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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.

Both armies in Manchuria are ready for another big battle.

Italian warships are at hand to enforce demands on Venezuela if necessary.

It is officially announced that the Russian fleet has finally started for Vladivostok.

It is announced that King Alfonso of Spain will marry the Princess of Connaught, of England.

Returns seem to indicate that the Republican state ticket has carried in Michigan by upwards of 70,000 majority.

Taft proposes to take the leaders of the anti to the Philippines in hopes of showing them the necessity of reducing the tariff.

Roosevelt has announced that he would make no move toward securing peace in the Far East until both nations have announced their readiness to discontinue hostilities.

It is reported in Washington that before his departure from the city the president issued an order recalling T. C. Powell, recently appointed United States marshal of Alaska.

Henry has announced that Mitchell will be the first tried for land frauds. Hermann and Williamson will follow and then the others. The trials will commence early in June. Henry says he will also not work for other indictments until some convictions are secured.

Russia will float another internal loan of \$100,000,000.

Congressman say Santo Domingo needs a prote torate.

Payne says the coming congress will not change the present tariff laws.

Government receipts for March exceeded the expenditures by nearly \$1,000,000.

Robert J. Wynne, recently appointed consul general at London, has left for his post.

The Japanese are making a turning movement on Kirin, preparatory to an attack on Vladivostok.

The Seattle representative of a Japanese concern has offered to furnish 20,000 Japanese laborers to dig the Panama canal.

The president has selected Theodore P. Shonts, president of the Toledo, St. Louis & Western railroad, as head of the new Panama canal commission.

Nothing has been heard for several days of the Japanese army following General Linievitch, and St. Petersburg authorities are fearful that another surprise is about to be sprung.

The Venezuelan court has decided against the American asphalt trust, accusing it of aiding the recent revolution. A decision has also been rendered against the French cable company.

Gryama's army has resumed a general advance.

Russell Sage has retired from active business.

Many Japanese prisoners in Russia commit suicide.

Russians say the Japanese are busy stirring up the boxers again.

The yellow peril scare against Japan has been revived in Europe.

The Bannockburn company may rebuild its woolen mills at Albany.

The railway rate bill will be ready in October, when the president will call congress together.

All reports of mediation and peace are denied by Russian authorities, who say the war will go on.

Incendiaries set fire to the ship building works at Sevastopol, doing great damage to work under way.

During March 79,000 immigrants came into this country through the port of New York. Last year for the same month the arrivals were only 47,877.

An anonymous threat to dynamite the Warsaw police has caused the officers to beat everyone coming in the direction of the barracks, compelling them to go in another direction.

Hayti is threatened with anti-Syrian riots.

The kaisers visit to Morocco irritates France and raises British hopes.

A newly arrived Russian at New York has been found to have leprosy.

Japanese statesmen propose a triple alliance of Japan, United States and Britain.

ENRICH THE LAND.

Great Irrigation Project for Southern Idaho Receives Approval.

Washington, April 4.—The Payette-Boise irrigation project in Idaho has received the formal approval of the secretary of the Interior, who recently set aside \$1,300,000 for initiating the work of construction. This action has been anticipated for some time, and is largely the result of the splendid enterprise of the citizens of that section. For more than a year the landowners, organized into a water-users' association, have labored indefatigably to harmonize the many conflicting claims of private interests in lands, canals, and water rights, with the result that today practically the valley as a unit stands pledged to the government enterprise.

Great as the satisfaction of the citizens may be on account of the favorable action of the secretary, it is no greater than that felt by the reclamation service, which has long recognized the fact that the Payette-Boise project is one of the most attractive in the arid West, and but for the many and complicated private and corporate interests involved, would have been selected for the initial work of the government in Idaho. The people, having worked out satisfactory solutions to the divers problems, are deserving of the success which has finally crowned their efforts.

While the citizens were straightening out their difficulties, the government engineers thoroughly investigated the physical conditions and worked out comprehensive plans for irrigation, which have been presented to and received the approval of the board of consulting engineers. These investigations show that the project is entirely feasible from an engineering standpoint.

The lands to be reclaimed are of excellent quality, and with the climatic conditions prevailing are capable of sustaining a dense population. The fertility of the lands now under irrigation insures the financial soundness of the undertaking. Nearly 90 per cent of all the irrigable land in the valley is pledged to repay the government its expenditure for providing a permanent water supply.

The estimated cost of the entire system is \$10,732,000, or an average cost not to exceed \$30 per acre for the land which has no facilities at present for irrigation. This amount includes maintenance for ten years, also the value of existing works which would be utilized but which would not have to be paid for by the government, and the purchase of rights of way, which will have to be provided from the reclamation fund.

The full utilization of the water supply in the Boise and Payette rivers will possibly be the complete reclamation of nearly 600,000 acres, which, divided into farms units of 80 acres, will mean 7,500 farms, a rural population of 30,000, and a population in towns and villages of double that number.

The agricultural wealth of the valley, estimated on the basis of the last census, would be approximately: Irrigated land, \$30,000,000; farm buildings, \$4,500,000; implements and machinery, \$1,410,000; live stock, \$9,300,500; canals and reservoirs, \$12,000,000; total, \$57,210,500. In 1900 the value of farm property for the whole state of Idaho was \$67,271,200. It seems safe to assume that with the completion of the Boise-Payette project the farm property of this section would have a value equal to 50 per cent of that of the whole state.

The Boise and Payette valleys constitute one of the most attractive sections of the West. In the past few years they have undergone a transformation that is nothing less than marvelous. The progress in agriculture is reflected in the splendid growth of the towns adjacent, and the whole basin presents an alluring picture to the visitor, and furnishes an excellent sample of the result of irrigation. It requires no particular acumen to see that these valleys have entered upon an era of substantial development which is destined to unite them in one of the richest agricultural communities on this continent.

Decides to Indict Packers.

Chicago, April 4.—Well-authenticated reports that the Federal grand jury which is investigating the business methods of the meat packers will return indictments when it reconvenes next Wednesday were prevalent today. The report was that the adjournment taken yesterday was really decided upon in order to allow Assistant Attorney General Pugin time to draw up the bills at his leisure and give due consideration to the mass of testimony taken since the jury first went into session.

Display Burbank's Wonders.

San Francisco, April 4.—The women of Santa Rosa and Sonoma county will make a floral exhibit at the Portland exposition with the other products from Sonoma county, and it will be made up for the most part of Luther Burbank's floral creations. If enough can be secured that will stand shipment to Portland, the display will be entirely of his flowers, as the women of the city and county are anxious to show Mr. Burbank how they appreciate his work.

Chile and Peru Have a Tiff.

Lima, Peru, April 4.—The papers to-day print Chile's reply to the Peruvian protest regarding Tacna and Arica. The reply declares that Chile is resolute, without wounding the susceptibilities of Peru, to acquire definitely demarcation and sovereignty over Tacna and Arica.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

WHEAT OUTLOOK VERY BRIGHT

Cold Rains Have Damaged Prunes, but Farmers are Satisfied.

Albany—Linn county people are watching the weather man closely these days, and yearning for a "fair day" flag. This is particularly true of fruit-growers, for the recent cold rains are a menace to the fruit crop.

As it is, some injury has been reported. A prominent farmer and fruit-grower of Linn county states that he is of the opinion that cherries and prunes are somewhat injured already, particularly cherries. The cherry trees were loaded with blossoms at the end of the warm spring weather that marked the closing days of February and the first half of March, and the rain caught them at the tenderest age. Then a couple of light frosts last week added to the danger.

Prunes were not brought out so much as cherries by the premature advent of spring, and may possibly escape injury. Although the trees seemed to be in blossom at the beginning of the rains, they were in reality not generally in full bloom, but were loaded with buds that were just ready to burst but had not yet exposed the tender inner part to the weather. Under these circumstances it is believed the damage will be nominal, if good weather comes soon. However, it would not take many days of chilling rains and winds to do irreparable damage. It has been stated that the prune trees were giving evidence of such a heavy crop that it would really be better for the fruit if some of the embryo prunes were killed by the cold.

Other branches of farming are faring well. An easy winter and early spring plows stock in excellent condition, and every class of stock looks well. Dairy farmers are milking more cows, with better results than in years before at this season of the year. Many farmers will finish the winter in much better shape than was anticipated after the poor crops of last year.

Wheat is looking fine, and, barring some unforeseen freak of nature to destroy the present bright prospects, the wheat yield of the valley will be far above the average. Fall sown wheat can almost be seen to grow now, and many farmers are preparing to put all their remaining acreage in spring grain.

Albany Mill May Be Rebuilt.

Albany—President Charles Coopy and Secretary H. M. Grant, of the Bannockburn Woolen Mills company, who have been in Albany looking after their property, which was recently almost totally destroyed by fire, state that it is possible the mill will be rebuilt. The brick walls are part of them standing and in good shape, and some of the machinery can be saved. The big boiler in the engine room was not damaged, and altogether there is quite a nucleus around which to start a new mill. The company had a great deal of business ahead when the fire occurred.

Independence Idea To Be Aired.

Independence—It is the purpose of the Willamette Valley Improvement league to call a meeting of the executive committee provided for at Salem last week to meet in Independence, the last of April. Members of the Independence Improvement league are considering the advisability of calling a general meeting, to be held here at the same time. If called, and it most likely will be, the program will be an executive session in the afternoon and a banquet in the evening, at which the Independence idea will find expression.

Snowfall Late, but Deep.

Sumpter—A heavy fall of snow occurred here last week, making it almost possible to use sleds again. Placer miners are happy over the outlook, as they are now promised a much longer season in which to work than they expected from indications a short time ago. Quite a depth of snow has been reached in the uplands, therefore streams will not dry up as soon as thought. Weather prophets are at a loss to explain the unusual conditions which have prevailed for the past two months.

Ranchers to Fight for Water.

Milton—A mass meeting of 300 fruit growers and citizens of Milton and vicinity was held in Alliance hall for the purpose of providing legal advice and the best methods to pursue against the Peacock Mill company, which has brought suit against the city of Milton and all the irrigation ditch companies and private property owners in this valley, to determine the amount of water the Peacock Mill company shall appropriate for the purpose of running their mills at this place.

Snow in Linn Mountains.

Albany—There is now considerable snow in the mountains in this part of the state and high water in the streams in this part of the valley is feared. The recent rains have filled the streams up to their banks, and warm rains, which would melt the snow all at one time would cause a flood. There has been no damage from high water during former rains this winter, as there was comparatively no snow on the mountains until the recent cold weather.

Klamath People Raise Big Bonus.

Klamath Falls—Klamath county has raised \$80,000 of the \$100,000 bonus for the Wood railroad extension to Klamath Falls, and has obtained an extension until May 1 to raise the balance. The balance undoubtedly will be raised, and the railroad connection of this section with the outside world is now assured.

FRAUD ON STATE.

Marion County Grand Jury Will Investigate Illegal Transactions.

Salem—Though the statutes governing the sale of state lands have been violated ever since they were enacted, the investigation to be made by the Marion county grand jury this week will be the first attempt that has ever been made to punish infraction of these laws. Several hundred thousand acres of land have been bought illegally, and the state school fund has been depleted of several hundred thousand dollars, but usually punishment of the offense has been barred by the statute of limitation before it was discovered, or, the state having received the legal price for the land sold, no one feels interested enough to start an investigation. The offense which the grand jury will investigate this week is of recent date, and the facts are so well known that the transactions can scarcely be overlooked.

Because the state in every instance receives the price required by law, and is not directly robbed, it has been easy to let the infractions of law go with scarce a passing notice. But indirectly the state has been robbed and vigorous action at the proper time would not only have landed the offenders in prison, but saved many thousands of dollars for the school fund. It is not through the ordinary sales of school land that the state has taken place, for in all such cases the state has received all the land is worth. It is through the lieu land operations that the manipulators of public lands have made their fortunes at the expense of the school fund.

Show Valley Live Stock.

Woodburn—Two thousand people attended the livestock fair in this city last Saturday. A splendid address was delivered by Hon. James Withycombe, of the State Agricultural college, of Corvallis. Colonel J. B. Eddy, Hon. J. W. Bailey, state food and dairy commissioner, and J. H. Settlemier also delivered lively speeches. Altogether the initiation of this fair was a magnificent success. President Fred Dose and Secretary William P. Pennebaker will proceed to perfect a permanent organization. A three days fair of all products and livestock will be held during next October.

Mohair Pools are Bought Up.

Dallas—Dallas witnessed one of its busiest days Saturday, occasioned by the selling of the pool of the Polk and Yamhill County Mohair associations. The Yamhill pool, consisting of 40,000 pounds, was purchased by Bumheiser & Co., of Portland, at 31 1/2 cents. The association retains the sacks, which were held at 25 cents each. The Polk county pool, consisting of 50,000 pounds, was bought by H. L. Fenton, of Dallas, at 32 1/2 cents. The prices paid are considered the best, as the market stands.

Dog Poison in Bologna Sausage.

Independence—Dog poisoning has become so common in Independence that no surprise is expressed when a canine is observed in the throes of death on the street or in a front yard. Some of the most valuable dogs in town have been poisoned and though there is a standing reward of \$200, the poisoner has not been apprehended. Bologna sausage containing poison has been picked up in different portions of town, but it affords no clue as to the identity or motive of the poisoner.

For Cheese Factory at Ukiah.

Pendleton—Ward Emigh, proprietor of the Walla Walla creamery, who will establish a cheese factory at Ukiah, 60 miles south of this place, is in the city making arrangements for the transportation of his cheese making machinery and will open the factory within a few days for business. The machinery has a capacity of 24,000 pounds of milk a day, but as the dairy interests have declined of late, Mr. Emigh does not expect nearly that much at first.

Waiting for a Market for Coal.

Riverton—The bunkers of the Riverton Mining & Development company's mine have been filled and mining operations have been suspended awaiting a vessel to carry coal. Manager Rouse of the company is now in San Francisco looking up the coal market and arranging for the freighting of his coal. The steamer Chico, of San Francisco, which is now due here, will take the first cargo of coal from this place.

Heavy Snow Now in Bohemia.

Cottage Grove—There is heavy snow in the Bohemia district now, and outside work will be late this year on that account. The telephone line between Cottage Grove and the mines is down on account of the recent storms.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 86@87c per bushel; bluestem, 93@94c; valley, 88c.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$28@29 per ton; gray, \$27@28.
Hay—Timothy, \$14@16 per ton; clover, \$11@12; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$11@12.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 17@17 1/2c per dozen.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 25@27 1/2c; Potatoes—Oregon fancy, 85@95c; common, 65@80c.
Apples—Fancy \$1.75@2.50 per box; choice, \$1@1.25.
Hops—Choice, 1904, 23 1/2@24c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 20c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 15@18c; mohair, choice, 28@31c per pound.

POISON FOR BABES.

Adulterated Infant Food Kills Half a Million a Year.

Chicago, April 3.—Nearly half a million babies died in the United States last year from the effects of adulterated infant foods, poisons used in coloring butter and candy, formaldehyde in milk, and other impure articles of diet turned out by fraudulent manufacturers. Data to prove this assertion were produced before the meeting of the executive committee of the National association of State Dairy and Food Departments, which met today at the Grand Northern hotel.

A bitter war in the ranks of the association is expected to be revealed. Food commissioners from different states, health officers and officers of the National association are in attendance. Differences of opinion concerning the alleged adulterations are said to be responsible for the strife. Paul Pierce, of Chicago, and R. Allen, of Kentucky, secretary of the association, are the leaders of the two factions. Mr. Allen has come to Chicago to look after his interests.

The claim of enormous fatality among infants last year resulting from impure food is made by J. N. Hurty, secretary of the Indiana state board of health. Mr. Hurty produces figures to show that 65 per cent of the total deaths of infants in America last year were due to poisons administered in impure foods and the deadly concoctions placed on the market by fraudulent food manufacturers. He produces statistics to show that more than 700,000 infants died in the United States last year.

"If Mr. Hurty's figures are correct," said Mr. Pierce, "and I believe they are, an army of 455,000 infants was murdered last year by food adulterations. They were poisoned by infant foods and dyes and chemicals contained in the diet their mothers have fed them in an effort to appease their appetites, to satisfy their natural desires for nourishment and rear them healthfully to maturity."

"When such conditions as these are harassing our land, when these baby-killing food adulterators are permitted to stalk forth among us, blighting our homes, feeding on the lives of our children to fatten their purses, is it not time that pure food workers regarded as their duty to appease their appetites, to satisfy their natural desires for nourishment and rear them healthfully to maturity?"

REVENGE IS TAKEN.

Russian Bomb-Thrower Mutilates an Enemy of Socialists.

Lodz, Russian Poland, April 3.—Police Commissioner Szabalovicz, of the Second district, was seriously injured today by a bomb, which was thrown at him in the street.

The police commissioner had been summoned by telephone to come to the office of the chief of police, and started on foot, followed by a policeman. The former noticed, at the corner of Konstantinov and Zawarski streets, a poorly clad man carrying a basket. As Szabalovicz approached, the man suddenly hurled a bomb, which exploded with terrific force, blowing off the commissioner's feet and severely wounding him in the breast. It is feared his injuries will prove fatal.

The force to the explosion is judgably the fact that it tore a hole in the ground two feet deep and 12 feet in circumference. The accompanying policeman drew his sword and wounded the commissioner's assailant on the head. When the prisoner was searched a loaded revolver and some cartridges were found in his pockets. He is reported to be dying from the sword cuts received.

The explosion was heard about five miles away. All the windows in the neighborhood were shattered. People in adjoining houses were thrown to the floor.

Norwegian Colony for Nevada.

Reno, Nev., April 3.—The Norwegians of Minnesota and the Dakotas plan to establish an immense colony in Nevada. A representative arrived here this week, and is now carrying out the plans. It is planned to secure a tract of several thousand acres of unclaimed land in the central portion of the state, construct an irrigation system and place it ready for the plowman. When this is done, arrangements are already made to have thousands of Norwegian families come to the state and place the land under cultivation.

Oregon Used Up the Funds.

Washington, April 3.—Seventeen special agents of the land office in various Western states were furloughed today on account of shortage in funds. A large part of the appropriation for special agents has been consumed in the employment of special officers engaged in running down frauds in Oregon. Secretary Hitchcock deemed it more important to get at the bottom of facts in Oregon than to conduct extensive formal examinations elsewhere.

Coal Miners' Scale Renewed.

Philadelphia, April 3.—The soft coal operators late this afternoon stated that they had practically agreed to renew the wage scale. This will prevent the threatened strike of 50,000 miners in the bituminous district. A joint conference of the operators and miners will be held in Altoona tomorrow to complete the arrangement.

Rushing Supplies to the Front.

St. Petersburg, April 3.—More than ten trains, stocked with provisions and war material, are leaving St. Petersburg daily for Vladivostok.

NEW MEN NAMED

President Announces Reorganization of Canal Commission.

ONLY ONE OLD MEMBER REMAINS

Consists of Seven Members, but All Actual Work Will Be Done by Three Only.

Washington, April 4.—The president has carried out his plans for the reorganization of the Isthmian canal commission as to the personnel and business methods, generally on the lines of the legislation he suggested to congress at the last session, which failed in the crush of business in the closing hours. Today, within half an hour after the president's departure from Washington, Secretary Taft, directly in charge of canal matters, made public the names of members of the new commission and the division of duties among them. Only one member of the old commission was reappointed, Benjamin M. Harrod. Otherwise the commission is new from top to bottom, for there is a top and bottom and considerable difference in the functions and pay of the commissioners. Finding he was obliged legally to appoint seven commissioners, the president did so, but he carried out his own plan by making three of them practically the full commission. The other four, though bearing the title of commissioners, not only receive a much lower compensation, but are assigned much smaller fields of activity.

The personnel of the new commission is as follows: Theodore P. Shonts, chairman; Charles E. Magoon, governor of the canal zone; John F. Wallace, chief engineer; Rear Admiral M. T. Endicott, United States navy; Brigadier General Peter C. Hains, United States army (retired); Colonel Oswald M. Ernst, corps engineer, United States army; Benjamin M. Harrod.

SEND THIS BOOK EAST.

Tell Your Friends About Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The 1905 issue of "Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Their Resources," issued by the passenger departments of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, and the lines of the Southern Pacific in Oregon, is now ready for distribution, 50,000 copies having been issued. The book is divided into chapters covering the following subjects: Climate, Dairying, Diversified Farming, Fish and Fishing, Fruit Culture, Grain Growing, Grasses and Forage Plants, Homes for Millions, Hop Raising, Irrigation, Lewis and Clark Expedition, Lumber and Lumbering, Markets, Mines and Mining, Portland and Churches, Soil, Stock Raising, Vegetables products, Lands in Western Oregon, condensed information about towns and cities along the O. R. & N. and the Southern Pacific lines.

Every citizen of the states exploited in the book will find it valuable to send to relatives and friends in other states who may be induced to come and live in the Pacific Northwest.

Four cents in stamps sent to A. L. Craig, General Passenger Agent of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company, Portland, Oregon, with the address of an eastern friend, will insure its being sent.

FIFTY MINERS ARE ENTOMBED.

Double Explosion Wrecks Shaft and Kills Majority of Men.

Benton, Ill., April 4.—Some 50 miners were entombed today in Joseph Leiter's mine at Zeigler by a terrific explosion of gas, and it is probable that 30 or 40 of the buried men are dead. Thus far four bodies have been found. When between 35 and 40 miners had descended into the mine today to resume work, a terrific explosion blew the timbers about the mouth of the mine high into the air.

Czar Still Hopes to Win.

St. Petersburg, April 4.—A meeting of all the members of the Grand Ducal circle was held in the palace of the Grand Duke Vladimir late last night, at which the czar was present and at which the question of war or peace was thoroughly discussed. A majority of those present favored the beginning of peace negotiations, but the Grand Duke Vladimir and his intimate associates stated that in their opinion it would be far better to continue the fighting, at least for the present. This view apparently met the czar's view.

Awful Havoc by Bomb.

St. Petersburg, April 4.—Seventy persons, 30 artillerymen and 40 Chinese, were killed Monday by the terrific explosion of a bomb in the artillery depot at Harbin, Manchuria. The man who caused the explosion was also killed. The entire laboratory, a huge establishment, was wrecked, and 10,000,000 projectiles were destroyed—2,000 packing cases containing 5,000 each. Millions of other projectiles, not yet completed, were made useless.

Rates of Desertions from Navy.

Washington, April 4.—In a statement issued today by Rear Admiral Converse, chief of the Bureau of Navigation, it is shown that of an enlisted force of 30,066 men in the navy, only 10.7 per cent deserted.

BOWEN IS UPHELD.

Has Not Exceeded His Instructions in Dealing with Castro.

Washington, March 31.—Dr. Jose de Jesus Paul, special representative of President Castro, had an interview today with the president respecting the issues that have arisen between Venezuela and the United States. Dr. Paul appears to believe that these issues might be settled by a change in the American legation in Caracas, in view of the strained relations between President Castro and Mr. Bowen. He is awaiting the text of the communication from President Castro to the American minister relative to the arbitration proposal, which document is en route to Washington by mail.

As an impression apparently prevails to some extent, not only in Venezuela, but in this country, that Minister Bowen has incurred the ill will of President Castro by an excess of zeal in the presentation of the American claims against Venezuela, it may be stated that official inquiry from Washington has developed the fact that Mr. Bowen merely presented to the Venezuelan government the precise instructions sent to him from the State department relative to arbitration; that he did not add to nor take from those instructions in the slightest degree, but in fact faced himself, so the fact is that the State department and not Mr. Bowen is responsible for this presentation which has so stirred the Venezuelan government.

In view of the statement from Dr. Paul touching Mr. Bowen, it can be added upon the highest authority that, in view of the administration, the doctor has no official standing and whatever communication he makes to the president or State department cannot have any weight or bearing. If President Castro is dissatisfied with Mr. Bowen, he must have recourse to the regular diplomatic channel and communicate that fact formally to this government, which cannot receive representations on the subject from other sources.

MILL IS IN RUINS.

Bannockburn Property at Albany is Ravaged by Fire.

Albany, Or., March 31.—The old Albany woolen mill, a brick building being operated by the Bannockburn Woolen Mills company, of Portland, was Wednesday entirely destroyed by fire, involving the owners in a loss of about \$50,000, and the city in a loss in payroll and general expenditures in the city's stores that cannot be replaced in years. While the Bannockburn Woolen Mills company will not suffer a loss greater than the figures given above, the building could not be duplicated for less than \$75,000. It cost that when built, and later some \$20,000 more was spent upon it.

The fire originated in the drying room, in a wooden annex or basement built below the main floor of the building, on the water front. It is supposed to have been started by an explosion in the steam drying apparatus, though the exact origin is not known. The flames shot quickly up the big power belt to the first floor of the main building. Here the greasy floor and woodwork furnished fuel for the flames and in a moment the entire building was on fire.

The building, with all the valuable and intricate machinery, is a total loss. There were no manufactured products on hand, hence the losses are confined to buildings, machinery and the small amount of raw material. The large boiler and engine are thought to be uninjured, though some explosions that were heard from the direction of the engine and drying rooms may have injured the big machinery.

Pennsylvania Miners Will Strike.

Altoona, Pa., March 31.—The operators and miners of the central bituminous district of Pennsylvania, after being in conference in this city almost continuously since March 10 endeavoring to agree on a wage scale to go into effect on April 10, adjourned finally today without coming to an agreement. The failure to agree means a suspension of work by the 16,000 organized miners of the district at the end of the present week. The employers demand a 10 per cent reduction, but the men say it is beyond consideration.

Awaits Creditors' Approval.

Washington, March 31.—Interest at the State department centers in the attitude of the French and Belgian creditors towards the recent settlement with Santo Domingo. It is realized there that an unfavorable reply on their part might cause an embarrassing situation, in view of the action which this government has already taken. These creditors have, in all, claims of \$16,000,000 against Santo Domingo, and their attitude towards the agreement is of great importance.

Commission on Port Arthur's Loss.

St. Petersburg, March 31.—(1 a. m.)—The membership of the commission to investigate the circumstances of the surrender of Port Arthur, under the presidency of General Koop, has been announced. It consists of General Reuberg, of the engineers; Giebenckoff and Kamaroff, of the infantry; Denfonckoff, Krijanorsky and Bogaviesky, of the artillery; and Admirals Dikoff and Doubasoff. The sitting will begin at the middle of May.

All but American Treaty Ratified.