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VOL. XXVII. PENDLETON, UMATILLA CO., OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1903 NO. 10

ARE FIGHTING RECIPROCITY

Sugar Interests Against Cuban Treaty and Reduction of Philippine Tariff.

ARE ENLISTING TOBACCO GROWERS IN MOVEMENT.

Claim That if Philippines Are Placed on an Equal Footing With the United States the Protected Interests Would Be Seriously Disturbed.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Beet sugar interests are not only fighting the Cuban reciprocity treaty, but have taken a hand against the reduction of Philippine duties. It is a great claim of certain suger-beet men that an understanding was reached, when the peace treaty with Spain was ratified, that domestic interests (meaning sugar) should not be injured by any tariff concessions to any of the islands over which the United States gained control by that treaty. Some of these men are now seeking to enforce the implied promise.

Opposition is springing up to the bill which passed the house before the holiday recess, making the rate on Philippine goods 25 per cent of the present Dingley rates. The beet-sugar men have been trying to enlist tobacco growers and manufacturers in this movement, and with show of success. It is being pointed out that Thomas B. Reed and other protectionists of his kind oposed the treaty with Spain on the ground that it was the opening wedge which would destroy protection in the United States. They claimed that, as soon as the Phinppines were placed on an equal footing with this government in the matter of tariff rates the protected interests would be seriously disturbed.

Cry of Cheap Labor.

The cry is now raised that workingmen throughout the country will be seriously damaged by the cheap labor of the Philippines entering into competition with them, not only upon sugar and tobacco, but upon other manufactured products, which can be produced in the islands. The republican leaders furnished ammunition for this cry when the Porto Rican bill was uncertain and they insisted that American labor would be damaged by free trade with Porto Rico. It was well known that at that time they wanted to establish the precedent that the United States had a right to impose any tariff it saw fit upon products coming from the islands acquired from Spain. That was a part of the plan to make good the pledges that the Philippines should never be allowed to interfere with the sugar interests of the United States.

It may be posible in the senate to defeat the house bill relating to the Philippines, notwithstanding the demand from the great majority in this country, and the earnest plea of Governor Taft and other members of the Philippine commission. It will be a very strange thing to defeat such a bill, which received the unanimous vote of the republicans of the house, and which only incurred the opposition of the democrats who wanted to establish absolute free trade between the Philippines and this country. If the tobacco interests are aroused it may secure opposition from the tobacco-growing states, but the senators representing these states, mostly democrats, would be obliged to place themselves in opposition to their party in the house as well as their often-repeated declaration in favor of lower tariff duties. But it makes little difference what the democrats do, the responsibility rests with the republicans, and the defeat of the Philippines tariff bill, if brought about, will be through the influence of the ultr-protection senators who are in control in the senate.

Cuban Treaty Opposed.

The opponents of Cuban recoprocity are finding a number of reasons why that measure should not be ratified in regard to the admission of products into Cuba has been drawn on protective lines and say that raw materials will be admitted at a very low rate of duty, while protected articles will pay a high rate. Several instances of this kind are being pointed out and the claim made that various enterprises recently started in Cuba will be benefited, while the manufacturer in this country will receive little or no benefit. This is another blow in the direction of arousing the protected interests in this country to oppose the Cuban treaty. But unless there is a great change in the sentiment of the senate since the question was a vital issue last summer, the treaty can be ratified.

A movement is on foot to consolidate the opposition to the Cuban treaty, the Philippine tariff, the French treaty, the Newfoundland treaty and the other reciprocity treaties pending in the senate, and to prevent anything being done by the senate on any treaty which will disturb existing tariff conditions.

CLAIM TO BE AMERICANS.

Two Russians Arrested in London, Have Letters of Credit for $25,000.

London, Dec. 29.—Two Russians, Green and Pinevitz, claiming American citizenship, were charged in the Bow street station today with having unlawful possession of a letter of credit for $25,000 to London and American banks. They were arrested when they arrived this morning on telegraphic advices from Paris.

Green's alias is Greenbaum. He had a card in his pocket which bore the address of the Hurst Club, of San Francisco. Pipkevez said the letter of credit belonged to a man in America, whither they were going to deliver it. Two opals, a gold seal and a quantity of furs were also found in the men's possission.

Another Earthquake.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—Another violent earthquake occurred last night at Anijan, in Central Asia.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND GEN. WOOD BOTH ADEPTS.

Both Considerably Scarred and Bruised as a Result of Very Strenuous Battle Last Night.

Washington, Dec. 29.—A heavy sleet storm kept almost all the residents indoors this morning, but the president and his wife went horseback riding for two hours. The president and General Wood are considerably scarred and bruised as a result of an extremely strenuous battle with singlesticks, in the use of which both are adepts. They fought a duel last night and claim a draw.

MORE REBELS THREATEN TO ATTACK CITY OF FEZ.

English Women Leave the Interior for Coast—Many Americans Said to Be in the Rebellious Territory.

Tangier, Dec. 29.—A Morocco dispatch says that the English women missionaries of Fez and Tetuan have left for the coast. The rebels this afternoon are threatening to attack Fez. No reference is made to the American missionaries, a number of whom are in the dangerous territory.

Teachers of Lone Star State.

Austin, Texas, Dec. 29.—Public school teachers of Texas took possession of the state capital today and will continue to exercise control until Thursday. The attendance already passes the high water mark of the previous years. In addition to the teachers' organization, the superintendents' and trustees' associations are in session.

BOTH PARTIES FALSE

LEADERS OF BOTH GUILTY OF HYPOCRISY.

Neither Party Apparently Being More Desirous Than the Other of Finding and Applying a Cure—Fears the American People Will Have to Be Chastised.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Senator Morgan, of Alabama, says there is no great difference between the leaders of the democratic and republican parties on the question of trusts.

"The party out of power cries out against the octopus; the party in power hugs the octopus to its breast," says he.

He declares the leaders of both the republican and democratic parties are guilty of hypocrisy and deceit, neither party apparently being more desirous than the other of finding and applying a cure. That a cure will be found, however, and that it will be applied effectively, he does not doubt, but before that devoutly-to-be-wished-for consummation, he fears the chastising rod will be laid heavily on the American people.

Out of this chastising, he thinks, will come an awakening and a political revolution that will sweep out of existence both of the great political parties as they are no worganized, and result in the formation of two new ones of which one may be the socialist party.

Senator Morgan thinks the trust question is the greatest that has ever arisen in our economic development. The republican party may solve it, the democratic party may solve it, or its solution may be found by a new party arising on the ruins of the old ones. He says corporate strength in this country is today greater than the strength of congress or of the president. It is feared by leaders of both political parties. A reduction of tariff schedules might afford some relief but would not cure the trust evil.

In his opinion the trusts must be reached through the exercise of congress of its constitutional power of taxation. The Alabama senator suggests a graduated tax on capital stocks of corporations, with a provision inserted that any corporation showing that it is not a monopoly or an unlawful combination in restraint of trade be wholly relieved of this tax, thereby relieving the government of the burden of proof.

Senator Morgan says while trusts will be discussed in the next campaign both parties will go on record against them, and the trust question cannot become a real issue. The campaign will, on the contrary, be fought on the tariff question, with a line-up similar to that in 1884.

BATTLESHIP MAINE.

The New Ship Goes to the Navy Yard to Be Placed in Commission.

Philadelphia, Dec. 29.—The new battleship Maine left Cramp's shipyard at 11 o'clock this morning, destined for League Island navy yard, where it will be formally placed in commission.

To Join Dewey.

It was put in command of Captain Luetz and a picked crew, said to be one of the finest in the navy. She will go immediately to the West Indies to join Dewey's fleet.

NO CREDENCE TO REPORT.

State Department Does Not Believe British Marines Have Been Landed at La Guayra.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The state department gives no credence to the report that British marines have been landed at La Guayra. Minister Bowen has not been heard from since Saturday, when a dispatch was received stating the terms on which the allies were willing to submit to arbitration at The Hague.

DYNAMITE EXPLOSION.

Powder House at Shamokin Containing 500 Pounds, Blown Up—No One Hurt.

Shamokin, Pa., Dec. 29.—Five hundred pounds of dynamite exploded in the Bayside powder house this morning. None were injured, but the windows were shattered in a large radius and some walls were cracked.

Home for Drunkards' Wives.

Kansas City, Dec. 29.—Carrie Nation is negotiating for a $7500 residence in Manner, Kan., and will provide a home for drunkards' wives.

MURDERED AT PORTLAND.

Saloon Keeper Stabbed to Death by Assassin Who Makes His Escape.

Portland, Dec. 26.—Joseph Guglielmo, a well-known and well-to-do member of the Italian colony of Portland, was stabbed to death in his saloon at 1 o'clock Wednesday night. The murderer is Joseph Nicastro, nicknamed among many of his Italian acquaintances as "Brucia Paglione." Nicastro ran away after the fatal assault, paid a hurried visit to his lodgings in Marquam Gulch, and then disappeared. Guglielmo was stabbed three times by the wielder of the stiletto, and died within 20 minutes. His son Frank was by his side at the time. In vain did young Guglielmo ring up physicians on the telephone. Some could not be raised. Some said they would come within a few moments, but none came in time. The young man, who assisted his father in tending bar, said that in the excitement of the affair he had forgotten what doctors he had called.

The city physician, James C. Zan, arrived at First and Market streets after the body of the murdered man had been removed to the morgue. He got out of bed as soon as aroused, got a hack and went to the scene, but Guglielmo was dead.

KILLED A MERCHANT AND SET FIRE TO STORE.

Man Calls Merchant Gay From His Home on Christmas to Open His Store—Compels Him to Open Safe From Which He Took $12,000.

Atlanta, Dec. 26.—A special from Matthews, Ga., says: An unknown man called Merchant Gay from his home Christmas evening and induced him on some pretext, to open his store. The wife, alarmed at his continued absence, discovered the store in flames. In the ruins of the store Gay was discovered with his skull crushed, dead. It is believed the robber forced Gay to open the safe from which he took $12,000, then murdered him and fired the building.

DECLINED IN SPIRIT.

This Country Will Not Participate in Any Way With Settlement of Venezuelan Affairs.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The state department positively denies that this country is participating in the formulation of the preliminary protocol providing for arbitration between the allied powers and Venezuela.

They also state that Roosevelt in declining to arbitrate, declined in spirit as well as letter. Whether the blockade will continue during the arbitration has yet to be learned here.

MURDERED HER MOTHER.

Massachusetts Girl Uses Poison to Secure an Inheritance of $20,000.

Chelsea, Mass., Dec. 26.—Catherine Richardsan, a young woman aged 20, was arraigned this morning on the charge of poisoning her mother to secure $20,000 inheritance. She gave bonds for $10,000 and the case was continued 10 days.

Sent to Penitentiary.

San Francisco, Dec. 26.—Steamer advices from Honolulu say that Pedro Rodriguez, who robbed General Miles of a gold watch during his recent visit there, has been sentenced to the penitentiary for three years.

MAY BE A STRIKE

NEW SCALE OF WAGES HAS BEEN PROPOSED.

Living Expenses Advancing—Self Protection Forces Workingmen to Ask an Increase of Salary—Prosperity of Railroads Will Justify an Advance.

Portland, Dec. 27.—The members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, system division No. 80, of the O. R. & N., are on the verge of declaring war against their employer. The order is comprised of operators and station agents from Portland to Spokane and Huntington and unless the new articles of agreement which have been prepared are signed by January 15, the probabilities are that either a strike or boycott will be declared against the big corporation immediately after that date.

For the past month a committee representing the telegraphers and composed of W. J. Bohon, of Huntington; C. W. Dority, of La Crosse, Wash., and J. Swart, of Athena, Or., has been conferring with O. R. & N. officials relative to the new scale of wages adopted by the organization, but further than an offer to compromise, which was rejected, no results have been obtained.

The new scale as arranged means an increase of about 20 per cent in wages over that of the one now in effect.

The organization has about 140 members, and the present scale of wages runs from $57.50 to $125 per month. They ask that the minimum rate be $62.50 per month and the maximum $125.

"We are merely asking for the wage scale to be replaced where it was prior to the panic in 1893," says J. Swart, operator at Athena, "when it was reduced to its present form. Times are now as good as they were before the panic, but the members of our organization are not faring nearly so well as we did then. Our wages are lower and rents and cost of living are much higher. With the way prices are advancing all along the line, we thought it high time that we were doing something for self protection.

"The agents and operators along the Northern Pacific and Great Northern will present a similar agreement to ours on January 19."

The Largest of Its Kind.

A tortoise whose estimated age is 400 years and known weight is 600 pounds, making it the largest one ever reported, has crossed the United States on a limited train en route from the Galapagos islands to the private zoological garden of the Hon. Walter Rothchild in London. In civilization cabbages are given him in lieu of the cacti of his native heath.

GOOD NEWS FROM LONDON

England Has Formally Accepted President Roosevelt's Proposition.

QUEEN GIVES DINNER TO SOLDIERS' WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

Remains of the Arch Bishop of Canterbury Buried in the Cloisters of Cathedral—Officially Stated That Balfour is Better.

London, Dec. 27.—The queen this afternoon gave a dinner to 2000 widows and orphans of the victims of the Boer war.

The ramins of the Arch Bishop of Canterbury were buried today in the cloisters adjoining the cathedral.

England has formally accepted President Roosevelt's proposal to refer the Venezuelan affair to The Hague arbitration, this afternoon.

It is officially stated that Balfour is convalescent.

Germany Accepts.

Berlin, Dec. 27.—Germany has agreed to accept The Hague as arbitrator in the Venezuelan affair.

GRATEFUL TO ROOSEVELT.

French Paper Thinks That the President's Name Will Be Handed Down to History for Compelling the Nations to Arbitrate Their Differences.

Paris, Dec. 27.—The Journal Des Debats, commenting on the Venezuelan affairs, says that Europe owes President Roosevelt a debt of gratitude for insisting upon The Hague arbitration.

If the tribunal in the future becomes of real worth Roosevelt will be handed down in history as the one who compelled the world to take it seriously.

$500,000 ALREADY EXPENDED FOR AN ARMY OF HELP.

Hepburn, of Iowa, Charges the Commissioners of Making Places for the Sons of Officers High in Rank, Paying Enormous Salaries.

Washington, Dec. 26.—A resolution offered in the house by Hepburn, of Iowa, promises to develop a canal scandal. Hepburn asked for an inquiry into the expenditures of the isthmian canal commission under an act authorizing the creation of the commission and for which $1,000,000 was set aside for expenses. It is openly stated here that $500,000 has already been expended in salaries for the commissioners and an army of help. Hepburn's charge is that it has been the practice of the commissioners to make places for the sons of army and navy officers high in rank and influence, also for the sons of prominent senators and congressmen paying them far more than under any circumstances their services are worth. There never has been any publication of the list of employes or expenses thus far incurred although many members of congress have repeatedly endeavored to obtain some information.

MANY THOUSANDS STOLEN BY TRANSPORT COMBINE.

Advices Received From Manila Tell of a Colossal Scheme of Smuggling Goods From the Islands to the United States—No Hope for Currency Legislation.

Washnigton, Dec. 26.—Advices From Manila say that the customs department of the archipelago has unearthed a colossal system of smuggling that has cost the government many thousands. Deputy Collector McCoy charges many officers and men on the transports with being in the combine. Secretary Shaw this morning said that after interviews with many senators and representatives he had no hope that any currency legislation would be attempted in the house this session.

CONGRESS FAILED TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION.

Governor of Guam Reports a Serious Financial Embarrassment — No Money to Expend for Proper Care of Island.

Washington, Dec. 26.—The annual report of the governor of the Island of Guam indicates a serious financial embarrassment owing to the failure of congress to appropriate the sum asked for last year. The inhabitants are discontented because they have been compelled to pay for all the road building improvements out of private purses, the government having no money to expend for the proper care of the island.

SAN PEDRO BURNED OUT.

Fire Still Raging in the California Town—Three Men Burned to Death —Loss Over $1,000,000.

Los Angeles, Dec. 27.—The fire which started last night at San Pedro is still fiercly raging at noon. The town will be almost wiped out at a loss of over $1,000,000.

The following have been burned to death:

Joseph Swift, of Los Angeles.

Vic Silver, of Wilmington.

James Endolsen, captain of the steamer Caspar.

Prima Donna to Marry.

Lnicoln, Dec. 26.—Zelie Delussan, the famous prima donna, today announced her engagement and early marriage to Henrico Rodolo. The latter is an American. Their home will be in New York.

Miles in Pekin.

Pekin, Dec. 26.—General Miles arrived today. He will visit the imperial family and view the Chinese troops tomorrow.

WRECK ON THE GRAND TRUNK

Head-End Collision Occurs Between the Pacific Express and a Fast Freight.

MANY OF THE INJURED WERE EXPOSED THREE HOURS

Ten Bodies Removed From the Debris Were so Badly Mangled That They Could Not Be Identified—Blunder of Operator Caused Collision

London, Ont., Dec. 27.—A head-on collision occurred last night at Wamstead, 40 miles west of this city, between the Pacific Express and a fast east-bound freight train on the Sarnia division of the Grand Trunk railroad.

From meager reports at hand it is learned that five persons were killed and 15 or 16 injured. The engineer of the freight and the fireman of the express train are among the killed. The other three dead were passengers on the passenger train. A special train left here at midnight with 15 doctors for the scene of the accident.

Another Report.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 27.—A special to the Enquirer says that the deaths in last night's wreck on the Grand Trunk railway have been increased to 24 and that 18 were injured. The doctors say the death list will reach 30.

Bodies Badly Mangled.

Ten bodies removed from the debris were so badly mangled that identification was almost impossible. Superintendent McGuigan, of the Grand Trunk, says the operator whose blunder caused the collision was one of the most trusted men ever employed by the road. He has been with the company 25 years. Many of the injured in the hospitals will probably die of the exposure which followed the wreck. They were exposed for three hours in zero weather.

Later—38 Dead.

The death list in the Grand Trunk disaster is now 38. That many bodies have been removed.

WRECK IN KENTUCKY.

Fast Passenger of Illinois Central Ran Into a Work Train—Three Men Instantly Killed and Two Seriously Injured.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 27.—The fast passenger train of the Illinois Central crashed into a work train, 34 miles south of here this morning. Three men were instantly killed and two seriously injured. The wreck was caused by a mistake in orders.

THE ILL-FATED OWL.

Second Accident to the Finest Train on the Southern Pacific Lines.

Los Angeles, Dec. 27.—A second accident to the owl train occurred this morning at Tropico, where the Coast limited ran into the owl on a siding, smashing two cars. The engineers both jumped, and the passengers were shocked only.

ARRIVES AT HONOLULU.

Cable Ship Silverton Reaches Honolulu This Morning—Land End of Cable Will Be Finished Tomorrow.

San Francisco, Dec. 26.—A cablegram from the ship Silverton says that the vessel arrived in sight of Honolulu this morning, having laid 2238 miles of cable. The land end of the cable is now being laid. It will be finished tomorrow when Governor Dole will send a message to President Roosevelt. Honolulu citizens are celebrating the occasion.

COLD IN FLORIDA.

Considerable Fruit Damaged—Eight Degrees Below the Freezing Point at Jacksonville Last Night.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 27.—The thermometer was 8 below the freezing point last night. It is feared that the young orange trees are seriously hurt as the previous warm weather kept the sap in the limbs. Considerable fruit was also damaged.

LIVE STOCK CONVENTION.

A Strong Delegation From Oregon Will Result in Securing Next Meeting.

The National Livestock convention which meets in Kansas City on January 13-16, is attracting wide attention in the West just now. At the last convention Portland was second choice for the 1903 meeting and with an active delegation in Kansas City, the 1904 convention can be easily secured for that city.

"Oregon should go armed for the plum," said an East Oregonian stockman to the East Oregonian today.

"We need that convention to complete the stock situation here. We are already organized thoroughly, and lack but the presence of the representatives and officers of this great body of stockmen in Oregon to give a little more courage to our local organizations. Western stockmen are in need of the strong support of the National Association, in their efforts to build up the industry and one meeting of the body in this state will result in great good to the stock interests."

Protection Against the Band.

Nightcaps and cotton ear wads are provided by the proprietor of a hotel at Vytla, Hungary, for those of his guests who retire early and do not wish to be kept awake by a Gypsy band which plays nightly at the hotel.

Three prisoners escaped from the Portland city jail Christmas morning. They were Frank Miller and Frank Ward, held for robbing an O. R. & N. freight car, and Clarence Smith, for vagrancy.

RAILROADS ARE HOLDING THE COAL IN THEIR YARDS.

It Is Generally Understood That the Roads Entering Chicago Have Coal Enough in the Yards to Supply That City the Remainder of Winter—Holding for Higher Prices.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 27.—Acting Governor Northcott today officially directed the attorney-general of Illinois to investigate the charges made against the railroads entering Chicago of holding coal in their yards, although the city was suffering from a fuel famine. It is generally understood that the roads have coal enough in the yards to supply the city the remainder of the winter season, but are holding it to compel higher prices.

HUMANE SOCIETY TAKING MATTER IN HAND.

Stock Snowed in on High Ranges Cannot Be Reached—Water Frozen Up—Owners Powerless to Relieve Situation.

Denver, Dec. 26.—Thousands of cattle are reported to be starving on the range in Northwestern Colorado. The Humane Society appealed to the owners to rescue this stock, and they have replied that they are powerless to do so. The cattle are snowed in on the high range in Routt and Rio Blanco counties, without pasture and without water. It is impossible to get feed to them, and equally impossible to drive them into suitable winter quarters.

COAL WANTED.

Pennsylvania Railroads Ask to Make Rates on Coal for the Blizzard-Swept Northwest.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 26.—The railways from Pennsylvania will be asked to make the rates on 1,500,000 tons of coal to the wind-swept portions of the Northwest. The lake navigation having closed, thousands of lives are imperiled by the shortage of fuel.

PRESENTS CREDENTIALS.

New Embassador to America Officially Recognized by the President.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Von Henger var, of Austria-Hungary, has been elevated from the rank of minister to that of ambassador to America. He was officially recognized in that capacity by President Roosevelt this morning. Secretary Hay accompanied him to the White House, where his credentials were presented.

OFFICES CLOSED.

Barely Enough Coal to Warm the Prisoners of the Lake City.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 27.—All the county and city offices are closed to day owing to the lack of coal. There is barely enough to supply the prisone.

ONE KILLED, TWO INJURED.

Patrol Wagon and Trolley Car Collide With Fatal Results.

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—One police man was killed and two were seriously injured in a collision between a patrol wagon and trolley car this morning.

Jersey Lilly Returns.

New York, Dec. 26.—Langtry has returned to America, arriving on the Celtic this morning.

HIGH PRICED FUEL

REVENUE STAMPS ARE USED TO WARM OFFICIALS.

Furnaces of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving Fed With Costly Material—$7,000,000 Worth of Canceled Stamps burned in Two Months.

Stamps that cost the United States government $1,000,000 have been burned for fuel in the furnaces of the bureau of engraving and printing, at Washington, D. C. For nearly a month the firemen at the bureau have been shoveling into the furnaces documentary revenue stamps at the rate of $40,000 daily. The stamps were burned with coal with satisfactory results.

It has been estimated that they have furnished fuel equivalent to a ton of coal a day and by using them for fuel the government has saved $150. These stamps were returned to the treasury upon the repeal of the war taxes.

They were dumped into the treasury by the ton. The fact that many of them were either printed on or affixed to bank checks, which also were turned in, increased the mass, which was carefully stored in the basement of the treasury.

The law requires that all stamps that have been redeemed be burned and these would have been destroyed in the usual way had not the chief of the printing bureau of engraving and printing suggested that they be used for fuel. The chief attributes his inspiration to the coal famine which has put the heads of all the government departments to their wits' end to keep their furnaces supplied with fuel.

An experiment showed that the stamps and checks with coal could be burned to the economy of the fuel supply and then every box and bale was dumped into the engine room of the bureau of printing and engraving.

An official of the treasury who usually is detailed to take charge of the destruction of defective stamps, kept tab on every consignment, and saw that its contents were destroyed. Defective stamps and those returned for redemption usually are burned in a furnace built especially for that purpose in the treasury basement.

In 1898, following the abolishment of the newspaper and periodical stamps, those outstanding were called in and there was a fire in the basement of the treasury every day for months.

The face value of the stamps destroyed was about $10,000,000.

Last winter the remainder of the beautiful Pan-American stamps were burned, the department, unfortunately, giving its pledge that all stamps remaining on hand after October 30 would be destroyed. Two months were occupied in burning these stamps. Their actual face value was about $7,000,000.

PROPOSES TO SUPPLY THE ENTIRE NORTHWEST.

Has Secured an Option on Several Millions of Acres of Coal Lands in Montana and Alberta—Will Compete With Chicago Markets.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—J. J. Hill, of the Great Northern, has secured an option on several millions of acres of coal lands in Montana and Alberta, and proposes to supply the entire Northwest. It is believed he also will compete with the Chicago markets in hauling coal East as slow freight, when the recently decided Seattle-Manila contracts become operative.

ROBBERS SECURED $15,000.

Vault of Bank at Union, Mo., Blown Open—Citizens Terrorized by Fusilade.

Union, Mo., Dec. 27.—A gang of robbers last night blew open the vaults of the bank at Union and secured $15,000. It required four explosions, completely wrecking the front of the bank. Several citizens witnessed the deed. The robbers kept up a fusilade on the streets and terrorized the inhabitants.

Land Frauds Nipped.

Oregon City, Dec. 26.—The United States land office at this place has caused the cancellation of timber entries in Tillamook county amounting to 30,000 acres, on the ground of fraud and collusion between entrymen and parties who had arranged to buy the lands on title being secured. Charles E. Hays was the principal contestant and Robert Sturgeon the principal contestee. On Sturgeon's case the fate of about 100 others depends.

ABOUT VENEZUELA

WONDERFUL COUNTRY OF THE TROPIC CLIME.

Story of the Orinoco and Its 1000 Tributaries — Matchless Forests — Short History of the People and Country—Small Area of Farm Land Cultivated.

The people of Venezuela are in the main descended from the Spaniards. A good deal of Indian blood has been mingled with the Spanish strain. They are a talented and courteous people who bear the reputation of being fine fighters. A considerable part of Venezuela is still practically unexplored and is inhabited by aborigines. The republic is divided into nine states, a federal district and five federal territories. There are 3900 miles of telegraph wire. Five steamship lines ply along the Venezuelan coasts and through the rivers. There are 234 miles of railroads. The monetary unit of the country is the bolivar, equal to 19¾ cents American money.

Chief City.

The chief city of Venezuela is the capital, Caracas. It has a population of 75,000 persons. The other chief cities are Valencia, 40,000 population; Maracaibo, 35,000; Barquisimeto, 32,000, and Ciudad Bolivar, 12,000.

In one of the fine public squares of Caracas is a large statue of George Washington.

History.

Venezuela remained under Spanish rule until 1811, when Simon Bolivar proclaimed her independent. The independence of Venezuela was recognized by Spain in 1845. In 1846 a series of civil wars began and did not cease until 1870. All slaves were emancipated in 1854. In 1864 a federal constitution was drawn up. Guzman Blanco became dictator in 1870 when he was elected president.

Wonderful Forests.

Of forest woods alone there were 145 varieties, including a fine specimen of the algarrobo, a beautiful wood of dark yellowish color, streaked with green veins. There were besides many specimens of prepared products, chemical and pharmaceutical and of manufactures, not to speak of a collection of paintings by Venezuelan artists and of many books and newspapers.

Only Two Seasons.

There are but two seasons in Venezuela, the wet and the dry. When the sun reaches the Tropic of Capricorn the rains begin, and they do not stop until the sun has entered the Tropic of Cancer. Thus it is rainy and hot from April to October, and the rest of the year it is dry and cooler. During the summer the prevailing winds are from the northeast. There are heavy rain storms, called "northers," usually in November and December.

One Thousand Rivers.

There are over 1000 rivers and brooks in Venezuela, of which over 400 are affluents of the Orinoco. The Orinoco is navigable 850 miles from the ocean, and taps the fertile regions in the interior of the Colombian republic. Some of the navigable tributaries of the Orinoco run south and join the Amazon or its tributaries, thus opening a double route to the sea. Besides this network of rivers, there are two large inland lakes, one of which, Lake Maracaibo, is as large as the Great Salt Lake in Utah, with an area of 2100 square miles. The other, Lake Valencia, is 1700 feet above the sea level.

Small Area Cultivated.

There are 13,600 square miles of agricultural land, of which only 300 square miles are under cultivation. The Orinoco sweeps over the arc of an immense circle, entering on the east coast and emerging from the country on the southwest border. There are over 70 islands on the coast, the largest Margarita, being 441 square miles in area. There are over 1800 miles of coast, scattered along which are 32 harbors and 50 bays. Like the great lakes of the United States, the two great inland lakes of Venezuela have their own ports. There are five gulfs on the ocean coast, the largest of which is the Gulf of Maracaibo, 1600 square miles in extent.

A fisherman's war is now threatened on lower Rogue River. R. D. Hume succeeded in securing legislation in 1899, which gave him control of fishing on the lower river and now rival fisheries seek to set aside his rights.

POSTOFFICE ROBBED OF $70

Thief Entered Quant's Store at Alba by Breaking the Window of a Rear Door.

MADE HIS ESCAPE WITH STAMP MONEY.

No Clue to the Thief—Mr. Quant Returned Unexpectedly to the Store to Accommodate a Customer, Thus Preventing the Theft of Anything Else.

Alba, Dec. 26.—The postoffice at this place was broken into last night and between $65 and $70 stolen from the money order and stamp drawers.

There is no clue to the thief. Postmaster Quant left the store building in which the postoffice is located, at 11 o'clock and went home. He only remained at home a few minutes and went to a dance which was in progress in the hall. While there he was asked to go to the store to get some candy for a customer. He left the dance hall and got back to the store just at 11:30. He carried a lantern and when he reached the store he passed back through the postoffice part into the store proper and got the candy. Then he turned to leave and in going out at the door Mr. Quant thought he heard something back in the room and went to investigate. He went into the back room and noticed that the wind was blowing into the room from some unknown reason. Upon investigating he found a window light broken. The fact that the store had been opened then dawned upon him and he started to look around. Just then a noise was heard in the front of the building and the form of a man was seen to run out at the door. The lights were all out except the lantern carried by Postmaster Quant, and he could get no description of the man.

Unbolts Door Through Window.

Entrance had been made to the building by breaking out a window glass in the back door. The robber then thrust his hand through the opening made, pulled the bolt from the door and entered the store. The drawer, where the money from stamps and money orders was kept, was then forced open and the money taken out.

The thief undoubtedly saw Mr. Quant blow out the lights and leave. He evidently thought the postmaster would not return during the night and proceeded to break into the store. He was surprised by the sudden appearance of Mr. Quant a few minutes later but not until after he had taken the money from the drawer. He is thought to have concealed himself behind the counter while Mr. Quant was in the front of the store and when he went back into the back room he made a rush for the front door, which had been left unlocked. The thief was evidently intending to rob the store also, had he not been molested.

Damage by Lightning.

The weather bureau of the United States issued a bulletin in 1900 from which one may learn that the number of lightning strokes in 1899 causing damage in the United States was 5527; value of property destroyed, $3,016,520; number of deaths, 563; persons injured, 820; number of live stock killed in fields, 4251; value, $129,155.

Nest of Kittens.

It is remarkable how harmonious the lawyers can be when they are not fighting over some client, or paid to abuse some one. The sessions of the Marion County Bar Association remind one of a nest of purring kittens.—Salem Journal.

Minnie Ensminger, a school teacher of Haines, Baker county, was shot in the back and fatally wounded by Plez Armstrong, on Christmas morning. Jealousy was the cause. Armstrong shot himself after committing the dastardly act, but only inflicted a slight flesh wound on his temple.

The Price of Pleasure.

It is hard for a lovely woman to forego the pleasures of the life which she was created to enjoy and adorn. She may have to be busy all day in office or in store, yet she cannot deny herself the social pleasures which are offered her. But the fatigue is often too great for her, and she suffers from headache and backache as a consequence of over-exertion. Women who are tired and worn out will find a perfect tonic and nervine in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It cures headache, backache and the other aches and pains to which women are subject. It establishes regularity, dries weakening drains, heals inflammation and ulceration, and cures female weakness. It makes weak women strong and sick women well.

"I am so pleased with your instructions, I hardly know what thanks to give you for your kind favors," writes Mrs Milo Bryant, of Lota, Thomas Co., Ga. "I suffered so much with great pains in my back and the lower part of my stomach and palpitation of the heart, that at times I could hardly lie down. Could hardly get up in the morning, but after using three bottles of 'Favorite Prescription' and two vials of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets, I am like a new woman."

Sick women, especially those suffering from diseases of long standing, are invited to consult Dr. Pierce, by letter, free. All correspondence is held as strictly private and sacredly confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.