

NO DOUBT OF AN ISSUE

A Contract With a Bond Syndicate Agreed Upon.

PREPARED FOR ANY EMERGENCY

The Amount Fixed at One Hundred Millions and the Terms More Favorable to the Government.

Washington, Jan. 2.—There is now no reasonable doubt that a bond issue has been agreed upon, and that the details of a contract with a syndicate of which J. Pierpont Morgan is the head have been arranged; also that nothing remains to be done to carry it into effect except for the secretary to sign his name thereto. Thus the president is prepared for any emergency and there is no doubt that should heavy withdrawals of gold for export set in again another issue would be announced. The fact that there have been no withdrawals for export within the last several days although sterling exchange has ruled at or above the shipping point, gives credence to an opinion held in treasury circles that the market has already begun to feel the syndicate's influence against exports. The amount of the next issue it is almost certain has been fixed at \$100,000,000, and it is believed the terms of the contract are rather more favorable to the government than those under which the last issue was made. In this connection it is recalled that between August 31, 1895, the date upon which the national debt reached its highest point, and March 1, 1893, the amount of the government's outstanding obligations was reduced \$1,881,365,873. To accomplish this reduction bonds were purchased to the amount of \$70,809,750. Of this amount \$34,350,300 were purchased prior to 1879, and \$446,459,450 since that date.

Not Popular in England.

New York, Jan. 2.—The Evening Post's London cablegram says: "As regards the placing of a United States loan, I understand that one London bank and several small institutions have agreed to participate in any issue which may be made, and that the main firms on the Continent have retained their willingness to join in it. But those who are naturally looked to for support still decline to step forward, and so the negotiations are not likely to make much headway at present."

Money Being Hoarded in Boston.

New York, Jan. 2.—A special from Boston to the Evening Post says: "It is impossible to borrow money here today. The banks would not accept Pullman stock as collateral at 8 per cent. Several banks have applied to the clearing house for certificates. There is a suspicion that money is being hoarded to buy the expected new government bonds."

To Prevent the Issue of Bonds.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Allen, at the request of Thurston, introduced a bill in the senate today, prohibiting the issue of bonds by the United States unless congress shall by resolution declare the necessity for them.

Amendment to the Bond Bill.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Senator Jones, of Arkansas, today presented an amendment which he proposes to offer to the house bond bill. It provides that any holder of silver bullion, who is a citizen of the United States, may tender the same to the secretary of the treasury and have it coined into silver dollars, the seigniorage to be the difference between the original value and the market price of the bullion in New York; for the cancellation of all bank notes of less than \$10; directing the secretary of the treasury to coin the silver bullion in the treasury into silver dollars, to be used in redeeming the treasury notes issued for the purpose of purchasing silver bullion under the Sherman act; and the redemption of the greenbacks in either gold or silver, and for their reissue according to the provisions of the act of 1878.

Has Reached an Acute Stage.

Johannesburg, South Africa, Jan. 2.—The political crisis here, brought about by the efforts of the foreign population to obtain equal political rights with the Boers, has reached an acute stage. The exodus of women and children is increasing. All trains leaving are crowded, and the price of food stuffs has risen greatly. All kinds of bellicose rumors are current, and the government has notified burgars to be ready for active service in case of emergency.

The mercantile association has formed itself into a town guard for the purpose of preserving order and protecting life and property. The members will not take part in a revolution or riot of any kind, and have asked the government to supply them with arms and ammunition.

Several leading mines are expected to close today. President Kruger in an interview with a representative of the Associated Press expressed regret at the present agitation and said: "If the position is aggravated many disastrous consequences are to be apprehended, especially in mining and commercial enterprises. The present attitude of the Uitlanders does not conduct to the calm consideration of their alleged grievances. The government will give them an opportunity for free speech on their grievances, such as do not incite to rebellion, but is fully prepared to stop any movement aiming at the disturbance of law and order."

THE TREBIZOND MASSACRE.

Another Story as to the Cause of the Awful Slaughter.

New York, Jan. 2.—A letter from Trebizond, giving the testimony of an eye witness states: "Bahiri Pasha, governor of Van, started to come to Constantinople and it was learned that he was bringing with him four of the fairest young maidens of Sassoon who had been spared in the massacres, to make an acceptable present of them to the sultan. This aroused the Armenian people of Trebizond to a frenzy, and as it was impossible to resist, the more daring of the young men fired upon Bahiri Pasha when he was going about the city wounding him. After he was cured he carried out his infernal mission to Constantinople and was honored with the highest decoration and appointed governor of Adana, in spite of the neverless protest of the ambassadors. Afterward the pasha of Trebizond demanded the offenders. But they could not be found.

"The pasha has already begun to communicate with the sultan by telegraph, and, calling to the commanders of the soldiers, ordered them to be ready at 5 o'clock. When the maids had arrived and the people went toward the post, both the soldiers and the mob rushed upon them. Men and women were torn and murdered and the groans of the dying could be heard everywhere. It is the most awful of the massacres.

"News from Diarbekir report unnumbered suffering among those well-to-do a short time ago. The same information comes from Guerin, where not an Armenian house has been left standing where a large community was to be seen only a few weeks ago.

"From every part of Armenia comes the call to Armenians who are out of the country, begging that money be sent to the survivors of their families without delay, as they have neither food nor fuel, and scarcely any clothing. No men are allowed to travel from city or village. That which brings most grief to the Armenians is that numbers of young maidens were taken to the harems of the Kurds and Turks."

PREPARING FOR WAR.

Venezuelans Determined to Be Ready for All Emergencies.

New York, Jan. 2.—A special to the World from Caracas, Venezuela, says the Venezuelan government is negotiating in the United States for war supplies. Four heavy guns have been sent from Caracas to fortify the harbor at Maracaibo. Special commissioners appointed to arrange an alliance of South and Central American republics against England are ready to depart. A rumor comes from Colombia that the Spanish minister to Bogota has been escorted out of the country by a troop of soldiers, because he made a protest against the government giving to the British minister his passport.

Justice Brewer Selected.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Justice Brewer, of the supreme court, has been tendered and accepted a place on the Venezuela commission.

Says England Must Not Yield.

London, Jan. 2.—The Duke of Somerset writes to the Post this morning protesting against Lord Salisbury doing anything to assist the Venezuela commission, which the duke says ought to be ignored. He added: "If England yields in the slightest to America, it will be as serious to our prestige as when Mr. Gladstone allowed our flag to be trodden by the Boers."

The New York correspondent of the Times argues that the fact that Senator Sherman allies himself with the president for the cessation of the controversy. Mr. Sherman sides with President Cleveland against all the great lawyers and all the best authorities on this question, both American and European, and against Mouroos himself, says the correspondent. He thinks Senator Sherman's attitude indicates that the Republicans are not entirely separated from President Cleveland. He sees danger in Senator Sherman's assumption that the quieter state of affairs grows out of the belief among the people of the United States that Lord Salisbury is ready to acquiesce in arbitration.

A Melbourne dispatch to the Times says: "A banquet was held at Adelaide to celebrate foundation day, and many patriotic speeches were made. Sir James Henry Young, the minister of works for New South Wales, who is American-born, ridicules the idea of war. Mark Twain was also present, and echoed the statement that talk of war between blood relations was absurd."

The Chronicle, in the course of a complimentary editorial, sends a New Year's greeting to America and to President Cleveland.

Support From France and Russia. Vienna, Jan. 2.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of Freie Presse telegraphs that Russia and France have actually promised diplomatic support to the United States in the Venezuela troubles, and adds Russia is prepared to facilitate the United States loan with their own gold reserves.

Another Chinaman Beheaded. Berlin, Jan. 2.—A dispatch from Swatow, province of Quanghai, China, says the ringleader of the mob which plundered the German mission at Moilin has been beheaded.

Earthquake in Austria.

Vienna, Jan. 2.—A violent earthquake shock was felt today at Weiner Neustadt, thirteen miles south of this city.

THE VENEZUELA AFFAIR

A London Paper Publishes a Mass of Matter.

AS THE ENGLISH WOULD VIEW IT

One Writer Says the Claim Would Be Similar to One Made by Spain for Gibraltar.

London, Dec. 31.—The Chronicle publishes a mass of matter on the Venezuela affair, including maps in possession of the colonial office, extracts from the American papers which have arrived by mail, and an article by Frederick Harrison, declaring that the Venezuela claims is on all fours with a Spanish claim to Gibraltar. Harrison says: "If the United States can persuade Venezuela to submit to a bona fide boundary settlement and to drop her swagger about Charles V and Philip II of Spain, and can enforce an award when it is made, the question could be settled in a month."

The Brussels delegate to the Venezuela government, Velos Guiteco, recently visited The Hague, and exhausted every channel without success in support of the Venezuela claim. Five years ago the British vice-consul at Ciudad Bolivar, examined the Spanish records and proved the British aspect of the case completely.

IMPROVING STEADILY.

The Financial Situation in This Country Gradually Growing Better.

New York, Dec. 26.—The stock market opened in good tone, with speculation very brisk. There was good buying, in which foreign loans were prominent, and nearly all active lists made rapid advances. Some realising sales caused a retrograde movement and declines were recorded from 1/2 to 2 per cent. The market, however, was fairly steady, and there were no indications of panicky conditions.

The depression which came on the market at 10:45 continued about half an hour, the extreme decline being in sugar, which fell 2 1/2 cents. At 10:45 prices were again moving upward, sugar selling at 5 per cent and cotton at 2 1/2 to 3 per cent between 6 and 8 o'clock.

The proposed meeting of the American society for the purpose of an expression of the people for an amicable settlement of existing differences between England and the United States has been abandoned in view of the improved situation. The Order of Crusaders has forwarded, through the Hon. Neal Dow, Mother Stewart and Miss Frances Wildard, a New Year's greeting to the Temperance Workers of America, with the hope that the war will now be averted.

Improvement in London.

London, Dec. 26.—At 1 o'clock this afternoon there was less excitement in the stock exchange, but the market was still unsettled. There was a disposition to take a more hopeful view of the Venezuelan question politically, but grave apprehension is felt regarding the financial outlook of the United States. There was not much improvement in foreign government securities. The American railroad market, which was very excited at the opening, was quieter at 1 o'clock. In fact the panicky feeling seems to have given way to one of more confidence. On the Liverpool and Manchester and Glasgow stock exchanges the tone showed a marked improvement and prices for American securities were steadily advancing.

Are Glad of It.

London, Dec. 26.—The afternoon papers today, comment editorially at length on the Venezuelan matter, but their remarks are on the financial rather than the political phase. While there is no abatement of expressions of belief that the ground taken by the United States is untenable, the tone is altogether more pacific. Yet there is considerable display of satisfaction at financial difficulties in the United States.

Business during the day was exceedingly quiet on the exchange. Operators generally were disposed to await further news from the United States. American stocks, however, closed steady; Brazilians particularly heavy.

In Boston.

Boston, Dec. 26.—There was a noticeable reaction from the panicky condition of last week's market at the opening this morning. It is believed the worst is over. The advance in prices noted during the first few minutes of business was not seriously broken, and a feeling of greater confidence was apparent.

On the Asiatic Station.

Washington, Dec. 31.—An order has been sent to the admiral commanding the Asiatic station detaching the Petrel from his squadron and directing that she proceed to San Francisco. Arriving there she will be put out of commission for an overhauling. Her relief, the Boston, is now at Mare Island navy yard. She has been put in first class condition, and will start on her long voyage across the Pacific, in a day or two. The Petrel will not await her arrival, but will start for home as soon as she can be prepared for the trip. It is the evident policy of the administration to maintain a strong fleet on the Asiatic station until the disappearance of all signs of further trouble among the countries of the Orient.

Portions of Spain Shaken.

Madrid, Dec. 31.—An earthquake has been experienced in the districts of Orens, Vienna, Pueblo de Tribes, Lugandini and Valdeorras, in the province of Galicia. Several houses collapsed, but no deaths are reported.

THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

A Potent Argument for a Change in the Existing Conditions.

Kansas City, Kan., Dec. 31.—A special to the Journal from Washington says W. J. Watts and Colonel Hubbard, of Muldrow, I. T., will tomorrow file with the secretary of the interior a potent argument for a change in the conditions in their country. The document filed within due time, will reach the various committees in congress interested in legislation for the country. The information collected, it is insisted, will be enough to disprove the many statements made by the delegates from the tribes, that it is a very orderly country, and that there is no need of congressional interference because of lawlessness.

The document contains a partial list of murders committed in the Indian territory from March 5 to the last of October. In this time 186 murders have been committed and accounted for in the record, and the claim is made that the list is not complete. In each case a short statement is given. This is set forth as evidence of the need of a change in that country. This is a part of the basis for the position taken by the Dawes commission, and will be used by members thereof in justifying them for their recommendations and open that country to settlement after paying the Indians a fair and equitable amount for their lands.

Five thousand rabbits were killed at a recent drive at Oakley.

Two or possibly three new steamers will be built on the Kootenai for passage between Bonners Ferry and Lake Bounes next spring. A feed and flour mill is to be established at Ferndale. Bids for a daily mail service between that place and Whatcom has been sent to the postoffice.

Idaho.

missioners to have 10,000 acres of land withdrawn from settlement for the purpose of reclaiming it under the Carey act. Two hundred thousand dollars is the estimated cost of the irrigation works. Coal has been found in several places within the limits of Stevens county, also on the east side of the Columbia river above Market, where there is a seam of one foot in width and a depth of eighty feet. Coal is also found in other parts of the county not far from the boundary line.

A special agent of the treasurer has dispersed in payment \$50,000 to the Nez Perce Indians. It is estimated that 343 native Nez Perces have died since the Fletcher allotment of land was completed in 1893. The births are recorded to the number of ninety-four. These statistics show the destiny of this favored Indian tribe.

The W. R. L. & Co., have completed their Nutmeg reservoir and now have a substantial dam 200 feet long and fifty feet high, holding water sufficient to irrigate 4,000 acres. Water is guaranteed by the projectors by May 15. All the government land in this tract is taken up, but 1,000 acres of state university land are still open to application.

The state land timber estimator has reported to the land commissioners that timber will soon be offered for sale. The timber will probably go to different lumber firms. They will have to build about twenty-five miles of railroad in order to transport the timber. In all he has estimated 410,297,000 feet of timber, divided as follows: white pine, 144,219,000 feet; yellow pine, 25,791,000; white fir, 46,671,000; red fir, 2,388,000; tamarack, 95,601,000 and cedar, 47,129,000 feet.

Montana.

The fire at the Mure tunnel on the Northern Pacific is still smoldering. It will take months to repair the damage done by the fire.

The manager of the Katy mine is reported to have disposed of one-third interest to Springfield, Mass., capitalists, who will build a 500-ton mill and probably a smelter during the coming year. A syndicate of Helena capitalists which has purchased the right to manufacture acetylene, the new illuminant, in Montana, is said to be contemplating the establishment of an acetylene manufacturing plant in Livingston, the requisites of a great water power, lime and coal, being at hand.

Oregon.

The new hotel at Bandon is nearly completed.

There are sixty-four pupils now enrolled in the state school for deaf mutes in Salem.

A schoolhouse has just been completed at Port Orford with funds raised by popular subscription.

Gold Beach is to have a new hotel. The Masonic building will be reconstructed for that purpose.

The Presbyterians of Medford are receiving bids for the erection of a new church edifice in that town.

The recent storm played havoc with the telegraph and telephone lines between Crescent City and the copper mines.

The school board at Pendleton has made a reduction of nearly 25 per cent in the pay of teachers in the public schools.

The assessment roll of Umatilla county, just completed, shows a gross valuation of \$7,471,535. The number of polls is 1,767.

The total area of Malheur county is 6,277,440 acres. The population of

NORTHWEST BREVITIES

Evidence of Steady Growth and Enterprise.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

From All Parts of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia—Washington.

The state road commission has just closed a session at which was fully discussed the doubts entertained of the legality of the appropriation for the state wagon road across the Cascade mountains. During the past summer the commission spent but a small part of the sum appropriated, the effort being made to investigate the routes as cheaply as possible in order to keep the bulk intact for construction purposes, as the members of the commission realized the meagreness of the appropriation when the length of the road to be constructed was considered. The result of the examination of the different routes showed that to construct even a good four-foot trail across the Cascade division would cost from \$25,000 to \$35,000, according to the route selected, while only \$20,000 was appropriated for that purpose; while the same conditions prevailed upon the other divisions. The commission being in doubt whether the law would allow it to construct a four-foot trail—which had been urged—referred the question to the attorney-general, who furnished an opinion that the law contemplated the construction of a wagon road, and to build a trail would be to spend the money appropriated without authority of law. At the recent session Commissioner Watson offered a resolution to report back to the legislature, furnishing full details of the best route of a trail and of a wagon road, but owing to opposition the resolution was withdrawn, the other members desiring to continue the investigation further. It was then agreed to accept the opinion of the attorney-general as final regarding the necessity for constructing a wagon road under the bill. For the purpose of ascertaining whether the cheapest kind of a wagon road could be built with the appropriation, a road was graded, for the purpose of building a trail, and it was agreed to build a trail of 100 feet, without a road, and to level with the road, and to level only where streams could not be forced in ordinary low water. Two of the members express themselves as opposed to such a road, but agreed to figure on it to satisfy the third member. So that, should it be found possible to build such a road, it is not certain that the majority would agree to go ahead. "The trouble is, said a member of the commission, "that the original law of three years ago provided for a road, and the members of the first commission construed that to mean a trail or wagon road, as the circumstances seemed to warrant. The old commission in recommending the last legislature to appropriate certain sums, made its estimates evidently on the trail or road, but the legislature, while not materially changing the sums asked for, changed the law to read 'wagon road.'"

Generally in public improvements it is understood the sum appropriated by the government is to be expended on the work, whether completing it or not, and relying upon another appropriation to complete the work. Those who have studied the Cascade road law, however, agree that the sums appropriated were intended to complete the road, and there is a prevailing sentiment in the present commission that the money should be spent only if a safe wagon road can be built and the object of the law honestly enforced. The question of a selection of a pass has been purposely deferred by the commission until after these other matters are disposed of, but it is believed will come up for final action at the next meeting.

The Tacoma school board has under consideration the reduction of the present school year from nine to six months, in order to lessen the expense and put the district on a sound financial basis for the next year. A special election is to be held for the purpose of validating the indebtedness to \$38,000.

The recent storm on Puget sound was the most severe that has taken place for many years. The Port Townsend and Victoria shipping experienced considerable damage.

THE CULTURE OF FLAX

Latest Agricultural Enterprise in the Northwest.

CAN SEEK FOREIGN MARKETS

Expert Opinion of John M. Barbour—Farmers Waiting for a Mill—Soil Necessary—How It Pays.

A decided interest in flax and flax culture has been awakened during the past few weeks in the Northwest through the efforts of Dr. A. W. Thornton, who proposes to form a company under the name of the Puget Sound Flax Fibre Company, with a capital of \$40,000. He estimates the cost of constructing the plant at \$11,500, and the annual current expenses at \$28,500, making a total outlay for the first year of \$40,000. The net profit for that expenditure is placed at \$31,250 for the first year.

The yield of flax straw on Puget sound ranges from two to four tons and 15 to 20 bales of flax seed per acre. Fine hauled flax is worth in the Boston market from \$370 to \$500 per ton, according to quality, the average grade being \$500 per ton; and scrunched flax from \$180 to \$500 per ton.

The Eastern flax mills import all their flax, while here it would be produced at less cost. Great Britain imports 50,000 tons of flax annually, more than she can produce herself, and Germany imports 60,000 tons.

A good working plant, with a capacity of 1,000 tons per annum of flax straw, and facilities for enlarging to any extent required, may be established for \$40,000 upon a fully paid up cash basis, according to the doctor's showing.

A Flax Colony of Hollanders.

There is an excellent prospect that Washington will soon demonstrate more fully even than ever before the fitness of its soil for flax culture. The effort is to be made by a colony of Hollanders, who are to be brought out from their native land and located on Whidby island. The party is to be in charge of K. A. Bottema, who has gone to Europe, where he will make up the colony and return to this country.

An Expert on Flax.

The respects for flax in the Northwest are indicated in a recent letter, says the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, from John M. Barbour, one of the large flax spinners at Lieburn, Ireland, who was in Seattle a short time ago with his brother. Flax was grown by J. McCann, an experienced flax grower, on the Jorgeson and Garham ranches on the Duwamish river, eight miles south of Seattle, and Mr. Barbour was asked by mail about the quality, value and chances of shipping the product, of which samples were sent him. Mr. Barbour's letter, which was written at Portland, says: "The flax sample is better than what I saw at the chamber of commerce in Seattle a few days ago, and the form in which it is known is hauled flax or dress line. The condition in which flax is sold in the Scotch state, as from every hundred tons of straw there is only yielded some 12 1/2 to 18 per cent of fibre; so you will see that it would be too expensive to pay freight on the straw flax."

"I should say the flax similar to the sample sent would in the Scotch state be worth about 14 cents a pound, though it has the appearance of having been hardly retted enough.

"As to the best means of disposing of flax, it seems to me that you must always bear in mind that you must look to Belfast or the spinning centers of Europe for your market for this product, as the flax in the United States is trifling compared to that required by the above mentioned market. Moreover, the United States consumption is limited to a very few grades of flax, whereas, the other markets can take all grades. As the quality of flax varies so much, flax buyers prefer to look through each parcel of flax before buying, but it seems to me that the best way for you is to ship the flax to some commission house in the East or in Belfast, who would find a purchaser for you. The Barbour Flax Spinning Company, Patterson, N. J., will be happy to give you the names of flax dealers in the East, or William Barbour & Sons, Lisburn, Ireland, will be happy to afford you any information as to the British or European market. It is out of the question to ship it either in the unretted or in the Scotch state.

"We are sending to the Seattle chamber of commerce samples both of Irish and of French flax, to illustrate quality, etc., which we hope will be of service to those interested in flax in your neighborhood."

At the prices given by Mr. Barbour, who is now in San Francisco on his way East, Mr. McCann estimates that flax on the Duwamish will pay \$100 an acre on any good cleared bottom land. The soil will produce from three to four tons of straw per acre, as against only one ton in Ireland, where flax has also been grown by Mr. McCann. Mr. McCann, as well as other farmers, will engage in flax culture, if the proposition for a mill here recently submitted to the chamber of commerce by Dr. A. W. Thornton, special agent of the United States department of agriculture, is carried out.

At the chamber of commerce now are samples of flax in every stage up to hauled.