The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1907.

DELAYS AT PANAMA.

At the expiration of nearly three years from the time when the preliminary canal work at Panama was begun less has been accomplished by the United States than was executed in a corresponding period by the De Lesseps company. This circumstance is particularly important, in view of the vast improvements that have been made in machinery used in excavation and transportation and the means of communication. To those who were originally dubious about the success of the undertaking, or who have a poor opinion of President Roosevelt, the situation seems in a measure to point toward ultimate failure. Even advocates of construction of the Panama Canal and admirers of the Roosevelt Administration are a little uneasy concerning the succession of events which have caused delay. The resignations of two chief engineers, Wallace and Stevens, and of one chairman of the commission, Shonts, has given rise to belief that perhaps competent men have lost faith in the enterprise, after having opportunity to study its problems at close range. There has always been a feeling that the retirement of these men was due to some reason not made public. No reason whatever has been given for the resignation of Stevens. What does it all mean? is a question people are asking and which they have a right to ask.

Backing and filling, under the weight of a heavy load, is a common experience, especially with teams not well matched. We are crossing an isthmus, not a stream, and there is no inhibition against changing horses while the crossing is in progress. If we have a team that does not pull together, however strong or willing its individuals may be, there is something to be gained rather than lost, in the end, by stopping long enough to put a new horse into the harness. Digging the Panama Canal is too huge an undertaking to be accomplished without a long, hard pull all together. Perhaps it was fortunate, rather than otherwise, that Wallace and Stevens and Shonts retired. The work is now in the hands of Army engineers who have had experience in canal and dam construction; who cannot resign and who may fairly be considered as competent as any who have had charge of the work heretofore.

There is just a possibility that the difficulties thus far encountered have been due to interference from interests selfishly opposed to canal construction on any terms. Transportation companies could well afford to hold out tempting salaries, that would lure desirable employes away from the service of the Government at Panama. If any of the supervisory officials could not be drawn from their duty by offers of more profitable employment, they might be driven away by vexatious criticism or inveigled by cunningly manufactured jealousy. There is nothing in the history of the railroads that places them above suspicion of resorting to such means. On the contrary, observing people would expect them to exhaust every resource in an effort to prevent or delay the final success of the Panama Canal project.

But however that may be, the people will not give up the enterprise nor lose confidence in the ability of President Roosevelt to carry it through. Uneasiness, growing out of temporary difficulties, will best strengthen the determination to succeed. Panama Canal construction is the work of no party or section. It is a task self-imposed by the American people, and it will not be given up though it prove more arduous than was anticipated. The good name of the Nation is involved in the enterprise, and the world shall not say that the United States undertook the task and failed. In view of the large amount of work of varied character planned and executed by President Roosevelt or under his directions, it is not surprising if the time he has to give to the largest task of all should be insufficient for overcoming at once all difficulties and obstacles.

It was Roosevelt who secured the Congressional acton for construction of the canal, after years of demand from the people. He chose the Panama route, seized upon an opportunity to recognize the independence of the Panama Republic, and negotiated the treaty and the purchase which placed the United States in position to begin work. Though others have been appointed to positions of authority in the canal work, the people have looked to him as the real and active head of the enterprise and they will continue to rely upon him to see it through to completion. If he will consent, the people may again place him in his present position of authority. If he will not, they will doubtless be pleased to have him drop all other responsibilities and take personal charge of the greatest National enterprise in American history.

The situation seems now to be better than ever before. Much time was lost in calling for bids on contract work and then rejecting all bids, but the action taken has met universal approval. It was apparent that if the bids had been accepted, the contractors who furnished the brains and took the responsibility would receive but a small share of the profits, while the bankers who furnished the capital would get the lion's share of the profits. President Roosevelt refused to give his sanction to an arrangement which so clearly deprived the laborer of his hire. With the whole project in the hands of Army engineers, such contracts may be awarded for portions of the work as conditions from time to time may warrant. There will be small opportunity for railroad influences to interfere with the progress of construction. The President will have under him officials whose ability is recognized and whose loyalty cannot be questioned. The team is one that can settle down into the harness and pull.

DISESTABLISHMENT IN ENGLAND.

A resolution to disestablish and disendow the national church has passed the English House of Commons by a vote of two to one. Thirty years ago a similar resolution was lost by a vote of five to one. This indicates that in the meantime there has been some change of opinion in the mother country. Still the change has not been sufficient to warrant the belief that disestablishment is at hand. Some time the Church of England will be relieved of its injurious connection with the government, but it will not be just yet.

The English church, in the last resort, is ruled by laymen. This may not be wholly to its disadvantage, but it is anomalous. Even questions of discipline and theology must be determined by the government finally, and the government often includes men whose piety is not notable. To this strange fact may perhaps be due the extraordinary sanity which has generally characterized the Episcopalian Church. It has persecuted other denominations when it had the opportunity; it has been exasperatingly exclusive of rights and privileges; but it has not often been mean nor has it, as a general rule, favored ignorance and superstition. In doctrine, the Church of England has been liberal in the long run; though it has shown disinclination to almost every advance at the outset. The fairly early hospitality which it has generally exhibited toward progressive thought may be ascribed to the influence of laymen in its councils.

The established church includes a bare half of the population of England. In Wales most of the people belong to other denominations. If the establishment is an injustice in England, in Wales it is a gross wrong. In fact, the separation between church and state is likely to begin with relief to the people of Wales. The growing sentiment for disestablishment is part of a world-wide movement which has made itself most manifest in France, but is clearly to be discerned both in Spain and Italy, as well as in England. For the present the liberal tendency has been checked in Spain, but it will recuperate. The inevitable trend of the times is toward the complete separation of ecclesiastical and secular affairs.

NEW FAULTS OF LEGISLATURE.

Nominated and elected by the people and responsible only to the people, the members of the latest Oregon Legislature passed appropriations far in excess of any Legislature heretofore and defeated more meritorious measures than a Legislature ever did, controlled by a "boss." No Legislature in this state has received such universal censure as that which closed its sessions last month. A great majority of the people find fault with the Legislature upon a large number of its acts and omissions. Upon two important points there is unanimous agreement that the lawmaking body was inexcusably derelict in its duty—it passed extravagant appropriations without providing new sources of revenue, which would lighten the burden of taxation upon real property. That the Legislature in this was unfaithful is an assertion from which there is no dissent. In addition to this it protected special privileges of various kinds, thereby continuing unjust burdens upon the people.

Complaint is vain unless accompanied by some effort to discover why the unsatisfactory record was made and what remedy may be devised to prevent repetition of the legislative farce in the future. The people had expected that members of the Legislature, being directly responsible to the people, would take particular care to represent their wishes. That they did not may be accounted for in two ways: Many of the members were young and inexperienced and were easily deceived, misled and cajoled by crafty lobbyists; again, there was no responsible organization, but each individual acted upon his own counsel, and, feeling that his vote was but one out of ninety, did not govern his actions as carefully as he would if he felt responsibility for the general and final results.

Probably there is not one man in the entire membership who, if it were left entirely to him to decide, would appropriate $2,500,000 and provide for no new sources of revenue. Yet ninety individuals, acting together, did that very thing.

Herein may be seen the influence of a "boss." That much-condemned factor in politics had no general desire to look after the interests of the people. He was not in politics for that purpose. He was looking out for himself. Hence he was condemned. But the boss realized that, in order to succeed for any length of time, he must make a fairly good record. Therefore he held down appropriations to a reasonable sum, and, while withholding from the people much legislation they needed and desired, granted some of their demands in order to perpetuate himself in power. He acted through no love for the people, but desired to secure re-election of his candidates to office. The boss was, in a measure, a responsible individual, upon whom the wrath of the people could be visited and his organization in the Legislature endeavored to dispel any threatening storm. A legislative "machine" controlled by a boss would have pared down that $2,500,000 and would not have defeated so many remedial measures demanded by the people.

What the people are going to do about it is an important question. Certainly we shall not think of repealing the direct primary law and going back to the convention system. That would be retrogression. The adoption of the direct primary was an advance step in popular government. We want no more of the boss. What we need is to learn to work better under the direct primary and devise means of securing from public servants faithful performance of duty. One method of securing more careful work from Legislatures would be to place responsibility for general results upon that body of men who effect the organization. The members who win out in an organization fight have a majority and are also in a position to name all committees. While they cannot act together upon every measure, they can direct the general policy of legislation and secure results that will be generally satisfactory.

In addition to this and in addition to every other plan that may be devised, the people must hold each individual member responsible for his action upon each measure that was presented for his consideration and vote. Most men who go to the Legislature desire to participate further in public life. Many of them, after getting back home and hearing what the people say about them, give up all political ambition and retire to eternal obscurity. Some of them stand for re-election to the Legislature or aspire to other official preferment. When another election comes round it is time to expose their records and make them realize their responsibility. Look into each man's official record. If he voted with the timber barons, the franchise barons and other special protected interests, hit him, and hit him hard. That's one way to cure legislative evils.

On the other hand, if a member of the Legislature has made good—if his record as a representative of the people has been satisfactory, don't forget that fact. Rewarding faithful servants is as important as punishing the unfaithful. If a member has given the people a square deal in the House, insist upon his accepting another term. If he makes good again, promote him to the Senate and give him as many terms there as he wants, or promote him to something higher. When a public servant has rendered good service, don't set him aside just because somebody else, who might not do as well, wants his place. Get your knife out and keep it sharp for the man who won't perform the duty for which he was elected. That is the most promising means of securing satisfactory service.

RACE SUICIDE.

There is more than one way to commit race suicide. It may be questioned whether the excessive multiplication of human beings does not lead more directly to that end than the artificial restriction of births. Professor Edward Ross, of the University of Wisconsin, argues in the current number of the American Journal of Sociology that it does. Of course, in order to take his point of view we must enlarge the usual meaning of "suicide" a little. We must understand, by the word, all those influences which tend to degrade human life and make it not worth living, as well as actual sterility. Which is better—an innumerable population with a small class living in luxury by the exploitation of the vast multitude, or a limited population where poverty, disease and misery have been eliminated and comfort is evenly distributed? Is there anything worthy of fetich worship in the mere existence of countless human beings, most of whom are inevitably wretched?

As long as there are two men bidding for the same job, the employer can fix the scale of pay. Were there but one man for each job, he could sell his labor at his own price. This, in a nutshell, is the race suicide question from the point of view of the laboring man. Theoretically, therefore, it is to the direct advantage of workingmen as a class to restrict their families. It is also to the advantage of the families. With given resources, one or two children can be better nurtured than half a dozen. Their food will be more abundant and nutritious; they will receive more of the mother's care; they can be more comfortably clad and more adequately educated. Many workingmen can pay the way of one child through high school or college when to do as much for five or six is out of the question. A nation of well-bred, comfortable, educated men and women is preferable from every point of view to a starving proletariat.

The small family can live a life more civilized and human than the large one, upon the same income. Books, periodicals, music, come within a man's means who has only a few to provide for; while with a flock of children on his hands he is kept forever busy to fill their stomachs. The precious boon of leisure is not beyond the family man whose brood is within bounds; but for him who multiplies the race heedlessly life becomes an unceasing round of toil. The primal curse of labor strikes hardest on him who obeys most faithfully the command to increase and multiply.

Prudence in reproduction makes a man master of his time and permits him to enjoy the opportunities of a human being, instead of a machine. The only telling argument that has ever been made for unlimited multiplication of life is that the people which can furnish most men will succeed best in war. At first glance this argument seems sound, but, upon examination, it turns out to be futile. It is, indeed, marvelous that anybody should ever have advanced it deliberately with the spectacle of China before us. That debilitated empire cap furnish men in numberless myriads, but its efficiency in war is the ridicule of the world. The Boers have demonstrated that mere numbers are among the least important factors in modern war.

A select nation, animated with a determined spirit, can hardly be overcome in our day, particularly when on the defensive. Intelligence and resolution count for more than mere numbers. The fear that a nation which does not keep itself burdened with a surplus of starving population is in danger of being submerged by more fecund races becomes more and more absurd with accumulating experience. We are learning that it is not necessary to breed men to provide food for powder.

To remain unborn is not the worst fate that can befall one. In civilized conditions a high birth rate implies a high death rate, because most of the new-born children cannot be taken care of. It cannot be believed that it is of any advantage to a child to come into the world, struggle through a few months of hunger, sickness and misery and then perish. What good would it have missed by never being born at all? And how many evils it would have escaped! A high birth rate not only multiplies misery and death among children, but it also degrades women. A woman who is continually occupied with childbearing and the care of children has neither time nor strength to develop her faculties or participate in civilized life. It is sometimes said that in attending to children she completely fulfills her destiny, and with that she ought to be satisfied; but the modern mind is not willing to accept a sacrifice so hopeless and miserable, especially when nothing is gained by it.

A woman owes something to herself as well as to her children. It is an evil sort of suicide for her to destroy herself for the mere sake of multiplying lives. The new lives are not likely to be worth more than her own; most of them will be worth less. Some sacrifice on this score is essential and, not deadly, too much is among the worst of sins.

In new countries large families are well enough, since there is room for all; but they drag women down to early graves. Pioneer life is "paradise for men and horses, but it is hell for women," according to those who have lived it. From the large families of pioneering days sometimes come men of great ability, like Benjamin Franklin, who was the youngest of seventeen children; but such cases are exceptional. The argument that large families provide more chances of producing exceptional men is fallacious. There is a better chance of producing a man of great ability from a small group where the average is high than from a large one where it is low. The more candidly one examines the matter the more he is convinced that "race suicide" is simply another name for prudence and the advancement of human well-being.

The cry of the railroads, that justice be done them, will remind every man of certain incidents of his boyhood days. In every community there is at least one big boy who bullies all the small boys of the neighborhood. We all knew him when we were boys. He robbed our lunch baskets and we hardly dared complain. If we did report to the teacher the chances were she would smooth the matter over for fear of causing trouble, and the depredations continued. He took our sleds without permission, ducked us in the swimming hole, tripped us on the ice and stole our ball. When we played marbles for keeps he didn't play fair, but took the marbles just the same. A few of the smaller boys stood in with him because they admired him or were afraid to stand out. We all got our heads thumped. He put mud on our faces and rubbed it in. Day after day and year after year we talked him over among ourselves, agreeing that he was a tyrant, a robber, heartless, soulless, and ought to be controlled. But no one would undertake the job. Finally, we banded together under one leader, took him down and began to pummel him, whereupon he set up a howl that it was unfair for a dozen boys to set upon one. He demanded justice. And we gave him justice. Then we let him up. He was better afterward. We all remember him and his career, but there is none of the recollection that carries pleasant sensations except the single incident of giving him justice.

President Stickney, of the Chicago Great Western Railroad Company, says that agitation and legislation upon the subject of rates will bankrupt some of the roads. Out here in Oregon we could name a few instances in which absence of legislation has bankrupted sawmills. Bankruptcy is no worse for a railroad magnate than for a hardworking lumberman. Bankruptcy won't stop the trains or tear up the track. It did stop the mills till the logs rotted in the ponds.

District Attorney Jerome, of New York, has started a war upon "runners"—a class of lawyers who make a business of soliciting employment from persons who have become involved in litigation or who have suffered injuries that may form the basis of lawsuits. In view of the remark by a Judge that he was aware of the system that existed, it is apparent that there is need of vigorous action against this evil.

It is easy to credit the report that a car-building plant will be established in Portland. Oregon lumber is now being shipped east of the Mississippi River to build cars. Why not build the cars here, load them with hops and thus make the lumber earn freight instead of paying freight the first time it goes over the road?

Albany people, who complained that the local-option law was being violated and who asked that a grand jury be convened, were called before the jury to tell what they knew. They should not be slow about responding. People who want a law enforced should be ready to tell about violations.

State Senator McLean, of the North Carolina Legislature, threatens to cowhide some of the newspaper reporters. There are legislators whose future in politics would be brighter if the newspaper reporters were all hanged.

Dispatches from New York announce that rival cigar stores will be started in Portland. This does not necessarily mean two-bit cigars at two for 5.

When it comes to telling of local graft, Lincoln Steffens could make his magazine unpopular with Portland's first families

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Increase of 3000 in attendance at the public schools since last March is unimpeachable evidence of Portland's rapid growth.

In honor of St. Patrick the forests and fields of Oregon and Washington will be decked in Erin's colors next Sunday.

As in Oregon, so in California, Mr. Heney has made himself very unpopular with certain types of political leaders.

Let us hope Lincoln Steffens will not neglect to record that Oregon's big land steal has come to an end.

Hill says his road could not be reproduced for $60,000 a mile. Assessors will please not take notice.

Good morning! Have you paid your taxes this year?

PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS IN JULY

Taft Will Attend Opening of First Assembly in September.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Secretary Taft's proposed visit to the Philippines in September to attend the opening of the first Philippine Assembly has directed attention toward the new legislative body to be created for the Islanders. The Assembly will consist of 61 members apportioned upon the basis of one delegate for each 30,000 persons, and provision is made to increase the number to a total of 100. It will in a general way correspond to the American House of Representatives, while the Philippine Commission will correspond to the United States Senate, and the acts of the Assembly must secure the approval of the Commission before they become laws.

Elections are to be held on July 30. Secretary Taft will start for the islands in August, and the first Assembly will convene in September. Subsequent elections for the Assembly are to be held upon the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in odd-numbered years, the delegates to hold office for two years.

The election law of the Philippine Islands requires that voters must be males 23 years old, citizens of the Philippines. The Australian ballot system is to be used, and heavy penalties are prescribed for corrupt practices.

FINISH CANAL IN EIGHT YEARS

Commercial Club Committees Report Favorably on Work.

CHARLESTON, S. C., March 13.—Conditions generally in the Panama Canal zone are said to be favorable for completion of the canal within the eight years, ending January 1, 1915, as estimated by the engineers in charge of the work, in the opinion of the committees from commercial clubs in Chicago, Boston, Cincinnati and St. Louis, which have arrived here after a visit to the Isthmus. This opinion is embodied in a series of reports, all of which were approved by all members of the party. From them a general report will be prepared by the chairman of the several groups under whose direction they were made and the general report will be submitted to the clubs represented by the committees.

The force of laborers is declared to be adequate and efficient, and the committee expresses a belief that no difficulty will be experienced in recruiting the force from time to time, as conditions may demand. In this connection the opinion is expressed that the laborers will be drawn from the white and black races, "because Chinese labor is not wanted."

It is recognized by the officials of the canal, the report says, that while the Chinese coolie would meet all the requirements of intelligence, strength and vitality, his introduction would lead to difficulties of administration and segregation which it seems desirable to avoid, unless the confronting of the subject becomes necessary.

MAY PROMOTE IMMIGRATION

Government Will Not Interfere With Movement of Southern States.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Information received today renders it clear that the immigration authorities, as one result of the several conferences recently held, in which the President, Secretary Straus, Attorney-General Bonaparte, Commissioner of Immigration Sargent and prominent men of the South have participated, will interpret the existing immigration law as it was intrepreted in the South Carolina case. The Attorney-General has held that the immigrants landed at Charleston, S. C., last November are legally in the country. They were induced to come to America by authorized agents of South Carolina and the passage money for some, at least, of them was paid by the state and others by contributions of citizens.

Several other Southern states have decided to seek immigration along the same lines as were followed by South Carolina and it is understood they will not be interfered with.

ADVANCE IN POSTAL SALARIES

Number of Clerks and Lettercarriers Who Will Benefit.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—First Assistant Postmaster Hitchcock has made a compilation showing how many clerks in postoffices and lettercarriers will be affected by the increased pay recently provided for them by Congress. The additional pay will begin on July 1 next, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

The total number of clerks promoted at that time or as soon afterwards as they shall have completed a year's service in the grades in which they are now serving will be 19,909. Of these 258 will be advanced from a salary of $400 to $600, 832 from $500 to $600, 3834 from $600 to $800, 4026 from $600 to $800, 4955 from $800 to $900, 3473 from $800 to $1000 and 2381 from $1000 to $1100.

The lettercarriers, many of whom are now receiving nearly the maximum salary provided by law, will be graded in the same way. The increase will affect 42,432 carriers throughout the country. Of this number 130 will be promoted from $600 to $800, 8825 from $850 to $900, 1013 to $1000 from $900.

The increase in the aggregate will amount to nearly $4,500,000.

RESCINDS PATENT HOLD-UP

Roosevelt Will Allow Settlers to Get Title Without Delay.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—President Roosevelt, finding the order holding up titles to land is working a hardship on settlers, has sent the Secretary of the Interior a letter cancelling his order of February 12, relative to the issuance of evidence of title under the public land laws.

The reason for the cancellation is that Congress did not appropriate a sufficient amount for the carrying out of the purposes of the order. In lieu of this order it is proposed to have the Commissioner of the General Land Office detail all of his available force in such a manner as to handle the work most rapidly and prevent fraud.

WILL ENFORCE 8-HOUR LAW

Taft's Instructions Will Reduce Work on Rivers and Harbors.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Secretary Taft has given orders to the engineer officers of the War Department to enforce to the letter the eight-hour law as applied to public works under their direction. This order, which was issued with the permission of the President, will be far-reaching and, it is predicted, will greatly reduce the amount of river and harbor work that can be accomplished under the appropriations made by the last Congress.

Lahm to Teach Army Ballooning.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., March 13.—Lieutenant Frank P. Lahm, Sixth Cavalry, U. S. A., has been detailed as instructor of ballooning at Fort Leavenworth. Lieutenant Lahm in 1906 won the Gordon-Bennett cup in the international balloon race from Paris to England.

Will Not Yet Abolish Barmaids.

LONDON, March 13.—The barmaids of Great Britain have received a respite. According to an announcement made the bill to do away with the employment as barmaids will not be introduced at this session of Parliament.

ENRAGED WITH LOBBYISTS.

Governor of Nebraska Induces Senate to Revive Bill Against Them.

LINCOLN, Neb., March 13.—Governor Sheldon tonight sent a special message to the Senate requesting that body to revive the House anti-lobby bill, which the Senate last week indefinitely postponed. The Senate indicated its intention to recall the bill.

The action of the Governor followed an exciting incident in the Senate this afternoon when four Omaha business men were requested by Senators to leave the floor of the chamber and did so. It was during the consideration of amendments to the pure food bill and the four men were charged with lobbying in the interest of patent medicine manufacturers.

CANNOT MAKE ROOSEVELT RUN

Butler Proposes Root for President, Taft for Chief Justice.

LOS ANGELES, March 13.—In an interview here, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, said:

"President Roosevelt will not run for President again, no matter what pressure is brought to bear upon him. The principles which Roosevelt stands for are greater than the man. The Republican party must support these principles, no matter who its standard bearer may be at the next election. With Mr. Root President and Mr. Taft Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, conditions would be pretty near ideal. But I hardly look for such a combination to succeed."

Referring to the Japanese question on the Pacific Coast, President Butler said: "I like the way in which the Mayor and School Board of San Francisco went to Washington and acted with the President in bringing about a happy solution of the Japanese question. It was diplomatic. It appears to me that the conference resulted in finding a good way out of the difficulty. Of course, San Francisco people object to having adult Japanese in the schools with their children. It should not be allowed. Make other arrangements for adults as you would in the case of the adult French, Germans or people of any other nation."

President Butler is at the Hotel Wentworth, Pasadena, with his bride on their honeymoon. Mrs. Butler was formerly Miss Kate La Montague, of New York.

Women to Vote at School Elections.

GUTHRIE, Okla., March 13.—The right of women to vote in the new state was restricted further last night by the Constitutional Convention when the privilege to vote on all matters relating to schools was changed to read that women should vote only on school district elections.

HOPE TO RECOVER THE MONEY

Treasury Theft Has Not Yet Been Returned, However.

CHICAGO, March 13.—If the man who got the $173,000 from the sub-treasury will send it back through the mail or by express, the chances are that he never will be detected."

This observation was made yesterday by a high Federal official working on the disappearance of the money, and it represents the hope of the Government authorities, so far as can be learned from anyone engaged in the investigation. The hope that the money would be returned in some mysterious fashion failed to materialize.

Deputy Treasurer Bantz admitted for the first time that there is a remote possibility that the cash in the sub-treasury is not $173,000 short. He made it with a reservation.

"I have not made my official report to the Government that there is a shortage of $173,000," he said. "I cannot do so until I have counted all the money—$90,000,000—in the sub-treasury. My four assistants, up to the present time, have counted $12,000,000. The work proceeds slowly now, for we are weighing a large quantity of gold piece by piece, to detect any shortage in weight."

FLAYS TEACHER WITH RULER

Boy Quarrels With Instructor Over Solution of Problem.

BELLINGHAM, Wash., March 13.—(Special.)—Rendered savage by his teacher's persistence in maintaining that an arithmetic problem he submitted was incorrect, Jacob Smithers, a boy 10 years old, beat his instructress, Mrs. J. H. Dunne, with a ruler until she cried.

In school hours Smithers contended that his answer to the problem was correct and his remarks resulted in his being ordered to remain after dismissal and receive punishment. After school closed the lad showed Mrs. Dunne that he was right in his contention and suggested that the whipping "should be the other way," which he emphasized by flaying her hands with a ruler.

Cubans Oppose Foreign Voters.

HAVANA, March 13.—The idea that foreigners shall be allowed to vote at municipal elections has greatly incensed the Liberals. They are sure that such a course would revive the bitterness between the Cubans and the Spaniards. The matter has been temporarily set aside by the Electoral Commission, which has recommended that a general census be taken so that proper electoral lists may be prepared. A plan for this proposed census has been laid before Governor Magoon, so that the census may be begun without delay, since the work will take a long time.

Indicted Men Missing.

COLUMBUS, O., March 13.—The sensational disappearance of Charles E. Burr, one of the members of the Board of Public Service, indicted for bribery, has led to fears that he has committed suicide. Judge Evans today set the time for the trial of the indicted man for tomorrow.

Edward Moriarity, ex-Secretary of the City Board of Health, indicted for embezzlement, is also missing.

LORDLY THIEF AGAIN STEALS

Exchanges Box of Coal for $2000 Worth of Diamonds.

LONDON, March 13.—Lord William Beauchamp Neville, who was sentenced to five years' penal servitude February 13, 1888, for fraud in connection with a promissory note, the prosecutor being Captain Spencer-Clay, son-in-law of William W. Astor, was today remanded at the Police Court charged with stealing a box containing $2000 worth of pearls and diamonds by exchanging it for a similar box which when opened was found to contain bits of coal.

SELL TO INSURANCE COMPANY

Italians Let Village Burn and 2000 Are Homeless.

MILAN, March 13.—In the town of Borsano, near this city, 2000 persons were today made homeless by a fire which destroyed the greater part of the village. The people were indifferent to the spread of the flames, because their property was insured, and the authorities were obliged to force peasants to work to check the fire.

English Strike-Breakers at Hamburg

HAMBURG, March 13.—About 1500 of the English longshoremen imported to take the places of the locked-out canal longshoremen who have refused to work upon the shipowners' terms, are at work today, and more are on their way here from London. In addition, gangs of longshoremen have been brought here from Antwerp.

Lamsdorff Seriously Ill.

GENOA, March 13.—Count Vladimir Lamsdorff, formerly Russian minister of foreign affairs, is seriously ill at San Remo with a complication of diseases. M. Viangali, once Russian ambassador to the Quirinal, is reported seriously ill at San Remo and not expected to live.

Duel in Prospect for Paris.

PARIS, March 13.—Henri Rochefort, the well-known editor of the Intransigeant, and M. Pelletier, a lawyer, will probably fight a duel tomorrow in consequence of an exchange of recriminations in the law courts this afternoon.

Only Wall-Street Rumors.

BERLIN, March 13.—Reports were circulated today from New York that some Berlin or Hamburg bankers were in critical positions. Nothing is known here of such rumors, which are regarded as American inventions, designed to influence Wall Street.

Fatal Trainwreck in Transvaal.

JOHANNESBURG, March 13.—Dr. A. Adam Jamieson, ex-commissioner of bonds, was killed with 12 other persons last midnight in the wreck of a train at Alkamar, due to a washout. Eleven others were injured.

WORSE THAN SWEATBOX.

Forced Confession Held as Worthless in Murder Case.

DENVER, Colo., March 13.—Unless new and important evidence shall be found against Benjamin C. Wright, he will probably never be tried on the charge of murdering his wife and child. District Attorney George A. Stidger admits that evidence to convict the man is lacking, but has not yet dropped the investigation. The alleged confession made by Wright to Chief of Police Delaney is said to be worthless as evidence, having been obtained by use of physical force.

Three physicians who examined Wright in jail after he made the confession declared that he had recently been cruelly beaten, as he claimed.

No poison was found in the bodies of Mrs. Wright and her child, and it is claimed by the defense that their deaths were probably caused by carbon dioxide from a defective gas heater in which fire had been burning all night when the bodies were found.

As a test of this theory, the defense placed a dog in the house with the gas heater burning, and after two hours, it is asserted, the animal was taken out asphyxiated.

The Denver Women's Club has appointed a committee of three to investigate the sweating system used by the police, especially with reference to its application in the case of Wright. It will endeavor to enlist the aid of Mayor Speer. Chief of Police Delaney says he will welcome a visit by the committee.

Wright received a letter from his father today, in which he was assured that the family will stand by him.

Train Crew Arrested.

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., March 13.—(Special.)—Charged with violating a city ordinance and also the franchise of the Northern Pacific Railroad here, T. F. Banks, engineer, and James B. Aldrich, conductor, of an extra freight train, were today arrested and lodged in the City Jail. The train remained for more than 30 minutes on Quince street, blocking the highway completely. After the road had been blocked for two hours and all trains in both directions held, the Northern Pacific attorny, Ira P. Englehart, made arrangements to have the men released.

Peabody's License Suspended.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 13.—United States Supervising Inspector Birmingham has sustained the judgment of Inspectors Bolles and Bulger in suspending for six months the license of Captain Thomas Peabody. Peabody was charged with negligence in allowing the transport Sheridan to run ashore at Barber's Point, Oahu Island, last August.

President's Son Recovering.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—It was stated at the White House this morning that Archie Roosevelt had a good night and that he is making steady progress toward recovery.

ARE THERE TO BE OTHER RESIGNATIONS?

—From the Chicago Tribune.