

NATION TRAVELS PROSPERITY ROAD

Merchants Paying Debts and Buying More Goods.

Factories Resuming Operations—Rush to Wholesale Houses to Replenish Stocks—Country Fast Recovering From Financial Flurry—Buying is Heavier Than Last Year.

Chicago, Feb. 13.—That the nation again is on the high road to prosperity was shown today by reports from all sections of the country. On every hand it is agreed that the depression following the financial flurry of last fall is a thing of the past, and that the outlook is for a steadily increasing volume of business until normal conditions have been reached. In some branches of trade prosperity in a full measure has been recorded, and other lines show an improvement that promises some satisfactory records at the close of the year.

Following the end of the stringency in money comes an improvement in collections and a corresponding facility of barter and sale. It also has been demonstrated completely that the general public escaped the effects of the flurry. The people have cash with which to supply their needs, and their needs are just as great as ever.

With more factories resuming operations every day, the number of the unemployed is decreasing, and it is believed that before long the idle mill will be the exception. Chicago wholesalers report that the country merchants are coming in with their spring orders in greater numbers than a year ago. In almost every case they say that their stocks are low and must be replenished immediately to care for the demands of their customers.

The steel business, recognized as the barometer of trade in general, has shown marked improvement within the last few weeks. Such articles as wire and nails, which get to the general public quicker than the other products, are in great demand, and the railroads are coming into the market for large quantities of supplies.

The outlook is for bigger business, both in quality and in quantity, than last year," said Walter D. Moody, business manager of the Chicago Association of Commerce. "I have been around the wholesale district a good deal lately, and I find it is optimistic over the outlook for the spring business. I have had direct reports from many of the large houses, and they all read the same. 'There are many merchants in town, and they are coming by every train. They are flocking to the wholesale houses, and in practically every case they are buying freely.'

JAPS AT TARGET PRACTICE

Have Small Cannon Mounted Along California Coast.

Santa Monica, Cal., Feb. 13.—On an unfrequented bluff, which marks the northern limit of Santa Monica bay, a party of seven Japanese, with a small cannon in their possession, have been for several days past engaged in experiments that have aroused the suspicions of the settlers in the homestead district, and the news of their operations, reaching here tonight, has created some little excitement, particularly as it is known that the portion of the American battleship fleet will remain several days in the waters enclosed by Point Dume, where the party of Japanese made its headquarters.

Their evident anxiety to escape observation, he said, drew upon them the careful observation of several of the settlers, who found them on one occasion in possession of a small pivot gun, which, mounted on a cliff 155 feet above the water, was being fired, first in one direction and then in another.

The Japanese, unaware that they were being watched, seemed interested in determining the range of the little piece of artillery, which threw missiles over a mile from the shore. The gun was operated with smokeless powder.

Need of More Vessels.

Marshall, Mich., Feb. 13.—Every available seat was taken at the annual banquet of the Calhoun County Lincoln Club, at which ex-Secretary of the Treasury Leslie M. Shaw and Second Assistant Postmaster General McCleary were the principal speakers. Mr. McCleary in speaking on "Present Day Problems" devoted considerable attention to the fact that the auxiliary fleet, carry coal and supplies for the battleship cruise to the Pacific, sailed under many foreign flags.

Mail Subsidy Bill.

Washington, Feb. 13.—On motion of Senator Gallinger, the Senate today agreed to consider the ocean mail subsidy bill next Monday. The bill authorizes the Postmaster-General to pay for ocean mail service in vessels of the second class on routes to South America, the Philippines, Japan and China and Australia at a rate of \$4 per outward mile, which is the rate now paid to vessels of the first class which carry mail under contract with the government.

Portugal Growing Quiet.

London, Feb. 13.—The Times this morning publishes a long Lisbon dispatch relative to recent events in Portugal. It says that the situation is improving daily and that the government adheres to its policy of conciliating public opinion, but that it would be a mistake to consider all danger over.

COURT SHIELDED CRIME.

Remarkable Petition for Re-Hearing Filed in Schmitz Case

San Francisco, Feb. 14.—In what is probably one of the most remarkable papers ever addressed to a California court the prosecution in the San Francisco bribery-graft cases today filed with the Supreme Court a petition for a re-hearing of the decision of the Court of Appeals in which ex-Mayor Eugene Schmitz and the former political boss, Abraham Ruef, were virtually held to be guiltless of extortion, the conviction of the former reversed and the plea of guilty by Ruef practically nullified.

The petition openly criticizes the Court of Appeals for its decision and charges that the court by its act had virtually legalized blackmail in the state.

The appeal is signed by Attorney-General U. S. Webb, Francis J. Heney, William H. Langdon, Charles W. Cobb and Joseph Dwyer. The petition concludes:

We ask for a rehearing because the decision, with the greatest respect to the court that rendered it and to this court is:

1. Fallacious in its logic.
2. Devoid of reason to support it.
3. Unsupported by the authorities cited.
4. Diametrically opposed to high authorities, which we cited in our briefs but which are unnoticed by the opinion.

MAKE SECRET TREATIES.

Germany Destroys Hope of Reform and Gets Concessions.

London, Feb. 14.—The Foreign Office has been advised by Sir N. R. O'Connor, the British ambassador at Constantinople, that Baron Marschall von Bieberstein, the German diplomatic representative, announced at the last meeting of the ambassadors to Turkey that Germany has decided, instead of signing the joint note to the Porte demanding judicial reforms in Macedonia, to agree to the Turkish proposal that the Macedonian foreign gendarmerie be placed under the control of Turkey.

No confirmation has been received by the Foreign Office, however, of the report that Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey have entered upon secret treaties, but the independent action of Germany in the matter of the reforms in Macedonia has caused disquietude, as it upsets the work accomplished during the past year and makes the future uncertain.

In the meantime the powers are continuing the consideration of the recommendations of their ambassadors. It is not expected, however, that the Porte will accept these recommendations, in view of Germany's support of the counter-proposals, and it is believed that the entire question will have to be reconsidered.

REACH VALPARAISO.

Battleship Fleet Being Escorted by Chilean Warships.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The Navy Department has received the following message from Admiral Simpson, of the Chilean navy, on board the cruiser Chacabuco, which piloted Admiral Evans' fleet partially through the Straits of Magellan: "Talahuano, Chile, Feb. 12, 1908.—Admiral Evans requests me to inform the Department from the fleet at sea Tuesday 4 p. m., bound for Callao, via Valparaiso: 'Everything going on well. Admiral Evans much better in health.'"

Mr. Hicks, the American minister to Chile, today cabled the state department that the Chilean cruiser Chacabuco, presumably now at Valparaiso, would sail south today for the purpose of joining the battleship fleet again with two Chilean warships, one of which is the Esmeralda.

The three vessels will convey the fleet to Valparaiso, where President Montt will review it from a war vessel and at the same time salutes will be exchanged between the vessels of the two navies.

The Chacabuco conveyed the battleships from Punta Arena to a point nearly opposite Porto Montt, when she left them and proceeded north.

Jiu Jitsu in Germany.

Berlin, Feb. 14.—The Japanese method of wrestling, jiu jitsu, is to be introduced into all the military and naval gymnasia of Germany, at the express command of the Emperor. His Majesty has directed all officers to acquire a thorough acquaintance with the rules of jiu jitsu. The officers, upon obtaining their certificates of efficiency in this new method, will be detailed to the various local gymnasia throughout the empire where they will impart a knowledge of the methods to the recruits as soon as they join.

Rescue Modern Crusce

Washington, Feb. 14.—A man by the name of Jeffs, and whose home is said to have been in Connecticut, is believed to be stranded on one of the Galapagos or Tortoise islands, situated off the west coast of South America. A prominent person from Connecticut, interested in Jeff's case, has written to the department, asking that one of the vessels of Admiral Evans' fleet stop at the islands on its way from Callao, Peru, and make a search for him.

Companies Increase Forces.

St. Louis, Feb. 14.—The Republic Iron & Steel Company in East St. Louis put 900 men to work yesterday and today announcement was made by the National Enameling & Stamping Company that 400 extra men will be given employment in the tin mills of the company at Granite City next Monday.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTIETH SESSION OF NATIONAL LAWMAKERS

Saturday, February 15

Washington, Feb. 15.—The house committee on military affairs today agreed to the report on the army appropriation bill, having completed its amendment increasing the pay of enlisted men of the various grades of service. The bill as it will be reported to the house will carry \$85,254,066, which is \$9,413,981 less than the estimates submitted. The amendment increasing the pay of enlisted men is intended to place the army service on a footing comparable to the navy service.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Representative James, of Kentucky, appeared before the house committee on coinage, weights and measures today to make an argument in support of his bill to restore to the United States gold coins the words "In God we trust." On leaving the committee room, Mr. James said he had been assured that his bill would be reported favorably next week.

Washington, Feb. 15.—With a view to the raising of the ill-fated battleship Maine and the "proper burial of its dead, now lying with the hulk of that vessel in the harbor of Havana, Cuba," Representative Sulzer of New York today introduced a resolution calling upon the secretary of the navy for papers and correspondence bearing on the international status of the question, and the rights of the government of the United States in the matter.

Friday, February 14

Washington, Feb. 14.—Oratory in the house today gave way to legislation, with the result that material progress was made with the executive, legislative and judicial bills.

The first attack upon the increases in the salaries of the assistant secretaries of several departments which the bill authorizes, was made by Macon, Arkansas and when the proposition affecting the treasury department salaries was read these increases went out on point of order raised by him.

The proposed increase in the salary of the supervising architect of the treasury was rejected on a point of order by Macon.

Macon made another point against the increase of the salary of the assistant secretary of war and it was stricken out.

On a point of order by Mann the appropriation for a monthly pilot chart of the North Pacific ocean, published by the navy, was stricken out.

Crumpacker, Alabama offered an amendment reducing the mileage allowed to senators, members and delegates from 20 cents to 8 cents, but on an objection by Ingelbright, California, it was refused on a point of order.

Washington, Feb. 14.—A subcommittee of the senate committee on judiciary today decided to take favorable action on the Tillman resolution instructing the attorney-general to institute suits to compel railroads in the northwest to open to settlement land granted them by the government.

It is intended that the resolution shall authorize the attorney-general to bring proceedings not only to compel the railroads to open this land to settlement, but to forfeit title in cases where it appears that the railroads have deliberately conspired to defeat the purpose of the government in ceding the land.

Information was presented to the judiciary committee showing that railroads instead of disposing of the land to bona fide settlers, had so manipulated the settlements that the railroads themselves are now in possession of large tracts of land.

Thursday, February 13

Washington, Feb. 13.—General debate on the legislative appropriation bill was brought to a close in the house today after a session full of interest and entertainment. Several speeches were made on the issues of the day, the most notable being by Champ Clark, of Missouri, who commanded the attention of the house for an hour and a half. Upon the conclusion of his remarks he was accorded an ovation by democrats and republicans.

Clark arraigned the republicans for their attitude on the tariff question and said that the announcement that there would be a revision of the tariff after election was simply "in preparation of another stupendous confidence game on the people." He discussed the president's message and said that, whatever his virtues or his faults, the president was not a democrat. Other speakers were Rayner, Illinois; Tirrell, Massachusetts; and Hammond, Indiana, all of whom discussed various phases of the tariff question.

Washington, Feb. 13.—The senate today discussed the law governing the reserves of national banks, that subject having been brought up by Rayner, who reverted to a controversy over statements made in the senate yesterday when the Aldrich currency bill was under consideration. The criminal code bill also was a subject for discussion during a couple of hours, Clay and others securing the substitution of the old law instead of the proposed revised sections, which will effectually prevent intoxicating liquors being sent through the mails into "dry" states or counties.

Amends Dry Farming Bill.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Senator Borah has prepared an amendment to Senator Smoot's 320-acre dry farming bill, which provides that those locating land under the bill must be bona fide residents of the state in which the land filed upon is located. Senator Smoot has agreed to this amendment, thereby securing for his bill the support of both Idaho senators.

two amendments to the Aldrich currency bill, providing that after November 1, 1909, every national bank shall keep on hand the amount equal to its reserve now provided by law and also directing the secretary of the treasury to collect interest on government funds deposited in national banks.

Wednesday, February 12

Washington, Feb. 12.—Rayner of Maryland spoke at length in the senate today on the currency bill condemning the present system of banking in the United States and incidentally declaring that the president, by his methods of fighting the encroachments of predatory wealth, had done much to intensify the panic through which the country had recently passed.

Turning to Aldrich, Rayner asked how it happened that the committee had stricken from the bill the provision requiring the banks located out of reserve or central reserve cities to keep a reserve equal to 15 per cent of their deposit liabilities and hold at all times at least two-thirds of such in lawful money.

The chairman of the finance committee replied that it was omitted in order to avoid unnecessary opposition to the bill in its main features.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Morton Frewen, of England, member of Parliament, spoke before the house committee on banking and currency today, in explanation of the old Goshen system, which provides for a reserve of silver bullion to be held as security against trade silver paper, issued in denominations of \$2.50 up to \$10, not redeemable in gold, but in silver.

Mr. Frewen said that all hope of international bimetalism had disappeared, and that the Goshen plan could be allied in this country without disrupting the present currency system. He declared that it would be more applicable here and in England now than it would have been years ago. His idea was to have the United States adopt it first and then let England take it up.

Tuesday, February 11

Washington, Feb. 11.—The legality of the creation by the president of the inland waterways commission was questioned by Mr. Tawney, Minnesota, chairman of the committee on appropriations, in the house today. The point was raised when Mr. Tawney urged that the house conference disagree to the senate amendment to the urgent deficiency bill, granting \$1,875 to Senator John H. Bankhead for service as a member of the commission. Tawney declared that he did not question the motives of the chief executive, but insisted that his action was without authority of law.

A motion by Underwood that the house recede and concur in the amendment was lost, 56 to 101.

A motion by Needham of California that the house accept the senate amendment, imposing upon the United States instead of the District of Columbia the expense of \$60,000 in the land conspiracy trial of Hyde, Dimond, Benson and Schneider, provoked a lengthy discussion. The motion of Needham was lost and the amendment was sent back to conference.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Senator Aldrich called up today his currency bill and formal amendments made by the finance committee which were adopted by the senate.

Senator Daniels offered an amendment providing that bonds of railroads that "have paid regularly and continuously for five years next preceding the deposit of its bonds and interest due on all its bonds" can be used for currency issues. The amendment, he said, would allow the use of bonds of roads that have not paid dividends on stock. This would permit the use of the bonds of a number of southern railroads which are now excluded.

Senator Lodge gave notice of an amendment including among the bonds available for currency issues the bonds of the Philippine islands government, the city of Manila and the railroads of the Philippine islands.

New Flour for Islands.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The commissary-general of the army has decided to purchase for shipment to the Philippines, Kansas wheat which shows the best results in mixture with the California flour. This means that no more contracts will be awarded for Australian flour, which has hitherto been shipped to the islands. The Kansas-California blend has been found an equal of the Australian product, and it is the policy of the government to buy its military supplies of domestic sources when ever possible.

Plan Big Army Supply Depot.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Plans and specifications have been compiled in the quartermaster-general's office for the extensive work which is contemplated at Fort Mason, Cal., where there will be established a general military supply depot. Congress has authorized an expenditure of \$1,500,000 for the construction of buildings and pier at that place. It will be the most important shipping point and troops-transfer station in the country.

Will Not Follow Leader.

Washington, Feb. 11.—In the face of strong opposition by John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, leader of the minority in the house of representatives, James L. Lloyd, representative from the first district of Missouri, was tonight elected chairman of the democratic congressional campaign committee, defeating his rival and Mr. Williams' candidate, William H. Ryan, of the thirty-fifth district of New York, by a vote of 23 to 14.

THREE DEAD; 23 INJURED.

Sheridan Local Wrecked by Broken Rail at Forest Grove.

Forest Grove, Ore., Feb. 12.—Three were killed and 23 were injured, one very seriously, by the derailment of the Sheridan local on a short trestle bridge about three-fourths of a mile west of this city at 6 o'clock last night. The dead are: Mrs. Edward Bates and 5-month-old daughter, of Forest Grove. J. A. McDonald, of McMinnville. Mrs. J. H. Brown, aged 60, of Sheridan, was badly crushed, and may not recover.

The accident resulted from a broken rail, one 30-foot section at the west end of the trestle bridge being splintered into four pieces by the weight of the heavily loaded coaches. The defective rail apparently did not give way until after the engine, mail and baggage cars had crossed in safety.

The smoker was the first to leave the track, carrying with it two day coaches. The smoker and the first day coach ran over the ties for a distance of 20 yards and pitched from the trestle to the ground, ten feet below, striking on their sides. The second day coach also left the track, and turned only partly over.

Miss Grace Harding, of Gaston, a passenger in the rear coach, was thrown through a window into less than two feet of water beneath the trestle, but escaped uninjured.

PRINTERS SENT TO PRISON.

Members of New York "Big Six" Fined and Sent to Jail.

New York, Feb. 12.—President Patrick McCormick, of the local Typographical Union, known as the "Big Six" and George W. Jackson and Vincent J. Costello, union organizers, yesterday were fined \$250 each and sentenced to 20 days' imprisonment for disobedience of an injunction obtained by the Typothetae of New York in 1906. Thomas Bennett and William S. Anderson were fined \$100 on the same charge. Sentence was imposed by Justice Bischoff in the supreme court.

This is the first time any such heavy sentence in the case of a labor organization for violation of injunction has been imposed in these courts. The troubles grew out of the strike of Typographical Union No. 6, commonly called "Big Six," ordered early in 1906 against the Association of Employers known as the Typothetae of the city of New York for a closed shop and an eight-hour day.

WILL BAR JAPS.

British Columbia Legislature Enacts Educational Test Law.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 12.—The new immigration law, enacted by the British Columbia legislature recently, on the lines of the Natal act, which applies an educational test to immigrants arriving in British Columbia, who must be able to read and write in English or a language of Europe to be permitted to land, became a law today, when Lieutenant-Governor James Dunsmuir assented to the bill.

Immediate provisions were made for the enforcement of the new law, which is obviously aimed at the Japanese, and officials have been instructed to carry out its effect on all immigrants arriving after today. There are at the quarantine station 268 Japanese, left there by the steamer Kaga Maru, in quarantine, 125 of whom are bound here, and these will come under the provisions of the new law.

RURAL PARCELS POST BILL.

Burnham Proposes Measure to Help Country Merchants.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Senator Burnham, of New Hampshire, today introduced in congress a measure of distinct importance to rural interests throughout the United States. It is a bill to provide a rural delivery parcels post for merchandise and other articles actually mailed on rural delivery routes. The rural free delivery routes now number more than 38,000, and on them in excess of 15,000,000 people receive a daily postal service.

The measure has the indorsement of the president and postmaster-general, Meyer. It provides, in brief, for the establishment of a rural parcel post at special rates of postage for the delivery of foodstuffs, dry goods, drugs, books and other merchandise.

Fund for King's Slayers

London, Feb. 12.—A special dispatch to the Standard from Lisbon states that the public acquiescence in the assassination of the King and Crown Prince as a justifiable political act, and that no effort will be made to bring to justice the accomplices of the murderers, although they are numerous and in many cases known. On the contrary, says the dispatch, no surprise is expressed that the republican newspapers demand the criminal prosecution of the king's quarry, Fiegeneria, who sabred one assassin.

Naval Uniform a Bar.

Providence, R. I., Feb. 12.—The Rhode Island supreme court today confirmed the decision of the lower court in the case of Chief Yeoman Fred Buzelle, who sued the proprietors of a Newport dancing pavilion for refusing his admission because he wore the uniform of the United States navy. When the case was tried in the superior court Buzelle was awarded 25 cents damages, which the sum he had paid for his ticket.

Arbitrate With France.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Secretary Root and Ambassador Jusserand today signed a treaty providing for the arbitration of any issue that may arise between France and America.

TO REORGANIZE POSTAL SYSTEM

Complete Change in Department Re- commended by Commission.

Hire Director of Posts—Commission Appointed Suggests Long Term for Head of Department at High Salary and Cutting Out Much Red Tape of Present Methods.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Congress today received a preliminary report of the joint commission appointed during the last congress to investigate the business methods of the postoffice department and postoffice service and submit recommendations for legislation to effect changes in their administration. The commission, consisting of Senators Penrose, Carter and Clay, and Representatives Overstreet, Gardner of New Jersey, and Moon, points out many objectionable methods of both departments. Among the recommendations is a plan to place the actual direction of the business of the postoffice department under the service of an officer, with necessary assistants to be appointed by the president, "by and with the advice and consent of the senate," for long terms, so as to insure the continuance of efficient service. Under the plan the postmaster-general, as a member of the cabinet, is chargeable with general supervisory control and the determination of question of policy.

The commission also recommends that the business of the department be decentralized so as to avoid the congestion at the national capital which impairs the efficiency and increases the cost of the service; that the bookkeeping, auditing and accounting be simplified, unified and centralized to secure greater accuracy, more prompt methods and elimination of duplication of work; and that the practice of requiring needless detailed reports from small post-offices be discontinued. The moderate application of the non-accounting system to small offices will eliminate about 30,000, or nearly one-half, of all the postoffice accounts from the present complex report and book-keeping system, or would at least greatly simplify the same. The commission says:

"It appears too obvious to require argument that the most efficient service can never be expected as long as the direction of the business is, as at present entrusted to a postmaster-general and certain assistants selected without special reference to experience and qualifications and subject to frequent change. Under such a system a large railroad, commercial or industrial business would eventually go into bankruptcy, and the postoffice department has averted that fate only because the United States treasury has been available to meet deficiencies."

PUSH BACK GUARD.

Eager Portuguese Almost Create Panic at Royal Funeral.

Lisbon, Feb. 11.—The bodies of King Carlos and Crown Prince Luis Philippe were yesterday laid away beside those of their royal ancestors in the sacred sepulchre in the Pantheon. A great crowd, numbering thousands, struggled outside the cathedral of San Vicente, seeking to enter the view the bodies before the ceremony. Brushing back the police and the guard of Royal Archers, they poured into the church, sweeping everything before them.

When the doors eventually were closed to the public, the ceremony of entombment was begun. All the ministers of state were present. The patriarch of Lisbon, wearing pontifical vestments, and assisted by other high church officials, blessed the sacrament, the cathedral and palace choirs chanted the "Libera Me" and to the intoning of "De Profundis" the coffin of the Crown Prince was transported between double ranks of archers, preceded by a long procession. In a similar manner the body of the King was borne to the tomb.

Boiler Tubes Explode.

Vallajo, Cal., Feb. 11.—Boiler tubes on the cruiser St. Louis blew out at noon today while the St. Louis was off Sausalito. E. E. Scott, coal passer; F. Thompson, water tender; E. W. Baker, fireman of the first class; and D. Lewis, fireman of the first class, were horribly scalded with steam. The origin of the explosion is not known, but it is supposed to have been caused by cold water running into hot pipes. It is not believed any of the injured will die. A rigid investigation is under way.

Franco Travels Again.

Bordeaux, France, Feb. 11.—Senator Franco, the ex-Premier of Portugal, with his wife and son, left this city by train at 7:43 this morning for Marselles. The departure was sudden, the hotel authorities being notified of the step at the last moment. Senator Franco appeared rested from his stay here. He is less depressed and he walked over to the train at a quick step. He was accompanied by French detectives. There were no people at the railroad station.

Snow in South Carolina.

Spartanburg, S. C., Feb. 11.—Spartanburg is buried under seven inches of snow. It is the heaviest fall in many years. It occurred last night and today. The weather is now the coldest of the winter—22 degrees above zero.