

**NEWS OF THE WEEK**  
Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.  
OPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS  
Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.  
Smallpox has broken out near Pe...  
An assay office has been established...  
James Hamilton Lewis is a candidate...  
Goldfield mineowners say efforts at...  
Legal holidays are over in California...  
The battleship fleet is well off the...  
Japanese are anxious for Admiral...  
Representative Scott, of Kansas...  
The first train has passed under the...  
The total loss to vessel property on...  
The Illinois Supreme court has de...  
The Searchlight Bank & Trust com...  
Friction between Cortelyou and...  
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An Atlantic liner arrived at New...  
George Rex Clarke, blind since birth...  
New York man has had his name...  
The Supreme court of Illinois holds...  
More than 100 all steel passenger...  
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Cortelyou denies that he is a candi...  
Wireless messages from the fleet...  
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Gould has enjoined the Amer...  
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An attempt was made to hold up a...  
Montana forest ranger has been...  
French troops have repulsed an at...  
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The Interstate Commerce...  
Secretary Taft is having a rough pas...  
The men propose to fight river and...  
The revenue is derived from the...

**ROOSEVELT AS A SAINT.**  
Russian Peasants Worship Picture of President  
San Francisco, Dec. 17.—Americans think a great deal of President Theodore Roosevelt, but it has been reserved for the Russian peasants settled in Eastern Siberia to reverence the well known picture, which shows the gleam of teeth, as that of a saint. That they do so is asserted to be a fact by Alexander G. Denbigh, who arrived on the steamer Siberia, and is now staying at the St. Francis hotel.  
"The people there are of the lowest class of Russian peasants, and know nothing about the outside world," said Denbigh. "In every house, no matter how poor it may be, there is sure to be an ikon of some kind, and if it is possible for the owner of the place, he also has a picture of a saint."  
"The picture of our president has gone over the world, and can be found in many queer places. I remember asking one of my men from the Ural mountain district, who had never heard of Roosevelt, what picture he had in his tent. He at once told me that it was one of St. Peter—without the beard and with spears on. Curious to see such a picture, I went to the hut and found that it was a chromo of the president of the United States. The man assured me that he had the best of good fortune since he had obtained the picture of the 'holy saint.'"

**MEXICO'S ANNUAL EXPENSE**  
What It Costs to Conduct Affairs of Southern Republic.  
Mexico City, Dec. 17.—In congress yesterday the report of the minister of finance was read and the budget for the coming year was made public. The estimated receipts for the coming year total \$103,385,000, while the expenditures will reach \$103,203,842, leaving an estimated surplus of \$181,158. The total increase of this year's budget is \$6,595,275, the largest item in the increase being for \$1,367,589 for maintenance of the department of war.  
The revenues for the fiscal year just ended total \$114,062,000, the expenditures \$100,208,132, leaving a surplus of \$14,077,989. The surplus of the previous year, \$29,049,081, and the falling off of the past year, was due to large sums spent in public works—\$17,208,608. Minister Limantour maintained that the recent crisis in the United States would make itself felt in the coming year in Mexico, in that investments would be curtailed. Interest rates are higher, but this would only affect mining industries. He believed that in the end it would work for good rather than evil.

**RELIEF FOR VICTIMS.**  
Committee Making Contributions to Be Sent to Monongah.  
Fairmont, W. Va., Dec. 17.—The permanent relief committee, headed by Governor Dawson, to provide for the widows and orphans in distress through the recent explosion at the mines of the Fairmont Coal company at Monongah, today prepared an appeal for funds that is being sent to chambers of commerce and kindred organizations all over the country. Contributions of clothing, toys for the orphans at Christmas time and similar donations are to be sent to W. H. Moore, mayor of Monongah, and chairman of the committee, looking after the temporary wants of the victims.  
The appeal says that fully 250 widows and 1,600 children are left without any means of support. As near as can be determined, \$50,000 from all sources has been subscribed. The committee feels that a total of \$200,000 will be required to carry on the relief work. All checks should be made payable to the Monongah Mines Relief committee, J. E. Sands, treasurer, Fairmont, W. Va.

**Rich Oil Strike**  
Santa Barbara, Cal., Dec. 17.—A telephone message from Santa Maria, 50 miles north of here, brought the information this afternoon that the Union Oil company had struck a wonderful gusher which threw a vast stream of petroleum over the derrick and continued to flow at the rate of 7,000 barrels a day. At the present price of oil this means \$3,500 a day from this one well. This is the second largest gusher ever struck in California. The largest was a 10,000-barrel well, but it has since declined considerably.

**Still in Race for Senate**  
St. Paul, Dec. 17.—A special from Des Moines, Iowa, says that Governor Cummins, of Iowa, referring to his suggested candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination, said: "I have no thought of surrendering my candidacy for United States senator. The suggestion about the presidency is new here, although I have heard about it in other states. I do not intend to do anything that will take me out of the race for senator."

**Fiat Money Saves Life**  
San Rafael, Cal., Dec. 17.—Stewart Dunbar, a prominent insurance broker of Honolulu, while on his way to meet a party of friends last night, fell through a cattle guard on the narrow gauge tracks of the Northwestern Pacific railroad and caught his foot so that he would have been crushed to death beneath an approaching handcar had he not ignited a clearing house certificate and used it for a danger signal.

**Forty Lives Lost.**  
London, Dec. 17.—The gale along the British coast on Friday and Saturday, which was described by Captain Jamieson, of the steamship St. Louis, as the worst in his experience, subsided yesterday. It was responsible for the loss of some 40 lives.

**DOINGS OF THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS**  
Thursday, December 19  
Washington, Dec. 19.—The spirit of rivalry that for five years has alternately smoldered and blazed between John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, leader of the minority, and David A. De Armond, of Missouri, culminated in a fist fight today on the floor of the house of representatives. The blows of De Armond caused blood to flow down the face of Williams and only the forcible intervention of friends cut the combat short. De Armond bare away a scuffed nose.  
Speaker Cannon today announced the committee assignments for the Sixtieth congress. Many changes from the last congress are made, but in the main the members who had heretofore held important offices were retained in them.  
In the assignments Northwest members have been placed as follows:  
Oregon—Ellis, on naval affairs, irrigation and lands; Hawley on agriculture and claims.  
Washington—Jones, on rivers and harbors; Cushman, on interstate commerce and private land claims; Humphrey, on elections, education, merchant marine and fisheries.  
Idaho—French, on immigration, public lands and mines.  
During its two hours and twenty minutes' session the house got down to actual work and transacted considerable business. All that had remained to make this possible was the announcement of the committee appointment which was made today by the speaker. The several chairmen became alert with regard to their rights, and forced the reference to committees of several propositions on which immediate action was desired. This was not accomplished, however, without more or less debate, which at times grew warm.  
The first money appropriated by the present congress was awarded today. The amount was \$50,000, and it is to be used in supply of the seed deficiency caused by the destruction by fire of the government seed warehouse in this city.  
The house will meet again on Saturday, on which day adjournment for Christmas holidays will be taken.

**Wednesday, December 18.**  
Washington, Dec. 18.—In the senate today resolutions were introduced by Tillman, asking the Interstate Commerce commission to report whether any corporation engaged in interstate commerce is the owner of the stock of any other corporation carrying passengers and freight, and calling on the Interstate Commerce commission to define the Federal law and the laws of the states in respect to control of the liquor traffic under the interstate commerce law.  
These resolutions provoked considerable debate and were finally referred to committee, though one of them was transformed into a bill.  
Culberson spoke on his resolution calling on the committee on finance to investigate and report upon the cause of the present financial stringency and to recommend measures for the prevention of a recurrence. The resolution was referred to the committee on finance.  
The senate, on motion of Allison, agreed to adjourn until Saturday and after routine business on Saturday to adjourn until January 6.

**Tuesday, December 17.**  
Washington, Dec. 17.—Aside from the appointment of committees, which took place at the beginning of today's session of the senate, the need of improvement of the inland waterways was the chief subject in that body today. Newlands, of Nevada, spoke for two hours on his bill providing an inland waterway commission and for the development of inland waterways of the country.  
The senate adopted the resolution of Dick, extending the time allowed for militia of the several states, territories and the District of Columbia to conform to the provisions of the act of June 21, 1913, which was necessary in order that the militia of several states might take advantage of appropriations that have been made.  
In the senate committee assignments Fenton gets his old chairmanship of claims, is transferred from military affairs to judiciary and goes off the irrigation and public health committees.  
Bourne is chairman of the fisheries committee and is a member of the coast defense, postoffices and post roads, public health, railroads and expenditures of the department of justice.  
Senator Ankeny is chairman of irrigation and Piles of the coast and insular affairs.

**Hawley Presents Memorials.**  
Washington, Dec. 19.—Representative Hawley has presented to the house the following memorials: of the Oregon State Legislature: House joint memorial No. 54, favoring legislation for the relief of settlers on unsurveyed lands; senate joint resolution favoring the pensioning of veterans of the Banock war; senate concurrent resolution No. 20, favoring the promotion of Colonel James Jackson to the grade of brigadier general on the retired list, and senate joint resolution favoring an increase in pensions of Indian war veterans.

**Ambassador to Investigate**  
Washington, Dec. 19.—Prompt steps will be taken by the Italian ambassador, Mayor des Planches, to ascertain the exact facts concerning the shooting and killing of three Italians who had been imported to work in the camps of the Fremont Lumber company. The probability is that the case will reach the State department in the event that the investigation to be conducted by the Italian officials bears out the report regarding the tragedy.

**BARE SUMMER FALLOW.**  
Agricultural College Makes Interesting Experiments.  
By A. L. Knibely, Oregon Agricultural College  
In taking a walk over the farm at the Oregon Agricultural college, looking for interesting and instructive object lessons, there may be seen north of the old barn and just to the south of the path leading to the orchard, an enclosure containing some very interesting experiments. This enclosure contains an oblong box probably ten feet long, three feet wide and three feet deep. In this box are installed four galvanized iron tanks or pots, each holding approximately 500 pounds of soil. Each pot is provided with a drainage spout so that all water leaching through the soil in these pots may be collected and measured and analyzed.  
Many farmers practice bare summer fallow and the question often arises as to the good or bad effects arising from this practice.  
Should the practice of bare summer fallow be discouraged? It was for the purpose of answering this question that these experiments in the galvanized iron pots were started.  
In 1900 all pots were filled with the same soil thoroughly mixed so that each pot was identical with the others. Since that time part of the pots have been bare summer fallowed, whilst others have been growing crops, usually of grain. The leachings from each pot during the rainy season have been carefully saved and analyzed with the result that invariably the leaching from the bare summer fallow pots carried from two to over six times as much nitrogen as did the leachings from the pots that had not been bare summer fallowed. The first few weeks of leachings in the fall carry most of the soluble nitrate nitrogen. The amount of nitrogen leached out of the soil in one month in the fall was equivalent to approximately 6 pounds per acre in soil not summer fallowed and over 40 pounds per acre where the soil had been thoroughly summer fallowed.  
From the plant food point of view bare summer fallow cannot be recommended.  
Summer fallow aerates the soil, conserves moisture and oxidizes the organic matter of the soil, converting much of the organic nitrogen first into ammonia compounds and then into nitrate nitrogen; that is into a form which easily leaches from the soil and is lost to the farmer, whilst organic nitrogen does not readily leach out of the soil. At times bare summer fallow may be desirable but usually it is to be condemned.

**BROOME GRASS.**  
Director of Experiment Station Says It Has Been Overdone.  
By H. T. French, Director Experiment Station, Moscow, Idaho.  
In response to numerous inquiries regarding our experiences with Bromus inermis, I take occasion to present the following brief account of the results thus far attained on the experiment station farm.  
Broome grass has been growing on the farm in small plots, and in pasture fields, for six or seven years. Where it has been allowed to stand unmolested it has produced a dense sod, and comparatively little growth after the second or third year.  
Where it has been re-seeded, or the ground disturbed by harrowing, it has made a much better growth. Around the borders of fields where the land is cultivated the growth is rank and coarse.  
My opinion of broome grass is, that it has been somewhat overestimated for general use; but that it has a place as a grass to be used in out-of-the-way places, where it can not, on account of the nature of the soil, form a dense sod. Such a place would be found on stony land, or rocky hill sides.  
It will produce one or two good crops on farm lands, then it should be either plowed up and a crop of grain taken off, or else given a good discing to prevent its forming such a dense sod. This grass, like most of the others, will do best on rich moist land; but at the same time will withstand severe drought, if the sod does not become too dense.  
All kinds of stock seem to relish either the grass or hay made from it if it is cut early.  
Publications on Farming.  
The following publications of interest to farmers and others have been issued by the Agricultural department of the Federal government and will be furnished free, so long as they are available, except where otherwise noted, upon application to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.:  
Farmers' Bulletin No. 46.—Irrigation in Humid Climates. By F. H. King, professor of agricultural physics, college of agriculture, University of Wisconsin, and physicist of the Wisconsin agricultural experiment station. Pp. 27, figs. 4. Treats of the necessity, advantages, and methods of supplemental irrigation in humid regions.  
Circular No. 65.—Irrigation From Upper Snake River, Idaho. By H. G. Raschbacher. Pp. 16, figs. 1.  
Circular No. 67.—Investigations of Irrigation Practice in Oregon. By A. P. Stover, Irrigation Engineer, irrigation investigations, office of experiment stations. Pp. 30, figs. 4.  
Creamed Oysters.  
Cook together a tablespoonful of butter and one of flour, and when they bubble pour upon them a large cup of cream or very rich milk, to which a pinch of baking soda has been added, and a gill of oyster liquid. Stir in a smooth sauce, lay in the oysters, season with salt and white pepper, and cook until the edges just begin to curl, then pour in gradually, stirring all the time, two well-beaten eggs. Cook for only half a minute and serve.

**BIG FLEET IS OFF**  
Sixteen Battleships Start Out for Pacific Ocean.  
ARE REVIEWED BY PRESIDENT  
Sight is One That Brings Forth Admiration of Every Spectator, Many Being Foreigners.  
Old Point Comfort, Va., Dec. 17.—Sixteen hard hitting, steel belted American battleships, guns bristling and burly of girth, but sparkling white in their immaculate dressings of peace, started away yesterday under the dazzling sun of a cloudless winter sky, on their famous twin sea expedition of 14,000 miles along foreign shores and in changing climes to the west coast of the United States. President Roosevelt, on the bridge of his cruiser-yacht, the Mayflower, personally led the magnificent four-mile line of fighting vessels during first stage of the voyage. From the anchorage grounds in Hampton Roads to the Horeshoe bend of Chesapeake bay his eagle-crested flag of blue pointed the way to the fleet's new home at the Golden Gate. Then, when the wide reaches of the sea were visible through the wide-swung capes of Virginia, he turned aside and, coming to anchor again, reviewed the passing pageant.  
The blue of the sky, the stretch of green sea miles, the glistening of spotless hulls, the curl of foam-crested bow waves, the cheering of sailors aloft and friends ashore, the breeze-blown strains of "And Lang Eyne," floating across the waters, the blare of trumpets, the ruffle of drums, the flash of signals and the boom of saluting cannon marked the departure of the fleet, presenting to the people who watched it a spectacle they will never forget and to the world at large the reality of the trimmest, most homogeneous, most thoroughly equipped, most mobile and self-reliant assemblage of first class battleships ever gathered in one command.  
There will not be a ship in the line old enough to have smelled powder or to have taken the shot of Manila or Santiago—stories written scarcely 10 years ago in the history of nations. All were modern of design, examples of the aggressive seagoing navy which the president has declared to be so essential to the peace of the country.  
Attaches of foreign legations and embassies at Washington and many correspondents who have seen war service on foreign journals freely declared that yesterday's naval display was the most impressive they had ever seen. The facility with which the big vessels were handled, the manner in which they were maneuvered into single column formation, and the perfect alignment which was maintained to the southward turn from the cape called out the warmest admiration. The thrill of the beautiful marine picture was felt until the last wild blown spiral of smoke was lost on the horizon.  
The first part of the fleet's journey will bring it to Trinidad on Christmas eve, and there, amid the heat of the tropics, the Christmas celebrations will be held. Hundreds of good-bye telegrams were flashed to the ships by wireless telegraph as they left the roadstead and had turned down the southern coast.  
These vessels made up the fleet which sailed yesterday under command of Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans:  
Connecticut, 16,000 tons; Louisiana, 16,000 tons; Kansas, 16,000 tons; Vermont, 16,000 tons; Georgia, 14,948 tons; Virginia, 14,948 tons; New Jersey, 14,948 tons; Rhode Island, 14,948 tons; Minnesota, 16,000 tons; Ohio, 12,500 tons; Maine, 11,525 tons; Missouri, 12,500 tons; Alabama, 11,525 tons; Illinois, 11,525 tons; Kearsarge, 11,525 tons; Kentucky, 11,525 tons; Culgoa, supply ship, 5,725 tons; Glacier, supply ship, 7,000 tons; Panther, repair ship, 3,380 tons; Yankton, tender, 975 tons.

**All Quiet in Japan.**  
Tokio, Dec. 17.—The announcement of the sailing of the Atlantic fleet of the United States navy has not been received by the newspapers of Tokio or by the government officials. All public men who have been interviewed by the Associated Press representative accept the sailing of the fleet as a foregone conclusion and it is not likely that the actual start will cause the slightest ripple of excitement. Everyone accepts the assurances of friendship offered by America conceding the right of that nation to send its warships to the Pacific.

**Short of Cash in Alaska**  
Seattle, Dec. 17.—A special from Fairbanks, Alaska, says: Today the Washington-Alaska and First National bank of Fairbanks will go on a clearing house basis. Only \$50 a day withdrawal will be allowed each depositor. A committee of depositors representing the Fairbanks Banking company, which recently closed its doors, reported today that the assets exceeded the liabilities by \$354,815 and the bank will probably open on a clearing house basis soon.

**Gold Movement \$105,350,000.**  
New York, Dec. 17.—The Guarantee Trust company today announced the engagement of \$500,000 in gold for import. Lazari Freres have engaged an additional \$1,600,000 in gold for import. This makes the total movement \$105,350,000.