

## IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Thursday, December 21.

The senate was in session but a little more than an hour today. Of this time only about a half hour was legislative in character.

The credentials of Gearin, of Oregon, were presented and the senator sworn in.

The bill extending for one year the time allowed for building the Council City & Solomon River railroad in Alaska was passed.

Adjournment was taken until January 4.

There was but a ten-minute session of the house today, when the holiday adjournment until January 4 was taken. Two speeches, one attacking and the other defending the cotton crop estimates of the government, were to have been made, but permission was granted to print these speeches in the Record.

Wednesday, December 20.

The senate adopted a motion recalling its confirmation of canal commissioners. It is understood that the object of the move is to permit a protest against Chairman Shonts holding a position on the commission and the presidency of the Clover Leaf railroad at the same time.

The only notable feature of the open session today was a brief discussion on the question of railroad legislation by Foraker and Culberson.

The house continued to "shoot clay pigeons" today, as one member remarked, and debate on several topics continued for five hours. The general debate which has been in progress for several days ended with today's session, and tomorrow the session will be brief.

The house agreed on the conference report on the Panama canal appropriation bill.

Just before adjournment a bill was passed extending until 1909 the time in which the 50 miles of railroad from Council City to Solomon, Alaska, may be completed.

Payne gave notice that the Philippine tariff bill will be called up for consideration January 4.

Needham, of California, introduced a bill providing for the repeal of the Cuban reciprocity treaty. He said the treaty had resulted in serious loss of revenue, as the Cubans buy extensively in the United States, and does not give Americans an opportunity to get anything in return for the reductions in tariff on Cuban products.

Tuesday, December 19.

The senate today accepted the Panama canal emergency appropriation bill as originally passed by the house.

Heyburn made a new move in his fight on forest reserves by introducing a resolution calling on the secretary of agriculture for a statement of receipts and expenditures made by the forest service, also the amount of school land included in forest reservations.

Fulton introduced a bill to relieve bona fide settlers on Northern Pacific lands where such settlements were made subsequent to January 1, 1895.

A large list of appointments were confirmed.

Senator Dolliver introduced his rate bill today. It authorizes the commission to fix and enforce a maximum and reasonable rate, to go into effect 30 days after notice. The commission also provides for seven members.

The house continued debating the insurance question today. The day was passed without legislation and ended with an amusing debate on the question of the appointment of a janitor at \$60 per month to the reception room on the minority side of the chamber. In the end the janitor was not appointed.

The house committee on ways and means favorably reported Payne's bill admitting all Philippine products into the United States free, excepting sugar and tobacco, which are to pay 25 percent of the Dingley rate until 1909, when they are also to go on the free list.

Committee Places Filled.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Northwestern senators were assigned committees today. Miles, in addition to the chairmanship of coast and insular survey, goes on interoceanic canals, pensions, territories, Canadian relations and examination of the civil service. Heyburn, in addition to his old committees, goes on immigration and public buildings. There are several minority

Preachers on Canal Payroll.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Lodge today presented to the senate, in amplification of his denial made on Friday of the charge that women had been taken to the Isthmus of Panama under the authority of the canal commission and distributed among laborers for immoral purposes, a letter from Secretary Taft and all of the correspondence that has been on this subject. The secretary denies this and says that already there are several preachers of different creeds on the isthmus in the pay of the commission.

places vacant, from which assignments will be made for Gearin. They are forest reservations, pensions, industrial expositions, national banks and claims.

Oppose the Joint Bill.

Prescott, Ariz., Dec. 20.—At the close of the annual banquet of the Northern Arizona Bar association, a strong resolution was unanimously adopted declaring its unalterable opposition to the joint statehood bill and instructing the secretary to forward a copy, with the signature of each member attached, to Speaker Cannon, Delegate Mark Smith and Congressmen Hamilton, Tawney, and Adams, and Senators Foraker, Flint and Perkins. Strong speeches denouncing the bill were made.

Charter for Alaska Cable.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Fulton today introduced a bill authorizing the North American Telegraph & Cable company, incorporated in the state of Washington, to construct telegraphic cables from the coast of Washington to Alaska, the Aleutian island, Siberia, Manchuria, China, Japan and the Philippines and requiring the operation of the cable within five years. Among the directors of the company are prominent Northwestern men.

Abandon Malheur Project.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Secretary Hitchcock today called on the Reclamation service to show why the Malheur irrigation project should not be abandoned. It is believed that this is a preliminary step to be followed by the withdrawal of engineers from that country, leaving Malheur county to private enterprise.

No Interest in Black Sand.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The house today refused to consider a resolution to ask the secretary of the interior the results of experiments in ascertaining the mineral value of black sand.

HARBOR IMPROVEMENT.

Convention Will Devise Scheme for Co-operation of States.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The National Rivers and Harbors congress, composed of commercial men from all parts of the United States, is to hold a meeting in Washington on January 15 and 16, to consider some plan of aiding the national government in the improvement of the principal waterways. In announcing the meeting the officers of the congress state that the government is now expending about \$15,000,000 a year on waterway improvements, an altogether inadequate sum to meet the demands of commerce. It is apparently understood that this amount will not be materially increased, since \$30,000,000 seems to be the average maximum of river and harbor bills, which are passed every two years.

There is a growing sentiment in congress in favor of requiring the states and the larger cities to contribute heavily to the cost of improving the great waterways, and the time is coming when congress will require each state to expend an amount equal to the national appropriation for the improvement of the waterways of that state.

Realizing this condition, the National Rivers and Harbors congress intends to take time by the forelock and devise some plan which will meet the requirements of congress and at the same time result in the greater improvement of rivers and harbors.

NEW BUILDINGS IN RUINS.

Two Great Railway Terminals on the Hudson River Burned.

New York, Dec. 22.—The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, which a few months ago suffered the loss of its Hoboken terminal buildings by fire, sustained a still heavier loss today, when the new ferry terminals of steel frame and supposedly fireproof construction, at the foot of West Twenty-third street, Manhattan, were burned to the ground. Workmen were putting the finishing touches on the building when the fire started, shortly before the noon hour.

The flames quickly communicated to the new ferry house of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, which, with the Lackawanna terminals, was considered the finest ferry building in the East, and this structure also was almost totally destroyed.

Warships Prevent Riots.

London, Dec. 22.—According to official advices received here today from Shanghai, it is believed that the situation, while most unsatisfactory, can be controlled by the warships already there. The only danger is that dissatisfaction may spread to the interior. It is thought that it will not be necessary to send troops, as the Chinese government is taking precautions to prevent an uprising. The foreign office has disapproved the action of the British assessor in confining Chinese women prisoners in a foreign jail.

GENERAL STRIKE.

Russian Leaders Openly Defy Government by Manifesto.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 20.—A call for a general political strike throughout Russia, to begin Thursday at noon, was issued tonight. The call is approved by the Union of Unions, the Union of Peasants, the General Railway union and the Council of Workmen of St. Petersburg and Moscow. A response received from the railroad men of Moscow is unanimous for a strike.

The leaders have declared their ability to stop every train in Russia. The strike order renders every member of the unions signing it liable to arrest and punishment under the new strike law, and Minister of the Interior Durново attempted to telegraph orders to Moscow to arrest members of the Railway union and of the workmen's council, but the dispatches were held up by the railroad telegraphers.

The members of the St. Petersburg Council of Workmen had been notified by the General Railway union and the Moscow Council of Workmen that in principle they were ready for a strike, but that they hesitated on practical grounds. The St. Petersburg leaders, however, felt that their prestige would suffer severely unless they could answer the government's determined offensive with a counter stroke, while many who were committed to full revolution secretly decided that the ground would be swept from under their feet should the government promulgate a law granting universal suffrage.

WITTE ONLY TITULAR RULER.

Governor Whom He Removed Gets Higher Office.

Boston, Dec. 20.—A communication to Russian revolutionist branches in Boston has been received by mail from Russia. It is issued by authority of the League of Leagues, and in part reads as follows:

Our suspicion of an inner and secret government superseding that of Count Witte has been confirmed. A case has just happened that proved the truth of our assertions. The governor of Odessa, Meidgard, who organized massacres in that city and province, was dismissed by Witte for the hand he took in the work; he has now been appointed governor of Nijni Novgorod. Count Witte, on being asked how he could give a new and even greater and higher appointment to such a notorious villain, replied that the appointment was made not only without his consent, but even without his knowledge.

The communication relates that in several of the provinces the czar's manifesto of emancipation was withheld by order of the secret government. Had the manifesto been made public, the letter says, wholesale massacres would have been prevented.

WRECKERS DRAW SPIKES.

Smash in Kansas Causes Two Deaths and Two Fatal Injuries.

Reading, Kan., Dec. 20.—Santa Fe train No. 17, west bound, was wrecked at Badger creek, five miles west of Reading, at 3 o'clock this morning. One express car turned over and caught fire. Express Messenger E. E. Derrick, of Kansas City, was killed outright, and Engineer Henry Davis, of Topeka, was so badly injured that he died soon after being taken out of the wreck. Two other express messengers were probably fatally injured. Two passengers in the smoker were slightly injured.

It is believed the train was ditched by wreckers. The spikes securing one rail had been removed. Three other passenger trains, including Superintendent Fox's special, had passed over the same tracks a short time before No. 17 was wrecked.

Walls Fall on Them.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—One fireman was killed and several employees may have lost their lives in a fire which destroyed the enamel sign factory of the Charles M. Schonk company, 7 to 15 Park street, tonight. Until the ruins of the building have been searched, it will not be positively known whether any of the employees were killed, either in the explosion which started the fire or by the falling of the walls and floors which followed soon afterward. The loss on the building and contents is estimated at \$250,000.

Only Guns Prevent Bloodshed.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 20.—A big loyalist demonstration had been planned for today, and was abandoned at the request of the prefect of police, who believed that it might provoke bloodshed. Batteries of machine guns are stationed at several points of vantage throughout the city, and infantry and Cossacks are everywhere. A specially heavy guard is stationed in the neighborhood of the Jewish market.

Cuba Will Kill Off Mosquitoes.

Havana, Dec. 20.—President Palma has authorized an additional expenditure of \$200,000 for sanitary purposes in Havana. Although yellow fever is disappearing, the extermination of mosquitoes will be continued. One new case of yellow fever was reported today.

## WILLING TO BE GOOD

### Railroads Hold Out Olive Branch to Commerce Commission.

### ALL BIG ROADS OF ONE MIND

### Death Knell to Illegal Practices Will Be Sounded at St. Paul Meeting Within Few Days.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—The railroad interests of the entire country have decided to hold out the olive branch to the government and join hands with the Interstate Commerce commission to secure a rigid enforcement of law. To this end two moves have been begun, one embracing all the railroads east of Chicago and St. Louis, and the other taking in all railroads west of the same points.

The Eastern movement was begun several weeks ago, and the commission has been asked to meet a committee of railway men in a conference regarding the situation in the East. The Western movement is of more recent date and J. C. Stubbs, traffic manager of the Harriman lines, is in charge of it. Yesterday Mr. Stubbs wired the Interstate Commerce commission asking for an early conference between that body and a committee representing every Western railroad, to discuss plans for a joint effort to prevent further violations of the laws governing transportation. It is expected a date will be set before the close of the year, and the conference is likely to take place in St. Paul next Friday, when the commission has a hearing in that city.

The railroads insist they are in earnest and that, if the commission is in sympathy with the move, it means the death knell of the freight rebate, the secret rate or "midnight tariff" of preferential rates, of arrangements with industrial railroads, of the payment of unlawful commissions, and, in short, the end of everything which comes within the purview of the interstate commerce act or the Elkins amendment.

### ALL RAILROAD BIDS REJECTED.

### Government Will Again Offer Concessions in Philippines.

Washington, Dec. 23.—All the bids for concessionary contracts or grants for the construction of railroads in the Philippine islands, recently submitted to the bureau of insular affairs, were today rejected because of the departures from the terms of the circular calling for proposals. Secretary Taft, after a number of conferences with Governor Wright and Mr. Forbes, of the Philippine commission, and Colonel Edwards, chief of the insular bureau, today decided to re-advertise the proposals, and January 20, at 10 a. m., has been fixed as the date for the opening of new bids. The terms will be modified in some particulars.

Where bidders propose to construct the road without guarantee they will be limited in their bids only by the terms of the Philippine government railroads acts of 1902 and 1903. But where bidders wish to take advantage of a guarantee of a certain interest on their investment, they can vary from the original invitation to bid only in point of time or on the cost of construction per mile as affected by contractors' profits.

### ALL RUSSIA PARALYZED.

### Empire Tied Up by General Strike and Food is Scarce.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 23.—With the strike in force throughout the entire empire, conditions are again becoming more and more alarming. While it is certain that the strike leaders are absolutely opposed to violence, it begins to look as though they would be unable to control the forces. Famine is the one thing to be feared, inasmuch as the supplies of food within the city have been heavily drawn upon during the last 30 days, and now that all the output of the foodstuffs is at an end, prices are beginning to advance and the common people must certainly suffer.

### French Ship on Voyage.

Paris, Dec. 23.—A cruiser detached from the French squadron at Saigon, French Indo-China, is now proceeding to Shanghai. The officials here say this is a measure of precaution, as no French interests have as yet been disturbed. The recent disturbances occurred in the international concession, which is separated from the French concession. An official dispatch from Pekin today says an imperial edict just issued, following energetic protests on the part of foreign ministers, promises to end the trouble.

### Troops to Suppress Revolt.

Paris, Dec. 23.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Petit Parisien, in a dispatch dated yesterday, says that the government is preparing to suppress the revolt along the Baltic.

## REBELS IN CONTROL

### Russian Revolt Has Won in the Baltic Provinces.

### CASTLES BECOME FORTS AGAIN

### Insurgent Army Numbers 100,000 Well Armed Men—Revolted Region Has Provisional Head.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 21.—The war in the Baltic provinces has spread throughout Lithuania. The insurgent army is believed to number 100,000, and it is constantly increasing. Women and children are participating in the hostile movement against the government forces. Thirty thousand troops are either in retreat or are cooped up in the cities, where they lack provisions and must either surrender or be annihilated by the insurgents. Russian officials and some German barons have been imprisoned. A committee of Livonians and Jews is administering the affairs of the revolted region. It controls the railroads and telegraph lines, permitting private messages to pass over the latter, but refusing all government communications.

The mediaeval castles in these provinces have been turned into fortresses, some of which are held by their owners against the insurgents, while others are in the possession of the latter. Guerrilla warfare is in progress at many points. Except for a few beleaguered garrisons, the czar's rule is gone.

Agrarian riots in the southern portions of the empire are increasing. The landowners are fleeing to the towns, leaving their property to the mercy of the rioters. Revolutionists are reported to hold Kharkoff and Sevastopol. In the latter city the soldiers demand the release of the imprisoned sailors who were concerned in the recent mutinies. Finland continues to arm.

### HOODOO OF KANSAS SENATORS

### Beginning in 1861, the Office Has Been Full of Trouble.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 21.—"The fatal succession" is the name Kansas has given to the senatorship of which Joseph Ralph Burton, the latest incumbent, is under conviction of grafting. A dark hued bird of evil omen seems to watch over those who take the seat first occupied by James H. Lane.

The hoodoo started at the outset. In 1861, when Kansas was admitted as a state and chose two senators, they tossed a coin to see which should get the short or four-year term. It went to Lane.

He served his term, was re-elected, and committed suicide.

E. C. Ross, appointed to succeed him, failed to heed the demand of Kansas for the impeachment of President Johnson. Ross' vote saved the president, but Ross was defeated for re-election, cast aside, and now lives a humble life.

Alexander Caldwell took the place, held it two years, and resigned, it is said, to avoid fighting charges.

Robert Crozier was appointed and ousted as soon as the legislature met.

James M. Harvey was elected and defeated for renomination.

Preston P. Plumb was then chosen, was re-elected twice, and died a tragic death within a year after starting his third term.

B. W. Perkins could hold the job after appointment only until the legislature convened.

John Matrin, his successor, held the place two years and dropped out of sight.

Lucien Baker served his full term of six years, and was forced to withdraw from the race for re-election.

Joseph Ralph Burton succeeded him, and before half his term was served was under jail sentence.

The line of Kansas senators who succeeded Pomeroy, chosen simultaneously with Lane, has numbered but five, and included the brilliant Ingalls and the highly esteemed W. A. Harris.

### Dynamite Kills Three.

New York Dec. 21.—Three men were blown to pieces seven others were more or less seriously hurt and the occupants of fashionable hotels and residences in the vicinity of Fifth avenue and Thirty-fourth street were startled today by an explosion of dynamite in an excavation for the new Altman building. Fragments of the bodies of the dead were scattered over an area of hundreds of feet. The explosion was caused by a workman striking a heavy charge of dynamite which had defied all efforts to explode it at the proper time.

### Killed by Robbers in Mexico.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 21.—Two men named Rutherford and McMurray, both from Philadelphia, were killed last night by highwaymen on a ranch at Diaz, a small settlement in Chihuahua, Mexico. A man named Finstad, of Los Angeles, and another known as "Shorty" were wounded.