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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 strike of all workmen in St. Petersburg is threatened.

President Loubet is trying to patch up the trouble between members of the French cabinet.

More coal miners in Germany have struck. The sympathy of the public is with the strikers.

Britain and Russia are giving their side of the Dogger bank affair to the North sea commission.

The Woman's Army and Navy league favors the army canteen and will make an effort to have it re-established.

The big guns used by the Japanese at Port Arthur have been sent north and are now turned against Kuropatkin's army.

A charge of grape shot fired by conspirators at the czar narrowly missed him. It was aimed to kill off the entire imperial family.

Secretary Hay has secured pledges from the powers which assure the safety of China from being partitioned when peace is finally restored in the Far East.

Numerous further disclosures are being made in connection with the Coe election frauds. One man even voted in his dog's name after using his own as often as possible.

Chairman Burton has ruled that the present project for improving the mouth of the Columbia is not under a continuing contract and all money appropriated for this work must be carried in the river and harbor bill.

Steinheil has left Japan for Europe. Neidringhaus has been elected senator from Missouri.

The ship subsidy bill has small chance in congress.

The Kaiser is attempting to break up the Russo-French alliance.

Japan accuses Russia of seeking to draw other powers into the war.

Russia occupies Kasgar in Chinese territory and threatens to invade northern China.

New Jersey's new governor advises the appointment of a commission to curb corporations.

A Japanese torpedo boat has captured a German steamer with a cargo of coal bound for Vladivostok.

Striking German coal miners routed police and non-union men and troops may be called to restore order.

New United States senators just elected are: Beveridge and Hemenway, from Indiana; Knox, from Pennsylvania; Burkett, Nebraska; Sutherland, Utah; Clapp, Minnesota; Aldrich, Rhode Island; Dewey, New York; McCumber, North Dakota; Bulkeley, Connecticut; Lodge and Crane, Massachusetts; Burrows, Michigan; Hale, Maine.

Marshal Oyama is preparing to advance on Mukden.

Efforts to bring about reciprocity with Canada will fail.

Great strikes are on in the arms factories and iron works of Russia.

The supreme court has ordered a new trial for Senator Burton, of Kansas.

Turks are carrying on a reign of terror in Macedonia, and England refuses to intercede.

Robert B. Armstrong, assistant secretary to accept an important business position in New York.

The senate has confirmed the appointment of Veaspan Warner, of Illinois, to be commissioner of pensions.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Friday, Jan. 13.

Further consideration was given in the house today of the impeachment charges against Judge Swayne. There was a noticeable lack of interest in the case except among a few members. The defense charged that the whole thing was a case of private vengeance.

The senate today passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill and also a number of private pension bills.

Saturday, Jan. 14.

In the senate today an unavailing effort was made to secure consent to fix a day for taking a vote on the statehood bill.

Pension legislation at the rate of 359 bills in 108 minutes was indulged in by the house today, the result being the smashing of all previous records of the house as to legislative nimbleness.

Bills were passed to authorize the use of earth, stone and timber from the forest reserves and public lands for the construction of irrigation projects; to prohibit the words "United States army" or any words committing the government to the quality of gold or silver articles.

Monday, January 16.

Bills passed by the senate were: For the relief of the Western Alaska Construction Company's railroads by granting an extension of time for completion of the first section of at least 20 miles; to fix the compensation of criers and bailiffs in the United States courts at \$3 a day.

The statehood bill was discussed for three hours today. Several senators talked against uniting New Mexico and Arizona and some questioned the uniting of Oklahoma and Indian Territory.

Heyrburn said he could see no reason for it except for a shortsighted desire to shut the door of the senate against the West.

Tuesday, January 17.

In the senate today Heyrburn concluded his speech on the joint statehood bill and Stone gave notice of a speech tomorrow on his resolution for an investigation of charges of corruption in the campaigns of 1896 and 1904.

Lodge presented the conference report on the Philippines bond and railroad bill, and explained the house amendments.

Senator Mitchell appeared on the floor of the senate and defended himself in regard to the indictment in connection with the Oregon land frauds. He called his accusers liars and perjurers and will demand an investigation. Many of his colleagues crowded around him to welcome him.

Another obstacle has arisen in the way of the Klamath irrigation project. Chairman Mondell, of Wyoming, of the house committee on irrigation is fighting the bill. He says he is not in favor of expending a single cent of the reclamation fund in either California or Oregon until both states "pass a decent set of water laws."

Wednesday, January 18.

The house today adopted the 12 articles of impeachment against Judge Charles Swayne. The speaker was authorized to appoint members to present the case to the senate and conduct the impeachment proceedings before that body.

Senator Stone occupied considerable time with his speech asking an investigation of the campaigns of 1896 and 1904. Clay spoke in opposition to the statehood bill. He had no objection to the consolidation of Oklahoma and Indian Territory.

Thursday, January 19.

The house of representatives today completed consideration of the army appropriation bill and will vote on it tomorrow. A vigorous attack was made on the army transport service by Humphrey and offered an amendment abolishing it. The house fixed Friday, February 17, as the date for holding appropriate exercises in Statuary hall celebrating the status of Frances E. Willard. A bill was passed extending the extradition laws of the United States to the Philippines.

Consideration of the statehood bill was continued in the senate today and Stone spoke for two hours in opposition to it. The bill for the remuneration of American fur sealers who suffered losses because of their suppression, was also debated at some length, but no action was taken.

Italy Suspicious of Austria.

Rome, Jan. 21.—Uneasiness is felt here at the concentration on the Italian frontier of Austrian troops. The patria going so far as to say that Austria is preparing for war against Italy. On the other hand, the Tribuna publishes a statement to the effect that its correspondent at Vienna has been assured by the Austrian foreign office that the increase in the number of Austrian troops on the frontier of Italy was merely due to the return of soldiers to their posts after having been on duty along the Russian frontier.

To Include Swamp Land.

Washington, Jan. 21.—Representative Hall, of California, today introduced a bill authorizing the secretary of the interior to include swamp and overflowed land in any irrigation project that may be undertaken under the national irrigation law, wherever it may be deemed practicable and advisable to do so. Such land, when reclaimed, shall be disposed of in the same manner as other lands lying under the government irrigation projects.

More Free Coal for Japan.

Tokio, Jan. 21.—The Japanese captured the British steamer Okley in Tsushima straits Wednesday afternoon. The vessel left Cardiff on November 17, carrying 5,900 tons of coal for Vladivostok. She was brought to Sascho.

SOCIAL WAR IS ON

Great Strike at St. Petersburg Involving Thousands.

WORK ON WARSHIPS IS STOPPED

About 58,000 Ironworkers and 50,000 Cotton Mill Operatives May Join in Strike.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 20.—The strike situation is becoming very grave. Tonight there are 58,000 men out on strike, and the movement is spreading to the big cotton mills, which employ over 50,000 operatives. Meetings have been called for tomorrow, at which Social Democratic leaders will use their utmost endeavors to convert the strike into a vast political demonstration, which at the present crisis might have most serious developments. The authorities are adopting every precaution to avoid an outbreak, but the Social Democrats are spurring on the strikers, and there is great danger of a collision with the troops, which would be almost sure to be followed by red flag demonstrations, accompanied by riotous bloodshed. The community is full of sensational rumors and rioting is generally expected.

In conjunction with the Epiphany celebration, which will occur tomorrow, the meetings of strikers will make the day a critical one for the police. Thus far, however, the strike has preserved a purely economic aspect. The great industrial quarter of St. Petersburg presents the appearance of an armed camp. The idle factories are surrounded by cordons of police and patrols of infantry march about the snow-covered plains.

The strikers are led by a priest named Gopov, who is idolized by the workmen and who represents them in negotiations with the employers.

This is the first great strike in Northern Russia. Hitherto the workmen have been unorganized, and previous strikes in St. Petersburg have not involved more than 10,000 men. The strike leaders claim to have funds enough to hold out for a month, but this is doubted, and the lack of money and the privations of winter and perhaps government interference are expected to make the strike short and sharp.

The strikers, who at first declined an offer of financial support, are reported to have accepted a contribution from Moscow.

The strike has an important bearing on the war in the Far East, as every day's delay in completing the government contracts with the iron works means the loss of precious time in the starting of the third Pacific squadron.

AGREE ON RAILROAD RATES

Leaders of House and Senate Agree to Speedily Pass Bill.

Washington, Jan. 20.—It is asserted today that an agreement is making between the leaders of the senate and the house in accordance with which railroad rate legislation will be enacted at the present session of congress. The basis of the legislation will be the measure drawn by Colonel Hebrburn, chairman of the interstate and foreign commerce committee of the house.

This bill already has been considered by the president, Attorney General Moody, Secretary Taft and Secretary Morton, and by members of both the house and the senate. It does not meet the approval of all who have examined it, but it is believed to be a good foundation for a measure which probably can be enacted.

The probability is that the Hebrburn bill will be passed by the house before February 1.

Smallpox Rages at Billings.

Billings, Mont., Jan. 20.—According to the records of the city officials there are at present 67 cases of smallpox here, all of which are strictly guarded. In different parts of the town there are 37 houses under quarantine. Since the outbreak of the disease, January 4, there have been five deaths. A new pest house has been erected outside the city limits for the care of patients. Everything possible is being done to stamp out the disease, and it is believed the health authorities have the situation under control.

Will Save Five Vessels.

London, Jan. 20.—According to a dispatch received from Port Arthur five of the vessels sunk by the Russians and by the shells of the Japanese in the harbor have been raised. Five hundred and forty guns on the forts and warships have been found to be in good condition and easily repaired. In addition to these the prizes captured by the Japanese include eight locomotives and 3,000 railroad cars.

Put in Line of Succession.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The house committee on election of president in conference today favorably reported the bill adding the secretary of agriculture and the secretary of commerce to the line of presidential succession.

Hundreds Buried Alive.

London, Jan. 19.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg from a news agency reports that an earthquake at Shumakha, 76 miles northwest of Baku, buried hundreds of persons in the ruins of buildings in the lower part of the town, which was densely populated, despite the decision, after the earthquake of three years ago, that no more houses should be built there.

STAND BY CHINA.

Hay Answers Note of Russia's Complaining Against China.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, was this afternoon handed Secretary Hay's reply to Russia's complaint that China is violating neutrality. At the same time the note was dispatched to the Russian ambassador, copies were transmitted to all the European powers which endorsed the agreement for a limitation of the zone of hostilities in the Far East.

Secretary Hay's note is plain and sharp, although framed in the most polite diplomatic language. Faith is expressed in the declaration that China has not committed any breach of neutrality, but has done all possible to maintain a correct attitude towards both belligerents. Russia is urged to abide by the agreement confining the war to definite limits.

At the same time Secretary Hay forwarded a note to the Chinese government, through Minister Conger at Peking, in which China is asked to continue the strict enforcement of neutrality, so that neither Russia nor Japan can find any cause for complaint. An inquiry is also made as to the allegation put forward by Russia that China has been guilty of many violations of neutrality.

Secretary Hay already knows what the reply will be, and the question is asked for the sole purpose of affording an opportunity to deny the Russian charge. China is afraid to answer Russia through her own representative at St. Petersburg, but is anxious that this be done through Secretary Hay.

MAY FLOAT FOUR SHIPS.

Japanese Find Wrecks in Port Arthur Are Not Hopeless.

London, Jan. 19.—The Times correspondent at Port Arthur, detailing the damage to the Russian fleet, says the battleships Peresviet and Poltava can easily be floated, but that the former's construction is greatly damaged and that the battleship Fallada and the armored cruiser Bayan apparently are not seriously damaged and can be refloated. The four vessels, the correspondent says, may be saved after great expense, but the difficulties will be great, as there is no dock in Japan for battleships.

The battleships Retvizan and Pobieda seem to be hopelessly damaged. As regards armament, the turret guns were all destroyed before the surrender. Some of the guns of the secondary armament are intact, but most of the small guns were removed to the forts.

Three days before the surrender the ships were set on fire with kerosene and mines were exploded alongside. Russians state that the fleet was unfit for service after the engagement of August 15. Coal was abundant and it was used to protect the decks of the war vessels against howitzer shells.

CALL FOR \$70,000.

New California Bill for 1905 Exhibit Makes Total of \$90,000.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 19.—Action toward providing an appropriation to insure a creditable representation of California at the Lewis and Clark international exposition at Portland this year was taken today, when Assemblyman Bliss, of Alameda, introduced in the lower house a bill appropriating \$70,000 in addition to the sum of \$20,000 set aside by the last legislature for the purpose. This makes a total of \$90,000, and is deemed sufficient by proper handling to make a first class display, with what aid the various counties will give by supplying material.

The bill passed by the last legislature names Governor Pardee as commissioner to the exposition, and gives him direction of the expenditure of the \$20,000. The one presented by Assemblyman Bliss today makes no provision for commissioners. There is a plan to amend the bill in committee, so that it will provide for two honorary commissioners. It is not thought the chief executive will have any trouble in securing non-salaried commissioners to serve the state.

Will Combine Forces.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 19.—The admiral here denies the report published by the Matin, of Paris, to the effect that the Russian authorities are in receipt of a dispatch from Admiral Rozhdestvensky saying that he is leaving Madagascar without waiting the division commanded by Rear Admiral Botrotsky. There is every indication that the Russian second Pacific squadron intends to cruise in the Indian ocean for some time, probably until the arrival of the division now being made ready at Libau.

Looks Dark for Canal.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Nothing developed in the river and harbor committee today to indicate that there had been a change of sentiment with regard to the Cello canal. Chairman Burton, so far as known, adheres to the position he took yesterday and has not been moved by further pleas of Representatives Williamson and Jones. It continues to look very dark for the canal project at the present session of congress.

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