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## NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

### HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

Renewed disturbances in Russia cause great alarm.

President Castro is threatened with revolution and foreign war.

The Japanese fleet has sailed from Borneo to meet the Baltic squadron.

Mrs. Chadwick has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. She has appealed.

An American warship will carry home the body of the late Senator Aspiroz, Mexican ambassador to the United States.

Russian officials believe now that the pressure on Linievitch has been relieved, the Japanese will next be heard from in front of Vladivostok.

President Roosevelt and President Diaz, of Mexico, may meet on the international boundary when the former makes his Southern trip early in April.

A report from Japanese sources says that a large part of Harbin has been burned. Great quantities of reserve supplies intended for the Russian army are also reported to have been burned.

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul has completed surveys to the Pacific coast, touching all the principal cities. Construction will commence at once and \$100,000,000 is placed as the amount of expenditures to put the line in working order.

Hostilities in Manchuria are suspended while the armies reorganize.

Thousands of locked-out workmen in St. Petersburg threaten an outbreak.

Santo Domingo may ask the United States to act as receiver for that country.

Castro's attitude continues menacing. France and the United States may combine to discipline him.

Vigilant storms throughout Oklahoma have caused four deaths and numerous injuries besides a heavy property loss.

Contracts for rock for the jetty at the mouth of the Columbia have been let and deliveries will begin next month.

The two big ocean liners Parisian and Albano collided while entering the Halifax, N. S., harbor, and both were badly injured.

A Pennsylvania oil authority says nothing has ever been seen to compare with the oil territory of Kansas and Indian Territory.

A man has confessed to pulling the spikes and rails loose from the Rock Island track in Iowa to see what would happen when a train passed.

Work on the Tacoma public building will be delayed another year in the hope of securing an addition to the \$300,000 already appropriated.

Jules Verne, the noted French novelist, is dead.

Santo Domingo may ask protection of the United States.

The Oregon City land office will be removed to Portland.

Mrs. Chadwick admits of debts amounting to \$750,000.

Senator de Aspiroz, the Mexican ambassador at Washington, is dead.

Peasant revolts in Russia are becoming widespread and soldiers object to shooting.

French bankers have agreed to make Russia a loan on condition that she make peace.

A consular dispute between Norway and Sweden may dissolve the union between them.

Venezuela refuses to arbitrate dispute with United States and diplomatic relations may be broken.

The president finds he has not the power to reduce the number of canal commissioners, though he may make any change in the personnel he may desire.

Terrorists have warned the Russian grand dukes that they will be removed.

Canadian shipbuilders have asked the government for a bounty of \$6 per ton for ten years on Canadian built ships to protect the industry against British competition.

The Philippines may be sold to Japan.

The United States has refused to aid foreign claimants against Panama.

The Baltic fleet has been seen in the Indian ocean sailing eastward.

## SINK AT DOCKS.

Damage to Ocean Liners in Collision Worse Than Thought.

Halifax, N. S., March 28.—The two ocean steamers, the Parisian and the Albano, whose 1,800 passengers were saved from possible death at sea after the collision between the two vessels off the harbor's mouth yesterday by a thrilling 15-mile race for shallow water, showed plainly today how serious was the accident, the Parisian resting on the bottom at her dock and the Albano's fore peak being full of water.

The Parisian, which came up the harbor at 6 o'clock last night with a gaping hole in her starboard side from the Albano's sharp prow, filled gradually during the night, and at dawn her engine room had been flooded, her fires extinguished, her lower deck was awash and her keel resting in the mud. A large part of her cargo is damaged by water, but the bulk of the mail, consisting of 400 sacks, was recovered in good condition.

The statements of the two commanders of the vessels as to the probable cause of the collision are conflicting, and the courts will be invoked to place the responsibility. Proceedings have been begun in the Admiralty court against the Hamburg American company, owners of the Albano, and today that steamer was libelled for \$150,000 damages in behalf of J. & A. Allan, owners of the Parisian. Later it was announced that a counter suit would be brought by the German company.

## MEXICO ON GOLD BASIS.

President Diaz Issues Decree Authorized by Congress.

Mexico City, March 28.—President Diaz has issued a decree for the reform of the monetary system authorized by congress in December last. The decree establishes the 2-peso, or silver dollar, at a value of 50 cents gold, and the theoretical unit of the Mexican currency is defined to be the dollar or peso of 75 centigrams of gold.

An important feature of the decree is a provision for a reserve exchange fund, which, at first, will consist of \$18,000,000 or \$15,000,000, and may be increased. The original plan did not provide for the immediate establishment of this fund, but it is now deemed wise to start with one simultaneously with the beginning of the new monetary system.

The mint will be closed April 16 to the free coinage of silver and the new monetary system will go into effect May 1. The publication of the decree gives general satisfaction in business and financial circles. It assures business men against losses in importing.

## STANFORD CASE IS DROPPED.

Every Glew Known to San Francisco Police is Run to Earth.

San Francisco, March 28.—It was announced at police headquarters today that every known clew in the Stanford case had been run to earth, and that the complexity of the matter had not changed in the least. Barring a confession or something "turning up," the police admit that they will never solve the mystery of how, January 14, in this city, strychnine poison was placed in the Poland water used by the late Mrs. Stanford.

That portion of the mystery connected with her tragic death at Honolulu, the police say, has been solved on the theory that Mrs. Stanford died by natural causes and that the powdered strychnine found in the bicarbonate of soda was placed there by some druggist and intended as a tonic.

The police detectives working on the case have all turned their attention to other matters, and while nominally men are detailed on the case, in reality the department has entirely dropped it.

## CORTELYOU TO SUCCEED SHAW

Will Become Secretary of Treasury in Another Year.

Washington, March 28.—Leslie M. Shaw, secretary of the treasury, has signified his intention of retiring from public office on February 1, 1906, at the end of a four-year term. It is reported in official circles in Washington that Postmaster General George B. Cortelyou will succeed him. No authorized statement has been made on this point, but the assumption is generally accepted as correct.

## Kansas Fight with the Trust.

Topeka, Kan., March 28.—The Kansas Natural Gas company, through its attorneys, has filed in the Supreme court an amendment to its answer to the suit brought to compel it to show cause why it is operating in Kansas. The petition asks that the suit be dismissed at the cost of the state. The suit was brought against the company last fall by the attorney general. It is alleged that the company had no authority to transact business in the state, the charter board having refused to grant a license.

## In Very Strong Position.

St. Petersburg, March 28.—A dispatch received from Spyingin states that the Russian commander has succeeded in withdrawing all of his rear guard to a very strong position, where they will be able to withstand any attack of the Japanese. The dispatch states that the spirits of the men is of the best and that they are becoming more and more confident. It is further stated that General Kuropatkin is distinguishing himself.

## Hit by a Bomb.

Warsaw, March 28.—A bomb was thrown into the carriage of Baron von Nolken, chief of police of Warsaw, at 8 o'clock this evening. It was reported that the Baron was severely wounded.

## HAY MAY MEDIATE

Suspected Purpose of Hay's European Trip.

### OPINIONS OF THE DIPLOMATS

Whenever Hay Has Been Reported Ill, a Great Stroke of Diplomacy Has Quickly Followed.

Washington, March 28.—Several prominent diplomats in Washington believe that John Hay, secretary of state, during his trip to Italy, will make an effort to see what can be done in the way of mediation and settlement of the war in the Far East. The news from the Azores that Mr. Hay's health was improved, and that he expected to return to Washington by May 12 adds color to this theory.

The diplomats attach great importance to the news that Henry White, the new United States ambassador to Italy, was ordered to hasten his arrival at his post. Mr. Hay and Mr. White are warm personal friends, and the secretary has great confidence in Mr. White'sadroitness in diplomacy.

It has been figured out in the diplomatic corps here that Italy is practically the only country of importance in Europe that might be expected to take part in friendly mediation without being suspected by either Russia or Japan of ulterior motives or hostile intent.

Mr. Hay has come to be regarded almost as a fetish by diplomats stationed in Washington. They recall that he frequently has been ill, confined to his house, and inaccessible to diplomats, and half a dozen times after these illnesses something of great importance has happened bearing on diplomatic affairs.

### MUST GIVE SPAIN HER GUNS

Secretary Taft Calls on Cuba to Carry Out Terms of Treaty.

Washington, March 28.—Spain has never been able to secure from Cuba the ordinance left there at the termination of the Spanish-American war, and Senator Ojeda called on Secretary Taft today to learn the position of this government in the matter.

Under the terms of peace it was held that Spain was entitled to all movable ordinance in Cuba and Porto Rico, and in the latter case its claim had been recognized and the ordinance transferred. But in the case of Cuba there appears to be some difficulty in securing the recognition by the Cuban government of the obligation entered into by the United States.

Secretary Taft caused a cablegram to be sent to Minister Spicers in Havana instructing him to notify the Cuban authorities that the ordinance in question remains the property of Spain, that it was never possessed by the United States and should be returned to Spain.

### STEP TO HOME RULE.

Census of Philippines is Completed—Legislature in Two Years.

Washington, March 28.—Secretary Taft today notified President Roosevelt that the census of the Philippine islands had been completed and published, and under the law of July 1, 1902, two years from this date the president shall direct the Philippine commission to call a general election for the choice of delegates to a popular assembly.

All legislative power on the islands will thereafter be vested in a legislature consisting of two houses, the Philippine commission and the Philippine assembly. The condition on which the election is to be called is that complete peace shall have continued in the territory of the islands not occupied by Moros or other non-Christian tribes. The popular election is not to extend to the Moro tribes.

Two resident commissioners to the United States will be elected when a legislature is chosen.

### Would Federate with Canada.

Toronto, Ont., March 28.—M. Fillian, a member of the Dominion legislature, now here, says the sentiment in the British West Indies is strongly in favor of federation with Canada. "There are among us," said he, "hardly any but would be glad to see some scheme inaugurated for bringing the two more closely together. I think a union would be helpful to both."

Mr. Fillian has seen Premier Laurier on the subject and is hopeful of good results, and will also interview the Ontario premier.

### Tornado Wipes Out Town.

St. Paul, Minn., March 28.—A report reached this city tonight that the little town of Louisburg in the extreme western portion of the state had been practically wiped out by a tornado and that seven persons had been seriously injured. It was also stated that from two to seven were killed, but up to a late hour it has been impossible, owing to lack of telegraph facilities, to verify the latter statement. Louisburg is a town of about 100 people.

### Call to Jamestown Exposition.

Washington, March 28.—Before President Roosevelt starts on his Southwestern trip next week he will issue a proclamation inviting foreign nations to participate in the exposition to be held in the summer of 1907 in the vicinity of Hampton Roads in celebration of the settlement of Jamestown, Va.

## TWO GREAT PROJECTS.

Reclamation of Tract in Idaho and Another in Montana.

Washington, March 27.—The secretary of the interior today set apart \$1,300,000 from the reclamation fund for the purpose of beginning operations in connection with the Payette-Boise irrigation project in Idaho, and \$1,000,000 for the same purpose in connection with the Milk River project in Montana. It is calculated that 370,000 acres will be reclaimed in Idaho and 325,000 in Montana, and the ultimate cost of the two enterprises is fixed at \$11,000,000 and \$10,000,000 respectively.

An international question is involved in the Milk river case, as a portion of that river, from which it is proposed to divert water, lies in Canada, and to the matter Secretary Hitchcock has been giving personal attention. After conferring with the president, he has instructed Director Walcott, of the Geological survey, to take immediate steps to carry into effect the plans of the reclamation service for storing floods in St. Mary's lake, diverting the water of St. Mary's river over into the head of Milk river and ultimately across the headwaters of Milk river into the Marias and again out of the Marias back into Milk river in Montana, thus creating a great artificially regulated system of water supply south of the international boundary.

It is expected that construction will be begun this season on the diversion of St. Mary's river into the headwaters of Milk river, allowing the water to flow for a time through Canada back into the United States.

## PEACE IS NEAR.

Preliminary Pourparlers Being Held in Northern Capital.

Paris, March 27.—Inquiry late last night tends to strongly confirm the statement in last evening's dispatch that approaches toward peace between Russia and Japan have already begun at a private conference in a Northern European capital. In view of the statement from St. Petersburg that pourparlers were going on in Paris, the Associated Press last night called at the Russian embassy and at the Japanese legation. Ambassador Nelidoff stated specifically that he knew nothing about such negotiations being in progress here, and Minister Montono, while declining to discuss the general question of peace, authorized the statement that no pourparlers were occurring in Paris. At the foreign office it was also stated that officials there were not aware of steps toward peace.

The foregoing statements by Count Nelidoff and Dr. Montono, while indicating that negotiations are not proceeding here, do not alter the main statement that peace preliminaries are actually progressing elsewhere. The real explanation is probably to be found in the Paris dispatch of last evening that a preliminary conference had already been held at a northern capital. There are strong indications that the negotiations will be conducted at Stockholm, if the preliminaries prove successful. Copenhagen also is mentioned, but it is understood that the point was raised against past or future conferences there that there is a large and influential British element at that capital, whose sympathies might be hostile to Russia.

Sweeping Increase in Wages.

Pittsburg, March 27.—Officials of the United States Steel corporation are reported to have completed all plans preparatory to making the announcement of a sweeping wage increase to go into effect Saturday, April 1. The amount of the increase is not known at present, but it is stated that, with the exception of tonnage men in the steel mills, all employes will receive the full amount of the former reduction. The total increase, they say, will approximate \$9,000,000. The advance will affect 90,000 workmen in this district.

## Washington Building Falls.

St. Louis, March 27.—While workmen were razing the tall building erected by the state of Washington at the World's fair, the building suddenly collapsed and three men were injured. The work of demolition had been in progress since the first of the month. All but three of the gigantic 110-foot timber props that peculiarly characterized the construction of the building were taken down another the building fell.

## Collecting Alaska Exhibit.

Washington, March 27.—The Interior department recently sent Godfrey Chealander on a tour of Northern Alaska to collect exhibits for the Lewis and Clark exposition, in addition to those shown at St. Louis. He will cover the territory from Fairbanks to Cape Nome, collecting specimens on the way and advertising the exposition as he goes. J. H. Ridgeway, government taxidermist, is now at Sitka preparing the Alaska fur exhibit for Portland.

## Lena Remains Until War Ends.

San Francisco, March 27.—First Assistant Secretary of State F. B. Loomis, when asked today whether he had resolved on any action with regard to the Russian cruiser Lena, which is now held at Mare Island, said: "I paid a visit to the Lena yesterday, but she will not be released until the war is ended, for that would be a breach of the neutrality laws. She will have to stay at Mare Island."

## OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

### PROTEST TO GOVERNMENT.

Removal of Land Office to Portland is Bitterly Opposed.

Oregon City—There will be vigorous opposition offered to the proposed removal of the land office from this city. The claim that the removal of the office to Portland is being made for economical reasons is not accepted as genuine by Oregon City people, who think they see in the plan a move preliminary to the consolidation of the government's land business in this state in a central office with headquarters at Portland. At present there are six land offices in the state, those other than in this city being located at The Dalles, La Grande, Lakeview, Roseburg and Burns. At any rate it is believed here that a consolidation of the Oregon City and Roseburg offices could be effected to the improvement of the service. But so far as the move being in the interest of economy, Oregon City people laugh at the idea. The Oregon City office now occupies a suite of five rooms, for which a monthly rental of \$30 is paid, and it is argued that similar rooms could not be had at Portland for several times that amount. In addition it appears that accommodations must be provided for the land office at Portland, all available room having been otherwise appropriated in the government buildings. In their present quarters the officials of the Oregon City land office have no extra room and could not transact the business of the office in more limited quarters.

The land office here is the first land office that was established in Oregon, and one of the first created west of the Mississippi river.

### Relics From Jackson County.

Medford—The curious and interesting relics found in an Indian grave on the farm of J. H. Ring, Jackson county, a few days ago, will be sent to Portland, as a part of the Jackson county display at the Lewis and Clark fair. In the grave, besides the skeleton of the brave, there was found a decayed plainsman's blanket, a U. S. army coat, the buttons of which bore the dates of 1837 and 1847. Three Mexican dollars of the stamp of 1840 were also found. Then there was a scalping knife, beads of all sizes and hues and other articles taken by the brave from unfortunate victims of Indians during the early days.

### Bronze Statue of Sacajawea.

Portland—The clay model for the statue of Sacajawea has been shipped from Chicago to New York, where the bronze casting will be made. Miss Alice Cooper, the sculptor, has achieved a most remarkable success in her work. After the exposition the statue will be presented to the city of Portland. The cost of the statue will be \$9,000, of which \$7,000 has been subscribed, all but \$200 of this amount coming from persons outside of Portland. July 6, Sacajawea day, all children under 15 years wearing Sacajawea badges will be admitted to the fair grounds upon payment of 10 cents.

### Heavy Rains on Arid Land.

Irrigon—This whole section has received such a drenching as the oldest inhabitant never heard of at this season. The precipitation of last week exceeds three week inches, and the entire section east of the Cascades and west of the Blues is soaked down to the gravel. This means wonders for the wheat belt in Morrow, Gilliam, Umatilla and the Horse Heaven countries, and to Irrigon it means that people need not resort to irrigation for many weeks. Settlers have already put out over 150,000 trees this spring.

### Crawford as Grammarian.

Salem—Attorney General Crawford holds that the tax exemption law operates to exempt personal property (household goods) to the extent of \$300 worth and no more. The question arose out of a mistake in punctuation in the exemption clause of the Shelley act, wherein several articles of property were set off with a semicolon and then numerous other articles of furniture and household goods were punctuated with commas, preceding this clause: "To the value of \$300 shall be exempt from taxation."

### Indians are Dying Out.

Chenawa—From reports received from the Grand Ronde reservation it appears that the Indians of the North-west are being rapidly passing away or else being absorbed by the body politic. In the official report for 1878 it was stated that there were 807 Indians on the Grand Ronde reserve; in 1886 510 were reported; in 1897, 399; while at the present time there are living there 353, of whom 56 are old and decrepit, being supported by the government.

### Fleeces Average 12 Pounds.

Pendleton—Charles Cunningham has 35 men shearing sheep on his ranch south of here, near Pilot Rock. Thus far they have sheared 10,000 and have 11,000 to shear. His sheep are pure bred Merino and are yielding, on an average, fleeces weighing 12 pounds each. Mr. Cunningham contracted all of his clip to the Union woolen mills for 17 cents a pound early in the season.

### Will Run a Long Tunnel.

Silverton—The Lewis & Clark Mining & Milling company has let a contract for their 300-foot tunnel, to be increased to 500 feet, and the work will begin at once. Last year this company equipped the mine with modern machinery and now this new contract will thoroughly develop the ledge.

### LITTLE WHEAT IN UMATILLA.

Only One Large Lot of 40,000 Wains Coming of Assessor.

Pendleton—Assessor Strain reports but one lot of wheat of any consequence in the county to be assessed this year. This is 40,000 bushels belonging to the Balfour-Guthrie Warehouse company in this city. All other large lots have been disposed of long ago and most of it shipped from the county. The Puget Sound warehouse reports the purchase of a small lot of 1,000 bushels of wheat from Oliver & Co., grocers of this place, but aside from that there are practically no sales. Some of the farmers who had seed wheat saved over from last fall, which they did not need to use, are offering that for sale, and some small purchases have been made.

Estimates are that not over 75,000 bushels remain in the county, and all those are in small holdings. Those who have not sold will likely hold over until another year, as the prices of late have been declining instead of advancing.

### TO CONTROL FRUIT PRICES.

Growers' Associations Arrange for Single Selling Agents.

Hood River—In order to prevent overstocking of the fruit markets, the fruit associations of Hood River, Puyallup and Vashon propose to unite in having one representative salesman each at Helena, Butte and Great Falls, and also at other points east.

At local points it is proposed that one broker shall act for the several associations. Fruitgrowers are determined as much as possible to fix prices in each of the different markets. Jobbers and commission merchants will handle the fruit on a fixed basis, and as soon as any market is likely to be overstocked, the representatives will advise the shipping associations to divert the shipments elsewhere.

### Test Standard Ores.

Sumpter—D. L. Killen and E. F. Warner, of the firm of Killen, Warner & Co., mining promoters, are now at Denver, where a test is being made of the ores of the Standard group, in the Quartzburg district. This firm has financed the Standard, and expects large returns from the immense body of ore opened on the property. The object of the test is to decide upon the character of the reduction plant to be installed at the mine this season for the proper treatment of the ores. The Standard is one of the many properties shipping ore to the smelter here.

### Cottage Grove Mill May Start.

Cottage Grove—It is rumored that the Long & Bingham sawmill, which was recently sold to Eugene and other parties, will soon be started up. A few meetings have been held between the interested parties, and it is the expression that the mill will start up in the near future. This mill was run successfully for several months, as the timber was taken from the territory crossed by the O. & S. E. Railroad. George H. Kelly, of the Booth-Kelly Lumber company, and W. E. Brown, of Eugene, have been investigating the matter.

### Electric Line Man Will Not Talk.

Salem—Isaac W. Anderson, of Spokane, who is a representative of the Rhoades, Sinkler & Butcher syndicate, of Philadelphia, which recently bought a large interest in the Salem Electric Light Power & Street Railway system, is in Salem inspecting the plant. He declined to either affirm or deny the reports that it is the intention of his company to build interurban trolley lines in the valley. He gives the impression, however, that there is no present foundation for the stories that have been published.

### Will Take the Oregon Census.

Pendleton—The blanks for the regular state census have been received by Assessor C. P. Strain, and the work of taking it with the regular county assessment will begin on April 1. The last census taken of Umatilla county, five years ago, showed 13,000 population, and Assessor Strain believes that this year will show at least 22,000. In taking this census Mr. Strain asks the co-operation of the people of the county to assist the census takers.

### Oregon Stock in Good Health.

Salem—With the exception of mangle in one band of horses in Eastern Oregon, in which case two head have been killed and the rest are being dipped, the general health of stock in this state is good. This is according to the verbal report made by State Veterinarian McLean to the Domestic Animal commission.

### PORTLAND MARKETS.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.37½@1.42; gray, \$1.50 per cental.  
Hay—Timothy, \$14@16, clover, \$11@12; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$11@12 per ton.  
Wheat—Walla Walla, 86@87c; blue-stem, 94c; valley, 87c.  
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 18@18½c per dozen.  
Butter—Fancy creamery, 27½@32½c; potatoes—Oregon fancy, 85@90c; common, 65@80c.  
Apples—Fancy, \$1.75@2.50 per box; choice, \$1@1.25.  
Hops—Choice 1904, 23½@24c per pound.  
Wool—Valley, 19@20c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 12@17c per pound; mohair, choice, 28@30c per pound.

## WAITS FOR TITLE.

As Soon as Secured Government Will Begin Celilo Canal.

Washington, March 24.—It developed today, upon inquiry at the War department, that the government is not likely to begin construction of the Dalles-Celilo canal, because the state of Oregon has not yet conveyed to the Federal government absolute title to the right of way for this waterway.

The original act of congress authorizing the canal stipulated that no work should be done until the state had presented right of way to the government free of cost. When this condition was imposed by congress, steps were taken by the state, looking to the purchase or condemnation of the necessary lands and army engineers are advised that most, if not all, of the land necessary has been purchased or condemned. In fact, last September Major Langfitt transmitted to the chief of engineers abstracts of title to this land. These abstracts were examined by the attorney general and approved as being sufficiently binding. The papers were then returned to Major Langfitt with the understanding that the state would make payments for the various parcels of land included in the right of way. Since that time nothing has been heard from Major Langfitt or from the state, and, so far as the War department is aware, this right of way has not been purchased.

Until the title is turned over to the government, not one cent of the \$300,000 appropriated last session can be expended. Notwithstanding this situation, Major Langfitt will proceed with the preparation of the project for the expenditure of this money and work will begin in accordance with this plan just as soon as title to the right of way rests in the government.

## BACK TO BAIKAL.

Russians May Continue Their Retreat When Harbin is Reached.

St. Petersburg, March 24.—The possibility that, if the Russian army should be unable to hold the lower line of the Sungari river and Chunchiatun, it may be compelled to retreat not only to Harbin, but also further westward along the railroad, abandoning to the Japanese Northern Manchuria and the Russian maritime Amur provinces as well, is the latest startling news from the front.

The strategic weakness of General Linievitch's position as he falls back northward is made clear by the Gunshu dispatches to the Associated Press, in which it is pointed out that, unless Chunchiatun and the Sungari lines, a scant 100 miles below Harbin, can be held, it will be difficult to maintain a position farther back before Harbin, where, with the front of the army paralleling the railroad, the practicability of a turning movement to completely sever communications and isolate the army 5,000 miles from home is too serious for Russian consideration. In view of this possibility the dispatch alluded to suggests the advisability of immediately providing Vladivostok with war munitions and supplies for a two years' siege.

## WILL ADOPT LESSONS TAUGHT.

President and General Officers Will Apply Them in Army.

Washington, March 24.—Results of the observation of American army officers during the Russo-Japanese war formed the subject of a conference today between the president and Assistant Secretary of War Oliver, General Crozier, chief of the bureau of ordinance and several officers of the general staff. The importance of individual initiative in the soldier and of higher physical training than heretofore has characterized the private in the ranks has been made evident. The conference today was preliminary to the adoption of such means as will increase the training and add to the initiative of the enlisted men join the army. The methods will be taught them which are born of experience and observation. It is expected that these methods not only will increase the efficiency of the private soldier, but also will enable him the better to protect himself and perhaps his comrades in time of emergency. The new methods will be promulgated in general orders to the army.

## Election Indictments Quashed.

Pueblo, Colo., March 24.—Eighty-six grand jury indictments for forgery and uttering forged instruments in connection with the recent election were quashed in the District court today by Judge Voorhees, who sustained the motions directed against the bills by counsel for the defense. At the