

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Epitome of the Telegraphic News of the World.

TERSE TICKETS FROM THE WIRES

An Interesting Collection of Items from the Two Hemispheres Presented in a Condensed Form.

Secretary Long will soon issue advertisements calling for proposals for raising the Maine and the Cristobal Colon, in accordance with the decision of the board of construction to which the matter had been referred.

A financial statement just issued by the Southern Pacific Company shows that for the month of October the gross earnings of the company reached \$5,556,778. This is an increase of \$1,135,791 over the same month of last year.

Cortles, of Michigan, has introduced a bill in the house to facilitate the construction and maintenance of telegraph cables in the Pacific ocean between the United States and Hawaii, the Philippine Islands, Japan and other countries.

The agricultural appropriation bill passed by congress contains a retaliatory clause authorizing the secretary of agriculture to inspect imported articles dangerous to health, and also authorizing the secretary of the treasury to exclude such articles. The restriction is designed to apply to a large number of articles imported from foreign countries.

London advices just received bring promise that the West Indian colonies will enter upon the new year with brighter industrial prospects, owing to the successful launching of the India Co-Operative Union, organized on the lines of the California Fruit Union, and the Irish Agricultural organization, which achieved wonderfully rapid success.

Great Britain has given another striking example of friendship for the United States, and at the same time has taken action which is looked upon in the light of a recognition of the sovereignty of the United States over the Philippines. A filibustering expedition organized to go to the support of Aguinaldo has been suppressed at Hong Kong by order of the British authorities.

The first order for an English railroad to be received at the Schenectady, N. Y., locomotive works calls for ten mogul freight engines, which will be built for the Midland railroad. The machines will be of American pattern, with cylinders 18 inches in diameter, with 24-inch stroke, and fitted with all modern appliances. The shipment of 27 locomotives has just been completed for the Nippon railroad, of Japan, and the works are running night and day with a force of 2,000 men.

Ambassador Jules Cambon will sail from Havre for New York on January 1, to resume his duties at Washington.

Senator Hanna has introduced in the senate, and Representative Payne in the house, a bill to grant subsidies for American shipping.

When the president in his southern tour reached Macon, Ga., great enthusiasm was shown and the Confederate veterans tendered him a reception.

The National Casket Company, of Pittsburg, Pa., has received from the United States government an order for 4,000 caskets, the largest single order of the kind ever given. The caskets will be used for the purpose of bringing to this country the bodies of all the soldiers killed in battle in Cuba, or who died from disease there.

Rat Portage, Ontario, is in wild excitement over a marvelous strike, made in the Mikado gold mine. The ore fills a slope 40 feet high, and two and a third feet wide, and the richest ore is worth, on a conservative estimate, from \$25,000 to \$75,000 a ton in free-milling gold. The ore is being put in barrels and sacks, and men are guarding it. A low estimate there is now \$250,000 in sight.

A special from Washington, D. C., says: There are seers who predict that Uncle Sam will become the banker for the world. Two Old World governments, Russia and Japan, have turned their faces to the United States in search of loans. Russia, at least, has had agents sound American financiers. This is the first time foreign nations have sought to float great national loans in America, and the wise men think it is the beginning of the new era.

At the Mosoro insane asylum, in Havana, a horrible state of affairs was discovered. One hundred and twenty inmates, unattended and showing every sign of starvation, are confined there. Six months ago there were over 800 in this asylum, but death and starvation have reduced their numbers to about one-seventh of that figure. The Spanish government withdrew its grant, and although money was raised for the institution, corrupt officials embezzled most of it, leaving the patients destitute.

The British government has decided to complete the Sudan railroad to Khartoum, the distance yet to be covered being 190 miles.

Forest Sales, a tallboy formerly employed at the Planter's hotel in St. Louis, is held to \$35,000, left him by James T. Spaulding, of Chicago.

The movements of rebels from Brazil have been defeated by troops sent to the frontier, and there seems to be no further danger to the peace of the country.

LATER NEWS.

Judge Day, president of the Paris peace commission, has arrived home.

A loaded lumber schooner is ashore at Cannon beach, near Elk creek, Or. The recently appointed register of the Nulato land office in Alaska is missing.

In a trainwreck near Lexington, Ky., nine trainmen were injured, two probably fatally.

Imports of manufactures from Great Britain into the United States seem likely to show an unusually small total in the year 1898.

The United States troops have begun a regular patrol of the city of Havana, in order to guard against possible disorders. General Lee is arranging for the evacuation day parade.

Public men in office, especially those in congress, newspaper correspondents and everybody who is supposed to have influence in shaping legislation or with the administration are being flooded with literature from foreign countries in relation to our changed condition of affairs as a result of the American-Spanish war.

Fire destroyed the house occupied by Senator Don Carlos Maria Vicuna, the Chilean minister, at the corner of Connecticut avenue and N street, Washington. The roof and top story were destroyed and the furniture of the whole house was ruined by smoke and water, entailing a loss of \$10,000. The minister and his family barely escaped.

At Brookline, Mass., by the sudden breaking of the ice on Lovett pond, in the park system, 30 young girls and boys were thrown into eight feet of water, and though numerous spectators and the police worked hard to rescue the children, three were drowned before help could reach them. They were J. W. Clattenburg, Jr., 10 years old; Arthur Collins, 12 years old, and Emma Miller, 14 years old.

The cotton receipts at Houston, Tex., since the beginning of the present season have been 2,000,000 bales, a record never equaled by an interior town or port of the United States, and which will be celebrated by a banquet to which all the prominent civic officials and cotton men will be invited. It is estimated by Secretary Warner, of the cotton exchange, that 500,000 bales will yet be received during the remainder of the season.

Senator McBride of Oregon, has introduced a bill making Astoria the terminus of the trans-Pacific cable.

According to a new time card of the Great Northern to go into effect January 1, the transcontinental schedule will be reduced 12 hours.

Congress has adjourned until January 4. After the holiday recess the rights of General Wheeler and others to hold their seats will be inquired into.

Among a network of wires 30 feet above the ground, Roderick Chisholm, a Chicago electrician, was slowly burned to death in sight of several hundred spectators.

Colonel E. S. Barrett, national president of the Sons of the American Revolution, was killed by falling from a window of his home at Concord, Mass. He was 60 years of age.

In Louisville, Ky., it is estimated by the health department that there are 10,000 cases of grip. The ravages of the disease have been so widespread that in some cases business has been seriously impeded.

Hereafter brooms will cost 2 cents more apiece. Members of the Broom Manufacturers' Association of the United States met in Chicago and decided to advance the price of brooms 25 cents a dozen.

A rear-end collision occurred on the Pennsylvania railroad three miles from Rahway, N. J., which resulted in the loss of two lives and injury to many persons. The killed are William C. Dewell, a railway clerk; and F. Knight, a colored porter of the sleeping-car.

While examining state documents of the 16th century in the Vatican library recently, Abbe Cosmami, assistant librarian, found the original manuscript of a treatise by Galileo on the tides. The manuscript is all in Galileo's handwriting, and ends with the words written at Rome in the Medici Gardens on January 8, 1616.

The president has nominated Ethan A. Hitchcock, of Missouri, to be secretary of the interior. Mr. Hitchcock is at present ambassador to Russia. He was appointed minister more than a year ago, and when the rank was raised to an embassy, he was re-appointed. He is a wealthy lawyer and business man of St. Louis, and was for some time an extensive plate-glass manufacturer. He is a great-grandson of Ethan Allen, of Revolutionary fame.

The table of proposed stations of United States troops, submitted by General Wade, shows a total of 50,000 troops, distributed as follows: Province of Pinar del Rio, 3,000; province of Havana, 24,000; province of Matanzas, 10,000; province of Santa Clara, 10,000; province of Puerto Principe, 3,000; province of Santiago, 1,000. The recommendations of the commission, if carried out, would require 45 regiments of infantry and five of cavalry, with six batteries of light artillery, four for Havana and two for Matanzas.

The British government has decided to complete the Sudan railroad to Khartoum, the distance yet to be covered being 190 miles.

NEW WORLD ENERGY

The Nation of Shopkeepers Astonishes Europe.

AFTER THE WORLD'S MARKETS

England Awakes to the Aggressive Commercial Prosperity of the United States.

London, Dec. 27.—It is no exaggeration to assert that the foremost topic compelling attention in Europe is general, and in Great Britain in particular, overshadowing the dreary broils of domestic politics, is the remarkable aggressive commercial prosperity which the United States is manifesting. Hardly a newspaper review or a public speaker during the past month has failed to notice with what giant strides America is coming into the first place in the alignment of the powers. It is certainly the chief subject of conversation on Lombard street and on the Continental bourses.

The manager of one of the greatest London banks recently drew an American business man into his private office, and said, in an awe-struck tone: "This is the first time in the history of finance that New York has been in a position to dictate money rates to London, Berlin and Paris." The bank manager added that London's purchases of American securities were a feather's weight compared with the balance of trade in New York's favor.

James Brice, in a speech before the Liberator's chamber of commerce, sounded a warning to British manufacturers. He emphasized the fact that the exports of the United States and Germany had increased \$34,000,000 and \$21,000,000 respectively between 1891 and 1897, while Great Britain's decreased \$15,000,000. He further pointed out that the business of the United States was developing along many important lines which Great Britain, he added, should have held against all competitors. Mr. Brice unhesitatingly asserted that the United States could produce rails cheaper than Great Britain, and he said he saw no possibility of opening new markets except in China.

Great Britain seems to have become reconciled to the capture of the iron markets by the United States. American firms are uniformly successful in bidding against British firms. The Carnegie company and the Illinois Steel Company have opened extensive offices in London and are making inroads upon the British reserve. Colonel Hunsaker, the Carnegie representative, has contracted for 80,000 tons of plates for the Coolgardie road, Australia, and the company was unable to undertake the contract for 30,000 tons more.

A dispatch from Berlin says it is a fact that the Russian government has ordered 50,000 tons of American rails, and the prospect of American competition for the contracts in connection with Russia's extensive railroad alarms manufacturers here and elsewhere. Consuls assert that all Europe is swarming, as never before, with agents of American manufacturers of steel, street railroads, electrical apparatus and all kinds of machinery, who are leading the commercial invasion.

The attempts to float a Russian loan in New York have been received skeptically here. Several financiers have told representatives of the press that Russia tried to raise money in London, Paris, Berlin and Amsterdam, and that she seems to have turned to the United States as a forlorn hope, possibly with the view of reaping incidental political advantages. But, it is admitted that it is a question of a short time when capitalists will have to reckon with New York as a competitor in high finance. The Daily Chronicle comments upon the fact that American capitalists "have the courage of their financial opinions if they think they know the European situation better than the capitalists of the Old World."

There is much interest here regarding the choice of a successor of Ethan Allen Hitchcock as ambassador at St. Petersburg. It is considered that the points demands the presence of the strongest diplomat, in view of the entrance of the United States into the East. Russia has sent one of her ablest men to Washington, though a transfer from Washington to Constantinople or Madrid has hitherto been considered in the service as being a promotion. Russia expects President McKinley to reciprocate. Mr. Hitchcock carries home with him the conviction that Russia is still a staunch friend of America, which he has endeavored to impress upon the state department at Washington and on all influential Americans he has met abroad.

Boy Kills Two Brothers. Soacha, Miss., Dec. 27.—Thomas and William Brantley, brothers, were shot and instantly killed last night, at Enovalde, by Eugene Dennis, an 18-year-old boy. The brothers, accompanied by their father, attempted to enter the store of Dennis, it is said, intending violence, whereupon young Dennis opened fire on the Brantleys with the above result. The trouble was caused by liquor.

Arrests in the Mill. New York, Dec. 27.—Adolph Noad, a bartender employed by Mrs. Marie Ziesler, who keeps a small hotel at Patterson, N. J., died today after suffering great agony. It is thought his death was caused by arsenical poisoning, and that the poison was placed in the milk used in the household of Mrs. Ziesler. Mrs. Ziesler, Mary Doly, a servant, Fritz Hagerman, an employe, and Fritz Ziesler, were also poisoned, but will probably recover. The milk will be analyzed.

NEGOTIATIONS AS TO TERMS.

England Agrees to Abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty.

New York, Dec. 26.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: All danger of further friction between the United States and Great Britain over the construction of the Nicaragua canal will shortly be removed by the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, has received or will receive within the next few days positive instructions to enter upon negotiations with Secretary Hay for the abrogation of the convention referred to, and the preparation of a new treaty guaranteeing the neutrality of the canal.

The change in the attitude of the British government from its old position of insisting upon having a voice in the construction of the proposed canal is the result of representations made to Lord Salisbury by Mr. Henry White, charge d'affaires of this government in London. It is the understanding of those who are aware of the change in the attitude of the British government that Lord Salisbury will suggest through Sir Julian the advisability of the United States granting some concessions to the government in return for the relinquishment of the important rights possessed by Great Britain in the matter of a canal across the isthmus, which for nearly 50 years have been recognized by this government in the treaty negotiated by John M. Clayton, on the part of the United States, and Lord Henry Lytton-Bulwer, on the part of the British government. Just what concessions will be asked are not known, nor will they be until fuller and final instructions have been received by Sir Julian and communicated to Secretary Hay.

HAVANA'S DEATH RATE.

Between Fifty-Five and Seventy-Five Die Daily From Starvation and Disease.

New York, Dec. 26.—A dispatch to the World from Havana says: Havana's death rate is astounding. There are between 55 and 75 deaths here each day, the majority from malarial fever, typhoid claiming the next largest number of victims and pernicious fever about the same.

The civil register today shows a total of 48 deaths in this city in the last 24 hours, and two parishes where the death rate was usually high made no report. The mortality last week was at the rate of 106 in every 1,000 of the population. This week it will be higher. In New York the death rate is only 22 deaths per annum for every thousand population.

All the hospitals are overcrowded and no more patients can be received. The municipal hospital, organized as an emergency hospital to care for sick reconcentrados, is taking care of 505 patients with space for only 150. A surgeon in one hospital said today that he had to have sufferers lying in the streets because there is no place to care for them.

Vile stenches from the indescribable dirtiness of some sections offer a bar-geous task to the engineer officer preparing to clean the city, making the American here despair of any immediate lowering of the frightful death rate.

A PERFECT SUCCESS.

More About the Balloon Trip Across the Channel.

New York, Dec. 24.—A dispatch to the Times from London says: The Chronicle publishes an account from its correspondent sent from a balloon trip across the channel, showing that the Andree steering-gear was tested with perfect success. The sail used was 18 feet square instead of 12 feet, the one used in the land experiment.

The aeronauts took their course when the 300-foot trail rope was in water and found they had deflected three points, or about double that obtained on land in Essex several weeks ago. This is not surprising, for the fractional resistance of the trail rope in water was immense. Another test gave the same results, but this time the balloon descended within two feet of the waves.

To keep the balloon at an even altitude was a task of the greatest difficulty, and owing to cold air on the water the sun-heated gas cooled with lightning rapidity, demanding constant expelling of ballast to prevent falling into the sea.

The balloon again rose 2,800 feet, but dropped behind a thick cloud. The sudden eclipse caused a rapid descent, and in a few minutes the balloon touched the ocean. A wave struck the car. It was an exciting moment for the aeronauts, their gum boots being filled with water. Percival Spencer, the famous aeronaut, in charge, promptly threw out ballast and saved himself from sinking.

The balloon then rose 700 feet after clearing the French cliffs, and landed safely amid Norman peasants four miles east of Havre, having in five hours covered 160 miles, of which 75 miles were over sea.

WRECKS IN THE NORTH.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 24.—The Roanoke, which has arrived here from Skagway, reports the wreck of a sloop which left Wrangle two weeks ago for Skagway with a party of 12, bound for Astoria. The sloop was found bottom side up by Indians, and it is feared that all hands were lost.

News is also brought of the wreck of the schooner Ohio, of Victoria. No lives were lost.

Texas Go to Cuba. Savannah, Ga., Dec. 26.—The headquarters and first battalion of the Texas regiment, together with Colonel Wheaton's headquarters, called for Cuba this afternoon, in the transport Michigan. The other two battalions of the First Texas and the Second Louisiana regiment will leave tomorrow on the Mobile.

ANOTHER ISLE OURS

Speck in Mid-Pacific Will Be Used for Cable Station.

OLD GLORY OVER WAKE ISLAND

Commander of the Bennington Will Receive Orders to Hoist the Flag There.

Washington, Dec. 26.—This government has determined to hoist the flag over an island far out in the Pacific ocean, and orders were sent out late this afternoon to the commander of the Bennington, Captain Tausig, to proceed at once to take possession, in the name of the United States government, of Wake Island, lying in latitude 19 north, longitude 168 east. It is distant about 2,000 miles from Nibaa, the westernmost of the Hawaiian Islands, and 1,800 miles east of Guam. It is almost in a direct line between those possessions of the United States, and is admirably adapted for use as a station for a Pacific cable to connect the Philippines with Hawaii and the United States. It is about three miles in length, and incloses a lagoon of salt water. The average height of the island is eight feet above high tide. It is scarcely capable, in itself, of sustaining life, but it is expected that a cable can be maintained without difficulty by the erection of a condenser to supply fresh water. Some station in that locality is deemed to be absolutely necessary to the maintenance of a cable, and for that reason the American peace commissioner at Paris endeavored to secure one of the Caroline Islands, but without success.

Wake Island is said to be by right already American territory, for in 1851 Admiral Wilkes surveyed the place and asserted title. It is not inhabited, so far as known, at the present time, though in the past some guano gatherers have temporarily lived on the island.

The Bennington is now at Honolulu, and the orders to her will go out by steamer. After hoisting the flag on Wake Island, she will proceed to Guam and make a survey of the island, which was ordered some time ago. She has already completed a survey of Pearl harbor, seven miles from Honolulu, which will form the foundation of the government's plans for the enlargement of the harbor there and the straightening of the channel connecting the inner harbor with the ocean.

DISORDERLY INSURGENTS.

Philippines in Suburbs of Manila Cause American Anxiety.

Manila, Dec. 25.—The United States cruiser Boston and the gunboat Estrel have arrived from Chinese ports. The steamer Union, which has returned here from Hilo with native and Spanish soldiers, has been refused a landing. The steamer St. Paul has arrived here with Christmas mail.

The first American flag was raised over Malate school yesterday. It was sent by the university of Pennsylvania. The honor of raising the flag was accorded to Father McKinnon, of California, in recognition of his services in reopening the schools.

Native troops encamped in the suburbs are again causing anxiety. The attitude of the insurgent detachment at Pandacan bridge on Wednesday was such that the California, Idaho and Washington regiments were concentrated in light marching order at Paao, but trouble was averted.

Largest Volume of Business on Record.

New York, Dec. 26.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review says:

It is a year beyond parallel, and goes to its close with the biggest volume of business ever seen. Numerous transactions at the stock exchange makes some difference, but when all the reporting and speculative interests are eliminated, there is still much larger business than in any other month of any year. Last year the exports were in volume greater than in any previous month in the history of the country, but this year the three weeks reported show an increase of 25 per cent. against 0 per cent in imports, which would indicate much more than \$70,000,000 excess of exports this month.

Cancellation of Revenue Stamps.

Washington, Dec. 26.—In view of the fact that fraud has been discovered in connection with the cancellation of documentary and adhesive internal revenue stamps, by which old stamps were re-used, the internal revenue bureau today issued a regulation which requires all such stamps to be canceled with the initials of the user, together with the month, day and year written or stamped thereon. Hitherto the month and day of cancellation has not been required.

Notorious Turk Killed.

Constantinople, Dec. 26.—Ghani Bey, the Sultan's aide-de-camp, was murdered yesterday by Hafos Pacha in a quarrel. Ghani Bey became notorious owing to his lawless proceedings in Epiritus. He also inspired terror here by extorting money under threats of death. Officials of the foreign embassies have frequently demanded the punishment of Ghani Bey, but always unsuccessfully.

Will Buy American Rails.

London, Dec. 26.—The government of Victoria, according to a special dispatch from Melbourne, has accepted the tender of the Pennsylvania & Maryland Steel Company for 35,000 tons of steel rails at \$16,000 below the English tender.

France to Tax Foreign Securities. Paris, Dec. 26.—The chamber of deputies today adopted a bill imposing a stamp duty of one cent on foreign securities.

OPEN DOOR TO ASIA.

John W. Bookwalter Says It Is Through Russia—Observations in Siberia.

London, Dec. 24.—John W. Bookwalter, of Ohio, who has just returned from a three months' journey through Russia, told the correspondent of the Associated Press, in an interview today, that he enjoyed unusual facilities for observing what is going on in that country. He traveled 18,000 miles to the termini of the trans-Siberian railway, to the end of the line, reaching the frontier of Afghanistan, and to the end of the one penetrating China through Manchuria. All these are now practically completed.

Mr. Bookwalter was allowed to go everywhere, to see everything and to take hundreds of photographs, thanks to special permits issued to him by the minister of the interior on the application of the United States ambassador at St. Petersburg. During his journey he conversed with the governors of provinces and with military and civil officials of all ranks.

"Everywhere I found," Mr. Bookwalter said, "the kindest and most friendly feeling toward America and Americans, and heard many expressions of satisfaction over America's success in our war with Spain. To this there was not a single exception.

"America's best open door to Central Asia and China is through Russia. Already all the locomotives and rolling stock on the railways are of American manufacture. Central Asia will, in the near future, be the greatest market in the world for manufacturers of all kinds, and our obtaining the virtual monopoly of this market only depends on our retaining the friendship Russia now has for us.

"America has very little to gain by an open door in China. That country is an industrial one, and whatever we may now be able to sell to them, the Chinese will soon be able to make for themselves. One day, and that day is near at hand, whatever China buys from the rest of the world will reach her through Russia and Central Asia. Russia in the last three years has done more to open the doors of China than England and all the rest of the world has done in 50 years.

"I traveled over 1,200 miles of railway which she has built from the Caspian sea to Tashkent, in Turkistan, over a branch of this line which runs to the northern frontier of India, over another branch which goes from Merv to the border of Afghanistan. Then there are also Russian lines all along the Persian frontier, and projecting into that country, either completed or rapidly approaching completion. All the work on these lines has been done by soldiers, who, in this way, are not in Russia, as elsewhere, non-productive. "All this tremendous Asiatic railway system is owned and operated by the government. All the lines are admirably built, and splendidly equipped. Why, I saw a bridge across the Amudarya, in Central Asia, at a point where the river is three miles wide, that cost 80,000,000 roubles, and is the greatest piece of engineering work ever accomplished. There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world.

"Wherever I went I saw cities and towns springing up, such as Ashkabad, in Turkomania, for example, which already has 25,000 inhabitants. New Sochava, 12 miles from Old Bokhara, has 18,000 inhabitants. Where do these people come from to inhabit these towns? Why, from European Russia. The government is turning her surplus European population into Central Asia just as the United States turned her surplus population of her Atlantic states into her great Western territories. No human power can stay the onward march of the Slav through Russia, which will be the feature of the 20th century, just as the march of the Anglo-Saxon through America has been the feature of the 19th.

"The United States will be committing a woeful mistake if she fails to retain the friendship of this great world-power of the future."

MASSACHUSETTS MISHAP.

Not Enough Water for a Battleship of Her Size.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The naval authorities have learned to their dismay, that it is not possible for one of our big battleships, like the Oregon or Massachusetts, to get out of New York harbor during extra low water, such as prevailed when the latter battleship struck on Diamond reef a short time ago. To aid the court of inquiry now in session at New York, trying to ascertain the responsibility for the grounding, the navy department called upon the coast survey for special measurements of the water in the harbor near Diamond reef, and upon the rock itself.

The report of the superintendent of the survey has just been received. It shows, in the opinion of naval officers, that it is not possible for a ship of the size of the Massachusetts and with her maneuvering qualities in get out of the harbor without touching the bottom when the tide is ebb and the wind strong.

Horses and Men for Manila.

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—The bark Tacoma, with 111 horses and mules, besides a lot of material, sailed for Honolulu and the Philippines today. She will stop at Honolulu and take on the animals she left there on her last trip, and leave some of her present cargo there instead.

Predicts Peace in Cuba.

London, Dec. 24.—The Havana correspondent of the Times, in the course of a letter published this morning, says: President McKinley will have an unflinching hand here. A majority of the Cubans are prepared to accept unreservedly any regime treating them justly, and insuring the tranquility of the island.

A blind bat avoids wires and obstructions as easily as if it could see perfectly.

FOR THE MUSTER OUT

Plans Will Be Completed by First of the Year.

MANILA TROOPS WILL BE FIRST

Following Their Discharge, the Volunteers in the West Indies Will Be Sent Home.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The war department has not yet made definite plans for the muster-out of 40,000 volunteers, which was decided on at the cabinet meeting yesterday, but it is understood that work will be pretty well snappet out by the first of the year. The completion of the muster-out will depend on whether the department adopts the plan of three months' furlough or immediate discharge, with two months' extra pay, as suggested by Congressman Hull. It has been practically decided to muster out all the volunteers in the Philippines as fast as they can be replaced with regulars, so as not to hamper the military administration of the island. Following the discharge of the regiments of the Philippine stations, it is understood the volunteer troops in the West Indies will be mustered out.

Twentieth Goes on the Seaside.

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—Major-General Merriam has ordered that the work of preparing the transport Scandia for another voyage to Manila be pushed to completion. By the first of next week he expects to transport the war department that he will be ready within 10 days to have the Twentieth United States infantry come here from Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to board the Scandia for the Philippines.

It is the belief of army headquarters here that the First California volunteers will be brought home on the return trip of the Scandia.

Two Regiments Go Via Seas.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Telegraphic instructions were received today by the secretary of war, ordering the Fourth infantry at Fort Sheridan, and the Seventeenth, at Columbus, to call for the Philippines on or before January 25. The regiments will go via New York and the Seas canal.

MECCA FOR ALL RAILROADS.

Pacific Coast Seeking a Universal Obsolete Point.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—The Chronicle says: There are strong indications that the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific roads are figuring on extending their lines to the Pacific coast. The absorption of the Hawaiian and Philippine islands by this country, it is expected by the owners of these roads, will open up an immense transcontinental rail business, both east and west-bound. The recent deal by which the Santa Fe will have its own line into San Francisco in the spring has weakened the efforts of the competing semi-transcontinental roads. An officer of one of the Western roads who has just come from the coast, and who takes a keen interest in railroad affairs out there, says:

"I would not be surprised to wake up some morning and find the transcontinental situation further complicated by the announcement that the Burlington was to be extended to the Pacific ocean. The Burlington is a good deal nearer the coast than most people imagine, and I understand that this road has been surveyed through Idaho all summer—one line through New Potosi pass and another through Lolo pass. I understand also that two or three independent lines that are now being built in Western Idaho and Northwestern Oregon are intended essentially to form part of the proposed Western extension of the Burlington.

"Another point of interest in his connection is the fact that the Burlington is a large holder of valuable terminal and dock property at Gray's harbor, which would be of great value to the company were it to enter the Oriental trade. Such an extension would form a short route from Tacoma to New Orleans."

Denver, Colo., is now the Western terminus of the Rock Island, and Billings, Mont., is the end of the Burlington's tracks. It has been reported that the former company would soon purchase the Colorado Midland, which would place its terminus 400 miles further west. Billings, Mont., the end of the Burlington, is 1,000 miles from Tacoma, or a little further than Ogden is from San Francisco. While President Purdy, of the Rock Island, denies the report that his company is figuring on absorbing the Midland, nothing definite can be learned regarding the Burlington's intentions.

Trains Robbed Felled.

Granada, Miss., Dec. 23.—An Illinois Central express train, southbound, was held up one-half mile south of Pope's station, by two men at 10:30 tonight. The train stopped, and the robbers demanded the cash on hand, and compelled the engineer to stop, after which they attempted to break in the express car door. They fired several shots, but failed to gain admission. The robbers then fled. No one was hurt.

Two New Discoveries Reported.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 24.—Erad Smith, of Victoria, just out from Astoria, brings news of the discovery of two more rich gold-bearing cranks. The saw finds have been christened Moses and Gooch cranks. He had both hands frozen and nearly lost his