

NEXT SEASON SHIP

The Netherlands Is Now Headed for Portland.

BY WAY OF SANTA ROSALIA

First Vessel Chartered for 1901 Crop Loading—Steamer Skarpno in Trouble—Overdue Rathdowna—Two More Wheat Cargoes.

The farmers who grow wheat with which to fill the ships which annually set up at Portland docks after voyages from remote parts of the earth are not obliged to look about for a year for a buyer for the cereal. The exporter, however, is obliged to engage a supply of tonnage before the wheat is in the ground. The German ship Netherlands, the first vessel chartered for 1901 crop wheat loading at this port, sailed from Hamburg last Sunday. If the Netherlands is coming direct to Portland, she would arrive along with the Queen of the May and other Spring features, but before coming to Portland she must go to the port of Santa Rosalia and discharge her cargo of coke and other heavy goods in ballast. Santa Rosalia is notorious for the world over for the slow dispatch given ships, and it will probably be July or August before the Netherlands resumes her journey to Portland.

The Netherlands was chartered for September loading, and, if she meets with no mishap, will probably sail around on time. She was taken at \$50, and, if the wheat crop is a failure, and ships are plentiful at that time, all of the profits made on a cheap ship during the season of 1900 or 1901 will vanish in thin air. There have been but few ships chartered so far this year, but engagements prior to that time are more numerous. The British ship Australia, which loaded in Portland last season, has been chartered to load in San Francisco at 35 shillings, and the NaI has been taken at the same rate, with the option of loading in Portland. Ordinarily this would seem like a very high rate for San Francisco, where there is usually so much cargo tonnage secured, but the discovery of oil, which takes the place of fuel, and the duty on salt, tinsplate, etc., has shut off a large amount of business formerly given to sailors, and within another year or two freights will be the same at all coast ports.

SIX NEW STEAMERS.

Fleet of Vessels Now Building for the Fruit Trade.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The Journal of Commerce prints the following: I. G. Burgham, the second vice-president of the United Fruit Company, has contracted, through their London agent, the Walsh Company, for six new steamers to meet the requirements of their foreign trade, and have also, through Bennett, Walsh & Co., chartered, these steamers for four years, with options. These steamers are to be from 2000 to 3000 tons cubic capacity for cargo, and will be fitted especially for carriage of perishable cargo of fruit as well as general cargo, and will be fully equipped with electric light throughout, and every modern device for handling fruit and general cargo. Elegant passenger accommodations for 24 to 30 passengers will be furnished, saloons, staterooms, social hall, smoking-room, etc., to be placed amidships on the upper deck, with extra large staterooms, to meet the requirements of tropical trade, and all the conveniences found in modern trans-Atlantic liners.

The contracts call for an average speed of 14 knots per hour, at sea, loaded. The vessels will be ready for delivery in May, and will immediately enter into the different trades to which they will be assigned. The United Fruit Company at its present time owns or under contract between 40 or 50 steamships. Every modern device up to date, as to improvement in passenger service, and the rapid and safe handling of cargoes which, on account of their perishable nature, makes speed the all-essential feature in these steamers, has been carefully attended to. Names have been decided upon for four of the vessels, and they will be given them at their launchings, which are at Taunton, Taunton, Brighton and Beacon. The Preston is now building at the Bergen Mekanisk yard, Bergen, Norway, and will be a spar-deck steamer, with dimensions of 200 by 35 by 25. The Taunton is being built at Akersmekanisk, Burmeister and Wain, Maskin-og K. B. Company, Copenhagen. She will be a spar-deck steamer, with dimensions of 27 by 42 by 23.8. The Brighton and Beacon are being built at Akersmekanisk Værksted, Christiania, and will be a spar-deck steamer, with dimensions of 27 by 42 by 23.8. The two unnamed vessels will be spar-deck steamers, 200 by 35 by 25, and are now in course of construction at Craig's ship-building yards, Toledo, O.

THE UNLUCKY RATHDOWN.

Steel Bridge's Assault Making a Long Passage From the Orient. The British ship Rathdown, which had a costly collision with the steel bridge in Portland harbor a few years ago, is getting to be a pretty bad risk. She is now out nearly 80 days from Yokohama for Puget Sound, and has not yet been steadily mounting upward, until it is now quoted at \$5 per cent. Soon after the ship left the Orient a typhoon was raging, and it is feared that the vessel was damaged. Some of the cargo was lost, and the ship is making long passages, and unless they show up very soon after the present storm abates, they will be grumbling substantially, and the ballast ship in such a storm as has been tearing along the Oregon and Washington Coasts for the past week is not a very safe place of residence.

SKARPNO IN TROUBLE.

Oriental Liner Reaches Yokohama With Empty Coal Bunkers. The Norwegian steamship Skarpno, which sailed from this port late in November, with a cargo of flour to the Orient, was reported to have reached Yokohama yesterday, with empty coal bunkers, and with the cargo being used for fuel. The Skarpno has been out over three weeks from the Columbia, and fears for her safety were felt until the news of her arrival was received yesterday. No particulars of the voyage are at hand, but she has undoubtedly had a touch of the weather that has played havoc with the fleet coming this way. Storms of unusual severity have been sweeping over the ocean, and it is feared that some of the in-bound fleet for Portland have suffered.

Majestic's Christmas Mail.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The steamship Majestic, now on her way across the Atlantic, carries the largest mail, it is said, that ever left this port on a vessel. The Majestic will not arrive on the other side until the day after Christmas, but she carries 228 bags of mail and 113 cases containing 15,986 registered packages.

Two More Wheat Cargoes.

The British ship Astracana was cleared yesterday for Queenstown or Fairmount for orders, with a full cargo of wheat. She was dispatched by the Portland Flouring Mills Company. The Elbeke, which has been loading at Balfour, Guthrie & Co.'s big dock, finished her cargo

yesterday afternoon, and will clear to-day or tomorrow. The approaching holiday will interfere with business next week, but there will probably be three or four more ships added to the outward-bound fleet before the end of the month.

STEAMER JEANIE OVERDUE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20.—Eleven days ago the steamer Jeanie sailed from Seattle for San Francisco, with a cargo of coal. Nothing has since been heard of her. Ordinarily seven days would have been sufficient for the trip. No fears are entertained, however, by the Pacific Steam Whaling Company, owners of the vessel, that she will not reach port in good condition. Officers of the company expect her to pick up her usual large cargo Washougal on the way down the coast, making up in salvage what the Jeanie has lost in time.

Pacific Mail Sued.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20.—John J. English and 120 others have filed a suit in the United States District Court against the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, claiming \$400,000 in damages for breach of passenger contract. The complainants are men who went to Nagasaki some months ago in charge of a cargo of horses destined for the German Army in China. They allege that although their contract with the defendant provided for European steamer accommodations they were crowded into oriental staterooms among Chinese and Japanese.

Steamer Kimball Sprung a Leak.

SEATTLE, Dec. 20.—The steamer John E. Kimball, which left Seattle last Sunday for Honolulu, returned here today, having sprung a leak in a violent storm off Cape Flattery Tuesday morning. It is believed that her superstructure forward was strained by the heavy seas. She will be examined tomorrow.

Domestic and Foreign Ports.

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—Arrived—Steamer Mackinac, from Seattle; bark Undaunted, from Comox; schooner Westera Home, from Coos Bay; steamer Jeanie, from Seattle; Sailed—Steamer W. Elder, for Astoria; schooner John Miller, for Coos Bay; steamer Progress, for Tacoma; steamer Alliance, for Astoria. Port Townsend, Dec. 20.—Sailed—Barkentine Kikikita, for Honolulu. Tacoma—Sailed Dec. 19.—Schooner Minnie A. Caine, for Sydney. Victoria—Arrived Dec. 19.—British steamer Arcturion, from Alaska. Vancouver—Arrived Dec. 19.—British steamer Royalist, from Java. Seattle—Sailed Dec. 19.—Steamer Elihu Thomson, for Tacoma; steamer John E. Kimball, for Port Angeles; will return. Arrived Dec. 19.—Steamer Dirigo, from Skagway. Kobe—Arrived Dec. 19.—Bergenhuis, from Portland, Or., for Yokohama, etc. Sailed Dec. 19.—Braemar, for Tacoma. London—Arrived Dec. 19.—Menominee, from New York. Dec. 20.—Arrived—Commonwealth, from Boston; Sailed—Belgenland, for Philadelphia. Muroran—Sailed previous to Dec. 15—Horda, for San Francisco. Dec. 20.—Sailed—Tacoma, from Seattle. Antwerp, Dec. 20.—Sailed—Nederland, for Philadelphia. Queenston, Dec. 20.—Sailed—Teutonic, from Liverpool for New York. New York, Dec. 20.—Sailed—La Champagne, for Havre. New York, Dec. 20.—Arrived—Bulgaria, from Hamburg and Roulogne.

Idaho Notes.

A poultry show will be given at Lewiston, February 7-9. A company has been formed at Shoshone for the purpose of building water-works for the city. The Ketchikan Grain Company is being incorporated at Lewiston with a capital stock of \$50,000. A creamery plant will be located at Moberly, with a capacity of 300,000 gallons per hour. The Ridenbaugh Canal Company has started the construction of a reservoir to cover 200 acres of land at Nampa. This will be completed within six or six months. The company purposes doing extensive development in other directions within a short time. The United Fruit Company, on Gold Creek, 30 miles east of Kendrick, has been hauling supplies from Kendrick during the past week, preparatory to developing the property and a new shaft will be sunk and two shafts put to work. The property was discovered two years ago and caused considerable excitement for a time. The new operators are owners of the Dewey mine, in the upper Clearwater country.

A Plucky Kikikita Woman.

Dallas Chronicle. There's a plucky woman living over on the old Short place, across the river, who is now carrying on the business of the Portage Road Company. Officers of the law, armed with writs of execution, have invaded that country for weeks and carried away everything lying around loose that belonged to any one remotely related to the portage road. Two or three days ago a Justice of the Peace, Constable and a couple of able-bodied Kikikita men hit the Short place, and, exhibiting a writ of attachment, demanded possession of half a dozen cows that Mr. Harris caretaker had driven into the barn before going ashore. The demand was made of the caretaker's wife and the plucky little woman, instead of opening the barn door to the invaders, excused herself for a moment and returned with a loaded Winchester in her hand, addressed the four men in these words: "You see this gun? Well, she's loaded for bear and I know how to shoot. You see that road that leads back to where you came from. Now you hit it, and hit quick."

Admiral Philip Memorial.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Almost \$1,000 have been contributed for the Admiral Philip memorial fund, named in memory of the famous Commander of the Texas, and later Commandant of the Brooklyn navy-yard. It is hoped the fund will amount to at least \$50,000. The income of the fund is to go to Mrs. Philip as long as she lives, and after her death it will be devoted to the maintenance of the naval branch of the Y. M. C. A. in Brooklyn, a work in which Admiral Philip was deeply interested.

New Plant, Operated under the Name of the Northwest Anchor Fence & Manufacturing Company.

A new plant, operated under the name of the Northwest Anchor Fence & Manufacturing Company, is about to be located at Spokane and by the first of the year will be turning out large quantities of rigid wire fence.

TOO MUCH POLITICS

Bosses Oppose Civil Service Reform.

PROTESTS PROVE UNAVAILING

Abstract of the Report of the Investigating Committee of the Civil Service Reform League.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The committee of the National Civil Service Reform League appointed to investigate the condition of the Federal Civil Service, and the enforcement of the reform law and rules under the present Administration, has submitted the following report and conclusions: In enacting the civil service law, in 1883, the committee shows Congress intended that the system should ultimately embrace the entire subordinate executive service, or as the Senate committee declared in reporting the bill, "all that vast number of appointed officials who carry into effect the orders of the President... whose duties do not change with a change of Administration, and who have nothing to do with framing the political policies of the Government." Section 6 of the act made provision for a gradual extension of the system, through the action of the President and heads of departments, until this end might be effected. From the date of the passage of the act, in May 1883, this system has continued almost without interruption, each President making important additions to the classified list. The latest of these additions had been in effect for about a year when the present Administration came into power, but by far the greater part of the work necessary to the completion of the reform remained to be done. With the advent of the present Administration, at its convention in 1898, had renewed its repeated declarations not only that the law should be thoroughly and honestly enforced, but that it should be extended wherever practicable. The committee reports, however, that while in many of the branches that have been longest classified, the system has been unimpeded, in others it has not produced excellent results. It cannot be said that the law has been "thoroughly and honestly enforced," while conspicuous and unusual opportunities for its extension, where clearly "practicable," have deliberately been set aside. On March 2, 1897, approximately 36,000 positions were in the classified service, while 22,000, including 600 Presidential appointments, several thousand laborers, and other miscellaneous classes, and the great army of fourth-class postmasters, remained unclassified.

Through Competitive Tests.

Appointments from competitive eligible list.....4,640 Without Competitive Tests. Appointments to excepted positions, not subject to examination.....254 Appointments to "temporary" positions, not subject to "merit" competitive examination.....800 Appointments under "temporary" certificates.....2,243 "Temporary" appointments made permanent.....973 Reinstatements without examination.....1,170 Transfers of unexamined persons within the classified service.....107 Unexamined persons having "special qualifications".....1 Appointments to positions in the executive departments under the war appropriation.....1,200 Appointments to clerical positions in the Census Office.....2,490 Total.....8,153

Without Competitive Tests.

While it might reasonably have been expected that proper compliance with the law and recognition of its principles on the part of both Congress and the heads of departments would have secured the appointment through competition of almost all the great body of officers and employes in grades of the sorts that are classified, in the present Administration it has at hand, is obliged to report very different results. During the first year following the order of May 29, 1899, that ending on June 1 last, the appointments within these classes were as follows: Through Competitive Tests. Appointments from competitive eligible list.....4,640 Without Competitive Tests. Appointments to excepted positions, not subject to examination.....254 Appointments to "temporary" positions, not subject to "merit" competitive examination.....800 Appointments under "temporary" certificates.....2,243 "Temporary" appointments made permanent.....973 Reinstatements without examination.....1,170 Transfers of unexamined persons within the classified service.....107 Unexamined persons having "special qualifications".....1 Appointments to positions in the executive departments under the war appropriation.....1,200 Appointments to clerical positions in the Census Office.....2,490 Total.....8,153

Violations in Competitive Positions.

III. As the classified service has grown, it has been observed that violations of the civil service law, both now and heretofore, have occurred most frequently in the branches most recently included. After the change of March 2, 1897, there were many irregular appointments in the three years before, and not a few in branches longer established, coupled very frequently with irregular removals. These were mainly in the Internal Revenue Service, the Land Office Service, the Government Printing Office, the field forces of the Department of Justice, and the Pension Bureau, and in certain of the Custom-Houses and Postoffices—notably at the Postoffice in Philadelphia. The Civil Service Commission addressed repeated protests to the departments concerned in these violations, but in many instances with unsatisfactory results.

Restraint Deliberately Removed.

IV. One of the most serious features of the situation is that, no matter how frequently and severely prohibition may be made in violation of the law, the Civil Service Commission is powerless to prevent them. In the Cities of New York and Chicago, and in almost every other city where the Federal system has been established, fiscal officers are forbidden to pay salaries to persons whose appointment is not made in the manner prescribed by the law. The Commission assumed that the same rule applied, of necessity, at Washington, and three years ago asked the Secretary of the Treasury to aid in enforcing a proper system of audit. Failing to secure that officer's co-operation, lists of persons known to be illegally in office were sent to the Controller, Mr. Tracy, with the request that their claims for salary be not recognized. The Controller declined to interfere, although the commission, under date of December 12, 1897, wrote to him to inquire into these appointments obtains at the present time, involving the honor of the administration of the civil service act. With the information given you by the commission, the Bureau is capable of easy verification in case of the slightest doubt concerning the facts, can you not take official cognizance of the matter? Mr. Sumpter today indicating a collapse, and nowhere are the monuments of a deserted village. Houses are filled, new buildings are in course of construction, for rent is a rare placard, business houses are changing from wood to brick. More extensive, substantial and costly blocks are rising on the sites where a large business has heretofore been conducted. Miners and business men who were long prone to regard the town as a mere mining camp, are now bringing in their families and making homes. School children have multiplied, while the voting population, as indicated by a comparison of the Spring registration and the recent municipal election, has decreased. The transient settlement, which has been the result of the taking place, the aftermath of Sumpter's boom is quite unusual in boom experiences. A solid growth, with all the earmarks of permanence, has filled the town since the first of the year.

War Emergency Appointments.

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The Census Force.

VII. Although Mr. Carroll D. Wright, acting Director of the Census, informed Congress that more than \$3,000,000 had been appropriated for the present census by reason of the failure to select the working force through the merit system, this system was again deliberately set aside, and the present census was taken by the method of bureau heads, and though the heads of bureaus have been efficient and were trained men, otherwise the methods adopted in the former census, which proved such a failure, were followed almost exactly.

The Order of May 29, 1899.

VIII. It was while the state of the service was as low as the committee declares, that the President's order of May 29, 1899, was issued. The order had effects that are reviewed in a separate report. It is stated in connection with the present report, however, that it removed from the competitive to the "excepted" list 400 positions, and from the classified to the unclassified service about 600 more; that it validated nominally many appointments previously made in violation of the law, and it weakened the rules governing transfers, reinstatements and removals, so as to permit new and very serious abuses; and, finally, it gave the President the right to appoint in the area of the merit system.

Succeeds Dr. Everett.

BOSTON, Dec. 20.—The Rev. Dr. William Wallace Penn, pastor of the Church of the Messiah, Chicago, has been elected Bussey Professor of Theology at Harvard University, to succeed Dr. Charles Carroll Everett, who died last month. Dr. Everett was also dean of the Divinity School at Harvard, and held the position, which it is expected will go to the Rev. Dr. Francis G. Peabody, the Plummer professor. Dr. Penn was born in Boston and was educated at Harvard and the Divinity School in 1857. He went to Chicago in 1881.

of this rule, also, would be greatly impaired, and experience has since shown that it has been found to be impracticable.

Evasion of the Rules.

IV. While direct violations of the rules have been more or less common, indirect evasions have been more so. "Temporary appointments" are an instance in point. The law prohibits the making of appointments without examination for 90 days temporary service, in the absence of an eligible list, for emergency work. It is required that the Civil Service Commission shall give its certificate that there is no adequate list. In practice the vast majority of these appointments have been made at pleasure and without inquiry as to the state of the lists, continued indefinitely, and reported as long afterwards as the appointing officer chose. Within 12 months following the amended rules of May 6, 1896, 729 temporary appointments were authorized, and during the 11 months from June 1, 1897, to May 31, 1898, not more than 50 were authorized by the commission in any manner. The figures do not include War Department appointments in either case.

Another common method of evasion is the appointment of persons (generally women) as "laborers"—in which class examination is not required—and their assignment immediately to duties of a higher class. The growth of this practice the commission frankly discusses in its 18th report. "Excepted" places are also used to bring persons surreptitiously into the competitive service, as in the San Francisco Custom-House, where the principal deputy was made chief clerk, and the son of the Collector appointed, without examination, to the vacant office, only to change places with the deputy when it came to the assignment of duties.

The Postoffice Department has adopted a device for evasion that the committee deems peculiarly contemptible. When a small postoffice is about to be given free delivery (which of itself brings the office force to the classified service), persons are brought from other cities, and even from other states, to take positions in such offices just before they enter the free-delivery class, to be transferred immediately afterward to the office for which they are really destined, thus escaping examination altogether. Nearly a hundred appointments of this sort have already occurred, despite the earnest protest of the Civil Service Commission.

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SMOKING JACKETS \$4.50 to \$30.00

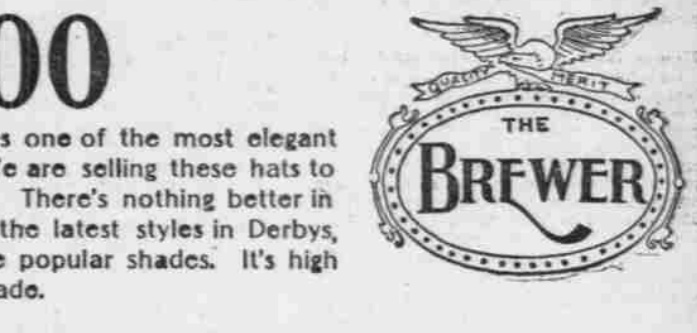


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Invested in a "Brewer" Hat makes one of the most elegant Christmas gifts one can find. We are selling these hats to the best-dressed men in Portland. There's nothing better in style and fine appearance. All the latest styles in Derbys, Fedoras and Golf shapes. All the popular shades. It's high grade, hand finished and union made.



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STORE OPEN EVENINGS

Ben Selling THE RELIABLE CLOTHIER

S. E. CORNER FOURTH AND MORRISON STREETS

SUMPTER STILL GROWS

MANY MARKS OF PROGRESS IN THRIVING MINING CENTER.

Brief Review of Town's Continuous Development From Its Boom Days Up to Present Time.

SUMPTER, Dec. 20.—Sumpter is closing the second year of its existence as a town without loss of prestige or good name. Rapid growth has not been of the mushroom order. Nothing can be found in Sumpter today indicating a collapse, and nowhere are the monuments of a deserted village. Houses are filled, new buildings are in course of construction, for rent is a rare placard, business houses are changing from wood to brick. More extensive, substantial and costly blocks are rising on the sites where a large business has heretofore been conducted. Miners and business men who were long prone to regard the town as a mere mining camp, are now bringing in their families and making homes. School children have multiplied, while the voting population, as indicated by a comparison of the Spring registration and the recent municipal election, has decreased. The transient settlement, which has been the result of the taking place, the aftermath of Sumpter's boom is quite unusual in boom experiences. A solid growth, with all the earmarks of permanence, has filled the town since the first of the year.

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The Order of May 29, 1899.

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pace with material progress, if not exceeding it. Instead of the rough mining habits and coarse rowdiness usual in new mining camps, Sumpter possesses a sedate social manner inviting to any modest family. Miners visit the town and have their carousals, but that is regarded as an element incident to pioneer conditions, and families have their circles removed from contact with all this. The Social Club has a membership of 130. A visit to the Social hall on the occasion of one of the bi-weekly meetings prepared by the club is refreshing. Social parties, social dances and religious meetings are frequent. Two churches, the Methodist and Presbyterian, hold services in the town, the former in a room rented for the purpose, and the latter in a church constructed by the congregation. Four or five fraternal orders hold regular meetings.

Business Men's League has recently been organized, with Mayor-elect J. H. Robbins as chairman. This body will take up all the ordinary work regarding the jurisdiction of a Chamber of Commerce. As much of the attention is looking to improvement of roads and keeping in touch with the mining interests of the district, the achievements of the Business Men's League should unquestionably be great.

In the matter of pure water and good electric light, Sumpter is a city. Located in the hills, well up in the mountains, a comparatively new problem was solved in conducting to the town an abundance of fine mountain-stream water. The pipe line at Wind Creek eight miles from the town, the former in a room rented for the purpose, and the latter in a church constructed by the congregation. Four or five fraternal orders hold regular meetings.

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Oregon Industries.

The Harrisburg flouring mills are running day and night shifts. The new machinery has been ordered for the Baker City light plant. The capacity of the plant will be increased thereby 50 per cent. One box in the Baker City new Operation was sold for \$5, and another for \$6 for the opening night. The profits of the first performance will go towards furnishing the theater.

The Burns Electric Light & Water Company, which was granted a 50-year franchise in January, 1897, will immediately begin work. The work must be completed before the expiration of five years.

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