

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Interesting Collection of Current Events in Condensed Form From Both Continents.

Wheat fell over 7 cents per bushel in Chicago Monday.

Senator White of California has introduced a bill in congress to strengthen the eight-hour law as applicable to government work.

The controller of the currency has declared a dividend of 10 per cent in favor of depositors of the Moscow National bank, Moscow, Idaho.

Judge Sanborn in the court of appeals at St. Louis has granted a postponement of the proposed sale of the Kansas Pacific for 60 days.

One of the interesting items in the agricultural appropriation bill is provision for \$10,000 for an agricultural experiment station in Alaska.

Brigadier-General Otis, stationed at Denver, has received a telegram from Fort Duchesne stating that all the Ute Indians have returned to their reservation.

A dispatch from Havana states that Gomez is being hard pushed by a Spanish column under command of General Pando, in the province of Puerto Principe.

George C. Green, a carpenter of Modesto, Cal., fatally shot his wife and wounded his daughter, Mrs. W. E. Liedman with a revolver. He then turned the revolver upon himself, but only inflicted a scalp wound.

The agricultural department issues the following: A special wheat investigation instituted by the department of agriculture indicates a crop of 530,000,000 bushels. These figures are subject to slight modification in the final report.

The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, as reported to the house by the committee on appropriations, carries a total of \$21,562,425, being \$780,861 less than the former bill. The number of salaries provided for is 10,000, being 198 less than the number provided for in the current law.

Hans Frohman "curled" a pair of eight-pound dumb-bells 14,000 times in an hour and 45 minutes in a New York gymnasium. When he had finished his 12,000 curl in one hour and 20 minutes, it was proposed that Frohman stop, but he insisted on continuing, and executed the 14,000th curl in the time stated.

It is announced St. Louis will soon have a new \$2,000,000 hotel. Several Chicagoans will furnish the necessary capital. The hotel is to be the most modern structure of the kind west of the Mississippi. The company hopes to close all contracts and commence construction next season.

The United States supreme court has rendered a decision in the case of Thomas Bram, under sentence of death in Massachusetts for murder committed at sea. He was accused of murdering the captain, mate and captain's wife of a vessel bound for South America. The opinion reversed the decision of the court below on the ground that Bram's testimony should not have been admitted.

A vessel has sailed from Portsmouth, N. H., for the Klondike.

The National Guard asks for an appropriation of \$2,000,000.

There is a possibility of a rate war between Western railroads.

A party has left San Francisco to survey a new route to the Klondike.

At Salinas, Cal., two burglars cleverly jailed the jailer and a deputy sheriff.

A tremendous rich gold strike is reported on Dog creek, a tributary of the Yukon.

The son of a New York millionaire died in the county hospital in San Francisco.

The Georgia senate wants to send state convicts to Cuba to fight for the insurgents.

Senator Perkins has introduced a joint resolution authorizing the president to appoint a committee to draft a code of laws for the territory of Alaska.

The man who helped hang Frank Butler, the "murderer of the mountains," in Australia, was arrested in San Francisco, accused of larceny of a coat.

One of the most horrible lynchings ever known in Nevada has occurred at Genoa, 14 miles from Carson. Aram Uher, who last week shot and killed Hans Anderson in a Millerville saloon, was taken by a mob of masked men and hanged to a cottonwood tree half a mile from the jail. When taken from his cell, the victim had nothing on but a shirt. This was torn off by the lynchers, and the nude body was left dangling in the air for six hours. As the body was being pulled up the mob riddled it with bullets. When satisfied that the man was dead the vigilantes dispersed and returned to their homes.

The insurgents have literally wiped out the Spanish town of Guisa of 800 inhabitants.

Senator McBride of Oregon, has introduced a bill in the senate to aid in the construction of an aerial tramway and railway line from Dyea to Lake Bennett.

Three thousand horses, worth \$300,000, lie beneath the snow on the White pass trail. Six hundred campers represent an investment of \$500,000 for outfits and provisions.

STAMPEDE FAIRLY ON.

Fear-Mad Men Rush From Dawson and Famine.

Victoria, Dec. 15.—By the steamer Topeka, from Dyea, news is received that more than 1,000 ill-provisioned men stampeded from Dawson during the latter part of October, and impelled by the haunting fear of famine are now madly forcing their way over the mountains.

Auk, the Indian mailcarrier who brings this report, left the Yukon capital fully 10 days after the Dalton party. He says the vanguard of the terror-stricken army is following less than a week behind him. Auk declares that fully 25 per cent of the stampeding army will never live to recite the terrors of their flight from the North.

Dyea parties headed by George F. Ulmer hope to go to the relief of the hungry men at Dawson. They will make the United States government an offer to deliver 50,000 pounds of provisions within 50 days after starting for Dawson for the sum of \$75,000. They already have 50,000 pounds of provisions cached at Lake Bennett, which they will take into Dawson this winter. Ulmer will go south by the next steamer to lay his proposition before the secretary of war by wire.

It is stated that material for the proposed railroad over Taku pass has been shipped from the East.

The steamers Bella and Wearo, it now appears, did not land more than 100 tons of provisions on their arrival in Dawson in the early part of October, owing to their having been held up at Circle City.

The only bright view of the present situation is that the trails crossing the passes above Dyea and Skagway have lately been greatly improved and within a month will be in excellent condition.

A Steamer for Alaska.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 15.—Already the rush to Alaska has set in, the City of Seattle having left Tacoma this morning for Skagway. Her passengers from the Sound will reach the hundred mark. Several women were on board. She carried a full cargo of freight.

A LIGHT DAY'S WORK.

Nothing of Importance Accomplished in the House or Senate.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Mr. Lodge, of Massachusetts, made an effort in the senate today to secure an immediate vote upon his immigration bill, which is substantially the same measure that was passed by the 54th congress and vetoed by President Cleveland. Mr. Allen, of Nebraska, objected to an immediate vote, and suggested that the final vote on the amendments and the bill be taken on that day, January 17, at 3 P. M. This suggestion was accepted by Mr. Lodge, and the order for a vote at that time was made.

Davis, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, called up the bill prohibiting the killing of fur seals in the North Pacific ocean, but on suggestion of Pettigrew, who desired to offer amendments, it went over until tomorrow.

The bill granting settlers the right to make second homestead entries of 160 acres was passed.

Butler spoke at some length on his postal savings bank bill. Such a system would, in his opinion, insure greater comfort in the homes of the plain people of the land, as a great majority of them would certainly become depositors in such banks. This would cultivate among them thrift and economy, and enable them to provide for themselves in illness and old age.

In the House.

The blind chaplain of the house in his invocation today referred eloquently and feelingly to the death of the president's mother. Cannon, chairman of the committee on appropriations, secured unanimous consent for the passage of the urgent deficiency bill, which he explained carried but three items—\$5,000 for the construction of a building at the naval academy, \$30,000 for payment of temporary employes of the house and senate, and \$150,000 for the payment of mileage of senators and representatives.

The rest of the session was taken up by a personal debate between Hepburn and Norton, which ended by a vote sustaining Hepburn, and the house then adjourned.

Her Aim Was Good.

Sacramento, Dec. 15.—At an early hour Sunday morning a burglar entered the residence of Sergeant of Police McManus and proceeded to ransack the parlor. Mrs. McManus heard the burglar at his work, but decided not to wake her husband. She picked up a revolver from a table by the bed and awaited developments. In a few moments the burglar reached the swinging doors leading from the parlor into the room adjoining the bedroom, and when he opened the doors, she opened fire. He made his escape, but the trail of blood left showed that her aim was good.

Oklahoma Bank Failure.

El Reno, O. T., Dec. 15.—The Stock Exchange bank closed its doors this morning, and J. M. Cannon has been appointed receiver. The liabilities are stated to be \$50,000, and the assets are claimed to be worth \$70,000.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 15.—The Norvosti says that in the absence of protests from the other powers, Germany's evident determination to remain at Kiao-Chou indicates that the partition of China has actually begun, and will proceed quickly. Another newspaper expresses the belief that the United States, among other powers, may object to the permanent occupation of Kiao-Chou by Germany. Russian officials, however, appear indifferent to the step taken by Germany.

THE ROOT OF THE EVIL

Convention to Consider Primary Election Reforms.

PROMINENT MEN SIGN THE CALL

Conference Will Be Held in New York in the Middle of January—Effect on State Legislatures.

New York, Dec. 14.—The following call was given out tonight by Ralph M. Easley, secretary of the Civic Federation of Chicago, who has been acting for a committee on reforms of quasi political organizations for the past three weeks:

"The object of this conference is to bring together men with practical ideas from all the large cities, and especially from states in which substantial progress has been made in reform. The programme will include speeches made by men of national reputation in both political parties, as well as reports from practical men as to the working of the various laws now governing primary election caucuses. Considerable attention will be given to the question 'How to get voters out to the primaries,' after fair laws are secured. Special interest will be taken in reports from New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Illinois, New Jersey and Ohio, where legislatures will be in session. Headquarters will be opened at the Hotel Manhattan, New York, December 27, 1897.

"Believing that our caucuses or primary election customs or laws lie at the very root and source of our entire elective franchise system and that the results in our larger cities are due in a large measure to the defects in such practices and customs, it, therefore, follows that to purify this system is to take a long step in the direction of honesty, economy and efficiency in every branch of the public service; and further believing that the enactment of laws to prevent corrupt practices and throw the safeguards of a regular election around the caucus or primary will encourage many good citizens to take part therein, we, the undersigned, for the purpose of discussing and discovering, as far as possible, the precise defects in the various systems which now obtain, and the remedies, and take such action as may seem necessary in the premises, do hereby join in calling a conference of persons interested in said questions to convene in the city of New York, on the 15th day of January, 1898.

"We deem it desirable that the conference be made up from men of all parts of the country and without regard to party or factional affiliations."

The call is signed by prominent men from all sections of the Union.

INDIAN TERRITORY QUESTION

Congress Will Settle It in a General Bill.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The indications are that this congress will pass a general bill for the entire rehabilitation of Indian territory. The measure as now planned is to make it embrace everything that has been sought to be accomplished in the past by the Dawes Indian commission, which is still negotiating with the five civilized tribes, but which will be here next week to report the discouraging existing conditions. The bill covers all the questions of citizenship, allotments of lands, dispositions of townsites, mineral lands, jurisdiction of the United States courts over the present reservations and other matters bearing on the extinguishment of tribal organization. The first steps in the matter have been taken by the Indian committees of both the senate and house.

It is understood that in a few days there will be a session of the committees at which these matters will be gone over and steps taken in the way of settling the problems by congressional enactment. In view of the large amount of work necessary to be done, however, it is not probable that any bill can be passed till toward the end of the session.

Bad Philadelphia Fire.

Philadelphia, Dec. 14.—Fire broke out shortly before 10 o'clock tonight in the six-story building at 809 and 811 Chestnut street, occupied by the manufacturing firm of John & James Dobson as their wholesale and retail rooms. The fire had its start in the basement, and the flames shooting up the elevator shaft destroyed the entire interior of the building and contents. General Manager Berry, of the Dobson carpet house, stated that the stock in the building would amount to \$500,000. The building was owned by the firm, and was valued at about \$60,000.

Haitian Ministry Resigns.

Port Au Prince, Dec. 14.—The ministry has resigned. As yet, the composition of its successor has not been definitely settled, but several well-known men are mentioned who will command the confidence of Haitians and foreigners alike. This morning, while attending mass at Notre Dame, President Sam made a circuit of the city on horseback escorted by his staff officers, but without special military display.

China Forced to Yield.

Peking, Dec. 14.—The German-Chinese difficulty is practically settled. The Germans refuse to discontinue the occupancy of Kiao-Chou bay. The governor of Shan Tung province has been removed from office, but will not be any further degraded. No monopoly of mines and railroads is conceded Germany, but that country is given a preference. Finally, the area immediately surrounding Kiao-Chou bay is set apart exclusively for Germany. China yields on all other points.

MRS. M'KINLEY DEAD.

The President and Other Members of the Family at the Deathbed.

Canton, O., Dec. 14.—Mrs. Nancy Allison McKinley passed from this life at a few minutes past 2 this morning, with all her children and other immediate relatives at her bedside. She did not suffer any in her last hours, but gradually passed from the deep, palsied sleep, in which she had rested almost constantly for the past 10 days, into the sleep of death.

No word could be secured from the house for some hours before dissolution. At 2:35 an undertaker was summoned and the first publicity was given of the death.

The end was almost beautiful in its peacefulness. She seemed to sleep so soundly that it was difficult to tell whether she had yet breathed her last. This condition continued for half an hour. The president and all of the family were by her side.

There was no recognition, however. Her last consciousness was hours before her final taking away.

The tenth day of Mrs. McKinley's illness was marked by a number of material changes such as improved the condition of the patient, and as darkness approached it was felt by those around her that she had finished the last day of her life's journey. She was resting comparatively easy at that time, but was a great deal weaker. At the dawn of day it was felt that the end was at hand, for about that time she experienced one of the sinking spells common to the illness, and for a long time seemed so nearly inanimate that it was thought no rally was possible; but the rally came, and with it a small amount of liquid nourishment, the first she had taken since Monday. This was followed by such peaceful repose as to revive the hope, which was realized, that she would live through the day.

In the afternoon another period of anxiety was experienced by the watchers. Another sinking spell came, and for a time it seemed as though it would be the last. After that, she continued weak and low.

The doctor called at 5:30 o'clock and reported that he found a material change for the worse, such as he regarded as certain to bring about final dissolution during the night. He had not even a faint hope that she could live until morning.

AN IMPROMPTU COURT.

Trying to Fix the Responsibility for the Smith Murders.

Hazelhurst, Miss., Dec. 14.—In an open field, without a house in sight, on a high hillside, with a crowd of eager men waiting to avenge the terrible murder that has taken place in Lawrence county, in case a conviction was reached by the impromptu court, the scene lighted by flaring pine-knot torches held aloft in the hands of the waiting mob, the three negroes, Giles Berry, Will Powell and Tom Wallen, were standing trial for their life last night at Bankstone Ferry.

The negroes were arrested with Lewis, who was lynched Friday, at the place of the original crime, but were released on their promising to appear next morning as witnesses. They did not put in an appearance when the trial was ready to begin. Search was made for them by the mob, and the negroes were caught and brought back. Then the suspicion that they were implicated in the original crime arose. According to their own story, they were with Lewis the night before. The three men testified that they slept in a cottonhouse a mile and a half from the Smith house, where the terrible butchery took place, and that Lewis was with them all night; at least he was there when they went to sleep and was there when they awoke the next morning.

There are about 200 men in the mob constituting a committee of the whole for the trial. Reliable reports today from a messenger who was at the scene say that the mob is very moderate in its acts, and has cooled down considerably. Berry and Wallen, though badly scared, maintain their denial of any complicity in the crime.

A telephone message from Hon. Walter Catchings, of Georgetown, states that two other negroes have been arrested on suspicion.

Wesson, Miss., Dec. 14.—The three negroes arrested in the Monticello neighborhood in connection with Charley Lewis, the negro lynched for the quintuple butchery of the Smith family, after a long trial were declared not guilty, but were given until Monday to leave the county.

Convicted of Wife Murder.

Bakersfield, Cal., Dec. 14.—David Davidson, the Randsburg wife-murderer, was today convicted of murder in the first degree, with the penalty of life imprisonment. He is said to be the son of a prominent St. Louis physician. The defense was insanity, and during the trial Davidson appeared oblivious to his surroundings, but experts declared that he was shamming.

Education of Deaf Children.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The house committee on education has reported favorably the bill to aid the educators in the states and territories in teaching articulate speech and vocal language to deaf children before the age of school age.

A Mexican Execution.

Matamoros, Mex., Dec. 14.—Pantason and Victoriano Guillen were shot in the jailyard this morning for the murder of Dr. Manuel Carpio. Five policemen were in the firing platoon, and neither man was killed by the first discharge.

Antigo, Wis., Dec. 14.—L. E. Buckman, cashier of the defunct Antigo bank, was arrested today on a charge of embezzlement. His shortage will reach \$13,000.

THE ELLIS ISLAND FIRE

Is Supposed to Have Been Set by Incendiaries.

INVESTIGATION WILL BE MADE

Ten Millions of Railroad Tickets Were Thought to Have Burned—One of Them Turns Up.

New York, Dec. 13.—Facts have come to light that suggest the possibility that the mysterious fire that destroyed the great immigrant buildings on Ellis island a few months ago, was started by thieves, who had carefully planned a \$10,000,000 robbery, says the Journal and Advertiser today. Ten of the trunk lines leading to the West, including the New York Central, the Pennsylvania, the Erie, the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western and the New York, Ontario & Western, unite in maintaining a railroad on the island, and at all times there are quantities of tickets there.

General Ticket Agent Robinson, of the Ontario & Western, says that on the night of the fire a conservative estimate would place the value of tickets in the island office at \$10,000,000.

The tickets, with much cash, were locked in drawers in wooden cases and desks, and the entire parcel was supposed to have been totally destroyed. The different roads posted notices that if tickets of a certain form and series should be presented, they should be taken up and fare demanded.

A few days ago a ticket issued by the Ontario & Western from Chicago to Kansas City was received from a passenger and found to be one of the tickets supposed to have been burned. The part of the ticket calling for passage from New York to Chicago has not yet been presented.

Now the officials are asking how many other tickets out of the \$10,000,000 worth are in existence. It is deemed not impossible that the entire lot was stolen and held until conductors should forget the warning.

Commissioner Senner, who was in charge of Ellis island at the time of the fire, deems the hypothesis by no means improbable.

"The origin of the fire was never learned," he said. "It began in a tower of the main building some distance from the offices occupied by the railroad people. Every one of the government guards were busy getting the immigrants safely out. It is not impossible that thieves deliberately started the fire in the expectation, justified by events, that the ticket office would be quickly deserted."

General Ticket Agent Robinson said he could scarcely believe that any such wholesale robbery had taken place.

"I have communicated with other roads, and they have had no such tickets presented as yet. I think it more likely that the report of sales for the day preceding the fire was not correct. Of course, though, if someone had used that ticket, if it was honestly disposed of, it should have turned up sooner. An investigation will be made."

TRAIL TO KLONDIKE.

Several Lives Lost in White Horse Rapids.

Victoria, Dec. 13.—Five or six, and perhaps seven, lives have been lost in the White Horse rapids, Lewis river, during the last two months, according to John Hepburn, who arrived from there today. A boat built for four or six men was found below the rapids one morning, but there was no trace of the occupants. They must all have been drowned. Other parties lost their outfits, but managed to save their lives.

There is now very little open water between the rapids and the lakes, most of it being frozen over.

At White Horse rapids there are about 30 people, and there are 35 at the foot of Marsh lake. There are at least 100 more below White Horse rapids, and many others have gone into the Hootalinqua country to prospect during the winter. Hepburn had heard of no strikes being made on the Hootalinqua or tributaries, but a man named Davis washed \$1,600 from the river bars last summer. Hepburn believes that rich strikes will be made on the Hootalinqua this winter.

At Tagish house, the weather was bitterly cold, the thermometer registering 42 degrees below. People were met making their way down all along the route to head of Lake Bennett. Among the goldseekers was a woman, who was pulling her sled all alone, and she was making fair time.

Lake Bennett was still open 15 miles from the foot, on November 17, and the mercury stood at 24 below.

Attempt on the Sultan's Life.

London, Dec. 13.—The Athens correspondent of the Chronicle says that on Monday last, two soldiers in the imperial service at the Yildiz Kiosk, the palace of the sultan, made an attempt on the sultan's life. This was frustrated by the attendants of the sultan. The sultan had the men tortured in the hope of extracting the names of the instigators, but both succumbed without revealing anything.

China Gives In.

London, Dec. 13.—A dispatch from Peking says that today the tsung-li-yamen telegraphed the viceroy of the province of Pe-chi-li, north of the province of Shan Tung, that China, having complied with her demands, Germany undertakes to evacuate Kiao Chou at a date to be fixed hereafter, and will receive instead as a coaling station the Sam-Suh inlet, in the province of Foo Kien, over against the island of Formosa.

THE ALASKA RUSH.

Western Roads Preparing to Ignore the Canadian Pacific.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—The Western roads have for some time been figuring earnestly on the business that is expected to set in in the late winter and the early spring toward Alaska. They have been doubtful whether the purchasers of transportation would wish to buy tickets through to Dawson City, or only to the ports on the coast, and today the roads took their first action bearing on the question of Alaska rates. They have decided to get out their rate sheets showing the rates to Alaska and will ignore entirely the claims of the Canadian Pacific for the differential on the business. The rates of the Canadian Pacific will not be shown on the sheet at all.

In the days of the old Transcontinental Association, the Canadian Pacific was allowed a differential of \$5 on its Pacific coast business, and it claims the same now, but the roads of the old association, and those of the Western Passenger Association, after the promulgation of the supreme court decision regarding the formation of pools and associations, absolved them from all further obligations to allow the differentials of the Canadian Pacific. The latter road has never seen the matter in that light and it will make a fight that is very likely to demoralize the rates to Alaska, and North Pacific coast ports.

FIGHT ON THE BORDER.

Three Mexican Guards and One Desperado Killed.

Denver, Dec. 13.—News is received of a desperate fight that occurred near the border of Arizona and old Mexico. Three guards of the Mexican service and one desperado were killed. The latter was Franco Phallard, one of Black Jack's gang, and an outlaw from Texas, whose two brothers were killed while members of Billy the Kid's gang.

A few days ago the border guards learned of a raid that was designed by Black Jack to loot a town across the river. A start was made from Leander Springs, and the guards had no difficulty in finding them. The two forces met face to face at a turn in the road. There were eight outlaws against three officers, but the latter opened the attack with orders of "hands up." Two of the outlaws turned their horses for the hills, but Phallard dismounted, and drawing his Winchester, opened fire and killed the three officers before he fell with a wound in his side which proved fatal.

Phallard is the last of the Sam Bass gang of trainrobbers, who cleaned out Custer City many years ago.

HIS LAST HOPE GONE.

The California Supreme Court Decides Against Durrant.

San Francisco, Dec. 13.—Late this afternoon the supreme court dispelled the last hope of W. H. T. Durrant, the murderer of Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams, by disposing in a summary manner of his two appeals.

In a written opinion, from the pen of Chief Justice Beatty, which is concurred in by all but one of his colleagues, the court affirms the judgment of Judge Bahrs, in remanding the prisoner to San Quentin until the time set for his execution, but reverses that sentencing Durrant to be hanged on November 11, and remands the case to the superior court, with instructions to proceed according to law.

As the remittur was ordered issued forthwith and the court holds that execution can only be stayed now by the issuance of a certificate of probable cause, it only remains to resentence the condemned murderer, which will probably be done tomorrow.

Justice Garoutte alone dissented from this opinion, maintaining that Durrant's appeals should have been dismissed, as the time required by law for their perfection had been allowed to lapse.

BRAVE PORTLAND GIRL.

Rescued a Woman From a Burning Victoria Lodging House.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 13.—Through the courage and promptitude of Lily Baldwin, a Portland girl, a life was saved here under sensational circumstances, yesterday evening. There had been an explosion of gasoline in the oil tank factory of Tryon & Co., and the entire premises were soon blazing. On the upper floor was the American lodging-house, whose proprietress, Mrs. Fox, was ill in bed. In the confusion she was forgotten until the Portland girl, a lodger, remembered her. She ran upstairs and carried down the landlady, who by that time was unconscious from suffocation. Both escaped with slight burns, although their danger was imminent.

Rich Strike in Montana.

Butte, Mont., Dec. 13.—Reports from the Lowland mining district are that a rich strike of gold and silver quartz has been made in the Ruby mine, and that over a million dollars' worth of ore is in sight. The owners are taking out over \$2,000 a day. The property was purchased last summer from Adolph Mundebeuer, of San Francisco, for \$90,000, the principal owner being M. E. Graves, a New York man.

New York, Dec. 13.—The largest life insurance policy ever issued has been written in this city, calling for \$1,000,000 insurance upon the life of George W. Vanderbilt. The policy is what is known as a 20-payment life contract, and provides for a premium of \$35,000 a year. After Mr. Vanderbilt has paid that sum yearly for 20 years the payments cease and the principal becomes due at his death. The next largest policy ever written is said to have been for \$100,000 (\$500,000).