ON ANXIOUS SEAT

Taft's Cabinet Causes Much Discussion.

WILSON THOUGHT TO REMAIN

Judge Ballinger Slated for Interior Department.

WAGEL TO SUCCEED STRAUS

Missouri Man Mentioned for Com-Labor Portfolio. Wickersham May Be Next Attorney-General.

.......

NO NEW APPOINTMENTS MADE. The President-elect said tonight the source of "inspired," or "authori tative" Cabinet stories. His Cabiditional members since the Knox announcement; no offers of positions were pending, nor had he made any decisions with respect to making

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 .- Cabinet builders at the National capital and those who have moved to Georgia as a part of the entourage of President-clect Taft, are in placing on the anxious bench public men in all sections of the country who have been looked upon as aspirants for portfolios or whose qualiscations have been urged by admiring friends.

The announcement of the appointmen of Frank H. Hitchcock to be costmaster-General, followed by that of Senator Philander C. Knox to be Secretary of State, and the generally accepted report that George W. Wickersham, of New York, is the choice of Mr. Taft as At ney-General, indicates that the slate is being made up rapidly and that an-nouncement of the entire Cabinet may be expected before long.

Wilson to Continue.

a discussion of the Cabinet slate ington, who would not be likely to indulge he idle gossip concerning it, there seems to be a reasonable certainty that in addition to those named, Secretary Wilson head of the Agricultural Department; that Secretary Garfield will retire from the Cabinet; that Judge Richard A. Bailinger, of Seattle, will be given a place, probably that of Secretary of the Interior; that Luke E. Wright will retire from the Cabinet and again take a post in the diplomatic service, and that an Obto man will be given the position of Becretary of the Treasury.

Nagel for Commerce and Labor.

Within the last few days the name of Pharies Nagel, of Missouri, has been discussed in connection with the Secretary ship of the Department of Commercial and Lebor. It is known that at one time Mr. Taft thought very strongly of saming Nagel as Attorney-General, but that later he considered Wickersham more adaptable to the purpose of that department.

He said, however, that he would like an able lawyer to head the Department of Commerce and Labor. Republican pol-Hiclans are urging the claims of Missouri for recognition, and as Judge Nagel played a prominent part in the campaign as a member of the executive committee of the Republican stational Committee, the mantle would fall on him naturally if a place was given that state.

Treasury Portfolio Difficult.

Other names heard are those of Wiltiam Loeb, Secretary to the President; Oscar S. Straus, who now has a portfolio, and George A. Knight, of Californta. It is not believed here, however, that two places will go to the Pacific Creast.

Probably the most difficult place remaining to be filled is that of Secretary of the Treasury. Among those men men tioned are ex-Governor Myron T. Herrick and Representative Burton.

For Secretary of War, the name of Charles Magoon, now Governor of Cuba. is heard frequently, but the generally secepted idea is that Mr. Taft has not yet made up his mind whom to appoint. He is said to be looking for a man who has made a record as a business man, William Loeb, Jr., is also mentioned for Secretary of the Navy, as is also Charles H. Thompson, of New York, There are close friends of Mr. Tuft also, who think that Secretary Newberry will be retained.

BOYS SHOOT EACH OTHER

Roseburg Lads Amuse Themselves Disastronsly With Airguns.

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 38 - (Special.)-Three boys with alrgons amused themselves today by shooting at each other. Each scored a hit. Two of the boys have holes in their legs where bullets passed through and the third has a hole in his Tuesday. back where a bullet entered, but has not pet been found. All will recover.

NEVADA WEATHER COLDEST IN YEARS

ICE GORGE IN TRUCKEE PUTS

Light Plants Unable to Operate in Carson City, Reno and Big Mines of Virginia City.

RENO, Nev., Dec. 20 .- (Special.)-The coldest weather in years is now being experfenced in this section of Nevada. A result, an ice-gorge has blocked the Truckee River at a point above Floriston and the power companies supplying electricity to Carson, Reno and the big mines of Virginia City are fighting night and day to keep their lines open.

Yesterday the Big Butters plant, on of the largest properties in Virginia City, was compelled to close down. Carson City is without light and powe

and but for an auxiliary plant in this city, Reno would be in darkness. As if s, a good portion of the residence dis trict is without light.

power companies are finding it impossible to keep their pipes free from the cakes of ice breaking from the floes in the river. Warm weather is all that can relieve the situation.

HENPECKED MAN REBELS

Willing to Do Housework, but Objects to Being Abused.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 28.-(Special.)-Jesse Edwin Worthen, while not wearing any medals, can claim to be the worst henpecked husband in the city, so far as It all came out when Jesse ap-

plied to the courts for divorce.

He says that every Sunday for five years he was compelled to wash the windows, scrub the floors and "tidy up" generally. For nine years, he avers, he was compelled to cook his own meals. During the same period he made the beds, washed the dishes and did all the

Jesse bore this patiently, but he re belled when his wife, Hattle M. Wor then, began to abuse him violently When she told him she "would as soon poison him as she would a dog," he thought it time to carry his case into court. The Circuit Judge took the case under advisement.

METHODS SHOWN IN NOVEL

Woman Incensed at Husband's Discharge by Railroad:

FORT SCOTT, Kan., Dec. 30.-(Special) -Mrs. L. I. Hollinger, wife of J. A. Holinger, incensed over the injustice of her husband's discharge from the passenger service of the Missouri Pacific Railway Company, where he had served in various capacities for 30 years, has written novel in which she treats of present-day railway methods. The name of Mrs. Among Mr. Taff's close friends in Wash- Hollinger's book is, "Threads From Three Lives." It yindicates her bushand's railroad career, delineates the personnel of the Missouri Pacific's general official family and has striking scenes in which her daughter, a talented young woman, appears before President Gould, pleading

for justice to her father. Wine parties, poker games, political manipulation, in which the general attorneys and practically all of the general officers are given prominent roles, are introduced in the novel.

NEW MEXICO WANTS IN

Governor Curry Says His People Want to Be Treated Like Men.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 .- "We have wideawake, progressive, Industrial and intelligent population and we want to be

In these words Governor George Curry, of New Mexico, asks statehood for his territory in his annual report of the Secretary of the Interior, made public today. Governor Curry says New Mexico's redit is excellent, that no strikes mar the record of its industries; the laws enacted by its Legislature are good; gambling is prohibited and the "Sunday closing" rigorously enforced. So, he concludes. New Mexico deserves statehood.

YONCALLA MAN ACCUSED

E. G. Hamilton Wanted in Spokane on Fraud Charge.

SPOKANE. Wash., Dec. 26 .- (Special.)-To face a charge of obtaining money by false pretenses in negotiating a \$35 check, E. G. Hamilton, a real estate man, will be brought back to Spokune from Yoncalla, Or., where he is being held by the officers on the advice of Chief of Police Rice. Hamilton left Spokane last Wednesday, On complaint of a friend who alleged that he had been induced by Hamilton's false pretenses to indorse the check, a warrant was sworn out for his arrest.

Ceril T. Thumpson left last night for Yoncalla with a warrant to bring the prisoner to Spokane.

SCHURMAN COMING HERE Head of Cornell, Now in Salt Lake. Will Visit Portland.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 20 .- President Jacob G. Schurman, of Cornell University, who is here by the invitation of the State Teachers' Institute. delivered an address in the Mormon tabernacie this afternoon. "The Development of Religious Thought" wasthe speaker's topic. President Schurman will be heard at the opening session of the state teachers' convention in this city tomorrow and again on

From here he will go to San Fran-

YOUNG'S FATE IN HANDS OF FULTON

Can't Get Job if Senaator Objects.

BOURNE'S MAN MUST WAIT

Postmaster Minto Likely to Hold On for Some Time.

SENATE AWAITS DECISION

Astorian Can Hold Up Appointment Till Close of Session if He So Desires - Awaiting Word From Portland Business Men.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 20.—It rests entirely with Senator Fulton to determine whether John C. Young shall become Postmaster at Portland, or whether some other man shall be chosen. But it is entirely beyond the power of Senator Fulton to pick the new Postmaster. He is not entitled to make a selection, but he has every right to pass upon the selection made by his ileague, and his approval is necessary before that choice can become effective

During the holiday recess, Senator Fulton will make up his mind what course to pursue with regard to the nomination of Young. If he decides to fight, Young cannot be confirmed; if he withdraws his objection, the nomination will go through in a routine way, and Young will get the office.

Avenues Open to Fulton.

There are two ways in which Senator Pulton can prevent Young's confirma ion. The simpler method is to have the nomination held up in the postoffice com mittee throughout the remainder of the short session. This would prevent action by the Senate, and the nomination would dle with the Congress. The other method. and the more spectacular, would be to allow the committee to report, and then make a fight in executive session, on the floor of the Senate.

Penrose Gives Promise.

Senator Penrose, chairman of the postoffice committee, has given Senator Pulton assurance that no action will be taken his committee on the nomination of up the nomination for the remainder of the session if such a course is desired by Senator Fulton, and no one will question the power of the chalrman to make good

the nomination die in committee, an interesting situation would result. John W Minto would continue to serve as Postmaster until some time after March 4. but what is more interesting, Senator (Concluded on Page 2.)

If Senator Pulton should decide to le

Philander C. Knox, Who Has Been Chosen for Secretary of

bor Oscar Straus, Who May Be Renppointed.

MINER SLAYS BEAR WITH CHUNK OF ORE

HAS HAND-TO-HAND TUSSLE WITH BRUIN IN MINE. .

Painfully Wounded in Hand and Side, but Otherwise Ready for More Bear.

RENO, Nev., Dec. 20.-(Special.)-R. W. Booth, one of the ploneer mining men and journalists of Tonopah, had a thrilling experience while examining a tunnel in one of his properties near the Big Southern mining camp yes-

At a distance of 150 feet from the mouth he stumbled over what proved to be a huge brown bear. The anfmal had been driven into the mine to escape the cold weather. Booth immedlately realized his danger and grappled with the bear, clubbing the beast

over the head with a boulder of ore. In this way the bear was rendered inconscious and finally killed. Booth's side and one of his hands was pain fully but not seriously injured in the encounter. Outside of this he escape unhurt. About 10 days ago his son, Kenneth Booth, had a similar encounter with two bears in the Mizpah tunnel but the hears escaped.

TAFT HEARS TEMPERANCE

Attends Church in Augusta on Prohibition Sunday.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Dec. 26.-Presidentelect and Mrs. William H. Taft attended services today at St. Paul's Episcopal Rev. Dr. Whitney, the pastor. preached a temperance sermon, as did all other local ministers here today. The laxity of enforcing the state prohibition laws of Georgia is given as the cause of the crusade in Augusta.

Mr. Whitney frankly admitted the law to be "bad in part, drastic and in some Nevertheless," he respects fanatical, "It is the law, and ought to be obeyed. If it is a bad law, its rigid enforcement is the surest means of getting it repealed or amended."

COSGROVE IS OUT OF BED Spends Day in Sun Parlor and

Peels Better Than for Months.

PASO ROBLES, Hot Springs, Cal., Dec. 28 .- (Special.) -- Governor-elect Cosgrove is decidedly better today. He dressed yesterday and remained out of bed the greater part of the day. Today he will be wheeled about the sun parloe and porches. Last night he re-marked that he felt better than for the past six months. We are all much en-

dition and present indications point to steady gain in strength. F. W. SAWYER, Director.

action be had. Penrose is willing to hold FLEET LEAVES FOR SUEZ Wilbur Wright fly above 300 feet. Starts on Longest Leg of Entire

couraged about the outcome of his con-

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.-Rear-Adniral Sperry, commanding the American battleship fleet, has cabled the Navy Department that the fleet departed today

Trip Around World.

Colombo, Ceylon, for Suez. The fleet has begun the longest single leg of its world cruise through the Indian

PROMINENT MEN WHO FIGURE IN TAFT'S CABINET-BUILDING PLANS.

Judge R. A. Ballinger, of Senttle, Who May He Named for Secre-

Knight, of California

Who is Being Urged by Friends

tary of Interior.

AERO TRIP WITH WRIGHT THRILLS

Lahm Tells of Fast Ride Over Paris.

MILE A MINUTE

Careful Landing Is Happy Disappointment.

FLIGHTS ARE COMMON NOW

Trips Across English Channel Expected by Next Spring-Wright Brothers Propose to Supply

Aeroplanes for Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 .- (Special.)-C. F. Cortland Bishop, who for the third time has been elected president of the Aero Club of America, and Frank S. Lahn, of the United States Signal Corps, who while an officer of the Sixth Cavalry won the international balloon race from Paris, arrived on La Provence today, Frank S Lahn, who has lived 30 years in France, described his experience in making a flight with Wil bur Wright.

"It was very delightful," said Mr. Lahn, "as it was really the first time Wilbur Wright had flown above the heads of hundreds of people, automobiles, carriages and horses, the latter frightened by the whirr of propellars and the buzzing of the engine.

"We flew entirely off the ground across the road, just at the edge of the camp buildings, made several figure eights and rose to a height of a little more than 1000 feet. Mr. Wright's flights had not been more than 60 and

80 feet before. "We came down at the rate of nearly a mile a minute, which would have worried me very much had I not been there as often and seen so many landings. As it was, Heured we would get a hard shock Just as we got close to the ground, Mr. Wright paralleled the soll, causing a very happy disappointment.

"As for sensations, it was like coasting down hill with no shock whatever. It was like sitting in an arm chair and allowing the breeze to go by you fast. What have seen there in the last ten days saw him soar from the ground without the aid of his weights; I saw him paralle the soil, not much higher than a man's shoulder: I saw him fly at night when lights in the camp had to be used: I saw him come down in spirals and I saw him take up a man weighing 208 pounds. Mr. Lahm sald that by Spring he ex-

pected to see aeroplane flights made across the English Channel and back. The Wrights expect to deliver as many machines as may be desired at \$5000 each.

Frank H. Hlichcock, Who Has

ident, Who May Be Pro

Been Chosen for Postmuster-General.

MISSOURI SHOWN STRANGE METEOR

BALL OF FIRE WITH LONG TAIL DROPS IN KANSAS.

Visible for Thirty Seconds, but Path of Light Trailed Is Seen for Fifteen Minutes.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Dec. 20.-The strang est meteor ever seen in this part of the ountry fell from the skies between 5 and 6 o'clock this afternoon and was seen

y several hundred persons. The meteor seemed to drop somewhere west of here, probably in Kansas. It had the appearance of a ball of fire about the size of a street lamp. The tall, or stream of sparks, was several feet in length. The neteor was visible about 30 seconds.

A peculiar white streak, regarded as a enon, which the meteor seemed to leave behind it as a path, was visible for 15 minutes. It seemed to waver in its course as if blown by the wind, and gradunlly faded from sight.

KANSAS ČITY, Mo., Dec. 20 .- Wichita and Salina, Kan., report seeing the meteor tonight. At Witchita the attention of persons outdoors was attracted by a sudden flash of light. Persons at Salina report having seen two meteors

at about the same hour. LESS HARDSHIP IN CITIES

Conditions Among Canada Working Classes Are Improved.

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 29.-(Special.)-Reports from the principal cities of Ontarlo and Quebec indicate that while the present Winter will be a severe one for the poor and unemployed, conditions generally will be better than they have been for several years past.

Owing to the depression in industrial circles last Summer, which resulted in many persons being thrown out of employment, the opinion seemed to prevail that the coming Winter months would witness much distress and suffering in Eastern Canada. But conditions in the larger cities, however, do not point to any great degree of hardship among the working classes; in fact, there will be

less poverty than usual. One feature that will reduce the call | made, for help is the absence, owing to new immigration restrictions, of the usual large crowds of penniless and friendless new arrivals to this country, who for merly have been helped.

HOT HEADS STOP PARDON

Editorial Spotts Chance of Freedom for Irish Prisoners.

OTTAWA Ont. Dec. 20 .- (Special.)-In April, 1900, the whole of Canada was as tonished by the intelligence that certain men had been arrested upon the charge of conspiracy to blow up the Welland Canal at its principal locks, Karl Doll man, John Nolan and John Walsh were convicted and were sentenced to penaservitude for life in the Kingston penitentiary.

A number of Irlehmen in Chicago have started a movement to sak Sir Wilfred Laurier to intercede with the Governor General to exercise his power of pardon. Unfortunately, however, a Chicago paper took the opportunity to nullify its purpose by arguing that the three convicts in question were "victims of the secret service system of Great Britain,"

IRELAND'S NEW LAND BILL

Great Advantage Toawrds Making Farmers Owners of Farms.

DUBLIN, Dec. [9.-(Special.)-The lands bill recently introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland, fulfills in every respect the expectations aroused by Mr. Birrell's exposition of its pro-

The bonus is not to be kept down to the Wyndham limit of \$60,000,000 and Mr. Asquith gave a pledge that the losses on land stock shall not be per-mitted to fall upon the Irish ratepay-

The principle of graduation in distribution of the bonus urged by the Irish party has been accepted. Nineteen years' purchase of a first term rent re-ceives 10 per cent bonus, though it is the equivalent of nearly 24 years' purchase second term rents, which would receive only 4 per cent bonus. But the general principle is thoroughly sound and will help the poor tenant and re-ward the equitable landlord.

TEACHER MAY USE WHIP Decision in Kentucky Will Help to

Restore Discipline in Schools.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Disc. 20 .- (Special.) The controversy relating to the legal right of a school teacher of the common schools of this state to whip a disorderly pupil was ended today when Attorney General James Breathitt handed down an opinion to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Crabbe, in which he holds a teacher is given the authority to whip if it is necessary to maintain

discipline. A recent opinion of Judge William Carroll, of Newcastle, that a teacher had no right to whip has almost disorganized the common schools, and it has been almost necessary for some of them to be

BONAPARTE DELAYS SUIT Has Not Yet Taken Action Against

Pulitzer, of World.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 20 .- Attorney

General Bonaparte, speaking tonight of the suit which the President has urged against Joseph Pulltzer, of the New York World, said that it is still under con-sideration and ho definite line of action has been agreed upon.

WESTERN UNION

Big Conspiracy Among Employes.

ONE CAUGHT, REVEALS SYSTEM

Only Railroad Telegraphers in Plot, Which Is Extensive.

CARRIED ON SINCE STRIKE

Secret Service Men Find Evidence of Crooked Work From Montana to California - Com-

pany Loses Large Sums.

Secret service men in the employ of the Western Union Telegraph Company have unearthed an alleged conspiracy among operators of railroad offices in the Northern and California, whereby, they declare, stealings have been made within the past

18 months amounting to many thousands Regular Western Union operators are not involved in the conspiracy. The stealing is charged by the detectives cutirely against operators in isolated railroad offices where there was no check

upon their work. At least one arrest has been made, that of an operator at Ritaville, Wash. It is alleged that this operator has made confession implicating half a dozen others, There is reason to believe other arrests also have been made, or soon will be

According to the report of the detectives the small group of which the Ritzville operator was a member was but a link in the chain of the conspiracy, which exended from Helena to San Francisco

Story Revealed in Portland. News of the discovery of the conspiracy came to light yesterday, when R. T. Reid, Western Union superintendent ofr the Northwestern district, with headquarters at Seattle, stopped of in Portland on his way homeward from a trip south. Simultaneously with Mr. Reld's visit a story was sent out from Portland by the Associated Press that a conspiracy had been unearthed, that its ramifications were wide, that a vast cum of money had been stolen

road telegraph operators and that a number of arrests had been made, The source of its information was carefully guarded by the Associated Press, but that Mr. Reld had given it was scarcely to be doubted, as he was seen in the Associated Press offices by The Oregonian reporters.

Later in the day I. N. Miller, Jr., Western Union superintendent at San Francisco, gave out a statement calculated to minimize the Portland story. Mr. Miller's statement was that only one arrest had been made and that the operations of the alleged thieves had been confined to the lines of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Investigations made last night show it

s indicated by the statement of the San Francisco official, but whether the charges made by the detectives can be substantiated or not does not appear.

to be a practical certainty that the al-

leged conspiracy is of wider scope than

How Conspirators Operated. The mode of operation of the alleged conspirators was simple. An operator at a small station where there was no checking system would receive a message for another similar point, take payment for the company, transmit the nessage and pocket the money, which was subsequently divided with the op-

(Concluded on Page 5.) INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS The Weather.

Foreign. General Simon takes oath as President of Hayti. Page 3. Powers submit draft of code of laws govern-ing prize courts. Page 5. YESTERDAY—Maximum temperature, as degrees, minimum, 33 degrees.
TODAY—Rule or snow, continued cold; southeasterly winds.

National. Million dollars a day spent for sugar in United States. Page 3. Young's appointment as Postmaster depends on Fulton's attitude in matter. Page 1. Much anxiety felt by prominent men as to personnel of Cabinet. Page 1.

Major Hains makes pistol test to prove son not implicated in killing of Annis. Page 1.

Frank Lahm relates thrilling acre trio with Wilbur Wright. Page 1. Sport,

Both Burns and Johnson ready for cham-pionship battle. Page 6. Pacific Coast. Whatcom County church substitutes phonograph for preacher. Page 7.
Tillamook County ideal for cranhermas.
Page 14.
Gold left by unknown dead man leads to
senzational claims. Page 7.

Portland and Vicinity. Power company may turn off city lights un-less agreement on new contract is reached this month. Page 16.

J. A. Finch says he will plead self-defense in trial on mucder charge. Page 10. Sermen on church fire. Page 11. Sermon on church are Cambronies in-crease in teachers sainties. Page 15.

Authorities hope to identify three captured hold-up men as train robbers. Page 9.

Bean retires from Speakership fight and Campbell comes to front. Page 10.

Western Union Telegraph Company robbed of large sums by railroad operators. Page 1.