

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE DAY

Epitome of the Telegraphic News of the World.

FERSE TICKS FROM THE WIRES

An interesting collection of items from the New and the Old World in a condensed and comprehensive form.

A dispatch from Havana says that Mr. Gladstone, concerning whose health an alarming rumor was widely circulated, is in his usual health, and Sunday morning walked to the village church, where he attended services.

Passengers on the steamer Mascotte, which has arrived in Tampa, report that Engel Paseo, who betrayed General Castillo to the Spaniards for \$5,000, was captured by insurgents, and his way to Cienfuegos, court-martialed on a drum-head and hanged.

A great fire broke out at Melbourne, Australia, and in a very short space of time did enormous damage. It is estimated that the loss will reach £1,000,000, while the trade in soft goods has received a serious setback. Hundreds of employees of all sorts have been thrown out of employment.

Changing its name and principles the American Railway League has become a full-fledged political organization. Hereafter it will be known as the Railway Employers and Telegraphers' Political League of America. Its object is to deal entirely in state and national politics, chiefly on legislative lines.

A big masonry wharf, having a frontage of 800 meters on the river Tagus, opposite the customs house in Lisbon, suddenly subsided and completely disappeared in the riverbed. The wharf, which was recently constructed at a cost of \$50,000, rested on mud. Fortunately, no one was hurt in the collapse.

The hostility between the Christian socialists and the social democrats, which exists in all parts of Austria, has frequently led to sharp collisions between the rival parties, has resulted in serious rioting at Graz, the capital city of Styria, and the seat of important cotton and woolen manufactures.

The official programme for the reception of 1898 at the White House by President and Mrs. McKinley has been issued. All of the events, excepting New Year's reception and the public reception, will be by card invitation. Only those invited will be given an opportunity to be present at least once during the season. The avoidance of excessive and dangerous crowding will add to the attractiveness of all the receptions.

The theologians of San Francisco are taking very active interest in the fate of Durrant. It is a tenet of their faith that capital punishment is wrong, and they are getting up a petition praying Governor Bull to stay the execution and to commute the sentence to life imprisonment. The petition was prepared by Dr. Jerome A. Anderson, president of the San Francisco Theological Society, and it has already received a number of signatures.

The commission appointed to revise the criminal code of the United States, in the partial report which will make the president and congress to present a code for criminal justice in Alaska. The commission is authorized to do this in the act which creates it as a territory. At present the laws of Oregon are made applicable to Alaska, and these will be revised, codified and amended by the commission.

The final act upon the part of the government in the ratification of the treaty adopted by the recent universal congress was taken Tuesday, when President McKinley signed the formal convention or treaty and Secretary of State Sherman had the government seal affixed. Postmaster-General Gary had already signed it. The treaty takes effect January 1, 1898.

At a session of the Knights of Labor council, at Louisville, it was voted unanimously to set apart the last Sunday in June as labor memorial day. This day will be observed by all the district assemblies in the United States. It was expressly stated that the day should not be regarded in the light of a holiday. It was fixed upon Sunday so it could not be made a holiday, with its attendant festivities.

An immense claim, embracing 7,000,000 acres of land in the Northwest, including the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, has been filed before Commissioner Hermann, of the general land office, and the assistance of the government in securing official data is called for. The claimants are C. B. Holloway, of Holland, O., and A. G. Jones, of Monroe, O. They are making an examination of the general land office records with a view to securing copies of certified paper, which they assert, will establish their title to the lands claimed by them. Their ancestor, through whom they claim title, was Jonathan Carver, an Englishman, a well known explorer in the last century.

Bishop Doan, in his annual address to the clergy of the diocese of Albany, N. Y., in speaking of the relations of America to England in the Lambert conference, was very intense in his condemnation of what he called "Anglicanism." Speaking on the subject of international arbitration, he said the spirit of hostility, so openly expressed on this side of the water, was present, though latent, in England, and we should be careful how we arouse this feeling to active hostility.

Thomas Shambley, about 50 years old, was found dead in the snow, 40 miles east of Knoxville. He was hunting and trapping, and died within a quarter of a mile of his camp. At a coroner's inquest, it was decided that the cause of death was heart failure.

GOLD TO BE FREELY USED.

Blanco Trying to Buy Over the Insurgent Leaders.

Havana, Nov. 24.—General Pando started for this city by train last Saturday, according to official announcement, to take charge of the campaign against the insurgents. He was accompanied by all his staff, and was escorted by a company of artillery. It is stated on good authority, however, that Pando has been commissioned by Captain-General Blanco to enter into communication with the insurgent leaders, with a view to arranging for peace. This statement is based upon accurate knowledge of all the facts. Pando first secured the release from confinement of Damien Caballero, who had been imprisoned for acting as a spy for the insurgents. Pando furnished Caballero, who is gold-father of Rabi, the man looked upon as being the chief of the insurgent movement in the province of Santiago de Cuba, with a considerable sum of money and caused him to be attended to Manzanillo, where a good force was placed at his disposal. Pando's peace emissary was also furnished official documents empowering him to act in behalf of the Spanish commander.

Pando instructed Caballero to offer army General Rabi high rank in the Spanish army and a large sum of money to be distributed among the other insurgent leaders of that part of Cuba, and to endeavor to bring about a peace for himself. The event of his succeeding in arranging terms of peace. Although Caballero has not returned, confidential advisers reaching Spanish officials here seem to indicate that he has been successful in his mission. It is understood that Rabi replied that he believed the successful ending of the war in favor of the insurgents was approaching, that the Cubans, with the aid of the United States, will gain their independence, and therefore he desires to continue fighting the Spaniards until the final victory is won.

FIRE ON THE OREGON.

Caused by Spontaneous Combustion—A Narrow Escape.

San Francisco, Nov. 24.—The Call says: The coal bunkers in the United States are in a most dangerous condition. In San Francisco, a fire broke out Sunday evening from spontaneous combustion, and for over eight hours the crew worked with a vengeance to smother what looked like a costly blaze. There were over 200 tons of coal in the vessel, and prompt action alone saved the ship. The fire was caused by a small fire started from water leaking into the coal bunkers. This would eventually cause a terrific heat from accumulating gases. Luckily, the fire was discovered before it had gained much headway.

The fire alarm was immediately given, and orders were issued to remove the coal from the vessel to the wharf. Steamships were attached and connection made with the lower part of the vessel in an attempt to smother what fire might have been in other parts of the ship. The men went to work with a will, but the task was larger than had at first been supposed. The work was done with difficulty, as the smoke hindered the men in their attempts to quickly put it out.

During the whole night after the fire had been extinguished, the crew labored in removing the smoking and blazing coal, and it was not until daylight that the men were allowed to leave their work. The warship will be dry-docked within a few days and properly repaired, after which she will be coaled and her ammunition located on board, after which she will be ready for action.

Senate Will Kill the Current Bill.

Denver, Nov. 24.—Congressman John C. Bell, of Colorado, stopped off a few hours in this city on his way to Washington, where he goes to attend a meeting of the appropriations committee. Speaking of the probable action of congress at its coming session on the proposed bill, he said: "I think a bill will pass the house practically as recommended by the committee, and it will then go to the senate, where it will be abandoned by that body and an appeal will be made to the people. They may make the senate Republican before any remedial legislation can be obtained."

With reference to the admission of new Western states, Congressman Bell said:

"There will be no more Western states admitted into the Union while the Republican party has control of either house. The speaker told me last year that he felt great responsibility for having taken an active part in admitting the Western states. He said the power of the Western senators was unjust, and had been greatly abused. He said the country, that he thought it was a grievous wrong for the Western senators to stand in the way of the progress of the country. Many senators will probably oppose the admission of those territories because of this impression. 'Hawaii will be annexed.'"

Luettger's Trial Went Over.

Chicago, Nov. 24.—The second trial of Luettger, which was to have begun today, went over until tomorrow at the request of the defense, who will ask for a change of venue from Judge Horton.

Another Trial Trip.

San Francisco, Nov. 24.—The United States gunboat Wheeling is expected to go to sea today to complete the trial of her machinery and other details of her construction. She will be away several days. She behaved well on her trip to Honolulu, but the navy department's requirements call for a further trial.

It is expected that when the 1899 session opens there will be cogwheel rivalry from Chamounix up the Montevens.

Outbreak Feared.

Houghton, Mich., Nov. 24.—An outbreak seems imminent at the Atlantic mine. The company has 75 Italians from the Franklin mine on the ground ready to take the places of the striking Finns, and the latter announce that bloodshed will ensue at the first attempt to set the aliens to work. Nearly 200 Finns are now on a strike, all of them strong enough and determined men. The Atlantic management will not give the strikers places again on any terms, and will attempt to put the Italians at work on the night shift this evening.

A Traveller's Fate.

Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 23.—Passengers on the steamer Mascotte, which arrived in Tampa this evening, report that Engel Paseo, who betrayed General Castillo to the Spaniards for \$5,000, was captured by the insurgents on his way to Cienfuegos, court-martialed on a drum-head and hanged.

CUBA AN ISLAND OF DEATH

Terrible Condition of the Reconcentrados.

SCORES STARVING IN MATANZAS

Even the Spanish Soldiers Are in Want of Food—Smallpox Adds to the Terrors, Carrying Off Hundreds.

Havana, Nov. 23.—La Lucha, in a recent published editorial, expresses doubt as to the sincerity of the friendship for Spain professed by the American government. The chief of police, however, if the American government cannot prevent the sailing from that country of expeditions in aid of the insurgents, and does not respond in other ways to Spain's efforts to come to favorable terms, it is useless for Spain to maintain her Cuban army with America's aid. Reports from Matanzas say that the reconcentrados, having become enraged at the change in the government's policy, are disturbing public order. Ex-Mayor Crespo initiated the disorderly conduct by publicly giving offense to the new civil government. He was followed by several of his followers in endeavoring to prevent aid being given to the suffering reconcentrados by newspaper correspondents and others.

Of the reconcentrados in Matanzas, numbering more than 50,000, 79 died in two days, 26 perishing from hunger. Yesterday, 200 more were reported, a large proportion the result of starvation. In Jaruco, about 65 per cent of the deaths are caused by starvation, and the same is true of many other towns. Owing to the lack of proper clothing and blankets, the situation of the reconcentrados is becoming worse as the winter season approaches, despite the efforts made to relieve them. Horrible epidemics are of daily occurrence among the reconcentrados. After lying for three days upon the sidewalk in front of a house in Matanzas, a poor negro woman, who was suffering terribly and was unable to move, was carried away by a flood caused by a heavy downfall of rain. A short time afterward her dead body was discovered a few blocks away, and at last report was still lying in the gutter.

A cabin boy carrying a sick man to a hospital, observed that his passenger was dying. He dragged him from his cab, leaving him on the curbstone, where he finally died. Cases similar to these are of frequent occurrence. Reports from Candelaria state that a house in that town, suffering from smallpox was driven by the authorities into the insurgent camp at Cojadal Negro, Pinar del Rio, where threats were made to hang him if he was not taken away.

On Wednesday the remaining cannon of the plantation of Poncegueta, owned by Manuel Galvo, were destroyed by fire.

Marshal Blanco has appointed 34 new employees at the customs-house. Of these, five are native Cubans and the remainder Spanish reformists. The reformists have been greatly disgusted by their appointments.

Sixty persons employed about the docks and 500 others in various parts of the island have joined the revolutionaries, and a number of pioneers at Guines, who were pardoned under the terms of the armistice, have returned to the insurgents.

Smallpox is raging in the neighborhood of the insurgent headquarters in Pinar del Rio, and there are in the hospitals and the hills 1,700 persons suffering from the disease.

The vice-consul, recently resident of Pinar del Rio, according to an official report there, there are 1,800 armed insurgents in the province, including the bands which have recently entered the province under Maria Rodriguez and other leaders. General Hernandez Velasco confirms the statement that insurgents in Pinar del Rio are being supplied with ammunition. Seventy of General Velasco's men have arrived at Pinar del Rio suffering from wounds received in recent engagements.

The financial condition of the military administration is bad. The soldiers have not been paid in eight months. There is a scarcity in the meat supply in the hospitals, and in many towns no meat has been obtainable for many days.

General Lora, subinspector of the health department, said recently to the correspondent of El Imparcial in Madrid, that there were actually 35,000 soldiers in the hospitals in Cuba, and that about 15,000 of these were not suffering from any disease, but simply from need of nourishment.

The vice-consul recently went to the house of George W. Hyatt, chief of the relief department of the United States consulate, at 12 o'clock at night, to make inquiries as to the destination of a quantity of food which had been taken in the previous day. The female inmate, becoming frightened, refused to open the door, and insisted upon being informed of the object of the officer's visit. The police subsequently retired upon learning that the inmates were Americans.

The insurgents, it is stated, have captured 150 mules from the Consular office on the steamer Mascotte, which was captured by the Spanish forces. A dispatch from Madrid says that Senator Giberger, deputy to the Spanish cortes, and leader of the new autonomists, is on his way to Cuba, where he will enter the autonomist party, upon condition that Senors Montero, Ferrnandez de Castro, Cueto and Zayas leave the board of directors of the party, it being asserted that they are too pronouncingly Spanish to succeed in inducing the insurgents to accept autonomy under their leadership. Senor Jose Galvez will remain as chairman of the party.

A band of insurgents recently fired on the town of San Nicholas, in Havana province. Rio Seico, province of Havana, reports that a fresh band of insurgents, well armed and equipped, have appeared in that vicinity. The leader is not known.

A Floral Curiosity.

A floral curiosity is on exhibition in the Temple Gardens, London. It is a \$5,000 orchid from Venezuela. It has a white flower which in shape resembles a sea-gull with outstretched wings.

AGAIN ON FREE SOIL.

The Competitor's Crew Out of the Jaws of Death.

New York, Nov. 24.—The steamer Saratoga, from Havana, having on board the released men of the Competitor crew, has reported entering the harbor. The men are: William Gildea, Ona Melton, William Keavitt, Charles Barnett, an Englishman.

The five men were in fairly good health and excellent spirits on reaching quarantine. Captain Laboure suffers somewhat from paralysis, which he contracted during his long confinement in the Cabanas fortress. Joseph A. Springer, the United States vice-consul at Havana, was also a passenger on the Saratoga. Mr. Springer declined to be published.

The released men wore the clothes in which they were clad at the time of their capture, on April 25, 1896, at Barracas, San Catalino, Cuba. Another happy passenger on the Saratoga was Julio Arago Y Quessada, a young Cuban merchant who was to be shot by Weyler, but was pardoned by General Blanco, a friend of the prisoner's father.

The six men who had escaped the fate of the Virginian captives were greeted upon their arrival by an enthusiastic crowd, who gave them a hearty welcome. The chief of police followed Senor Crespo's lead by endeavoring to prevent aid being given to the suffering reconcentrados by newspaper correspondents and others.

TO RESTRICT SILVER OUTPUT.

Alleged Object of the Proposed Smelter Combination.

New York, Nov. 24.—Representatives of several silver mining and refining works of the United States and Mexico will meet in New York this week to form, if possible, a combination agency to control the price of silver futures.

The price of silver for future delivery is always less than the price of cash silver, and the smelters want to equalize prices. It is said that the smelters hope by their combination to stiffen the price of silver and eventually reduce the output, although they deny the report that they intend to form a silver trust.

Among the works to be represented at the conference are the International Metal Company, of New York; the Omaha & Grant Smelting Company, of Omaha; the Mexican Smelting Company of Monterey; the Philadelphia Smelting and Refining Company, of Pueblo, and the Guggenheim Smelting Company, of Port Anboy, N. J.

A POPULAR TICKET.

The Sebastian Interoceanic Mileage Book in Great Demand.

Chicago, Nov. 24.—The new form of the Sebastian Interoceanic Mileage Book is very popular. The Sebastian ticket was placed on sale November 15, and 25,000 tickets were printed, as it was thought this would be sufficient for the demand that would be made. This number is exhausted, however, and another 25,000 are being printed. The Western roads declare that they will reduce still further the rates between Chicago and Northwest points if necessary to maintain their traffic against the competition of steamship lines and Southern Western railroads doing business at Gulf ports.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S PROPOSITION RECEIVING MANY ENDORSEMENTS.

Washington, Nov. 24.—Postmaster-General Gary is receiving many letters regarding the postal saving bank proposition strongly urged by him in his annual report. Many people throughout the country have written, commenting on the projected radical extension of the postal service, and have submitted some suggestions calculated in their opinion to make the correspondents indignant rather general commendation, and some well-known economists and financiers numbered among the postmaster-general's friends, who have hastened to offer measures of support in the form of letters just received given a qualified endorsement. Postmaster-General Gary expects some legislation by congress on this question, possibly at the next session, and free discussion of it throughout the country will render material assistance to this end.

Money Paid Over.

Washington, Nov. 24.—The treasury received today from the reorganization committee of the Union Pacific \$13,445,250 in cash and turned over to the committee that amount in bonds, which have been on deposit with the government in the sinking fund of the road.

Trouble in Uruguay.

New York, Nov. 24.—As a result of the attempted revolutionary movement in Montevideo, Uruguay, says the Herald's correspondent there, five prominent army officers have been arrested. Many arrests of civilians and politicians have also been made. The Herald's correspondent in Rio Janeiro telegraphs that a commercial crisis is imminent. Exchange is falling.

Moonships Captured.

Hot Springs, Ark., Nov. 24.—Deputy United States Marshal, with a posse of 12 men, has arrived in the city with 15 illicit distillers who were captured in Scott county. The officers destroyed four stills and about 4,000 gallons of whisky and beer. The officers got the drop on the men and captured them without trouble.

Bank President Indicted.

Governor, N. Y., Nov. 24.—The United States grand jury at Auburn has indicted Luke Usher, president of the National bank, of Potsdam, which failed on January 25 last. The indictments charge Usher with misappropriating \$100,000. Usher has not yet been arrested.

A Floral Curiosity.

A floral curiosity is on exhibition in the Temple Gardens, London. It is a \$5,000 orchid from Venezuela. It has a white flower which in shape resembles a sea-gull with outstretched wings.

SENATOR CHANDLER TALKS

Work for the Coming Session of Congress.

HAWAII'S PROSPECTS GOOD

Believes Lodge's Immigration Bill Will Be Passed—Cuban Question Depends on the President's Attitude.

Washington, Nov. 22.—Senator W. E. Chandler, of New Hampshire, in an interview regarding legislation at the coming session of congress said: "Senator Lodge proposes pushing the measure looking to the restriction of immigration and demanding its passage without delay. Bills proposing to bar the undesirable foreign element from entering this country are now pending in both the house and senate, and there is no doubt that the two houses will be able to agree upon a bill. The house measure lays restrictions on what are called 'birds of passage,' but the senate bill does not. The class referred to is that which lives along the northern and southern border lines of the country, and embraces Mexicans and Filipinos who work daily in the United States but who live in their native countries. This part of the bill, in my judgment, eventually will be omitted, and the senate bill, which applies to immigrants from European and Oriental countries, will be passed."

"Some action, I believe, will be taken looking to the relief of the two homes of the Republics. Of course, the Republican policy will largely depend upon the president's message, but, in my opinion, that he will leave the entire matter to the judgment of congress.

"The prospects for the ratification of the proposed amendments to the constitution are excellent. The Republicans will stand by it to a unit, and many Democrats will do likewise. I think the necessary two-thirds vote will be secured.

"As to financial legislation, especially as to the revision of the banking laws, I cannot see how any such legislation can be passed."

For the Land of Gold.

New York, Nov. 22.—A dispatch to the World from London says: London capitalists seem to be resolved to share in the big profits anticipated by a rush to the Klondike next spring. The Vancouver & Northern Shipping & Trading Company, which is building the new Canadian Pacific railway, with a capital of \$7,500,000 subscribed by six shareholders, today purchased the old Cuauadros, the Bothnia and Scythia, and two Cape mail steamers, as the nucleus of a fleet to run from Vancouver to Alaskan ports, commencing March 10. Both ships are chartered to the freight by Lipton, the millionaire shipping agent, who is carrying cargo out, and he is said to have a scheme for building a new town to be called Liptonia, near Skagway. This enterprise is understood to be the result of the visit to Skagway of the Hon. James Burke Roche, who has just returned here.

Two New Counterfeits.

Washington, Nov. 22.—The secret service announces the discovery of a new counterfeit \$10 silver certificate, and also a counterfeit national bank note. The silver certificate is a photographic production, printed on two pieces of paper pasted together. No attempt has been made to trace the counterfeit. It is a shade of brown, instead of green. The seal is colored a bright pink. The note is badly printed, and the lathe work is blurred and indistinct. The national bank note is on the First National bank of Joplin, Mo., series 1892. It is also printed on two pieces of paper, and the silk fibre in the genuine is imitated by pen and ink marks.

Turks Living on Bread and Water.

London, Nov. 22.—The Vienna correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: Pecuniary embarrassments have reached an acute stage at the Yildiz Kiosk. Salaries of ambassadors are left unpaid for months. Since the departure of Galib Bey, Turkish ambassador at Berlin, another Turkish envoy has written Tewfik Pasha, the Turkish foreign minister, declaring that he has sold everything and lives almost entirely on dry bread, adding that he even fears he will be unable much longer to borrow that. A third ambassador has written to Tewfik Pasha saying: "All my means are exhausted, and I cannot even buy a pair of gloves when obliged to appear anywhere."

Murderer Electrocutted.

Columbus, O., Nov. 22.—Alfred J. Frantz, the murderer of Bessie Lytle, of Dayton, was electrocuted in the annex at the Ohio penitentiary at 12:22 this morning. He took his place in the chair at 12:18 without an apparent tremor. The first shock did not cause death, and the current was applied again three times before life was pronounced extinct. On August 27, 1896, Frantz murdered Bessie Lytle, a young girl whom he had betrayed. Her body was thrown into the Stillwater river. Frantz made an alleged confession, in which he claimed the girl had shot herself while they were out riding, and, fearing he would be charged with murder, he had thrown the body into the river.

Peru Wants to Arbitrate.

Washington, Nov. 22.—The Peruvian minister, Dr. Eguiguren, was among Secretary Sherman's callers today. He came to talk over the last demand of our government for a settlement of the McCord claim, and he has now, in return, proposed arbitration in the case. This proposition is not acceptable to our government, and the negotiations continue.

A Pound of the finest spider web

would reach about the world.

Clerks Must Pay Their Bills.

Washington, Nov. 22.—The secretary of the treasury has issued a circular to employes to the effect that clerks receiving a stated salary who neglect to pay their debts contracted for the necessary support of themselves and their families, without presenting satisfactory reasons therefor, will not be retained in office.

In North Dakota the killing of quail and English and Chinese pheasants is prohibited until 1906 and beaver and other cannot be trapped or killed until 1908.

EXPIATED HIS CRIME.

Kelsay Porter Died on the Gallows at Union, Oregon.

Union, Or., Nov. 22.—In the gray dawn of an approaching day, while most of the citizens of Union were still asleep, Kelsay Porter, murderer of the Macho family in Pine valley, January 1, 1896, expiated his crime on the gallows. Including the sheriff's jury of 12 men, about 50 people witnessed the execution. It was carried out with dispatch. Seventeen minutes after Porter lay the jail floor to mount the scaffold, his body was in the coffin, which was waiting to receive it beneath the gallows.

It was about 5 o'clock this morning when Porter was aroused and told to prepare for the trying ordeal before him. Realizing his last moments had really come, he displayed no nervousness. After dressing in a suit of black clothes provided for him, he ate a light breakfast, the first meal for several days. The appearance of his religious adviser had a reassuring effect. Rev. Mr. Shields passed an hour in the cell, praying for Porter's soul, reading Scriptural passages to him, and closing with a fervent prayer for the condemned man.

Porter, in refusing to see press representatives, stated that all he had to say would be spoken on the gallows, but before leaving the jail, he changed his mind, and from the time he passed out of the door of his cell, mounted the scaffold and was hurled into eternity, he did not speak a word. He was assisted to the platform of the scaffold by Sheriff Fry and Deputy McLaughlin, who helped him up the steps. Rev. Mr. Shields, the pastor of the Presbyterian church, and Sheriff Fry were also on the scaffold.

Porter was placed directly over the trap, his legs and arms pinioned and his wrists handcuffed. While this was going on he became slightly unsteady. The black cap was placed over his head, and the rope was fastened to the neck. Porter was sprung and the body shot downward, dangling at the end of the rope. Death was instantaneous, the neck broken by the fall. Twelve minutes later three attending physicians pronounced Porter dead, and the body was cut down and placed in the waiting coffin.

The crime for which Kelsay Porter suffered the death penalty was the killing of the Macho family—Benjamin Macho, his wife and 17-year-old son, Benjamin—in Pine valley, Union county, January 1, 1896.

LOCKS FOR THE DALLES

Government Has Abandoned the Best of the Railway Scheme.

Washington, Nov. 22.—The probabilities are that a boat railway will never be constructed at The Dalles. Chairman Hooker, of the river and harbor committee, has made an examination of the rapids, and has interested himself in the project. The committee, which will require appropriations coming from his committee. Mr. Hooker is very reticent about expressing his views, but there were other members of the river and harbor committee with him on his Western trip, and the press correspondent has been able to learn that the boat railway plan will not be approved in the next session of congress, and that the committee on river and harbors will not taken favorable action for any improvement there that does not have for its object a different plan than either a boat railway or a narrow gauge railway. Mr. Hooker said that what will be done is the authorization of a survey to be made for construction of a canal and locks, which will secure the passage of boats of about four feet draft. It is asserted that boats of greater draft than this cannot operate on the river, and that the locks and canal will be built at an expenditure of less than \$1,000,000, and that they could be completed at an early day. It is not known whether the Oregon delegation will accept such a plan as this, but the general understanding is that it will be offered by the members of the river and harbor committee who visited the Columbia during the past summer.

FATE OF PROSPECTORS.

Three Men Are Drowned in White Horse Rapids.

Port Townsend, Nov. 22.—News reached here tonight of the drowning of three men belonging to the party of Colonel W. E. Fisher, of San Francisco, in the White Horse rapids November 4. No details of the accident were received. Neither could the names of the drowned men be learned. Accompanying this news was the information that also that the body of Seattle, was drowned at the same place October 29. Anthony's boat capsized. His two companions, Murphy and Heburn, were rescued by the Canadian mounted police.

Heavy snows are reported on the summits of the passes leading into the interior. Travel is becoming difficult and dangerous, yet people are still going back and forth over the mountains.

The lakes and rivers in the interior are more or less frozen. On the Skagway trail the snow is fully three feet deep. It is five or six feet deep on the Dyea route.

A Hog-Killing Secretary.

Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 22.—Secretary of State Porter was fined \$6.20 in the police court today for violating the health ordinance by butchering hogs within the city limits.

Carrier Fights for Alaska.

San Francisco, Nov. 22.—A pigeon fancier of this city has given the United States government eight pairs of his best pigeon service between the more remote portions of Alaska. They will be taken north on the Esmeralda and sent to various points such as St. Michaels, Point Barrow and Herschel Island, where they will be taken care of until they become thoroughly acclimated. The offspring of these birds will be the messengers of the future between isolated miners and whalers and the outside world.

Fatality at a Polish Shop.

London, Nov. 22.—A dispatch from Berlin describes a terrible fatality in Poland. While a recent performance of wild beasts and their tamer was in progress at a village near Kovono, Poland, the lion tamer was killed by a lion and a tigress. A fearful panic ensued among the spectators, and 86 persons were crushed to death, many others being seriously injured.

Odessa, Nov. 22.—Information has been received from Simferopol, in the Crimea, that new discoveries of petroleum have been made in the peninsula.

THE COMPETITOR PRISONERS

The Queen Pardons Alleged Cuban Filibusters.

MUST NOT RETURN TO CUBA

Are Now on Their Way to New York—General Satisfaction Expressed in Madrid Political Circles.

Washington, Nov. 22.—Minister Woodford has telegraphed the state department that the Spanish cabinet has notified him that the queen has pardoned the Competitor prisoners. The state department, however, says that the Competitor prisoners were turned over to Consul-General Lee last Monday, and will be sent by him direct to New York today.

It is not doubted here that the prisoners are liberated on such conditions as were imposed in the case of former prisoners, that is, that they will not return to Cuba. It is singular that the men should have been for days in custody of General Lee without the fact having become generally known, but it is supposed that secrecy was observed in order to avoid trouble from the extreme conservative Spanish faction. There were four prisoners, namely: Alfredo Laborde, the captain of the Competitor, a native of New Orleans; William Gildea, the mate, a naturalized citizen, Ona Melton, who