

WAR FOR BUSINESS

San Francisco and Seattle Both Want Transports.

CHANCES NOW FAVOR SEATTLE

Southern Port Wants Government to Continue Present Service, but Root Wants to Let Contract to Seattle Company.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash- ington, Dec. 4.—Secretary Root will decide on Wednesday next whether contracts and supplies will hereafter be transported to and from the Philippines by Government transports or by private steamship lines. In other words, he will decide whether to accept the recent bid of the Boston Steamship Company and make future shipments from Seattle, or reject that bid and retain San Francisco as a shipping base. Officials of the War Department, who have made elaborate calculations since this bid was submitted, have concluded that the Government would save money by throwing the transportation business into private hands. The Quartermaster-General, who has heretofore held out strenuously in favor of preservation of the transport service, now admits that the other scheme is the more economical.

San Francisco interests are thoroughly alarmed over the prospect of losing the immense Government business, which means millions of dollars to them each year. Their Congressional delegation is straining every nerve to prevent the change, and even begs for a readjustment, in order that San Francisco shippers may have an opportunity to get the Government business, but that cannot assure Secretary Root that actual bids will be submitted, and the Secretary will not promise to readvertise. The fact that the figures now in his hands are so favorable, on a first and fair competition, rather inclines him to believe that the time has come to change the which he has long advocated.

The only qualifications of the Seattle situation which embarrasses the department is the present lack of quarters for troops arriving and waiting to embark. There is some objection to releasing troops on board the Garonne, which it is proposed to anchor in Seattle harbor; yet other officials think this will provide adequate quarters for the troops, and with Vancouver barracks so near. The fact that James J. Hill desires the adoption of the Boston Company's offer, which would benefit him indirectly, has a considerable influence in the direction of Seattle.

Between now and Wednesday San Francisco expects to formulate all possible arguments against a change of the prevailing system. Recognizing that Army officers are now making an appraisal of all Government property at San Francisco and the vicinity, they are preparing for a last grand struggle, with the chances against them. Sooner or later Secretary Root is determined the transports must go, and if he becomes thoroughly convinced that the present opportunity justifies the change, it will be made regardless of Congressional influence in behalf of either port.

Government Building for Nome. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 4.—Senator Quay today introduced a bill authorizing the construction of a public building at Nome, Alaska, to cost over \$150,000.

NO LAND FRAUDS.

(Continued from First Page.)

through his representative in Oregon was endeavoring to procure the release of private claims upon several tracts of land in Oregon—and which I understand was valuable principally for timber—so that the state could take as lies lands, and this gentleman was to pay his agent when they procured title from the state the sum of \$5 per acre. I immediately called the attention of the members of the State Land Board to such facts as I had obtained, and I understand that the plan was frustrated.

"Over the selection and deliberation of the Interior Department, and the controversies over mineral lands, the delegation has no more control than the Oregonian. Reference to these matters is made through the members of the delegation. They are not brought to my attention by any officer, state or National.

"But it seems to me that the officials of the Interior Department, instead of continuing to play the part of common scolds, and place the whole state under suspicion, should make a specific charge of specific violation of some law against some specific person. I shall be ready to render them all the assistance in my power."

Moody Says No Wonder.

Representative Moody, commenting on the editorial which says "Secretary Hitchcock's report on the Oregon public land abuses is just," and concludes with the statement "It is a fair presumption that this wholesale manipulation of public lands has been perfectly understood, not only by the State Land Board, but also by Commissioner Hermann, Senators Mitchell and Simon and Representatives Tongue and Moody," says "Secretary of the Interior would suspect that there might be something wrong in the disposition of the public lands of Oregon when the returns from the Dalles district alone, with which I am best acquainted, show that applications to purchase lands under the timber and stone act have grown from about 250 to about 1500 entries in the past 12 months.

"In other words, there had been filed in that office, prior to January 1, 1902, in 27 years since the establishment of the office, only about 250 sworn timber statements, covering 40,000 acres, while in the past 12 months there have been filed about 1500 entries, covering 200,000 acres. It is not strange, with this remarkable showing from one land district in the state, which, with the possible exception of Burns, contains timber in less quantity and value than any of the other five districts, that the honorable Secretary of the Interior would suspect that there might be something wrong in the disposition of the public lands of Oregon when the returns from the Dalles district alone, with which I am best acquainted, show that applications to purchase lands under the timber and stone act must first take the following oath:

"That I have made no other application under said act, that I do not apply to purchase land above described on speculation, but in good faith to appropriate it to my own exclusive use and benefit, and that I have not directly or indirectly made any agreement, contract, or in any way or manner with any person or persons whatsoever, by which title I may acquire from the Government of the United States may inure in whole or in part to the benefit of any person except myself.

"The addresses of the applicants range from Maine to Montana.

"If the leading paper in the state, in seeking to investigate this matter, chooses to throw, by its general assertions, a

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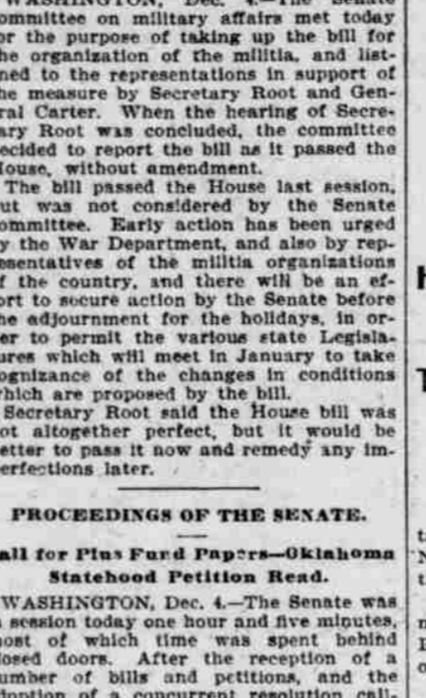
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Pain or dull ache in the back is unmistakable evidence of kidney trouble. It is Nature's timely warning to show you that the track of health is not clear. If these danger signals are unheeded, more serious results are sure to follow; Bright's disease, which is the worst form of kidney trouble, may steal upon you.

The mild and extraordinary effect of the world-famous kidney and bladder remedy, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. A trial will convince anyone—and you may have a sample bottle free, by mail.

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Amendment to Law Allowing Them to Join Husbands. WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—Senator Hoar today presented to the Senate an amendment to the immigration bill providing that the wives and children of aliens who have declared their intention of becoming citizens shall be admitted without tax.

Report on Diplomatic Nominations. WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The Senate committee on foreign relations today authorized favorable reports on all the nominations to diplomatic positions before it as follows: Robert McCormack, Ambassador to Russia; Charlemagne Tower, Ambassador to Germany; Bellamy Storer, Ambassador to Austria; David E. Thompson, Minister to General and Mexico; Minister to Bolivia; J. B. Jackson, Minister to Spain; Leslie Combs, Minister to Guatemala; Percival Dodge, Secretary of the Embassy at Berlin; Peter A. Jay, Third Secretary at Paris.

Nominations Sent to Senate. WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The President today sent the following nominations to the Senate: Robert McWade, Pennsylvania (now known as the Immigration bill) providing that the wives and children of aliens who have declared their intention of becoming citizens shall be admitted without tax.

Red River Rising, Barsting Levees and Driving Out Inhabitants. SHREVEPORT, La., Dec. 4.—Red River continues to rise at Shreveport and points above. It will go above the danger line here tonight. The bottom lands, inhabited principally by negroes, are rapidly filling with water. A number of families have been forced to leave their homes, and, as a further rise of five feet is predicted, people are preparing to leave for higher points.

Relief for Consul Prentiss' Heirs. WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—An amendment to the diplomatic appropriation bill appropriating \$5000 for the benefit of the heirs of the late Thomas T. Prentiss, was favorably reported to the Senate today from the committee on foreign relations. Prentiss was United States Consul at St. Pierre, Martinique, when that place was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Pelee, and was among the victims.

Judge Holmes' Appointment Stands. WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—Oliver Wendell Holmes was today confirmed by the Senate to succeed the late Justice Gray as a member of the bench of the United States Supreme Court. There was no opposition.

Pension Appropriation Bill. WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The House committee on appropriations has agreed upon the pension appropriation bill. It appropriates \$119,877,621, which is \$5730 more than for the current year.

Failure of Cotton Factory. LOWELL, Mich., Dec. 4.—The Pickering Manufacturing Company announced its failure tonight, with liabilities of more than \$300,000. The company makes all grades of cotton knit underwear. The creditors are banking institutions and merchandise commission-houses in Boston, New York City and at distant points.

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