

CONFERENCE ON COAST DEFENSE

Oregon, California and Washington Officers Summoned.

Conference is Called by War Department—Manning of Coast Fortifications by State Reserves to be Subject of Council at Washington Who Will Pay the Bills?

Portland, Jan. 2.—Adjutant generals of the three Pacific states—Oregon, Washington and California—have been invited by the War department to go to Washington, D. C., for a conference at the earliest possible date on the subject of coast defense. Adjutant General W. E. Finzer, of Oregon, and General J. B. Lauck, of California, are leaving for the capital tomorrow, while General Otis Hamilton, of Washington, will start East Saturday.

The request from the War department for this conference is regarded as peculiarly significant, indicating the government's determination to prepare for any emergencies that may arise from the West. The principal topic of consideration at the conference will be that of training volunteer coast artillery reserves to man Oregon, Washington and California fortifications. The subject of perfecting the infantry regiments of the three states in coast defense operations will likewise be taken up. It is assured that the meeting will result in assignment of National Guard troops to coast artillery work. The three adjutant generals will very likely return with the task ahead of recruiting new coast companies for this service.

For several months General Oliver has been in communication with Generals Finzer, Lauck and Hamilton on the subject of coast defense. Only a few days ago he submitted memoranda from the chief of artillery recommending assignment of the Oregon troops to coast defense maneuvers in May, as well as the permanent setting aside of certain infantry companies for heavy artillery training.

This plan was not regarded by the three coast adjutant generals as feasible. There appeared to be a disinclination among infantry commanders to apportion their companies for artillery work. Concerted objection was also made to the month of May for maneuvers, as it is difficult for the average guardsman to leave his business or work at that busy time of the spring rush.

It is known, however, that the War department will find it necessary to offer more than a plan of coast defense. The carrying out of such a plan will be attended by more or less expense. That the states should foot the bills does not seem just. It is believed that the government will be asked flatly what aid can be given in the organization of reserves or the assignment of infantry already organized.

VICTIMS OF JAP MOB.

Three Firemen Badly Injured at Vancouver, B. C.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 2.—Allan Anderson, fireman, is dying and two other young men, also members of the city fire department, are badly wounded and in the hospital as the result of a fight they had early this morning in the Japanese quarter with an overwhelming number of the subjects of the mikado. The fight was the worst in the city since the September riots, and indicates that the Japanese are at all times ready for trouble and eager to fight with their long knives that have blades keen as razors.

Anderson, accompanied by J. Frost and T. McDonald, was passing a Japanese store, when Frost stumbled and fell hard against the plate-glass window front. The glass smashed and the fragments were still rolling on the sidewalk when a score of Japanese appeared from the inside and rushed at the trio of whites. The firemen were in uniform, with brass buttons and official caps, but the Japanese knifed them furiously.

Steal Chest of Nickels.

Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Two men stole a chest containing \$2,859 from a street car standing in front of the Main street East car barns at 6:25 o'clock this morning and got safely away with it in an automobile. The stolen money represented the earnings of the Rochester Railway company yesterday on what is known as the Eastern division. It was being transferred according to custom from the Federal street car barns to the State street office to be counted when the robbery occurred. Officers are in pursuit.

More Stolen Mail Found.

Waco, Tex., Jan. 2.—Another large batch of mail has been found west of here near where the first batch was left by the pouch looters Christmas night. It is estimated that checks, money orders and drafts left lying in the gulch where the pouches were opened will aggregate \$50,000. Special government officers are working on the case. Some two or three thousand letters from various parts of the United States were in the pouches.

Torpedo Boats in Paria.

Paria, Brazil, Jan. 2.—The torpedo boat flotilla which is preceding the battleship fleet to the Pacific, arrived here today from Port of Spain, Trinidad. The flotilla, which had a rough voyage, encountering head seas, was delayed one day on the run by bad weather.

FEELING IS BITTER.

Vancouver is Aroused by Latest Attack of Japanese.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 3.—While at no stage did the fight between the three city firemen and the Japanese reach anything like the dimensions of the September riots, the incident has revived the bitterest feeling. After all the explanations and apologies that have been made, both civic and governmental, citizens of Vancouver did not believe it possible that an attack such as occurred could be made.

All three victims are still alive, though at least two are disfigured for life. Young Frost, a fine-looking athlete, had his nose sliced off by one of the sword-like knives of the Japanese. The other men, though fearfully injured, are recovering. McDonald was removed to his home, while Anderson is still in the hospital with Frost.

The most serious feature in the popular view is that the Japanese section is practically an armed camp against the whites of Vancouver. Two thousand men live together there, ready to murder any one who makes the slightest disturbance. The present instance is regarded as particularly flagrant, because the young men were in uniform, with firemen's caps, and for all they knew the Japs might have been assaulting policemen.

The truth is simply being forced home to the entire city that the Japanese here are barbarians enough to murder on the slightest provocation. Vancouver has been a little ashamed of herself since the night of the September riots, but the frightful attack is just now being regarded in some quarters as showing complete justification.

MAY SUE HARRIMAN.

Bonaparte Soon to Issue Statement on Railroad Merger.

Washington, Jan. 3.—"Within a week or ten days the department of justice will issue a statement regarding the ownership by the Union Pacific of stock of the Southern Pacific," said Attorney General Bonaparte. "It had been contemplated to issue the statement earlier, but the absence in Europe of special counsel employed by the government has caused the delay."

While the attorney general will not admit at this time that the statement will be the announcement of proceedings against the Union Pacific for violation of the law prohibiting restraint of trade, there is excellent authority for the statement that it will be. The department of justice, according to one of its high officials, has reached the conclusion arrived at by the Interstate Commerce commission that the control which the Union Pacific has obtained over the Southern Pacific by the purchase of stock is in violation of the law and amounts in substance to the merging of two competing railroads.

Not only will the government proceed for a dissolution of the merger and a restoration of the competition which prevailed before the Union Pacific bought Southern Pacific stock, but the courts will be asked, it is stated by an official of the department, to break up the combine under which the two railroads are alleged to operate their steamships.

NIGHT RIDERS FIRE A TOWN.

Burns Tobacco Warehouses in Russellville and Wounds Men.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 3.—A long distance telephone message to the American from Russellville, Ky., says that night riders visited that town at 12:45 o'clock this morning. The tobacco warehouse of H. G. Work & Company and the American Snuff company were dynamited and burned. The planing mill of Roberts & Brown and three other smaller houses were more or less damaged.

Many shots were fired, and it is reported that two men, one of them a commercial traveler, were wounded.

Russellville is a town of about 4,000 inhabitants and it is the county seat of Logan county, which borders on the Tennessee line. It is in the heart of the dark tobacco district and but one county, Todd county, separates it from Christian and Trigg counties, the scene of the recent depredations in and around Hopkinsville. Further details were not obtainable at 3 o'clock this morning.

Smelters Are Closed Down.

Helena, Mont., Jan. 3.—The American Smelting & Refining company, it is authoritatively announced here tonight, will shortly close down several of its smelting plants because of the depression in the lead market. At the East Helena plant today the company reduced its force 100 men and tomorrow a 10 per cent reduction in wages will be posted for the 250 men who are retained. Manager Frank M. Smith, of the local plant, received notice several days ago from officials of the company that the smelter would be closed.

Rebel Against Zelaya.

Panama, Jan. 3.—Advices from Boacas del Torres say that passengers arriving there from Bluefields, Nicaragua, report that the Mosquito Indians have risen against the government of President Zelaya, who is accused by them of being responsible for the death of their chief. Conditions were considered so serious by the commander of the British man-of-war cruising in Nicaraguan waters that bluejackets were landed to protect the interests of foreigners.

Growth of New York Values.

New York, Jan. 3.—Controller Metz, in a review yesterday on the growth of the city in the ten years since consolidation said that the assessed valuations of real estate owned by the people had advanced from \$2,532,416,819 in 1898 to \$6,240,486,602 in 1907.

HAPPENINGS GATHERED IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D. C.

FUND FOR EX-PRESIDENTS.

Senator Allison Favors Some Such Action by Congress.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Senator William B. Allison, of Iowa, chairman of the committee on appropriations, favors action by congress looking to the care and support of ex-presidents of the United States. In an interview tonight he referred to the recent utterance of ex-President Grover Cleveland on the subject, and agreed with him that some provision should be made in this direction. The matter deserved consideration at the hands of congress, he said, and undoubtedly would receive it. In times of Thomas Jefferson, who died poor, Mr. Allison said, the government would have done well to pay his debts. At present Mrs. Garfield is receiving an allowance from the government, and he said that to make provision for ex-presidents would cause no considerable drain on the treasury, as rarely have there been two of them alive at the same time.

MARINE CORPS NOW COMPLETE

Full Complement of 8,700 Men is Enlisted.

Washington, Jan. 1.—General Elliott, commandant of marines, reported to Secretary Metcalf yesterday that for the first time in many months the marine corps was now up to its full complement of 8,700 enlisted men. General Elliott reports that not only has he secured all the men he wants, but has withdrawn from the newspapers advertisements calling for recruits, and he is now in a position to pick his men when there is need for further recruiting.

The reasons assigned for this state of affairs represent the depressed condition of industries, resulting in forcing men to obtain employment outside of the factories, mills and mines, and to such of these as are not able to perform sailor's duties, yet would make good soldiers and desire to see the world, the marine corps offers a tempting refuge.

Uncle Sam Going Behind.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The forthcoming reports of the government's receipts and expenditures for the month ending Dec. 31 will show a decrease in the receipts as compared with December last year of \$8,529,152 and an increase in expenditures of \$9,381,414, making the net loss for the year \$17,910,566. The decrease in receipts from customs is \$6,895,959; from internal revenue, \$2,768,645. Miscellaneous receipts increase \$1,135,452. Increases of expenditures are: Civil and miscellaneous, \$3,000,000; war, \$1,500,000; navy, \$4,000,000; pensions, \$2,400,000; public works, increase from \$4,843,711 to \$8,899,000.

Immense Traffic Across Ocean.

New York, Jan. 2.—Trans-Atlantic passenger traffic during 1907 was increased by nearly a million passengers over the traffic in 1906. The total passengers carried both east and west has reached the enormous number of 2,957,328, according to figures given out by the North German Lloyd company. The movement has been greater than in 1906 by 972,640 and 1,451,151 greater than in 1904. The passengers from Europe to the United States number 699,340, which is 200,000 in excess of the entire east and west traffic in 1904.

Engineers to Tour Coast.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Colonels Leach and Lockwood of the board of United States engineers, will leave for the Pacific coast on January 9, beginning with California, and will hold public hearings on a number of projects, including Oregon undertakings. People will have the opportunity to present the local needs of their communities. Both the officers are loyal supporters of coast developments. It is suggested that Portland prepare to present necessary works for its section.

Steamship Company Embarrassed.

New York, Jan. 2.—Announcement was made tonight on behalf of the Consolidated Steamship lines by D. H. Campbell, the treasurer, that the company would default on the interest on its \$6,000,000 collateral trust bonds, due tomorrow. The official statement explains that "Owing to the prevailing financial conditions it had been compelled to devote its earnings to payment for new ships and hence is unable to meet the coupons maturing."

No Action in Bristol Case.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Members of the Oregon delegation in congress met and informally discussed the Bristol case but no action whatsoever was taken. The matter may come up for more formal discussion later but no announcement of plans has been made.

Cruisers at Pichilimque.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Admiral Squire's squadron, consisting of the cruisers Tennessee and Washington, have arrived at Pichilimque, off the southern coast of Lower California. Their next stop is expected to be at Magdalena bay.

Viscount Aoki Says Farewell.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Viscount Aoki, the Japanese ambassador who was recently recalled by his home government, bade farewell to Washington Monday. He will sail from San Francisco for Japan on January 7.

Oregon Postmasters Appointed.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Oregon postmasters appointed: London, James E. Baton vice J. N. Hogue, resigned; Mill City, Mabel McRae vice E. J. Bryans, resigned.

TWO COMPANIES ON GUARD.

General Funston Advises Consolidation for Sake of Economy.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The War department has been in correspondence by telegraph with General Funston in San Francisco, relative to the disposition of the troops at Goldfield in conformity with the president's intention to maintain the force there, pending the meeting of the legislature of Nevada.

General Funston intended a reduction in the number of troops at the mining camp, but the War department has decided to retain there all of the present force, numbering 283 men. In the interest, however, of simplicity, and to avoid the maintenance of a considerable number of officers who were not needed, it has instructed General Funston to consolidate the companies into two.

Bank Condition is Good.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Senator Ankeny has had several conferences recently with officials of the Treasury department concerning the interests of the national banks in the state of Washington. During the recent financial flurry some difficulty was experienced in the far West by reason of the inability of the banks to obtain the actual money from their reserve cities or even from the subtreasuries. Mr. Ankeny feels confident, after his talks with officials of the treasury, that the situation has been greatly relieved within the last few weeks, and that from now on the same difficulty will not be experienced.

Oil Burners to be Tried.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Possibly the fact that California produces great quantities of petroleum inclines Secretary Metcalf to favor the use of that fuel in the navy, where it can be done beneficially. Therefore plans for the new torpedo destroyers about to be prepared will probably include a requirement that they be designed for burning oil. The fact that the newest British boats of this class, which have attained the extraordinary speed of 40 miles an hour, are oil burners, has influenced our Navy department in favor of the adoption of liquid fuel.

Sailors Meet Defeat.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The Seamen's union met temporary defeat today in their fight against the employment of Chinese seamen on Pacific coast vessels. Representatives called upon Attorney General Bonaparte today and expressed an opinion that the employment of Chinese on the vessels was a violation of the exclusion act. Bonaparte informed the committee that he could only furnish the president and the heads of the departments affected with their opinion for optional action. The union will petition the president.

Figures Are Astounding.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The engineers on the Panama canal are dealing in vast figures and the canal record conveys in a graphic manner an idea of the magnitude of the work to be done upon the locks. It is stated that the amount of concrete to be used in building these locks would suffice to construct eight-room city houses of the generous size of 30x30 feet with two stories and basement and with concrete floors and roof to the number of 22,842.

Jumpers May Get a Chance.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The Bartlett mining assessment bill did not pass. The Teller bill, which is similar, passed the senate before the holidays, but it is understood, will not pass the house. Failure to pass such legislation means that all mining claims upon which the required amount of assessment work was not done during the calendar year 1907 can be legally jumped after January 1.

Urge Brownson to Talk.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Line officers in the navy are urging Admiral Brownson to publish correspondence relative to his resignation, holding that Rixey's statement was really inspired at the White House. It has developed that the acceptance of his resignation was announced 15 minutes after it had been given to Secretary Metcalf to take to President Roosevelt.

Around the World in 10 Seconds.

Washington, Jan. 2.—In accordance with a custom begun several years ago the naval observatory last night at 12 o'clock sent a New Year greeting around the world. This is done by prearrangement with the telegraph and cable companies, and the message completed the telegraphic circuit of the world in about 10 seconds' time.

Hawley in Society.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Representative and Mrs. Hawley made their first bow to official society in Washington Monday evening as dinner guests of Vice President Fairbanks. On Friday evening Mr. and Mrs. Hawley will be guests of Mrs. Roosevelt at a musical to be given at the White House.

Taft to Talk Politics.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Secretary Taft will make his first political pronouncement since his return from abroad at Boston, December 30, in a speech before the Merchants' association.

Congressman Calderhead Ill.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Representative William A. Calderhead, of Kansas, is critically ill with double pneumonia at his apartment in this city.

LADD WILL PAY.

Agrees to Meet Account of Busted Bank in Three Years.

Portland, Jan. 1.—W. M. Ladd has agreed to take over the assets of the Ross bank and pay all its deposits within three years.

Details of the plan were arranged yesterday in a conference between a committee of depositors, agents of Mr. Ladd, John Manning, district attorney, and W. C. Bristol, special counsel for the state, and for the American Surety company.

Mr. Ladd will not be prosecuted, but officers of the bank, Mr. Manning says, will be indicted next Monday. Investigations of the smashed bank's accounts will be continued, in order to gather evidence for prosecution. Officers involved are J. Thorburn Ross, George H. Hill, T. T. Burkhardt, J. E. Aitchison and F. M. Warren.

Experts continue to dig up sensations in the bank's accounts, and to confirm the knowledge that its dealings were the most scandalous Portland has ever seen.

Committee of depositors will insist on payment of interest by Mr. Ladd until claims are fully met.

Whether the receiverhip will be continued has not been decided, but if it shall be, C. E. Mears may be superseded by a receiver of Mr. Ladd's selection.

Mr. Ladd will succeed to whatever claims the bank may hold against the \$202,000 property of Ross.

The bank continually ran behind in its earnings, but Ross had a happy faculty of marking up assets with "enhanced value" to make up the deficiency, and entered it in a mysterious account called "suspense earnings," which is full of puzzles for the experts.

UPPER HAND OF PLAGUE.

Dying Out in San Francisco—Seven Cases in December.

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—With only seven cases of bubonic plague reported during the month of December and but three cases remaining under treatment at the isolation hospital, the plague in San Francisco is almost eradicated. More than \$600,000 has been expended in the sanitary campaign, of which the Federal government is paying three-fourths. It is estimated that approximately 130,000 rats have been destroyed during the past four months. Thirty-five thousand, six hundred and forty two rats were brought to the laboratory of the health department. Of this number, 11,391 were examined by bacteriologists for plague and 106 found to be infected.

"The situation is greatly improved," said Dr. Blue today, "despite the apathetic attitude of the people of San Francisco, some of whom have been inclined to hostility toward us for the work that we are doing for their benefit."

The total number of cases reported to date is 136; deaths 73; cured 60; remaining under treatment 3; suspected cases 18.

RU-SIA GIVING UP ALL HOPE

Japan Slowly Strangling Foreign Investors in Manchuria.

Pekin, Jan. 1.—Ivan Shipoff, agent of the Russian finance ministry, has concluded a three-months' investigation of the serious conditions which confront the China Eastern railway, and as a result he has recommended that expenditures be reduced in every direction possible. This action is construed here as a reflection of the hopelessness of Russia's position in Manchuria. The railroad was isolated during the Russo-Japanese war and Japan's policy since then has practically strangled it. It is believed that the deficit of the Chinese Eastern railway for 1908 will amount to \$15,000,000. Traffic over the line is declining, particularly at Harbin.

Japan has forbidden China to extend the Hei Min Tun railroad in the direction of Tsitsikhar. This step has aroused exasperation among the Englishmen who have capital invested in the line, and it is characterized as another evidence of the monopolistic attitude of Japan in Manchuria.

New Road Finished.

Portland, Jan. 1.—The first electric car operated over the Oregon Electric railway between Portland and Salem traveled over the new line Monday, reaching Fulton Park at 5:40 p. m. The car was run through under the direction of R. L. Donald, on behalf of Barstow & Company, the construction company, of which Mr. Donald is resident engineer. The operation of this car completes the contract of Barstow & Company, which calls for the operation of the road by December 30. The trip was made without a hitch.

Registered Mail Stolen.

Waco, Texas, Jan. 1.—Officers have just disclosed the fact that a bundle of letters, registered packages, etc., was stolen from the mail trucks at Temple, Tex., probably Sunday, and taken to the brush near here and opened. About \$15,000 worth of checks, money orders and drafts was found in a pile where the letters had been torn open, but all registered packages and money in letters had been taken out. It is impossible to tell how much was secured.

Calls Extra Session.

Carson, Nev., Jan. 1.—Governor Sarks yesterday afternoon called an extra session of the legislature to convene January 4, 1908. For the last 24 hours the governor has been deluged with dispatches from all over the state and many places outside Nevada, urging the calling of the extra session to settle labor troubles.

GRIPPE FASTENS ON GREAT CITIES

Nearly Every City East of Mississippi River Affected.

Mild, Open Weather Held Responsible—Epidemic May Surpass That of 1889-90—Street Car Service in Pittsburgh Crippled—Chicago is Apprehensive.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Deadly grippe, which has already fastened itself upon nearly every city east of the Mississippi river, is spreading westward with appalling rapidity. Not since the terrible epidemic of 1889-90 have there been such ravages by the fearful malady as at the present time, according to special dispatches gathered from many sources. Mild, open weather, highly unseasonable, is held responsible by health authorities.

Pittsburg is the chief complainant. So many people there are ill that the street car service is crippled and office buildings are practically empty. Besides Pittsburg, New York, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Boston, Milwaukee and other Eastern and Western cities were reported to be wrestling with the disease, a number of deaths in each city occurring daily.

"La grippe, as the French call it," said Dr. Herman Spalding, of the Chicago Health department, "travels with the speed of a prairie fire. It travels along the lines of transportation, as it is carried by travelers from one city to another. It is decidedly contagious and there is no effective way of checking its spread. If other cities become badly affected, Chicago is sure to be hit, because of the thousands of travelers who arrive daily in Chicago from every point of the compass."

From New York word comes that the grippe has begun a devastating crusade in that city and that among its victims have been opera singers and many actors and actresses. There were 63 deaths in the metropolis last week. Besides this there were many deaths from pneumonia, influenced by the grippe bacillus.

Physicians in Boston say there are at least 60,000 cases now in that city. Cincinnati has 2,000 cases and physicians say that new cases are developing by the score every hour.

ON SECOND STAGE.

Battleship Fleet Leaves Trinidad for Rio Janeiro.

Port of Spain, Dec. 31.—The American battleship fleet weighed anchor at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon and steamed for Rio Janeiro. Accompanying the fleet were the supply ships Culgoas and Glacier. Early in the morning the signal went up from Rear Admiral Evans' flagship Connecticut to prepare for departure at 8 a. m., but owing to a delay in the coaling of the battleship Maine from the collier Fortuna, it was necessary to change the time of sailing. Long before the hour set a myriad of small craft, chiefly launches and steam yachts, moved up and down along the lines of anchored battleships, the merry parties aboard shouting farewells to the departing visitors. Thousands of residents climbed the surrounding hills to view the great ships as they moved onward on their journey of 3,000 miles and more, while boatloads of excursionists went to the small islands in the gulf and others to the floating dock to catch the last glimpse of the ships.

The fleet presented a magnificent appearance as it steamed out in four columns with the supply ships trailing, a distance of 400 yards separating one division from another. With the Connecticut in the lead the battleships headed for the Boas and steamed majestically through the grand Boas and thence along the northern coast of Trinidad. An average of from 10 to 11 knots an hour will carry the fleet to the end of the second lap of the 14,000-mile journey in about 12 days, and it was announced by Admiral Evans before his departure that he expects to reach Rio Janeiro on Friday evening January 10.

Provide for Presidents. New York, Dec. 31.—Ex-President Grover Cleveland, under the title of "Our People and Their Ex-Presidents," has contributed an interesting article to the Youths' Companion for January 5. Referring to the poverty of Jefferson after he left the presidency as a blow to national pride, Mr. Cleveland declares definite and generous provision should be made for the maintenance of chief magistrates. He deals with the subject at length, and explains that he feels he can do so without his sincerity being questioned.

Fatal Row Over 5 Cents. San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Arthur Sassenman, a conductor of the United Railroads, was shot and killed today at the intersection of Twelfth and Folsom streets by Bonaventura Arcieri, a passenger. Previously Arcieri had tendered a transfer which Sassenman had refused to honor. He then paid a cash fare and began to argue the matter. Sassenman slapped Arcieri in the face and the latter drew a revolver and shot Sassenman.

Earthquake Breaks Company.

Hamburg, Dec. 31.—The Transatlantic Fire Insurance company has voted to liquidate on account of the fact that more than half of its capital was lost by the San Francisco fire and earthquake.