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Portland, Thursday, Dec. 30, 1909.

WILL STRAIGHTEN OUT.

The popular vote that gave Chamberlain a plurality was not a vote for Chamberlain, nor for his party. It was not a vote for "Statement One," but a vote against it. It was a vote against a political bunco game. Thousands of Republicans—among them the most serious and earnest members of the Republican party—voted for Chamberlain, not because they wanted him or approved his politics, but because they desired to express their disapproval of the bunco game and to give its advocates "a plenty of it."

Bourne insists on "Statement One" as the fundamental principle in our politics. That Bourne does not know—never knew—what fundamental principles, or any principles, are. And that is the reason why he supported Bryan in 1896, and was the life and spirit and soul of the Bryan campaign in Oregon.

Bourne was elected by "Statement One," not for it nor upon it. He was elected by party loyalty. He had managed to obtain a meager plurality over the highest of four other candidates for the Senate. His vote was made up, moreover, of rags and tags and ends and ends and fringes of party, who had voted for Bryan, were grateful for Bourne's leadership in their cause, and wished to give him their recognition and reward. Party loyalty did the rest; and Bourne got a majority of votes. But his majority was extremely small; thousands of Republicans refused to vote for him, and thousands who did vote for him, and thousands who did not vote for him, repented it. For the consequence didn't end with the election of Bourne. It led to the election of Chamberlain. It led to the election of thousands of Republicans, constituting the bone and sinew and intellectual and moral force of the party, voted for Chamberlain for the one purpose of casting discredit and odium on the whole Bryan game.

But the Republican party of Oregon will right itself. It must and it will right itself, or it will cease to exist. It will right itself through the convention or assembly—that is, through the representative system, which is the foundation of all republican government. There is a lot of twaddle about "a Portland machine," said to be "working to defeat the will of the people." In fact, there are no "machine manipulators" at Portland—except "Statement One" means. These are the only persons who want a "machine" and work for it. Not one of those who oppose it and them is a candidate for office. "The machine" consists of the Bourne-Chamberlain clique, using "Statement One." It will have mighty little show, hereafter, in the name of the Republican party. That masquerade is ended. The fallacy will now straighten out.

A VERY PROPER CHECK. Very properly, the school meeting at Portland on Tuesday evening declined to increase the indebtedness of the district for the purpose of "padding" the "athletic fields." Nor should the indebtedness be increased, for any purpose. Such increase would, in fact, be illegal. There is excess of debt now; and they who, at the school meeting, called a halt are entitled to public commendation.

It was reported at the meeting that the debt of the district now far exceeds the legal limit. The laws of the state provide that the debt of a school district never shall exceed one hundred thousand dollars; but here, in the "athletic fields," is a debt already exceeding \$241,000. It cannot be said that Portland is not doing enough for the public schools. It expended last year on them \$1,484,577—or one-third of the amount expended for all purposes, including school and other taxes. The restriction provided in the statute was intended to prevent excess; yet we have gone even beyond those limits. Certainly it was time to call a halt.

One of the phases of the craze for things "free" is the craze for free schools. The public school is part of our life, and will be continued, because necessary. But even the necessary thing—the best thing—may be carried to an extreme. Nor is the rational objection based merely on protest against excessive taxation. The whole social body, the whole body politic, is corrupted by the notion of "free" things. Nothing that costs money or costs effort can properly be called free; and we are breeding hoodlums and young highwaymen in Portland all the time by propagation of the monstrous error about "free" things. The condition is made worse by proposals to override the law for limitation of public debt, to get "free" things.

When parents lose their sense of responsibility, what is to be expected of their children? What wonder that the boys and the girls take what seems to them the primrose path, and go to the bad? Virtue is not to be promoted by making life an easy way for the young, but by forcing on them the necessity of personal exertion and self-reliance. Is it an antiquated notion? Yes; and it is antiquated and excellent in that very fact. As Hosea Biglow said: "You've got to git up airly, if ya're goin' to take in God."

The news that the Quartermaster's Department is to give Portland a square deal in lumber contracts will be gratefully received. This city has not only suffered actual loss of business by reason of the unjust discrimination levied under the pretext of a higher-freight rate than is alleged to

prevail out of Puget Sound ports, but the inference that freights are higher out of Portland than out of Puget Sound has cast discredit on the port. As has repeatedly been demonstrated, Portland lumber exporters can charter tonnage to carry lumber to the Philippines, or to any other port on earth, at as low a rate as can be secured out of Seattle. That the Government fails to secure tonnage on the same basis is discreditable to the department in charge of the business. Portland bidders will sell lumber delivered in Manila at lower figures than it can be secured elsewhere. All they want is an opportunity to do so.

VAQUE ACCUSATION.

What, in fact, is the charge against Secretary Ballinger? It is of the most vague and indefinite description. President Taft examined the accusation on its first presentation, and completely exonerated Mr. Ballinger. The vindictive was so complete that the original line of attack had to be abandoned. The assailants of Secretary Ballinger, it is to be observed, says the New York Tribune, have been obliged to shift their ground. Originally they sought to make it appear that an act of the Secretary in opening certain lands for settlement had practically nullified the efforts of his predecessors in their first presentation, and completely exonerated Mr. Ballinger. The vindictive was so complete that the original line of attack had to be abandoned.

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As a matter of fact, he did not "operate" at all in favor of claimants of coal land in Alaska, but against them. He had no objection to doing anything some of them that the law was and informing them they could not violate it. Was this treason to the public interests? Now the accusers will have the chance to make the most of it.

GLADSTONE.

The centenary of Gladstone's birth should not be permitted to pass without appreciative notice. He befitted the extraordinarily numerous band of great men who were born in 1809, though his turn came so late in the century that he barely missed slipping over into 1810. December 29 is not far from January 1. Gladstone's memory is particularly dear to Americans of Irish connections, because he was the courageous and constant friend of their country. He was the champion for the rights of the Irish peasantry at a time when it meant serious danger to an Englishman's political career to do so. During his later years Gladstone suffered calamity most relentless and bitter on account of his project of home rule for Ireland. Today Mr. Asquith advocates substantially the same thing without incurring much opprobrium. Certainly the world moves.

Gladstone was one of those exceptional men who grow broader and more human as they grow older. In his youth he was a "machine" for the stern and unbending Tories, who saw in him the promise of a leader who was the unrivaled leader of the Liberals. Few men are blessed with the faculty of growing brighter with the years, and with every brighter of youthful enthusiasm and Christian hope. If England has seen greater statesmen than Gladstone, she has never seen one with nobler ideals or more steadfast courage. The memory of his life is an undying inspiration to the youth of his country.

FACTS ABOUT SISKIYOU STATE.

A perplexed and despairing Eastern contemporary—the New York Times—appeals "for information and for an independent judgment" concerning the proposed new State of Siskiyou. "We in the East," it pensively complains, "are not being favored with a prospect of Siskiyou's 'mining' advantages." That desiderative boon is about to be conferred upon those Easterners who will attentively peruse the following veracious remarks. From this time forward, if they are not fully satisfied with knowledge about the hypothetical commonwealth of Siskiyou, it will be their own fault.

To begin with, the clamor for a new star in the gorgeous constellation of the Union gathers its thunderous boom mainly from one throat, to wit, that of a literary prodigy whose inspired pen writes the Medford paper. This great man wants to secede from Oregon and California because he is mad. What he is mad about doesn't matter. The portentous circumstance is that he has made up his mind to secede, and to take with him portions of the Rogue River Valley and Northern California along with him. In this fearsome resolution he is backed up by the Jackson County Press Association, a powerful body composed of the Medford editor, a "farter" devil in Jacksonville and an outdared railroad boss. The latter framed and hung on the wall as a perpetual reminder of other and more glorious times. It is said a supply of arms and ammunition has been laid in to be used if the base legislative salt in Sacramento movement to resist the secession movement should open war break out, the Medford paper is assured of the alliance and support of the two saloonkeepers and two grocerymen of Yreka, Cal. The man who runs the Chinese laundry is said to be neutral. Yreka's enthusiastic and almost unanimous approval has been gained by promising to build the new Capitol on the lot now occupied by the mossy ruins of its once palatial drugstore. In case more room is needed, the cellar hole where the hotel stood is to be available.

As to the territory which the new state will permit to share in its glorious opportunities, we do not understand that the blessing is to be extended indiscriminately to Southern Oregon as a whole, or to Northern California, either. Thus Medford is to be left out in the cold because of the scant appreciation it shows for the sublime beauties of the Medford paper, while Jacksonville is to be admitted, while Jacksonville is to be admitted, while Jacksonville is to be admitted.

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line which divides the elect from the probable will wander dovishly from the last description of the Medford paper on the north to the city limits of Yreka on the south. We trust our Eastern friends may find that the information here provided slakes their thirst for the truth about Siskiyou completely and agreeably. We also trust that some of them, who have charged the Oregonian with bias on the subject, will repent in sackcloth and ashes when they perceive with what absolute impartiality the facts on both sides are presented.

PORTLAND'S "REAL HARBOR."

The communication from W. H. Corbett printed in The Oregonian yesterday is one of the most interesting contributions yet made to the Broadway bridge question. It is of exceptional value coming from such a source, for, if any, of the taxpayers of Portland have a more direct and vital interest in the preservation of Portland's maritime prestige than Mr. Corbett and his associates in a great industry so largely dependent on shipping for its prosperity. As pointed out by Mr. Corbett in his letter, and also as shown on the accompanying map, what he terms our "real harbor" has been shifting to the north. This movement began even before the bridges were built, for the shipping which in early days discharged and loaded between the main street and Ash street had to a large extent shifted to the north and the newer grain and merchandise docks still farther north before the bridges were built.

The four bridges now spanning the Willamette are clustered so close together that the intervening dock property is almost entirely eliminated. Deep-water slips that now come to the port, and the Broadway bridge will be built so close to the other bridges that it will cut off but little from the extended harbor space lying farther north. Deep-water shipping even now seldom enters the docks between the proposed site of the Broadway bridge and the Madison-street bridge, and the small coasting steamers that still use these docks can work in and out with but little difficulty or delay. The shipping that will still go above the Madison-street bridge, and the Broadway bridge will not materially increase the handicap it now suffers. But Portland's "real harbor," as it is termed by Mr. Corbett, will lie north of the proposed bridge. By following the line suggested by him, it can be enlarged and deepened to take care of an immense volume of shipping. The reopening of the channel on the west side of Swan Island is an improvement that is long overdue. It offers a straight course for the larger vessels, and the draw of the North Bank bridge, as pointed out by Mr. Corbett, would eliminate the existing danger of collision which is ever present when steamships must follow the sharp bend in the river at the foot of Swan Island.

The limited area of Portland harbor that will be damaged by bridges south of the proposed Broadway bridge is too small to cut much of a figure in comparison with that which Portland will need as her commerce grows and which must be obtained in the area lying north of the proposed bridge.

MADDERN AND THE PARCELS POST.

Our great and good Government makes nice and easy for passengers as well as freight to make use of the best facilities for transportation. Governor Peary, of Honolulu, had important business at Washington and the only vessel by which he could reach this country in time was a Japanese steamer. As the sacred cause of protection to our American shipping will not permit so serious an offense as was committed by Governor Peary, he will be compelled to pay a fine of \$200. Let it be understood that Seattle did not reach this high eminence of publicity by any mere margin of a million or so. The increase in the net indebtedness of our northern neighbor was \$5,791,978. Even the carping critics of Tacoma will admit that "that's going some."

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GETTING DRUNK AT NEW YEAR.

A disgraceful thing has crept into the social life of Portland, which, if not stamped out, may grow into a custom. It is the imported idea that the best way to usher in the New Year is to get drunk in public. Portland probably caught this notion from San Francisco—the one American city that boasts of imitating the fashionable vices of the gay French capital. There will be a "booze" festival tomorrow night, beginning at the usual bedtime and lasting until long after the first of January. Preparations are complete. All the tables in the leading grill-rooms have been engaged. Caterers have only one detail to meet at the last moment, namely, how many bottles of bubbling wine to stock in their cellars. They must serve the rounders, male and female, who drop in, as well as those in evening dress seated about the rooms. Toward midnight, if the orgy on last New Year's eve is repeated, men and women will stand three deep clamor-

ing for intoxicants from over-worked waiters, singing and shouting, while the more enthusiastic of the fashionable set mount, the tables and with glasses high in air, "Ring out the old, ring in the new!" Customs change. It may be that the number of old-fashioned folk, many of them living righteous lives, in whom the approach of the New Year evokes a more reverent and thoughtful attitude, is relatively smaller than in former years. Possibly the impressive watch-night services still in vogue may be dispensed with for a time by the new, light-hearted, pleasure-loving generation. Nowadays few utter protest against the drinking custom of frivolous boys and girls, young women and young men, making the night hideous with horns and megaphones as they march about the streets by the thousands. But every right-minded person is shocked when he contemplates the number of alleged respectable adults of either sex deliberately set out to drink to excess in public on New Year's eve.

It is almost inconceivable that normal men and women, whose conduct should be a credit to their community, should in this time compromise themselves by getting into a position where their interperate acts may be seen and criticized by entire strangers; where for a few brief hours in the public mix-up it is not easy to distinguish decent people from women of the underworld and their associates. If they must get drunk in public to celebrate the advent of the New Year, let them do it in the privacy of their homes and not act as self-invited guests to a Bacchanalian feast.

Football is a rough game. It always will be rough. The sport was not invented for and is not intended to be played by mollycoddles or students at a female seminary. Rules have been amended and all dangerous plays "eliminated" several times; for example, the dangerous "wing" play was abolished. Still, the death list grew longer. And now the National Interscholastic Athletic Association has resolved that the rules committee "shall endeavor to bring about such modification . . . as shall reduce to a minimum the danger of serious injury," which means nothing and insures nothing until twenty-two strong, fighting, never-say-die young Americans test the theory on the gridiron.

New York loomed large in the news dispatches yesterday, with the announcement that her total net indebtedness for the year was seven times as large as that of any other city in the United States. San Francisco also came in for prominent mention with its indebtedness of \$1,000,000 per capita. Let it be understood that Seattle did not reach this high eminence of publicity by any mere margin of a million or so. The increase in the net indebtedness of our northern neighbor was \$5,791,978. Even the carping critics of Tacoma will admit that "that's going some."

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NEED OF ASSEMBLY.

It will prevent minority from ruling majority. Polk County Observer. The Scio News, a Democratic newspaper, closes a long editorial against the proposed "assembly" by asking this question: "After all, what difference does it make to the people whether a Democrat or a Republican is elected to office?" In answer to this question, it may be said that, to the average voter who opposes the assembly, it makes no difference. It is because there is still a respectable number of Republicans in Oregon who believe that the name Republican should stand and does stand for something, and that the way to carry Republican principles and policies into effect is to elect Republicans to office, that the assembly plan of making nominations is being urged in this state. There is still a respectable number of citizens in Oregon who are not willing to see political parties obliterated. These are the citizens who believe that the country can be governed best by maintaining opposing political organizations and by nominating for office men of positive natures; men of force of character; men who stand for something. These are the citizens who are not willing to meekly submit to any system of government that makes it possible for a minority to rule a majority; who refuse to become passive to the movement to fill the leading offices in Republican Oregon with ranting Populists and dead-in-the-wool Democrats; who are unwilling to permit the dominant party in the state to be led to destruction by the siren song of "non-partisanship." The Observer opines that the number will increase who are set for holding the assembly draws near.

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WHAT CURE FOR DRINK HABIT.

Is it Wise to Try to Hide the Liquor. Leaving the Same Old Dilemma. PORT TOWNSEND, Wash., Dec. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Observing the difference of opinions on the liquor question as evidenced by The Oregonian's editorial of December 24, I wish to add a few lines to what you say, but from a new angle. The editor, no doubt, in common with those who differ with him, would a thousand times rather have the producers of the Nation's wealth retain their wealth in their own hands and right, than exchange it for whisky, thus building big homes for the few and few homes for the many. With every man's life necessities should come first. These are food, clothing and shelter. To obtain these we must apply to the labor market. By this means wealth is produced. From this point the other transactions of the wealth producers should be exchanged for whisky, for other forms of wealth, useful or otherwise, becomes as important as the production itself. If the labor exchanges his wealth for whisky, he has no means to earn more wealth, but the first loss has been sustained permanently. Whisky is not wealth to the man who drinks it. By no known method can drink add to the individual's wealth. For whisky is not a national state or a nation drink itself rich. Of all things that has ever been devised for making men equal, whisky in taking from labor the wealth it produces. It would almost seem that whisky was designed to take from labor the wealth it creates. Still thousands of men with no surplus on hand hasten after pay day to hand over their accumulated food, clothing and shelter. The amount of wealth passing out of the hands of the masses and into the hands of the few, when the Nation's drink has been estimated at nearly \$2,000,000,000 per year. Can the wealth producers of this Nation afford this? Can the Nation afford it? There may be other agencies that take from the people an unfair or an unjust share of the fruits of their labor, but whisky is not one of them. It is not a thing of value is given them in return, but not so with whisky and beer. A man connected with a society whose purpose it is to impress upon the minds of men the value of temperance to the individual, has been fortunate in that it is much more practical to induce men to turn away from whisky than to attempt to hide it beyond their reach. It is much more practical to induce men to resist any invasion of his rights has placed thousands of men in the ranks of the poor, because the same people have allowed themselves to become absorbed by the advocates of prohibition, so that now no effort is made to get men to stop the drink habit. The man who depends upon prohibition to save his boy from the Nation may be a badly disappointed parent. It may seem right to some to take from the people the things we think they should not have, but whether this should, or even can be done successfully, is a doubtful proposition. If the advocates of temperance would present the question of temperance upon its own merits and direct their arguments to the working people along economic lines, instead of political lines, the Nation would readily understand the value of the argument and keep the wealth in their own pockets.

When you tell men you are going to take whisky away from them, they will fight you; but if you tell them to insist on getting some of the same, they will surrender their wealth, your advice will appeal to them. There are no more effective arguments than will appeal to the man who buy and drink the whisky that it is almost cruel to drive them sold into the hands of the Nation because of the way it has been handled. MURDOCH MURRAY, Coffeen, Ill.

Teacher in One Town 50 Years.

St. Albans (Vt.) Messenger. Miss Eunice Ladd, who died a few days ago at her home in Pownal, probably had the longest teaching record in the state. She taught in the public schools of Pownal, her native town, for nearly fifty years. She was born in Pownal seventy-five years ago, and during her service taught in the same town for nearly all of the thirteen districts. It is estimated that fully half the population of the town have at one time or another been taught by Miss Ladd. Her position on her seventieth birthday anniversary, five years ago, the date she had long fixed for her retirement.

MOTHER GOOSE UP-TO-NOW.

Sing a song of Squeens. A tummy full of rice; Another resolution. That I kissed good-bye. Deedle, deedle, dumpling, my son John Went to bed with a good load on; His collar off and his necktie on; Too much New Year's for my son John. I had a little hobby horse. His name was "Statement One"; He'd been a Non-partisan. To ride to Washington. He worked my hobby horse so hard That I said right then: "The horse shall never ride My hobby horse again."

FIVE-CENT FARE UP AGAIN.

Attorneys Declare Linnon Reduction Should Begin Immediately. The Linnon 5-cent fare case has again come to the front. Attorneys G. F. Martin and R. C. Nelson, representing C. W. Watta and other Linnonites, filed in the Circuit Court yesterday a motion for judgment against the United Railway Company upon the pleadings, without taking the case to trial. The date set for judgment to be entered is January 2. The attorneys argue that, although Judge Morrow recently upon demurrer to the complaint, and that the 5-cent fare should therefore be enforced. In answer the company asserts that it operates under two franchises, one issued by the City Council and the other by the County Court. It charges 5 cents within the city limits, it argues, under the city franchise, and 5 cents more beyond the city limits under the county franchise.

COURT WILL BE BUSY TODAY.

Four Will Plead Causes Before Circuit Judge Bronough. William Simpson, proprietor of the Eagle House, at Third and Burnside streets, was arraigned yesterday on a charge of aiming a gun at J. J. Long, a plaintiff in the Long case, which will be heard in the Circuit Court tomorrow. It was on December 11 that Long entered Simpson's premises to quell a disturbance in the bar. Simpson, who was also arraigned, although he says he is not a party to the case, was an officer. Judge Bronough has released the accused on \$1000 bail. Owen McIndoe, accused of murder in the first degree, for having beaten his brother with a club in a quarrel so that he died of the Rocky Mountain fever, was arraigned yesterday on a statutory charge of murder in the second degree. They will plead tomorrow.

THREATENED WITH CHOKING, HUSBAND WANTS DIVORCE.

Samuel Cohn complains in a divorce complaint against Ethel Cohn, which was filed in the Circuit Court yesterday morning, that she threatened to choke and kill him in December, 1907. This threat was repeated this month, he alleges, because he was unable to meet his wife's demands. He married her in Stockton, Cal., August 1905. Ethel B. Rowley filed a divorce suit in the Circuit Court yesterday against Walter Rowley, alleging desertion in 1907. They were married in Tacoma, November 8, 1902, and have no children.

O. R. & N. SUES FOR PROPERTY.

The Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company has filed five condemnation suits to secure property upon which to construct its line from St. John to Troutdale. Sarah J. Kronenberg, A. Kronenberg, J. W. Townsend and Carrie Townsend, are among the defendants. The company alleges it offered the Kronbergs \$500 for their property, but they would not purchase at that figure, and that \$1000 was offered the Townsends, who refused to sell unless more money was forthcoming.

SAN FRANCISCO PLANS FAIR.

States West of Rockies and Honolulu Asked to Join. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—The first meeting of the committee of 200 appointed to devise and manage the holding of the Panama-Pacific World's Fair of 1915 was held today. It was decided that all the states and territories of the Rocky Mountain Territory of Hawaii and the counties of this state will be asked to nominate members of the ways and means committee to confer with the 200 members already appointed. D. W. Gorman, W. J. Dutton and Leon Loss were appointed to nominate a committee of 50 to have charge of the organization of the exposition.

"KILL SQUIRRELS" IS SLOGAN.

California Active in Trying to Prevent Spread of Plague. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Wholesale killing of plague-ridden squirrels in California is to be discussed soon at a conference between public health and biological survey officials. Although the plague is declared by experts to be localized, danger to other sections is feared. The Government is in California investigating the most desirable and economical bait for this purpose. "It might possibly get into Oregon, but we are working hard to stop its spreading anywhere, if possible."

MEXICAN DESPERADOES KILLED.

Rurales Slay Four, Capture Two, Valuable Stock Recovered. TUCSON, Ariz., Dec. 25.—News was received here today of a desperate battle which occurred four days ago between Mexican rurales and a band of desperadoes near Altam, in Sonora, Mex. Four of the band, including the leader, were killed and two captured. The rurales were unhurt. The band had for some time operated between Altam and the Salt River Valley, robbing horses and cattle, crossing the line at an unguarded stretch known as "No Man's Land," west of Sasabe. The rurales fired from ambush, killing the desperadoes and recovering every head of valuable stock recovered.

MRS. GILLET DENIED DIVORCE.

Suit Begun Year Ago Dismissed at Salt Lake City. SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 29.—The suit of Viola Pratt Gillet, for divorce from George H. Gillet, began January 2, 1908, was dismissed by Judge Morse today. The Gillets were married September 12, 1902. Failure to provide was the ground upon which the divorce was asked. Mr. Gillet's attorney, attacked the complaint on the ground that the divorce was a non-resident of the state. The plaintiff made no answer to this contention. Lebam Hatchery Being Rebuilt. SOUTH BEND, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Work began today on the rebuilding of the Lebam hatchery, which was wrecked by the flood of December 6. Superintendent Sol Markham expects to have the plant finished in season to take steelhead salmon for hatching in the Spring.

LAND CLAIMS ARE PAID LATE.

Interstate Commerce Commission Reprimands Tardy Roads. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—In a decision handed down today, involving a claim of 29 cents in an overcharge on freight made by the Aberdeen & Ashboro Railway Company and other lines, railroads generally are severely reprimanded for their delay in adjusting claims. There has been a palpable overcharge. The railway had admitted the overcharge, but did not settle with the shipper until the latter had filed a formal complaint with the commission. The commission intimates that it may be under the necessity of calling the attention of Congress to the matter.

Commissioner Harlan, in writing the report of the Commission, says: "From shippers in all parts of the country and from local traffic associations which are making earnest efforts on fair and reasonable lines to secure a reform in the practices of carriers in this respect, many complaints have been received in the last year of the inattention of carriers to plain overcharge claims and of their delay in adjusting them. This delay is a formal complaint with the commission. The commission intimates that it may be under the necessity of calling the attention of Congress to the matter. Commissioner Harlan, in writing the report of the Commission, says: "From shippers in all parts of the country and from local traffic associations which are making earnest efforts on fair and reasonable lines to secure a reform in the practices of carriers in this respect, many complaints have been received in the last year of the inattention of carriers to plain overcharge claims and of their delay in adjusting them. This delay is a formal complaint with the commission. The commission intimates that it may be under the necessity of calling the attention of Congress to the matter."

COTTON RATES ARE ENJOINED.

Mississippi Roads Protest Reduction of Million Annually. JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 29.—The Illinois Central and Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Companies today obtained a temporary injunction against the Mississippi Railroad Commission, restraining it from enforcing the new rates. The roads pressed cotton which were to have become effective January 1. The roads protest a reduction of about one-third from existing rates and also difference to the railroads would approximate \$1,000,000 annually.

SQUADRON'S CRUISE REVISED.

Warships on Asiatic Coast Coming Home in February. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The tinetry of the first squadron of the Pacific fleet now in the Orient has been revised by the Navy Department. The armored cruisers Tennessee and Washington, now at Woonung, will go to Yokohama on January 2, to remain there until January 15. The California and the South Dakota, now at Yokohama, and the Colorado and the Maryland, now at Nagasaki, will go to Woonung in the latter part of the month. They are to stay for two weeks at Woonung. The West Virginia and the Pennsylvania, now at Hongkong, will go to Nagasaki for the same period. The entire squadron will assemble at Yokohama January 17 or 18 and will sail on January 20 for Honolulu, arriving February 1. The departure from Honolulu for San Francisco is scheduled for February 8. Seven days are given for the sailings from the Hawaiian Islands to California.

CHAMBERLAIN ASAILS BUDGET.

Address Urges Tariff Reform and Colonial Reciprocity. LONDON, Dec. 23.—Joseph Chamberlain today assailed the budget of the electors of West Birmingham, advocating tariff reform and reciprocity with the colonies and attacking the budget. The address asserted that home rule for Ireland would mean a reduction not only would injure the friends of England there, whose interests were safeguarded by the present control, but the danger to the Empire would be grave. Great Britain was now threatened by foreign nations as never before. After alleging that the Liberals desire a simple change of rule, the address concluded with a criticism of the government's lack of preparation for the national defense.

PIONEER MILLER IS DEAD.

J. C. Long Owned Most of Land on Which Cottage Grove Stands. COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Dec. 28.—(Special.)—J. C. Long, an old citizen of this place, died today from a stroke of apoplexy. He came to Oregon in 1854. He was a miller and built the Farmers' custom mill on the site of the present mill. He had a son George who purchased the land and put it into the lots on which the cottage grove stands. He leaves an aged wife, three sons and one daughter.

WESTON POTATOES FROZEN.

Third of Crop Damaged in Ground, It Is Feared. WESTON, Or., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—The weather conditions are regarded by growers as unfavorable for the mountain potato crop, and it is feared that one-third of the crop of the year, as the weather is yet in the ground, as the November cold snap caught the diggers in the midst of their work. In many places where the ground has been covered with a depth of snow, the wind is frozen to a depth of six inches or more.

ICE PACK IN OHIO SERIOUS.

Weather Around Pittsburg Most Severe Since 1865. PITTSBURG, Dec. 29.—With zero weather scheduled for tomorrow, the ice pack at the Ohio River assumed a serious aspect tonight. Since 1865 there have not been such severe weather conditions