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VOL. XXVII. PENDLETON, UMATILLA CO., OREGON, FRIDAY DECEMBER 19, 1902 NO. 6

VENEZUELAN DEVELOPMENTS

President Roosevelt Contemplates Sending a Special Message to Congress.

VENEZUELA MAY ASK CASTRO'S RESIGNATION

Italy Will Join in Blockade—Germany Rather Aggressive—England Ready for Arbitration—Castle of Libertador Blown Up by English Marines

Caracas, Dec. 15.—A movement asking for President Castro's resignation has been started. If the request is tendered and granted, it is proposed to ask Vice-President Ayala to assume the presidency.

A general feeling prevails in government circles that the United States will come to Venezuela's release. It is learned this morning that a German resident and two servants at Sanestoban, three miles from Cabello, were killed in Saturday's bombardment.

At 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon British marines blew up the submarine cells of the Castle Libertador with dynamite and also burned all the wooden buildings surrounding the castle. They carried away everything that could be transported, then re-embarked.

Will Debate Venezuelan Question.

London, Dec. 15.—In the house of commons this morning, Tim Healey caused disorder by demanding to know what was the comparative value of the German claims and the gunboats which had been sunk in the Venezuelan waters.

The speaker succeeded in calling order when a motion was passed that the house adjourn until 9 o'clock tonight when the debate will begin on the Venezuelan question.

English Shirk Responsibility.

London, Dec. 15.—In the house of commons today Cranbourne, parliamentary secretary of foreign affairs, made a statement wherein he denied that the British admiral was responsible for the sinking of the Venezuelan ships.

It is rumored in official circles that the government has ordered the British warships at Venezuela to cease aggressive measures until consideration is given the proposal to arbitrate.

American Proposal.

London, Dec. 15.—Lansdowne, minister of foreign affairs, in the house of lords today announced that a proposal had been received from the American government that the Venezuelan affairs be submitted to arbitration.

Special Message to Congress.

Washington, Dec. 15.—President Roosevelt this morning held a consultation with Secretaries Hay, Root Senator Cullom of the senate foreign affairs committee, and Hitt ,chairman of the house foreign affairs committee regarding the Venezuelan affair.

Secrecy is maintained. The callins together of such a meeting, however is regarded as of the utmost significance.

It is said the president contemplates sending a special message concerning the Venezuelan developments to congress.

Immediately after the white house conference, Secretary Root called at the state department, where he was closeted with Secretary Hay.

Cabello Bombarded.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The state department received a cablegram from Minister Bowen confirming the bombardment of Cabello. Among Secretary Hay's callers today was Deeplanches, the Italian ambassador, who held a consultation regarding Italy's Venezuelan claims.

Italy Will Join.

Berlin, Dec. 15.—It is officially announced that the Italian warships will join the Anglo-German allies against venezuela as soon as a blockade is declared.

It is officially stated today that Castro not only expressed a desire to arbitrate, but made a formal proposal through Minister Bowen, hence no need of discussing that point. The United States is regarded as a letter bearer only and there is no reason to believe that they will alter the attitude they have hitherto preserved.

INJUNCTION PERMANENT.

Counsel Day Asks Court to Restrain 13 Railroads From Granting Special Rates.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—Special Counsel Day, representing the government in the injunction petition, granted at the instance of the interstate commerce commission, which temporarily restrains 13 railroads from granting special rates and rebates to favored shippers on livestock and packers' products, today asked the federal court to make the injunction permanent. He declared that the packers who comprise the alleged beef trust receive advantages in rates making competition impossible. Arguments will be heard tomorrow.

MAD MULLAH ALIVE.

Offers to Cease Opposition to England If He Is Ceded an Open Port.

Bermera, East Africa, Dec. 15.—Proof that the Mad Mullah is not dead was received here in a letter received from him in which he offers to cease opposition to the British provided Great Britain cedes to him an open port and allows him to import arms.

Rev. Martin Discharged.

London, Dec. 15.—In old Bailey court this morning, Rev. Martin was discharged. Testimony showed that overwork had unbalanced his mind at the time when he threatened to blow up the grandstand during the king's parade.

HUNDREDS OF VISITORS AND CHILDRED IN PARADE.

Miners of Spring Valley, Illinois, Act as Hosts—Immense Labor Parade—Mother Jones Accompanied the President.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 15.—President John Mitchell was given an ovation by the miners today on his return from the East. In the immense parade were laboring men from all portions of the state.

Excursion trains brought hundreds of visitors and the school children participated in the occasion. Mitchell's train was met by a large delegation. Mother Jones accompanied Mitchell.

The parade occurred at noon. President Mitchell retained his accustomed immobility and continually bowed from his carriage.

WILL ADJOURN.

Anthracite Commission Will Not Meet During the Holidays.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 15.—Judge Gray this morning submitted to the operators a tabulated form for evidence desired, which he said would facilitate the work of the anthracite commission. He announced the adjournment of the board next Saturday until January 2.

Little Girls Work.

Darrow called several little girls to the stand this afternoon to show the necessity for the entire family working.

Gray and the other commissioners were very indignant. Judge Gray said the statutes of Pennsylvania were not being enforced and wanted Darrow to summon the girls' fathers.

COAL AT FORTY MILE.

10,000 Tons Shipped to Dawson—74 Below Zero at Zetwin.

Skagway, via Seattle, Dec. 15.—The coal mine at Forty Mile is shipping 10,000 tons of coal to Dawson. This output is settling the question of the fuel supply on the Yukon. Last week the thermometer registered 74 below zero at Zetwin, on the Yukon.

To Protect Macedonia.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 15.—It is officially announced that Russia and Austria have reached an agreement to maintain a status quo in Macedonia and Balkins.

WASHINGTON NEWS

CHAPLAIN BERNARD KELLY REACHES AGE LIMIT.

Griscom Appointed Minister to Japan—Pearson Goes to Persia—President Tells Western Senators That He Will Visit Pacific Coast.

Portland, Or., Dec. 15.—A Washington special to the Daily Journal says: 'President Roosevelt is announcing to the Western senators that he will visit the West in the spring, probably in April and May. It will be a resumption of his tour interrupted by his abscess. He will visit the Middle West cities, San Francisco, Portland and the Sound cities.'

URGENCY BILLS.

$500,000 to Stamp Out Cattle Diseases—$500,000 for Rural Mail Carriers—$40,000 for Families of Postal Clerks.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The senate this morning agreed to the house resolution fixing the holiday recess December 20th to January 5.

Cannon, in the house this morning, called up the urgency deficiency bills appropriating $500,000 for stamping out the cattle diseases in New England and $500,000 for paying the rural free delivery carriers. The bill also carries $40,000 to be used as a fund to pay $1000 to the families of railway postal clerks killed in the service. The bill passed.

Chaplain Kelly Retires.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—Chaplain Bernard Kelly, Tenth infantry, U. S. A., was retired from active service today by operation of the age limit. This is the last retirement for age to take place among army officers this year. Chaplain Kelly served during the civil war for two years as first lieutenant and captain of the One Hundred and Third Illinois infantry. He has been in the regular army since 1897.

A formal announcement was made at the state department Saturday afternoon of the appointment of Griscom, minister to Persia, to be minister to Japan.

Consul-General Pearson, at Teheran, Persia, formerly a congressman of North Carolina, becomes minister to Persia.

President Roosevelt today promised to be present at the formal dedication of the St. Louis exposition, on April 30th.

TREATY WITH COLOMBIA TO BE SIGNED THIS WEEK.

Will Be Sent to the Senate for Ratification Before the Holidays—Harran Has Full Power to Sign.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The treaty with Colombia for the Panama canal will be signed this week and sent to the senate for ratification before the holiday adjournment. Harran has received full power from Colombia to sign the treaty which he agreed upon with Secretary Hay.

The terms "perpetual control," which were misconstrued by Colombia to mean sovereignty, have been replaced by a clause providing for a 100-year lease, and giving the United States sole right to renew said lease. In effect, this lease is in perpetuity.

KILLED BY GAS.

Chicago Chemists Declare That Fumes From Chemical Engines Caused Deaths in Lincoln Hotel.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—Chemists employed by a local paper declare that the 14 deaths in the Lincoln hotel fire were caused by the fumes from the chemical engines of the fire department. They created carbonic acid gas, smothering those attempting to escape. Damage suits against the city may follow.

MAYOR WILLIAMS ORDERS GAMBLING RAIDS.

Exasperated by the Collusion of the Police With the Gamblers, He Takes the Matter in His Own Hands.

Portland, Dec. 13.—Wholesale gambling raids are in progress here today. Mayor Williams, exasperated by the collusion of the police, personally gave the order that every house be pulled. Scores of arrests have been made. He announces that he will drive out the Chinese lotteries forever and has closed up all games as tight as a drum.

AN ICE CRUSH.

Three Hundred Vessels Sunk in the River Danube—Much Grain Lost.

Vienna, Dec. 15.—Three hundred vessels in the Lower Danube have been crushed or sunk by immense blocks of ice which fill the river. All the boats were loaded with grain and the loss will amount to several millions. Four hundred other vessels are endangered. No loss of life has been reported.

LOADED WITH SOLDIERS SANK IN MAGDALENA.

Colombian Government Suppressing the News of the Disaster—Vessel Was a Government Transport.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—Colon advices from Barranquilla confirm the report of the total loss of the steamer Bogota, which was loaded with soldiers. The vessel sunk in the Magdalena River. The government has suppressed all the details of the disaster.

HIRSCH IS DEAD.

Prominent Oregon Politician and Business Man Passes Away.

Portland, Or., Dec. 15.—Solomon Hirsch, ex-minister to Turkey under President Harrison, a man prominent through life in the business and politics of Oregon, died this morning at 11 o'clock, aged 64.

Quigley Nominated.

Rome, Dec. 15.—The College of Propaganda today nominated Bishop Quigley, of Buffalo, as the archbishop of Chicago. Spalding's name was not presented. Quigley is a Canadian.

IS $17,000 SHORT

BAKER COUNTY OFFICERS AFTER THE EX-SHERIFF.

A. H. Huntington Now in Ohio, Will Be Brought Back to Face the Charges — Experts Examining Books.

Baker City, Dec. 13.—Ex-Sheriff A. H. Huntington, of this county, is short in his accounts to the extent of about $17,000, and Sheriff Brown and Deputy Dirtrict Attorney Winfree have gone to Ohio to bring Mr. Huntington back to Oregon.

The sheriff did not take a warrant for Mr. Huntington, although a complaint has been filed. It was not deemed advisable to issue a warrant, as there was reason to believe that Mr. Huntington would return with Sheriff Brown when informed that his presence was required in Oregon. It is understood tonight that he is on the road home with the officers, and will arrive here about Saturday.

County Judge Travillion and District Attorney White state last evening that they did not know how much Mr. Huntington was short, nor would they know until the experts, now engaged in examining the books, made their final report. Several expert accountants have been engaged in checking over the accounts of the sheriff's office for the past six years.

Sheriff Huntington succeeded W. H. Kilburn, his democratic predecessor, four years ago, being one of the two republican county officials elected at that time.

Two years later he was re-elected, again being one of the two republicans elected to a county office. It is stated that there was no discrepancy in the accounts discovered previous to Huntington's term.

Friends of Huntington do not believe that the shortage is due to any willful intent on his part to defraud the county, but is due to carelessness in the handling of the county funds. It is the hope of his friends that on his return he will be able to explain away a portion of the discrepancy. Since retiring from office, and before, Mr. Huntington has been engaged in several large mining propositions, and at the time the shortage was discovered he was East negotiating a large mining deal. Mr. Huntington has a large circle of friends among all classes of citizens in this county, all of whom express the belief that he will be able to give a satisfactory explanation to the county officials in regard to the shortage, and while there is undoubtedly a shortage, they feel confident that it will be demonstrated that it occurred without any criminal intent on his part. The county is fully protected, as Mr. Huntington's bondsmen, some 20 in number, include some of the most substantial citizens of the county.

$40,000,000 IN CASH.

Morgan Leads a Big Money Loaning Trust in Anticipation of the Coming Panic.

New York, Dec. 15.—One of the biggest money loaning combinations on record was formed today to handle $40,000,000 for loaning in case of emergency on market demands for ready cash. Morgan and the recently formed Western National Bank are the prime movers. J. Pierpont Morgan, James Stillman and George Parker were appointed to take charge of the money, which is all really available.

LEAVING PORTLAND.

Crusade Against Gambling Getting Warm—Prominent Citizens Indicted—Sports Leave Town.

Portland, Or., Dec. 15.—The district attorney indicts a number of prominent citizens for gambling. Among them is Fred T. Merrill, councilman. The crusade is getting warm and many gamblers are leaving the city.

ESTIMATES FOR SEWER SYSTEM

Committee of Council Makes Report---Old Plans Available. Thirty-Year Bonds With a 20-Year Option.

Pendleton, Or., Dec. 13, 1902.—(To the Editor East Oregonian.)—By resolution of the common council, the committee on sewers was directed to make a statement through the press of the plans and estimates for the sewer system now contemplated for Pendleton.

In compliance with that resolution, the committee asks that you publish this statement:

Some years ago Engineers Adams and Gemmel prepared plans for a sewer system, which plans are still available. At the time the matter of asking authority from the legislature to issue bonds for the purpose of providing funds, with which to construct sewers, was under discussion, the engineer, who was then in charge of the sewers being built in Walla Walla, was asked to come to Pendleton and investigate the conditions, area to be drained, etc.

For $30,000.

After consulting with him, as well as other engineers and referring to the estimates made by Adams and Gemmel, it was decided that all the necessary parts of a comprehensive system of sewers for Pendleton could at that time be constructed for $30,000 (thirty thousand dollars.) This would bring a large conduit from a point near the lower railroad bridge well up into the city, where it would branch and follow the main east and west streets through the thickly-built part of the city.

At that time it was also thought to be advisable to construct a sewer on the north side of the river, near the bank of the stream, picking up all the small sewers now running into the river and delivering their sewerage into the river at some point near Walters' mill. The sewers must reach the river below the mill, so that enough volume of water may be obtained to carry of the sewerage.

On Alta Street.

The larger sewer should, unless after careful surveys it is found to be impracticable, run up Alta street, crossing Main street at a depth sufficient to drain the cellars of the business blocks located thereon, and proceeding east and passing beneath the underground race south of Byers' mill and on into the eastern part of town.

The exact size of the pipes will have to be determined by later surveys.

The bonds will likely be issued for 30 years with a 20-year option, and should readily sell at a lower rate than 5 per cent. There is one and only one valid argument that can be advanced against the building of the sewers at this time, and that is the question whether or not the city shall incur an additional annual interest expense of not over $1500.

Health Demands It.

Every other argument is for and not against the question. Health demands it. The growing needs of the manufactories, mercantile buildings and dwellings call for it. From one-half to two-thirds of the total cost of the system would be expended for labor, so that a large part of the money borrowed would be spent right here and give work to a number of men for several months.

The system will be constructed so that as the city grows additional laterals and feeders may be added thereto. There are at present a number of private sewers constructed and in use in the city, the user of which are vitally interested in having the sewer system constructed, for had not the council during the last summer promised to use its best endeavors to put in a sewer system at as early a moment as possible, injunction proceedings (the papers had already been drawn) would have been commenced that would in all probability have closed up all the private sewers now emptying into the river above Walters' mill.

As to Private Sewers.

If a system is put in that will drain the greater part of the city, it is not likely that the small amount of sewerage carried into the river by the private sewers would be deemed a nuisance, and their presence might be tolerated for years.

The council did not think it wise to go to the expense of surveying and having plans drawn, which will likely cost between 5 and 10 per cent of the total expense of the system, before submitting the matter to the tax-payers and obtaining their sanction.

As soon as their consent is given then these necessary steps will be taken before bids are asked for or contracts are let. Should the estimates made show that the cost will exceed $30,000, then the legislature will be immediately asked to authorize the city to borrow the required amount, or else be allowed to increase the tax levy so as to meet the additional cost.

Respectfully submitted,
FRANK B. CLOPTON,
GEORGE A. HARTMAN,
H. F. JOHNSON,
Committee on Sewers.

SCRANTON COMPANY REPORTS.

Wages Paid Miners Only $300 Per Year—Mitchell Goes Home.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 13.—The Scranton Coal Company, belonging to the Ontario & Western Railway, filed a statement this morning.

Last year they operated nine collieries and the average annual earnings, of miners, was 30 mine laborers, $313, engineers, $1200, breaker boys, $150.

Former Congressman Brumme and Kearney, of Shamokin, were two new lawyers brought into the case today to assist Darrow. After hearing the two miners' testimony, President Mitchell was called to the stand to tell of the methods employed to determine the difference in wages between the anthracite and bituminous miners. Attorney Torrey declared that his figures were unfair and misleading.

Counsel Burns, for the independent operators, endeavored to lead Mitchell into a trap by asking him if the operators made a contract with his organization, would he have the power to protect the non-union men now working. Mitchell said if the operators would meet the miners in a joint conference he would take up that question, but as long as they refused he couldn't say whether he would be able to protect them or not. He said he would not admit that union miners were responsible for any violence to the non-unionists.

Mitchell left at 2 this afternoon for his home in Spring Valley, Ill., where he is to be given a reception on Monday.

MERGER HEARING.

Combination Had Compelled Hihger Rates—Shipped by Routes to Suit Their Convenience.

St. Paul, Dec. 12.—The merger hearing today was devoted to taking the testimony of merchants and farmers in closely competitive districts, showing that the combination had compelled higher rates and routing of shipments as best suited the convenience of the railways.

SUES WALLA WALLA.

To Secure $2500 Damages for Infringement of a Patent.

Walla Walla, Dec. 13.—The suit of Charles P. Allen, of Denver, against the city of Walla Walla, has been begun in the United States court at Seattle, and service was secured yesterday by serving Clerk Reynolds, Mayor Hunt being out of the city at the time. The action is to secure $2500 damages for infringement of a patent held by Allen upon wooden pipe connections. The infringement is alleged to have occurred in the construction of a barrel flume by the city along Alder street. City Attorney Blandford will leave for Seattle to argue the motion for an injunction on Monday.

Noted Rebekah Dies.

Prescott, Wash., Dec. 13.—The funeral of Mrs. C. F. Flathers was held in this city this morning, Rev. J. C. Lawrence officiating. Mrs. Flathers died yesterday at Walla Walla, death resulting from complications in childbirth. With the dead mother was buried the infant, which died shortly after birth. Mrs. Flathers was a past noble grand in the Prescott Rebekah lodge.

The operators in the Malheur county oil fields have suspended for the winter on account of bad weather.

UNION OFFICERS UNEMPLOYED.

Miners Testify That Since the Strike There Was an Inclination to Keep the Strike Officers Out of Employment.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 12.—Former Docking Boss Ridgeway of the Temple Coal Company, was the first witness this morning before the commission.

He said he was required to make an average deduction of from 5 to 7 per cent continually, even in cases where the coal was perfectly clean and carrying the necessary amount of topping. He denied the company's claim of docking only 1 per cent.

Other witnesses testified regarding the operators' attitude since the strike had been called off, showing an inclination to keep the strike officers out of employment.

The entire afternoon was taken up in hearing witnesses concerning the dockage rules of the anthracite companies.

CUBAN TREATY SIGNED.

Terms Are Not Divulged—Thought to Provide for a 20 Per Cent Reduction on Goods

Washington, Dec. 12.—The commercial treaty between Cuba and the United States has been signed.

20 Per Cent Reduction.

News came by cablegram from Secretary Bliss this morning saying the draft of treaty had been signed by himself, secretary of state and the secretary of the treasury at 11 o'clock last night.

The terms of the treaty are not divulged, but it is understood that it provides for a 20 per cent reduction on goods passing either way between the United States and Cuba.

CABLE SHIP SILVERTON LEAVES SAN FRANCISCO.

Thousands Witness the Ceremony of Starting, Including School Children and Officials of San Francisco—Will Be in Operation by Christmas.

San Francisco, Dec. 12.—The cableship Silverton commenced laying the Honolulu cable today. President Mackey says that it will be in operation by Christmas. Thousands witnessed the ceremony at the beach, including school children and public officials.

BARRETT DECLINES.

As Oriental Representative of the St. Louis Exposition Does Not Desire Appointment to Japan.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The state department today received a dispatch from John Barrett, declining the appointment as minister to Japan, giving as a reason his employment as her oriental representative of the St. Louis exposition.

CHICAGO COAL RIOTS.

Detail of Police Guard Offices of Lill Company to Quell Demonstrations—Coal 45 Cents a Bushel.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—A detail of police called at the coal offices of the Lill Company today to quell the demonstrations of would-be-purchasers of anthracite. The company has three vessels lying off the yards containing coal costing $50,000, for which it demands 45 cents a bushel, making the cargos worth nearly $170,000.

HOMESTEAD LAW FOR ALASKA.

House Land Committee Gives Assurance of its Passage.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—The house public lands committee today gave a hearing to City Attorney Heggart, of Nome, who made impressive appeals for land laws for Alaska. He said he would concentrate his demands on two items—first a townsite law, and second a homestead law which would permit any settler who lives on a tract of 320 acres for five years to find faith to acquire title to the same after making final proof. If such homesteaders are located before the lands are surveyed, settlers will be expected to privately survey and mark out their homesteads, which are to be rectangular in form as far as possible, the boundary lines running approximately north and south and east and west.

Chairman Lacey told Mr. Heggart that the house had already passed the 320-acre homestead act, and if he could induce the senate to insert the provision permitting the location of homesteads after the manner of locating mineral claims there would be no trouble in getting that provision adopted by the house.

The committee was favorably impressed with both propositions advocated, and will probably act favorably if opportunity presents itself.

FIRE AT SPOKANE.

Destroys Contents of Hotel Ridpath at a Loss of $200,000.

Spokane, Dec. 12.—Fire this morning at 1:40, in the basement of Hotel Ridpath, destroyed its contents, at a loss of $200,000. The hotel was crowded with guests, who escaped in their night clothes and went to neighboring hotels. Policeman Ware who aroused the guests, was over come by smoke in a passage, but was rescued by the firemen.

FIGHTING IN MARSEILLES.

Eight Thousand Union Dockers and Sailors Vote to Continue the Strike—Gendarmes Attack Them.

Marseilles, Dec. 13.—A serious conflict is in progress in the streets between the gendarmes and striking dock men. The fight started after 8000 union dockers and sailors met and voted to continue the strike.

NO LAND REFORM

MAY CHANGE PRICE OF TIMBER LAND.

Because No Large Interests Are in Favor of the Measures—The Wish of the People Is to Be Ignored—Criticize the Administration of Land Offices.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—It was practically decided at a meeting of the house land committee yesterday not to attempt any legislation in the direction of reforming the land laws, as recommended by President Roosevelt in his annual message. The Quarles-Powers bill repealing the timber, desert and homestead commutation laws was taken up informally. The committee was practically unanimous in rejecting all three sections of the bill, the only constructive legislation suggested being a proposition to increase the price of commuted homesteads from $1.25 to $2.50 an acre, and to increase the price of timber lands in states west of the Rocky mountains from $2.50 to $5 or even $10 an acre.

The timber law was favored as it stands, especially by the members from Colorado and Wyoming, on the ground that the law is being honestly carried out and was benefiting the arid states. The committee also took the ground that the commutation of a homestead should be allowed to provide for cases in which it was a hardship on the settler to reside five years upon his claim before securing title. In fact, the recommendations of the president found not a single supporter in this committee.

Chairman Lacey stated this afternoon that he was in favor of disposing of the matter at once, and if that course is taken it means that no bill will be returned by the committee to the house—this notwithstanding that Mr. Lacey himself a day or two ago introduced separate bills repealing the desert and commutation laws. He seems to regard this action as a temporary aberration on his part.

Bad Effect on Irrigation.

Mr. Lacey maintains that it would be a practical repeal of the irrigation law to repeal the present land laws, as proposed, on the ground that notwithstanding the provisions of that law, no settler on land irrigated by the government will ever pay back into the treasury any of the cost of putting water on his land, thus indicating the probable passage at some future time of another free homes bill to apply to the government irrigated area. His solicitude for the reclamation fund is not entirely in accord with his opposition last winter to the enactment of the law creating the same.

The senate land committee has practically agreed not to take up the Quarles bill until the latter part of January. There is now considerable doubt as to the attitude of this committee toward any changes in the land laws. The majority one way or the other would be narrow and the report would probably be divided. There are no active interests behind these measures except the recommendations of the department and of the president. The bill carries no appropriation for expenditure in the states affected, and in fact would have rather the effect of limiting operations. The suggestions are looked upon as purely matters of public policy, and local interests are apparently opposed to legislation which embodies the idea of the greatest good to the greatest number. Like the tariff, the land question is a local issue.

Slight Chance of Legislation.

Prospects at this time for any land legislation at this session of congress are slight. There is an equal probability that the interior department will make little or no headway in securing a law for the protection of timber on the public domain at this session. In discussing the status of the land laws, nearly every member of the house committee stated that he believed the laws as they stood to be theoretically correct, and that if they are properly administered no loss should fall upon the government, and that lawful settlement of the country would proceed to the advantage of all.

Coupled with these statements, however, was considerable criticism of the administration of the land office, to the effect that the administration was lax in investigating the legality of filings and final proofs, and in accepting alleged improvements which did not really comply with the spirit as well as the letter of the law.

MUST BECOME STATES.

President Schurman's Opinion of Destiny of Philippines.

New York, Dec. 13.—Brigadier-General A. W. Greely and President Schurman, of Cornell University, were the principal speakers at a meeting of the Nineteenth Century Club Thursday. The meeting was devoted to the discussion of "The United States in the Philippines." President Schurman said in part:

"President Roosevelt has recently stated that the flag could no more come down in the Philippines than it could in Alaska. Where the American flag goes it symbolizes the sovereignty of the people over it. Hence, if the flag is to stay in the Philippines, Luzon and the Visayas it must, according to the logic of American philosophy become states in the Union, as New Mexico and Oklahoma and Alaska are bound to be."

General Greely prefaced his remarks by saying personally he thought the Spanish-American war a mistake, as was the acquisition of the Philippines, but he said that he was a soldier with his duty to perform first, so he would not say more than that he did not think much good can come from the possession of the islands.

WILL INCREASE NAVY.

Russia Will Spend $9,000,000 for New Ships in 1903.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 12.—A large increase in the navy is planned for 1903. The budget made public today shows an increase of $9,000,000 for new ships.

PORTLAND AROUSED

SUDDENLY AWAKENS TO EASTERN OREGON NEEDS.

After Being Jabbed In the Ribs by the Press and People, She May Take Action—Some Transportation Schemes That May Materialize in the Future.

Let the business community and the property owners of Portland take notice that surveyors are in the field locating a line of railroad from Nyssa on the Oregon Short Line, to Vale in the Malheur valley. Let them consult the maps and note the facts of geography and topography; and then let them consider the significance of this movement. Nyssa is the point in Oregon first touched by the Oregon Short Line; Vale lies in the valley of the Malheur, on the line of the most direct route conecting the Short Line with the Malheur, Harney, Goose Lake and Klamath regions. From Vale it is an easy stage to Burns and Harney county; from Burns it is an other easy stage to Paisley or Lakeview, in Lake county; and one more stage reaches the heart of Klamath, says the Oregonian.

Through Rich Country.

The route is an easy and natural one; and it passes everywhere through productive or potential country; and a railroad operating through it would command absolutely the whole traffic and resource of that fourth of Oregon that lies to the southeast. And it would command it not for Oregon and for Portland, but for Salt Lake City and the East. Thus hooked up with no direct connection with home markets at Portland, our Southeastern district would, for all commercial purposes, be lost to us—and lost for keeps. Its cattle, its wool, its wealth of timber, would in the nature of things go East—and its commercial patronage as well—for with its outlet opening to the East it would be as effectively shut off from Portland as if it lay on the other side of the Rocky Mountains.

An Empire as a Prize.

From the standpoint of the Union Pacific Railroad people, the movement is a very natural one. The country lies within the belt contiguous to their through line, and its traffic, already large, is bound very soon to be greater. By the time the railroad line of 300 or 400 miles in length could be built—say in two or three years—the country will easily afford a highly profitable business. And from the standpoint of the southeastern counties this connection is in every way to be desired and encouraged. They have been appealing for 20 years past for a railroad connection—to Portland, San Francisco, to the East. They have tendered an empire as a prize of the first comer, and have grown weary and sick with disappointment because nobody has thought it worth while to heed them. They will welcome the eastern connection just as they would welcome any other connection promising to break the fetters of their isolation.

Portland Must Act.

The projected line from Nyssa to Vale is but a first step. The succeeding steps are inevitable if, when time and convenience serve, the opportunity shall be what it is today. But they are not likely to be taken if the country shall be entered by a railroad from another route. There is still the chance for Portland to forestall all foreign movements, to make the southeastern territory her own. A prompt movement from Shaniko through the Upper Deschutes country, and with branches to Klamath Falls and Burns, in like manner with the movement now making in the Klickitat valley by a Portland company, would hold the southeast for Portland. It would give her a territory far better in its trade possibilities than Alaska, upon which the recent fortunes of Seattle have been built—this, in addition to a great paying investment.

TO ERADICATE CATTLE DISEASE

Committee of Agriculture Asks for an Immediate Appropriation of $1,000,000.

TO INVESTIGATE PLAGUE OF NEW ENGLAND CATTLE.

House Takes Up Many Important Matters—Salaries for 1904 at $27,250,000—Calls for Information Concerning Venezuelan Troubles.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Representative Wadsworth, of the committee of agriculture, today asked unanimous consent for an immediate consideration of a bill appropriating a million dollars for investigating and eradicating the foot and mouth disease of cattle in the New England states.

The question of proposing an amendment to the constitution, giving congress the power to pass and enforce polygamy laws, was laid on the table by the judiciary committee today.

Great Salary Bill.

The appropriations committee today reported a great salary bill. It places the legislative, executive and judicial expenses for 1904 at $27,250,000.

Court of Justice Building.

The public buildings committee authorized a favorable report on the Mercer bill appropriating $7,000,000 to purchase ground for the erection of the court of justice buildings for the accommodation of the supreme court, law library and the department of justice. Favorable action was taken also on the senatorial bill appropriating $1,500,000 for a new agricultural building.

Concerning Venezuela.

A resolution calling on the secretary of state for all information in the possession of the department concerning the Venezuelan difficulty, was introduced by DeArmond, of Missouri. It closes by asking whether a firm assertion of the Monroe doctrine would not preserve the independence and integrity of Venezuela.

Want Chinese.

Washington, Dec. 25.—William Haywood, representing the Hawaiian sugar planters, told the senate committee on immigration that the educational test in the immigration bill would have the effect of keeping out of Hawaii the only labor the Hawaiians can now obtain. Joseph Smolinski, representing the American Polish Alliance, opposed the educational test, and A. P. Anderson, representing the American Steamship Line, suggested that various changes be made in the measure.

Canadian Coal.

McCall introduced a bill giving President Roosevelt authority to enter into an agreement with Great Britain by which all coal mined in Canada shall enter the United States free and all coal mined in the United States shall also be admitted into

TOBACCO IN TEXAS.

Tobacco Experts Declare That the Rice Belt of Texas Will Raise the Very Best High-Class Cigar Goods.

Austin, Texas, Dec. 13.—The management of the Southern Pacific purposes to establish Texas as one of the nation's foremost tobacco-producing regions. For a long time the road's industrial agents have been experimenting with the soil of certain sections of the Lone Star State, and they are convinced it is well adapted to the culture of high-grade tobaccos, including many kinds that are now imported. It is planned to interest tobacco growers of Wisconsin, Kentucky, Virginia, Connecticut and other arts in the possibilities of Texas.

It is the purpose of the road to afford a systematic course of education to tobacco growers of the country, with special endeavor to picture the qualification of Texas for filling a "long-felt want"—the want of a territory that can give to America what now can be had only from foreigners. Well-informed tobacco men say that if the plans of the Southern Pacific are realized the tobacco trade will be revolutionized, with almost inestimable benefits to the country at large. It is believed that Texas can be made to equal, if not surpass, Cuba and Sumatra as a producer of high-class cigar goods. If Texas can place itself on a level with these two countries, the trade says, the tobacco men of the country will save vast amounts annually—money that now is spent for transportation. Yet, it is held, growers would be able to market their products at very good profits after making allowances for transportation charges. Even should Texas fulfill all that is expected of it, tobacco men say the industry in Kentucky and most of the other leading producing sections would continue to thrive and prosper, as these parts would not be brought into serious competition owing to the difference in the grades grown. The seed-leaf planters of the North would not suffer, but the foreign leaf would be displaced by that of Texas. Of course, all of the vast state of Texas is not adapted to tobacco culture. Experts say that that part of the commonwealth known as the rice belt is the only part fitted for the cultivation of the high-grade tobacco.

Odd Fellowship Ahead.

At the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the grand lodge of Northwest Odd Fellowship, held in Salem last week, the following statistics of fraternal orders in the United States were read:

No. Odd Fellows	1,027,628
No. Masons	902,601
No. M. W. A.	642,957
No. Knight of Pythias	516,944
No. A. O. U. W.	420,000
No. Red Men	260,469
No. Woodmen of the World	252,130