

RAILWAYS FILLING UP OPEN LANDS IN WEST

St. Paul Road's Pacific Coast Extension Gives Entrance to Rich New Country.

WHERE THINGS MOVE QUICKLY.

Claims Being Rapidly Taken and Towns Are Building Along Route—Dig Railroad Bridge.

Not so many years ago the western borderland of Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska presented a rugged fringe of newly made farms, thrust into what then seemed a boundless, inexhaustible expanse of unoccupied, black soil—prairie lands. Sons of the farmers of that time, needing land, simply moved out ten or twenty miles upon the newly surveyed areas, choosing and occupying homestead claims, almost undisturbed by competing land hunters.

During the '80's, though, something happened. A fierce "land-hunger" replaced this creeping of settlement, this normal expansion. The Dakotas, in little more than half a dozen years saw more than 350,000 entries made within their borders, and 100,000 pioneers

feet in engineering throughout, is nearing completion, according to information received from Moberg, S. D., where the structure spans the Missouri river. The bridge is one of the principal connecting links between the main line of the St. Paul Road and the new coast division. The town of Moberg is expected to be one of the most important on the road. Its name is made of the abbreviation "Mo," meaning Missouri, and "bridge."

Thousands of Homesteads Open.
Nowhere in the United States under like conditions, upon a like solid area of plowable, black loam, in a like space of time, will so vast a number of homesteaders be accommodated, yet a correspondent, having finished a drive of 300 miles or more along the extension between Marmarth, N. D., on the Little Missouri, and the Musselshell River, in the heart of northern Montana, says that there remain within five to twenty miles of this new line to the Pacific Coast thousands of homesteads well worth while to look at, and which will be occupied within the coming twelve-month.

As a result of successful dry farming during the past eighteen months, on the beach flats just north of the extension along the Montana-Dakota line, there is a bright town—a side track a year ago. To-day it boasts of improvements of \$200,000 for the past year; among these, a 75-barrel roller mill, four elevators, with a capacity of 100,000 bushels, three hardware and implement stores. The last named sold within the year 150 wagons, 60 self-binders and 100 mowers. Everywhere now men are awakening to the fact that where sage brush two to three feet in height

OHIO VALLEY FLOOD CAUSES BIG DAMAGE

Rise of Several Rivers Is Reported to Be the Highest in Many Years.

SUFFERERS FLEE TO THE HILLS.

Boat Invades Flooded Cornfield to Save Farmers and Stock—Sickness Follows Privation.

The flood throughout the Ohio valley, caused by heavy rains and melting snows, is reported to be the highest since 1870. Lives have been lost, homes, bridges and fences swept away, and crops and roads ruined. Hundreds of families have been flooded in the overflowed areas.

The Monongahela, Allegheny, Ohio, Wabash and smaller streams have all contributed to the destruction which has moved down the Mississippi toward the Gulf of Mexico.

Pittsburg, perhaps, has been the greatest sufferer from the flood which has been sweeping down the Ohio valley. Any one acquainted with the location of the Smoky City knows why Pittsburg is annually, and sometimes several times a year, a victim of high water. The Monongahela and Allegheny rivers, uniting to form the Ohio, each flows through a narrow ravine and when the waters of the mountains and highlands come down in unusual quantities, owing to prolonged thaws or persistent rains, the flood of necessity must overflow the narrow point between the ravines, thus inundating more or less of the city.

In the vicinity of the junction of the Ohio and Wabash rivers flood sufferers abandoned their homes to the raging waters and fled to the hills. Here they have been quartered in huts, sheds and deserted buildings and as a result of the exposure and privation pneumonia has become prevalent.

People along the lower Ohio River have prepared for the siege in store for them. Nearly a hundred families on the Indiana side, opposite Uniontown, Ohio, were removed. The big Ohio River steamer City of Spottsville cut across a cornfield and brought out several families, with 200 hogs, eighty ducks and fifty cattle. The rescued food victims had spent two nights in terror and fought incessantly to keep their stock from drowning. Residents at Shawneetown, Ill., are apprehensive, as the levee has been weakened by the excessive rain and the three floods of last year. A constant watch is being kept of weak places.

The Evansville and Terre Haute Railway Company has been anxious about the safety of its embankment which parallels White River, and thousands of bags filled with sand have been placed to strengthen it. This place is now known as the "Black Hole" because of the disappearance of a train

THE WEATHER THAT'S PROMISED AND THE WEATHER WE GET.



Fair and Mild.

Cold Wave.

Warmer Weather.



Rain and Warmer.

Snow and Colder.

Hot and Sultry.

JACKIES AS TARGETS.

Remarkable Test to Be Made by Navy Department.

The Navy Department has under consideration the most startling tests of the penetrating power of shells, danger to life, and the resisting power of armor that ever has been tried in any navy. The proposition is to have the monitor Arkansas fire a 12-inch shell weighing 850 pounds from a 60-ton gun a distance of two miles and have it strike the turret of a sister ship, the Florida, which is being placed in readiness for the trial.

The astounding part of the test is the proposition to have in the turret of the Florida at the time of the impact the full turret complement of twelve men. All paper figures, all statistics so far as weight of metal thrown, heat generated by impact, resisting power of armor, and other details would indicate that the men in the turret would come out unscathed except for the shock. Of course, there is no record in existence of a monitor, the turret protected by an 11-inch armor belt, being struck plumb by 13-inch shells of 850 pounds weight. All figures are purely theoretical.

The possibility of missing is infinitesimally small. All shots are now fired

STOESSEL FOUND GUILTY

Sentenced to Die for Surrender of Port Arthur, but Imprisonment Is Recommended.

HELD COWARD AND TRAITOR.

General Fock Reprimanded and Smirnov and Reiss Acquitted After Trial.

At St. Petersburg Lieutenant General Stoessel was condemned to death by a military court for the surrender of Port Arthur to the Japanese. General Fock, who commanded the Fourth East Siberian division of Port Arthur, was ordered reprimanded for a disciplinary offense which was not connected with the surrender, and General Smirnov, acting commander of the fortress, and Major General Reiss, chief of staff to General Stoessel, were acquitted of the charges against them for lack of proof.

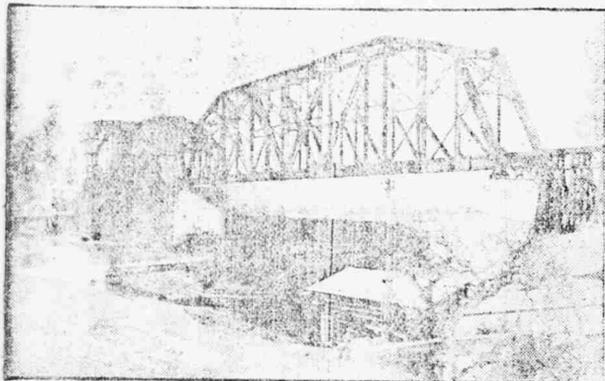
WASHINGTON'S HEIRS.

Discovery of Ohio Property Brings \$5,000 of Them to Light.

Over 5,000 heirs-at-law of George Washington, father of his country, yet a childless man, have recently been found in different parts of the United States through the recent discovery that there is a large tract of land in Ohio which belongs to the first President of the United States, having been deeded to him many years ago.

These heirs, through Lawrence Washington, who has a position in the Congressional Library at Washington, are preparing to make a fight for the property. Should they succeed through the courts, they will very probably deed the land back to the State of Ohio for a big national park to be known as Washington Park.

Of all these 5,000 heirs of the collateral branch of the family, the descendants of the four brothers and two sisters, there is one who has the double distinction of being a descendant of the immortal George on both his father's and his mother's side. This is George Steppes Washington, a merchant of Philadelphia. On his mother's side he is descended from Colonel Samuel Washington, the oldest of George's brothers, and on his father's side, he is a descendant of John Augustine, the



BIG RAILROAD BRIDGE AT MOBERG, S. D.

added to the population of their newly christened towns and villages.

To the extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway's numerous feeders in these States, perhaps more than to any other factor, did this movement owe its existence. It drew to this prairie country not only farmers but thousands of men and women from every known occupation, drew them and made possible their successful occupation and upbuilding of these vast commonwealths as we see them today.

The record of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway, in building its Pacific Coast extension, has never been equaled in the matter of time by any similar undertaking. Track has been laid at the rate of five miles per day, and trains over the new transcontinental line will soon be operated from Chicago to Butte, Mont., and to Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., in about a year.

The big bridge of this Pacific Coast extension, the construction of which has attracted attention as a remarkable

grows, densely luxuriant, unirrigated, rye, speltz, and particularly wheat, will grow, if the simple methods of cultivation, now no longer experimental but proven, are employed. These gray-green sage brush uplands are to be the grain fields of the near future.

Montana has an abundance of coal, from lignite to the best steam fuel known. It is doubtful whether any other section of the United States is more plentifully supplied with coal which can be so easily developed and utilized by the settler, as eastern Montana. At the first crossing of the Yellowstone, there is, in plain view of the approach, a black band along the bluff to the north two or three miles in length, ten to twenty feet thick, of solid lignite coal of the finest quality. Never again will Uncle Sam offer such princely domains for the entryman's choice. Throughout this entire country the government surveys will soon be practically complete, and before the end of the year the claim shanty will be everywhere in evidence.

Happiness from Troubles.

Being human, happily or unhappily, we cannot deny the comfort to be found in the reflection that misery never lacks the company it loves. We all have our troubles, and some of us derive much satisfaction from the contemplation of them. Indeed, there are those who are happy only when wretched, but these we believe to be as few in number as they are disagreeable in association. The vast majority of humans are normal and disposed, therefore, in conformity with natural law, to smile when the skies are clear and to grieve under the portent of clouds; hence the ease with which worry takes possession of the mind, colors the disposition and makes a cripple of effort. That causes abound we know and must admit, as we do almost unconsciously the certainty of death, but too little cognizance is taken of the fact that the effect of mere apprehension, which is all that worry really is, may be subjected to simple mental treatment and be overcome.—George Harvey, in North American Review.

Two Cities.

The most northern town on the globe is probably Hammerfest, latitude 70 degrees 39 minutes 14 seconds, on the northwest coast of Norway, a place of some 4,000 inhabitants. In Hammerfest the sun stays for two months above the horizon. The southernmost town in the world is Punta Arenas, on the Strait of Magellan. Punta Arenas is a place of some 10,000 population.

The Baby's Fault.

Nursemaid—I'm going to leave, mum. Mistress—Why, what's the matter? Don't you like the baby? Nursemaid—Yes'm, but he is that afraid of a policeman that I can't get near one.—London Tatler.

A Chance to Get Rich.

A fortune awaits the tailor who can invent a secret pocket in a coat where a man may carry his cigars without exposing them to his many friends who help themselves.—Detroit Free Press.

University of Paris.

The doctor's degree in the University of Paris is so entitled as to designate the faculty under which the work was done, as those who do literary work would receive the degree doctor of letters, etc. To obtain the doctor's degree the candidate must possess the lower degree of the corresponding division of work, submit two theses on different questions, reply to questions or objections concerning them, pay a fee of 140 francs and present 100 printed copies of one of his theses to the university. The candidate for the degree doctor of letters must write one thesis in Latin, the other in French. If in the scientific department, the thesis must be on some original investigation; if in theology, the examinations are both oral and written.—School Bulletin.

Suggestions in a Name.

A Scotchman in search of work was recently given employment as a laborer at Cramp's shipyard, Philadelphia. His first job was to carry several heavy planks. After he had been at it for about two hours he went to the foreman and said:

"Did ah tell you ma name when I started to work?"

"Yes," replied the foreman, "you said it was Tomson."

"Oh, then it's a' right," said the Scot, as he looked toward the pile of planks he had yet to carry. "Ah was jist a-wunnerin' if you thoct ah said it was Samson."

Worth Reading.

France has more than 300 daily newspapers.

Generally the right ear is larger than the left.

Rats are an alarming nuisance in England.

For every ton of gold in circulation there are fifteen tons of silver.

Germany sends 23,000,000 feathers per year to England for millinery purposes.

FLOOD RAVAGES PITTSBURG AND HUNDREDS ARE MADE HOMELESS BY SWELLING WATERS.



This picture of the February flood, which threw 20,000 people out of work and rendered thousands homeless in Pittsburg alone, shows the scene at the river's worst stage. On the right is the North Side B. & O. station. On the left is a coal tippie wrecked by ice and carried down the middle of the stream. A wrecked houseboat is shown in the ice floe.

some years ago. All efforts to fill this hole have been futile.

As a result of the heavy snowstorm throughout the Middle West, railway traffic has been greatly impeded and telegraph and telephone service crippled. Dispatches tell of several trains being snow-bound for many hours. The area of the storm is large, extending from Texas to the northern boundary of the country, and east from Denver to New York. In several sections the snow is more than a foot deep on the level. Stock is reported suffering in the Western States and the loss is expected to be heavy. Drifts have made travel over country roads in wagons impossible in many places.

IMMIGRANTS SHOW DECREASE.

Greatest Falling Off in Percentage Is Shown by Japanese.

At the Cabinet meeting Wednesday Secretary Straus of the Department of Commerce and Labor laid before the President some significant figures as to immigration and emigration. The figures show that for January there was a large decrease in Japanese arriving in the United States. The total arrivals for both the mainland and Hawaii were 971, as compared with 5,000 for January, 1907.

from a geometrical deduction and with machine precision. The shell will doubtless land just where aimed for, and then if the theory of the naval experts holds good, it will be deflected and the turret left uninjured.

Naval attaches from all parts of the world are anxiously scrambling for an opportunity to witness it, but the department has declined all applications; in fact, it is said the test will be made far out at sea, so that observations and deduction by foreign powers cannot be made. The chiefs in charge of the work to be performed by these two monitors have been instructed by the Board of Officers in charge of the experiment to say nothing to the press, and the result is to be kept solely for the information of the United States navy.

No Demand for Locomotives.

The Cooke and Rogers branches of the American Locomotive Works at Paterson, N. J., have recently laid off several hundred more men, so that of the 5,000 ordinarily employed at these plants, only half are now working, and these are mainly engaged in making repairs to old locomotives. The reason given at both shops is that no orders for new locomotives are coming in, either from domestic or foreign railroads.

The court recommended that the death sentence upon Lieutenant General Stoessel be commuted to ten years' imprisonment in a fortress and that he be excluded from the service.

For his services in the campaign against the Boxers in 1900 Stoessel was made a lieutenant general and stationed at Port Arthur, where he began strengthening the works, little dreaming at the time that he would be called upon to defend the place against the assaults of the Japanese. In February, 1904, when the war broke out, Port Arthur became the center of the conflict. Cut off by land and sea, Stoessel and his men held out for nearly two years before he was compelled to surrender. At first he was given great praise by the Russians. Emperor Nicholas conferred upon him the title of aide-de-camp to the Czar and the German Emperor gave him an order. Then his critics became busy and a commission appointed to investigate the surrender recommended that Stoessel be dismissed from the army and shot. His trial followed. General Stoessel's sentence, which is "without the loss of rights or honor," is generally regarded as intended to satisfy public opinion. It is expected he will be pardoned after a brief imprisonment.

youngest of the Washington brothers. He was born on the ancestral estate of Harewood, in Jefferson County, West Virginia, the birthplace of his mother, which was built jointly by George and Samuel Washington.

It was by act of Congress that the gift of the Ohio property was made to the first President of the United States. Whether or not he accepted it, or, if he did, to what use he put it, is not known by the Philadelphia descendant; but he does know that the estate is very valuable now and would make a magnificent site for a mammoth park.

Workshop for Unemployed.

At a meeting of fifty men interested in charitable movements of New York City it was decided to erect a \$200,000 building to be used as a home and workshop for the working unemployed, who are willing to work. It will make no appeal to the professional vagrant or tramp. Dr. Harvey Flanders, one of the founders, says that charity lodging houses are much improved upon by the homes of society. The new plan is expected to separate these from the earnest unfortunates. It is expected that the work will make the charity self-sustaining. The statement was made that out of 197 men of the better class of unemployed 80 were found to be college graduates.