

THE RIVER PRESS.

Vol. XXX.

Fort Benton, Montana, Wednesday, August 31, 1910.

No. 45

TAFT URGES HARMONY.

President Reviews Creditable Work of Republican Congress.

NEW YORK, Aug. 28.—President Taft's letter to W. B. McKinley, chairman of the republican congressional committee, was made public tonight by the New York headquarters of the committee. The president in the communication says that differences between republicans should be forgotten in the congressional election and that "all republicans who believe in the party principles as declared in its national platform of 1908, should give the candidates loyal and effective support. If this is done there will be no doubt of a return of a republican majority."

As to the tariff, the president says: "It seems to me that all republicans—conservative, progressive and radical—may well abide the situation with respect to the tariff until evidence now being accumulated shall justify changes in the rates."

Mr. Taft's plan for revision by congress of individual schedules after investigation by the tariff commission, is discussed in this connection.

The president reviews the more important legislation enacted by congress in fulfillment of its promises and says: "It is of the utmost importance to make this campaign of education as to facts and clear away the clouds of misrepresentation that have obscured the real issues."

Roosevelt Sees Many Changes.

DENVER, Aug. 29.—Speaking of changes that have taken place on cattle ranges since he first became acquainted with them, Colonel Roosevelt at the "chuck wagon" lunch given by the Denver Press club, said: "Thirty years ago I went west of the Missouri in the Red River valley. In those days the buffalo still abounded in great herds, and there was still difficulty with the Indians. The conditions of life were very hard, but they were more attractive than they are today. I hold it a peculiar pleasure and a peculiar privilege to have taken part in your life in those days. The cattle bearing my brands, the Maltese cross and the Elk Horn were first put on the Little Missouri 28 years ago."

"Now traveling through the country here I am struck by the improvement in the comfort, and in the opportunities for cleanliness and neatness which the ranges show compared with the conditions of a quarter of a century ago."

"As far as I can see the men on the ranges, they ride as hard and work as hard and are as thoroughly manly as the men of 25 years ago. The greater comforts they now enjoy contribute to their self respect. While it gives me great pleasure to think of the past, I have even greater pride in the present and in the promise for the future of the great west."

Would Lynch Horse Thieves.

DENVER, August 27.—Thoroughly aroused at the daring of horse thieves recently, old ranchmen throughout this state have decided to organize the Colorado Protective association, the purpose of which is to take steps toward the elimination of the evil now existing.

According to the ranchmen, as soon as the summary execution of horse thieves was abandoned the number of thieves increased and is still increasing. It required only a brief statement calling to mind the facts to effect the formation of the association, which is a secret organization.

It is planned to make it state wide in scope and influence. There will be subordinate lodges with accredited delegates to the parent lodge, and the concern of one will be the interest of all. It is said that later there may come affiliation with the organization in the middle western states.

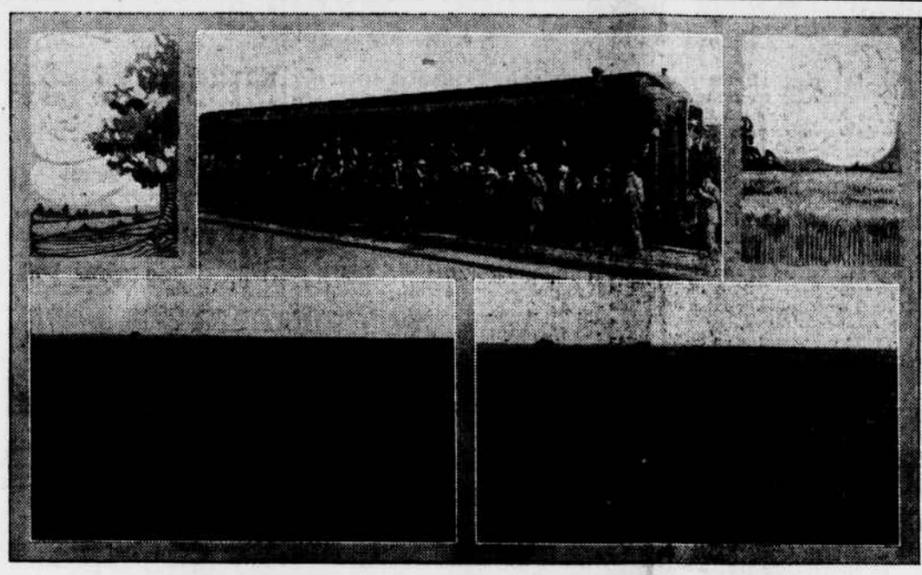
Wealthy Woman a Smuggler.

NEW YORK, Aug. 28.—According to customs officials, Mrs. I. Reynolds Adriance of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., socially prominent and wealthy, will be summoned to appear at the customs house tomorrow to show cause why she should not be arrested on a charge of smuggling.

Arriving today on the steamer Baltic, customs inspectors said she failed to mention in her declaration of dutiable goods a \$6,000 pearl necklace, found after a search of her person hidden in her hat.

Fire Conditions Improved.

MISSOULA, Aug. 28.—Reports sent in to the district officers of the forest service indicate that all the men employed by the government as fire-fighters in the fire swept districts have



GOOD CROPS AT CHESTER EXPERIMENT FARM

Above photographs were taken at Chester, Montana, and show a field of macaroni wheat averaging 18 to 20 bushels per acre grown on land which received but 2.6 inches of rainfall from March 1st to July 1st. A field of barley is also shown, together with the special car on which the party was taken to Chester.

The Great Northern Railway in order to demonstrate the practicability and effectiveness of scientific cultivation on the bench lands tributary to its line, took a party of over 200 farmers and business men from Glasgow and all points west thereof in the Milk River Valley; also from Benton and other points in Chouteau County to Chester on Monday, July 25th.

Any farmer in Montana can produce a profitable crop in even the driest year if the approved methods of cultivation are followed. Settlers desiring detail information regarding directions for growing crops on 320-acre homesteads should address E. C. Leedy, General Immigration Agent, Great Northern Railway, St. Paul, for particulars.

DEATH LIST INCREASED.

Loss of Life in Forest Fires May Reach Two Hundred.

SPOKANE, Aug. 28.—Careful estimates of the loss of life in the forest fires place the number dead and probably dead at more than 200. The Italians and Austrians in the St. Joe valley, of whom many perished, were employees of the logging camps. The list of government rangers dead, now 100, will almost certainly be lengthened.

Patrick Grogan of Butte, one of the twenty-four forest men killed in the fire on Setzer creek, refused to run when he saw death reaching him and died beside his tent, a faithful dog remaining to share his fate. The old man and his dog were buried in one grave. Grogan, who was well known in Butte and elsewhere in the northwest, was the oldest of sixty-nine men stationed on Setzer creek.

When the fires appeared threatening early Sunday night the men were given orders to leave. Forty started down the canyon toward Avery, six miles away. Five were out on patrol duty and could not be reached. The other twenty-four elected to stay in the Setzer creek camp. Worn out by their days of ceaseless work they declared there was no more danger than in Avery.

The forty men had left camp less than an hour when the fire swept up the canyon from the direction in which they had gone. Two days later when a searching party went up the canyon they found fourteen charred bodies lying together a mile from the camp. The bodies of nine others who evidently had fallen in a mad race up the canyon were found scattered between this point and the camp.

Fire Fugitives Are Destitute.

MISSOULA, Aug. 28.—Reports received today by District Forester Greeley from the fire districts of Montana and Idaho reveal that the general situation is improving all the time. The fire fighters are slowly gaining control and all towns and settlements are out of danger.

W. S. Bennett, connected with the Coeur d'Alene and Montana Mining company, working near Trout creek, reports a distressing condition in the Trout creek district. In that territory hundreds of people have lost everything they possessed. Entire families are destitute, many of them being compelled to depend upon the charity of others for clothing. All of the mining and lumber companies, together with sawmills and other commercial enterprises have been destroyed, while the stock of fish in the creeks had been killed either by the heat or pollution of waters by ash lye. In hill and valley countless carcasses of wild animals and birds are found roasted and charred.

Reward Offered For Robbers.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28.—A reward of \$500 is offered by the war department for the capture of robbers who carried off a safe and \$6,493.50 from Camp Otis, Wyo., on the night of August 9.

The safe and its contents were guarded by a sergeant, a corporal, a musician and three colored troopers of the Ninth U. S. cavalry. The guard had

not reported the theft the next morning when Paymaster Wilder came to pay off the Utah regiments, which had been in maneuvers at Camp Otis. The guard is under arrest.

Two days before the robbery the safe contained \$80,000.

Pinchot Blames Congress.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—Gifford Pinchot of the National Conservation association and former head of the government forest service, in a statement issued this morning holds that the loss of property and life in the recent and present forest fires was unnecessary. The disastrous results, he says, are traceable to the unpreparedness to deal with the fire situation.

He scores members of the congress who have opposed preparations for the proper equipment of forest rangers and in that connection names Senator Heyburn of Idaho, whose home town, Wallace, suffered serious loss; Senator Carter of Montana, and Representative Mondell of Wyoming.

Roosevelt Appeared in Pajamas.

AMES, Iowa, Aug. 26.—Speeding westward in his special car Colonel Roosevelt was not permitted to sleep late this morning. Scarcely had the state of Iowa been entered when a stop was made at Marshalltown, where hundreds of people clamored to see Colonel Roosevelt.

After some delay he emerged from the rear door of his car smiling, but protesting he had not been scheduled to speak there. After his remarks, he protested against the actions of the photographers, who had brought their cameras into action. "It is an outrage," he said, "to take my picture in this garb."

He had only time to throw a rain coat over his pajamas, and to don slippers when called to the platform. The Roosevelt special will go through Iowa and Nebraska, stopping at a dozen or more places where Colonel Roosevelt will make speeches.

Would Be Costly Experiment.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—Estimating the cost of the experiment at about \$100,000 the war department officials today denied requests to order a bombardment of the skies by all its guns on Puget Sound and at the mouth of the Columbia river in an effort to bring on rain in the burning forest districts of the northwest. In addition to the objection of cost, the army officials regarded the project as futile. The navy department to which a similar request was made, expressed its willingness to co-operate with the army with six or ten-inch guns, the only ones at its disposal.

The experiment would have been one of the most spectacular ever attempted in the United States. Around Puget Sound, at forts Worden, Casey and Flagler, the army has forty 12-inch mortars, six 12-inch rifles; eighteen 10-inch guns and twenty six-inch guns, besides a large number of guns of smaller caliber. At the mouth of the Columbia, in forts Columbia and Stevens are eight 12-inch mortars; eight 10-inch guns; three 8-inch guns and eleven six-inch guns, in addition to the smaller ones.

To fire these once simultaneously loaded properly for the purpose in mind, would have cost the government, it was estimated at the war department, \$10,000.

RAIN SAVES FORESTS.

Danger From Fires Reduced in Stricken Districts.

MISSOULA, Aug. 24.—Conditions in the burning forest districts in western Montana continue to improve. Mother Nature has come to the rescue and has spread a covering of snow over the valleys. Scattering reports received today show that the storm has extended over an area of 100 square miles and that every one interested in the fight against the flames is exceedingly rejoiced.

Refugees continue to come in at different points and it is thought that in the end many reported to have been burned to death will be unharmed. The work of restoring normal conditions is proceeding rapidly.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound officials have started four trains to the fire district in the Bitter Root mountains and these trains will be used to replace camps, supply them and rebuild such portions of the road that have been destroyed. The trains are amply laden with provisions and material supplies to carry on the repair and relief work for some days and before the end of the week, the track between the level country and the Bitter Root summit should be in fair condition for operation.

At 11 o'clock today rain was reported falling copiously in Paradise, the farther western point reached by the local officials of the Northern Pacific. Saltsee and St. Regis sent similar reports. Latest reports indicate that the storm is continuing. Supervisor Kinney, of the Missoula national forest, has received word from more of the ranger stations in his district saying the storm is general. He has sent out word to all rangers to keep the fire fighters at their posts.

Many Fire Fighters Dead.

SPOKANE, Aug. 24.—The red banners of the forest fires continue to advance through the mountains of Idaho and Montana today, but more slowly, and although thousands of bare and blackened trunks stand where yesterday majestic pine trees lifted their glorious crowns, it is believed that the strategy of man has triumphed over the fury of flames and wind.

Today's news adds more than 35 to the list of dead and makes it appear likely that the total will reach one hundred.

Twenty United States forest employes have been found dead on Setzer creek, Idaho. Ten Japanese were overcome near Avery, Idaho, two fire fighters were burned to death near Cabinet, Idaho, and another perished near Tascor, Montana. On the other hand the list of known dead in the state of Washington has been reduced to six by removing the names of ranchers Thomas Carey and John Cady of Newport.

Settlers Must Sell Lands.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—By order of Secretary of the Interior Ballinger, the surplus land of the Carlsbad, N. M., project of the national reclamation service, will probably be placed on sale today. This is the first sale to be held under the surplus land provision of the reclamation act of June 17, 1902, which provides that no individual shall receive water from the government constructed canals for more than 160 acres, and the agreement entered into by the land holders require them to dispose of their holdings in excess of 160 acres as soon after the completion of the project as possible.

There are about 8,000 acres of surplus lands in the Carlsbad project which will be sold at public auction, beginning today, under the provision. These lands are all situated in the lower Pecos valley of New Mexico.

A Frontier Day Celebration.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., Aug. 23.—With the opening of the frontier day celebration today the invasion of Cheyenne was begun. The railroads are bringing in thousands. On the street the cow punchers are brushing shoulders with magazine writers, while the timorous tourist hesitates on the curb between the hundreds of Indians stalking stolidly along the sidewalk and range horsemen giving impromptu exhibitions of horsemanship in the roadway.

All are eagerly awaiting the coming of Colonel Roosevelt, whose presence on Saturday will provide the climax of a celebration.

An Army of Notaries.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—The creation of an army of 40,000 notaries public was authorized by the post-office department today in accordance with legislation enacted during the past session of congress. All car-

riers of the rural delivery mail service are now required by the department to execute vouchers for United States pensioners, residing on their routes, for which service they are to receive 25 cents for each voucher executed.

The establishment of the rural free delivery service resulted in the discontinuance of 23,550 fourth class post-offices, the postmasters of which had been authorized to execute pension vouchers. In order to afford assistance to the pensioners congress provided the carriers of the free delivery service should the work.

Longest Fence In World.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Aug. 25.—The longest fence in the world and the queerest artificial boundary established between two countries will in the near future separate the United States and Mexico. According to a dispatch in the Mexico Record, a final agreement to that effect has been drawn up between the two governments and the fence will be built in the very near future. It will be constructed of stout posts, possibly reinforced concrete, and five-strand, steel-tight and barbed wire. In all places where the United States government owns the land the fence will be set up 20 meters or about 60 yards to the north of the true boundary line and where the ground is owned individually the fence will stand on the exact border. Mounted Mexican rurales will patrol the fence on the south and United States rangers will do the same on the north.

The immediate purpose of the fence is to prevent cattle from the two countries from straying on foreign soil. About 1,000 miles of fence will have to be erected.

WILL FIGHT GRAFTING.

Roosevelt Advises Campaign Against Official Crookedness.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Aug. 25.—Theodore Roosevelt pledged himself to the men of Buffalo today to help them and all sincere citizens to fight crookedness wherever it is found.

"I'll help you just as I did in the past," he said, speaking to the Ellicott club, whose guest he was at breakfast an hour after sunrise. He made a plea for the punishment of crooked and grafting public officials and the election of honest ones in their places, a process of gradually but permanently raising the morale of political and business life, and he said he thought it a duty to hunt out crooks and especially crooks in his own party.

"I believe in party government," he said. "But the moment a question of honesty is involved I recognize no party distinctions, or if I do make any, it is that it is a little more my business to put the grafter and crook out of public life if he belongs to my party, than if to another. This attitude demands that one's attention be fixed not on financial or social status, but on conduct."

Nearly 400 members of the Ellicott club and other citizens representing leading professional and business interests and a wide variety of political affiliation awaited Mr. Roosevelt's coming from the New York Central station.

Convicts On Road Work.

HELENA, Aug. 24.—In a letter addressed to the secretary of the Helena Commercial club the state board of prison commissioners announced today that the convicts who were brought here from Deer Lodge to work on the state fair ground will be moved to Hellgate canyon, in Granite county, put to work on the road there and the work here stopped. The reason for the action given is the failure of the Commercial club to furnish the materials necessary to continue the work. The communication, which is a long one, concludes:

"We do not think it necessary to indulge in further argument in support of our position in working the prisoners on public roads, both in the interest of the taxpayers and the prisoners themselves. However, we are disappointed to find you deserting us in so splendid a project as has been undertaken here."

Jury Indicted Wrong Man.

HELENA, Aug. 24.—When the case of George Gordon, indicted on the charge of selling whiskey to the Indians, was called in the federal court today it was found the wrong man had been indicted. Judge Rasch dismissed the case.

The special agent who worked up the case knew the man who sold the whiskey by sight, but did not know his name and was given that of Geo. Gordon. When Gordon appeared in court today the special agent said he was not the man and that a mistake had been made.