

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.

Morocco conferees still hope for a settlement.

Portland leads all Pacific coast ports in grain exports.

Bryan has resigned as trustee of a college which asked money from Carnegie.

The Pennsylvania legislature has ordered an inquiry into coal mining by railroads.

The Rio Grande Southern railroad lost \$100,000 by fire in its roundhouse at Ridgway, Colorado.

Senator Dubois, of Idaho, declares polygamy is the greatest menace to American civilization.

The president has pardoned Miner Meriwether, Jr., sentenced to dismissal from Annapolis for hazing.

It is said that February 24 is the date set for the beginning of the massacre of all foreigners in China.

Attorney General Hadley, of Missouri, says all of Rockefeller's wealth could never atone for the wrong he has done.

A present from the emperor of Japan has been sent Miss Roosevelt, but its nature will not be disclosed until its arrival in Washington.

Littleton, W. Va., was almost wiped out by fire.

A campaign of assassination seems to be under full headway in Russia.

The hazing trials have caused many failures in the Annapolis examinations.

A deadlock is predicted between France and Germany on the Moroccan question.

John L. Sullivan, in a speech to newboys, warned them against cigarettes and whisky.

It is believed in Washington that the railroad rate bill will pass the senate without much opposition.

The Chamber of Commerce building in Portland has just been sold. The price is about one million dollars.

It is said that Hill has almost completed arrangements to buy the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad.

Two men have been rescued alive from a mine near Stockton, Cal., after being entombed more than 100 hours by a cave-in.

Jack the Stabber has been captured in St. Louis. He slashed 13 women one evening and one the next. The last led to his arrest.

Russia's financial condition has improved greatly.

King Charles of Roumania is reported to be seriously ill.

All the judges of Minnesota have returned their annual railroad passes.

Railway traffic in Eastern Pennsylvania is blocked on account of heavy snow.

The annual cost of repairs and maintenance of the congressional library is \$80,000.

Helen Kellar, the deaf and blind girl, has broken down under the strain of work.

A Belgian professor accuses King Leopold of stealing \$15,000,000 derived from the rubber trade with Congo.

Harriman has secured concessions from the Mexican government and will build 1,000 miles of railroad in that country.

It is now probable that President Roosevelt will be called upon to settle the Moroccan dispute between France and Germany by policing the country with American troops.

The United States sub-treasury at Chicago has detected counterfeit half dollars which are said to have been made in China. The required amount of silver is contained.

The live meat animals imported into 12 of the important countries from the United States is 34 per cent of the total imports of such animals. In the same countries the packing house products from the United States is 45 per cent of the total.

An explosion in a coal mine at Oak-hill, West Virginia, caused the death of at least 28 miners.

Chicago city council will pass an ordinance against cigarette smoking by minors. Fines are provided which are to be heavier with each succeeding offense.

The Chicago council has passed an ordinance placing the cost of gas at 85 cents per thousand feet.

On account of the recent turn of affairs in China the powers may not withdraw their troops as had been agreed.

Congregational, United Brethren and Methodist Protestant churches have completed a plan for a union under the name of the United Church of America.

LIKE ROUGH RIDERS.

Pennsylvania Provides Body of Picked Men Against Time of Strike.

Philadelphia, Feb. 13.—When the great coal strike comes on April 1 the miners will find themselves confronted by a new kind of foe.

There will be no Pinkertons to "inflame the passions of the workers." No militia or private guards of any kind will be on duty, nor will the militia be called out. The duty of protecting life and property will be confined to the state constabulary, an organization without a parallel in the United States. The nearest approach to it is the body of men known as the "Texas Rangers," famed principally in dime novels, but the state constabulary has greater powers than the rangers, and far more work to do.

At the last session of the legislature, authority for the organization of the force was given out, and now the men have been selected, drilled and are ready for work. The superintendent of the force, which now numbers 240 men, but can be over fourfold that number if the governor decides an emergency exists, is John C. Groome, a former militiaman, who saw service as a commissioned officer during the Spanish-American war.

Superintendent Groome sternly dis-regarded all the pressure that was brought to bear upon him by politicians, and not only did he declare that no appointment would be made to oblige a dealer in patronage, but he kept his word.

Several thousand men were examined before the quota was filled, and there are now on the lists fully 500 qualified men, who can be called upon if an emergency arises.

One requirement was insisted upon: Every man had to be an American, between the ages of 21 and 40, and be a good horseman. Although it was not a requisite that troopers should have seen military service, yet it was found that those who had been in the regular army or the Pennsylvania National guard best answered the tests, and practically all of those chosen have been soldiers, real or "tin."

PACKING FOR EXPORT.

American Goods Sent to Orient Said to Arrive in Bad Shape.

Washington, Feb. 13.—As a result of the work of special agents sent to the Orient to investigate trade regulations with those countries, a valuable object lesson in the way of packing goods for export is now furnished by the bureau of manufactures of the department of Commerce and Labor.

Heavy losses have been sustained and the growth of exports retarded as the result of insecure packing on the part of American exporters. Numerous photographs have been received showing piles of boxes on the wharves in China, where the British and German boxes are secure, while many of those of American make are smashed and the goods injured or destroyed. The wood used for boxes in this country is generally too light in weight and not properly held together.

One of the English boxes on exhibition is made of hard wood, seven-eighths of an inch in thickness, with double ends, and lined with tin made to the exact inside measurements of the box. Inside this tin lining heavy wrapping paper is placed, in which are packed the bundles of different articles well wrapped and properly marked. The tin lining is soldered so as to be water tight, while the boxes are held together by steel bands.

American piece goods reach China in machine-pressed bales bound with ropes. Other countries use iron bands with buckles or locks on the ends. The ropes are useless for protection, and as a result there are large losses on damaged American bales. Some American mills use metal bands, but they are the exceptions. Chinamen complain that Americans do not comply with orders as to labels, etc., and the lack of uniformity causes great losses. The Chinese purchase goods as a result of labels of which they have a knowledge. A change of the label in any respect causes a loss to the merchant.

EMPEROR NICHOLAS HAS PLAN.

Paris, Feb. 13.—The Gaulois, dealing with the subject of the situation at the Algerias conference, says that Emperor Nicholas, who was inspired by the principles he expressed in a greeting to the Hague conference, has already intervened in favor of a solution of the customs questions in Morocco and is prepared to repeat the intervention if necessary, in order to facilitate a combination which would be acceptable to France, and at the same time without in any manner wounding Germany's susceptibilities.

MAKES DEMAND ON PORTE.

Constantinople, Feb. 13.—The Turkish frontier dispute remains unsettled. The Persian ambassador has demanded of the Porte the evacuation of Lahidjan by Turkish troops and compensation for the depredations by the Turkish cavalry. It is believed that the Turkish commission which has arrived at the disputed territory will recommend to the Porte the immediate withdrawal of the Turkish troops.

PLANO FACTORY BURNED.

New York, Feb. 13.—Fire starting in the Bremner piano factory, at Tenth avenue and Fifty-first street tonight, caused damage estimated at \$500,000. The blaze spread so rapidly that for a time several tenements which adjoin the piano factory on Tenth avenue and Fifty-first street were threatened.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

HE WILL CAN PINEAPPLES.

Prof. Pernot, of Corvallis, Will Test His New Process.

Corvallis.—A shipment received at the State college a few days ago was a crate of pineapples from Honolulu billed to Professor Pernot, head of the bacteriological department. The fruit is to be canned for experimental purposes. Some time ago publicity was given to a new preserving process evolved by Professor Pernot, wherein fruits or vegetables in process of canning are subjected to only a low temperature. By this method the fruits are preserved in their original condition, without being cooked, both the fibre, taste and color being left largely intact. The extreme heat used is only 165 degrees.

Wide attention was attracted by the announcement and letters of inquiry have reached the department from all parts of the world. Among them came a letter from Honolulu, written by Mr. H. Grant, head of a large canning establishment there, who said his attention had been attracted to the new method by an article in the Saturday Evening Post. The shipment of the pineapples to Professor Pernot for canning is an experiment in the result of the correspondence that ensued.

Part of the canned product will be retained at the college, to be opened from time to time and tasted, and a part will be shipped to Honolulu, so that the merits of the method may be tested by a tropical climate and a sea voyage.

WALLOWA TO RAISE POULTRY.

Wallowa.—Demand for poultry brought buyers here from La Grande and other points recently. One representative of a mercantile house secured 70 dozen in Wallowa this week, paying \$3 for choice Plymouth Rocks. It costs little to raise fowls here, and the ranchers think the price received will fully pay them for feed consumed. Interest in poultry raising for market to increase the revenue of the farm, is gaining constantly in the Wallowa country, and the industry promises to become a practical feature of development in this section.

STOCKMEN FORM ORGANIZATION.

Pendleton.—Owners and raisers of horses and cattle of Umatilla county met here and perfected a permanent organization. The object of the association is to form a central body large enough to act in concert and effectively in all matters affecting horse and cattle growers, including matters of range, highway and contagious diseases among stock. The officers of the association are: John Todd, president; Aaron Isaac, vice president; E. S. Wilbur, secretary, and D. A. Peebler, treasurer. The charter members of the association number about 20.

WANT MACADAMIZED ROAD.

Pendleton.—The Pendleton Commercial association held its annual meeting last week and elected officers as follows: Leon Cohen, president; C. J. Smith, vice president; F. W. Lampkin, secretary; Mark Moorehouse, treasurer. The association discussed the proposition by the government to construct a mile of macadamized road near this city and passed a resolution requesting the county to appropriate necessary funds to carry on the work. The estimated cost to the county is about \$3,000.

LANE COUNTY WILL SPRAY.

Engene.—County Fruit Inspector H. F. McCornack has made a report to the County court of his examination of orchards. He reports the San Jose scale present in nearly all orchards, and particularly abundant on fruit trees and shrubbery in the city of Engene. He finds the owners nearly all willing to assist in the extermination of the pests, and a large amount of spraying has already been done. A few orchards that were badly infected were destroyed.

FEW HOPGROWERS PRESENT.

Salem.—The meeting of hopgrowers here last week for the purpose of completing the organization of the Oregon Hopgrowers' association and electing officers, was attended by comparatively few growers and no election was held. Sufficient stock had not been subscribed to make it advisable to proceed with organization. Those present subscribed for one or more shares of stock, and further proceedings were deferred for two weeks, during which interval efforts will be made to secure many subscriptions of stock.

WATER USERS INCREASE STOCK.

Hermiston.—The East Umatilla Water Users' association will hold a meeting March 10 when the stock will be increased from 9,000 to 20,000 shares. The increase will raise the capitalization to \$1,200,000. Great preparations are being made for the meeting and a large gathering is expected. The association was organized to work in conjunction with the government in carrying on its large irrigation project in Umatilla county.

LARGE ATTENDANCE AT CHEMAWA.

Chemawa.—The Indian school never had as large an attendance as at present. There are now more than 550 pupils and more coming nearly every day. The enrollment this year is 660. Superintendent Kyselka, of the Hoopa Valley school, California, has gone home. He brought a party of 18 bright pupils from his school to get an advanced education along industrial lines at Chemawa.

BUILDING BOOM IN BAKER.

Many Structures Planned and Contractors Engage Men Early.

Baker City.—Building in Baker City this year promises to exceed that of any previous year. Three new structures have just been announced, totaling in cost more than \$50,000.

Plans for a \$25,000 two story brick building on the northwest corner of First and Washington streets are being drawn, the structure to be occupied by the Queen City Furniture company. On the opposite corner will be the Knights of Pythias Castle hall, at a cost of from \$25,000 to \$40,000. A one story stone building will be erected, as soon as spring opens, on First street between Valley avenue and Court street, to be occupied by a steam cleaning and dye works. Various other brick and frame buildings are planned for the early spring and the contractors are already engaging men.

MILTON FARMERS HOPEFUL.

Milton.—Farmers report wheat in excellent condition. The acreage is probably 25 per cent greater than last year and the weather is favorable. Considerable spring work has been commenced, the soil being in excellent condition. Fruit ranchers are anxious which early warm weather, which in some districts has already started the sap in the trees. If cold weather comes the frost would probably damage peaches and small fruits. Last year a heavy frost in March played havoc with the peach crop.

ALBANY A DISTRIBUTING POINT.

Albany.—The Southern Pacific company has left 100 empty freight cars at Albany, for distribution from this point to the several feeders of the line which run out of Albany. This city has become the distributing point for the railroad in the valley, and the depot yards at this place are always congested with cars being switched to the points where they are needed to move the products of the valley and mountain.

HORSE FAIR FOR CORVALLIS.

Corvallis.—A horse show and sale with speed contests and other features to last two days is probably to be held here late in May. A committee of arrangements was appointed at a meeting of the Citizens' league and details of the plan are being worked out. The final decision as to whether or not the show will be held has not been reached, but all the signs so far are favorable to the scheme.

BAD SHOWING FOR LANE COUNTY.

Engene.—The official report of Dr. J. W. Harris, health officer for Lane county, to the County court, shows more cases of contagious diseases in this county than were ever known since a record has been kept. There were reported 74 cases of typhoid fever, 34 of measles, 4 of diphtheria, 5 of small-pox and 1 of scarlet fever.

PLATFORM CANNOT BE AMENDED.

Salem.—That a candidate for office cannot amend his petition for nomination after he has filed it, is the ruling made by the secretary of state, in response to a request from an aspirant for a state office. The request was that he be permitted to amend his platform by inserting additional measures he would advocate if elected.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 70@71c; bluestem, 71@72c; red, 67@68c; valley, 72c. Oats—No. 1 white feed, 28@29c; gray, 27.50@28.50 per ton. Barley—Feed, 23@24 per ton; brewing, 24; rolled, 24@25. Buckwheat—\$2.25 per cental. Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$13 @14 per ton; valley timothy, \$8@9; clover, 8.50@8.50; chest, 8@8.50; grain hay, 47@8. Fruits—Apples, common, 75c@81c per box; choice, \$1.25@1.50; fancy, \$2@3; pears, \$1.25@1.50 per box; cranberries, \$13@15.50 per barrel. Vegetables—Cabbage, 2@2 1/2c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.90@2.20 per crate; celery, \$3.50 per crate; bell peppers, 35c; pumpkins, 1/2 @ 1c per pound; squash, 1 1/2 @ 1 1/2c per pound; parsley, 25c; turnips, 90c@81c per sack; carrots, 65c @ 75c per sack; beets, 85c@81c per sack. Onions—Oregon, No. 1, \$1.10@1.25 per sack; No. 2, 70c@81c. Potatoes—Fancy graded Burbanks, 60@65c per hundred; ordinary, nominal; sweet potatoes, 2 1/2 @ 2 1/2c per pound. Butter—Fancy creamery, 27 1/2 @ 30c per pound. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 22 1/2 @ 23c per dozen. Poultry—Average old hens, 12@13c per pound; mixed chickens, 11@12c; broilers, 17@18c; young roosters, 10@12c; old roosters, 9@10c; dressed chickens, 13@14c; turkey, live, 16@17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18@20c; geese, live, 9c; geese, dressed, 12@14c; ducks, 16@18c. Hops—Oregon, 1905, choice, 10@11c per pound; prime, 8 1/2 @ 9c; medium, 7@8c; old, 5@7c. Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 16 @ 21c per pound; valley, 24@26c; mohair, choice, 30c. Beef—Dressed butts, 2 @ 2 1/2c per pound; cows, 3 1/2 @ 4 1/2c; country steers, 4@5c. Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 8 1/2 @ 9c per pound; ordinary, 4 @ 5c; lambs, 7 @ 7 1/2c. Veal—Dressed, 3 1/2 @ 3 1/2c per pound. Pork—Dressed, 6@7 1/2c per pound.

SIX ARE DEAD.

Disastrous Early Morning Water Front Fire at Portland.

Portland, Feb. 12.—Fire broke out this morning at 3:45 near the corner of East Water and East Morrison streets, and burned with great rapidity. The buildings are built on pilings, and the draft carried the flames under the roadway of Morrison street, burning the approach to the Morrison street bridge, and the frame structures on both sides of the roadway were soon ablaze.

On the north side of Morrison street is the wood yard of C. R. Davis & Co.; M. J. Murphy, plumber; the Mount Hood saloon; a small photograph gallery and the East Portland Fence works. On the south side of Morrison street are two or three small structures used as candy stores and a restaurant. Boats along the water front were quickly moved out into the river and out of danger.

The wind, what little there was, was from the northeast, and the sparks and bits of burning wood were carried over to the west side of the river, making a beautiful sight in the moonlight.

The fireboat is moored within two blocks of the place where the fire started, but the flames had already attained such a headway before an alarm was turned in that they could not be stayed.

The big agricultural implement warehouse district is within a block of the burned buildings, but the gentle wind blowing carried all the sparks out into the river and away from the big frame buildings.

The second story of the building in which the Mount Hood saloon is located is occupied as a tenement house. Lodgers were driven from their rooms in their night clothes and had very narrow escapes.

L. Daily, a man of about 50 years of age, was taken to the hospital very badly burned. Daily is in great anguish as he is afraid that his wife and two children perished in the flames. He says he was wakened out of sleep by the flames licking at his face and by the greatest effort escaped with his life.

Six bodies have been taken from the ruins of the lodging house. Four are

TO AID JAPANESE

Cabinet Will Consider International Relief.

RESULT OF WAR WITH RUSSIA

All Nations May Be Asked to Join in Movement to Feed Starving People of Japan.

Washington, Feb. 13.—The advisability of starting an international movement for the relief of distress and suffering in Japan will be discussed by the president and his advisers at the cabinet meeting today. Recent advices have indicated that famine is prevalent in Japan and large numbers of people are threatened with death. These were supplemented yesterday by information received at the State department.

The proposition will be advanced that this government shall take the initiative in an international relief movement. Invitations for the other powers to co-operate will be sent out by the secretary of state, if it is determined to make the plan effective, and the United States will be the intermediary through which offices of assistance are made.

It is believed the cabinet will consider the suggestion favorably and that the president will ask congress for a substantial appropriation with which to purchase such supplies as are needed. In addition, it is likely popular aid will be required. The extent to which Japan has been impoverished by the recent war and the enormous cost of victory over Russia is held to be indicated by the number of people now facing starvation in various provinces.

FRANCE WILL FORCE ISSUE.

Give Germany Choice of War or Conceding Her Claims.

London, Feb. 13.—While the British government has not relaxed its efforts to bring about an agreement between France and Germany regarding the Moroccan police, it has given up the hope of an amicable settlement. It is expected in official circles that the Alger conference will break up, possibly bringing the present week, leaving the Moroccan situation where it was before the conference was called.

Germany is given credit for the failure. In fact, it is believed here that Emperor William, realizing that there is no hope of Germany's demands being endorsed by the powers, is now anxious that the conference shall fail. Great Britain maintains her position, supporting the French demands regarding the police, and cannot see any reason for a compromise.

Should the conference break up, it is understood that France will continue her policy of policing the Algerian frontier, and should serious troubles break out within the Sultan's dominion, France will undertake to suppress them, notifying the powers that she cannot allow the disorder to continue, as it threatens the peace of her colony. Germany then will be in the position, it is pointed out, of having either to concede the right of France to police Morocco or issue an ultimatum that France must not interfere in the affairs of the country.

TAN HUMAN SKIN.

Gross Traffic Being Carried On in San Francisco.

San Francisco, Feb. 13.—Through the carelessness of two medical students it has become known that several young men in San Francisco have organized a partnership for dealing in human skin stripped from corpses in hospital and college dissecting rooms, tanned and made into purposes and articles of wearing apparel. This gross business has been in operation for some time, and its owners have made considerable money by it.

The skin is soft and pliable, resembling in many respects chamois. Of it belts, purses, slippers and many other small articles are manufactured.

KEEP TROOPS IN CHINA.

London, Feb. 13.—Great Britain today demanded that China compensate the missionaries for the destruction of their property at Changpu, near Amoy, and also asked for the punishment of those responsible for the disorders. While Great Britain, with the other powers, agreed at Emperor William's suggestion, to withdraw her troops from Chihli province, it has now been decided to leave the question in the hands of the ministers at Peking. Possibly they will decide to maintain the troops stationed at Tien Tsin.

INCREASED POSTAL RECEIPTS.

Washington, Feb. 13.—A statement issued by the Postoffice department today shows that the gross receipts of the 50 largest postoffices in the United States for January were \$7,166,890 as against \$6,260,360 for January, 1905, nearly 14 per cent increase. The only decrease was at Peoria, Ill., 1.6 per cent; Atlanta, Ga., showed the largest gain, nearly 27 per cent. New York's receipts were \$1,490,227.

OPEN ALL INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Senator Carter today introduced a bill to authorize the president to classify and allot Indian reservations and restore to the public domain the surplus unallotted lands.

THE RATE BILL.

Provisions of the Measure Passed by the House.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The railroad rate bill is intended and does comply specifically with the recommendations of President Roosevelt on the rate question. It gives the Interstate Commerce commission authority, when a rate has been complained of as "unreasonable" by a shipper, to investigate that rate, state whether or not it is unreasonable, and if found to be unreasonable, to name a rate, which is to be just and reasonable, and fairly remunerative, and which is to be the maximum rate to be charged.

This rate, so fixed, is to go into effect 30 days after it is announced by the commission, subject, during that time, to be set aside or suspended by the commission or by the courts. After it has gone into effect, it is to remain the rate for three years. During this time, according to the opinion that has been expressed by those who have participated in the debate, the rate may also be reviewed by the courts, and, if found to be in conflict either with the constitution by being confiscatory, it can be set aside by the courts.

Another important feature is the definition of the words "railroad" and "transportation," in a manner to include all auxiliary instrumentalities.

This power to name a reasonable rate and the inclusion of the auxiliaries within the jurisdiction of the commission, are said to be the new features. All other provisions are modifications of existing law. They include the publicity of railroad methods, which is to be aided by prescribing a system of bookkeeping, and enlarging the commission to seven members and increasing salaries of members to \$100,000 a year.

CHINESE GOOD SOLDIERS.

Minister Discusses Agitation and Preparations for War.

Berlin, Feb. 9.—General Tchang Tchong, the Chinese minister to Germany, in the course of an interview with the Tageblatt's correspondent on the disquieting rumors from China, said that China needed reform in her head and limbs. Europe, he said, had been surprised that Japan had become greater than China, whose soldiers, and especially those in the northern part of the empire, compare physically with the Prussian guards. Money for army and navy expenses, he said, should not be considered, as the population of over 400,000,000 could easily contribute a milliard where vital interests were touched.

China, the minister continued, strongly wishes for commercial dealings with foreign countries, but prefers those without Chinese colonies. The missionaries, he added, cause hatred of foreigners by their tactics proselyting and the fighting between Protestants and Catholics.

The minister was asked if the navy and army reinforcements which the United States is sending to the Philippines in the expectation of difficulties with China might arouse the Chinese dragon. He replied:

"If the American government sends reinforcements, who can say it fears difficulties with China? It is all nonsense. I believe the armaments are prepared against somebody else; I cannot express myself more definitely."

APPIAN WAY OF AMERICA.

Perfect Road Will Be Built Straight Across Ohio.

Cleveland, Feb. 9.—Within a year work will be begun by the National Good Roads association on a great highway extending clear across the state of Ohio, from the Pennsylvania to the Indiana line, that will be one of the finest in the world, and, like the Appian Way, will be built to last for all time to come. This is the information given out today by Colonel W. H. Moore, president of the association.

The road, which will be the first to be built across a state under the authority of an organization since the old Federal roads, will cost \$1,500,000. Of this amount, Colonel Moore says \$750,000 has already been put up by certain interests that he will not now reveal, and the remainder will be secured from the counties through which it will pass.

PUTS DOWN SIBERIAN REVOLT.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—General Linievitch, commander of the Manchurian armies, telegraphed to the emperor yesterday as follows: "General Rennenkampf entered Chita, Transbaikalia, February 5, without bloodshed. The inhabitants of the town have been disarmed and work has been resumed. Two hundred of the revolutionaries have been arrested, but a number of the leaders fled. General Helikonoff, the military governor of Chita, has been relieved of his post for inaction."

IRRIGATION CONGRESS DATES.

Boise, Idaho, Feb. 9.—Tuesday at a joint meeting of the directors of the chamber of commerce and the Commercial club, it was decided that the dates for the meeting of the National Irrigation congress should be September 10 to 15. This action is subject to the ratification of the executive committee of the congress, but it is customary to ratify the choice of the people where the congress is to be held in the matter of dates.

WILL ACT FOR CASTRO IN FRANCE.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The Venezuelan government has requested the government of the United States to take charge of its consulate in France. Secretary Root has decided to comply with the request and will give the necessary instructions to the American ambassador in Paris.