

Inquiry Into Second-Class Mail Matter Is Proposed.

Washington, May 7.—Postmaster-General Cortelyou has recommended to congress the appointment of a commission to inquire into the subject of second-class mail matter...

In order that all interests shall be represented, he has recommended that the commission consist of seven persons and be made up as follows: One senator, selected by the president of the senate...

The postmaster-general in his recent annual report recommends to congress a thorough review of the whole subject of second-class mail matter and the enactment of a statute to take the place of those existing...

"The existing statutes regulating the second class of mail matter are out of date; they do not meet modern requirements of the publishing industry..."

"As an indication of what is in the air in administration, it may be stated that the question of what is a bona fide newspaper or periodical is one about which there may be and often is much difference of opinion..."

Washington, May 7.—Notwithstanding that this was the speaker's seventieth birthday, the house, after a splendid demonstration to Mr. Cannon as he ascended to the speaker's table, settled down to one of the biggest days in the history of the present session...

To authorize the Minnesota, Dakota & Pacific Railroad Company to construct a bridge across the Missouri river. Granting to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company the right of way through the Fort Keogh military reservation, Montana.

To punish the cutting, chipping or boxing of trees on the public domain. To amend an act concerning leases in the Yellowstone National Park.

To provide for the subdivision and sale of certain land in the state of Washington. To amend the act to provide a government for the territory of Hawaii.

Washington, May 5.—All of the minor amendments to the statehood bill are either disposed of or in shape to be made the foundation of argument at a moment's notice.

At today's session of the conferees on that measure the climax of the situation was reached for the first time. The question of the admission of Arizona and New Mexico as one state was discussed at length.

No proposition for a compromise was offered, and the meeting adjourned until Tuesday. In a general way it is known that the compromise will be the Foraker amendment, allowing the people of the two territories to vote upon the question of being joined in statehood.

Washington, May 5.—Inquiry into the conditions at St. Elizabeth's asylum for the insane was begun today by the special committee of the house of representatives appointed by Speaker Cannon.

Trenton, N. J., May 8.—Fifteen people were injured by a head-on collision of cars on the Trenton-New Brunswick Traction Company's lines at Plainsboro, twenty miles outside of this city, at midnight.

Washington, May 8.—A bulletin issued by the department of commerce and labor says that the trade of the United States with Brazil aggregates in round numbers \$110,000,000, a larger sum than any year with any country in South America.

Washington, May 8.—A sub-committee of the joint committees of all the commercial and industrial associations of Cuba has submitted to the full committee a report on the general basis for the negotiations for a new commercial treaty with the United States.

Washington, May 8.—The department of agriculture today announced that in the recent importations of corn, noodles, and similar products, chemical preservatives, such as borax, which are regarded as injurious to health, and that after June 1 the importation of macaroni colored with aniline yellow, or other color, and with fluoride, or other preservative, which is injurious to health, will be prohibited.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

Dowie is gradually dying of dropsy and cannot last long.

Recent earthquake shocks have caused a Cuban mine to cave in.

Mrs. Jefferson Davis is much improved though still quite ill.

Congress is receiving many protests against the prohibition of passes.

San Francisco saloons have been closed indefinitely by the authorities.

John F. Wallace has formed a \$12,000,000 electric company in New York.

The strike of funeral drivers in New York has caused the postponement of many funerals.

Count Lam-dorff, Russian minister of Foreign affairs, has resigned for a place in the council of the empire.

The British fleet is all ready for an attack on Turkey should that country continue her hostile movements.

Chicago printers have declared a boycott on Methodist rituals on account of labor troubles with the Methodist Book concern.

Taft refuses to confine purchases of canal supplies to the United States and has told congress if they want him to buy all at home to pass necessary laws.

The first steamer of the season has left Seattle for Nome.

The withdrawal of troops from San Francisco has begun.

The first step of the Russian lower house will be to demand amnesty.

The State department has forwarded \$200,000 to Japan for use by the starving people.

Senator Ankeny wants the government to use all home material for the Panama canal.

Great Britain will advocate disarmament at the coming sessions of The Hague conference.

The United States will not allow a revolution in Panama. Conditions there are now bordering a revolt.

Dowie and Voliva are said to have reached an agreement for a joint management of the affairs of Zion City.

Governor Pardee says Santa Rosa suffered more proportionately than San Francisco and that conditions there now are heartrending.

M. Gorky, the Russian author, declares the donna a farce and says the Russian people know they must have a revolution in order to be free.

Shonts reports progress on the Panama Canal.

Import statistics show that the Chinese boycott is waning.

Republican Senators have agreed to support a limited court review of rates.

Anthracite miners have formally accepted an agreement with the operators.

There is talk of Taft for President, with Roosevelt as his Secretary of State.

Roosevelt has asked Congress for another \$500,000 for relief work in California.

Elaborate measures have been taken to protect the Czar at the opening of parliament.

Measures have been taken to protect San Francisco property from foreclosure of mortgage.

San Francisco authorities are driving able-bodied men from the bread lines with the idea of compelling them to work for a living.

Turkey has seized more Egyptian territory and declares she will fight Great Britain. The latter country is sending warships and soldiers to fight the Sultan.

Voliva has organized a strike against Dowie in Zion.

The anthracite miners and operators have finally agreed.

Britain and Turkey each stand firm and prepare to fight.

Russian democrats propose to give all land to the peasants.

Free restaurants are proposed to feed the destitute of San Francisco.

The president will co-operate with the several states in Standard Oil prosecution.

Leading architects estimate that the rebuilding of San Francisco will take but one year.

Franz E. Creffield, chief of the Holy Rollers, has been shot and killed at Seattle by George Mitchell, brother of two of the women the self-styled "Joshua" led astray two years ago, when excitement over the new religion was high at Corvallis.

Heavy frosts in Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska have greatly damaged gardens and early fruit.

A Newport News, Va., man killed his wife because it was her wish. She had been released from an insane asylum but a short time and was again losing her mind.

Trepoff and the dowager empress now rule the czar.

Anthracite coal miners will avoid a strike by accepting the old wage scale.



—Chicago Tribune.

THE SOUTH POLAR TIMES.

The great depression felt by some polar explorers when shut in by ice and cold, writes Lieutenant Armitage in "Two Years in the Antarctic," was not felt by the men on board the Discovery, sent to examine the south polar lands. Every possible effort was made to keep the men cheerful and in good physical condition.

At a meeting held in the ward room it was decided to bring out a monthly paper, something like a London magazine. Each of us wrote on a piece of paper what we thought the best title. The South Polar Times was the one chosen. It was to be published on the first of each month; and every member of the ship's company was invited to contribute toward making it the most amusing, instructive, up-to-date journal, with the largest circulation within the antarctic circle.

On most days during the first month of the winter the clicking of the typewriter could be heard in Shackleton's cabin as he busily "set up" the paper; and frequently a shy and conscious-looking blue jacket would enter the editor's sanctum to ask his advice. A box was placed outside the office for the receipt of contributions, but would-be authors much preferred a personal audience; so our editor, in self-defense, removed his office fittings to a storeroom in the bowels of the ship.

Shackleton and Bernacchi, were very fond of poetry, and of course each had his favorite author. Many were the arguments raised as to the respective merits of Browning and Tennyson, so it was decided that Shackleton should read extracts from Browning, and Bernacchi from Tennyson, while the remainder of us listened and carefully judged between the two, voting after each pair of extracts had been read. Their declaimed in their best style, endeavoring to point out the beauty of the passages chosen by them.

Ferrars caused much amusement, after an extract from "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" had been read, by saying, "Well, I'm not much on poetry, but I go on rats." Browning won by a single vote.

CODFISH IS NOW A LUXURY.

Price in France Higher than Ever Before Known.

The fact that the American codfishers have been cut off from securing bait in Newfoundland as well as the French causes satisfaction at St. Pierre, not because the former have lost their baiting privileges, but from the belief that American vessel owners will unite with the St. Pierre fleet in securing and preserving bait to their mutual benefit, says the New York Herald. Schools of herring visit St. Pierre and should be secured when opportunity offers. From one school last fall it is estimated that several thousand barrels could have been secured. Caplin, a much esteemed bait for use in July, seldom falls to come to these islands to spawn, and it is thought that with proper regulations the supply will be equal to the demand.

Among all the bank fishermen squid are considered good bait at any season and may be caught in fair quantities about these shores; in the past this is

the one bait supply that has not been lost through lack of taking or preserving. Notwithstanding French fishermen are seriously handicapped in their efforts to secure bait, a careful inquiry establishes the fact that there is an abundance of salt squid and herring for the first trip.

Vigorous preparations are being made for the coming season, and the indications are that the tonnage sailing from St. Pierre to engage in codfishing will be more than for a number of years, among the vessels being many new ones. With a record of three bad years, this renewed enterprise is commendable.

The price of codfish in France has advanced to a figure never before reached, making it a luxury instead of an article of common consumption. The French firms are offering St. Pierre fishermen \$4.90 per 100 pounds for green fish. In drying the shrinkage is 30 per cent, and with the added cost of 1 1/2 cents per pound as the cost of drying and transportation, with 20 per cent profit to the retailer, we have the total cost to the French consumer of 12 cents per pound. In fact, the retail price at St. Pierre of dry codfish is 10 cents per pound. France would not, however, be a good market for American dried codfish, as the duty is prohibitive, the market being held for French fishermen. On the other hand, St. Pierre cannot enter the United States markets, where a discriminating duty is levied on bounty-fed industrial articles.

The non-competitive French fishermen of St. Pierre therefore argue that the New England fishermen should unite with them in making this place the baiting headquarters for both countries. St. Pierre, although receiving a bounty only on codfish, is starting a movement to establish other fisheries and erect establishments for smoking, pickling and otherwise preserving fish.

Believed by Japs.

The Japanese believe in more mythical creatures than any other people on the globe, civilized or savage. Among these mythical animals are some without any remarkable peculiarities of conformation, but gifted with supernatural attributes, such as a tiger which is said to live until it has become a thousand years old, and then turns as white as a polar bear. The Japanese also believe in a multitude of animals distinguished mainly by their monstrous size or by the multiplication of their members. Among these are serpents eight hundred feet long and large enough to swallow an elephant, foxes with eight legs, monkeys with four ears, and fishes with ten heads attached to one body. Japs also believe in the existence of a crane which, after it has lived for six hundred years, has no need of any sustenance except water.

Perverse Nature.

"Strange thing about Mrs. Dingle. She is the woman who never cared to drink any water." "Yes." "She called in a doctor to reduce her extreme stoutness. He told her on no account to drink water." "Yes." "And now she's thirsty all the time." —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Cause of Suspicion.

"Is there any question about the social position of the Dollartons?" "There was none until recently," answered Miss Cayenne. "It has been discovered that the society paper Town Whoppers printed some very complimentary paragraphs about them." —Washington Star.

When a widower marries again, the neighbor women recall with many sighs that his poor dead wife just worshipped him.

A horse laugh may be the kind let out by the equine who is drawing a disabled automobile back to town.