

EPITOME

OF A
WEEK'S NEWS

Most Important Happenings Told in Brief.

Washington

All hope of pension legislation at this session of congress was dashed when Democratic Leader Underwood of the house of representatives served notice that such legislation would be taken up at the proper time at the regular session in December.

President Taft's administration was brought into the Lorimer investigation in a new way when Governor Deneen of Illinois testified that as early as August, 1909, Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh sent him "to ascertain for the president matters regarding the election of Senator Lorimer." This was about three months after Mr. Lorimer's election.

The senate by unanimous action has fixed the dates when a vote shall be taken on several important measures and it is believed by the leaders of the various factions that the special session of congress will adjourn on or about August 7. The Canadian reciprocity measure will be voted for July 22.

After secret consideration of charges made by Delegate Wickersham of Alaska that Attorney General Wickersham deliberately permitted the statute of limitations to run against Alaska, the senate committee on judiciary at Washington has determined to report favorably a resolution of inquiry.

Letters and telegrams expressing confidence in Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, the pure food expert of the department of agriculture, were being sent Taft to consider most carefully the charge made against him by the personnel board of the department, and endorsed by Attorney General Wickersham, are pouring into the White House from all over the country.

In a speech against reciprocity Senator La Follette in the United States senate reviewed, set by act, the administration of President Taft in unparliamentary terms, and declared that the contest involved was the "right between the plain people and confederated privilege."

Governor Deneen of Illinois gave the Lorimer investigation committee the version of the circumstances leading up to the election of Senator Lorimer. He flatly contradicted assertions made by Edward Hines before the committee regarding the telephone conversation on the morning of May 28, 1909, in which the Chicago lumberman told of his alleged message from President Taft.

Domestic

Officials of the National City bank of New York have notified the department of justice at Washington that they will aid any investigation the government wishes to make into the National City company, the security corporation recently organized by directors of the bank with the ostensible purpose of holding bank stocks.

Judge Lawrence de Graff of the district court at Des Moines, Ia., refused to grant an injunction to John B. Hammond of the citizens' committee against Michael Waldron, editor of the "Tribune" regard this as a victory for them, as eighty-eight saloons were affected by the verdict.

The quarantine situation at quarantine is regarded by Dr. Alvin H. Doty, health officer of the port of New York, as being well in hand, but he does not conceal his apprehension that New York is in the very midst of a threatened invasion of cholera.

Beside a newly-made grave at Lawrence, Okla., Miss Nora Blomquist, nee N. Upton, was married by Rev. W. E. Humphreys. The pastor had been officiating at a funeral.

Increases in the valuation of the Farmington & Ohio lines from \$18,691,673 to \$19,043,580 caused representatives of that system to complain that the factor employed by the tax commission of Ohio in determining the value of the road had been too high.

S. D. H. Hilditch, sentenced to two years in the Haverthorn (Kinn) penitentiary for subornation of perjury in connection with the trial of Othello Smith, was released from prison, his sentence having been commuted by President Taft.

A. J. Roberts, the aeronaut who started in his dirigible balloon from New York for Philadelphia, was found in an exhausted condition on the beach of Deal, near Asbury Park, N. J., having been compelled to swim more than a mile in a rough sea to shore.

Mrs. Maryann Klock Armour, widow of Simpson B. Armour, the packer, has filed suit in the circuit court at Kansas City for \$142,000 against Miss Harriet Byington to cover pecuniary claims to have been made by Miss Byington while serving as companion and housekeeper to Mrs. Armour.

Because he failed to do a back handspring, Edwin A. Kraft, a nineteen-year-old Brooklyn boy, is dying. He fell heavily on the back of his neck. The hospital surgeons found that his spinal column was fractured.

Theodore Roosevelt will be the star witness before the Stanley steel investigation committee at its meeting in New York, according to information received in Washington.

The painting, "The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into Heaven," by Murillo, worth \$400,000, has been discovered in a little chapel of St. Vincent's Orphan Home in Boston.

In a call sent out by the federal council of churches more than 125,000 Protestant ministers are required to preach on some phase of the labor question on Labor Sunday, September 3.

The American state department has arranged with Mexico for the payment by that country of all losses sustained by United States citizens as a result of the recent revolution.

Pensacola, Fla., refused to appropriate money for the maintenance of a Carnegie public library. The philanthropist had offered \$25,000 if Pensacola would raise one-tenth of that amount.

Fourteen small concerns doing a fire insurance business in Philadelphia were raided by Samuel W. McCulloch, state insurance commissioner. It is charged that the companies were started as a conspiracy to defraud.

The builders' trial at Baltimore of the United States collector Neptune, the first collier to be equipped with turbines, shows a speed of 47 knots, although the contract calls for only fourteen knots.

Indictments against three revenue officers for accepting bribes and against 23 officers and salesmen of three big oleomargarine corporations were returned before Judge Landis at Chicago by the grand jury, which has been investigating frauds alleged to have cost the government \$1,000,000 in tax loss.

Charles T. Montague, Mattoon, Ill., who contest the will of his father, who left him \$250,000 provided he married and has issue before he is 60 years old.

Half a million dollars will be expended to erect a building for the national board of the Y. W. C. A. at Lexington avenue and Fifty-second street, New York.

A bill appropriating \$1,250,000 for the rehabilitation of the New York city library, which was destroyed by the recent fire in the Albany capitol, has been passed by the legislature.

A moving picture machine set up to make a film of the rescue of a young woman from the waters of a lake in Staten Island, New York, recorded instead the drowning of the actor-recesser and the saving of the actress by herself. The actor drowned was Albert Brighion.

Chairman Norman E. Mack of the Democratic national committee appointed Roger C. Sullivan of Illinois, E. O. Wood of Michigan and F. P. Lynch of Minnesota to represent the Democratic national committee at the funeral of T. C. Ryan of Wisconsin at Wausau, Wis.

The United States army has turned the searchlight on every arm of the service with a view to selecting personnel for young officers to develop the use of aeroplanes.

Sarah Hensby Marsh, who was of world wide prominence in musical circles, is dead at her home in Paris. She was seventy years old. Her first husband was Clarence Eddy, the organist.

Prince Edward, eldest son of King George and Queen Mary, was formally invested by his mother as prince of Wales, the elaborate ceremony taking place at Carnarvon castle.

Sir Eddon Corst, British agent and consul general in Egypt since 1907, is dead. He succeeded Lord Cromer as British agent in Egypt.

A bronze tablet in memory of William Penn was unveiled in All Hallows church, London, where the famous Quaker was christened.

RAINS STAMP OUT AND CHECK FOREST FIRES

NORTHERN MICHIGAN BREATHES EASY AGAIN AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF FIGHTING FLAMES.

WORK OF RELIEVING AU SABLE AND OSCODA SUFFERERS GOES ON.

Investigation Shows That Earlier Reports of the Forest Fires in the Northern Part of the State Were Exaggerated.

Heavy showers rained over all the northern and eastern section of the fire zone in northern Michigan, falling since the greatest danger lay, Millersburg, Onaway and Tower experiencing drenching rains, while at Metz and Lachine hail accompanied the rain.

The people of the devastated region received the rain with joy. Hymns were sung, prayers said, the women and children stood out in the open and let the drops soak them.

Investigation by correspondents who have been over the ground show that earlier reports of the forest fires in the northern part of the state were greatly exaggerated.

In Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties they were the worst, but even there they were not as bad as was feared at first.

About half the buildings in Millersburg were burned before a lucky change of wind saved the town. Tower also suffered, but the fire jumped past Onaway.

Millions of feet of sawed lumber at Waters were burned, but the town was not touched by fire. This fire was not the result of forest fire, but was caused by a spark from a locomotive. Nowhere else along the line of the Michigan Central from Bay City to Cheboygan are there fires to amount to anything.

Work of relief of refugees from stricken towns of Oscoda and Au Sable goes on, principally at East Tawas, where most of them are quartered.

The discovery of the charred remains of one man at Oscoda raised the death list in the twin towns to four.

There have been no forest fires in Alcona county.

Hillman, the chief of city of Montmorency county, reported endangered, is total safe. The total forest damage in Montmorency county is probably \$56,000. There is no further danger there.

GOVERNOR APPOINTS MEN TO HANDLE RELIEF.

Gov. Osborn has appointed the following to compose a state commission to handle the fire relief work:

George C. Booth, Millersburg, Capt. Fred Agard, Henry Ford, Detroit; Clarence Cotton, Grand Rapids; Homer Bush, Bay City; George W. Morley, Saginaw; Frank Fletcher, Alpena; A. E. Packard, Charlotte; J. W. Wells, Menominee; J. D. Dorr, Flint; J. E. Beal, Ann Arbor; E. E. Lansing, Col. P. L. H. Kalamazoo; Dr. W. H. Sawyer, Hillsdale; William Henry, Benton Harbor; John Carson, Flint; John Grant, Manistee; Otto Fowle, Looe; A. T. Woodruff, Bay City; Major James Laberg, East Tawas; C. W. Luce, East Tawas; and Albert S. Sleeper, Lansing.

CITIZENS DECIDE TO REBUILD.

A grand spirit of gameness was shown by the citizens of Au Sable and Oscoda at a mass meeting and it was decided to rebuild and have only one city.

Several merchants announced that they would develop temporary structures and be doing business within 30 days.

Chas. B. Sawyer stated that Detroit was ready to do what it could. J. D. Hawks, vice-president and general manager of the D. & M., was present and stated that his road would do everything for the sufferers.

The meeting was held in the little frame school house still standing. The people being summoned by the ringing of the school bell.

Relief supplies afford plenty of food and shelter and only clothing is needed.

Twenty houses in Oscoda, a school house, a bank and a railway station only buildings left.

Four lives are known to have been lost and several more names may be added to the list of fatalities when the ruins are cleared away.

The lumber mill of the H. N. Lord's Sons' company and every business enterprise in the two towns were completely wiped out, the loss totaling over \$1,000,000.

Military department of the state sends all the available tents to stricken cities with detachment of hospital corps to care for the sick.

At a meeting of the public domain commission, called by Secretary of State Martineau, it was decided to raise whatever money was necessary for the protection of life and property in the state, as a result of the forest fires.

There is, of course, some question as to whether the auditors have the right to raise the money, but all red tape was cast to the winds, and the auditors are willing to take a chance at this critical period.

Oscoda Loss \$250,000.

Five lumber camps were wiped out by fire in Alcona county. The M. C. railway lost 50 cars. Thirty farm houses and 1,000,000 feet of logs burned. The total loss in the county is reported at \$250,000. The danger is past. The Stephens saw mill, valued at \$100,000, lost 30,000 feet of lumber, a mile of ash heaps. Crops suffered considerably.

At Berryville a store building, several residences and a school house were burned.

At Gladys, a farmer, was burned out, and two farmers lost their barns and crops. Trowbridge, a place of a few settlers, located two miles south of Wolverine, which was reported burned, was saved by hard effort. No settlements in this vicinity is now in danger. In the east end a fire patrol is being maintained.

Among the timber losses is a million feet of skidded logs between Wolverine and Gladys, and a half million logs east of Gaylord, both belonging to Kneeland & Bigelow, of Bay City.

Sunday's Rain Effectually Kills Fires.

Rains continued Sunday throughout northeastern Michigan, effectually ending the fire danger in the worst forest districts for some time to come.

Relief work at Oscoda and Au Sable, however, will be a big task. Free transportation has been suspended by the railroads and there are still nearly 1,000 men, women and children at the fire-stricken homes.

The H. M. Lord's Sons' company is urging the men to leave and seek employment elsewhere in the state. It is urged that they should be paid on a scale anywhere as large as its original plan.

\$200,000 Loss in Presque Isle County.

The fire losses in Presque Isle county were along the railroad only. Rogers and Metz saw mills were touched, but the people were ready to move out, thinking of the 1903 horror. The total loss in Presque Isle county is about \$200,000. All danger is over now.

Tower's Loss \$50,000.

The loss at Tower was probably \$50,000. The 20 D. & M. railway cars and a wharf mill. The loss is slight throughout the rest of Cheboygan county.

No Parli in Isco.

There has been no danger in Isco county, the chief cities of which are Tawas City and East Tawas.

SESSION OF STATE PAROLE BOARD

LARGEST NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR PAROLES EVER ON FILE AT JACKSON.

MAY CLEAN UP OLD BUSINESS

Case of John Boyd, Whose Sentence Was Commuted From Life to Twenty-Seven Years, Will Doubtless Be Taken Up.

Lansing.—The greatest number of applications for pardons and paroles ever on file at Jackson at one time, will come before the state parole board. There are about 200 petitions. The usual number is from twenty to forty. It is said the reason there are so many cases now is because of untried business cases, and among the members of the old board.

It is expected that, with the new board, all these old cases will be cleared up. It probably will result in many prisoners being released. The case of John Boyd, whose sentence was commuted from life to 27 years, will doubtless be taken up, and Boyd paroled. Boyd has served 25 years. He has a patent on a baseball schedule, and could make a good start in life if given a chance before he is broken down in health. Boyd has been a trusty for ten years.

Relief Measures Being Rushed.

With food at their disposal and tents provided for their shelter, the thousand or more homeless survivors of the fire-swept villages of Au Sable and Oscoda are more comfortable than at any time since the flames destroyed their homes. Late reports from other counties in the fire zone are generally encouraging.

The wind subsided almost entirely Wednesday and would need but a gentle rain to smother the smoldering fires that stretch through Oscoda, Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties.

The rain, however, is not probable, and State Fire Warden Oates has suggested every available man to check the progress of the flames. His reports indicate that small forest fires are burning in every county north of the tier of counties bounded on the west by Muskegon and on the east by Arenac. In the western portion of the state Antrim and Charlevoix counties report threatening fires, and every trespass agent and landowner employed by the state has been pressed into service to fight the menacing fires.

Au Sable and Oscoda present a desolate picture. Those not sheltered by tents have gathered at the depot and every train takes many away. Here and there a few bricks and melted iron are all that remain of the buildings. There is no talk of rebuilding at present.

Relief measures throughout the state are progressing rapidly. A special train carried 20 cases of condensed milk, 3,000 pounds of ham, 2,500 loaves of bread, 30 cases of dried beef and all kinds of cereals, as well as blankets and clothing to the distressed.

"This is not a matter of relief for a week or a day or even a month," said Mayor Woodruff of Bay City last night. "Hundreds are not only destitute, but have lost all means of helping themselves. Clothing, shoes and other articles of wearing apparel for men, women and children are needed at once."

Cash contributions for the sufferers are being sent from many cities.

Going After Insanitary Creameries.

Insanitary creameries are receiving a mention from the state board of health. Dr. R. L. Dixon, secretary of the board, having directed an investigation of several "factories" in various parts of the state against which complaints have been filed. State Sanitary Engineer T. S. Algeo has been furnished with the list, and is required to make the investigation and in case he reports bad conditions in any of the places, Secretary Dixon says orders to clean up will be issued and unless they are complied with promptly, further action will be taken.

President Coming to Fair.

Early in the year President McKee of the Detroit Board of Commerce extended an invitation to President Taft to be the guest of Detroit at the Board of Commerce some time in September. President Tom Newton of the State Fair society followed this with an invitation to visit the fair and to be the guest of the Detroit board of the guest of the whole state for at least one day at the fair.

Pontiac's Attack on Fort Detroit.

The night spectacle and fireworks display at the state fair this year will be a most elaborate and costly spectacle. Congress was closed this week by the state fair officials for this part of the big show. It is to be known as "Pioneer Days and Chief Pontiac's Attack on Fort Detroit" and will be given in connection with the "Pioneer Days" September 13 to 27. Four of the largest fireworks concerns in the United States were in competition for this grand spectacle.

Michigan Patents.

Patents issued: M. L. Allen, Jackson, fish rod; Edgar L. Barry, Detroit, underground steam distributing system; H. A. Boss, St. Louis, trawler; George H. Colley, Detroit, corker; John Hammond, Lansing, different gear for automobiles; Wm. H. Hatten, Kalamazoo, automobile storage jacket; T. H. Helkes, Kalamazoo, potato planter; H. C. Kerr, Detroit, attaching device.

State Prepares for Big Sale of Land.

The state land department has been working for some months upon a schedule of dates at which state lands would be sold at the county seats of various counties in the state, and Land Commissioner Russell has announced the place and date of sale where these lands will be sold at public auction, commencing August 8.

The list includes, besides several thousand acres of farming lands, several village and city lots, all of which will be sold to the highest bidder, providing that the price bid is equal to the appraised value put on the property by the state land department. All of the lands are state tax homestead lands which have been deeded to the state by the auditor general's department. Following are the places where the sales will be held and the date. All lands situated in a county which are placed out of sale will be sold from the county seat, as follows: Cheboygan, Cheboygan, Tuesday, August 8; Isco, Tawas City, Thursday, August 10; Bay City, Tuesday, August 22; Mackinac, Saginaw, Tuesday, September 6; Chippewa, Sault Ste. Marie, Thursday, September 7; Ionia, Newberry, Tuesday, September 12; Schoolcraft, Marquette, Thursday, September 14; Roscommon, Roscommon, Wednesday, September 27; Otsego, Gaylord, Thursday, September 28; Alger, Munising, Tuesday, October 10; Baraga, L'Anse-au-Loup, Thursday, October 12; Dickinson, Iron Mountain, Saturday, October 14; Kent, Grand Rapids, Tuesday, October 24; Oscoda, Mio, Wednesday, November 1.

Points Out Need of Fire Wardens.

O. E. Elmore, a veteran Michigan and Ontario woodsman, formerly of Saginaw and now operating from Toronto, and who is temporarily in Detroit, makes these observations and criticisms relative to the forest fires now burning:

"Forest fires will be a periodical occurrence in Michigan until the state provides a far better system of fire wardens than it has now. If the forest fires are anywhere near what I read then the value of property destroyed in Michigan would support a fire warden service at \$50,000 a year for a generation or thereabouts. The four or five hundred fire wardens in the northern Michigan woods are periodical occurrences. I have noticed that whenever a proposition comes before the legislature to materially increase the means for preventing fires in the woods there are yells that state governmental expenses must be kept down and more fire protection will mean more taxes, and that such a thing is not to be thought of. I ought to protect their own property from fire and not look to the state to put up the money to do it.

"With those who raise the cry for economy when the state is in the midst of fire wardens is proposed it is a case of saving at the spigot and wasting at the bung hole. Michigan is losing enough and more in the loss of timber and every year by woods fires to support a fire warden system for many years equal to the best in the world."

\$12,595,951.99 Are Expenses of State.

Beginning with the balance of \$2,467,883.72 on July 1, 1910, the state treasury had a balance of \$2,225,425.36 July 1, this year. During the year there was turned into the treasury in state funds the sum of \$12,244,424.44 while the disbursements were \$12,359,376.39. These sets of figures give an idea of the extent of the state government and its operations in one fiscal year. It is probable that this balance will be expended before the next taxes begin to come in, but the next legislature provided a sufficient amount to wipe out this annual deficit in the future and place the state's finances on a balancing basis.

Most of the state's money is on deposit in the banks of the state, the annual report being compiled by the department to cover the fiscal year just closed, showing a total deposit of \$2,305,475.62 in state banks on June 30 which is secured by bonds to the amount of \$2,768,600.

The funds of the state come from many different sources. For instance, the auditor general's department turned in \$134,918.77 in delinquent taxes, redemptions, state tax land money and tax histories; the county treasurers', \$6,225,695 in taxes; hunters' licenses add \$32,286.45; the supreme court fees, \$4,103; the commissioner of banking, \$13,280 in fees for examining banks; the commissioner of insurance, \$31,830 in fees; the dairy and food department, \$10,000; the executive office, \$4,845 in notary public fees; non-resident liquor dealers' licenses added \$46,701; the secretary of state collected \$90,189.94 in motor vehicle license state tax inspector, \$125,865; state game and fish warden, \$2,631 in fishermen's licenses and specific and other taxes netted \$46,235; the sale of reserve tax homestead lands, \$10,000 in the various hospitals of the state there was received \$23,300.

Michigan Patents.

Patents issued: M. L. Allen, Jackson, fish rod; Edgar L. Barry, Detroit, underground steam distributing system; H. A. Boss, St. Louis, trawler; George H. Colley, Detroit, corker; John Hammond, Lansing, different gear for automobiles; Wm. H. Hatten, Kalamazoo, automobile storage jacket; T. H. Helkes, Kalamazoo, potato planter; H. C. Kerr, Detroit, attaching device.