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NORTHWEST BREVITIES

Evidence of Steady Growth
and Enterprise.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

From All Parts of Oregon, Washington,
Idaho, Montana and British Columbia—Washington.

The state road commission has just
closed a session at which was fully
discussed the doubts entertained of the
legality of the appropriation for the
state wagon road across the Cascade
mountains. During the past summer
the commission spent but a small part
of the sum appropriated, the effort being
made to investigate the routes as
cheaply as possible in order to keep
the bulk intact for construction pur-
poses, as the members of the commis-
sion realized the meagreness of the ap-
propriation when the length of the road
to be constructed was considered. The
result of the examination of the differ-
ent routes showed that to construct
even a good four-foot trail across the
Cascade division would cost from \$25,
000 to \$35,000, according to the route
selected, while only \$20,000 was ap-
propriated for that purpose; while the
same conditions prevailed upon the
other divisions. The commission being
in doubt whether the law would al-
low it to construct a four-foot trail—
which had been urged—referred the
question to the attorney-general, who
furnished an opinion that the law con-
templated the construction of a wagon
road, and to build a trail would be to
spend the money appropriated without
authority of law. At the recent session
Commissioner Watson offered a resolu-
tion to report back to the legislature,
furnishing full details of the best route,
the cost of a trail and of a wagon road,
but owing to opposition the resolution
was withdrawn, the other members de-
siring to continue the investigation
further. It was then agreed to accept
the opinion of the attorney-general as
final regarding the necessity for con-
structing a wagon road under the bill.
For the purpose of ascertaining whether
the cheapest kind of a wagon road
could be built with the appropriation,
a maximum grade, for the purpose
of making estimates only, was agreed
to at 20 per cent, the width at seven
feet, without grubbing, trees to be cut
off level with the road, and bridging
only where streams could not be forded
in ordinary low water. Two of the
members express themselves as opposed
to such a road, but agreed to figure
on it to satisfy the third member. So
that, should it be found possible to
build such a road, it is not certain
that the majority would agree to go
ahead. "The trouble is," said a mem-
ber of the commission, "that the or-
iginal law of three years ago provided
for a road, and the members of the
first commission construed that to
mean a trail or wagon road, as the
circumstances seemed to warrant.
The old commission in recommending
the last legislation to appropriate
certain sums, made its estimates evi-
dently on the trail or road, but the
legislature, while not materially
changing the sums asked for, changed
the law to read 'wagon road.'" Generally
in public improvements it is under-
stood the sum appropriated is to be
expended on the work, whether complet-
ing it or not, and relying upon another
appropriation to complete the work. Those
who have studied the Cascade road
law, however, agree that the sums ap-
propriated were intended to complete
the sentiment in that the money should be
expended on a safe wagon road can be
built and the object of the law honestly
enforced. The question of a selection of
a pass has been purposely deferred by
the commission until after these other
matters are disposed of, but it is be-
lieved will come up for final action at
the next meeting.

The Tacoma school board has under-
consideration the reduction of the
present school year from nine to six
months, in order to lessen the expense
and put the district on a sound finan-
cial basis for the next year. A special
election is to be held for the purpose
of validating the indebtedness to
\$38,000.

The recent storm on Puget sound was
the most severe that has taken place for
many years. The Port Townsend and
Victoria shipping experienced consider-
able damage.

The new hotel at Bandon is nearly
completed.

There are sixty-four pupils now en-
rolled in the state school for deaf mutes
in Salem.

A schoolhouse has just been com-
pleted at Port Orford with funds raised
by popular subscription.

Gold Beach is to have a new hotel.
The Masonic building will be recon-
structed for that purpose.

The Presbyterians of Medford are
receiving bids for the erection of a new
church edifice in that town.

The recent storm played havoc with
the telegraph and telephone lines be-
tween Crescent City and the copper
mines.

The school board at Pendleton has
made a reduction of nearly 25 per cent
in the pay of teachers in the public
schools.

The assessment roll of Umatilla
county, just completed, shows a gross
valuation of \$7,471,535. The number
of polls is 1,767.

The total area of Malheur county is
6,277,440 acres. The population of

the county is 2,688, one person to
every four square miles.

The stock inspector of Umatilla
county reports that there are about
240,000 sheep in the county and con-
trary to the recent reports are in good
condition for the winter. The stock-
men are better prepared this winter
than last.

The completion of the new water
works system at Astoria was cele-
brated with pomp and ceremony. The
expense of the system was \$200,000.

The entire salmon pack, spring and
fall season, for the entire Pacific coast,
was 2,084,877. Of this amount Alaska
furnished 687,000; British Columbia,
512,877.

A miners' convention has been called
for the early part of January, for the
purpose of organizing a miners' associa-
tion for Southern Oregon. It will be
held in Grant's Pass.

The census enumeration of 1885,
compared with that of 1895, shows a
production of wheat in Oregon ten
years ago to be 9,933,718 bushels, and
this year to be 9,019,192 bushels.

A wood yard is reported at The
Pallies. The price of wood by the com-
petition of the local dealers has been re-
duced to a lower figure than for pre-
vious winters. An unusual amount of
wood has been bought up the river dur-
ing the year.

The contract recently made by the
Oregon Railway & Navigation Com-
pany, making its line of steamers to the
Orient permanent, insures a great
trade in Oregon's flour with Asia. The
manager of one of the leading flour
mills of the state says their flour
trade with Asia has doubled twice
within the past three years, and he is
confident it will be doubled again
within three years. The arrangements
at present are sufficient to handle 4,000
tons per month, and in two or three
years at farthest, two steamers per
month will be needed, instead of one,
and the possibilities of the trade in ten
years no one can even approximate.

Idaho.

Five thousand rabbits were killed at
a recent drive at Oakly.

Two or possibly three new steamers
will be built on the Kootenai for pas-
sage between Bonners Ferry and Lake
Bonds next spring.

A feed and flour mill is to be estab-
lished at Ferndale. Bids for a daily
mail service between that place and
Whatecom has been sent to the postoffice
division.

A Chicago combination has made ap-
plication to the state board of land com-
missioners to have 10,000 acres of
land withdrawn from settlement for
the purpose of reclaiming it under the
 Carey act. Two hundred thousand dol-
lars is the estimated cost of the irriga-
tion works.

Coal has been found in several
places within the limits of Stevens
county, also on the east side of the Co-
lumbia river above Market, where there
is a seam of one foot in width and a
depth of eighty feet. Coal is also
found in other parts of the county not
far from the boundary line.

A special agent of the treasurer has
dispersed in payment \$50,000 to the
 Nez Perce Indians. It is estimated that 343
native Nez Perces have died since the
Fletcher allotment of land was com-
pleted in 1893. The births are re-
corded to the number of ninety-four.
These statistics show the destiny of
this favored Indian tribe.

The W. R. L. I. & Co., have com-
pleted their Nutmeg reservoir and now
have a substantial dam 200 feet long
and fifty feet high, holding water suf-
ficient to irrigate 4,000 acres. Water
is guaranteed by the projectors by May
15. All the government land in this
tract is taken up, but 1,000 acres of
private land are still open to

The state land commissioner has
reported to the land commissioners
that timber will soon be offered for
sale. The timber will probably go to
different lumber firms. They will
have to build about twenty-five miles
of railroad in order to transport the
timber. In all he has estimated 410,
297,000 feet of timber, divided as fol-
lows: white pine, 144,219,000 feet;
yellow pine, 25,791,000; white fir,
46,671,000; red fir, 21,386,000; tam-
arack, 95,601,000 and cedar, 47,129,
000 feet.

Montana.

The fire at the Mure tunnel on the
Northern Pacific is still smoldering. It
will take months to repair the damage
done by the fire.

The manager of the Katy mine is re-
ported to have disposed of one-third
interest to Springfield, Mass., capital-
ists, who will build a 600-ton mill and
probably a smelter during the coming
year.

A syndicate of Helena capitalists
which has purchased the right to man-
ufacture acetylene, the new illumina-
nt, in Montana, is said to be contem-
plating the establishment of an acety-
lene manufacturing plant in Living-
ston, the requisites of a great water
power, lime and coal, being at hand.

The new state penitentiary building
has just been completed at Deer Lodge
It was built almost exclusively by
convict labor. The new buildings
only cost the state \$1,000. The founda-
tion walls are granite and red brick
was used for superstructure. The re-
cent report of the penitentiary shows
the expense of the prison in the last
year to be \$40,736.20.

The establishment of a school in the
penitentiary at Deer Lodge is a com-
mendable movement originated by
Governor Rickard. The prison officials
have been instructed to collect and
provide a library for the special bene-
fit of the inmates. There are now a
number of exceptionally fine educated
persons in the prison and they have
volunteered their services as teachers.

FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

Daily Proceedings in Senate
and House.

IMPORTANT BILLS INTRODUCED

Appointment of Members on the Vari-
ous Congressional Committees
Senate.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The Demo-
cratic steering committee of the senate
today completed the last assignment of
minority members of the committees,
and handed the list to Mitchell, chair-
man of the Republican caucus com-
mittee. The chairmen of the more
important committees are as follows:

Appropriations, Allison; finance,
Morrill; foreign relations, Sherman;
judiciary, Hoar; commerce, Frye; in-
terstate commerce, Cullum; military
affairs, Hawley; naval affairs, Cam-
eron; public lands, Dubois; Indian
affairs, Pettigrew; claims, Teller; coast
defense, Squire; education and labor,
Shoup; territories, Davis; Pacific rail-
roads, Gear; pensions, Gallinger; post-
offices and postroads, Wolcott; agricul-
ture and forestry, Proctor; private land
claims, Harris; manufactures, Wet-
more; fisheries, Perkins; civil service
and retraining, Pritchard; immigra-
tion, Lodge; irrigation and reclamation
of arid lands, Warren; mines and min-
ing, Stewart; railroads, Clark; Indian
depravations, Wilson; transportation
routes to the seaboard, McBride; Nica-
ragua canal and Nicaragua claims,
Morgan; international exposition,
Thurston; national banks, Mantle;
forestry reservations and protection
thereof, Allen; to investigate trespass-
ers on Indian lands, Baker; woman
suffrage, Call.

House.

Washington, Dec. 26.—It being gen-
erally understood that the ways and
means committee would not be pre-
pared to report its bill for the relief
of the treasury situation before Friday,
the attendance in the house today was
comparatively small.

Mr. Dingley, chairman of the ways
and means committee, said the com-
mittee met this morning and unani-
mously decided, in view of the presi-
dent's message, that it was not appro-
priate for the house to adjourn until
a proper response had been made. "On
Friday," he continued, "we hope the
house will make a response to the
urgent request of the president and take
some action which will relieve the
situation in which the country finds
itself."

Beach of Ohio will introduce in the
house tomorrow a bill providing that
duties imposed by the tariff laws of
the United States shall not apply to
food products and raw materials from
such nations as may make equivalent
reciprocal concessions in favor of mer-
chandise imported from the United
States.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The two bills
to be presented to the house for action
and their text are as follows:

No. 1—"A bill to maintain and pro-
tect the coin redemption fund, and to
authorize the Resumption of Specie
Payments, the issue of certificates on
indebtedness to meet the temporary
deficiencies of revenue.

"Be it enacted, etc., that in addi-
tion to the authority given to the se-
cretary of the treasury by the act ap-
proved January 14, 1875, entitled 'An
Act to Provide for the Resumption of
Specie Payments,' he is authorized from
time to time, at his discretion, to issue,
sell and dispose of, at not less than par,
in coin, coupon or registered bonds of
the United States to an amount suffi-
cient for the object stated in this sec-
tion, bearing not to exceed 3 per cent
interest per annum, payable semi-an-
nually and redeemable at the pleasure
of the United States in coin, after five
years from their date, with like privi-
leges, and exemptions provided in
said act for the bonds therein
authorized.

"And the secretary of the treasury
shall use the proceeds thereof for the
redemption of United States legal-
tender notes, and for no other purpose.

"Section 2.—In order to provide for
any temporary deficiency now existing
which may hereafter occur, the secre-
tary of the treasury is hereby author-
ized, at his discretion, to issue certifi-
cates of indebtedness of the United
States to an amount not exceeding
\$50,000,000, payable in three years
after their date, to the bearer, in law-
ful money of the United States, of the
denomination of \$20, or multiples
thereof, with annual coupons for inter-
est at the rate of 8 per cent per annum,
and to sell and dispose of the same for
not less than an equal amount of law-
ful money of the United States.

Bill No. 2—"A bill to temporarily
increase the revenue to meet the ex-
penses of the government and provide
against deficiency.

"Be it enacted, etc., that from and
after the passage of this act, and until
August 1, 1898, there shall be levied,
collected and paid on all imported
wools of classes 1 and 2, as defined in
the act hereinafter cited, approved
October 1, 1890, and subject to all the
conditions and limitations thereof, and
on all hair of the camel, goat, alpaca
and other animals, except as herein
provided; and on all nails, shoddy,
garnetted waste, ring waste, yarn
waste, top waste, slubbing waste rym-
ing waste, and all other wastes com-
posed wholly or in part of wool, and
on all woolen rags, mungo and flocks,
a duty equivalent to 60 per cent of
the duty imposed on each of such ar-
ticles.

"Section 2.—That from and after
the passage of this act and until

August 1, 1898, there shall be levied,
collected and paid on all imported ar-
ticles, made whole or in part of wool,
worsted, or other materials described
in section 1 of this act.

"Section 3.—That after passage of
this act, and until August 1, 1898,
there shall be levied and paid on im-
ported lumber and other articles desig-
nated in paragraphs 674 to 683, in-
clusive, of an act entitled 'An Act to
Reduce Taxation, to Provide Revenue
for the Government and for Other Pur-
poses,' which became a law August
27, 1894, a duty equivalent to 60 per
cent of the duties imposed on each of
such articles."

Washington, Dec. 30.—The house
today responded to the appeal of the
president by passing a tariff bill, the
operation of which is limited to two
and a half years and which is designed
to raise \$40,000,000 for the relief of the
treasury. The vote today was on party
lines, with two exceptions. The Rep-
ublicans all voted for the bill except
Hartman of Montana, who did not
vote, and the Democrats and Populists
against it, save Newlands of Nevada,
who voted in favor of the measure.
The special order under which the bill
was brought to a vote, after three and
a half hours of debate, was ironclad
character and compelled the members
to adopt or reject it without oppor-
tunity of offering amendments of any
kind.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The house
today passed the bond bill by a vote
of 170 to 136; and the house, having
discharged the task for which it had
been sitting during the recess, effected
an agreement by which it should ad-
journ next week, three days at a time
in order to give members an oppor-
tunity to rest and visit their homes.
The closing hours of the debate today
were lacking in spirit, and there was
practically no excitement until the vote
was taken. The margin of 34, by
which the first section of the bill,
against which the Republican oppo-
sition, was passed showed that the
friends of the measure had marshaled
every vote in its favor available. As
it was 47 Republicans refused to ac-
cede with the majority of the party. The
Populists and Democrats, with the ex-
ception of Hutchison, who voted for
the bill, presented an unbroken front
against the bill.

AGAIN THE TRANSVAAL.

The Boer Republic to Supplant Ven-
ezuela in Interest.

London, Dec. 31.—The Times this
morning publishes long dispatches from
Cape Town, Paris and Berlin bearing
on the Transvaal question, which
seems to be displacing the Venezuela
question. The Paris dispatch quotes
the Journal des Debats as saying:

"The London Times seems to be
avenging itself on the Boers for the
moderate tone it was obliged to adopt
toward Loan Sam."

The Des Debats then proceeds to
argue upon the danger to French in-
terests of allowing England to seize the
Transvaal.

A dispatch to the Times from The
Hague says that Holland's attitude on
the question is apparently one of in-
difference.

The Berlin dispatch says the action
of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal has
given rise to an unusually violent ex-
ploitation of anti-English feeling in the
German press.

The National Zeitung is quoted as
saying:

"Germany, Portugal and possibly
France cannot allow the Boer republic
to become the exclusive prey of Eng-
land, especially of such a dangerous
personage as Mr. Cecil Rhodes."

The Koelnische Zeitung, the Kreuz
Zeitung and other papers express simi-
lar sentiments. It cannot be denied
that while the relations between the
English and German governments are
in no way cordial, a widespread feeling
of animosity against England exists in
Germany.

The Times also has a column article
explaining of the Transvaal trouble,
which says: "Equity of representation
with taxation, language, law, respon-
sibility of the administration to the leg-
islature, and the removal of religious
disabilities are among the chief of the
Uitlanders' demands, which they de-
sire to maintain inviolable."

FOUR AMERICANS SHOT.

A Case Which Calls for Something
More Than a Mere Explanation.

New York, Dec. 31.—A special to
the World from La Paz, Bolivia,
says:

Four American citizens, Charles
Joiner, George Miner, Alfred Heard
and Thomas Cardwell, arrived at
Chiquisaca last week, after a five
weeks' journey from Brazil, where
they had been working for years, and
had amassed considerable fortunes,
which they were taking home. They
remained several days spending money
freely and gambling extensively.

Tuesday Miner accused Pepe Gon-
zales, the acting mayor of Chiquisaca,
of having cheated them by playing
with marked cards, and offered to prove
the assertion. Gonzales drew a pistol,
but was knocked down by Joiner, and
a general fight ensued, in which thirty
persons threw themselves on the friend-
less Americans. Finally, the police
arrested the Americans, letting the na-
tives go free. The Americans were
taken to a filthy jail, left two nights
and one day without food. They were
then given the semblance of a trial, in
which they were accused of being spies,
and were not allowed to send a mes-
sage to the American consul. They
were sentenced to death. The sentence
was carried into execution Thursday
night publicly. Their horses and other
property have disappeared, but it is
known that Gonzales has distributed
them among his friends and the police.

THE VENEZUELA AFFAIR

A London Paper Publishes a
Mass of Matter.

AS THE ENGLISH WOULD VIEW IT

One Writer Says the Claim Would Be
Similar to One Made by Spain
for Gibraltar.

London, Dec. 31.—The Chronicle
publishes a mass of matter on the Ven-
ezuela affair, including maps in posses-
sion of the colonial office, extracts
from the American papers which have
arrived by mail, and an article by
Frederick Harrison, declaring that the
Venezuela claims is on all fours with a
Spanish claim to Gibraltar. Harrison
says:

"If the United States can persuade
Venezuela to submit to a bona fide
boundary settlement and to drop her
swagger about Charles V and Philip II
of Spain, and can enforce an award
when it is made, the question could be
settled in a month."

The Brussels delegate to the Ven-
ezuela government, Velos Gutierrez,
recently visited The Hague, and ex-
hausted every channel without success
in support of the Venezuela claim.
Five years ago the British vice-consul
Ciriaco Bolivar, examined the Span-
ish records and proved the British
aspect of the case completely."

The Berlin correspondent to the
Standard says:

"I have excellent reasons to state
that the reports of an agreement be-
tween Russia and the United States
about Venezuela are unfounded. On
the contrary, the czar was painfully
surprised at President Cleveland's mes-
sage, and any war involving England
would be unwelcome to the Russian
court, on the approach of the corona-
tion."

The New York correspondent of the
Times, while he affirms his previous
convictions that there is no longer "any
feeling for war with England at present
in the United States, says there lies a
real danger for the future. He attrib-
utes this partly to the personal char-
acter of the president or that quality of
it "which his friends call firmness and
his enemies stubbornness."

The proposed meeting of the Ameri-
can society for the purpose of an ex-
pression of the people for an amicable
settlement of existing differences be-
tween England and the United States
has been abandoned in view of the im-
proved situation.

The Order of Crusaders has for-
warded, through the Hon. Neal Dow,
Mother Stewart and Miss Frances Wil-
lard, a New Year's greeting to the
Temperance Workers of America, with
the hope that the war will now be
averted.

The Venezuela Commission.

Hagerstown, Ind., Dec. 31.—The re-
port that Richard H. Alvey, chief
justice of United States court of ap-
peals, District of Columbia, has been
requested by President Cleveland to be-
come a member of the Venezuela com-
mission, is confirmed. The request
was made Thursday last in Washington.
The proposition took Judge Alvey by
surprise, and he begged for time to
consider the matter before committing
himself. This the president granted.
He is at home in Hagerstown, and will
be here until his court meets the first
Monday in January.

Tonight Judge Alvey said that he
had not yet fully made up his mind
whether he would accept or not, for
many of his cases would come up be-
fore the district court of appeals at the
January term. Because of his heavy
judicial duties, and for other reasons,
he hesitated about immediately accept-
ing the president's offer. He is heartily
in accord with the president's
views, and feels under obligations to
further Mr. Cleveland's policy.

Venezuela's Representative Here.

Washington, Dec. 31.—General
Targe Uslar, special commissioner to
the United States from Venezuela, is
here with his family. General Uslar,
who is commander of the army of Ven-
ezuela, was appointed commissio-
ner to come to the United States and watch
the negotiations with Great Britain re-
garding the boundary dispute.

President Crespo, General Uslar
says, as soon as President Cleveland
announces the Venezuela commission,
will appoint a commission of five of
the most representative citizens of the
South American republic to come to
the United States, and to convey to
President Cleveland, congress and the
country,