

# GOMEZ SEEKS PEACE

## New President of Venezuela Has Started Reform Movement.

### ALSO SHUTS OFF CASTRO'S CASH

**Absent President Accused of Complicity in Plot—Decree Against Holland Is Suspended.**

Caracas, Dec. 24.—The end of the rule in Venezuela of Cipriano Castro has come. The dictator who has governed the republic with a rod of iron ever since he took forcible possession of the Yellow House in Caracas in 1899, is now openly charged with conspiracy to encompass the assassination of the man whom he left at the head of the republic when he sailed away on November 23 from La Guayra, nominally to secure medical aid in Berlin for a malady of long standing, and is today thoroughly discredited.

The Bank of Venezuela has cabled its correspondents at Berlin and Paris cancelling the unlimited letter of credit given to Senor Castro when he left Venezuela for Europe, and no one in Caracas believes he will ever dare return to the capital. The Castro cabinet has been forced to resign, and a new and progressive ministry has been appointed by Juan Vicente Gomez, the acting president.

The attempt on the life of Senor Gomez was frustrated by the coolness and courage and the daring act of the president himself. Alone and unsupported, he arrested the ringleaders of the conspiracy with his own hands in the presence of their armed adherents, and after this action he issued a proclamation saying that not only had he saved his own life, but he had maintained the highest ideals of the republic.

Already the new administration shows signs of a desire and intention to settle the disputes between Venezuela and foreign powers that have kept the republic in a light of unenviable notoriety for several years past.

At a conference held yesterday between Senor Gomez and Baron von Seckendorff, the German minister in charge of the interests of Holland since the departure of the Dutch minister, M. de Reus, last summer, it was agreed to suspend the operation of the decree issued by President Castro prohibiting the trans-shipment of goods destined for Venezuela. Pending the signing of a treaty between Holland and a duly empowered Venezuelan commissioner, the Dutch warships that have been patrolling the Venezuelan coast for nearly three weeks will be withdrawn.

### CASTRO KEPT IN IGNORANCE

**Would Refuse to Believe His Downfall if He Were Informed.**

Berlin, Dec. 24.—Castro apparently is unaware of his downfall or the gravity of the occurrences in Venezuela. Members of his party say he receives no dispatches of any kind. The opinion is steadily gaining ground here that Castro's power is completely broken.

One of the most prominent members of his suite, who did not wish his name made public, said:

"No one has informed President Castro concerning the reports of what is going on, as the president would refuse to believe the dispatches. I cannot ask the president's opinion on these things, because he is on a sick bed. I am perfectly sure that he has not received a dispatch since Sunday, and am certain that there has been no exchange of cipher dispatches, because the president does not possess a secret code."

The same personage ridiculed the idea of Castro's complicity in a plot to assassinate the acting president, Senor Gomez.

### RECORD WORK ON CANAL.

**Thirty-seven Million Yards Taken Out This Year.**

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—The Panama canal will be opened January 1, 1915, according to an official communication received yesterday by the California Promotion committee from Joseph Bucklin Bishop, secretary of the canal commission. The statement in part is as follows:

"There has been excavated from the line of the canal since the Americans took control about 56,000,000 cubic yards. This is as near as can be calculated at the present time, and is about one-third of the entire excavation necessary to complete the work. Of this 56,000,000 cubic yards, about 55,000,000 has been removed during the last three years. In 1908, down to November 1, nearly 31,000,000 cubic yards were removed, and the total for this year will not be far from 37,000,000 cubic yards. This will bring the grand total of American excavation to about 60,000,000 cubic yards."

### Calls 2-Cent Rate Just.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 24.—The state today began the introduction of evidence to support its side in the Missouri rate case, in which the state seeks to prove that the 2-cent fare and maximum freight laws of Missouri are not confiscatory. A. P. Tallafro, who has been in charge of the state's investigations into the earnings and expenses of various railroads, declared that the relative cost to the railroad companies per passenger mile was less for state than for interstate

### Bullet for Aerial War.

Berlin, Dec. 24.—A Göttingen gunsmith named Schraeder has invented and patented an expanding bullet adapted for the destruction of dirigible balloons. The bullet can be fired from the regular infantry rifle.

### ASKS FOR FRIENDSHIP.

**Eight Months' Rupture With Venezuela Draws to Close.**

Washington, Dec. 25.—After eight months, the United States has resumed friendly relations with Venezuela, and William I. Buchanan has left on the cruiser North Carolina to visit that country, look into the situation and make a report to the state department. This will decide whether the United States will accord formal recognition to the government.

It has not yet been fully established that the Gomez government will retain its power without trouble, as there are many adherents of President Castro in the country. Indeed, the possibility that disorder may arise is indicated in a request for an American ship at La Guayra, to which this government has promptly responded.

The general opinion is that the new order of things will open the way for the pacific settlement of Venezuela's disagreement with this country, Holland and France.

The refusal in March last of the Castro administration to consider separately the issues with the United States made it plain that diplomacy could accomplish nothing further toward their settlement.

In 1903 the Venezuelan government, having failed to satisfy claims against it by various powers, Great Britain, Germany and Italy, blockaded the ports of that country with the view to the forcible collection of the debts.

Venezuela appointed Herbert W. Bowen, then American minister to Venezuela, as a commissioner to take up the question with the various governments, and he signed protocols with them which reserved a certain percentage of the customs receipts, to be set aside to satisfy the claims. The blockading powers were made preferred creditors.

### LABOR LEADERS SENTENCED

**Prison for Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison, Who Appeal.**

Washington, Dec. 25.—Twelve months in jail for Samuel Gompers, president; nine months for John Mitchell, one of the vice-presidents, and six months for Frank Morrison, secretary, all of the American Federation of Labor, was the sentence imposed by Judge Wright, of the supreme court of the District of Columbia yesterday for contempt of court in violating an order enjoining them from placing on the unfair or "We don't patronize" list the Buck Stove & Range company, of St. Louis. All of the defendants were in court when sentence was pronounced and notice of an appeal to the District of Columbia appellate court was filed. Gompers being released on \$5,000 bond, Mitchell on \$4,000 and Morrison on \$3,000.

Judge Wright's decision, which consumed two hours and twenty minutes in reading, was a scathing arraignment. "Everywhere," the court said, "all over, within the court and out, rampant, insolent defiance is heralded and proclaimed; unrefined insult, affront, vulgar indignity, measures the litigants' conception of the tribunal's duty wherein his cause still persists."

### OUSTS OIL TRUST.

**Missouri Supreme Court Lands Blow to Rockefeller.**

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 25.—The state supreme court yesterday handed down a decision which ousts the Standard Oil company of Indiana, and the Republic Oil company, perpetually from the state.

The decision also dissolves the Waters-Pierce Oil company of St. Louis. In addition to the other features of the decision, each company is fined \$50,000.

The fight on the Standard in this state has been waged for a number of years. Attorney General Hadley, the governor-elect, was the prime mover in the fight on the Rockefeller interests. He caused a big sensation several years ago by going to New York to take testimony and putting the high financiers of the Standard through one of the most trying examinations they ever withstood.

The Waters-Pierce Oil company for many years was the representative of the Standard in Missouri. Its connection with the Standard was denied steadfastly for years, but proof that it is a subsidiary has been developed in both the state case and the federal suits. The Republic Oil company is a similar concern.

The order to dissolve the water company is effective January 15. Today's decision was the result of a suit started in 1905. Seven judges concurred. Judge Lamm in his individual decision declares the trust ought to be fined \$1,000,000. Judge Graves in his opinion says the evidence shows that the water company was taken over by the trust over the protest of the minority stockholders.

**Surveying for Harriman Road.**

Portland.—Although the Deschutes route for the central Oregon line of the Southern Pacific has not yet been officially accepted by E. H. Harriman, the engineers in Chief Engineer Boschke's office have received orders to go ahead with the surveys south of Madras, and have located the line through Haystack, Culver and Lamonta to O'Neil, which will presumably be the junction point for the Deschutes line and the proposed line running east and west across the state, following the Central Oregon military road and connecting the Corvallis & Eastern with Vale in Malheur county. The Deschutes line will probably be extended to Bend in Crook county, on the present survey.

**Umatilla Lobby Named.**

Pendleton.—A legislative committee of 15 members from the county has been appointed by the Commercial association to work in harmony with the Umatilla county delegation in an effort to secure from the legislature measures which are particularly desired. Chief among these are the experiment farm for the Umatilla project, an increased appropriation for the Weston normal, a branch asylum and an amendment to the good roads law.

**New Chief for Bay City.**

San Francisco, Dec. 25.—Sergeant Jesse B. Cook, who for more than a year has been property clerk in the police department, with the brevet rank of captain, was last night appointed chief of police by the board of police commissioners, to succeed the late Chief W. J. Biggy, who was drowned on the night of November 30, while crossing the bay in the police launch patrol. Cook has been on the police force of this city since February 18, 1889.

**Bank Clerk Gets Five Years.**

Pittsburg, Dec. 25.—Herbert W. Tiers, formerly a discount clerk in the First National bank, was sentenced to serve five years in the penitentiary yesterday. Early in 1908 Tiers embezzled \$51,000.

# OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

## STATE TAX LEVY.

**Revenue to Be Raised for 1909 Exceeds That of 1908.**

Salem.—One million six hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars is the total approximate amount of revenue to be raised for state purposes for 1909. Four hundred thousand dollars of the sum will be derived from indirect sources, leaving \$1,275,000 to be apportioned among the several counties.

This amount is \$125,000 greater than the levy last year and \$250,000 greater than the levy two years ago. The increase this year is due in part to the holding up of the University of Oregon appropriation bill last year, by reason of which the levy for 1908 was at the rate of \$47,500 per year, as provided by laws then in existence. Since the appropriation bill has gone into effect, carrying an appropriation dating back to January 1, 1907, it will be necessary, in making the 1909 levy to include a University of Oregon deficit of about \$155,000. The 1909 levy will include \$100,000 for the purchase of the Oregon City locks. Should the legislature repeal the locks appropriation bill, this \$100,000 will be in the treasury subject to appropriation for other purposes. One installment of \$100,000 has already been levied.

The levy will not be made until early in January, 1909, but the total amount here indicated, \$1,275,000, is close enough to the actual amount that will be levied so that county courts may act upon it in computing their share of state taxes. Already a number of counties have been anxiously inquiring what the state levy will be. Under existing laws, the apportionment among the counties will be made at a fixed ratio which has been in force a number of years.

In making the apportionment for 1909 the state board will be confronted with the problem of making an apportionment between Hood River and Wasco counties without any law prescribing how the apportionment shall be made. The act creating Hood River county contained no provision upon this subject. The state board passed the question up to the attorney general and that official has advised the board to divide the Wasco county ratio between Wasco and Hood River in proportion to assessed valuations.

Thus the law prescribing the ratio of apportionment of state taxes requires that Wasco county pay .0234 of the whole amount. But since then Hood River county has been carved out of Wasco. The assessed valuation of Wasco county is now \$5,927,345 and that of Hood River \$2,870,280. Dividing the apportionment accordingly, Wasco's new ratio will be .0158 and that of Hood River .0076. Though there is no law expressly authorizing such an apportionment, the attorney general expresses the opinion that this is equitable and should be adopted. The board will follow his advice.

Each county can ascertain approximately the amount of its share of the state taxes for 1909 by multiplying \$1,275,000 by its ratio. The ratios of the several counties are as follows:

County	Pct.
Baker	.0234
Benton	.0202
Clackamas	.0335
Clatsop	.0212
Columbia	.0196
Coos	.0203
Crook	.0130
Curry	.0040
Douglas	.0345
Gilham	.0087
Grant	.0092
Harney	.0163
Hood River	.0076
Jackson	.0314
Josephine	.0090
Klamath	.0115
Lake	.0107
Lane	.0402
Lincoln	.0053
Linn	.0526
Malheur	.0094
Marion	.0613
Morrow	.0095
Multnomah	.3123
Polk	.0307
Sherman	.0087
Tillamook	.0087
Umatilla	.0490
Union	.0223
Wallowa	.0073
Wasco	.0158
Washington	.0301
Wheeler	.0067
Yamhill	.0391
Total	1.0000

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## COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION.

**Oregon Agricultural College Faculty Makes Some Suggestions.**

Corvallis.—At a meeting of the agricultural faculty of the Oregon Agricultural college, the request of President Roosevelt's Country Life commission for suggestions that might aid the commission in making its report was discussed and the following statement prepared:

"If federal appropriations are to be made for improving social and economic conditions in rural communities, it is recommended, first, that they be made to existing high schools and normal schools for the purpose of maintaining courses of instruction in agricultural, industrial and domestic arts, and including business methods and home sanitation, so that all public school teachers may have the training necessary for teaching those subjects in the public schools."

"Second, that in order to secure the full efficiency of the agricultural colleges and experiment stations, the national government should co-operate with the states in agricultural extension work, this work to be under the direct supervision of the agricultural colleges. With an adequate appropriation a comprehensive system of traveling agricultural schools, farmers' institutes and free circulating libraries could be maintained, and publications issued for free distribution so that all important discoveries of the experiment stations could be given to every farmer of every state."

### Big Klamath Land Sale.

Klamath Falls.—A tract of land aggregating 3300 acres has been sold within eight miles of this city. Included in the purchase is the townsite of Midland, the first station south of Klamath Falls on the California & Northwestern railway. The purchase price was between \$75,000 and \$80,000. It is the largest sale ever made in this section. The Midland Town company, a California corporation, made the sale to E. R. Reames and D. B. Campbell, of this city.

### Wage War on Coyotes.

Pendleton.—Ten thousand coyotes are to be killed in Oregon during the month of January by the stockmen, who are losing \$1,000,000 each year from the devastation of the animals. Last January the first effort at organized warfare against coyotes was made and it was reported to the board of sheep commissioners that fully 10,000 animals were slaughtered. The plan, on an enlarged scale, is to be put in operation again next month.

### Ready to Build at Eugene.

Eugene.—Work on the new postoffice building for Eugene will begin soon. Preliminary arrangements for excavation for the building are already being made. The government has notified Postmaster Page that the contractor's bond has been accepted, and it is probable that a superintendent of construction will be here at once.

### La Grande Land Takes Rise.

La Grande.—The price of land in the arid sections of this valley is now \$100 per acre, where formerly it was disposed of between \$25 and \$30, on account of promised irrigation. The market is dull, for there are none of the landowners that care to part with their holdings.

### Snow in Umatilla County.

Pendleton.—Umatilla county wheat fields are covered with a mantle of snow. Not very much has fallen yet, but indications are that much more will come before morning. Farmers have been waiting snow for some time, and are therefore happy.

### Object to Advanced Rates.

Portland.—The implement jobbers of this city are protesting against increases in freight rates.

### PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem, 96@97c; club, 91c; white, 91c; red Russian, 88c; 40-fold, 93c; valley, 91c.  
Oats—No. 1 white, \$32 per ton.  
Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$14 per ton; Eastern Oregon Timothy, \$16.50@17; clover, \$12; alfalfa, \$12@13; grain hay, \$12@13.  
Fruits—Apples, 75c@\$2.75 per box; pears, \$1@1.75 per box; grapes, 65c@.80 per crate; quinces, \$1@1.25 per box; cranberries, \$13.50@14.50 per barrel; persimmons, \$1@1.25.  
Potatoes—80@90c per cwt.; sweet potatoes, 20@22c per lb.  
Onions, \$1@1.25 per hundred lbs.  
Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1; parsnips, \$1.25; beets, \$1.50; horseradish, 80@10c per pound; artichokes, 90c@1.10 per dozen; beans, 15@17c per pound; cabbage, 14@16c per pound; cauliflower, 75c@\$1 per dozen; celery, \$4.50@4.75 per crate; cucumbers, \$2@2.50 per box; egg plant, 11c per pound; lettuce, 75c@\$1 per box; parsley, 30c per dozen; peas, 12c per pound; peppers, 15@20c per pound; pumpkins, 10@14c per pound; radishes, 30c per dozen; spinach, 2c per pound; sprouts, 94@10c per pound; squash, 10@12c per pound; tomatoes, 50c@1.75.  
Butter—City creamery, extras, 30@37c; fancy outside creamery, 23@35c per pound; store, 18@20c.  
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 40@42c; Eastern, 36@35c per dozen.  
Poultry—Hens, 10@11c per pound; spring, large, 10@11c; small, 13@13c; mixed, 10c; ducks, 15@16c; geese, 10@10c; turkeys, 17@18c; dressed turkeys, 20@23c.  
Veal—Extra, 9@10c per pound; ordinary, 7@8c; heavy, 5c.  
Pork—Fancy, 7c per pound; large, 6@7c.  
Mutton—5@6c per pound.  
Hops—1908, choice, 7@7c per pound; good prime, 6@6c; fair prime, 5@6c; medium, 5@5c; 1907, 2@2c; 1906, 1@1c.  
Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 10@14c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 15@16c.  
Mohair—Choice, 18@19c per pound.

## QUAKES IN MONTANA.

**Virginia City is Shaken and Schoolhouse Topples.**

Virginia City, Mont., Dec. 23.—Two earthquakes in ten minutes, the first at 2:25 this afternoon, caused the wildest excitement in this city, the panic-stricken people rushing into the streets in the belief that the buildings were about to topple over. Structures trembled violently, plaster came down, dishes were thrown to the floor, the main school building, a two-story brick, was badly cracked, and the ground rent with seams from one to three inches wide.

Two more shocks were experienced this evening, one at 6:25, the other at 6:30, and again sent the people hurrying into the streets. The first of the tremors was felt yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, and another at 7:30 this morning.

Frank Pace, who arrived from the Crater lakes, the scene of an extinct volcano, six miles south of Virginia City, where 13 old craters have been filled with water, forming a chain of lakes, states that the ground heaved there like the bosom of a lake, causing immense fissures to form in the mountain and rending the cliffs. Some of these fissures, according to Mr. Pace, are from a foot and a half to two and a half feet wide.

There is a belief that water of the Crater lakes has found its way through subterranean passages to the remnants of the fires of the old volcanoes, although the Yellowstone park is only 75 miles from here.

## PREDICTS CHEAP LUMBER.

**Edward Hines Says Lower Cost of Manufacture is Responsible.**

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Edward Hines, newly elected president of the Virginia & Rainy Lake Lumber company, the largest combine in the world of its kind, predicts cheaper lumber and a new era in its production as a result of the new organization.

"It is our intention to cheapen the cost of manufacturing, and, of course, to cheapen the cost to consumers proportionately," said Mr. Hines. "We will not do this, however, at the expense of the country by reckless or wasteful lumbering methods."

"We will work in harmony with the forest departments of the United States and Canada, and we hope to make money out of the things that they will ask us to do. For instance, we will utilize all the timber on the ground we cut over. We will not simply pick out the choice trees, leaving dead wood and brush to feed forest fires. We will clear the land, so that instead of being a worthless wilderness after it is cut over, it will be available for farming purposes."

"We are also hoping that a further reduction may be made in the cost of lumber to American consumers by the taking off of the tariff. The greater part of our land is in Canada, and this would enable us to bring the Canadian lumber into the United States, a thing that the tariff practically prohibits now."

## GASPIPE THUG IS CAUGHT.

**Cracks Jeweler's Skull, but Prompt Alarm is Effective.**

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—Sigmond Hartig, a jeweler of the Mission district, is lying in the hospital with a fractured skull tonight as a result of the attempted robbery of his place of business in broad daylight, the crime being very similar to the gaspipe outrages which terrorized this city two years ago.

Hartig's establishment was entered this afternoon by Louis Schultz, an ex-convict, who pretended that he desired to purchase a \$50 diamond. When the dealer displayed the gem, Schultz attempted to grab it and struck Hartig with a section of gaspipe rolled up in a piece of paper. Hartig saw the action and dodged back, but did not entirely avoid the blow, which struck him on the side of the head. He did not lose his hold on the jewel, however, and retained consciousness long enough to give the alarm, which resulted in the capture of his assailant after a short chase.

Schultz was released from the penitentiary on December 3.

## Biggy's Death Explained.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—The corner's jury today visited the waterfront to view the police launch patrol, from which Chief of Police William J. Biggy was lost overboard on the night of November 30. It is believed the jury will bring in a verdict of accidental drowning, in view of the demonstration made by boatmen that the launch rolls easily, and that it was possible for a man to fall over the side. It is believed the jury will take into consideration the possibility that Biggy struck his head on a ringbolt imbedded in the afterdeck as he fell.

## Lumber Combine in Minnesota.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 23.—The much talked of lumber combine that has been forming came to full development here today. The combine is the most powerful factor in the lumber world, and will control 3,000,000,000 feet of lumber in the northwest. It will also control the Duluth & Rainy Lake railroad and a fleet of 70 great lake lumber vessels. Its assets, at the least, are estimated at \$30,000,000. The name adopted is the Duluth & Rainy Lake Lumber company.

## Claimant to Millions.

Reno, Nev., Dec. 23.—J. F. Springer, yardmaster of the Southern Pacific company at Reno, is a third claimant for a share of the estate of the late Christopher Springer, said to be a German baron, who died leaving property worth \$80,000,000 in Wilmington, Del.

# LOOK UP PACKERS

**Grand Jury at Chicago Proposed to Propose.**

**PRICE AGREEMENT IS SUSPECTED**

District Attorney Sims Declares Aim of Present Inquiry—Great Secrecy is Maintained.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Nothing more than a complete exposure of the methods of the beef trust is contemplated by District Attorney Sims in the present grand jury investigation which is being carried out with the aid of special agents of the interstate commerce commission.

It developed today that, in addition to the inquiry in regard to shipping rates and possible rebates, to which the work of the interstate commerce commission and its agents is confined, a number of secret service operators, who work directly under the department of justice, have been looking into another phase of the packing industry.

These officials have been trying to determine whether tacit agreements between packers as to the fixing of prices and the division of territory for distribution have been in systematic operation. The sweeping nature of the inquiry was indicated today in the first positive statement made by Mr. Sims since the investigation started.

"This is no mere fishing expedition, as has been said by some critics of the department," declared the district attorney. "We know what we are going after, if we are not permitted by the nature of the inquiry to state what it is. We are now merely starting a little case, in which packers or railroads are concerned in the hope that we can unearth some information which would be of value or be used as a basis for a new and more extensive investigation. There is nothing vague or indefinite about this inquiry, and it has a purpose which I am not permitted to disclose."

## RAILROADS FOR OREGON.

**Competition Forces Harriman to Consider New Lines.**

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Oregon bids fair soon to come into its own with respect to transportation facilities. Armed over the activity of other railroad corporations in surveying and constructing lines of road through various portions of the Pacific Northwest, Edward H. Harriman and his aids have decided actively to occupy all of the territory in the Northwest which bids fair to become of value from a traffic standpoint.

Plans have been perfected by Mr. Harriman for the construction of between 750 and 1000 miles of railroad in the State of Oregon alone, and that surveys have been ordered of a great deal of territory which is now without means of transportation.

Julius Kruttschnitt, director of maintenance and operation for the Harriman line, and J. D. Isaacs, consulting engineer for Mr. Harriman, have recently returned from New York, where these plans were perfected. It is admitted by the Chicago officials that there are such plans.

## JOHN BULL NOT SO MERRY.

**Christmas in England's Marred by Poverty.**

London, Dec. 26.—The dark side of the English Christmas is the great number of unemployed, and the distressing prevalence of destitute and suffering. This is seen principally in London and at Glasgow, and at other shipping centers, where shipbuilders are out of work.

A small band of shabbily dressed, miserable-looking unemployed persons have paraded fashionable streets during the past week, threatening their way among the crowds of Christmas shoppers. The police accompanied the band as it marched, in order to avoid disturbances. Its motto showed, "We want work."

More than 1000 homeless men assembled on the James embankment at midnight to get Salvation Army tickets for beds. The newspapers daily record cases of men being sentenced to imprisonment for stealing food who have families suffering from want.

## New Canadian Coal Fields.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 25.—Henry Hewitt, the Tacoma smelter man, has acquired coal mining rights in Graham island, one of the Queen Charlotte group. Immensely valuable coal deposits have been discovered there and an application for a charter for building railroads and steamship wharves and for the general carrying on of business is authorized to be made at the next meeting of the British Columbia legislature. Indications are that the amount will far exceed in value the famous Dunsmuith properties.

## Wreckers Throw Switch.

Hillsdale, Mich., Dec. 26.—Instead of a broken flange, it is reported here today that a tunnel switch was the cause of the derailment last night near Pleasant Lake, Ind., of a Lake Shore passenger train, in which about 20 persons were injured, one possibly fatally. It is also said here that there are suspicions that it may have been misplaced by members of the gang which have been robbing safes regularly in this section of the country.

## Oklahoma Town Burns.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Dec. 26.—Virtually the entire business section of Rovia, Okla., a town of 1200 inhabitants in Johnston county was destroyed yesterday by fire, the loss aggregating about \$55,000.