EVENTS OF THE DAY

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

PREPARED FOR THE BUSY READER

Less Important but Not Less Interesting Happenings from Points Outside the State.

Heney says he is not seeking public office.

The Italian government has reduced relief work to a system.

The first step in restoring independence in Cuba has been taken.

A volcano at sea and a field of boiling water is reported off the coast of Georgia.

Ex-Consul Price, of the United States, and his entire family perished in the earthquake.

The Baltimore water front had a fire which for a time threatened the entire district. The damage is placed at [illegible]00,000.

The Chinese imperial railway has displaced almost all foreign employes and hereafter the road will be operated by natives.

The government has secured evidence that meat packers have been soliciting rebates from railroads in the form of damage claims.

The Hamburg-American steamship line is preparing for a direct line from Europe to the Pacific coast through the Panama canal.

Every state and city in the United States, led by the government, has listened to raise relief funds for the stricken earthquake sufferers.

Postmasters throughout Great Britain have started paying old age pensions, by which the government will distribute $35,000,000 annually.

Venezuelan students burned Castro in effigy.

All nations are hurrying aid to the Italian earthquake sufferers.

For a second time vandals have looted a Jewish temple at San Francisco.

Cracksmen broke into the Fowler, Cal., postoffice safe and secured $1,300.

The number of deaths in the Blueefield, W. Va., mine disaster may reach [illegible].

All cities in California have joined in a protest against the new freight rates.

The government has secured substantial evidence against the beef trust at Chicago.

The Pioneer Flour mill at Scramento has been destroyed by fire of incendiary origin.

Count Boni has lost control of his children, the court awarding them to their mother.

James A. Finch has been convicted in Portland of murder in the first degree for killing Ralph Fisher.

Two men held up a Rose Ciy park car at Portland and secured $20, escaping by taking the car. They were later arrested.

The Chicago police department and the Law and Order league have joined hands in a crusade to prevent society women from gambling.

Claus Spreckles left an estate valued at about $50,000,000.

The American battleship fleet has entered the Red sea.

Cosgrove has improved so much that he has seen several callers.

A movement has been started in Oklahoma to disfranchise negroes.

The county treasurer at Woonsocket, S. D., was robbed of $5,000.

The Yaqui Indians and the Mexican government have arranged terms of peace.

An Austrian scientist believes the greater part of Sicily will sink beneath the sea.

A blizzard in England has tied up railroad traffic. Several persons have been blown to death.

A storm in the Rocky mountains blocked the line of the Canadian Pacific and tied up traffic.

There remains little doubt but that the American consul at Messina and his wife were killed.

California shippers may appeal to the government to aid them in fighting increases in freight rates.

Teddy Roosevelt, Jr., is not on good terms with his father because he has gone to work in a carpet weaving establishment.

The trial of the Pittsburg grafters is to be hastened.

Miss Ethel Roosevelt has made her debut in Washington society.

Robbers secured $30,000 worth of jewelry and $5,000 cash from a New York jewelry store.

Germany will be the first to ask the benefit of a minimum tariff.

Veterans of the civil war will become extinct in 1950, according to Past Commander G. F. Bassett.

Dr. Wiley, head of the pure food department, is said to have angered the president to such an extent that he will be removed.

St. Petersburg still continues to suffer from Asiatic cholera. New cases and deaths are reported daily, though not in large numbers.

CUBANS IN CONTROL.

Evacuation by American Army Begins New Years Day.

Havana, Dec. 29.—New Year's day will witness the beginning of the evacuation of Cuba by the army of pacification, which has been in possession of the island since the beginning of the provisional government, in October, 1906. The first provisional regiment of marines, numbering 900, which will be among the first troops to leave, are now concentrating from various posts at Camp Columbia.

About half this regiment will sail in January on the cruiser Prairie, which arrived here Christmas eve, bound for Newport News. The Prairie will return about the middle of the month and embark the remainder. The final embarkation will not occur until April 1.

The embarkation will be effected with as little ceremony as possible and it is probable that their departure will be made with as little notice as marked their landing. The purpose in deferring the departure of a portion of the 17th Infantry until April 1 has been the subject of considerable speculation, but it is believed this was agreed upon at a conference between Governor Magoon and President-elect Gomez. It is not thought to be a measure of precaution, for which not the slightest necessity is apparent, but it probably is for the purpose of keeping the barracks and quarters in good order until it is possible to turn over to the Cuban authorities a model camp for occupation by the new permanent army under command of General Pino Guerrera, the nucleus of which will be formed, it is intended, with the present corps of Cuban artillery and 1,000 members of the Rural Guard.

CASTRO THE LOOTER.

Unknown Ten Years Ago, Now Prominent World Figure.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Since Cipriano Castro, president of Venezuela, has left his country but slight regret over his departure and subsequent vicissitudes have been expressed on the part of the people over whom he has tyrannized and whom he has impoverished. Since 1899, when, at the head of a revolutionary army, he drove his predecessor, President Andrade, from the capital and made himself absolute ruler of Venezuela, Castro seems to have had but one object in view, namely, to enrich himself. And in this he has succeeded to an amazing extent.

Naturally no person knows, nor can an estimate be made of the wealth which Castro has garnered at the expense of the poor and rich alike among the Venezuelans. It is pretty definitely known that for years he has been sending vast sums of money to England, and this fact lends color to the belief that his departure for Europe, ostensibly to consult a noted physician concerning a serious malady, was only another of his tricks, perpetrated in order safely to escape from the country which expects to see him no more.

Ten years ago Castro was practically unknown. Born of obscure parents in the province of San Antonio in 1860, he grew up practically without education.

RELIEF WORK IS ENDED.

Committee and Red Cross Society to Go Out With Old Year.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—With the end of the old year, the San Francisco Relief and Red Cross society, which has handled $9,500,000 in contributions since the great fire, will go out of existence. This huge sum was distributed at an expense of 2.3 per cent. Nearly $400,000 is left, which will be transferred to various charities. The society not only fed and lodged thousands for several months after the fire, but it has provided 8,000 permanent homes for 30,000 people and has established a permanent home for the aged and infirm at a cost of $375,000. Of the money contributed, New York gave $2,750,000 and Illinois $650,000.

Poison Squad Test.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—A campaign of experiments calculated to demonstrate beyond any doubt whether sulphur dioxide, as used at present in this state in the preparation of dried fruit, is harmful to the human system, has been inaugurated by the local medical men and chemists, as a result of the long-standing controversy between the pure-food authorities at Washington and the dried-fruit packers of California. A "poison squad" has been selected and it is proposed to use his own familiar weapons against Dr. Harvey W. Wiley.

Shorthand Record Made.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—Ruth Olson, a 14-year-old San Francisco girl, has established a new world record for her age for rapid shorthand writing. In a test before Superior Judge Thomas E. Graham, the girl wrote 850 words in five minutes and read the same correctly. Miss Olson's record is considered phenomenal, as the matter read to and written by her was taken from a transcript of proceedings taken from the court files.

Natives Desire Opium.

Amoy, Dec. 29.—Orders were issued Saturday to a number of natives at Tungan, 20 miles north of Amoy, to cease planting opium poppies. They declined to acquiesce, and a riot followed, in which one officer and ten civilians were killed. The populace at Tungan is up in arms and 500 troops have been sent there to restore order.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

HENEY AFTER CALHOUN.

Says He Will Stay in Fight on Higher-Ups if He Dies for It.

Washington, Dec. 29.—"I am going back to San Francisco to finish Patrick Calhoun, and I am going to stay with the graft prosecution, even if they kill me. What's the difference whether one dies at 49 or 69?"

Francis J. Heney made this statement today when asked what his plans were. Although weak from the wound inflicted by Morris Haas' bullet, Heney professes to have lost none of his enthusiasm. He will not admit that the possible dangers of his position rob him of either zest or determination.

"My wife is very nervous about me," he said with a smile. "She fears some other fellow will do a better job next time."

Heney will call at the White House this afternoon in response to a special invitation sent to him by President Roosevelt. It is rumored that he will give the president his views on the utility of the secret service in catching criminals.

COLORADO BORDER TANGLE.

Congressman Cook Says Government Was Misinformed.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Representative Cook, of Colorado, has been requested by President Roosevelt to submit to him by next Tuesday morning, in time for the cabinet meeting on that day, a brief of his contentoins and arguments concerning the veto of the bill fixing the boundary line of Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma as the 37th parallel of latitude. Mr. Cook saw the president some time ago and said that the facts had been misrepresented to Attorney General Bonaparte, upon whose recommendation President Roosevelt vetoed the boundary line.

Mr. Cook alleges that the Colorado Fuel & Iron company is opposed to the border being located as fixed in the bill.

Arrest Murderous Reds.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Three young Navajo Indians are in custody at the Ship Rock agency in Northwest New Mexico for complicity in the killing, on Christmas eve, near Ameth, Utah, of four members of their tribe and the serious wounding of an Indian woman, according to a dispatch received at the Indian affairs bureau today from Superintendent W. T. Shelton. Mr. Shelton went to the scene of the trouble last Saturday. One of the Indians, it is said, has confessed to the killing. Of the killed two are women. No cause is assigned for the tragedy.

Winthrop Accepts Job.

Washington, Jan. 1. — Beekman Winthrop, of Massachusetts, assistant secretary of the treasury, has been offered and accepted the office of first assistant secretary of state under the incoming administration, succeeding Robert Bacon, of New York who in January next is expected to temporarily succeed Elihu Root upon the latter's retirement. The tender was made with the consent of President-elect Taft by Senator Knox, whose selection as secretary of state was announced several days ago.

Stamp Slot Machines.

Washington, Dec. 30.—If one can drop a penny in a vending machine and obtain a piece of chewing gum or a handful of peanuts, why not be able to drop in a coin and secure a postage stamp? This is what the postoffice department wants to make a popular feature of its service, and it today announced that it is now prepared to issue limited quantities of postage stamps in rolls of 500 or 1000 for use in stamp-vending and stamp-affixing machines.

Revenue Cutter on Trial.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The new revenue cutter Yamacrow, recently completed by the New York Shipbuilding company of Camden, N. J., is to have her official acceptance trial tomorrow on the Delaware river. The Yamacrow is of the Seminole type and is intended for service on the South Atlantic coast, with headquarters at Savannah.

Dead Letter Sale.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Over $2,000 more was realized by the postoffice department by the Christmas sale of dead letter packages this year than last. This year's proceeds were $11,300. Under the law the money must be held for three years, during which time the sender of any dead letter package sold may claim the amount at which it was knocked down.

Engineers Go With Taft.

Washington, Jan. 2. — President Roosevelt has invited a number of engineers to accompany President-elect Taft on his trip to Panama this winter. James Dix Schuyler, of Los Angeles, and Arthur P. Davies, chief engineer of the reclamation service, Washington, are among those honored by Roosevelt.

President Requests Trip.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Representatives Cushman and Humphreys, of Washington, left today with the house committee on interstate commerce for a trip to Panama. They will sail from Charleston, S. C., and the trip will consume about 15 days. The committee goes at the special request of President Roosevelt.

NEW BOSSES LIKE OLD.

Professor Ford, of Princeton, Draws Parallels in History.

Washington, Dec. 31.—With James Bryce, British ambassador, presiding, the American Political Science Society met here this week in its first annual gathering. The general topic for consideration was "The Increase of Federal Force and Power in the United States." One of the principal papers was by Stephen Leacock, Magill University, Canada, on "The Limitations of the Federal Government."

In the course of the discussion Professor Henry Jones Ford, of Princeton University, declared that neither the power nor the responsibility essential to democratic rule was embodied in the American state. "The resemblances," he said, "that historians are now noting between ancient and modern bosses, grafters and spoilsmen rest upon substantial identities, affording a fine demonstration of the universal principle that like causes produce like effects, irrespective of the intentions with which the causes are put in operation."

He asserted that efforts of reformers were directed against conditions from which the power was gained rather than against conditions under which power was exercised.

May Condemn Site.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Dissatisfied with the high figures placed upon real estate offered to the government by agents for a site for a subtreasury building, the government, through Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Beekman Winthrop, has threatened to secure property in San Francisco by condemnation. Secretary Winthrop has notified Baldwin & Howell, real estate agents for property bounded by Sansome, Clay, Merchant and Battery streets, partly owned by the Kohl estate, that it must be placed at a lower price than $335,000 demanded for the site. Winthrop declares that if a lower price is not set, the government will secure other property in the block and will begin condemnation proceedings, as the treasury department wants the property in that section.

Harriman Money in Salton Sea.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The attorneys of E. H. Harriman are alarmed at the possibility of failure on the part of the congressional committee on claims to allow even a portion of the remuneration asked by the railroad king for work done by his road in curbing the Colorado river, where it broke its banks and threatened Imperial valley. The claim has been reduced to $1,083,673.97, but there is no indication of desire on the part of the legislators to take up the matter.

Epoch in Canal Building.

Washington, Dec. 30.—With the early arrival in Washington from Paris of Leroy Parks, the isthmian canal commissioner, will be signalized an epoch in the building of the canal. The time has arrived, it is said, when the maxmum force has been employed. Henceforth the work in the canal zone will be confined to excavation and dam and lock construction.

Diplomats Are Uneasy.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The stir in diplomatic circles caused by the resignation of Ambassador Griscom has led to much speculation as to the future of all of America's representatives abroad. Although no statement has come from Mr. Taft, it is not improbable that a number of the diplomatic officers abroad will be asked to retain their positions.

Used 4,000,000 Trees.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The native forests this year supplied 4,000,000 Christmas trees, the forestry service estimating that one out of every four families observed the tree custom at Yuletide. Gifford Pinchot, United States forester, upholds the Christmas tree custom and believes that it should be maintained.

Pinchot Starts on Mission.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Bearing invitations from President Roosevelt to President Diaz of Mexico and Premier Laurier and Lord Grey of Canada to appoint delegates to the National Conservation Congress to be held here February 18, Gifford Pinchot left Monday for Canada and Mexico.

Squaring Away for Venezuela.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The arrival of Special Commissioner W. I. Buchanan to treat on behalf of the United States with the officials of Venezuela, and the arrival of Admiral Arnold at La Guayra, is announced in messages to the navy and state departments here.

Barrios Recovers From Injury.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Senor Barrios, the Guatemalan minister of foreign affairs, who recently was seriously injured in an automobile accident, called at the White House Monday and sailed for home on December 30. A bandage across the face was the only trace of his injury.

Treasury Buys Silver.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The treasury today purchased 100,000 ounces of silver for delivery at New York, 75,000 ounces for delivery at New Orleans and 50,000 ounces for delivery at Denver, at 49.118c per fine ounce.

Advance Oregon Postmasters.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Among the 220 fourth-class postoffices which will be advanced to the presidential class January 1 are the following in Oregon: Canyon City, $1000; Central Point, $1100; Oakland, $1200.

NEW LIGHT ON HISTORY.

Stanford Professor Finds Key to Ancient Writings.

Stanford University, Cal., Dec. 28.—The key which bares the secrets so long hidden behind the Etruscan and old Italic inscriptions has at last been discovered by Professor George Hempl, the holder of the philological chair at Stanford university, and the manners, customs and history of a people today practically unknown may be read in the future as in a book.

Experienced in his investigations of old German inscriptions and rules, Professor Hempl was able to accomplish in a single night the feat undertaken by science ages ago and never before pushed to a successful conclusion. Members of the faculty who were present at the lecture of Dr. Hempl before the Stanford Philological association today declared that the discovery is a veritable triumph and will have far-reaching results. It will necessitate a re-stating of ancient Roman history and it will throw a flood of light on many disputed facts of Latin grammar and etymology.

It has been the generally accepted view among historians that the Etruscans were an element entirely foreign to their neighbors, the Romans. This theory is entirely and conclusively overturned by Professor Hempl, whose investigations prove a great similarity between the Roman and Etruscan languages and make possible only one conclusion, that the Etruscans and Romans sprang from one race, which, following the old legend, wandered to Italy from Troy after the fall of that great city. Thus Virgil's Eneid is substantiated by scientific proof. Dr. Hempl's discovery is yet in its infancy. Out of 8,000 inscriptions he has read but 50, yet the little work he has done has been sufficient to convince him that the old idea of distinct races is entirely erroneous.

QUICKSAND IN FOUNDATION.

Unstable Soil Adds $500,000 to Cost of Northwestern Depot.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A stratum of treacherous quicksand underlying the site of the new $20,000,000 station of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, now under construction, will add about $500,000 to the cost of the structure, owing to the increased difficulty of sinking the foundation pillars. This information has been given to the railroad company by the George A. Fuller company, which has in turn been told to go ahead with the construction of the building at any cost.

Interesting pneumatic processes are now being used to overcome the difficulties presented by the unstable soil. Engineers say that Chicago soil is alive with quicksand in the territory about the river banks. Two engineering experts who handled the situation in New York at the laying of two big river tunnels of the subway, when quicksand there furnished the gravest engineering problem of the kind in the history of America, were called by telegraph and are at work solving the problem presented.

Russia Approves Deal.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 28.—Foreign Minister Iswolsky met with a favorable reception in the douma today when he presented the annual statement of Russia's foreign policy. He referred with warm approval to the Japanese-American agreement, which he said guaranteed the open door in the Far East and the integrity of China, and the terms of which were communicated to Russia before it was signed. The rest of M. Iswolsky's speech shed no light on mooted questions, nor gave any substance of the Russian proposals regarding the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria.

New Geyser May Result.

Virginia City, Mont., Dec. 28.—Thirty earthquakes have been felt in this section since last Sunday afternoon, the last tremor being recorded at 4:10 yesterday morning. The ground has trembled very perceptibly, with the earthwave apparently coming from the south, which has lent color to the theory that a big new geyser is about to burst forth in the Yellowstone park, which lies 75 miles southeast of Virginia City. No damage has resulted other than considerable plaster having been thrown down.

Congressman Daved Dead.

New Orleans, Dec. 28.—Representative Robert C. Davey, of the second congressional district of Louisiana, died Saturday of apoplexy. He had served continuously at Washington since the fifty-third congress, with the exception of one term, when he declined the nomination. Davey was born in New Orleans in 1853, served several years in the state senate of Louisiana, was elected a judge in 1880 and in 1888 was defeated for mayor of New Orleans. He was re-elected to the sixty-first congress.

Claus Spreckles Dead.

San Francisco, Dec. 28.—After an illness of less than a week's duration, Claus Spreckles, widely known as the "Sugar King of the Pacific Coast," died at his home in this city Saturday. Mr. Spreckles was 80 years of age, and was taken ill with a severe cold early this week. This developed into pneumonia, and during the last two days the veteran sugar refiner sank rapidly, his death occurring at 4:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

Through From Chicago.

St. Paul, Dec. 29.—The Northern Pacific and Great Northern roads, through the Burlington, will establish through service from Chicago to Seattle, Tacoma and Portland before the opening of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. This was made known at the offices of the two Western lines yesterday. The official announcement of the arrangements will be made in a few days.

THOUSANDS KILLED

Sicily and Calabria Are Shaken by Earthquakes.

TIDAL WAVES FOLLOW TEMBLORS

Whole Cities Devastated and Survivors in State of Panic—Hundreds of Boats Lost.

Rome, Dec. 29.—The three provinces of Cosensa, Catansaro and Reggio di Calabria, comprising the department of Calabria, which forms the southwestern extremity of Italy, or the "toe of the boot," were devastated yesterday by an earthquake, the far-reaching effects of which were felt almost throughout the entire country. The town of Messini, in Sicily, was partly destroyed, and Catania was inundated. In Messini hundreds of houses have fallen, and many persons have been killed.

Owing, however, to the fact that telegraphic and telephonic communication was almost completely destroyed, it is impossible to obtain even an approximate estimate of the damage, but reports received here up to a late hour last night indicate that the havoc has been great, and the destruction of life and property more terrible than Italy has experienced in many years.

The City of Messina has suffered probably more than any other place, the latest information coming directly from that quarter stating that two-thirds of the town was destroyed and several thousand persons killed.

The steamers Washington and Montebello, which were in the harbor, later proceeded to Catania, loaded with injured, who were so stupefied by terror that they seemed unable to realize what had happened, simply saying that it looked as though the end of the world had come. Five steamers left Catania for Messina to assist in removing the injured from that place, who are reported to number thousands.

At Catania the panic-stricken people, fearing new shocks, absolutely refused to enter their houses, and are camping on the squares.

The tidal wave sank 500 boats there and did great damage to several large vessels and steamers, including the Austrian steamer Buda.

Not only did Catania suffer from the effects of a tidal wave, but a similar body of water inundated the handsome streets of Messina which flank the harbor, covering them with a thick layer of mud, which rendered more difficult the succoring of the wounded, many of whom could be seen lying under the wreckage.

It is reported that the villages of Faro and Ganzirri, adjoining Messina, have disappeared. The effects of the earthquake were aggravated through an explosion of gas. The flames swept along several streets, adding terror upon terror.

In Calabria, the region around Monteleone was most affected. The village of Stefanianiconi, the inhabitants of which number 23,000, was virtually destroyed. Only five persons were killed, but many were injured.

MANY VILLAGES RUINED.

Quake Centers at Etna—Thieves Rob Dead and Start Fires.

Palermo, Dec. 29.—Reports from all the towns and villages around Messina state that serious damage has been done by the earthquake, and that the number of victims is large. The gravest damage was done to public buildings and churches at Floridia, Noto Chiaramonto, Vittoria, Paterno, Terranova, Marianopoli and Narro. At Mimo there were a number of shocks.

At Augusta, which once before was destroyed by an earthquake, the tidal wave destroyed the government salt works. The prisoners employed there mutinied, but were eventually suppressed.

At Patti the shock was accompanied by a blinding flash of light, while serious havoc was wrought at Barcelona and ten persons were killed at Castroreal and Montagamo.

The Santa Maria college at Alix, between Messina and Catania, was overthrown, several of the girl students being buried in the ruins.

There is no doubt that a large portion of Messina has been destroyed.

To add to the disaster thieves were soon setting fires at various points and stealing everything they could lay their hands on, even robbing the injured as they lay hopeless, and the dead. The stores were broken into and great disorder and even terrorism prevailed for a time. The authorities, however, promptly took the most stringent measures to maintain order, and those who were caught in acts of incendiarism or robbery were severely dealt with.

One Year for Each Cent.

Oakland, Cal., Dec. 29.—One year in prison for each copper penny he had stolen was the punishment meted out to George Gross yesterday morning by Superior Judge Brown. He pleaded guilty to the burglary of the store of G. W. Wetmore, at Thirty-fourth street and San Pablo avenue, about a month ago. Thomas Driscoll was the companion in the robbery, and the two of them secured some tobacco and eleven pennies.

San Francisco's Big Tax.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—City Treasurer McDougald yesterday sent to the state treasurer's office at Sacramento $1,030,524.29 in gold, that sum being the city's share of state taxes. The money was sent through the Wells-Fargo express, and is one of the biggest consignments of coin ever sent out of San Francisco.