

# NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

## DECLINE TO MEET PINCHOT.

Fulton and Heyburn Unwilling to Support Charges.

Washington, March 13.—In a report made to the house, Representative Littlefield, of Maine, chairman of the committee on expenditures in the department of Agriculture, defends the Forestry bureau of that department. The recent attacks made upon Gifford Pinchot, chief forester, by Senators Fulton, of Oregon, and Heyburn, of Idaho, on the floor of the senate are held to be disproved by Mr. Littlefield after an examination of Mr. Pinchot's record. Senator Fulton charged that the Forestry bureau was the "worst organized department of the government," and blamed it for the land frauds in the Far West. Upon examination, Mr. Littlefield found only one fraud in the entire organization of the bureau, which was only minor in character, and immediately remedied on his part, and immediately remedied on his part, and immediately remedied on his part. He showed that the land frauds of which Senator Fulton complained were all perpetrated before the bureau of Forestry was established and when that branch of the government was under the control of the Interior department. Senator Fulton declined an invitation to appear before Mr. Littlefield's committee and cross examine Mr. Pinchot, and Mr. Heyburn, who charged that at a meeting of the advocates of forestry at Boise, Idaho, last summer he had been howled down and openly insulted by employees of Mr. Pinchot's bureau. Mr. Littlefield himself was present at this meeting, and stated that there were not more than twenty foresters in an audience of 1,500 at that meeting, and Senator Heyburn had never mentioned the matter to him.

## LAND ORDER IS RECALLED.

President Finds Holding Up of Titles Hardship on Settlers.

Washington, March 14.—President Roosevelt today sent the following letter to the secretary of the interior cancelling his order of February 12, relating to the issuance of evidence of title under the public land laws:

"My order of February 12, 1907, relating to the issue of evidence of title under the public land laws is hereby cancelled for the reason that congress did not appropriate an amount sufficient to enable the commissioner of the general land office properly to carry out the purposes of that order, which were to have such examinations made of all applications for patent as would facilitate the issuance of title to bona fide settlers and homesteaders; would reduce illegal entries to a minimum and bring the work of the land office up to date. With the amount actually appropriated it is not possible to carry out the order or to provide with certainty for the detection of fraud without causing unreasonable hardship to bona fide settlers and homesteaders.

"In order to accomplish as much as can be accomplished with our present means in preventing illegal acquisition of public lands, the commissioner of the general land office will detail all his available field and office force in such manner, by concentration or otherwise, as will as effectively as possible with the actual appropriation restrict fraud, enforce the existing laws and promote the bona fide settlement of public lands by homesteaders."

## Northwest Postal Affairs.

Washington, March 9.—Washington rural routes ordered established May 16. Hatline, Douglas county, route 1, population 340, families 85; Walla Walla, Walla county, route 6, population not given, families 120.

Maurice W. Staples has been appointed regular, John S. Gates substitute, rural carrier, route 1, at Endicott, Wash.

Oregon postmasters appointed: Corbett, Sewell P. Glenson, vice W. H. Lord, removed; Leland, Percy G. Kline, vice H. C. Ball, resigned; Macpherson, Ernest A. Tabor, vice F. C. Shaw, resigned; Wren, George W. Dorey, vice Richard Wilde, resigned.

## Ammunition Not Guarded.

Washington, March 14.—That ammunition used in infantry rifles is not guarded as closely as has been claimed by discharged negro soldiers, and that it is possible for soldiers to obtain extra ammunition was brought out in the Brownsville inquiry today. This testimony was given by Captain D. W. Kilburn, of the Twenty-sixth infantry, which regiment preceded the negro soldiers at Fort Brown. The same witness declared that citizens of Brownsville made threats that they would run negro troops out of town.

## Will Not Draw Color Line.

Washington, March 13.—The post-office department does not intend to draw the color line in the matter of white and negro railway mail clerks. Although an intimation has been given that white clerks in the Middle West were preparing a request to the department to effect a change so as to put the negro on runs which will not bring them in proximity to the whites, it was stated today that no such discrimination could or would be made.

## Forest Rangers for Idaho.

Washington, March 9.—The following forest rangers have been appointed for Idaho: W. A. Wickensham, J. W. Allen, H. A. Beigh, C. T. Gray, J. L. Wood, C. K. Hoyt, of Boise; G. W. Walburn, of Badger; C. H. Huff, Priest River; H. O. Rose, Weston; J. D. McCall, Lardo; G. F. Johnson, Meacham; H. H. Kerby, C. E. Herlich, Alphi; W. M. Carbell, Weiser.

## FOREIGN WARSHIPS COMING.

Europe and South America Will be at Jamestown Exposition.

Washington, March 12.—In addition to the great ironclads of the Atlantic fleet, commanded by Admiral Evans, the naval display at the Jamestown exposition will include some of the finest vessels in the foreign navies. These are mostly of the cruiser class, but as the armored vessels of this type are equal to battleships in size and scarcely less formidable in appearance, they will make an attractive showing.

The Navy department has been advised up to date of the coming of the following foreign ships:

Great Britain—The armored cruisers Good Hope, flagship Argyle, Mapstead and Roxburgh, under command of Rear Admiral Neville.

France—Armored cruisers Kleber and Victor Hugo and another cruiser to take the place of the Jean Bart, recently wrecked off the African coast, commanded by Rear Admiral Thierry.

Japan—The cruisers Tsuguna and Chitose, under command of Vice Admiral Ijima.

Portugal—One cruiser, probably the Don Carlos.

Austria—The armored cruiser Charles VII and another cruiser.

Italy—One armored cruiser and one protected cruiser.

Sweden—One warship, not yet named.

Brazil—One to three warships, not yet named.

Argentina—One to three warships, not yet named.

Chile—The cruiser Senteno.

Belgium—Will send a military delegation and China a military and naval delegation.

## GRAND JURY AT BOISE.

Much Speculation as to the Cause of Calling of Special Session.

Boise, Idaho, March 12.—Rumors are rife tonight that there will be some startling sensations as the result of the sitting of the United States grand jury beginning yesterday. What these matters are is not known, but there are many surmises. Hints are given that some people high up in the scale will be involved. There are cases pending in which persons are under indictment for alleged timber land fraud cases in Washington county, but it seems probable these will not be brought to trial.

Colonel A. R. Greene, special agent of the Interior department, has been here for some weeks, and it is apparent that the sensations promised are partially the result of his work. It is known that he has been investigating some complaints made by contractors on reclamation works, but the understanding has been that it was simply an Interior department matter, the contractors complaining they have not been treated fairly.

One of the hints given out is in relation to the section line surveys for the government. Another is that some land matters in the vicinity of Shoshone Falls are to be investigated. There is a crooked section line there which throws the falls into another section from that in which it should be embraced. There are other rumors involving names of prominent persons, but nothing definite has yet leaked out.

## HEAVY SNOW IN EAST.

Nine Inches at Atlantic City—Drifting and Delaying Trains.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 12.—A heavy snowstorm, which seems to have centered along the New Jersey coast and Eastern Pennsylvania, visited this section today. Snow fell continuously for 15 hours, to a depth of seven inches. Reports from Atlantic City show that the fall of snow there was nine inches, with as great a fall at other coast points.

Throughout Pennsylvania the storm was almost as severe. At Pottsville a fall of eight inches is reported, and at Lockhaven there was a fall of ten inches. At Wilkesbarre, Scranton, Allentown, Harrisburg and other points in the eastern end of the state, a similar fall is reported, and in many sections the public roads are closed to traffic.

The storm was accompanied by a high wind, which caused drifting, and traffic on the railways, particularly in the mountainous sections, was retarded.

## Standard Oil Not Scared.

Chicago, March 12.—J. A. Moffett, president of the Standard Oil company, of Indiana, now on trial in the Federal court here on a charge of having received rebates, denied that representatives of the oil company had made a suggestion to the Federal authorities that the company might be willing to plead guilty to the indictments against it. "Any such statement is without any truth or basis of fact whatever," said Mr. Moffett. "The Standard Oil company is not frightened by any prospect of conviction."

## Raises Wages in Navy Yard.

Washington, March 12.—The secretary of the navy has approved the recommendation of the naval wage board in the case of the Mare Island navy yard at San Francisco and the Puget Sound naval station. The result is a considerable increase of the rate of pay of the mechanics and laborers; based on the fact that the vast amount of reconstruction work at San Francisco incident to the rebuilding of that city has caused a considerable increase of wages.

## Send British Ship South.

Victoria, B. C., March 12.—H. M. S. Shearwater is loading stores and provisions at Esquimalt for a trip to South America to protect British interests endangered by the war in progress between Nicaragua and Honduras.

# LAND FRAUD APPEAL

Adverse Decision in Cases of Williamson, et al.

## SUPREME COURT THE ONLY HOPE

Williamson's Appeal Dismissed and Biggs and Gesner's Writ of Error Overruled.

Portland, March 12.—Thrice tried, finally convicted, and facing sentences of both fine and imprisonment for complicity in the Oregon land frauds, J. N. Williamson, ex-congressman, Dr. Van Gesner and Marion Biggs have met with an adverse ruling from the Circuit court of Appeals, sitting at San Francisco. By a decision handed down yesterday the appellate court confirmed the conviction of Van Gesner and Biggs, overruling the long writ of error that they had taken from the findings of the lower tribunal. In the case of Williamson, the appeal was dismissed for the reason that a similar appeal has been taken to the Supreme court of the United States.

Although through a technicality the appeal of Williamson is thus dismissed, the decision is as clearly a victory for the government in his case as in the cases of Van Gesner and Biggs. The ex-congressman's appeal was taken upon exactly the same grounds as those of his co-conspirators. In their cases the decision was absolutely adverse, which is equivalent to an adverse decision in the Williamson appeal, so far as the merits of the case are concerned.

There was imposed against Williamson a sentence of 10 months' imprisonment and a fine of \$500 and a similar sentence was pronounced against Biggs. Because of Van Gesner's age and impaired health the court made the imprisonment in his case only five months, but ruled that he should pay a fine of \$1,000.

If the law is permitted to take its course, the mandate from the court of Appeals will issue in about 15 days. Application will then be made by the Federal authorities to have the mandate entered in the court here. Following that an order for the imprisonment of Van Gesner and Biggs will be issued by the United States marshal. The hearing of Williamson in the Supreme court will probably occur within the next three months.

## HUMILIATION TO JAPANESE.

Limitation on Destination of Immigrants Resented.

Tokio, March 12.—A question has arisen regarding the last clause of article second of the treaty between Japan and the United States, which has been cited by the government at Washington as authority for the statement that the Japanese government hitherto has been issuing passports limiting the destination of emigrants. The passports simply certify to the nationality of their holders and the placing of a restriction on them by an administrative measure, is declared here to be unauthorized by law and an infringement of the personal right to travel guaranteed by the constitution.

In view, however, of the attitude of the American government, in not calling for the enforcement of the clause mentioned, it is thought that the limitation so placed will be left unquestioned. Even then Japanese jurists believe that the action of the American government in restricting the destination of holders of passports will not be upheld before a court. Administrative action and litigation since the San Francisco school trouble have brought the clause into prominence, and Japan has begun to smart under the alleged humiliation. It would be no surprise should pressure be brought on the government to have it abstain from issuing passports limiting the destination of their bearers.

## Will Soon Lift Embargo.

Tacoma, March 12.—Indications point to an early release from the embargo on the shipments of lumber over the lines of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern, which was instituted six weeks ago. Railroad officials report good progress in clearing up the freight that accumulated in the yards and sidetracks along the lines during the floods and snow blockades. Tracks on the Pacific division are rapidly being put in good condition, and traffic is nearly up to the volume attained before the washout.

## Play No Favorites.

Washington, March 12.—No easy help to Wall street by rushing to the relief of the money market; no favoritism to any clique of banks; no more "leaks" of important financial information in advance of action. Such are the promises of the Cortelyou administration of the Treasury department. Secretary Cortelyou intends to put a stop to treasury leaks that give certain financial interests inside information on intended moves by the government.

## Drastic Anti-Trust Law.

Sacramento, March 12.—The assembly this morning passed Cartwright's anti-trust law, which is almost identical with the Ohio anti-trust law. It is drastic in the penalties that it provides for violations, and is sweeping in its definitions of what constitutes a trust. The bill now awaits the governor's approval, and goes into effect 60 days after it is signed.

## THIRD TERM TALK.

Movement Refuses to Down and the President May Accept.

Washington, March 11.—Politicians in Washington are trying to figure out the meaning of the sudden outburst of the Roosevelt third term boom here. They regard as especially significant the typewritten memorandum given out by Representative Martin, of South Dakota, after a conference with the president, vigorously defending the third term idea.

They have reached the conclusion that the president realizes that the third term movement must be allowed to run right on in order to head off the progress of the boom of reactionary candidates. The prevailing opinion here remains that President Roosevelt personally will go as far as he can to prevent his own re-nomination, but will stop at nothing to assure the nomination of a successor in accord with his policies.

Rather than see them succumb, many believe that the president himself, if properly approached, would take a re-nomination, providing no other candidate satisfactory to himself and friends is strong enough to unite the next Republican national convention.

## DISARMING IS EXCLUDED.

Russia Will Not Allow Discussion at The Hague Conference.

St. Petersburg, March 11.—Professor de Martens, Russian imperial councillor of state, who has been making a tour of the capitals of Europe for the purpose of determining the program to be discussed at the next peace conference at The Hague, is expected back in St. Petersburg this week.

The introduction of any measures to the limitation of armaments is regarded here as definitely excluded, because of the attitude of several of the powers.

United States Ambassador Riddle has inquired at the Foreign office here regarding the mode of admission to the next conference of certain South American and other states which did not participate in the first conference. He was informed that practically all the signatories had agreed to the method proposed by Russia, namely, notification of acceptance of the regulations, the signing of the protocol of the first conference and the number of delegates.

## ALL PRISONERS GOING NAKED.

Refuse to Wear Clothes Because Infected With Leprosy.

St. Petersburg, March 11.—Four hundred political prisoners at Smolensk have gone on a very original strike. A week ago they refused to put on any clothes and since then they have walked around stark naked.

The reason is that the prison authorities took away their own clothes and gave them clothes made from the poorest grade of burlap unfit for making bags. After they had worn these clothes a few days nearly all were suffering with a rash covering their whole bodies, but still the prisoners did not mutter. When a number of them had been infected with leprosy, one morning all of the clothes, blankets and sheets were thrown out of the prisoners' cells and they declared unanimously that they would go naked rather than run the risk of contracting diseases from wearing the prison garb.

## PLAN TO FORTIFY PHILIPPINES.

President Considers It and Will Push Construction Rapidly.

Washington, March 11.—Fortifications of the Philippine islands formed the subject of a lengthy conference at the White House tonight, participated in by the president, Major General Franklin Bell, chief of staff; Brigadier General Murray, chief of coast artillery; Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Taft, and Captain Mason Sargent, of the naval general board. There is available at the present time for this purpose \$1,435,000 and tentative plans already have been prepared for carrying out the project. These were carefully gone over today by Secretary Taft and Generals Bell and Murray and it was the secretary's intention to be at the White House tonight and join in the conference, but he was unavoidably kept away.

## Will Bridge Gap of Time.

Washington, March 11.—As a result of consultations between Secretary Root and Director North, head of the American Tariff Expert commission, which visited Germany relative to the making of some tariff arrangements before the expiration of the German order suspending for a year the application of the German maximum tariff rates to American exports a new arrangement will have been made which will bridge over the period of time between that date and the reassembling of the next congress.

## Archie Now Recovering.

Washington, March 11.—Marked improvement was shown yesterday in the condition of Archie Roosevelt, the president's son, who is ill with diphtheria. Surgeon General Rixey last evening expressed the opinion that Archie was practically out of danger so far as the diphtheria is concerned, but that the disease has left him in a somewhat weakened condition. He asserted, however, that if no complications set in the boy would soon be well.

## Those 600 Not Avenged.

Danville, Ill., March 11.—In the trial here of Will J. Davis, charged with manslaughter, owing to the Iroquois theater fire at Chicago, in which nearly 600 lives were lost in 1903, Judge Kimbrough today held that part of the Chicago ordinance on which Davis was indicted is void.

# 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.

Tillman says third term will be the issue in 1908.

An Austrian officer predicts an American-Japanese war and American defeat.

The Interstate Commerce commission is after the coal roads of Illinois and Indiana.

London woman suffragists declare themselves ready to wear short hair to win their cause.

The G. A. R. national encampment will be held at Saratoga, N. Y., the week of September 9.

In a clash between American troops and Cuban rural guards at Santa Clara, Cuba, five were seriously injured.

Oklahoma's constitution has been completed. The initiative and referendum and direct primary laws of Oregon have been copied.

Roosevelt has demanded Harriman's deposition and his backers will take away control from him so he will lose all his railroads.

The railroad presidents have concluded they have no mandate to present to the president and have decided they want to obey the law.

So great has been the Japanese immigration through El Paso, Tex., that Mexicans have been displaced by the brown men after assisting them to enter this country.

Dowie's funeral sermon, written by himself, cursed his enemies.

Harriman wants railroads excepted from Sherman anti-trust law.

Finland has just held its first election under universal suffrage.

The Japanese agreement has been carried out in San Francisco and Washington.

Schmitz and Ruef, the San Francisco grafters, have lost every point so far in the courts.

The total deaths due to the disaster on the French warship Jena has now reached 103.

Speaker Cannon and other members of the congressional party at Panama express surprise at the amount of work that has been done on the canal.

Ex-Senator Burton, of Kansas, will probably stay in jail an extra month because of his inability to pay his fine of \$2,500.

Homer Davenport will send one of his Arabian horses across the continent to prove the strong enduring powers of that breed. A cousin of the cartoonist will ride the animal.

The improvement in Archie Roosevelt's condition continues.

Paper manufacturers throughout the country will advance the price of their products soon.

Roosevelt has told Governor Gillette that legislation by California will prevent Japanese exclusion.

The strike of Portland millmen may close down some business houses that have need for many boxes.

Stuyvesant Fish, who was thrown out of the Illinois Central presidency by Harriman, has gone to Gould.

Fifteen passengers on a Los Angeles trolley car were badly injured by a Southern Pacific engine striking the car.

A Chicago grand jury is after the so-called church and school furniture trust. The indictments charge the trust with controlling 80 per cent of the business of the country.

One of the Japanese warships coming to Jamestown will have great attractions for naval men. It has a speed better than any of ours and was finished in less than two years after the keel was laid, which is better time than is made in American yards. The vessel was built by the Japanese.

The people of Oklahoma are to vote on prohibition.

M. Petkoff, the Bulgarian premier, has been assassinated.

Nicaragua is accused of spying on the American minister.

Premier Stolypin promises not to dissolve the Russian duma.

Nicaragua is said to be preparing a force with which to attack Honduras by sea.

The Kansas house has passed the senate bill providing for 2-cent passenger fare.

Russia and Germany will both oppose disarmament at The Hague peace conference.

Knoxville, Tenn., by a majority of nearly 2,000, has voted to have no saloons in the city.

Bristol has received a recess appointment from the president as district attorney for Oregon.

It is charged that Hermann's attorneys have attempted to have witnesses for the government tell a story that will help the defendant.