinarian, says it has been found that a number of persons have evaded the animal inspection laws by billing their cattle and horses to Montana and then unloading them in North Dakota and Wyoming near the Montana state line, and then trailing them into the state, thus avoiding the inspection for tuberculosis in cattle and glanders in horses. It is the purpose of the state to make an example of these persons, and announcement of the issuance of warrants and subsequent arrests will soon follow.

GREAT FALLS, March 26.—The journeymen plumbers of the city of Great Falls Plumbers' union No. 139 made a demand upon the master plumbers of the city for a raise of \$1.00 per day and a half holiday on Saturday. The men are now being paid \$6.00 per day for eight hours' work. The question of a raise will be considered by the employing plumbers of the city.

BUTTE, March 26.—Charles Rundy, aged 24, was robbed, murdered and his body hurled into a slough near Enaville, according to the theory of officers. Rundy has been missing for a week, and today his body was found in the slough, with his pockets turned inside out. He had been employed at a logging camp, and his disappearance followed the cashing of his pay check.

GREAT FALLS, March 26.—Peter Weis, who has been in the employ of the Boston & Montana smelter for the past 20 years as a fireman, committed suicide at the Boston & Montana bankhouse early this morning by taking carbolic acid. He left a note stating that he was tired of life and that he wanted an old-time friend by the name of Klein, a rancher near the city, to look after his funeral arrangements.

GLENDIVE, March 26.—Hundreds of horse-drawn plows and dozens of gasoline and steam outfits are at work all over Dawson county, tearing up the soil preparatory to sowing all kinds of crops. It is impossible to even estimate how many acres will be broken this year, but it will undoubtedly run into the hundreds of thousands. There is one great handicap at the present time—the absolute inability of dealers to deliver breaking engines. The factories are way behind in their output.

GREAT FALLS, March 26.—Clifford W. Thomas, a Great Northern brakeman, was instantly killed here this evening while attempting to make a flying switch on what is known as track No. 1. He was knocked down by a rapidly moving freight car and literally ground to pieces. Thomas had resided in Great Falls the past two and one-half years and was well known here, being in the Great Northern employ during that length of time. His father, C. W. Thomas, and the only surviving relative, is a dining car conductor of the Great Northern on the main line.

LEWISTOWN, March 26.—About 30 ranches have changed ownership during the past week in this county, most of the tracts being of 160 acres, the prices ranging from \$20 to \$52 an acre, the latter being the highest price yet paid for bench land in this county.

BUTTE, March 25.—One dead man, another seriously injured and several others having narrow escapes, sums up the result of a Sunday evening saloon brawl at Meaderville. The trouble started over a game of cards. The man who did the shooting and who must face a charge of murder is Elia Lubarda, a countryman of the dead man. He is at the county jail, where he was taken by Sheriff O'Rourke immediately after the shooting.

HELENA, March 25.—B. F. Stickney of Lewis and Clark county faced a jury in the federal court this morning to answer to the indictment charging him with illegally fencing 1,080 acres of land. This is the first fencing case tried in Montana since Mr. Freeman succeeded Carl Rasch as district attorney. A few indictments have been returned, but the defendants came into court and pleaded guilty.

## Montana Corn Growing Contest.

BOZEMAN, March 24.—The corn-growing contest started by the Great Northern railway this spring is gaining in favor among the people of the state. This is proved by the fact that an average of 25 letters a day are received by the director of the experimental station of the agricultural college asking about the contest. Prof. A. L. Atkinson will have the corn seed ready for distribution on that date. It has not been decided where the exhibit will be shown, but it will be either at Bozeman or Helena. Prof. F. S. Cooley is working hard for the former place, but as Bozeman is not on the Great Northern it is doubtful if that town will be selected. Louis Hill, president of the Great Northern, favors Helena. The management of the State Fair association is trying to get the products to display at the fair.

The prizes to be offered amount to over \$1,000 in cash, and will be distributed for the best individual ear and the best 10 ears. The contest is open to all boys and girls of Montana under 18 years of age.