

Lincoln County Leader

J. F. STEWART, Publisher.

TOLEDO.....OREGON

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE DAY

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Culled From the Telegraphic Columns.

Carter Harrison has been elected mayor of Chicago.

The president has named Theodore Roosevelt, of New York, to be assistant secretary of the navy.

The board of control of the state of Washington unanimously appointed J. B. Catron warden of the penitentiary at Walla Walla.

The London Truth says that it learns that Queen Victoria is doing her best to secure the appointment of Francis Joseph Battenburg as governor of Crete.

The Oregon City land office, in answer to numerous letters of inquiry, announces that no date has yet been announced by the president for the opening to the public of the Klamath reservation.

It is reported that the foreign ambassadors at Constantinople have drawn up a broad scheme of autonomy for Crete, giving the assembly power to choose a governor, to be afterward approved by the sultan, and granting other concessions.

A London dispatch says the archbishop of Canterbury will personally deliver into the hands of Mr. Bayard, on the latter's return to London, the log of the Mayflower, which the consistorial court recently decided to present to the United States.

There is a scarcity of onions in the California markets. Dealers say that all the California onion crop was shipped as soon as gathered to the Eastern and Southeastern states, and that a corner has been effected in the Washington and Oregon crop.

The prisoners in the Clatsop county jail at Astoria, dug a hole under an old sink in the jail and some of them made an effort to escape. Sheriff Hare arrived just in time to catch Peter Fustin, who had crawled through the hole and hidden under the sidewalk.

William Rothlage, an inmate of the county jail at Union, committed suicide in his cell, by hanging. He was insane and was in jail waiting to be transported to Salem. The body was taken to La Grande for burial, in accordance with the last request of the deceased.

The supreme courtroom in Washington, D. C., and the corridors without were crowded with spectators, attracted by the appearance of William J. Bryan as counsel in a case. The case on hearing involved the constitutionality of the law of the state of Nebraska to regulate railroads, to classify freights and to fix rates.

The city authorities of Memphis, Tenn., have issued an appeal for aid for the sufferers along the submerged Mississippi valley.

The Turkish porte is endeavoring to negotiate with the Ottoman bank for a loan of £200,000, for the purchase of cannon, but it is not believed the attempt will be successful.

A body of coolies numbering 5,000, who struck recently against an increase of taxes, engaged in an anti-foreign demonstration in Shanghai, China. Two men were killed, and it was necessary to call the marines to assist in quelling the riot.

The Pacific can factory at Astoria, Or., turned out 22,000,000 cans last year, 8,000,000 of which were shipped to the Sound. Superintendent Kendall says he expects to manufacture more cans this year than last. The company paid \$22,000 duty on tinplate on April 1.

As a result of the serious disagreement between President Errazuriz and the minister of the interior, growing out of the appointment by the latter of governors and other officials not satisfactory to the president, the entire Chilean cabinet has resigned in order to give the president full liberty of action.

Bradstreet's reports that the tinplate factories of the United States are producing at the rate of 280,000 tons, or 4,500,000 boxes a year. The official figures in tons of the decrease in imports from Great Britain, are as follows: 1893, 225,628; 1894, 226,879; 1895, 222,001; 1896, 113,051, showing a falling off of 50 per cent in two years.

Governor W. T. Thornton has wired to Washington his resignation as governor of New Mexico. His commission will expire on the 15th inst., but he has always declared he would resign as soon as the Borrego gang of conspirators was executed. Most of the governor's time for the next year will be spent in the Sonora, Mexico, gold fields.

A snowslide occurred at the Corinth mine in the Sloean country, killing three men and carrying away the head of the Aerial tramway recently erected there. John R. Brown, a hotel proprietor of a Harrison hot springs, is thought to have perished in a slide while out prospecting in the Harrison lake district. Brown was tracked to the slide by Indians, but no further trace of him can be found.

RIVERA WILL NOT BE SHOT.

Spanish Minister Says His Execution Was Never Contemplated.

Washington, April 12.—Advises received by the Spanish minister state that General Rivera, who is lying wounded near Havana is not in a serious condition, and that his wounds are not likely to prove fatal. Inquiry as to the status of the prisoner elicited a statement by the minister to the effect that at no time has the Spanish government or General Weyler had any idea of shooting Rivera.

Havana, April 12.—General Ruiz Rivera remains at San Cristobal. He is recovering from his wounds. In the event of a summary trial, it is not likely he will be sentenced, but he will be held as a prisoner of war.

A Rumor That Rivera Was Freed.

Key West, April 12.—News was received last night that the Cuban insurgents had made an attack on the train upon which General Rivera was being taken from San Cristobal to Havana. Reports say the insurgents were successful in their attack, and that Rivera was freed. It is impossible to get a confirmation or denial of the report as yet, but the Cuban sympathizers here believe it to be true and are accordingly jubilant.

BRYAN WAS HURT.

Piazza From Which He Was Speaking Fell—Injuries Not Serious.

St. Augustine, Fla., April 12.—Hon. William Jennings Bryan was injured here this evening by the caving in of the piazza from which he was speaking. Nearly 400 men and women were precipitated about twenty feet to the ground, and many of them were injured, but none fatally. Mr. Bryan was picked up unconscious, and removed to a physician's office, where an examination revealed that he had received no injuries of a serious character. It was deemed best, however, to abandon the reception to have been given this evening.

Mr. Bryan arrived at 5:50 P. M., and was greeted by several hundred people. At 8:30 he addressed fully 3,000 people from the piazza of the San Marco hotel. At the close of the speech hundreds of people flocked about him, and the strain was so great that one section of the piazza forty feet square fell through.

Only One Bid Received.

Washington, April 12.—The navy department received today but one bid in answer to an advertisement calling for proposals for supplying 8,000 tons of armor for three battle-ships, the Illinois, Wisconsin and Alabama, and it was irregular in form. It came from the Illinois Steel Company of Chicago, and proposed to supply 8,000 tons of armor at \$260 a ton, on condition it be given a 20-year contract to supply all naval armor. In such case the remainder of the armor would be supplied at \$240 a ton, the armor to be paid for in gold coin.

An alternative proposition, contemplated the erection of an armor plant by the government and its supply with steel by the Illinois company. No awards were made, and the whole matter will probably be referred to congress.

An American Has the Contract.

Havana, April 12.—Michael J. Dady, of Brooklyn, N. Y., has secured an important contract to improve the sanitary condition of Havana. It is said the contract will involve an expenditure of about \$15,000,000. Work will be begun next winter, and it will give immediate employment to from 4,000 to 6,000 men on sewers and pavings, etc. All the preliminaries of the agreement have been decided upon, and it is reported that Mr. Dady has as security bonds issued by the city of Havana to the amount of \$12,000,000. Mr. Dady is now here with his engineer, Mr. Byrne, and the papers are to be sent to Captain-General Weyler for his approval.

Mailcarriers A-Wheel.

Oakland, Cal., April 12.—The post-office at Fifteenth and Broadway will soon be headquarters for the most considerable and energetic cycling club in the city, for the mailcarriers are to ride wheels.

The equipping with wheels of Oakland's mail delivery service means more than would appear at first. It means possibly another collection and distribution of mail matter each day, and a consequent improvement of the general service. The hours of each carrier will be shortened and he will be supposed to make good time.

It is possible that the territories of the men will be extended, but this does not mean a cutting down in service, rather an enlargement, as the postmaster would be enabled to extend his routes and reach much further from the heart of the city.

Palmer Got a Verdict.

Canton, O., April 12.—Tyndale Palmer was yesterday given a verdict by a jury in the court of common pleas for \$1.50 in a libel suit against the Evening Repository. The suit is one of the last of the many similar ones brought by Palmer against newspapers using a press dispatch in regard to a land deal. The petition asked for \$50,000. President McKinley is one of the stockholders of the paper.

OF IMPORTANCE TO THE COAST

President of Great Northern Writes of Asiatic Trade.

NEW MARKET FOR OUR WHEAT

Hill Says That He Is Building Up Trade in the Orient and Suggests That Tariff Duties Be Reasonable.

Washington, April 12.—James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern railroad, and also interested largely in transportation to the Orient, has written a letter to a Western senator in which he points out the possibilities of trade in China and Japan, and suggests that tariff duties be so adjusted as not to prevent trade with the countries across the Pacific.

President Hill says:

"The Asiatic trade of the greatest importance to this country, and particularly to such portions of it as are interested in raising wheat. A year ago last fall wheat sold for from 18 to 22 cents per bushel in the Palouse country, south of Spokane, and this year it has sold for from 65 to 70 cents. About three years ago I sent an agent to China and Japan to investigate thoroughly what steps could be taken to introduce the general use of wheat and flour in those countries, as against their own rice, and found it simply a matter of price. I then took up the consideration of building steamers for that trade, designed to carry cargoes of flour and grain at low rates. I found that we could build the ships, but, owing to the sailors' union fixing the wages of sailors at \$30 a month, and engineers and other ship employees at about twice the wages paid by European steamers, it was impossible for us to compete with the English, German, Italian and Scandinavian ships on the Pacific. After the war with China, the Japanese used a large amount of their war indemnity for a subsidy to their merchant marine, and we opened negotiations with the General Steamship Company, of Japan, which is owned by leading men of the empire. We found their subsidy was about equal to the cost of their coal and the wages of their sailors. They pay their sailors \$5 a month Mexican, or \$2.50 in gold, enabling them to hire twelve good sailors for the wages of one American sailor. After some protracted and difficult negotiations, we concluded a contract with them for a line of steamers between Chinese and Japanese ports and Seattle, on condition that they would carry flour from Puget sound to Asiatic ports at \$3 a ton, against from \$7 to \$8 a ton formerly charged from West coast ports in the United States. The low rates fixed the rate for all lines between the Pacific coast and Asia, and has resulted in carrying out about 28,000,000 bushels, or its equivalent in flour, from the last crop. There is left about 5,000,000 bushels between now and their harvest."

"Thus you will see we have been able to find new mouths which have never before used wheaten bread, to take the entire California, Oregon and Washington wheat crop out of the European markets. This will reduce the amount going to Europe about 20 per cent, and is three times the quantity shipped to Europe from Argentina during the past year. The price of wheat this year, as compared with last is 20 to 25 cents higher, and I think it may be said that from 15 to 18 cents of this rise is clearly due to the withdrawal of the Pacific wheat from the European markets. I see in this morning's reports a telegram that European ships are loading with barley, rye and merchandise from San Francisco for Europe, after waiting months for cargoes of wheat, and that no more wheat will go to Europe from the Pacific coast."

"The only way we could bring about this reduction in the transportation of flour to Asia was by diverting the tea and matting business, which has heretofore gone mainly on English ships, from Asia direct to New York, and carrying these commodities to the Pacific coast, by a low rate, and transportation inland by rail, to distribute the commodities to points between Minnesota and New York."

"I have given you the facts, so you will understand the situation and be able to see that, unless these ships can bring their main cargoes of merchandise to the Pacific ports at rates that will compensate them for the traffic, the business must go as heretofore, to New York, and the rates on flour to Asiatic ports will be again at the old figure, or at an advance of about 50 cents a barrel, which would, in my judgment, destroy the business that has just been built up with that country. The province of Amoy alone, which is near the coast, contains over 80,000,000 people, and, at 20 pounds of flour per capita per annum, would consume the product of 40,000,000 bushels of wheat. The large districts of Tientsin and Shanghai, both within easy reach of the sea, would consume about as much more as soon as the trade could be fully opened. It is not outside the range of possibility to say that we could ship wheat at Devil's Lake or points west, as long as the demand for flour continues to grow as it has for the past six months."

There are over 2,000 miles of rail-

ways in operation in Japan.

SITUATION NO WORSE.

Report From the Mississippi Flood-Stricken District.

Memphis, April 12.—Notwithstanding the high winds and heavy rain storms reported from the overflowed Mississippi delta last night, the situation in the flood-stricken district is certainly no worse, if not better tonight. The water which has been pouring through five big crevasses for more than a week is rapidly flowing into the Mississippi again, at a point twelve miles north of Vicksburg, and is sweeping southward with terrible force. The strain on the Louisiana levees will be something terrible for a week, and if they withstand that length of time, all will be well.

The Sunflower river is also on a rampage tonight. Two-thirds of the water from the Flower lake crevasse is rushing into this stream, and a large area will be inundated from the overflow. The Tallahatchie and Coldwater rivers are gradually falling. At Helena, the river is slowly falling, and indications are that the big stream will continue to decline. The waters below the Arkansas Midland levee are at a standstill tonight.

The number of refugees is increasing at Helena almost hourly. The steamer at Helena arrived there late this afternoon with more than 100 flood sufferers, swelling the list there to 3,000. At Rosedale nothing of special interest has occurred in the situation. After the stormy night that caused buildings to rock and sway like boughs of trees, the sun came out bright and clear in that section today but a cold north wind is blowing. In the Bogie Phalia country, much suffering is reported. The Rosedale relief committee will visit that section tomorrow and distribute provisions.

At Greenville, the situation has not changed. All the levees along the Mississippi front safely withstood the storm of last night. At Memphis, the river continues to fall, a decline of one-tenth of a foot being reported by the weather bureau tonight.

The railroads, with one exception, are again open for business and in good shape, and all trains are being run on schedule time.

THE POSTAL CONGRESS.

Corcoran Art Gallery Building Leased for the Purpose.

Washington, April 12.—The post-office department has leased the old Corcoran art gallery building, on Fourteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue, for the use of the postal congress, which is to assemble May 5. It is expected the congress will be in session six or eight weeks. The entire building will be fitted and furnished expressly for the congress.

The union embraces the whole world excepting the Chinese empire, Corea and the Orange Free State. These latter countries are expected to join the union during this congress, and will be represented by delegates. Each nation can send as many delegates as it desires, but will have but one vote.

The convention will be held with closed doors, and the proceedings will be in French, according to the usual custom.

Cyclone in Alabama.

Montgomery, Ala., April 12.—A special to the Advertiser from Ozark, Ala., says:

A cyclone passed over a portion of Dale county last night, leaving wreck and disaster in its path. Many houses were demolished. Mrs. Powers was caught by the falling timber of her home, and died before she could be rescued. The rest of the family were rescued. This is the only fatality reported. For many miles the farmers are suffering, everything they had being swept away by the wind or ruined by the torrents of rain. The citizens of Ozark have sent several wagonloads of supplies to those in need.

The Treaty Ratified.

Washington, April 12.—Confirmation of the reported ratification by the Venezuela congress of the arbitration treaty has come to the state department from United States Minister Thomas, at Caracas, in the following cablegram, dated yesterday:

"Treaty was ratified by congress yesterday."

While the treaty provides that ratification may be exchanged either in London or Washington, officials of the state department believe this ceremony will take place in London, as it will thus serve the purpose of initiating the restoration of diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Venezuela, after a suspension of more than ten years.

American Money for Nurses in Crete.

Chicago, April 12.—Lady Henry Somerset has cabled Miss Frances Willard, president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, asking for \$1,500 to be spent for the White Ribbon nurses in Crete. Miss Willard cabled her consent, "feeling it is all in the cause of suffering Christians slain by Moslem sword, and the hideousness of the situation is incalculably magnified because English bullets are helping on the slaughter of Christians."

Marblehead Sailors Drowned.

Key West, April 12.—While lowering a boat today from the cruiser Marblehead, the davits broke, and three sailors were thrown into the sea. Two were drowned.

FATAL FIRE AT KNOXVILLE

Walls Blown Down by Cannon to Check Flames.

SEVERAL LIVES WERE LOST

The Loss Estimated at Over a Million Dollars—Remarkable Time Made by Rescue Party From Chattanooga.

Knoxville, Tenn., April 12.—Never in the history of Knoxville has the city suffered such a loss by fire as it did today, following the breaking out of the flames at an early hour this morning in a grocery store adjoining the big Knox hotel. The hotel and adjoining buildings were soon in flames, and the very heart of the city, including some of the largest wholesale and retail business houses in the South, destroyed. The loss is estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000, with about 60 per cent of insurance.

The loss of life is uncertain, as the register of the hotel, in which 56 people were sleeping, was burned. The proprietor of the hotel says he had five or six guests who have not put in an appearance. A. E. Weeks, of Locke, N. Y., drummer for a Rochester stamping company, is known to have perished in the flames. R. W. Hopkins, a St. Louis drummer, was last seen in the burning building in a suffocating condition.

W. H. Keppart, ex-secretary of the chamber of commerce, saved the life of John S. Bogle, an old farmer, by dragging him to a window and letting him out on the roof of another building. Keppart jumped one story and was injured. It is more than probable that Bogle will die. He inhaled the flames, and cannot speak nor swallow.

When the firemen thought all the inmates of the hotel had escaped, a woman with an infant in her arms rushed to the rear windows and screamed for help. A net was stretched and the woman asked to drop the child out, but as the smoke almost choked her, she told them that if some one had to die, both would die. The woman was finally rescued by the firemen.

From the hotel building, which is five stories, the fire spread rapidly. A stiff wind made the flames very ugly, and the fire department was inadequate.

In the wholesale hardware house of W. W. Woodruff & Co. a large dynamite explosion occurred, and scores of people were hurt by flying bricks and glass.

It became necessary at last to have the walls of one building blown down by cannon to stop the mad career of the fire. A mountain howitzer of the Knoxville Legion was called into play, and a load of canister did the work, at the same time tearing up some residences in a different portion of the city. The city authorities, realizing that the fire department was unable to conquer the flames, telegraphed to Chattanooga for assistance. An engine was placed aboard a flat car and started the run of 111 miles, which was made by Engineer Robbins in 109 minutes, breaking the record. When the engine arrived, the fire was about under control, yet the Chattanooga boys did some good work. A cabinetmaker named P. G. Dyer fell dead on the street from fright.

A man named Robinson, from Pulaski, Tenn., is supposed to be another victim. He was registered in the hotel, and has not been seen since. A large force of men is at work clearing away the debris tonight and searching the ruins. Street traffic is entirely suspended.

The last man to leave the burning hotel says he has positive proof that five or six persons were burned. He ran over three or four men in the hallways who were suffocated.

Johnson, the railroad baggage agent, came down from the fifth story of the hotel hand-over-hand on the water pipes before the engines arrived. Only one of the guests saved any of his effects.

An Alleged New Swimming Record.

San Francisco, April 12.—John Coughlan, the champion swimmer of the Dolphin Boating & Swimming Club, claims to have established a record for swimming across the Golden Gate yesterday. According to statements made by him and George Milne, the American representative of Caville, the Australian swimmer, the feat yesterday was accomplished in 42½ minutes, or exactly six minutes less than it took the Australian champion to swim across the entrance to the harbor.

"I was accompanied," the swimmer said, "across the bay by a barge of the Dolphin Boating Club in which were Matthew Gay, the high diver; Edward Rosenbaum, the lifesaver at the Sutro baths; Thomas Keenan, Thomas Kennedy, George Milne and Carl Smith. My trainer, Smith, is an old towboatman and it was his guidance through the currents that took me across so quickly."

Tacoma's New Industry.

Tacoma, April 12.—Exporting cigarettes to the Orient is a new, growing industry at this port. Seven hundred thousand cigarettes now await the sailing of the next steamship to Japan.