

EVENTS OF THE DAY

News Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

PREPARED FOR THE BUSY READER

Less Important but Not Less Interesting Happenings from Points Outside the State.

Mark Twain has returned home without benefit to his health from his ocean trip.

It is definitely known that 18 persons perished in a department store fire in London.

A monster benefit was given in New York city to help the cause of home rule for Ireland.

Cook's first prize was \$25,000 from two leading newspapers for his "exclusive" story of his trip to the Pole.

Abdication of the king of Greece is considered inevitable and the crown prince's son has been chosen by the military party.

Leopold's legal wife will not attempt to put her son on the Belgian throne, but will fight for his fortune of many millions.

The successful uprising of the Young Turk party in Turkey has made Palestine free for the first time since the Christian era began.

The committee from the University at Copenhagen reports that Cook's records are wholly insufficient to establish his claim that he was at the Pole.

John R. Bradley, who fitted out the Cook expedition to the Pole, says he is thoroughly disgusted with the whole business.

Oregon conservationists declare that two or three varieties of insects do more harm to the forests of the north-west than forest fires do.

The supreme court of Oregon has ordered that the Portland Railway company must reduce fares to Milwaukee to 5 cents, and Oak Grove to 10 cents.

Twenty-seven persons were drowned by the collapse of a wooden bridge in Russia.

Two negroes and one white man were killed and six negroes wounded in a race war in Louisiana.

The probation officer of the night court in New York says the white slave trade is on the increase.

Provisional President Estrada, of Nicaragua, has requested official recognition from the state department.

A final appeal in the case of John R. Walsh, convicted banker, has been made to the United States supreme court.

Leaders of the American Federation of Labor urge Secretary Nagel to make a thorough investigation into the various phases of industrial education.

Miss Anna Morgan, daughter of J. P. Morgan, and Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont have taken up the cause of the striking shirtwaist workers of New York city.

Dr. Brashear, a noted astronomer of the university of Pittsburgh, says he does not believe either Cook or Peary can furnish any good proof of having reached the pole.

Savants of the Danish university are deeply embarrassed by their former championing of Dr. Cook, as they are unable to find any acceptable proof that he reached the pole.

A party of American explorers reported to have been devoured by cannibals on the island of Tibarua, in the Gulf of California, have arrived safe at a small town on the Mexican coast.

Grand Duke Michael, of Russia, is dead.

The I. W. W. of Spokane has given up the fight for free speech.

A silver loving cup has been presented to Peary by New York friends.

Many new cafes will open in San Francisco under the rule of Mayor elect McCarthy.

Danish scientists at Copenhagen are much inclined to think Cook's alleged records are false.

Seven railroad wrecks in one week caused death of 28 and injury of over one hundred people.

A flow of 150 barrels of oil per day is reported to have been struck in Cow Hollow, in Eastern Oregon.

Green River, Wyoming, has 35 degrees below zero. Trains are late and sheep are dying by thousands on the ranges.

A series of anti-strike laws has been enacted by the legislature of New Zealand, but labor leaders declare they will be no hindrance to strikes.

Governor Haskell, of Oklahoma, openly accuses Attorney General West with being responsible for the two recent bank failures in that state.

Baroness Vaughn, the legal wife of the late king of Belgium, will push her son's claim to the throne in order to secure the bulk of Leopold's fortune.

A negro bandit shot and killed the motorman and conductor of a St. Louis streetcar, robbed the conductor, and then let the car run wild through the heart of the city.

J. J. Hill says his roads are preparing to handle a heavy immigration to the coast next year.

La Follette, in his weekly magazine, sharply criticizes President Taft and his recent message.

Prince Albert of Flanders, a nephew of the late King Leopold of Belgium, will occupy the throne.

An exposition company has been incorporated in San Francisco to celebrate the completion of the Panama canal.

The United States Steel corporation is preparing to abandon Pittsburg and establish itself at Gary, Indiana, an account of labor troubles.

The Menard oil company of California established by J. D. and A. R. Spreckels will establish a northwest refinery and distributing station at Portland.

Texas is in the grip of a blizzard, and the railroads are using snow plows.

Baron Shibusawa, who has recently returned to Tokyo from a visit to America, says Americans are Japan's best friends and at the same time her deadliest enemies.

COPENHAGEN TURNS DOWN COOK

Investigating Committee Can Find No Proof of His Claims.

Copenhagen, Dec. 22.—The committee which has been investigating the data of Dr. Frederick A. Cook today officially reported to the consistency of the University of Copenhagen that Dr. Cook's records and observations were wholly insufficient to warrant a verdict that he discovered the North Pole.

The consistency of the university adopted the report of the committee, thereby finally rejecting Dr. Cook's claims and throwing out his records and observations.

Cook's data, according to the report, is no more convincing than was the newspaper account.

Dr. Cook's private secretary, Lonsdale, who represented the explorer here, is bitterly disappointed at the verdict, and is making an effort to induce the consistency to withhold final judgment until the whole of Dr. Cook's data can be presented.

Lonsdale told the committee that missing data, which are part of Dr. Cook's original documents, were sent here from America by a route different from that by which the records already examined were brought. He said this additional data would arrive in a few days.

The consistency refuses to pay any attention to Lonsdale's appeal and the findings announced today are final so far as the consistency is concerned.

The discrediting of Dr. Cook was a severe blow to the Danish scientists, who had stood firmly by him and given him support under the charges made by Commander Peary.

The great reception given Dr. Cook upon his arrival here and the honors that were paid him by high and low, including the king, are recalled with somewhat openly displayed chagrin.

It is known that the Danish experts were personally inclined to favor Dr. Cook, most of them already having come out in statements tending to substantiate his claims.

A member of the committee today said: "It took the committee but a few minutes to see that Dr. Cook's observations and so-called records were worthless."

"We could have reported immediately, but it took several days to recover from the surprise."

"The so-called notebooks on which Dr. Cook relied in a great measure for vindication had only accounts of his observations, rather than the observations themselves. These notebooks were thrown aside without a moment's consideration."

"I cannot understand how a man of Cook's reputed scientific attainments could have attempted to bolster up his claims with such flimsy evidence."

ZELAYA'S RULE ENDS

Madriz Assumes Presidency of Nicaraguan Republic.

Managua, Nicaragua, Dec. 22.—Jose Madriz today assumed the presidency of Nicaragua, succeeding former President Zelaya, who resigned.

Madriz's recent threats to break with Zelaya, coupled with his subsequent announcement that his presidential candidacy was supported by the Mexican government, which had sent Senator Creel to Washington to intercede in his behalf, is construed by his supporters to mean that he will be present in fact as well as in name, and that he intends to give the country a new deal.

Americans here, however, are not inclined to accept this opinion. They believe the new president is pretending to want peace, in order to preclude the possibility of intervention on the part of the United States.

Madriz has promised the revolutionists immunity if they will surrender. He has intimated that he will place Provisional President Estrada in a high office.

Bluefields, Nicaragua, Dec. 22.—Reports from Rama today say Estrada's army is advancing against General Vazquez, just outside Rama, and that a battle is expected.

The project is one of the largest put under way for a long time, outside of new construction, and will involve the expenditure of at least \$600,000.

While not admitted by the railroad officials at this time, it is understood that the work means the preliminary and essential steps towards double tracking the company's line from Portland to Des Chutes, which distance will be subjected to unusually heavy traffic with the completion of a branch into central Oregon by way of the Des Chutes canyon.

I. W. W. Leaders Dony Surrender

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 22.—As a final resort in an attempt to thoroughly stop the activities of the Industrial Workers of the World, its hall was closed by the police yesterday, who said it was a "disorderly place."

About 100 members were taken outside of the city limits, where a demonstration meeting was held. About a dozen of the Industrialists volunteered to go inside the city and speak on the streets, in violation of the ordinance. The I. W. W. workers repudiated the report circulated Saturday night that they had surrendered and given up the fight.

Mark Twain Past Joking

New York, Dec. 22.—Without the customary jest on his lips and complaining of ill health, Mark Twain has returned from Bermuda, looking ill and admitting it. To the reporters who greeted him as he stepped down the gangplank of the steamship Bermuda, the humorist declared he would do no more active work. Half a dozen unbound books will probably never receive a dedication. His autobiography, of which 100,000 words out of the contemplated 500,000 have been written, will be his sole consolation.

London Says 'I Told You So'

London, Dec. 22.—This city has all along doubted the claims of Dr. Cook. The newspapers here are issuing reports telling of the failure of the explorer to substantiate his claim to have reached the Pole. About two weeks ago a local newspaper published what purported to be a story of the insufficiency of the Cook observations and within the past two days all England had grown more and more skeptical.

Tongue Battle in Chicago

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Trouble between the warring tongues of Chinatown broke out in a revolver battle, which as a result of a shot was fired, which is at St. Luke's hospital with a bullet wound in his right leg, and 10 other Mongolians are in cells at the Harrison street station.

New Depot at Milton

Milton—Milton is to have a new depot. The present freight house has become antiquated, inadequate to accommodate the business, and arrangements are being made to erect a large brick structure.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

OREGON RICH IN GOOD OIL.

Reported Big Strike Has Been Made in Malheur County.

Vale—Every day's boring in the Vale oil field increases the certainty that Oregon is destined to become one of the greatest oil producing states in the country, say prospector and oil experts who have witnessed the results of the well-sinking now in progress by half a dozen different companies in Northern Malheur county.

The Malheur Oil & Gas company, after sinking a well 1,700 feet and getting well into a chocolate formation, which is regarded as a sure forerunner of oil, capped the well and refuse absolutely to allow visitors to approach it. This action is believed by others operating in the district to have been prompted by the fact that oil was actually struck in the Malheur well and that the company prosecuting the development work has some reason for not allowing it to become known that oil has actually been found in commercial quantities.

The Baker-Malheur company is down 900 feet and has let a contract for sinking its well 1,100 feet deeper, having taken this action after oil experts from Pennsylvania and California had expressed the belief that oil would be struck at a depth of 1800 to 2000 feet.

The Columbia Oil & Gas company, which is largely owned in Spokane, is down 1200 feet with a 12 inch drill and is passing through the same formation that was found in the celebrated Kern river district in Southern California. It was from this well that the sample of oil was procured by the special government representative of the geological survey whose report on the discovery resulted in a recommendation being made by Secretary of the Interior Ballinger that the whole district be withdrawn from entry and reserved as a source of fuel supply for the future use of the United States navy.

The well being sunk by the Eastern Oregon Oil company is down 800 feet and has passed through two strata of oil sand. The drill in this well recently encountered hot salt water, which is regarded as a sure indication of oil in commercial quantities.

The Mammoth Oil & Gas company is another of the companies sinking a well in the district. This company is owned by men who have operated in other oil fields, and they express the greatest confidence in the district. One of the best drilling rigs in the district has just been set up by the Vale Oil & Gas company, which is prepared to expend \$25,000 in developing its claim. D. M. Hunt, who has had 25 years' experience in the oil fields of West Virginia, Ohio and California, and is now superintending the development work of one of the largest concerns operating in the Vale oil fields, says:

"The Vale district is the most promising that I have ever seen, and I shall be greatly surprised if it does not turn out to be one of the greatest oil producing sections of the United States."

IMPROVING O. R. & N.

Contract Signed for \$600,000 Worth of Work on Des Chutes Line.

The Dalles—Twely Bros., contractors, are putting an army of 700 men to work on the trackage of the O. R. & N. Co. between The Dalles and Des Chutes for the purpose of removing curves and reducing the grade to a maximum of 15 per cent. The contract was signed just prior to Vice-President J. P. O'Brien's departure for New York a few days ago.

The project is one of the largest put under way for a long time, outside of new construction, and will involve the expenditure of at least \$600,000.

While not admitted by the railroad officials at this time, it is understood that the work means the preliminary and essential steps towards double tracking the company's line from Portland to Des Chutes, which distance will be subjected to unusually heavy traffic with the completion of a branch into central Oregon by way of the Des Chutes canyon.

N. P. Co. Wins Against Mining Co.

Roseburg—The Roseburg land office decided the contest case between the Northern Pacific Railroad company and the United Copper Gold Mining company, in favor of the former. The land in question comprises about 80 acres and is situated in Josephine county. The railroad company filed on the land some time ago, but in March, this year, the mining company filed a protest on the land, alleging that the land was mineral in character. The land office officials found that the mining company had expended about \$10,000 on that and adjoining property.

Linn Schools Show Gain

Albany—The report of County School Superintendent Jackson of this city shows that Albany schools this year have an attendance of 1,378. Last year the attendance was 1,210. Lebanon this year has 111 scholars more than the previous year. North Brownsville shows a gain of 12. South Brownsville and Oakville two. Harrisburg and Seio are the only towns showing a loss in attendance.

Ontario Scholars Chosen

The faculty of the Ontario High school has chosen two debating teams from which will debate with the Baker City High school January 7, and the other with the team from the Cove High school on the same date. The six students chosen to represent Ontario are Herbert Williams, Eddie Draper, Miss Margaret Dunbar, George Hardman, Howard Mallett, and Miss Ethel Millikin.

Hood River Will Pave Streets

Hood River—It has been decided that Hood River will have paved streets before another winter. It is estimated that it will cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000 to do the project.

New Depot at Milton

Milton—Milton is to have a new depot. The present freight house has become antiquated, inadequate to accommodate the business, and arrangements are being made to erect a large brick structure.

RUSHING SPRAGUE BRANCH.

Three Hundred Men Pushing Klamath Line to Reservation.

Klamath Falls—Andrew Erickson, railroad contractor, has taken a sub-contract to build the last 12 miles of the 25 miles of track to be built from Klamath Falls to Sprague river by Erickson & Peterson. Sub-Contractor Erickson has already established his camp on the Indian reservation and has about 100 men employed, and intends to start a steam shovel in the near future.

There are now over 300 men employed in the railroad camps from here to Sprague river, and this end of the work is being rushed as fast as possible.

The track is laid on the main line a distance of about three miles. The industrial spur from the main line to the lake is completed and the railroad can now take the material to be used in construction work to the lake and then by water to the different points along the lake shore where the men are working.

At the waterfront the Southern Pacific is building a large wharf and warehouse. These waterfront improvements will be used in connection with the railroad construction, and when the work is completed will be used as freight houses, etc., in connection with shipping on the upper lake by the Southern Pacific.

Fattening Central Oregon Turkeys.

Fossil—The Young & Angell company is fattening 150 turkeys for the Christmas markets of Portland. It is said that these birds subsist during the first six months of their all too brief career on the fish and fossils that abound in the creeks and creek banks. It is said that the flesh of an eastern Oregon gobbler that ranges on bunch grass has wheat for dessert, and roasts on the highest peak on the ranch, has a flavor all its own, that tickles deeper down into the diaphragm than any other kind of bird meat.

Double Milton Light Plant.

Milton—After a shutdown of 50 days, during which the capacity for generating electric current was more than doubled by the installation of new machinery and the erection of a steel standpipe, the Milton light and power plant is again in service. The plant is equipped with the latest model water wheel and other machinery, and represents a total expense of \$50,000. A water head of between 50 and 60 feet is now maintained.

Gooch Gets Postoffice.

Shelburn—A postoffice has been established in the new town of Gooch, located on the Corvallis & Eastern, about 20 miles east of this place, and will be supplied with mail by the C. & E. trains daily except Sunday. The inhabitants of the town are chiefly engaged in logging and lumbering. The large sawmill of the Fred Gooch Lumber company is located at Gooch.

Increase in School Population.

Lebanon—The school census of the Lebanon district has been completed, and it shows that there are 555 children of school age in the district, of which 298 are girls and 257 are boys. This is an increase of 111 over the enumeration of 1908, the total number last year being 444.

New Theater at Medford.

Medford—Excavation has begun for the Page building, the work to be finished by February 1. The basement is 8x150 feet. The plans for the building include an up-to-now theater and also storerooms and offices.

Big Crop Alfalfa Seed.

Lakeview—George Gerald, of the Honey Lake valley, threshed 40,000 pounds of alfalfa seed this season, which at the selling price of 13 cents brought him a nice income of \$5,200.

PORTLAND MARKETS

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, \$121.61; 22; club, \$11.10; red Russian, \$1.08; Valley, \$1.06.

Barley—Feed and brewing, \$30@31 per ton.

Corn—Whole, \$35; cracked, \$36 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$26 per ton; middlings, \$33; shorts, \$28.50@29.50; rolled barley, \$31.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$32.50@33.50. Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$18@20 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$18@21.50; alfalfa, \$16@16.50; clover, \$15@16; cheat, \$15@16; grain hay, \$15@16.

Butter—City creamery extra, 39c; fancy outside creamery, 36c@35c per lb.; store, 22 1/2@24c. Butter fat prices average 1 1/2c per lb. under regular butter prices.

Poultry—Hens, 14@14 1/2c; Springs, 14@14 1/2c; roosters, 9@10c; ducks, 18@19c; geese 14c; turkeys, live, 22 1/2c; dressed, 26@28c.

Eggs—Fresh Oregon extras, 42 1/2c per dozen; Eastern, 36@35c per dozen.

Fresh Fruits—Apples, \$13 box; pears, \$10.15 per box; cranberries, \$9 per barrel.

Potatoes—Carload buying prices: Oregon, 60@80c per sack; sweet potatoes, 13@12c per pound.

Vegetables—Artichokes, .75c per dozen; cabbage, 1 1/2c per pound; celery, 2.75@3.50 per crate; garlic, 10c per pound; horseradish, \$1.50 per box; pumpkins, 14@16 1/2c; sprouts, 8c per pound; squash, 1@1 1/2c; tomatoes, 75c @81c.

Sack Vegetables—Turnips, \$1 per sack; carrots, \$1; beets, \$1.50; parsnips, \$1.50.

Onions—Oregon, \$1.50 per sack.

Cattle—Best steers, \$4.50@4.75; fair, to good, \$4@4.25; medium and feeders, \$3.50@3.75; common to medium, \$2.50@3.75; bulls, \$2@2.50; stags, \$2.50@3.50; calves, light, \$5.25 @5.50; heavy, \$4@4.75.

Hogs—Best, \$8.50@8.75; medium, \$7.50@8c; stockers, \$6.50@6.75.

Sheep—Best wethers, \$5.00@5.25; fair to good, \$4.25@4.75; best ewes, \$4.50@5.00.

Hops—1909 crop, 18@22 1/2c; 1908 crop, normal; 1907 crop, 12c; 1906 crop, 8c.

Hides—Dry hides, 18@19c per pound; dry kip, 17@18c per pound; dry calfskin, 19@21c per pound; salted hides, 10 1/2@11c; salted calfskin, 18@19c per pound; green, 1c less.

MONEY TRUST IN SIGHT.

Could Cripple Government by Refusing to Buy Bonds.

New York, Dec. 21.—So close have become the alliance and amalgamations of leading financial interests in Wall street during the last three months that almost the absolute control of the country's financial affairs is now centralized in the hands of a few men, who are acting in concert. A money trust has come into existence, with J. P. Morgan at its head, the most gigantic combination of capital in the world.

There is no concrete definite organization behind this money trust. To be incorporated, no elected directors, no list of stockholders. To use the descriptive phrase of the financial world, it is simply a "community of interest."

Representative members of this community of interest, men who would be directors of an incorporated company are: J. Pierpont Morgan, private banker, his unquestioned leader; George F. Baker, chairman of the board of directors of the First National bank; James Stillman, chairman of the board of directors of the National City bank; William Rockefeller, vice-president of the Standard Oil company; Henry C. Frick, capitalist; William K. Vanderbilt, as representative of his family interest.

It would be impossible to figure the total of direct and indirect capital now centralized in this money trust. To begin with the banking firm of J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., being a private partnership, makes no public reports, yet report places its deposits at \$160,000,000, which its directors can utilize to advantage in financial operations. The assets of the three insurance companies controlled by the group, invested largely in bonds of railroad and industrial companies, aggregate considerably more than \$1,000,000,000.

Here are some of the things the trust could do:

It could call \$200,000,000 of loans over night and ruin any adversary.

It could reduce credits to such a degree as to cause extreme money stringency and great commercial distress.

It could tie up the cash holdings of New York banks by demanding certification of checks for enormous amounts.

It could deplete bank reserves in New York by causing shipments of cash to any part of the country.

It could make money rate of interest almost as it chose, from 2 per cent to 100 per cent on call loans.

It could cripple the financial operations of the government by refusing to purchase any bond issue.

It could dictate the financial operations of the great railway systems and expanding industrial concerns.

RAILROADERS DEMAND INCREASE

From 5 to 40 Per Cent Raise Asked by 75,000 Men.

Pittsburg, Dec. 21.—The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen Monday will serve notice on 75 railroad companies east of the Mississippi river that an increase in wages will be demanded of from 5 to 40 per cent. W. G. Lee, national president of the brotherhood, tonight refused to intimate what action would be taken in case the demand is refused. It is said the recent referendum vote of the trainmen regarding the demand for an increase resulted in a practically unanimous vote in its favor. About 75,000 members of the brotherhood are employed on the railroads affected.

New York, Dec. 21.—The action of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, as announced in Pittsburg today, was not unexpected in New York.

Knowing that the referendum vote was being taken, railroad heads are preparing to meet the situation, and several conferences have been held within the last two weeks, looking to a settlement of the difficulties.

Cincinnati, Dec. 21.—With a referendum vote of telegraphers in the employ of the Big Four railway completed tonight, J. J. Dermody, fourth vice-president of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, announced that 90 per cent of the members had voted for a strike.

Dermody said that while the vote was practically unanimous, the result did not necessarily mean there would be a strike. He admitted that there was little probability of future conferences with officials of the Big Four, who have definitely rejected all demands, but said the question of a strike was now up to the committee of the union, which, with the national body of the union, would settle the matter. About 1000 men are involved.

Elks' Club Called Bar.

Reno, Nev., Dec. 21.—There is much comment concerning the trial of the Elks, which will occur tomorrow afternoon. Every lawyer in this city who is an Elk has tendered his services to the Elks' lodge. More than 25 lawyers will appear to defend the Elks, who have been arrested on a charge of conducting a bar without the dispensing of liquor in the Elks' club does not amount to a sale, as all the Elks own the liquor, and what they pay for the liquor served to them is used to replenish stock.

French Land Revealed.

Paris, Dec. 21.—The Temps, extolling the election of Theodore Roosevelt as a foreign associate of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, pays high tribute to Mr. Roosevelt's political and moral creed and his insistence that neither individuals nor nations have the right to shirk their duty. The Temps concludes:

"Peace is precisely what, but its desire, has been unduly exaggerated, if inspired by fear. Mr. Roosevelt recalls to our age that 'war is an evil, but not the greatest of evils.'"

Satelli Seriously Ill.

Rome, Dec. 21.—Cardinal Satelli, who recently suffered a relapse from nephritis, was slightly improved this morning and was insisted upon a chaplain celebrating mass in the sick room. He also took communion.

His condition this afternoon was much worse. Alarming symptoms developed and there was some delirium. Grave fears are entertained for the cardinal's recovery. Many telegrams of inquiry have been received from America.

Liners Swept by Gales.

London, Dec. 21.—Incoming transatlantic liners report terrific weather. The Carmania, New York and America, arriving at Queenstown and Plymouth respectively, today, were all greatly delayed. Four days out they met hurricane force winds, which continued until Saturday night.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRI