

# 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 Dewey of Illinois told that state as early as August 1, 1909, Secretary of the Treasury McVeagh 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 will be taken on several important measures and it is believed that the leaders of the two factions that the special session of congress will adjourn sine die on or about August 7. The Canadian reciprocity measure will be voted on July 22.

After secret consideration of charges made by Delegate Wickes of Alaska that Attorney General Wicker- shan had colluded with the leaders of the Alaska syndicate, who defrauded the government through perjury to the extent of \$50,000, the house committee on judiciary at Washington has determined to report favorably a resolution of inquiry.

Letters and telegrams expressing confidence in Dr. Harry C. Wiley, the food expert of the department of agriculture, and urging President Taft to consider most carefully the charge made against him by the personnel board of the department and endorsed by Attorney General Wickes, 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, act by act, the administration of President Taft in unswerving terms, and declared that the contest involved was the "fight between the plain people and the confederated plutocracy."

Governor Dewey of Illinois gave the Lorimer investigation committee his version of the circumstances leading up to the election of Senator Lorimer. He faulted contradicted assertions made by Edward Hines before the committee regarding the telephone conversation on the morning of May 26, 1909, in which the Chicago lumbermen told of his alleged message from President Taft.

## Domestic

Official 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 Del. Moines, Ia., refused to grant an injunction to John Hammon, president of the committee against Michael Waldrop, a saloon keeper. The "wets" regard this as a victory for them, as eighty-six saloons were affected by the verdict.

The cholera 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 Law- ton, Okla., Miss Nona Blankenship and Isaac N. Upson were married by Rev. W. E. Humphries. The pastor had been officiating at a funeral.

Increases in the tax valuation of the Baltimore & Ohio lines from \$16,601,000 to \$16,650,000 caused representations of the system to complain that the factor employed by the tax commission of Ohio in determining the value of the road was too high.

S. D. H. Hallock, sentenced to two years in the Leavenworth (Kan.) penitentiary for subversion of property in connection with the sale of Union Carbide lands, 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. Margaret Klock Armour, widow of Simpson B. Armour, the packer, has filed suit in the circuit court at Kansas City for \$142,000 against Miss Harry Byington to recover damages alleged 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 nine-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 \$50,000, has been discovered in the little chapel of St. Vincent's Orphan Home in Boston.

A call sent out by the federal council of churches more than 125,000 Protestant ministers are reported 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 vindication of Carnegie and others. The plutocrat had offered \$25,000 if Pensacola would raise one-tenth of that amount.

Fourteen small concern doing a fire insurance business in Philadelphia were raided by Samuel W. McCulloch, state insurance commissioner. He charged that the companies were started as a conspiracy to deceive.

The builders' trial at Baltimore of the United States collar Nissens, the clothing to be equipped with turbines, showed a speed of 57 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 oligoparistic corporations were returned by Judge Landis of Chicago by the federal grand jury, which in its investigating findings had to cost the government \$1,000,000 in tax loss.

Charles T. Montague, Mattoon, Ill., will contest the will of his father, who left him \$25,000 provided he marries and has issue before he is 20 years old.

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

A bill appropriating \$1,250,000 for the rehabilitation of the New York state library, which was destroyed by fire, is to be voted on by the legislature.

A moving picture machine set up to make a film of the telephone conversation on the morning of May 26, 1909, in which the Chicago lumbermen told of his alleged message from President Taft.

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

The United States army has turned the searchlight on every arm of the service with a view to selecting promising young officers to develop the war aeronauts.

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Sarah H. Tracy Maran, who was of 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 of great interest to 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."

Sir Elton Gorst, British agent and consul general in Egypt since 1897, 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.

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years in the Leavenworth (Kan.) penitentiary for subversion of property in connection with the sale of Union Carbide lands, was released from prison, his sentence having been commuted by President Taft.

# 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 passed over all the northern and eastern section of the fire zone in northern Michigan, falling where the greatest danger lay. Mancelona, Onaway and Tawas experiencing drenching rains, while at Metz and Lachine half accompanied the rain.

The people of the devastated region received the rain with joy. "Hymns were sung and prayers said. Men, women and children stood out in the rain and the droplets fell on 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 did not as yet as feared at first.

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

Millions of feet of saved lumber at Waters were burned, but the town was not touched by fire. This fire was not the result of forest fires, but was started by a spark from a locomotive. Northern also along the line of the Michigan Central from Bay City to Cheboygan are there fires to account for 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 disabled survivors of one of the most disastrous fires in the twin towns to four.

There have been no forest fires in Alcona county.

Hillman, the chief city of Montmorency county, reported endangered, is found safe. The total forest fire damage in Montmorency county is probably \$50,000. There is no further danger there.

GOVERNOR APPOINTS MEN TO HANDLE RELIEF.

Gov. Olson has appointed the following to handle the fire relief:

George Bush, Milton McEachan, Capt. Fred Alberg, 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, Amherst; R. E. Olds, Lansing; Col. P. J. Irish, Kalamazoo; Dr. W. H. Sawyer, Hillsdale; William Howey, Tecumseh; W. L. Clegg, Coldwater; W. C. Grant, Muskegon; C. W. Sos, A. T. Woodruff, Bay City; Major James Laber, 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 town.

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 D. & M. was present and stated that the road would do everything for the sufferers.

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

Twenty houses at 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 large lumber mills of the H. N. Loud's Sons company and every business enterprise in the two towns were completely wiped out, the loss totaling over \$1,000,000. The 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 Martindale, 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 no money available, whether the auditors have the right to take the money, but all red tape must be cleared by the winds, and the auditors are willing to take a chance at this critical period.

## Oscoda Loses \$250,000.

Five hundred lumbermen were wiped out by fire in Oscoda county. The M. C. railway lost 50 cars. Thirty cars housed 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 Co. loss in lumber at Waters was 26,000,000 feet, making a mile of ash heaps. Crops suffered considerably.

At Berryville a store building, several residences and a school house only buildings left.

A Glazer, farmer, was burned out, and two farmers lost their barns and crop. Trowbridge, a place of a few settlers, located two miles south of Wolverine, which was reported burned, was saved by hand labor. No settlement of town in the vicinity is now in danger.

In the fire at Mancelona, in the east end, a fireman was killed.

Among the timber losses is a million feet of skidded logs between Wolverine and Legrande, and a half million logs east of Gaylord, both being lost.

Vanagon will not at any time be in any serious danger from forest fires, reports sent to the contrary notwithstanding. There has been no rain in this section to quench the smoldering fires.

Fire Department Loses \$100,000.

Fire in Crawford county and vicinity are extinguished. Revision places the losses in the county at \$50,000.

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The fire losses in Presque Isle county were along the railroad only. Rogers City and Metz were saved, but the people were required to move out, thinking of the 1902 fire.

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 town has a single mill. The loss is straight throughout the rest of Cheboygan county.

No Peril in Iosco.

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

# SESSION OF STATE PARDON 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 board of pardons, which began a session at Jackson. 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 unfinished business due to friction among the members of the old board.

It is expected that, with the new board, all the 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 trustee for 10 years.

Relief Measures Being Rushed.

With food at their disposal and tents provided for their shelter, the thousands of more homeless survivors of the fire-wracked 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 it would but a little rain to smother the smoldering fires that stretch through Oscoda, Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties, the latter two being the most populated.

State Fire Warden Gates has summoned 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 line of counties bounded on the west by Mason and on the east by Arenac. In the western section of the state Antin and Chippewa counties report threatening fires, and every fireman, sheriff and state and county fire warden is on duty.

With the arrival of a proposition before the legislature to materially increase the means for preventing fires in the woods there are bills that state governmental expenses must be kept down and more fire protection will mean more taxes, and that anyhow the owners of timber tracts ought to protect their own property from fire and not look to the state to put up the money to do it.

With the legislature having voted the fire tax for 1910, a comprehensive system of fire warden is proposed. It is a case of saving at the spigot and wasting at the bunghole. Michigan is losing enough and more in real and personal property every year by woods fires to support a fire warden system for many years equal to the best in the world.

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

"This is not a matter of relief for a week or a day or even a month," said Dr. W. H. Sawyer, head of the fire relief corps. "It is a long time before the men are ready to go home again, and they will glad to avail himself of their services. Should the call come, Dr. Sawyer would go with the scouts.

Alpena Loss \$155,000.

The Moench Sons' tannery loss at Alpena is estimated at \$125,000. The other fire damages were \$30,000, the rest fire not caused by the forest fire, but by careless boys.

Police Shoot Down Burglar.

In a battle between regiments and a party of officers at Benton Harbor, Mich., one year ago, a soldier was wounded and captured. He was taken away, but it is believed officers winged him, and a woman, supposed to be a confederate, was arrested.

At Kneeland & Bigelow, a half mile from the skidded logs between Wolverine and Legrande, and a half mile log east of Gaylord, both being lost.

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President Coming to Fair.

Early in the year President McRae of the Detroit Board of Commerce extended an invitation to President Taft to the meet of Detroit and 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 so do his visit to Detroit as to let the guest of the whole state for at least one day at the fair.

Pontiac's Action on Fort Detroit.

The night spectacle and fireworks display at the state fair this year will be a most elaborate and costly spectacle. Contracts were closed with the state fair officials for this part of the big show. It is to be known "Pioneer Days" and "Chief Pontiac's Attack on Fort Detroit" will be the chief attractions.

"Pioneer Days" will be given in connection with the state fair, and "Chief Pontiac's Attack on Fort Detroit" will be given in connection with the state fair.

Michigan Patents.

Patents Issued: M. L. Aten, Jack- son, fish rod; Eugene L. Barnes, Detroit, underground steam distributing system; H. A. Ross, St. Louis, fruit picker; George H. Colley, Detroit, car door; John W. K. Johnson, Lansing, after-market bearing; for automobiles; William H. Hattel, Kalamazoo, automobile steering jack; T. H. Helgesen, Kalamazoo, potato planter; H. C. Kent, Detroit, salt attaching device.