

TEN MILLION SUFFER

Chinese Refugees Swarming Into Cities In Search of Food.

NEARLY FOUR MILLION STARVING

All Sufferers May Die Unless Charity Comes to Aid—Hundreds Perish Daily.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 10.—The steamer Shinano Maru, which arrived today from the Orient, brought further advice regarding the appalling famine in Central China. The extent of the famine area is bounded on the south by a line from the sea through Hunan and along the Hwai river in North Anhui, on the west by a line from Ochou to Kweichow, north from the eastern corner of Honan to the sea which bounds the eastern side.

The worst conditions are expected to set in after Chinese New Year in mid-February. The population affected is set at 10,000,000, of which Viceroy Tuan Fang estimates that 4,000,000 are in actual want, mostly starving. The famine area is about 40,000 square miles, embracing between 20 and 30 large walled cities, besides the scattered country population. The figures given from nine large cities show 800,000 starving refugees have already collected, with no account of those who have migrated south or congregated in walled cities outside the famine area.

Mr. Bostwick, sent from Shanghai to investigate, says all these refugees may perish from starvation unless fed by government or public charity. He estimates the daily expenditure to feed the 4,000,000 now starving at \$20,000, while the period of relief must be extended over some months.

With tens of thousands of starving huddled in the walled cities it is feared epidemics will add to the horrors of the famine.

The North China Daily News, of Shanghai, publishes many telegrams from missionaries in the famine areas. A typical one from Heuchouf says: "Half people actually without provisions daily and die. Many leave country. Numberless brigandages and murders. No local relief hoped for."

THIRTY-FOUR BURNED.

Explosion Scatters Molten Iron With Fearful Results.

Pittsburg, Jan. 10.—Three workmen were killed, seven fatally injured and 24 are missing as the result of an explosion tonight at the Eliza furnaces of the Jones & Laughlin Steel works. Gas, accumulating at the base of the furnaces, became ignited. In the resulting explosion tons of molten metal were showered around the furnace for a radius of 40 feet, overwhelming the workmen in a fiery flood.

While the mill officials are inclined to believe all of the missing men were not cremated in the molten metal, nothing definite is known as to their whereabouts. Only one man, George Knox, has appeared since the explosion. He says everything happened so quickly that he doubts whether the men escaped.

The scenes about the entrance to the mill were pathetic when the families of the victims learned of the disaster. Women, men and children gathered before the gate and made frantic efforts to gain admittance. Several of the frenzied women rushed upon the officers and tried to fight their way into the mill. Children ran through the streets crying that "Father is dead." Later it became necessary to call additional police, forcibly to escort the women and children to their homes.

The officials at the mills refused to allow anyone to enter the yard where the furnace is located. Information was refused to newspaper men, the officials saying that later they might issue a statement. A heavy guard of foreign workmen was placed at the yard entrance and even the police were powerless to get past.

Uncle Sam Does Not Need Money.

Washington, Jan. 10.—The secretary of the treasury will immediately notify the depository banks, with which the temporary deposits of about \$12,000,000 were recently placed to be returned January 20 and February 1 that the dates for the return of the deposits have been extended so as to require the funds to be repaid to the treasury, one half on February 1 and one half on February 15. It is stated in explanation of this change in date that there is no particular need for the money at this time.

Relieve Freezing Settlers

Washington, Jan. 10.—At the suggestion of Senator Hansbrough the senate today agreed to a joint resolution granting to homesteaders on the public domain three months' leave of absence in sections where unusual climatic conditions result in personal hardships. The leave is to be granted upon application of the homesteader to the land agent in his district and is not to be deducted from the preliminary time required by law to establish title.

Another Candidate for Bullets.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 10.—General Dratschvsky, ex-Russian inspector general of railroads in Finland, has been appointed prefect of St. Petersburg in place of the late Von der Launitz, who was recently assassinated.

MEET AT ALBANY.

Producers and Shippers Unite in Demanding Legislation.

Albany, Or., Jan. 11.—If any particular point touching on the derelictions or inequities of the railroads was overlooked at the car shortage meeting in Eugene last month, it was supplied at the Shippers' and Producers' convention held in this city yesterday. The meeting, like its predecessor at Eugene, was held for the purpose of impressing on the members of the legislature the necessity for railroad legislation.

The people are so terribly in earnest and so unanimous in their demands for remedial railroad legislation that practically every other matter to come before the legislature has been lost sight of. The attendance yesterday included a large number of people who were at the Eugene meeting, and if there has been any change in their feeling towards the railroads it has not been in favor of the corporations. Both in the sentiments openly expressed and in private conversation there are plenty of indications that the people are "nursing their wrath to keep it warm" until they can get action at Salem.

At this meeting, as at Eugene, there were none of the "cinch-bill" type of politicians, and but little unreasonable abuse of the railroads. The attendance was made up of people who have been so seriously hurt in a financial way by the car shortage that they are becoming desperate and are prepared to go to most any length to improve conditions. The details of the form to be taken by the proposed legislation have not yet been worked out. As a matter of fact, they are no farther along than when they were at the Eugene meeting, and the Albany convention might not inappropriately be termed a ratification meeting inspired by the Eugene affair.

MOVES TO SEATTLE.

Interstate Commerce Commission to Meet in Sound City.

Chicago, Jan. 11.—The investigation by the Interstate Commerce commission into the traffic alliances and other business deals of the railroads controlled by E. H. Harriman, was completed today, so far as Chicago is concerned, and the commission adjourned to meet in Seattle January 21, when the case will be resumed. James H. Hiland, third vice president of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad; Julius Kruttschnitt, director in charge of maintenance and operation; E. A. McCormick, assistant traffic director of the Harriman lines, and J. A. Munroe, freight traffic manager of the Union Pacific, testified today.

Testimony showing that the consolidation of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific had eliminated competition to a certain extent was given by Mr. Hiland and Mr. Kruttschnitt, who admitted that the purchase of rolling stock for both systems was practically under his control. Mr. McCormick was questioned regarding the advertising department of the system, but declared each road had its own bureau of publicity.

After the commission adjourned this afternoon it was said that after the commissioners had concluded their investigation in the West the hearing would be resumed in New York. At that time, Mr. Harriman, William Rockefeller, Standard Oil officials and others, including H. H. Rogers, H. C. Frick and James Stillman, would be called before the commission.

ANNUL TIMBER AND STONE ACT

Senate Committee Proposes to Sell Timber and Keep Land.

Washington, Jan. 10.—The senate public lands committee today agreed to report favorably the bill to repeal the timber and stone act and substitute therefor a law directing that the government retain title to its remaining timber lands, selling only the timber, at not less than appraised value. As this bill virtually creates forest reserves of all government timber land, the land can never pass to private ownership, and hence can never be taxed.

To compensate for this loss of taxes, Senator Fulton secured the adoption of an amendment to the bill stipulating that 25 per cent of the money derived from timber sales shall be paid to the counties in which the timber is cut.

Heaviest Rain in Years.

Los Angeles, Jan. 11.—In amount of precipitation, the storm that has drenched Southern California during the past four days is the heaviest in 18 years. The total precipitation is nearly four inches, of which 1.4 has fallen during the past 24 hours. The storm has been severe in its effects north and east of Los Angeles. Landslides south of Santa Barbara had, at last accounts, tied up four or five passenger trains bound for this city. Four or five lives are known to have been lost as an indirect result.

Commission Men in a Rage.

Pittsburg, Jan. 11.—The fifteenth annual convention of the National League of Commission Merchants convened here today. President F. E. Wagner, of Chicago, presided, scored the railroads and denounced the express companies, asserting their agents acted as commission men to take away trade from the legitimate trade in secret. In a discussion that ensued, government control of the railroads was raised as the solution of the situation.

Car Shortage Closes Flour Mills.

Minneapolis, Jan. 11.—Because they could not get cars in which to ship their products, the leading flour mills of the city have been forced to close down temporarily. Three hundred men are out of work.

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Friday, Jan. 11.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The senate today without division passed the McCumber service pension bill. The bill was so amended as to make it applicable to the survivors of the Mexican as well as the Civil war and to prohibit the payment of fees to pension attorneys.

Considerable time was also given to the Smoot case, several senators speaking in favor of the Utah man retaining his seat.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The house today adjourned till Monday after breaking all records so far as pension legislation is concerned. Six hundred and twenty-eight private pension bills were passed in 1 hour and 35 minutes.

Thursday, January 10.

Washington, Jan. 10.—By a vote of 70 to 1 the senate today passed a bill providing that railway employees engaged in handling trains shall not work more than 16 consecutive hours which period is to be followed by ten hours off duty. The one negative vote was cast by Senator Pettus.

This result was reached after an entire day spent in considering the subject. The parliamentary situation was confused during the entire time, caused by the 40 pending amendments and the three substitutes for the original bill, all of which had to be disposed of.

The bill making appropriations for the legislative, executive and judicial expenses of the government, was reported to the senate today. It carries \$30,855,834, a net increase of \$225,450 over the amount as passed by the house.

All propositions for raising the salaries of members of congress and members of the cabinet, including the provisions inserted by the house increasing the pay of cabinet members, the vice president and speaker of the house to \$12,000 a year, were rejected. It is expected an amendment will be offered on the floor of the senate to restore these items.

Washington, Jan. 10.—Late this afternoon, Mr. Gaines, of Tennessee, and Mr. Mahon, of Pennsylvania, were only prevented from meeting in a personal encounter by the intervention of members on the floor of the house. Mr. Gaines was making a speech on his bill to "dock" members' pay for absence from the house and was being twitted by both sides of the chamber to his evident embarrassment. During his speech he charged Mr. Mahon with being absent from the house 95 per cent of the time. Mahon immediately jumped to his feet, declaring the statement a lie. The two senators started for each other, but were pulled apart before any damage was done.

The army canteen was again today under discussion in the house. While the army appropriation bill was up Representative Morrell, of Pennsylvania, intimated that he would like to attach a paragraph doing away with the anti-canteen law, in line with a bill he had introduced in the first session of the 59th congress.

Mr. Hull, of Iowa, in charge of the bill, stated that the paragraph would be new legislation and that a point of order would therefore lie against it. He stated, however, that the testimony of the army officers was almost uniform to the effect that the canteen was a good temperance measure and that its abolition had resulted in desertions and a greater degree of drunkenness.

While the army appropriation bill was under consideration in the house today an amendment was adopted appropriating \$250,000 for the construction and maintenance of military and post roads and trails in Alaska, to be expended under the direction of the board of road commissioners.

The army appropriation bill, with sundry amendments, was passed by the house, and the fortifications appropriation bill was taken up, four hours being given to general debate.

Wednesday, Jan. 9.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The senate today debated La Follette's bill limiting working time of railroad employees.

A tentative understanding was reached that a vote on the general service pension bill will be taken next Friday. The Brownsville matter was postponed because Tillman, who is indisposed, desired to address the senate on the subject.

Washington, Jan. 9.—By a vote of 27 to 50 the house in committee of the whole today, having the army appro-

Fence Order Bears Fruit.

Washington, Jan. 9.—President Roosevelt's order compelling removal of all fences from public land has already borne fruit. Senator Burkett, of Nebraska, has introduced a bill authorizing the leasing of all public grazing land under the direction of the secretary of agriculture, holders of leases to have the privilege of fencing land so obtained. The bill places no restriction on the amount of land that may be leased by any individual or company, but gives the preference right to homesteaders and settlers.

More Money for Lighthouse Tender.

Washington, Jan. 8.—The house today favorably reported the bill increasing the cost of a light house tender for the Thirteenth district to \$200,000. The sum of \$140,000 was appropriated for this vessel at the last session, but the amount proved inadequate owing to the increased cost of materials and the department was unable to award the contract. If the pending bill is passed the ship will be built this summer. The plans are now ready.

provision bill under consideration, refused to strike out an item of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of paying the expenses of regiments, battalions, squadrons and batteries of the organized militia to participate in such brigade or division encampment as may be established for the field instruction of the troops of the regular army.

During the discussion of the army appropriation bill today, Representative Kahn, of California, declared the absence of the canteen was responsible for the unusual number of desertions during the past year.

Tuesday, January 8.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Practically all of today was given over by the senate leaders of both parties to an effort to bring harmony between opposing views concerning the proposed investigation of the affray at Brownsville, Tex. What amounts to an agreement between Senators Foraker and Lodge has been attained by their friends, but inasmuch as it was decided not to present the compromise until all of the senators desiring to do so had made speeches on the subject of the dismissal of the negro troops, it is not absolutely certain that the peace plans will not be upset.

The compromise is not greatly different from the resolution presented by Lodge and a similar resolution which Foraker had intended to offer as a substitute for his original resolution. It provides for the investigation by the senate committee on military affairs of the affray at Brownsville, and to this are to be added provisions that a subcommittee be sent to Brownsville, and that the expenses of the investigation be paid out of the contingent fund of the senate. Such a resolution would ignore the constitutional and legal questions that have been debated for several days.

Washington, Jan. 8.—The house immediately after the approval of the journal today began the consideration of the military appropriation bill. Chairman Hull began debate by a comprehensive statement of the contents of the army budget, which carries \$2,500,000 more than last year.

Other speeches were made by Slayden, of Texas, on his bill to discontinue the enlistment of negroes in the army of the United States; by Zenor, of Indiana, against the ship subsidy bill and by Gaines, of Tennessee, who spoke in commemoration of the ninety-second anniversary of the battle of New Orleans.

Monday, January 7.

Washington, Jan. 7.—President Roosevelt's dismissal of the negro troops was again the subject of contention in the senate today, and indications point to a protracted debate before any of the pending resolutions on the subject are voted on. Lodge developed a new phase of the question by presenting a resolution providing for an investigation of the "affray" at Brownsville and, by silence, conceding the authority of the president to take the action he did. Foraker accepted Culberson's amendment authorizing the committee to visit Brownsville if it desired. His resolution was supported by Lodge in an address and opposed by Foraker, who followed, and spoke until 5:30 o'clock, giving notice then that he would conclude tomorrow.

Washington, Jan. 7.—The house today passed a bill providing for judicial review of the orders excluding persons from the use of the United States mail facilities after a debate lasting most of the day.

In presenting reasons why the bill should pass, Crumpacker, of Indiana, its author, said the power given to the postmaster general under the statutes to issue fraud orders was not at all an administrative discretion. It rather partook of the nature of a police power for the regulation of the morals of the people of the country. Crumpacker contended that the whole fraud order law was an unusual proceeding in that, if it had been confined to institutions and practices that were essentially fraudulent or were inherently bad and criminal, such as green goods concerns and lotteries and the like, as originally contemplated by congress, there would be no complaint against it.

Increase Ministers Salaries

Washington, Jan. 10.—The house committee on foreign affairs completed discussion on the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill and will report a measure carrying \$3,138,477 for the foreign service.

Let Them Go Away to Get Warm.

Washington, Jan. 9.—In view of the fact that many homestead settlers are said to be freezing in North Dakota and the rules of the department of the Interior provide in many cases that residence of the settlers shall be continuous, Senator Hansbrough has prepared a resolution permitting the settlers leave of absence for three months to extend over the winter period, which absence shall not interfere with their entry rights. All homesteaders affected by these conditions are to make application by affidavit.

All Hit at La Follette.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Criticism was made in the senate yesterday of the La Follette bill limiting the hours of continuous employment of railway train crews, and several letters from railway employes in opposition to the measure were put in the record. The discussion was participated in by Gallinger, who first presented a published criticism that he was endeavoring to weaken the measure by amendment. This he denied.

OPPOSE CHINESE LABOR.

Congressional Committee Has Formed Decided Opinions on Canal.

New York, Jan. 9.—The congressional committee of 12, headed by Congressman McKinlay, of California, which has been inspecting the work on the isthmian canal, arrived here today on the steamer Panama from Colon.

The members of the committee said their observations were that work on the canal is progressing favorably, and that the employes were well satisfied.

In speaking of his visit to the isthmian Senator Flint said:

"I found everything in excellent shape and work progressing very favorably on economic lines. The men were well housed and fed, but the chief difficulty of the future, to my mind, is the building of new houses. I am emphatically of the opinion that there is absolutely no necessity for the employment of Chinese labor in completing the canal."

Mr. McKinlay said:

"We investigated thoroughly the work done and the conditions prevailing on the isthmus. I am satisfied that there is not the slightest necessity for the employment of Chinese on the work. The canal zone is getting very healthy, and it seems to me to present a fine field for American workmen without employing Chinese. The work is progressing satisfactorily and I feel assured that the canal will be completed within a reasonable length of time."

Congressman F. S. Dickson, of Illinois, said he was opposed to the employment of Chinese labor on the canal. He said the men now there were doing good work, were contented and resent the criticisms regarding conditions in the canal zone.

HURRY REPORT ON TARIFF.

Experts Reminded German Treaty Will Need Legislation.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The State department has intimated to the experts who were sent to Germany to confer with German experts and to compare notes relative to the complaints against the American tariff schedule that it would like to have a report before the middle of February. This request was made necessary by the fact that if any legislation is necessary to give effect to the recommendations of the tariff experts, at least two weeks' time will be required to perfect it.

While it is hoped by the department that as the result of their conferences with the Germans, the American experts will be able to recommend some changes in administration that could be effected by a mere amendment of the rules by the secretary of the treasury, it is regarded as probable that the changes recommended will be such as will require legislation. In this latter case if congressional action upon the propositions cannot be expected before the adjournment of the present session, then it will be necessary to ask the German government to again extend the provisions of the present German law admitting America to the privileges of the minimum tariff in Germany.

PLOT TO MURDER.

All White Officers Doomed to Death by Negro Soldiers.

El Reno, Okla., Jan. 9.—Belief of the army officers at Fort Reno that a conspiracy to murder every white officer at Fort Reno, beginning with Captain Edgar Macklin, against whom every negro soldier at the post entertains a personal grudge as a result of the affair at Brownsville, Tex., and the discharge of the negro soldiers that followed, and then proceeding down the list of officers, became known today as a result of the preliminary hearing in the case of Edward L. Knowles, corporal of company A, Twenty-fifth infantry, who was found guilty of assault with intent to kill Captain Macklin on the night of December 21. Knowles was bound over to await the action of the Canadian county grand jury at the spring term of court.

Every effort has been made by the officers at the post to keep the alleged conspiracy a secret, but it is learned that an investigation is being made at several army posts, and within a short time several arrests of members of the troop recently discharged in disgrace are expected to follow.

Buy Flour for Chinese.

San Francisco, Jan. 9.—Major Charles R. Krauthoff, of the Subsistence department, U. S. A., has been authorized by the American National Red Cross society to purchase 600,000 pounds of flour to be used in China. E. H. Harriman has offered the use of his line for transportation of this commodity free of charge, and the flour will be sent on the steamer Coptic. It will be sent to the United States consul at Shanghai, who will then distribute it among the famine-stricken residents of China. The Coptic sails January 15.

Rushing Coal to Northwest.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The Interstate Commerce commission today received a dispatch from James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern, reciting the efforts being made by the company toward supplying coal to Northwest points. The dispatch says: "Yesterday 130 cars of coal went from Larimore, N. D., Today we are moving 135 cars throughout the same territory. With three feet of loose, unpacked snow, it is very difficult."

Big Stove Works Burns.

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 9.—Fire destroyed the major portion of the Michigan Stove works on Jefferson avenue tonight, causing a loss estimated at \$7750,000. The entire plant covered an area of 10 or 12 acres. The office building, the foundries and part of the stove building were saved.

PLAN TOO SWEEPING

Western Men Do Not Like President's Order.

BLOCKS THE WAY TO PATENTS

Hansbrough Has Bill to Sell Timber and Keep Land—Several Bills to Lease Coal Land.

Washington, Jan. 12.—Western men in congress do not take kindly to President Roosevelt's order holding up every public land entry, pending investigation of each individual case by special agent. The president, upon advice of Secretary Hitchcock, made this order in the expectation that congress, in order to relieve the congestion, would hastily appropriate money to permit the employment of a vast number of special agents, but it seems that no such liberality will be shown if the Western men adhere to their present opinion. They are now, in most instances, inclined to believe that the president's order was too sweeping and that it will work more harm than good. Mr. Hitchcock, however, is firmly convinced that this is the only way to head off fraudulent entries. But as one experienced Westerner said: "Who is to guarantee the honesty of several hundred special agents?"

Senator Hansbrough, chairman of the committee on public lands, will renew his fight to secure the repeal of the timber and stone act and the substitution of a law authorizing the sale of government timber at not less than its appraised value. Mr. Hansbrough has drawn a new bill which shall reserve to itself title to all public timber land and sell only the timber. The bill stipulates that persons residing in the immediate vicinity of any government timber land may take, without cost, not to exceed 100,000 feet, B. M., in any one year, for their own use on farm and domestic purposes. Timber land shall remain open to entry under the mining and coal land laws, and timbered land chiefly valuable for stone shall be subject to entry under the placer mining laws. Persons developing claims on forest land may cut therefrom not to exceed 100,000 feet, B. M., in any one year, provided they need such timber in developing and operating their claims.

Coupled with and very similar to the legislation providing for the disposal of public timber are the various bills now pending proposing to regulate the use of coal, gas and oil on government land. There are many bills for this purpose, all drawn along one general line. In the main they propose that the government shall retain title to coal, oil and gas bearing land and shall permit the development of their resources on a royalty basis. This land is now tied up under a sweeping withdrawal ordered by the president, and until some sort of legislation is enacted it will be impossible for private capital to get hold of and develop the coal, gas and oil resources on any part of the public domain.

ALASKA LEADS THEM ALL.

Mint Director Estimates Total Gold Production for 1906.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The director of the mint today made a preliminary estimate of the production of gold and silver in the United States during the calendar year 1906.

Of the more important increases in the production of gold as compared with 1905 Alaska stands first with a gain of \$6,316,000; Nevada comes next with \$45,000,000, and Arizona third, with \$523,000. Colorado shows a loss in gold production of \$2,900,000 and California a loss of \$564,000.

In silver production Montana shows a loss of 2,000,000 ounces, Colorado a loss of 65,000 ounces and Utah a gain of 2,217,000 ounces. The figures for all the states show a net gain in gold production of \$7,920,700 and a net gain in silver production of \$2,100,000 ounces.

Small Sum for Forts.

Washington, Jan. 12.—In presenting the fortifications bill to the house in committee of the whole today, Representative Smith, of Iowa, stated that only once in 13 years had so small an amount been carried in a fortifications bill. The bill carries \$132,000 to make 14-inch guns. He said the members of the appropriation committee found themselves between two conflicting elements, the one "thinking that we were progressing too rapidly in the defense of our possessions, and the other that we were proceeding too slowly."

Don't Learn of Castro's Condition.

Caracas, Jan. 12.—Nothing definite regarding the illness of President Castro has developed here. The usual rumors that he is in a desperate condition are current, but no one in an official capacity will confirm them. The country is quiet. Friends of Vice President Gomez state that, in case he is called to accept the presidency by command of Castro on account of the latter's death, he will fulfill all foreign obligations to the letter.

Tennessee Backs Up Roosevelt.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 12.—The Nashville representatives adopted a joint resolution endorsing the action of President Roosevelt in dismissing the battalion of negro soldiers in connection with the rioting at Brownsville.