

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Newsy 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.

France is in a panic at the inroads of American commerce.

President Taft is being urged to make active war on the trusts.

Zelaya boards Mexican gunboat under eyes of American marines.

J. D. Warren, who pursued and helped to capture Jesse James, is dead.

Storm in Spain wrecked five vessels at the mouth of the Douro river.

A Texas man has made \$15,000,000 speculating in cotton for two years.

Blizzards sweep the east from Winnipeg to Illinois, and Chicago faces a coal famine.

The famous Garden of the Gods was given to the city of Colorado Springs for a Christmas present.

The greatest labor struggle in history is said to be impending between the railroads and their employes.

The bones of Cortez, the ancient conqueror of Mexico, are said to have been found after a search of nearly a century.

Six coaches full of Christmas travelers were stalled on a car ferry in the Detroit river, and had to wait till the ice was cut away.

Railroad officials and switchmen hold conference in St. Paul.

Value of the Harriman estate is questioned by gossips in the east.

Bryan is suffering from pneumonia and is too ill to make a speech.

Albert I. is crowned king of Belgium and promises reforms in Congo.

Schley demands that Peary also submit his records to the Danish university.

The Northern Pacific has bought 14 blocks for terminal grounds in North Portland.

Ex-President Zelaya has fled from Nicaragua and taken refuge on a Mexican gunboat.

Eight are killed and hundreds have narrow escape from explosion in Illinois coal mine.

A fierce storm swept the Korean coast, destroying fishing fleets and drowning 2,000.

Secretary Knox has notified President Madrid, Zelaya's successor, that he will be held responsible for the safety of Americans in his country.

Explorers find that the treasures of the island of Tiboron, in the Gulf of California, are mythical, but the island is alive with deer and wild pigeons.

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 of 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 northwest 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.

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.

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.

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 championship 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 Tiboron, 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.

HOPEFUL VIEW IS TAKEN.

Wall Street Optimistic Over Prospective Labor Troubles.

New York, Dec. 28.—Preparations were in progress last week to meet heavy obligations incident to the January disbursements, which in New York are estimated to be \$225,000,000.

Heavy remittances to foreign markets to meet payments of dividends and interest to holders of American securities made it a question until the middle of the week whether gold would not have to be shipped to London.

Volatility rises occurred in individual stocks, most from vaguely rumored increases, but were enough to divert attention to keep up a hopeful spirit among stockholders.

The census bureau's cotton-ginning estimate was regarded as confirmatory of the agricultural department's view of the cotton crop shortage, and the rise in cotton to above 16 cents pointed to causes responsible for the high cost of living and the disadvantages this involved.

Added interest was given to this question by steps taken by railroad employes to formulate demands for an increase in wages early next year. Sentiment is not free from apprehension that labor troubles may have to be reckoned with in reaching settlements.

The disposition in financial circles, however, is to take a hopeful view. This same is true of the subject of legislative and executive activities in the direction of corporation regulation, which promises to be brought forward early through special messages from the president.

FEAST TO FREE CONVICT.

Minnesota Prisoner Proves to Be Second Burbank.

Sellwater, Minn., Dec. 28.—A Christmas dinner given at the Minnesota state prison has started a movement for a pardon for "Sinbad the Sailor," an illustrious life convict, supervisor of everything that grows on the state penal reserves, on a basis of his "services to the state of Minnesota and general scientific knowledge."

Among Warden Walter's guests was a member of the pardon board, who commented on the immense lemon, weighing three pounds and measuring 18 1/2 inches, major circumference.

The guests, excited by the warden's story of the presence of a second Burbank as a convict, directed him to bring in the creator of the monster lemon.

He took the guests to the greenhouse and explained how he had grafted tropical lemons and grapefruit. He also showed many other graftings, producing rare fruits and flowers.

His roses for years captured first honors. His real name is Charles Price, and he was sent up for life for killing a laborer with a pick.

ORDERS FOR STEEL FEWER.

Consumers, However, Press for Deliveries on Past Contracts.

New York, Dec. 28.—Heavy specifications on contracts for finished steel products continue to roll in upon the mills, and consumers generally are pressing for deliveries. But new business in both finished products and raw material is being curtailed.

Rail contracts placed in 1909 for 1910 delivery have aggregated almost 3,900,000 tons. New orders for fabricated steel for buildings and bridges have aggregated only 25,000 tons, but it is probable that the December business will total 100,000 tons at least.

Evidence of contraction in the volume of business in sheets and tinsplate is shown by a less heavy output and the closing of several mills for the holidays. Great activity continues in wire products, and shipments for November were 175,000 tons. Prices of mercantile pipe will be readjusted on January 1.

Additional orders have been placed for cars by railroads, bringing the total for the month thus far to 11,290.

Whisky Is Whisky.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Whisky is whisky, President Taft has at last decided. It is whisky when made of neutral spirits, says the president, if reduced to potable strength. But it must be branded so that those buying it may know just what they are getting.

The decision, made after a long series of hearings participated in by members of the government's pure food department and distillers, was announced today. The president covered various details in his decision and gave directions for the proper branding of the various varieties of liquor, holding among other things, that whisky made from a mixture of "straight" whisky and "neutral spirits" may be called a blend.

"Straight whiskies" hereafter will be accompanied by the legend, "aged in wood," and whisky made from rectified, distilled, or neutral spirits will be branded so as to make known the principal ingredient. In addition, if they so desire, manufacturers of straight whisky also may use the word "bourbon" or "rye," as the facts may warrant.

Flood Drowns Shepherds.

Madrid, Dec. 28.—Official reports to the day indicate that the situation in the regions recently swept by storms and floods is improving. The cabinet decided to grant financial relief to sufferers. Related advised give details of the destruction caused by the overflowing of rivers in the northwest.

The Eliza Orledge, in the northern part of Leon, rose 15 feet, destroying several hamlets. A large number of sheep herds, surprised by the floods, took refuge in tree tops.

Taft and Wife Take Walk.

Washington, Dec. 28.—President and Mrs. Taft took a long walk this afternoon, being gone from the White House more than an hour. The people of Washington are becoming so accustomed to seeing the president abroad like any other citizen that his appearance has almost ceased to cause comment. The sight of Mrs. Taft, however, was unusual, and those who passed the distinguished couple remarked how well Mrs. Taft was looking. Her appearance is a complete contradiction of numerous reports about her ill-health.

Czar Promotes Kettlen.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 28.—Colonel Von Kettlen, chief of the secret police of Moscow, has been appointed to succeed Colonel Karpoff, chief of the secret police of St. Petersburg, assassinated on December 22. Several attempts have been made against the life of Colonel Von Kettlen, who for many years has been hunting revolutionists.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

SPEND \$77,000 On Roads.

Clatsop County Has Nearly 200 Miles of Permanent Highways.

Astoria—As a result of improvements during the past few years, Clatsop county has 24 miles of macadamized roads, 23 miles of gravel roads, 28 miles of planked or puncheoned roads, 14 miles of roads covered with rock and 96 miles of graded road that has not been covered, much of which will be completed during the coming season.

Under the Carnahan road law the several road districts are permitted to levy a special tax of not to exceed 10 mills each year for road improvement purposes. In that manner over \$36,000 was raised by the individual road districts in Clatsop county this year. All that has been expended in building highways as well as slightly over \$28,000 additional that was appropriated by the county court from the general fund, making a grand total of \$65,000 that has been spent or contracts let for during the past 12 months in bettering the public highways of Clatsop county. In addition to this over \$12,000 has been used in building and repairing bridges, making in all slightly over \$77,000 which the property owners of Clatsop county have donated to that most commendable work of developing the agricultural districts.

NEW PARTNER IN WESTON MILL.

Weston—E. S. Isaac, of Walla Walla, one of the northwest's most successful flouring mill men, has purchased an interest in the Weston flouring mill. The mill has been running with power from a large gas engine, but under the new management it is probable that the long contemplated plan of using the waters of Pine creek during a portion of the year for power will be put into execution.

Several thousand bushels of wheat still remain in the hands of farmers in this section, who are holding out for the expected \$1 a bushel. Nevertheless, close to 8,000 bushels were bought by Frank Price the past week, the agent here for the Kerr-Gifford company, paying 95 cents per bushel.

PETITION FOR TRAIN.

Salem—A petition signed by several hundred people residing along the line of the Corvallis & Eastern railroad, between Albany and Hoover, was forwarded to the railroad commission by E. L. Payne, asking for a train for the passenger traffic along the petition route. The petitioners of the road are compelled to use a logging train, and that it takes five hours to go from Hoover to Albany, a distance of 68 miles.

Network of Roads to Cover State.

Portland—President Geo. B. French, of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle line, returned from Spokane, after having accompanied the James J. Hill party over the North Bank road in a special car. Mr. French said that the veteran railroad magnate had divulged no plans for publication at this time. That Mr. Hill has in view the spreading of a network of roads over the state of Oregon to serve as feeders for the Hill system is firmly believed to be on the program for the near future.

A-Y-P Prize Certificates Received.

Salem—Certificates for grand prizes awarded to the state of Oregon for its general educational display, for its hops, wool and complete display of woods at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition have been received by Governor Benson. A certificate of honorable mention for the fax display from this state was also received.

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 projected street work.

Oil Near Dufur.

Dufur—J. E. Porter, who has been drilling a well at Three Mile, struck a small flow of oil at a depth of 167 feet. Operation has been stopped and a company is being formed to raise money to sink a deep well.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, \$121.61; 22; club, \$1.10; red Russian, \$1.08; Valley, \$1.05.

Barley—Feed and brewing, \$30.61/21 per cent.

Corn—Whole, \$35; cracked, \$36 per 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, \$18.00/20 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$18.00/21.50; alfalfa, \$16.00/16.50; clover, \$15.00/16; chest, \$15.00/16; grain hay, \$15.00/16.

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

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

Eggs—Fresh Oregon extras, 42c/50 per dozen; Eastern, 36c/35c per dozen.

Fresh Fruits—Apples, \$13 box; pears, \$16.15 per box; cranberries, \$9 per barrel.

Potatoes—Carload buying prices: Oregon, 60c/80c per sack; sweet potatoes, 1 1/2c/2c per pound.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 75c per dozen; cabbage, 1 1/2c per pound; celery, \$2.75/3.25 per crate; garlic, 10c per pound; horseradish, \$1.50 per box; pumpkins, 1 1/2c/1 1/4c; sprouts, 8c per pound; squash, 1c/1 1/4c; tomatoes, 75c/8c.

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, \$4.25/4.50; medium and feeders, \$3.50/3.75; common to medium, \$2.50/2.75; bulls \$2.00/2.50; stags \$2.00/2.50; calves, light, \$5.25/5.50; heavy, \$4.00/4.75.

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

Sheep—Best wethers, \$5.00/5.75; fair to good, \$4.25/4.75; best ewes, \$4.50/5.00.

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

Hides—Dry hides, 18c/19c per pound; dry kip, 17c/18c per pound; dry calfskin, 19c/21c per pound; salted hides, 10c/11c; salted calfskin, 16c/18c per pound; green, 1c less.

Now Ready to Establish a Permanent Survey to Klamath Falls.

Klamath Falls—Southern Pacific surveyors who have been establishing the permanent survey between Klamath Falls and Natron have completed the work and have departed for Redding, Cal., where they are to take up the permanent survey of the road from Redding to Alturas and thence to this city. Large forces are employed on the road to the north of Klamath Falls. Winter quarters have been established. About three miles north of Klamath Falls a small temporary city has been established. In this vicinity it is necessary to make several deep cuts and large fills. It will require several months to complete these difficult undertakings. Construction camps are strung out for a distance of more than 20 miles.

Values Reach New High Figure—Demand For More.

Portland—Oregon's moss crop has been found a most valuable production. Orders for it are constantly increasing and it has been several years since the supplies have been adequate for the demand.

At this time holders of Oregon forest moss are asking as high as \$55 a ton for the growth, f. o. b. cars, and in recent years the price has advanced as high as \$60.

"Dick" Hoskins, the well known fruit broker of this city, is perhaps the greatest shipper of moss in the country, and practically all of his supplies come from the little section around Gates, on the Corvallis & Eastern railroad.

"I have already shipped out five cars of moss this season," says Mr. Hoskins, "all of it going to California. I have orders for several more cars, but have been unable to fill them more."

"The moss that I ship is taken from the forests and is utilized by the asparagus shippers of California, as well as the florists of that section. I have paid as high as \$37.50 a ton for good moss, but the price is considerably above that figure at this time. The best moss comes from along the line of the Corvallis & Eastern and is in heavy demand."

Buyers Apple Land.

Pleasant Ridge—Dr. J. A. Pettit, S. C. Pier and Stanhope Pier have recently purchased a 400 acre tract of apple land at Pleasant Ridge, Wasco county, 12 miles south of The Dalles. The land is to be planted in the best varieties of apples and sold in 10 acre tracts. An abundance of water may be had for irrigation purposes, which it is proposed to bring to the tract. The country around Pleasant Ridge is very similar to the Hood River district, the soil and climate being much the same, and it is believed by scientific apple growers that the famous Hood River apple will grow to perfection there.

Traction Company Incorporated.

Salem—The Oregon & Washington Traction company, a Washington state corporation, organized for the purpose of furnishing electric power and building a system of electric railroads in the inland empire, comprising parts of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, filed articles today at Salem. The principal piece of business of the corporation will be Walla Walla. The company is incorporated for \$600,000. The electric line will connect Walla Walla with Pendleton, Baker City and other prominent cities.

Best Peach Land in Oregon.

Portland—W. H. Lang Co., have sold the Cliff farm, located on the Willamette river 18 miles above Portland and two miles from Canby. It has one half mile of river front, boat landing on the place and is one of the best located farms on the Willamette river, is nearly all improved, has fairly good buildings and is well stocked. The consideration was \$18,750. It contains 150 acres, part of which is the best peach land in Oregon. The peaches off 450 trees adjoining this land this season sold for \$1,500.

Local Men Invest in Apple Land.

Winston—Dr. Byron E. Miller and Henry Fox, a retired capitalist from Duluth, Minn., have closed a deal with T. R. Sheridan, president of the First National bank of Roseburg, for the purchase of a portion of the Sheridan and Agee holdings of apple lands, located near Winston. This is one of the choicest tracts of fruit lands in Southern Oregon. The purchasers intend planting about 250 acres of the tract to commercial apples during the coming year.

Water Fight Promised.

Salem—Judge William Galloway, in the equity division of the circuit court for Marion county, has granted an order allowing State Senator Hart, of Baker county, to file a writ of review demanding that the state board of water control be required to remand its order relating to the proposed irrigation project of Thiel valley. Senator Hart represents the Cooxkingham and Finklerburg interests, who are attempting to gain rights in the valley.

Value of Property More than Doubles.

Klamath Falls—One million, four hundred and ninety-six thousand, seven hundred and eighty-six dollars is the assessed value of personal and real property in Klamath Falls. This is an increase of 100 per cent over last year. The council made a levy of 9 mills for general purposes, and 2 mills for paying the interest on outstanding bonds and to create a sinking fund.

CONFLICT SEEMS IMMINENT.

Railroads Say They Can't Pay Higher Wages.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Some members of the interstate commerce commission and many railroad officials believe they can see rapidly approaching one of the severest contests between labor and capital in recent history. This does not necessarily mean that railroad men generally are expecting big strikes in the labor world. Such strikes, however, are always among the possibilities when labor and capital clash. It is firmly believed by the railroad men that this struggle will be begun by the railroad labor organizations, will rapidly spread to other lines of work and may eventually result in a complete readjustment of industrial conditions.

The situation with respect to railroad labor is unique in the history of this or any other country. Never before has labor enjoyed such high wages. During the recent periods of great prosperity wages in the railroad field have mounted very high. As a result, labor men have become accustomed to living on an entirely different plane from formerly. They are living in better neighborhoods, are dressing better, are educating their families, and altogether are taking a different view of life.

Notwithstanding the fact, however, that exceedingly high wages, comparatively speaking, have enabled the laboring classes in the railroad field to better their conditions, they now find themselves unable to live on their present rates of pay. One of two things must result, namely, either the railroad laborer must return to his old style of living or he must have increased wages. Railroad management everywhere recognizes this economical fact.

They say, however, that they would be willing to increase wages if they could do so without menace to the property entrusted to their care. They say, with some show of reason, that it is impossible for railroads to continue to absorb the increased cost of living on behalf of their employes and at the same time stand the increased cost of all material and everything which enters into the operation and maintenance of a railroad. The point has been reached, they insist, where railroads must receive more for the transportation services if they are to continue increasing wages. Upon this platform the railroads say they must stand firmly.

BLIZZARD IN THREE STATES.

Trains Stalled and Chicago Faces Coal Famine.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—The entire west and northwest, from Winnipeg, Man., to the lower tier of Illinois counties, along the Ohio river, are hard and fast in the grip of the Storm King. An average of seven inches of snow blankets all this vast territory, crippling all transportation lines, bringing intense suffering to the poor, making acute the coal famine which menaces Chicago and other big cities and reducing supplies of all kinds because the railroads cannot transport farm products to the cities.

Meager reports from Michigan indicate that state has suffered most severely. A few telegrams drifting through tell of blockades in all directions. Grand Trunk and Pere Marquette trains are absolutely snowbound. At Detroit street traffic is badly impeded, and the car ferries have been in the ice of the Detroit river for 24 hours.

Trains into Chicago from all directions are from three to ten hours late, and unless the storm soon abates conditions will be much worse. While the elevated trains are running fairly well the surface roads are badly handicapped. Not only is Chicago's transportation badly hampered, but the city is facing a coal famine.

It became apparent three days ago that the supply would run short, and every railroad tapping Illinois and Indiana coal fields had made arrangements to take advantage of the daily holiday to rush a big supply to this and other cities. With the roads bending every effort to get passenger trains through the snow, however, the moving of freight was absolutely out of the question, and the large supply of coal waiting to be moved still remains on the sidetracks.

Charitable associations are burdened to the limit by calls for assistance.

Jump to Save Is Fatal.

Camden, N. J., Dec. 27.—White Christmas brought death and sorrow to two families at Malaga, N. J., this afternoon. Mrs. Mary Price was killed by a train. William Hageman, who made an attempt to save her, received injuries from which he died. Mrs. Price was standing on the platform at Malaga when she slipped and fell on the tracks, just as the train was pulling in. Without hesitation Hageman jumped to rescue her, but before he could drag her from danger both were struck by the locomotive.

"Tramp" Pays Old Score.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 27.—Seven years ago James L. Harvey, now a Rio Grande switchman here, was brakeman on a freight in Oklahoma, and befriended a tramp. Today Harvey received a letter from the tramp, Charles McNamara, now a rich miner of Marry, Idaho, enclosing a check for \$500 as a Christmas gift. Harvey permitted McNamara to ride over his division, gave him clothes, a meal, a bed and a \$2 bill.

Runaway Train Smashes.

St. Paul, Dec. 27.—A runaway Great Northern freight train, going down grade fully 60 miles an hour, crashed through a mass of switches until it crashed into the Union depot. The engine smashed through two brick walls into the baggage room, and now lies a mass of wreckage in the basement, while 12 or 15 freight cars were crushed into a kindling wood, and others are piled in a heap. No fatalities resulted, as the train crew jumped when it was discovered Engineer Morrissey had lost control.

Dying Woman Refuses Aid.

Los Angeles, Dec. 27.—Mrs. Polly Holotin, who suffered frightful burns last night when she used kerosene to encourage the fire under the family's Christmas turkey, died early today. Despite her fatal burns, Mrs. Holotin refused to accept medical aid until assured by sight that her five children were safe.

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 of 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 accompanying 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.

CONGRESS HAS BEEN ACTIVE.

Prophecies of Lazy Session Not Filled by House.