

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.

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, but 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.

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."

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, 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—Twes 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.

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, 22.75@23.50 per crate; garlic, 10c per pound; horseradish, \$1.50 per box; pumpkins, 13@14 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@2.75; 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@8; 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 Rosevelt.

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 peaceably, but its desire, 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 BRIEF

Tuesday, December 21.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Representatives Hamer, Mondell and Martin today held a conference and agreed to unite in pressing for consideration the bill relieving homesteaders in the northwest from the necessity of residing on their lands through the winter. Reports indicate that the weather is unusually severe and many requests for this relief are being received. It is asserted that new settlers are finding it impossible to remain on their lands. The senate today confirmed the nomination of Robert Bacon of New York to be ambassador to France.

President Taft sent to the senate the nominations of General George Stone of California to be naval officer of customs at San Francisco, and Howard C. Shober of South Dakota to be auditor for the interior department in this city. The Mann "white slave traffic" bill was favorably reported to the house today by Chairman Mann of that committee. The report assuring the presentation of the measure distinctly disclaims any purpose to usurp in any way the police powers of the states.

Recommendations for changes in the present law regulating transportation companies are contained in the twenty-third annual report of the interstate commerce commission transmitted today to congress. The report, however, is notable rather for recommendations it does not contain. Five of the suggestions made by the special committee selected by President Taft to draft changes in the existing interstate commerce act are offered in the report. Congress adjourned early this afternoon to Thursday, January 4.

Monday, December 20.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Both senate and house concluded their labors by 2 o'clock today. Tomorrow a holiday adjournment for two weeks will be taken. Aside from the confirmation of the nomination of Horace H. Lutton of Tennessee, to be an associate justice of the supreme court, the principal feature of the senate proceedings was a speech laden with optimism and good cheer for the Christmas season by Senator Dewar. The address of the New Yorker was called forth by what he characterized as the pessimistic predictions in Senator La Follette's magazine, and in many newspapers as to the effect of the tariff upon prices and as to the waste of natural resources.

Washington, Dec. 20.—"We will report a general river and harbor bill about February 1," said Chairman Alexander, of the house committee on rivers and harbors today. Mr. Alexander said his bill would carry much more than \$30,000,000.

Friday, December 17.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Denunciation of officials of the executive departments of the government who criticize without just cause was made in a speech by Representative Mann (Illinois), and also another speech of similar tenor by Representative Fitzgerald of New York, who said "a certain distinguished official" was responsible, therefore, because of the bad example he had set for his subordinates. This evoked an otherwise dull session of the house today. It was understood generally that Mr. Fitzgerald had ex-President Roosevelt in mind.

The District of Columbia appropriation bill was read, but was not put upon its passage, and will be taken up Monday again. Some saving was effected by reducing appropriations for increases in salaries for district officers by eliminating altogether paragraphs making provisions for new offices. Representative Macon, Arkansas, again assumed the role of the "watch dog of the treasury" and made points of order against several sections of the bill, and not wholly without success. Rather unexpectedly the house agreed to insert in the bill an amendment appropriating \$17,000 for playgrounds for children of the district.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Senatorial friends of Secretary Ballinger are preparing to introduce and pass a resolution authorizing sweeping congressional investigation into conduct of the interior department, general land office and forest service. Secretary Ballinger is in hearty accord with this purpose and said today he would welcome such an investigation in his department, for he is satisfied that a fair and impartial investigation will bring forth satisfactory answer to every accusation that has been made against him and against other officials of his department. Army engineers, a report sent to congress today, recommend an appropriation of \$9,600 for dredging a channel 40 feet wide and two and a half feet deep in the Cowlitz river, from Castle Rock to Toledo, and the annual appropriation of \$2,000 to maintain the channel.

Thursday, December 16.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Performing the functions of a municipal legislative body the house today devoted nearly five hours to consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill. The measure carries \$10,156,473 for the expenses of the district for 1911. Representative McCredie today introduced bills authorizing the erection of public buildings at Vancouver, Hoquiam and Aberdeen, Wash., to cost \$150,000 each.

Lurton to Succeed Peckham. Washington, Dec. 16.—The nomination of Judge Horace H. Lurton of Nashville, Tenn., to succeed the late Rufus W. Peckham as associate justice of the United States supreme court was sent to the senate today by President Taft. Judge Lurton was formerly chief justice of the supreme court of Tennessee, and at the time of his recommendation by the president was judge of the United States circuit court of the sixth judicial district, to which he was appointed in 1893. He is 65 years of age.

Agreement Arrived at on Rate Cases. Washington, Dec. 16.—A final agreement was reached today between counsel for both sides in the lumber rate cases. Argument will be heard either here or in Chicago. The roads attach importance to the cases, judging from the real meaning of the cases is more an attack on the power of the commission than the question of rates, although ostensibly rates constitute the chief issue.

each. The same bills were introduced in the senate by Senator Jones.

Washington, Dec. 16.—In a brief session of the senate today a resolution by Cullom was adopted calling on the secretary of the interior for information respecting mining disasters and facilities of the federal government for rendering aid in such cases. Senator Foster today introduced a joint resolution authorizing the war department to return to the state of Louisiana the original ordinance of secession adopted by the people of that state. If favorable action is taken upon the subject of Louisiana, it is expected that other states which seceded prior to the civil war will request similar returns.

Senator Piles today introduced the following bills: Increasing the limit of the cost of Bellingham public buildings from \$120,000 to \$420,000; increasing the cost of the Everett building from \$130,000 to \$400,000; appropriating \$30,000 for the Eliza Island lighthouse; appropriating \$10,000 for launch for Puget Sound customs service.

Senator Jones today introduced bills authorizing the purchase of land and the erection of public buildings at Wenatchee, Waterville and Ellensburg, Wash. The senate today confirmed the following Idaho postmasters: John E. Jones, of Kellogg; Henry B. Curtis, of Blackfoot; Leola Wyman, of Mullain, and also Presley F. Horne as register of the Hiley land office.

Wednesday, December 15.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Sitting until after midnight, the house buckled down to business today, passed the Esch bill, requiring railroads to make full monthly reports to the interstate commerce commission of all accidents, and to measure giving the commission power to compel railroads to provide uniform equipment for their cars, and then took up for consideration the Mann Panama canal bill, on which general debate was concluded.

Vigorous opposition to the proposed plan to abolish the isthmian canal commission and to vest building of the Panama canal and of governing the canal zone in one director general, appointed by the president, cropped out in the house today in general debate on the Mann bill, reported by the committee on interstate and foreign commerce. Scarcely less intense was the protest aroused when it was learned that the committee had recommended that the judicial power of the canal zone be vested in one circuit court and such inferior courts as the president may constitute. This would require the abolition of the existing supreme court on the zone. An appeal direct to the supreme court of the United States is authorized, however, in questions arising out of the constitution, treaties or laws of the United States, involving a death sentence or imprisonment. Similar appeal is allowed in civil cases involving more than \$5,000.

Representative Mann (Illinois), author of the bill and chairman of the committee, attempted to explain the necessity for his measure. "What are the sources of authority from which the president (Roosevelt) derived the right to claim to govern the canal zone?" interrupted Representative Harrison of New York.

FOOD LAW MORE DRASTIC

Department to Add Laboratories for Stricter Enforcement. Washington, Dec. 21.—A comprehensive enlargement of the activities of the department of agriculture in administering the pure food act is contemplated in orders issued today. The object is to inaugurate for ports where the department has no chief laboratory, a systematic inspection of foods, as is done at ports where such facilities exist. A complete chain of laboratory districts has been established, with headquarters at the principal ports, to which will be sent samples of imported goods when found necessary. All imports, regarding the right to enter which under the pure food law any doubt may exist in the minds of the customs inspectors at the smaller places will be referred to these chemists. Officials say that the method will tend to do away with any tendency to import goods in violation of law at the smaller ports, where there are no laboratories, instead of at the larger ports, although their ultimate destination is the same. Headquarters are to be located, among other places, at Galveston, Denver, San Francisco and Seattle.

Siletz Bill Handled Early.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Representative Hawley has conferred with members of the public lands committee with reference to his bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to issue patent to all settlers on the Siletz reservation who have resided upon and cultivated their lands and who have submitted final proof showing compliance with the law. He secured a promise to have the bill referred immediately to the interior department for report. This applies to all settlers whose entries are still held up.

Postmasters Will Get More.

Washington, Dec. 22.—On January 1 the following fourth-class postoffices will be advanced to the presidential grade, and the salaries of the postmasters fixed as indicated: Oregon: Hermiston, \$1,100; Sherwood, \$1,100; Wallawa, \$1,200. Washington: Almar and Woodland, \$1,000; Granite Falls, Kettle Falls and Oroville, \$1,100. Idaho: Kootenai, \$700; Jerome, \$1,600; Burley, \$1,300; Rigby, \$1,200; Cambridge, Cottonwood, Meridian, \$1,100.

M'Veagh Favors Postoffice.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The secretary of the treasury has reported favorably upon Bourne's bill for a new postoffice building in Portland. The report recites that an adequate postoffice building will require an expenditure of \$1,500,000. The report has gone to the senate public buildings committee and Bourne will try to secure an early report from the committee, and the passage of his bill through the senate, making it eligible for inclusion in the omnibus public building bill, if one is passed this session.