NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

A Japanese cruiser is reported ashore in Yungching bay.

The Oregon land fraud case has been postponed until April.

A Japanese wing of Oyama's army driven back recently is again advancing.

The Japanese are fearful lest the Russian government buys a number of warships from Chile

The suspension bridge at Charleston, W. Va., collapsed, drowning three school girls and injuring five people.

Brigadier General S. M. Whiteside is dead. He had command of the department of Santiago during the Spanish war.

Four men were scalded to death and four others badly injured by an explosion on the battleship Massachusetts.

The new Portland postoffice will not be large enough and the architect has been asked to provide for the construction of another wing.

A number of prominent rural mail carriers who were too active politically during the recent campaign, have been removed. They were all in New York and New Hampshire.

Wireless telegraph messages have been sent from Kansas City to Cleveland, Ohio, 725 miles, without relay. This is said to be the longest distance overland messages ever covered.

Fire destroyed an immense coal bunker at Buffalo.

The real work will not begin until early in January.

John D. Rockefeller has given Chicago University $300,000.

The second trial of the Oregon land fraud case is in progress in Portland.

The nomination of Govrenor Brady, of Alaska, has been held up by the senate.

The national convention of Traveling Passenger agents will meet in Portland in 1905.

The international commission to inquire into the North sea incident is expected to meet in Paris December 20.

Barbed wire stretched in front of the Japanese trenches is proving the worst foe of the Russian army in Manchuria.

A number of Boxer leaders in Northern China have been placed in prison and it is thought probable that the intended uprising has been nipped in the bud.

At the last cabinet meeting Secretary Hitchcock spoke briefly of the land fraud cases, indicating that some startling developments in them might be expected in the near future.

The Rough Riders will have a place of honor in the inaugural parade.

A Chinese capitalist declares that he knows Port Arthur has provisions for three months.

Of the 100 locomotives ordered for the Harriman lines, 50 are for the Southern Pacific.

Dowie has paid the last installment on his debts and Zion City is again on a sound financial basis.

The Russian battleship Sevastopol at Port Arthur has not been sunk and is adopting defensive measures.

A Russian captain has been arrested for criticising the admiralty.

A dispatch from Mukden says the Japanese have driven the Russians on the right bank of the Hun river westward.

The president has sent the nomination of C. P. Neill to succeed Wright as commissioner of labor to the senate for confirmation.

The British American arbitration treaty has been signed by Secretary Hay and the British ambassador. It is expected that the Italian treaty will be ready soon.

The Japanese have turned their attention to Golden Hill fortress and some damage has been inflicted.

Washington has four aspirants for the office of fish commissioner.

The Southern states are flooding Roosevelt with invitations to visit them.

The remains of Kruger, the ex-president of the Transvaal, have arrived at Pretoria.

Severe skirmishes have occurred on the Shahke river in which the Russians were defeated.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Friday, December 9.

The house passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill almost as it came from the committee and adjourned until Monday

Throughout the session today the policy of retrenchment held full sway, and all attempts to increase salaries failed.

The house passed a resolution to adjourn December 21 until January 4 for the usual Christmas holiday.

Monday, December 12.

The senate committee on privileges and elections has taken up the Smoot case. Three witnesses were examined and several new points brought out.

Senator Stewart has introduced a bill to raise the salary of the president to $100,000 a year, of the vice president and speaker of the house to $20,000 each, and each senator, representative and delegate to $10,000. It is provided that the bill shall take effect March 4, 1909.

The house passed a bill to give the agricultural department control over forest reserves.

The senate discussed the pure food and Philippine government bills.

Tuesday, December 13.

The house passed a resolution impeaching Judge Swayne, of the Northern district of Florida, for "high crimes and misdemeanors" A committee was appointed to notify the senate. The senate passed a bill to throw open for settlement 800,000 acres in the Yakima Indian reservation.

Nothing of any importance was developed in the Smoot case today. Five witnesse were examined.

The house resolution for an adjournment from December 21 to January 4 was adopted by the senate.

Senator Mitchell is sure of securing the chairmanship of the committee on canals.

Wednesday, December 14.

The senate has appointed a committee to arrange for the trial of Judge Swayne, of Florida.

A bill was passed in the senate appropriating $25,000 for the improvement of Mount Rainier national park.

In the house the urgent deficiency bill and several other bills of a public nature were passed.

Thursday, December 15.

The senate spent practically the entire day discussing the Philippine administrative bill. A number of amendments were made. Under unanimous agreement the vote on the bill will be taken tomorrow and the disposal of all amendments will occur at the same time.

The urgent deficiency bill was passed without debate.

In the house an attempt was made to call up the bill to improve currency conditions. This matter occupied almost the entire day, only a few minor items coming before the house

OREGON WINS MANY PRIZES.

W. H. Wehrung Says State Made Fine Showing at St. Louis.

Portland, Dec. 17. — After several months in St. Louis, where he had charge of the Oregon exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase exhibition, W. H. Wehrung returned to Portland yesterday. He reported wide interest among Easterners in the Lewis and Clark exposition and predicted there will be heavy westward travel next year for the purpose of seeing the Western World's fair.

Mr. Wehrung speaks highly of the showing made by Oregon at the St. Louis fair, saying that the state held up well against states with much larger appropriations. He also says that he has been told that Washington's representatives bought a consignment of Oregon cherries from a dealer and exhibited them as Washington product. Thus Oregon competed in the cherry contest against her own product.

The total number of medals won by the Oregon exhibit is 288, of which 67 were gold medals, 150 were silver and 71 bronze.

Spanish Cabinet Resigns.

Madrid, Dec. 17.—The entire cabinet has resigned. It is understood that Senor Maura refuses to take up the task of organizing a new cabinet until there is a dissolution of parliament. The king subsequently summoned Premier Ascarraga, who it is understood intimated he was not prepared to organize a cabinet unless first assured of the support of Senors Maura and Silvela. It is reported that the crisis arose on the king's refusal to sign the appointment of General Lomo as chief of the general staff.

The School Question.

St. Johns, Or., Dec. 16,

Mr. Editor: I want to beg your indulgence for a short space. Will promise not to inflict a like punishment on you again if you will kindly publish the following article, though it may be disconnected and a little out of joint. Still it may be the means of showing how little argument was made by either T. J. M. for or by Progress against the centralization of schools. If any one had been to the school meeting on Wednesday evening, December 7, and listened to Professor Robinson, county superintendent of schools, they would have heard all the argument that was necessary to convince the most ardent advocate of dividing the school, the detriment it would be to the scholars as well as the district at large.

Mr. Progress says in his argument for building a school in some other part of the district that the voters showed by their vote on the 8th of November that they, the taxpayers, did not want any more built on to the present building. Let us see how that was. If I remember correctly the notice stated that the election was for the purpose of voting bonds of $10,000 with which to provide for the great increase in school children. Nothing was said about building any where else than at the present site. Consequently it was not on account of where the building was to be, but simply because a great many voters thought the board asked too much. I am sorry that I do not know T. J. M. as well as Mr. Progress does, for I think his ideas were good.

And I hope that when the board calls another meeting—which I understand they have for December 20—that all who are interested will come out and express themselves in no uncertain tones. And right here, Mr. Editor, I want to say a word to this school board: I hope they will have a report on the existing conditions so they can present it to the taxpayers in such a way that we may all know what they need to make our school second to none in the county or state. Hoping that we all may work together for the upbuilding of our school and town, and also hoping that T. J. M. and Mr. Progress may meet and shake hands across the gaping chasm, I remain your for

CENTRALIZATION.

A Good Word for the City.

Editor Review: Often I am written to about my home town, St. Johns, and its environs. I have to write in reply the only one explanation apropos thereto, to-wit: That St. Johns is destined to be the New York of the West; i. e., the Pacific coast. Why? We have the point adjacent to the best harbor on the coast, the Columbia and Willamette rivers. Vessels at all stages of the tide, at all hours of the day, can dock, and the deeping of the bar at ocean tide allows free egress and ingress, no matter how Old Boreas howls or what combing waves their white caps break. Cap any other harbor boast as much? The writer has visited them all. Again, the Columbia and Willamette valleys are the natural channels for the Pacific trade. That vast expansion just being entered upon wherein the Pacific will become an American "pond," soon we will see the white wings of American commerce peacefully on its mission of love beneficient assimilation from the port of St. Johns. The vest interests that will center at St. Johns and radiate therefrom will have these carriers of peace on every sea; soon will we see the gallant tars of St. Johns' sailing vessels owned and manned by St. Johns' capital and friends, singing the larboard watch ahoy through the isthmian canal, and St. Johns lumber, flour and other exports in New York harbor and London and the capitals of the old and new world. These things are coming. St. Johns, situated as is New York city, is the only proper place for the vast manufacturing industries that will and must locate here. Freedom of the water front gives it the preference over all other harbors. Relative to St. Johns, its situation and its sister towns, there can be no finer place for a residence, and "Home, Sweet Home" here has a significance that one cannot find elsewhere. The towering peaks glistening in perpetual snow, jeweled with the royal mantel of heaven's sweet breath, whose spotless purity indicative of the "loved creator," with his smiling countenance always; with the ocean's pure vitalizing ozone always, what cheer can there be otherwise. Pure air, pure water, sanitary science will surely make the peninsula a veritable garden of Eden. And as one goes about and meets the glad hand everywhere and hears of the matchless future of St. Johns, I can but say to the homeseeker and investor, as I would say ship ahoy! drop your anchor here.

WILLIAM W. GOODRICH.

Earthworms vs. Gophers.

Darwin concluded that the earthworm in five years brings up soil enough to cover the ground one inch thick, and that, therefore, the result of its labor is of vast importance. I reckon that the pocket gopher does this in five months. It does not do it in the same way or so effectively, because the earthworm actually digests the substance of its castings; but it is evident that the pocket gopher's method answers the purpose of fully disintegrating and mixing the dead vegetation with the soil to produce a rich and fertile black loam.—Century.

A Good Rule.

Look for goodness, look for gladness,
You will meet them all the while,
If you bring a smiling visage
To the glass, you meet a smile.
—Alice Cary.

It is easy to see what should be done; but only a few are able to do it.