

# THE RIVER PRESS.

Vol. XXX.

Fort Benton, Montana, Wednesday, August 17, 1910.

No. 43

## TO CHECK FOREST FIRES.

### Dynamite Exploded For Purpose of Causing Rain.

WALLACE, Idaho, Aug. 15.—Two companies of infantry from Fort George Wright, Spokane, arrived here early today to aid in quenching the great forest fire in the Couer d'Alene national forest reserve. Conditions continue to improve. Dynamite was exploded in Wallace yesterday with the hope of bringing rain and a small shower fell during the night.

A ten-mile trench has been dug around the Big creek fire and it is believed that only a heavy wind will cause it to get away from the fire fighters.

A large crew of men on the Borax fire on Idaho mountain went on a strike yesterday because they believed the foreman was not a union sympathizer. Men were sent out today to take their places.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—The fury of the forest fires in the Glacier national park in Montana has not abated, according to the latest reports received here by the interior department. Major Wm. R. Logan, supervisor of the new park, in a telegram received by Acting Secretary of the Interior Pierce today, made another appeal that troops be rushed to his assistance. It is assumed, however, that the dispatch was sent before Major Logan received word that soldiers were enroute.

Major Logan was instructed to communicate with the commander of Fort Wright at Spokane, Wash., who would inform him how many soldiers had been placed at his disposal and when they would arrive. If the force proves inadequate, more will be sent.

### It Produces Revenue.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—Close tabs are being kept by treasury department officials on the receipts and expenditures under the Payne-Aldrich law, which is to be a big issue in the coming campaign.

A statement given out today by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Hilles, shows that during the first six weeks of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1910, the "ordinary receipts" have increased over the receipts for the corresponding period a year ago by more than half a million dollars a week, while the disbursements for that period were one million dollars less.

### Death of Famous War Nurse.

LONDON, Aug. 14.—Florence Nightingale, the former nurse of the Crimean war and the only woman who ever received the Order of Merit, died yesterday afternoon at her London home.

Florence Nightingale was born May 12, 1820. She was the first woman to follow a modern army into battle as a nurse, and in the Crimea she gained the title of "Angel of the Crimea."

At the close of the war she was enabled by a testimonial fund amounting to \$250,000, to found an institution for the training of nurses, the Nightingale home at St. Thomas. She was also the means of calling attention to the unsanitary conditions of the camp hospitals.

### Inspecting Irrigation Projects.

BILLINGS, Aug. 15.—Accompanied by Senator Thomas H. Carter and Congressman Charles N. Pray, the army and reclamation engineers who are inspecting the government irrigation projects, will leave here tonight after having spent several days looking over the Huntley project. The party will spend tomorrow at Glendive and probably spend the night at Sidney. This will give them an opportunity to look over the Lower Yellowstone project.

As the schedule is now arranged, the engineers will visit the Buford-Trenton and Williston projects in the Dakotas on Wednesday, and then return to Montana, arriving at Glasgow on the morning of August 18. Two days will be spent in the Milk river valley and the party will arrive in Great Falls on the morning of the 20th. Gov. E. L. Norris, who left the party here, expects to join it again at Great Falls.

The engineers plan to spend three days on the Sun river project. They will reach Browning on the morning of the 24th. Three days will be spent in going over the St. Mary's river territory.

### They Fear Cholera.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Rigorous measures have been taken by United States representatives abroad to prevent the introduction into this country of cholera. At the instance of the public health service at Washington, the United States consular officers at Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp and Rotterdam and other continental and

British ports are working under cabled instructions which require them to detain steamer passengers from cholera infected districts in Russia and to disinfect baggage prior to embarking for the United States. The instructions were given obedience at shipping points.

### Lind Declines Nomination.

ST. PAUL, Aug. 15.—In a letter received today by F. A. Day, chairman of the democratic state central committee, John A. Lind, of Minneapolis, who is in Seattle and who was named for governor by the democratic state convention in July says:

"I cling to my original decision to refuse to be a democratic candidate for governor, though I am without a full knowledge of the situation."

### Homesteads On Coal Lands.

PIERRE, S. D., Aug. 13.—Following a conference yesterday of the congressional delegation of this state, Governor Vessey of South Dakota, Governor Burke of North Dakota, and representatives of the settlers, Governor Vessey and Logan Berry of the South Dakota settlers representative, and J. D. Newton and the North Dakota representative, started today for Washington to attempt to obtain a modification of the coal land withdrawals in the western part of the two states.

They will ask that the settlers be allowed to acquire surface title without delay and without prejudice to the coal title so far as the government is concerned.

They will also ask for a ruling of the department that when special agents file an adverse report on the final proof of a claimant, the agent must within reasonable time sustain his charges and not cause the settler to prove his innocence. Such a ruling would be a radical change from field work as now conducted.

### Floods in Japan.

TOKIO, Aug. 12.—The devastation wrought throughout many districts by the recent floods in Japan is appalling. Whole villages and towns have been washed away and many lives have been lost. In the lower sections of Tokio alone, 30,000 houses are submerged. Communication by railroad throughout the flooded area has been interrupted.

There is much suffering and in many places the inhabitants are destitute and threatened with starvation. The monetary loss amounts to millions of dollars.

### Wyoming Range Trouble.

SALT LAKE CITY, Aug. 13.—A special dispatch to the Evening News tells of the breaking out of range trouble near Jay Em, in Converse county, Wyo. A sheep camp established beyond a deadline set by the cattlemen was raided and the wagon burned. The Wool Growers' association is gathering material for prosecutions.

### Meeting of Governors.

HELENA, Aug. 10.—Governor Norris indorses the idea of Governor Hay of Washington to hold a conference of the western governors prior to the meeting of the National Conservation congress to be held at St. Paul. Speaking of the matter Governor Norris said:

"I think such a conference would be of value, and have so informed Governor Hay in reply to his telegraphic and mail invitations. There seems to be some apprehension that it is the purpose of some of the managers of the National Conservation congress to predominate by sheer force of numbers.

"I was assured, however, when in St. Paul recently, by the St. Paul Business Men's association, that the west would be given every opportunity to present its views on the general question of conservation. I have not the slightest doubt that this will be done, but at this time I feel that it would be a good plan for western governors to meet and reach some definite conclusion with regard to the attitude to which they can all subscribe.

### Practical Dry Farming.

Great Falls Leader.  
The trouble with Montana dry land farming would seem that it has been practiced more largely upon paper than in practice, and words do not sprout wheat. Those dry land farmers who practiced dry land farming on the soil are reaping the result with the reaper.

### "Prints All the News."

If any reader of the RIVER PRESS considers it worthy of recommendation to friends, the favor will be very highly appreciated by its publishers.

## BIG LAND SWINDLE.

### Montana Residents Warned Against Real Estate Fraud.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—In a statement issued late today by the interior department, through the reclamation service, the promoters of a purported land deal on the Yakima Indian reservation are denounced as "probably an organized band of swindlers, posing as real estate men."

Hundreds of letters have been received from Montana, asking for information, and investment by Montana people in the scheme is said to be very large. These promoters have widely advertised throughout the entire country that more than a million acres of government land is soon to be opened on the Yakima reservation, and glowing pictures are painted of opportunities for homeseekers. An authorized statement of the reclamation service says:

"The facts are that the government does not contemplate any opening on the Yakima reservation at this time, and has not for some time; there are nothing like a million acres to be opened, and none of the land to be opened to entry is likely to be irrigable, or suitable for any purpose whatever except grazing. It is not probable that there is a quarter section of land on the reservation, outside of what will be included in the Indian allotments, upon which a person could make a living by farming. It is rumored that these swindlers are offering to locate soldiers' claims for \$25 each."

### Soldiers As Fire Fighters.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—Major General Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the army, today asked the interior department and the forest service to agree on a joint plan for the use of United States troops for fighting the forest fires in the west.

While the war department has been rushing soldiers to the aid of fire fighters as quickly as requested, General Wood told officials of both services that the efficiency of the troops would be greatly increased if a plan could be decided on which would prevent duplication of requests and clashes of authority. Such a plan probably will be presented to him today.

The war department has troops all around the fires in western Montana and northern Idaho, either at mobilization camps or at home posts. By a joint plan of action troops nearest the individual fires will be sent to fight them. General Wood says the Indian and forestry services will be given all the troops they may need during the emergency.

Two companies of infantry from Fort Wright, Wash., have been ordered to Wallace, Idaho, and one to Kallispell, Mont., to aid in fighting forest fires. The two companies now en route to Glacier Peak will be divided and one will be dispatched to Kallispell, giving that section two companies.

### Filling the Jails.

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 11.—The jails of Los Angeles and Long Beach are filled to capacity with striking laborers arrested during the last week on charges of violating the ordinances against "picketing," enacted recently by the two cities. In Los Angeles are more than 5,000 brewery workers and iron workers, who walked out some weeks ago. They have purposely caused their own arrests in order to test the "picketing" law, which is declared by attorneys for the laboring men to be unconstitutional.

The men have all demanded jury trials. E. P. Kramer, the first to be tried, was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of \$50 or serve 60 days in jail. His case will be appealed to the supreme court.

### Conspiracy Disclosed.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Aug. 11.—Disclosures of almost sensational nature involving high former officials of the Illinois Central railroad in the conspiracy by which the Memphis Car company defrauded the railroad of hundreds of thousands of dollars, was made here today when a decree was issued in the chancery court.

E. McCourt, a general superintendent of the Southern lines of the Illinois Central and W. S. Klog, general superintendent of the Yazoo & Mississippi railroad, have made voluntary restitutions of \$13,000 in cash, it is said.

Mentioned in the decree as stockholders also were the names of Frank B. Harriman, general manager of the Illinois Central; William Renshaw, until May 1, 1909, superintendent of machinery; Joseph E. Baker, assistant superintendent of machinery, and

John M. Taylor, general superintendent of the Burnside shops, Chicago.

A deed was recorded in the register's office here today by which the Memphis Car company transfers to the railroad all its property in this city.

This transfer, it is understood, amounts to about \$200,000. The railroad sued for \$300,000, alleging large frauds in charges made against it for the repair of cars, and alleged that men in the road's employment had been in collusion with the Memphis Car company.

### Charged with Manslaughter.

BOISE, Idaho, Aug. 11.—Today at Weiser, Idaho, E. M. Helghe, president of the Pacific, Idaho & Northern railroad was held for trial in the district court on the charge of manslaughter. He was released on \$5,000 bail.

The accusation against Helghe arose from the death from heart failure, of Mrs. Sylvia Reigelman of Omaha, who was visiting her son, Wesley Barton, cashier of the First National bank of Weiser, when Helghe appeared at the Barton home, called Barton out and assaulted him. In the course of the fight, it is alleged, Helghe acted as though he intended to shoot. Mrs. Reigelman fainted and died in 20 minutes.

## CONSERVATION CONGRESS.

### Many Notable Men are Scheduled to Speak at the Meeting.

ST. PAUL, Aug. 12.—"I know of no public question that could bring so many representative men together in a convention as that of conservation," said Thomas R. Shipp, secretary, in speaking of the coming congress to be held in St. Paul September 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

"A glance at the list of speakers is sufficient to show that the country's best men are behind this movement, and I have no doubt the second congress is going to set a pace that will be hard to follow in the future."

The list of speakers to which Secretary Shipp referred contains such names as William H. Taft, president of the United States; Theodore Roosevelt, former president of the United States; Gifford Pinchot, Senators Beveridge, Dolliver and Nelson and such representative men as James J. Hill, Wallace D. Simmons and James R. Garfield.

There has been a lot of talk about politics in connection with the congress. That there will be in St. Paul at that time members of the United States senate, members of the house, governors of many states and mayors of many cities, is sufficient cause to say that there will be some political pow-wows on the side, but it is the intention of the officers of the congress to keep politics out of the proceedings as far as possible.

"Insurgency" is pretty well represented on the program with Pinchot, Garfield and Senators Beveridge and Dolliver as speakers. This in itself is a refutation of the statements that have been made concerning President Taft's connection with the program. It was said that the president insisted upon certain changes being made before he would agree to speak.

When Governor Eberhart returned to St. Paul after heading the committee which visited the president at Beverly and tendered the invitation, he said the president did not even ask to see the program and made no suggestions whatever concerning it.

### Idaho Towns in Danger.

SPOKANE, Aug. 12.—Blazing embers carried by the wind from the burning forests on the mountain sides were falling in Wallace, Idaho, today. The dense smoke made it impossible to see objects 200 yards away. A hundred families packed up their possessions and fled to Spokane or other towns. Should the wind become stronger, it is believed nothing can save the town.

Forest fires in the Placer creek district, five miles from Wallace, have destroyed the compressor buildings, boiler plants, blacksmith shops and cabins owned by the Wentworth Clothing company and the Vienna National Mining company, the Arctic, the Smuggler and Golden State companies. Owing to the dense smoke and falling embers it is impossible to get into the camp to estimate the damage.

Mullan, Murray and other camps are in danger. At Mullan firemen and citizens are keeping the roofs soaked. Near Murray two men spent the night in a tunnel with their heads covered with wet blankets. Timber on Kellogg peak close to Wardner is blazing but the town is said to be safe.

## CASE IS HOPEFUL.

### Mayor Gaynor's Condition is Regarded as Encouraging.

NEW YORK, Aug. 10.—A consultation of physicians over Mayor Wm. J. Gaynor, who was shot by a discharged city employe yesterday, was held this morning, after which the following bulletin was issued:

"11:00 a. m. The mayor continues to do well. It is the unanimous opinion of the surgeons that no operation is necessary at this time."

The condition of Mayor Gaynor is regarded as encouraging, although it continues to be a source of great anxiety. The first bulletins of the day were hopeful in tone, indicating that the patient was resting easy and taking occasional nourishment, and the bulletin issued at 11 o'clock was regarded as favorable. The wound itself is not causing serious trouble, but the doctors are giving their chief attention to overcoming the dangers of possible infection. The mayor remains calm and keeps cheerful.

Shortly before 10 o'clock Mayor Gaynor was allowed a little more nourishment in the form of chicken broth and was permitted a taste of coffee. His appetite was by no means satisfied, however. He said he was very hungry and laughingly suggested to Secretary Adamson that the latter smuggle in a little more broth for him. The mayor was in no pain and continued talking freely on various occasions.

A formal bulletin issued at 7:30 o'clock was preceded by an informal and equally reassuring statement by Dr. William Arlitz, who left the mayor's bedside at 6 o'clock, bringing word that the patient had passed a good night and that no untoward symptoms had developed.

While the mayor's condition is admittedly very serious and the physicians would not commit themselves on a statement as to the outcome, Secretary Adamson who was one of those who remained with the patient all night, said he considered the outlook very hopeful.

### Fire Conditions Improved.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10. The fire conditions in the national forests have improved.

A telegram received today by Associate Forester Potter from Associate Forester Silcox at Missoula, Mont., under whose jurisdiction the forest fires have been, reported the fires in the territory were now under control, except those in the Clearwater and Coeur d'Alene reserves in Idaho. He said the federal troops from Forts Harrison and Missoula in Montana were co-operating with the forces in fighting the flames.

Mr. Silcox estimated that about 200,000 acres have been burned over. Forest officials here are unable to approximate the monetary loss with any degree of accuracy, because they are without definite information as to the extent of devastation from the burned over area. It is thought, however, that the loss will be very large.

### Back Haul Tariffs Suspended.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—What are known as the back haul tariffs from Portland, Seattle and Tacoma in the state of Washington have been suspended by the Interstate Commerce commission pending an inquiry into their reasonableness. The tariffs were to have become effective August 1 on the Northern Pacific, but the action of the commission restrained the line from putting them into effect. The proposed advances in the back haul rate were made by the Northern Pacific in the face of a decision of the commission that the rates ought to be reduced 20 per cent.

In the hearing of the back haul case last autumn by the full commission it was agreed by the railroads that the reduction of 17 2-3 per cent probably would be fair. In spite of this statement, however, the advance of 25 per cent was made. It was this advance that the commission suspended.

The hearing in the matter will take place in Chicago August 29 before George N. Brown, chief examiner for the commission.

### Damaged by Fire.

RENO, Nev., Aug. 10.—Fire which started in the changing room of the Best & Belcher Mining company yesterday afternoon and raged among the surface buildings of the company and over the mouth of the shaft, destroyed the hoisting works of the company, causing a loss which at this time is estimated at \$50,000, partially covered by insurance.

Although the Best & Belcher shaft is the "uptake" of all the Gold hill mines, work in the other properties will not be interfered with, owing to

the fact that the fire did not reach the shaft and Foreman Fred Black stated this morning that so far as he is able to learn there has been no damage to the underground workings. The fire was extinguished at 1 o'clock this morning. A few sets of timber around the mouth of the shaft are damaged and will have to be replaced.

The residence of former Senator Jones, which is on the hill near Belcher, caught fire, but was extinguished before any great damage was done. The cause of the fire is unknown and no theory has been advanced. No men were hurt. There were no men in the mine at the time the fire started.

### Forest Fires Still Burning.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—The forest service has called upon the war department for aid to fight the forest fires in Montana. General Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the army, has directed that a battalion of the Fourteenth Infantry, now maneuvering at American lake camp, be ordered immediately to Missoula, Mont.

Serious forest fires are raging again on the Flathead Indian reservation in Montana and the situation in the Coeur d'Alene national forest in Idaho, continues extremely critical.

The conditions in other national forest reserves have materially improved, according to advices received by the forest service.

A telegram received today by Acting Secretary Pierce of the interior department from Superintendent Morgan of the Flathead Indian reservation said that seven distinct fires were beyond control and asked that companies of troops be sent to his aid. The war department complied with Mr. Pierce's request.

## THE OKLAHOMA SCANDAL.

### Even Paposes Signed Contracts for McMurray.

MCALISTER, Okla., Aug. 11.—It was brought out in the congressional investigation of the Gore bribery charges today that baby Indians, as well as adult ones, had "signed" the McMurray contracts providing for the sale of \$30,000,000 worth of land on a 10 per cent "attorneys' fees."

The names of the paposes were signed by the parents or guardians, witnesses testified. It was incidentally developed that racetrack officials far from being threatened among the Indians, as families of six to nine children are common.

J. M. Perkins, a Choctaw, testified that he had nine children, all of whom had signed the contracts.

"We were led to believe that the contracts were a good thing," said Perkins. "We considered that McMurray knew better than our congressmen and senators how to go about selling the land. We believed that by signing the contracts we would realize quicker on our claims against the government. That is why I and the children signed up."

Dr. J. H. Miller, a Choctaw by intermarriage, testified that he and his eight children had signed the contracts. The present great wealth of the Oklahoma Indians was brought out in testimony.

Indian witnesses took the stand and told of measuring their land by the thousand acres. One Indian testified his family owned 1,200 acres of which 1,000 acres were under cultivation, with cotton, corn and potatoes. The land is rented out, he said, giving him one-quarter of the cotton crop, and one-third of the corn without labor from him.

### Mayor Gaynor Improving.

NEW YORK, Aug. 11.—Mayor William J. Gaynor showed greater strength today than at any time since his life was attempted on the steamer Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse on Tuesday. Not only were the physicians encouraged by the mayor's condition, but Thomas L. Gaynor, his brother, left for a three days' visit in Baltimore. Mr. Gaynor said there was no cause for worry. There will be no further consultation of physicians until tonight. The official morning bulletin was encouraging, showing Mayor Gaynor's temperature was 100 1-5 and pulse 76.

### Bailey's Boom.

GALVESTON, Tex., Aug. 10.—After endorsing Senator Bailey for the democratic president in 1912 and nominating a full ticket headed by Oscar Colquitt for governor and A. B. Davidson for lieutenant governor, the democratic state convention adjourned this afternoon. Both Colquitt and Davidson are anti-prohibitionists, notwithstanding the fact that the platform declares for the submission of a prohibition amendment to the people.