

THE HILLSBORO ARGUS.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

From All Parts of the New World and the Old.

OF INTEREST TO OUR MANY READERS

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week in a Condensed Form.

Germany are still excited over the Kruger incident.

The Oregon school fund loses an average of \$40,000 a year.

The river and harbor committee is cutting down all estimates.

The Philippine commission has prepared a tariff for the islands.

The execution of Ya Hsien is certain whenever envoys demand it.

The Chinese question is again said to be approaching a settlement.

Fifty-two Filipino prisoners have been taken by American troops.

Eulogies were pronounced in the house on the late Representative Harman.

Russia says all credit for securing existing entente belongs to United States.

Johannesburg will be fenced around with barb wire to cut off Boers' food supply.

United States Consul Goodnow, at Shanghai, will return home on leave of absence.

Netherlands disavows responsibility for sympathetic letter of minister to Kruger.

Senate will devote the present week to Hay-Pauncefote treaty and ship subsidy bill.

The naval appropriation bill will provide for two more battleships and two cruisers.

Delegat Wilcox, of Hawaii, strongly opposes importation of negro labor into the islands.

Envoys take removal of General Tung Fu Hsiang to mean that government desires peace.

Establishment of ship subsidy bill as regular order will displace Nicaragua canal measure.

Hills for the reduction of war revenue tax and legislative appropriations will likely pass the house this week.

Robert W. Wilcox, Hawaii's delegate-elect to congress, has arrived in San Francisco, en route to Washington.

Kruger was officially received by Queen Wilhelmina. The queen has promised to show her friendship when the proper moment arrives.

A railway bridge collapsed in Germany, letting an express train plunge into the stream below. Five persons were killed and eight badly injured.

The ministers at Peking have reached an agreement.

The new war revenue bill will reduce taxation \$40,000,000.

The pension roll for the coming year will call for \$142,000,000.

The governor of Shanghai publicly executed 40 Boxer leaders.

Secretary Gage's estimate for government expense is \$626,741,762.

George von L. Meyer, of Boston, will be appointed ambassador to Italy.

Charles A. Towne accepted the appointment of senator from Minnesota.

McCall made a sensational speech in the house against holding the Philippines.

A small American force tented a band of rebels at Santo Domingo, Luzon.

Contract for erection of Salem, Or., postoffice has been awarded to a Chicago firm.

In a street duel in a West Virginia town a minister was killed by a prominent lawyer.

It is estimated that taxable valuation of Oregon for 1900 will be about \$2,000,000 less than in 1899.

Fire in the Cambridge, Ohio, works of the American Tinplate Company, caused a loss on finished tin alone of between \$175,000 and \$200,000.

John Lake Hely-Hutchinson, fifth earl of Donoghmore, at one time assistant commissioner in Eastern Roumania, died of paralysis, in London.

Robbers raided the office of the Western Lumber Company in Portland, Or., just before the employees were ready to receive their November wages in coin, and secured \$4,700.

At New York, the Fast-Tipton Company closed the most successful auction sale of trotting and pacing horses in its history. The proceeds of the sale were \$352,180 for 702 horses, an average of about \$500 a head.

A serious cave-in occurred at the Ray Aug. mine, near Dunmore, Pa. Fifty-one men were entombed. The rescuing party, after nearly three hours' hard work, succeeded in digging into the chamber in which the men were entombed. All were rescued, not one being seriously injured.

Five editors were chosen to sit in the Nebraska legislature at the recent election.

Joseph Manley has resigned as chairman of the Republican executive committee of Maine after a service of 16 years.

Electric coal-cutting machinery is rapidly displacing hand work and other varieties of mechanical mining appliances in the collieries of Great Britain and the United States.

LATER NEWS.

Affairs at Guam are in better shape. Lord Roberts has left the Cape for England.

Holland refuses to intervene in the Boer war.

Senator Clay spoke against the ship subsidy bill.

French troops have ceased looting Chinese observatories.

Li Hung Chang claims to have absolute power to negotiate.

Chaffee protested to Von Waldersee against German looting.

The debate on the war tax reduction bill began in the house.

The house of commons voted \$16,000,000 to carry on the Boer war.

The Hay-Pauncefote treaty was again considered in executive session.

A congressional committee was appointed to investigate the Boer looting.

The Philippine commission gave merchants a hearing on the tariff bill.

A \$50,000 irrigation ditch will be constructed at once in Mexico valley, Washington.

Oregon delegation decides upon continuing contract for Columbia river improvement.

State Superintendent Acharman recommends that Oregon schools observe John Marshall day.

The matter of developing Lower Nahalem coal is said to have been considered in New York.

In his annual report, Fish Commissioner Reel says value of fish output for Oregon is over \$5,000,000.

A number of persons suspected of plotting to murder Lord Roberts during his visit to Cape Colony recently abandoned their schemes on learning that they were shadowed.

Outlawry in Kwang Si and Kwang Tung is increasing. The officials appear to be losing their hold of the situation and are powerless to restore order. Pirating on the West river is increasing.

Owing to a lack of proper facilities in the way of telegraph, caused by the strike, a serious collision occurred on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, in which several persons were probably fatally injured.

Cornelius L. Alvord, Jr., ex-note taker of the First National bank of New York, accused of having embezzled \$600,000 from that institution, was indicted by the United States grand jury. The indictment was found on 51 counts charging Alvord with falsifying the accounts of the bank and unlawfully appropriating to his own use nearly \$700,000 of the bank's money.

Hay may resign if the canal treaty is amended.

Lord Roberts was given an ovation at Cape Town.

The United States wants Chiriqui for a coaling station.

There is little change in the Santa Fe strike situation.

Charles A. Towne was sworn in as senator from Minnesota.

The house passed the legislative, executive and judicial bill.

The tension between Holland and Portugal is increasing.

Benjamin Wise was held at Salem, Or., for arson at Silverton.

A house Republican caucus decided to stand by the war-tax bill.

The sultan of Turkey died officers of the battle-ship Kentucky.

Von Bulow explained why Emperor William would not receive Kruger.

Erection of poles and wires for another lighting system began in Salem, Or.

Four men were killed by an explosion in the Union Pacific tunnel at Aspen.

Attacks on Salisbury and Chamberlain were made in the British house of commons.

Only \$600,000 can be obtained from this session of congress for the Columbia jetty.

The Oregon supreme court upholds the street improvement section of the Portland city charter.

Cases of smallpox have been found frequently in Lima, Peru, and the public is alarmed, fearing a spread of the disease.

The Idaho supreme court decides that patented mining property is to be regarded the same as other realty for purposes of taxation.

The Austrian corvette Donna has arrived at Lima, Peru, bringing Bela Bakowaghy, commissioner of the Austrian government, who is visiting the consulates of South America.

A special from Shanghai announces that Li Hung Chang's Manchou secretary, Yoko, has been arrested by order of Field Marshal Count von Waldersee, on the charge of communicating with the Boers.

The third annual cowboy and Indian carnival opened in Phoenix, Arizona, with a great parade of vaqueros, red men and Chinese. After the parade, in a wild dash through the streets, an Indian was thrown from his horse and fatally trampled under foot.

Prairie chickens are said to be more abundant in western Kansas than for years.

During the past five years the state of Pennsylvania has purchased more than 100,000 acres of land to be issued as a forestry reservation.

Former Ambassador to Italy W. F. Draper has been decorated with the order of St. Maurice and Cassal by the king of Italy, for services during his embassy to Rome.

AT THE POINT OF WAR

Strained Relations Between Holland and Portugal

THEY HAVE RECALLED THEIR MINISTERS

The Trouble Was Caused by Withdrawal of the Exequatur of the Dutch Consul at Lourenco Marques.

Lisbon, Dec. 10.—The minister of the Netherlands to Portugal and the Portuguese minister at The Hague have left their respective posts. It is believed that a difference has arisen on the subject of the exequatur of the Dutch consul at Lourenco Marques, which the Portuguese government has withdrawn.

The tension between Portugal and Holland appears to have been emphasized, perhaps not altogether unintentionally, by the peculiar warmth of King Charles' toast to Queen Victoria at the banquet given yesterday evening at the Royal Palace to Vice-Admiral Sir Harry Boldsworth Rawson, and the officers of the British fleet, now in the River Tagus, and by the telegram which the king afterwards dispatched to Queen Victoria, thanking her majesty for sending the fleet, and for the friendship thus demonstrated.

"I beg to record," telegraphed the king, "my great satisfaction at the frank and loyal alliance uniting England and Portugal."

In the course of his speech, when he toasted Queen Victoria, the king said among other things:

"England has often shared the efforts and glories of Portugal. Our mutual friendship and close alliance are strengthened by history and the blood shed together in causes which have always been just."

Admiral Rawson replied that the words of the king harmonized with the thoughts of the government and people of Great Britain.

Portuguese Minister Will Explain.

The Hague, Dec. 10.—While it is not denied that the minister of the Netherlands at Lisbon and the minister of Portugal here are temporarily leaving their posts, it is semi-officially declared that there is no question of the ministers being recalled. It is explained that Count De Selir, the Portuguese minister is proceeding to Lisbon on a few days' visit to explain verbally the difficulties which have arisen in connection with the Netherlands consul, Herr Pott, at Lourenco Marques.

Spaniards Accuse England.

Madrid, Dec. 10.—The Imparcial says it considers the rupture of relations between Holland and Portugal to be very serious. It adds that it was due to the intrigues of Great Britain, further asserting that Portugal is now under the tutelage of Lord Salisbury. Observers think that the speech and telegram constitute an intimation to the world that Portugal can count on strong support if necessary.

THE CORONER'S VERDICT.

Holds No One Responsible for San Francisco's Thanksgiving Day Accident.

San Francisco, Dec. 10.—The coroner's jury, inquiring into the cause of the Thanksgiving day disaster, in which 22 lives were lost by the collapse of the San Francisco & Pacific Glass Works during the progress of the Stanford-Berkeley football game, has returned the following verdict in the case of each victim of the accident:

"That the accident was caused by the breaking of the ventilator of the roof over the furnace in the house of the San Francisco & Pacific Glass Works at the corner of Fifteenth and Folsom streets on the afternoon of November 29; further, that he had no business there and was there against the orders and temporary resistance on the part of the superintendent of said works, and further, that no one can be held responsible for his death other than himself and that death was accidental."

Territory for the Canal.

Chicago, Dec. 10.—A special to the Record from Washington says: Nicaragua and Costa Rica have announced their willingness to grant a lease to the United States for a period of 200 years of the territory necessary for the construction of the projected Nicaragua canal. The terms are regarded as moderate. It is understood that Nicaragua and Costa Rica will accept bonds, the value of those to be accepted by the former government to be less than \$6,000,000 and by the latter to be less than \$1,500,000.

Pleased With Americans.

Peking, Dec. 10.—Li Hung Chang has informed General Chaffee that he and all the people of the province of Chi Li are extremely pleased and gratified at the behavior of the American troops toward the Chinese. This is considered no light matter. From all sections of the portion of the city under American supervision come words of praise, thankfulness and commendation regarding the behavior of the Americans.

Oxnard Married a Maid.

New York, Dec. 10.—The World says: "On the Deutschland, which arrived here yesterday, were Henry T. Oxnard, of San Francisco, president of the two American best-seed associations, and his bride, formerly Miss Marie Pichon, maid of Mr. Oxnard's sister-in-law, Mrs. Robert Oxnard. They were married in Paris November 15, but the marriage was not announced until the Deutschland's arrival."

WOULD NOT HONOR IT.

Requisition For an Indiana Man Turned Down By the Governor of Colorado.

Indianapolis, Dec. 12.—Governor Mount today received word that Governor Thomas, of Colorado, has refused to honor a requisition from Indiana for the return of Clinton Oxman, of Princeton, Ind., accused of defrauding, in a real estate deal, J. Mayer Greene, of Chicago. A special from Denver says the Indiana sheriff had Attorney General Campbell, of Colorado, inspect the papers and they were declared legal. Afterward, it is stated, Governor Thomas had a consultation with Mr. Campbell, and then announced that the papers were not made out in technical form, and this, taken in connection with the attitude of Governor Mount, of Indiana, in refusing to honor Governor Beckham's requisition for the return of Kentucky of W. S. Taylor, who is now living in Indiana, and who was wanted in Kentucky, he said would cause him to refuse the requisition. Governor Thomas, it is stated, at the same time, said that several other governors had, he believed, decided to take similar steps regarding Governor Mount. The matter has created considerable comment.

Governor Mount, when told tonight of Governor Thomas' action, said he was surprised at it. "There may be something political in this matter," he said, "but I am surprised that Governor Thomas resorts to any so-called precedent in his action on the requisition. He cites my action in the Kentucky cases as a precedent, which he says he is inclined to follow. I considered no precedent when I refused the Kentucky requisition. I did so because I did not believe the men could get a fair trial in their own state. Governors do not as a rule resort to precedents in acting on such questions. Each stands on its own merits."

EIGHT PERSONS DROWNED.

Iron Ore Barge Went to the Bottom During a Storm on Lake Erie.

Erie Pa., Dec. 12.—In the midst of one of the most bitter gales that ever swept Lake Erie the iron ore barge S. H. Foster, in tow of the iron Duke, went to the bottom at 4 o'clock this morning 10 miles off Erie, and eight persons were drowned.

The Foster was one of the fleet of James Corrigan, of Cleveland, and for two months has been running from Duluth to Erie with iron ore. Her cargo consisted of 1,500 tons of ore. Captain Ashley, of the iron Duke, made Erie in safety.

Government Cotton Crop.

New York, Dec. 12.—A story to the effect that the government cotton crop, which will be made public tomorrow, has been offered to certain cotton brokers in this city in advance, received corroboration today. Frank B. Guest, head of a cotton commission house, said tonight that advance information was offered to him Saturday. He immediately notified President Hubbard, of the cotton exchange. The latter asked for a detailed statement, which was given, and this is to be used as a basis for federal investigation. President Hubbard said tonight that he would go to Washington without delay and place the entire matter before the proper authorities.

To Amend Laws.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Representative Jones, of Washington, is seeking to amend the pension laws by lifting from the soldiers the necessity of proving that the disability for which they seek pensions did not exist prior to their enlistment. His bill on this subject provides that in all cases where the services of a soldier were accepted, and he was mustered into the army, no further questions should be asked concerning his physical condition prior to enlistment. In many cases the soldier of the Civil war has been prevented from securing a pension because of his inability to prove that his disability did not exist prior to his enlistment.

Hospital for Lumbermen.

Eugene, Or., Dec. 12.—Arrangements have been made whereby the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company will provide a hospital in Eugene for the benefit of the workmen who may at any time be taken sick or injured. The employees will pay monthly dues for the support of the institution, and when any of them requires medical or surgical treatment he will receive it without further cost. A contract has been made with Drs. Paine and Kykendall for professional services and medicines for a year. They will select a suitable building and have the hospital ready to receive patients by the first of January.

All Credit Due America.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 12.—The Novoe Vremya, in an article evidently inspired, referring to the recent dispatches from Dr. Morrison, in Peking, to the London Times, saying all the credit for securing softened terms is given by the Chinese to the Russians, remarks:

"The credit for the existing entente really belongs to America. England begrudges President McKinley his just prestige because he has emphasized America's friendship for Russia."

Fire at Silverton, Or.

Fire at Silverton caused a loss of \$12,000. Inflammation is suspected, two men being under arrest. A fire engine was sent from Portland to the relief of the town.

The British Uncensored.

The British show little interest in Nicaragua affairs.

Argument in the Neely case was begun before the United States supreme court.

FIRST SUPPLY BILL

It Was Passed by the House in Record Time.

WAS NOT TEN MINUTES OF DEBATE

Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropriation Bill, Carrying Over \$24,000,000, Went Through Unchallenged

Washington, Dec. 12.—The first of the great supply bills, the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, was passed by the house in record time. The bill carries \$24,496,908, and has 181 pages, but there was less than 10 minutes debate upon it. It required about three hours for the clerk to read the bill. No other business was transacted.

Today under the rules belonged to the District of Columbia committee, but, owing to the desire of the leaders to proceed with the appropriation bill, district day was postponed until a week from tomorrow. Bingham (Rep. Pa.), who was in charge of the measure, made a preliminary statement of its contents. Both parties in the recent campaign, Bingham said, pledged themselves to economy and retrenchment. The pending bill—the first of the big money bills—was a step in that direction.

Robinson (Dem. Ind.) expressed the opinion that if retrenchment were desired, a provision be inserted in the bill to cut off the 30 days' sick leave in addition to the 30 days' leave now allowed to clerks in the executive departments.

Bingham explained that such legislation did not come within the purview of the pending bill. The law left the question of leave within the discretion of the various heads of departments.

Robinson protested that clerks in the government service outside of Washington did not receive the same leave privileges received by those here, and he thought the unjust discrimination against the former should cease.

An amendment providing for 12 additional temporary clerks to dispose of the accumulated business in the office of the controller of the treasury was adopted. At the conclusion of the reading of the bill, Bingham thanked the house for the confidence shown in the appropriation committee in allowing the bill to go through unchallenged, and the bill was then passed.

CHIRIQUI COALING STATION.

United States May Purchase the Port From Colombia.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The gunboat Bancroft sailed today from Colon for Almirante bay. It is understood that her mission is to look into the advantages offered by the port of Chiriqui as a coaling station. The harbor is capable of floating the entire fleet of a nation, and the water is deep enough for the heaviest battleship. Approaches were made with a view to learning whether it would entertain a proposition to grant Chiriqui as a coaling station. At that time, Colombia was not in position to make a definite answer, as the territory, including this harbor, had been in dispute between Colombia and Costa Rica. The answer, therefore, was to the effect that the grant could not be made while the question of sovereignty remained open between the two countries. Since then, however, Colombia and Costa Rica have arranged to arbitrate the differences, and there is a prospect of an early settlement of sovereignty. With this point removed, it is believed that there will be no serious objections from Colombia or Costa Rica to granting a coaling station.

EXPLOSION IN A TUNNEL.

Four Men Lost Their Lives at Aspen, Wyo.—Accumulation of Gas the Cause.

Aspen, Wyo., Dec. 12.—A disastrous gas explosion occurred today in the new railroad tunnel by which four men lost their lives and several others were injured. The tunnel is being built on the cut-off of the Union Pacific railroad between Aspen and Hilliard. The explosion was caused by the accumulation of gas. The coroner's verdict is "unavoidable accident." Twenty of the men were at work at the time of the explosion. It is not known what ignited the gas. Electric lights are used throughout the tunnel.

No Hope for Kruger.

London, Dec. 12.—"Dr. Leyds and his friends are spreading a report," says the Amsterdam correspondent of the Daily Mail, "that Queen Wilhelmina will intervene after her marriage. This is meant to blind the public to the real facts, which are that she wrote personally to every European ruler on Mr. Kruger's arrival in Europe, and from two countries at least, France and Russia, received conditional promises of help in the direction of intervention, but the plan failed in Berlin."

Steel Company Resumes Work.

Lorain, O., Dec. 12.—The Lorain Steel Company resumed work today at its blooming, converting, finishing and shape mills, with more than 3,000 men employed in the entire plant.

Crashed Into a Handcar.

An engine on the Grand Trunk road, near Ingleswood Junction, Ont., crashed into a handcar on which were five men going to work. All five were killed instantly.

LIVESTOCK MEN FORM ORDER

It is Called the Oregon Stock-Breeders' Association—Permanent Officers Elected.

Portland, Dec. 13.—The Oregon Stock-Breeders' Association was permanently organized this morning in the Hamilton block by the election of the following officers: Richard Scott, president; George Chandler, vice-president; Charles Cleveland, treasurer, and M. D. Wisdom, secretary. A committee consisting of Messrs. Cleveland, Wisdom and Early were appointed to arrange by-laws and a constitution, and report back to the 3 o'clock session this afternoon.

It is the purpose of the organization to include under the one head all the different breeds of livestock, in order to make the state organization a powerful factor in forwarding the interests of livestock men and breeders in all classes.

The meeting was called to order this morning by Richard Scott, of Milwaukie. Others present at the time were George Chandler, of Baker City; H. West, of Scappoose; J. B. Early, of Salem; Charles Cleveland, of Gresham; J. W. Bailey, of Portland; H. Starr, of Dayton; M. D. Wisdom, of Portland; A. D. Gribble, of Macksburg; W. W. J. McCord, of Oregon City, and F. J. Painter, of Clackamas. Mr. Scott was elected temporary chairman and Mr. Wisdom temporary secretary. As briefly as possible, Mr. Scott stated the objects of the meeting, as already outlined. The temporary officers were then made permanent, and the other necessary officers elected.

It is hardly probable that all the business will be finished this afternoon, as it will take some time to read over the constitution and by-laws before adopting them.

CHAFFEE WAS MAD.

Called Field Marshal Von Waldersee Down for German Looting.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The war department has received a report from General Chaffee of the incident that occurred in Peking in connection with his representations to Field Marshal Von Waldersee. It appears that General Chaffee did use some pretty vigorous language in protesting against the looting and looting of the foreign troops. What particularly hurt the feelings of Waldersee was a pointed reference by General Chaffee to the fact that this disgraceful and un military practice of looting was being indulged in, not by the men who did the fighting and opened the way to Peking, but by the latecomers, who had borne none of the brunt of conflict and hardship. Waldersee himself did not reach Peking until long after the expeditionary force had occupied the town.

It is recognized here officially that General Chaffee had provoked for his deliverance, but regret is felt that he used this tone in addressing the field marshal. It is significantly pointed out here that perhaps it was not incumbent upon General Chaffee to make any representations whatever on this subject to the field marshal, as there is no longer any official tie between them. When the United States government changed the character of its military force in Peking from an expeditionary force to a mere legation guard, of course that guard no longer came under the control of the commander-in-chief at Peking, but was simply a part of Minister Conger's official household.

Bone of Prehistoric Animal.

Oregon City, Dec. 13.—An employee of the Willamette paper mills found a femur bone, evidently belonging to some prehistoric animal, that is now on exhibition in the office of the company. The bone was discovered in a timbered gulch about 15 miles from here, on the west side of the Willamette river, partially embedded in the dirt. The bone is 2 feet 10 inches in length, and about 32 inches in circumference where the femur is the thickest. The relic is in a good state of preservation, although parts are worn off by abrasion and probable exposure to the air. Search is being made for the remainder of the bones of the supposed extinct animal.

Disastrous Collision in Kansas.

Kansas City, Dec. 13.—A special to the Star from Olathe, Kan., says that a northbound passenger train on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway crashed into the rear end of a north-bound freight train, at Olathe, three miles south of this city, at 8 o'clock this morning. Noble Thomas, aged 16 years, of Emporia, Kan., was burned to death in the caboose; Thomas' father was badly mangled. The engineer and fireman of the passenger train were seriously injured, and half a dozen passengers in the caboose were slightly hurt.

To Operate Cannery in Alaska.

Astoria, Dec. 13.—The American Packing & Canning Company has been formed in this city with an authorized capital of \$75,000, and a large portion of this has already been subscribed for. The object of the company is to operate a salmon cannery at some point in Alaska, but exactly where it is kept secret for the present.

North Dakota's Vote.

Bismarck, N. D., Dec. 13.—The state canvassing board today announced the vote on presidential electors as follows: McKinley, 85,891; Bryan, 20,519; Woolley, 781; Debs, 518; Barker, 10.

For Ambassador to Italy.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The president today sent to the senate the name of George von L. Meyer, of Massachusetts, to be ambassador of the United States to Italy.

HIS LAST HOPE GONE

Kruger Gets No Consolation From The Netherlands.

HOLLAND WILL NOT INTERVENE EITHER

The Dutch Foreign Minister Tells the Ex-President That the Role of His Government Must Be Passive.

The Hague, Dec. 13.—The Dutch government today finally and definitely refused to take the initiative in behalf of arbitration between the Transvaal and Great Britain.

The decision was communicated in an interview between Mr. Kruger and Dr. Leyds on one side and the Dutch foreign minister and Minister of Finance N. B. Pierson, on the other. Mr. Kruger explained that the object of his journey was to disseminate the idea of arbitration, and the Dutch minister replied that the role of the Netherlands must be passive. The initiative belonged to the great powers, he added. When the powers had reached a decision, the Dutch government might see what it could do.

No Snub Yet From Casar.

The Hague, Dec. 13.—The Transvaal legation says it is authorized to contradict the report that Emperor Nicholas has telegraphed to Mr. Kruger an intimation that he will not receive him.

DECIDE ON COURSE.

How the Oregon Delegation Would Improve the Columbia.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The three members of the Oregon delegation, at an informal meeting today, decided to concentrate their efforts to have the improvement of the mouth of the Columbia made a continuing contract rather than trust to the future to secure successive appropriations to be expended as needed. By this method, which seems to be the best under the circumstances, the final completion of the project is insured, and work may be conducted without unnecessary delay.

The river and harbor committee has not yet finally decided on what provision will be made for this project, but \$600,000, recommended by the engineers, is the outside limit.

OFFICERS WERE LAX.

Prisoner Quietly Arose and Walked Out of the Courtroom.

Spokane, Dec. 13.—While Judge Marshall was holding a preliminary hearing of Edward Hanson, charged with counterfeiting, this afternoon the prisoner quietly arose and sneaked out of the courtroom. Owing to the small courtroom being crowded, the escape was not noticed until the judge turned to announce that the prisoner would be held to a higher court. Officers started in pursuit of Hanson, who was trekking for the river. A few shots from revolvers and he gave himself up. The escape was the boldest ever known in the city. Hanson is one of a trio recently arrested with bogus money in their possession. Search of their cabin resulted in finding of molds and other tools.

Credentials Refused.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The senate has refused the credentials of W. A. Clark and Maginnis, contesting seats from the state of Montana, to the committee on privileges and elections. A debate, reopening the Clark case, occurred upon the motion of Senator Chandler to recommit the resolution declaring the seat from Montana vacant. After a short but interesting debate, the matter of recommitment, by consent, went over until Thursday.

Counterfeiter Captured.

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 13.—Edmund Hansen, alias H. Larzee, believed to be the leader of the gang of counterfeiter operating here, has been captured. Hansen was a bridge watchman for the Great Northern. In his shack were found counterfeiter's molds and letters ordering gold and silver bullion. Near by in a cache in the rocks many stolen articles were found. Hansen protests complete ignorance.

Saloons Were Open Sunday.

Chehalis, Wash., Dec. 13.—Four Chehalis saloonkeepers pleaded guilty in the superior court to the charge of keeping their places open Sunday. Two Centerville men have been convicted. All were fined \$30 apiece, and all other cases of that nature now pending against them were dropped.

Passed Related Bills.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 13.—Two Japanese, Hanny Sato and Mantoku Hanganuchi, were arrested this morning, charged with uttering raised bills. A number of raised bills have been in circulation here, in each case the issuer, a Japanese, claiming that he was the innocent recipient of the raised notes from a fellow-countryman.

Dewet and Koenig Still Fighting.

London, Dec. 13.—The Evening Standard says that the battle between General Knox and General Dewet continues, and that the forces exchanged ground incessantly. Lack of definite information is said to be due to the absence of telegraphic communication with the scene of action. While the war office is most reliant on the subject, there are indications that the officials have received news suggesting considerable British success.