

OF THE WEEK

Used Form for Our
Easy Readers.

S OF TWO CONTINENTS

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

MANY FAMILIES SEPARATED.

Property Loss at Fernie Not Less Than \$2,500,000.

Spokane, Wash., Aug. 4.—A special from Fernie, B. C., to the Spokesman-Review, says:

It is feared that the loss of life will reach beyond 100, but there are many living people without homes or shelter or food to be looked after that up to the present no effort has been made to ascertain the number of those who lost their lives.

In the district swept by the flames there is estimated to have been some 7,000 people. Two thousand of these people have been sent west to Cranbrook and Elko, some 1,500 fled from the flames to the northward and reached Hosmer and other places along the line.

The Great Northern train took all the people it could carry up the line, fighting its way through sheets of flames before reaching a place of safety.

Scores of families were separated, husbands not knowing where their wives and children were, and in some instances it was ascertained this morning that members of the same family were in Cranbrook, Fernie and Hosmer.

The lowest estimates of the amount of the loss is placed at \$2,500,000, and as nearly as can be ascertained the insurance carried will amount to something like \$1,500,000. Of the 7,000 people who had been housed yesterday, 3,000 have been taken away. It is estimated by the committee appointed that there will be 3,500 who will have to be furnished with temporary shelter and food.

DEATH LIST GROWS.

Seventy-Four Said to Have Perished in Destruction of Fernie.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Aug. 4.—As a result of bush fires the town of Fernie, B. C., is wiped off the map as a child cleans a slate. Michel, 14 miles distant, is in flames and the fate of Hosmer and Sparwood, intervening towns, is in doubt, they being cut off from communication.

Over 100 lives are known to have been lost, 74 of them in Fernie. A territory of 100 square miles is a seething mass of flames. Through it are scattered hundreds of lumbermen and prospectors, so that the actual loss of life will not be known for days.

The properties of the Canadian Pacific and Great Northern railways are destroyed, the bridges and rolling stock burned so that it is impossible to enter or leave the burning area.

There is no possibility of estimating the loss of life and property which will result, for the flames are driven by a half gale, making it impossible to put up a fight against their advance.

The conflagration is the greatest which has ever reached Canada and ranks only with the San Francisco disaster.

For the past month forest fires have been raging in the mountains of Elk river valley country, but they have not been considered serious. Saturday morning a heavy wind sprang up from the west and early in the afternoon the flames appeared over the crest of the mountains to the west of Fernie. This ran down the mountain side and before a fire guard could be organized had entered the town.

FLEET PASSES TUTUILIA.

Natives Gaze on Great Battleships at Close Range.

Suvia, Fiji Islands, Aug. 4.—The United States Atlantic fleet at 8 p. m. Saturday was in latitude 15-43 south, longitude 17-24 west, being distant from Auckland 1,500 miles. At 6:30 o'clock in the morning the fleet changed its formation from line of squadron to single column, and at 7 o'clock passed the end of eastern end of Tutuila island, Samoa, and steamed close in along the coast, giving the people of the island an excellent view of the ships.

The station ship Annapolis passed close to the fleet off Pago Pago. The usual honors were rendered.

At 9 o'clock the fleet resumed its course for Auckland in line of squadron formation. It had reduced its speed to nine knots. The weather is fine, though hot. The collier Ajax arrived at Suva today.

Dutch Mail is Barred Out.

Willemstad, Aug. 4.—The Dutch cruiser Gelderland arrived here today from La Guira, Venezuela. Her commander declares that he sent a boat ashore at La Guira with an officer and was refused communication with the shore. The authorities there, he says, declined to accept the letter bags and an official communication to the German minister who is in charge of Dutch interests in Caracas. He reports also that Venezuela is preparing her forces for a defense of the country. It is believed Holland will take some action.

Forced to Run Gauntlet.

Deadwood, S. D., Aug. 4.—Accused of wife beating on the public streets, George Corey, of Terry, a small mining camp near here, almost lost his life today at the hands of a mob. Corey had been arrested and placed in jail. A mob quickly formed and broke into the jail. The man was taken to the highway, where he was forced to run a gauntlet of men with blacksnake whips. Many men were in favor of lynching him, but the women prevented this.

Die of Heat in Mine.

Virginia City, Nev., Aug. 4.—Half a mile beneath the surface of the earth and 8,000 feet from the mouth of the Suro tunnel, C. Pucillini was discovered dead this afternoon with his four mules, killed by the heat in the tunnel's depths.

NEWS ITEMS FROM WASHINGTON, D. C.

STATE GUARANTY ILLEGAL.

National Banks Cannot Accept Terms of Oklahoma Law.

Washington, Aug. 4.—In a formal opinion rendered by Attorney General Bonaparte at the request of Secretary of the Treasury Cortelyou, it is held to be illegal for any national bank to enter into a contract or other arrangement with state officials for the purpose of creating a guaranty fund out of the bank's deposits or capital stock to be used in paying the depositors of any bank included within the terms of a state statute, any deficiency there may be in the amount to be received by them from assets of such bank in the event of its failure.

Mr. Cortelyou requested the attorney general's opinion "as to the legal right of national banks in the state of Oklahoma to contribute toward the guaranty fund or to avail themselves of the other privileges of the state banking act."

DIRT FLIES ON ISTHMUS.

Total of Earth Removed Increases Month by Month.

Washington, Aug. 8.—Month by month the total excavation on the Isthmian canal is increasing. A cablegram received yesterday from Colonel Goethals, chief engineer on the Isthmus, shows that the excavation for July was considerably greater than for June, although the latter was almost a record in the canal work. The total excavation for July was 3,168,640 cubic yards, against 3,056,976 cubic yards for June, and 1,087,498 cubic yards for July a year ago. In the corresponding months this show an increase of 2,091,932 cubic yards.

The average daily output for July, 1908, was 121,494 cubic yards, against 41,442 cubic yards in July, 1907. In July of this year, 1,847,173 cubic yards of material were removed by steam shovels.

Roosevelt Praises Dead.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Aug. 7.—President Roosevelt today sent a telegram to the late Senator Allison's secretary, as follows:

"Am inexpressibly shocked and concerned at the news. The whole country loses a man grown gray in the most honorable type of public service, a man, who, because of his experience and trained ability, was one of the most effective aids in making good government that we have in our country. (Signed) 'THEODORE ROOSEVELT.'"

Perkins on Naval Committee.

Washington, Aug. 7.—As a result of the death of Senator Allison, of Iowa, Senator Perkins, of California, will be advanced to the chairmanship of the committee on naval affairs. Next to Senator Hale, the California senator is the ranking member of that committee and as Hale is the ranking member of the committee on appropriations he will be called upon to take Allison's place as chairman, leaving the chair of the naval affairs committee to be filled by Perkins.

Packers Kick on Overcharge.

Washington, Aug. 7.—The Carstens Packing company, of Tacoma, has filed a complaint with the Interstate Commerce commission against the Oregon Short Line, the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company and the Northern Pacific, in which it asks reparation of \$252 on 11 cars of stock shipped to Tacoma from Nampa, Idaho, and Ontario, Or. It is alleged it was overcharged and that the cars were routed by a more expensive route than necessary.

Young Commandant at Mare Island.

Washington, Aug. 8.—Captain Lucien Young is to be the new commandant at Mare Island navy yard, San Francisco, according to advices given out by the Navy department. He will succeed Captain J. B. Milton, who has been transferred to command of the recruiting ship Independence, now at Mare Island. Commodore J. M. Robinson, who has been in command of the Independence, is relieved and has returned to his home.

Release 43 Captives.

Washington, Aug. 6.—Estrada Cabrera, president of Guatemala, has released 43 political prisoners, according to a dispatch received at the State department from the American Minister Heimke today. Of this number 32 were Guatemalans, six Hondurans and five Nicaraguans. It is believed that these men are among those who were alleged to have been implicated in the several attempts on the life of Cabrera during the last two years.

Give Consuls Refuge.

Washington, Aug. 4.—Word of the arrival of the gunboat Marietatta at Ceiba, Honduras, Captain Maxwell commanding, has been received at the Navy department. Captain Maxwell will give refuge aboard his vessel to the foreign consuls at Ceiba, whose exequaturs have been cancelled by President Davila, of Honduras, if conditions make it expedient for them to retire from the city.

Says Kermit Did Not Talk.

Oyster Bay, Aug. 7.—The president, through Acting Secretary Foster, yesterday denounced as being entirely fictitious an alleged interview with his son, Kermit, regarding the African hunt of next year which is being given publicity. Mr. Foster said the story was an absolute fabrication and the president was desirous of refuting it.

TALK WITH SCOTT FIRST.

Roosevelt Not Ready to Act on West Point Hazers.

Oyster Bay, Aug. 6.—Secretary of War Wright has sent word to President Roosevelt that he desires the president to see Colonel Scott and talk with him regarding the findings and recommendations made by a board of inquiry and endorsed by Colonel Scott in the case of the suspended cadets. Colonel Scott undoubtedly will be received at Oyster Bay by the president on his way to West Point from Washington.

The president's assistant secretary, Rudolph Foster, this afternoon made a statement saying the president had not received the final decision of the War department. The statement adds: "The president, of course, will come to no final decision until he hears from General Wright."

Debt is \$20,677,414 More.

Washington, Aug. 5.—The monthly statement of the public debt shows that at the close of business July 31, 1908, the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$958,809,823, which is an increase for the month of \$20,677,414. The cash in the treasury is \$1,791,038,029, against which there are demand liabilities outstanding amounting to \$1,437,409,856, which leaves a cash balance of \$353,638,173. The apparent increase in the public debt is accounted for by the loss of cash in the treasury, which during July amounted to nearly \$36,000,000. This loss was occasioned by the large also by the redemption of the notes of failed and liquidating national banks and the reducing of circulation of national banks.

Law Will be Given Test.

Washington, Aug. 6.—The constitutionality of the Federal law prohibiting the importation of women from foreign countries for immoral purposes is involved in the cases of Alphonse and Eva Dufour, which are docketed today in the Supreme Court of the United States. Six indictments were returned against each in the United States Circuit court sitting in Chicago, on the charge of violating the immigration laws, and Judge Landis refused to release them on the writs of habeas corpus. They took an appeal to the Supreme court. The maximum punishment is five years imprisonment and a fine of \$5,300 in each count.

Opium Users in New York.

Washington, Aug. 4.—At least 5,000 white persons in New York city are slaves to the opium habit, according to the statement made today by Dr. Wright, one of the three representatives of America on the international commission which is investigating the opium traffic throughout the world. He said the investigations have led also to the estimate that there are from 600 to 1,000 Chinese residents of New York who are addicted to the drug. The commission intends to extend its activities to all the main cities of the country, to determine the extent of the use of drugs in the United States.

Deepen Mare Island Straits.

Washington, Aug. 4.—The board of civil engineers of the army and navy appointed to suggest some methods of improving the approaches to the Mare Island navy yard, has decided on the employment of hydraulics in the Mare Island straits. By this means it will be possible to provide an adequate depth of the channel at Mare Island to accommodate the largest war vessels. The project is said to be feasible and can be maintained, when once it is installed, for \$25,000 a year.

Roosevelt Entertains Guests.

Oyster Bay, Aug. 6.—Secretary of the Treasury Cortelyou and Thomas J. O'Brien, American ambassador at Tokio, were guests of President Roosevelt at Sagamore Hill today. Secretary Cortelyou driving over from his home at Halesite, near Huntington. Other guests of the president today were: W. C. Forbes, vice governor of the Philippines; R. R. Rogers, general counsel of the Isthmian Canal commission; Robert J. Collier, Norman Hapgood and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sullivan.

New Man at St. Anthony.

Washington, Aug. 5.—Announcement was made at the Postoffice department today that Charles C. Moore had been appointed postmaster at St. Anthony, Idaho, in place of Marcellus J. Gray, removed. This change was decided upon several weeks ago after an inspection of the office. The department says Mr. Gray has been careless in the conduct of the office and failed to give it the personal attention required.

Treasury Department is Upheld.

Washington, Aug. 5.—The attorney general has upheld the Treasury department in its view of that packages of the distilled spirits produced at distilleries not affected by restraining orders must be marked in accordance with the regulations which took effect July 1. A circular letter is soon to be issued to the internal revenue collectors instructing them in accordance with this view.

Send Leonard to Tokio Fair.

Washington, Aug. 5.—Major Henry F. Leonard, of the Marine corps, has been designated as naval attaché to the Tokio Exposition commission in response to the request of Commissioner General Loomis. Major Leonard's connection with the commission will begin about September 1.

READY FOR FIGHT.

Standard May Not be Able to Slip Out of Landis' Decision.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—United States Attorney Sims and Special Consul Kellogg and Wilkerson today drafted a petition to the United States circuit court for a rehearing of the Standard Oil case, in which the appellate court recently reversed Judge Landis.

Judge Grosscup and his associates will be asked to reverse themselves on the ground that they erred in declaring that Judge Landis erred. The petition will aver that the circuit court misinterpreted the testimony, misread Judge Landis' obiter dictum and did not understand the legal premises on which he based his important decision.

The three points raised by the court will be met squarely. The first is that Judge Landis attempted to impose a fine upon the New Jersey Standard Oil company for the offenses of the Indiana corporation. This is to be flatly denied and the record to be cited to confirm the claim that the court did not read the decision of the lower court as it applied to the evidence.

The second point, that the whole offenses were in settlements and not in each shipment, and that ignorance of existing rates excused the acceptance of rebates, will be respectfully characterized as misapplication of the law and a ruling contrary to its known maxims.

The third point, that the fine of \$29,240,000 is excessive and confiscatory, is to be met by the contention that the corporation is a chronic offender and gained many times the amount of the fine by alleged rebating methods. The financial statements of the company, showing net gains of more than \$50,000,000 since the rebating began, the government regards as eloquent arguments.

STARTED FROM BRUSH FIRE.

Destruction of Fernie Said to Have Cost Number of Lives.

Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 3.—The city of Fernie was nearly all burned Saturday night by fire which caught from a bush fire which had raged all the afternoon among the timber on the opposite side of Elk river from the city. The sawmill plant of the Elk River Lumber company was the first to catch in the city of Fernie, and from there the fire spread to the main offices of the Crows Nest Coal company. Inside of an hour hundreds of cottages of miners had been burned and the main business sections of the city were swept away.

Fernie has a population of about 5000, and two-thirds of the people are homeless. One or two deaths occurred during the fire. Special trains are being rushed from nearly all towns to assist the homeless people. The total loss is said to be about \$2,000,000.

HEAT KILLS OFF BABIES.

Great Increase in July Death Rate Over Former Years.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—Enormous increase in the death rate among babies last week put city health officials on the anxious seat, and unless the weather turns cooler a still higher point is expected in the weeks to come.

A total of 206 children under 1 year of age—an average of more than 29 a day—died, according to the statistics of the department. In the 22 preceding days of the month the average rate was 18 babies. In comparison with this total of 206 is an average of 161 for the week ending August 3 of last year and 139 for the week ending August 4, 1906.

An official explanation of the increase will probably be made public tomorrow, but, generally speaking, lack of proper care during the hot weather was given today as the cause.

Growing Too Many Hops.

New York, Aug. 3.—Baron Louis von Horst of Coburg, Germany, who has large hop interests in California, was a passenger on the steamer St. Paul, which arrived here tonight. Speaking of the situation in the industry, he said that the trouble is overproduction and that as a result the small hop farmer has been in severe straits during the past two years. The prohibition movement in the south and west and the licensing bill in England and Germany have cut down the demand, he says, with the result that there has been a falling in prices.

Pettibone Cannot Live.

Denver, Col., Aug. 3.—An operation performed today at St. Joseph's hospital, in this city, on George A. Pettibone, formerly a member of the executive board of the Western Federation of Miners, showed that he is suffering from cancer, and the physicians in attendance agreed that his life could not be saved. Pettibone became sick while in prison in Idaho awaiting his trial for alleged complicity in the murder of former Governor Frank Steunenberg, which resulted in his acquittal.

France Faces Great Strike.

Paris, Aug. 3.—A tremendous strike is brewing upon the French nationalized railroads, according to present indications. Government acquisition of the Western railway, in addition to the many lines it already held, brought matters to a crisis. It added immensely to the strength of the government-employed railroad men. On the ground that living expenses have increased they adopted resolutions calling for revision of the scale.

Cross Land by Balloon.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—A transcontinental balloon race, starting from either Los Angeles or San Francisco with the Atlantic seaboard as the objective point, is being planned by the Federation of American Aeronauts, according to announcements made by the board of directors of the organization here tonight.

THIRD IN STRENGTH

Japanese Navy Will Be Greatly Increased by 1911.

MANY NEW SHIPS ARE BUILDING

German Navy League Discovers Large Addition to Program—Soon Have 21 Battleships.

Berlin, Aug. 4.—The Japanese navy will take third place in 1911, according to the Bulletin made by the German Navy League in its August report.

"Notwithstanding the assertions of Japan's bad financial position," the article says, "the so-called program of 1907 appears to provide for considerable more construction than has been reported. From a fully well informed quarter it is affirmed that Japan, besides building the three battleships, Aki, 'A,' and 'B,' and the four armored cruisers, Kurama, Ibuki and 'E' and 'F,' has appropriated money for four additional battleships, each of 12,800 tons, and for five armored cruisers of 18,500 tons.

Through these increases Japan will push forward in 1910-1911 to third place in the world's navies, Japan's position with great ships now being:

Ready, 14 battleships with a tonnage of 191,400, and 12 large cruisers with a tonnage of 113,000; building, three battleships with a tonnage of 60,800, and four cruisers with a tonnage of 66,900, to which must be added those vessels embraced in the latest information, namely, four battleships with a total of 83,200 and five cruisers with a tonnage of 92,500."

HEAT RECORD SMASHED.

Temperature in Chicago Registers Highest in Eight Years.

Chicago, Aug. 4.—August heat records for the past eight years were smashed at 10 a. m. today, when the mercury reached the 94 degree mark, which it had not attained since August 5, 1900. Having reached this mark, the liquid metal rested for a time, being at the same mark at 2 p. m., but started up the tube later, determined to break all records for the year—96 degrees, made July 23—the hottest day since July 21, 1901, when a mark of 103 degrees was set. In spite of the high mark reached by the mercury, there was less suffering in the city than there was on some of the days last week when the temperatures were in the 80s. Then, however, there was great humidity. Today it was dry and a 15-mile wind was blowing from the southwest. This kept the number of deaths and prostrations down.

Four deaths and 26 serious cases of prostration had been reported up to 10 o'clock. Tonight a cooling breeze came off the lake, which lowered the temperature to 87 degrees. The police killed 24 unmuzzled dogs.

LEARN LANGUAGE FIRST.

Foreigners Ignorant of English Are Denied Final Citizenship.

Denver, Colo., Aug. 4.—A sensation was created in the Federal court today when Judge Lewis, in throwing out half a dozen naturalization cases, held that a foreign-born person must speak the English language before he can secure citizenship.

"I cannot allow final papers to be given," said the court, "where the party seeking the same is unable to speak the English language. He cannot understand the laws of this country, its constitution or any of the acts that go to prove his citizenship. He may have homesteaded upon land, but he must read and write English before he can secure his final papers and come before the court with a native citizen who can swear he has known the subject for a period of five years."

Wheat Elevator Burned.

Chicago, Aug. 4.—Fire which was so hot that the firemen could not get within a block of it, and which made it necessary to play streams of water on buildings three and four squares away, this afternoon destroyed the Burlington elevators "E" and "F" the Rock Island transfer warehouse of that road and either burned or rendered useless 500 box cars. The loss on the grain in the two elevators is placed by Armor & Co., who owned it, at \$700,000. The total loss is placed at \$1,000,000.

Conservatives Win in Cuba.

Havana, Aug. 4.—Election returns throughout Cuba indicate a general victory for the conservatives, who have carried most of the important cities. The liberals elected Azbert governor of the province of Havana, but the conservatives were victorious in the city of Havana. The liberals showed their greatest strength in Eastern Cuba. So far no reports have been received here of serious trouble at the polls.

Robbers' Swag Fifty Thousand.

Chicago, Aug. 4.—Terrorizing the postmasters of Northern Michigan for ten years and stealing more than \$50,000 from the government, George Ross and Frank Roach are under arrest today. The bandits were captured by Postal Inspectors Frasier and Clark in a hut in the woods near Escanaba. When they were captured Ross and Roach had \$10,000 worth of stamps and postal orders in their possession.