

# Morning Oregonian.

PORTLAND, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1908.

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## PROMINENT MEN ON ANXIOUS SEAT

### Taft's Cabinet Causes Much Discussion.

### WILSON THOUGHT TO REMAIN

### Judge Ballinger Slated for Interior Department.

### NAGEL TO SUCCEED STRAUS

Missouri Man Mentioned for Commerce and Labor Portfolio. George W. Wickensham May Be Next Attorney-General.

**NO NEW APPOINTMENTS MADE.**  
The President-elect said tonight that he was still innocent of being the source of "inspired," or "authoritative," Cabinet stories. His Cabinet, he said, had acquired no additional members since the Knox announcement. No offers of positions were pending, nor had he made any decisions with respect to making offers.

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—**Cabinet builders at the National capital and those who have moved to Georgia as a part of the entourage of President-elect Taft, are succeeding 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 qualifications have been urged by admiring friends.

The announcement of the appointment of Frank H. Hitchcock to be assistant-general, followed by that of Senator Philander C. Knox to be Secretary of State, and the generally accepted report that George W. Wickensham, of New York, is the choice of Mr. Taft as Attorney-General, indicates that the slate is being made up rapidly and that announcement of the entire Cabinet may be expected before long.

**Wilson to Continue.**  
From a discussion of the Cabinet slate among Mr. Taft's close friends in Washington, who would not be likely to indulge in idle gossip concerning it, there seems to be a reasonable certainty that in addition to those named, Secretary Wilson will continue for a year or more as the head of the Agricultural Department; that Secretary Garfield will retire from the Cabinet; that Judge Richard A. Ballinger, 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 Ohio man will be given the position of Secretary of the Treasury.

**Nagel for Commerce and Labor.**  
Within the last few days the name of Charles Nagel, of Missouri, has been discussed in connection with the Secretaryship of the Department of Commerce and Labor. It is known that at one time Mr. Taft thought very strongly of naming Nagel as Attorney-General, but that later he considered Wickensham more adaptable to the purpose of that department.

**Treasury Portfolio Difficult.**  
Other names heard are those of William Loeb, Secretary to the President; Oscar S. Straup, who now has a portfolio; and George A. Knight, of California. It is not believed here, however, that two places will go to the Pacific Coast.

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

**Boys Shoot Each Other**  
Roseburg Lads Amuse Themselves Disastrously With Airguns.

**ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—**Three boys with airguns 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 back where a bullet entered, but has not yet been found. All will recover.

## NEVADA WEATHER COLDEST IN YEARS

### ICE GORGE IN TRUCKEE PUTS CITIES IN DARKNESS.

### 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 experienced in this section of Nevada. As a result, the ice gorges have blocked the Truckee River at a point above Flotation 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, one of the largest properties in Virginia City, was compelled to close down.

## HENPECKED MAN REBELS

### Willing to Do Housework, but Objects to Being Abused.

**CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—**Jesus Edwin Worthen, while not wearing any medals, can claim to be the worst henpecked husband in the city, so far as known. It all came out when Jesse applied to the courts for divorce.

He says that every Sunday for five years he has been 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 housework.

## METHODS SHOWN IN NOVEL

### Woman Incensed at Husband's Discharge by Railroad.

**FORT SCOTT, Kan., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—**Mrs. L. I. Hollinger, wife of J. A. Hollinger, 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 20 years, has written a novel in which she treats of present-day railway methods. The name of Mrs. Hollinger's book is "Threads From Three Lives." It vindicates her husband's railroad career, delineates the personnel of the Missouri Pacific a 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.

## NEW MEXICO WANTS IN

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

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—**"We have a wide-awake, progressive, industrial and intelligent population and we want to be treated like men,"

## YONCALLA MAN ACCUSED

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

**SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—**To face a charge of obtaining money by false pretenses in negotiating a \$25 check, E. G. Hamilton, a real estate man, will be brought back to Spokane 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 endorse the check, a warrant was sworn out for his arrest.

## 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 tabernacle this afternoon. "The Development of Religious Thought" was the speaker's topic. President Schurman will be heard at the opening session of the state teachers' convention in this city tomorrow and again on Tuesday.

## YOUNG'S FATE IN HANDS OF FULTON

### Can't Get Job if Senator 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.**

## AVENUES OPEN TO FULTON

There are two ways in which Senator Fulton can prevent Young's confirmation. The simpler is 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 colleagues, 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.

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## MINER SLAYS BEAR WITH CHUNK OF ORE

### HAS HAND-TO-HAND TUSSELE WITH BEAST IN MINE.

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

**RENO, Nev., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—**Rev. W. Booth, one of the pioneer 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 yesterday.

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

## TAFT HEARS TEMPERANCE

### Attends Church in Augusta on Prohibition Sunday.

**AUGUSTA, Ga., Dec. 20.—**President-elect and Mrs. William H. Taft attended services today at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. 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.

## COSGROVE IS OUT OF BED

### Spends Day in Sun Parlor and Feels Better Than for Months.

**PASO ROBLES, Hot Springs, Cal., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—**Governor-elect Cosgrove is decidedly better today. He was dressed yesterday and remained out of bed the greater part of the day. Today he will be wheeling about the sun parlor and porch. Last night he remarked that he felt better than for the past six months. We are all much encouraged about the outcome of his condition and present indications point to steady gain in strength.

## FLEET LEAVES FOR SUEZ

### Starts on Longest Leg of Entire Trip Around World.

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—**Rear-Admiral Sperry, commanding the American battleship fleet, has sailed the Navy department that the fleet departed today from Colombo, Ceylon, for Suez.

## IRELAND'S NEW LAND BILL

### Great Advantage Towards Making Farmers Owners of Farms.

**DUBLIN, Dec. 20.—(Special.)—**The Land 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 proposals.

## TEACHER MAY USE WHIP

### Decision in Kentucky Will Help to Restore Discipline in Schools.

**FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 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.

## AERO TRIP WITH WRIGHT THRILLS

### Lahm Tells of Fast Ride Over Paris.

### DESCENDS MILE A MINUTE

### Careful Landing Is Happy Disappointment.

### FLIGHTS ARE COMMON NOW

**NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—(Special.)—**C. F. Cortlandt Bishop, who for the third time has been elected president of the Aero Club of America, and Frank S. Lahm, 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. Lahm, who has lived 30 years in France, described his experience in making a flight with Wilbur Wright.

"It was very delightful," said Mr. Lahm, "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 propellers 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 fine turns and rose to a height of a little more than 1000 feet. Mr. Wright's flight 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 so often and seen so many landings. As it was, I feared we would get a hard shock. Just as we got close to the ground, Mr. Wright paralleled the soil, 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 watching the breeze to go by you fast. What I have seen there in the last ten days has impressed me most, because I saw Wilbur Wright fly above 300 feet. I saw him soar from the ground without the aid of his weights; I saw him parallel 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 250 pounds.

Mr. Lahm said that by Spring he expected to see aeroplanes flights made across the English Channel and back. The Wrights expect to deliver as many machines as may be desired at \$500 each.

## 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 strangest meteor ever seen in this part of the country fell from the skies between 3 and 6 o'clock this afternoon and was seen by 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 tail, or stream of sparks, was several feet in length. The meteor was visible about 30 seconds.

## LESS HARDSHIP IN CITIES

### Conditions Among Canada Working Classes Are Improved.

**OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—**Reports from the principal cities of Ontario 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.

## HOT HEADS STOP PARDON

### Editorial Spots Chance of Freedom for Irish Prisoners.

**OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—**In April, 1908, the whole of Canada was astonished 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 Dolman, John Nolan and John Walsh were convicted and were sentenced to penal servitude for life in the Kingston penitentiary.

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## 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 Pulitzer, of the New York World, said that it is still under consideration and he definite line of action has been agreed upon.

## OPERATORS ROB 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—Company 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 of dollars.

Regular Western Union operators are not involved in the conspiracy. The stealing is charged by the detectives entirely 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 Riverville, 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 made.

## STORY REVEALED IN PORTLAND

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

## NEWS OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE CONSPIRACY

News of the discovery of the conspiracy came to light yesterday, when R. T. Reid, Western Union superintendent of the Northwest district, with headquarters at Seattle, stopped off in Portland on his way homeward from a trip south. Simultaneously with Mr. Reid'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 sum of money had been stolen by railroad 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. Reid had given it was scarcely to be doubted, as he was seen in the Associated Press offices by the Oregonian reporter.

Latter in the day J. 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 to be a practical certainty that the alleged conspiracy is of wider scope than is 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.

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

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

Judge R. A. Ballinger, of Seattle, Who May Be Named for Secretary of Interior.

Frank H. Hitchcock, Who Has Been Chosen for Postmaster-General.

Secretary of Commerce and Labor Oscar Straus, Who May Be Reappointed.

George A. Knight, of California, Who Is Being Urged by Friends for Portfolio.

William Loeb, Secretary to President, Who May Be Promoted to Cabinet.