

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.

An epidemic of cholera has broken out in Bangkok.

Proof is positive that Dr. Ruiz, the American, was murdered in a Spanish prison in Cuba.

A boiler exploded in the print works of Noriega Bros., Puebla, Mexico, killing 60 or more persons.

Fire destroyed \$80,000 worth of property in Cairo, Ill. Twenty-five head of horses and a number of dwellings were burned.

A cloudburst, which caused the river Morge in France to rise suddenly, wrecked over 500 factories and workshops and desolated many small towns.

It is said in Astoria, upon what is apparently good authority, that Malcolm W. Sale, of Young's River, whose disappearance in March last created somewhat of a sensation, is alive and well.

Earthquakes were experienced in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, and some damage was done on the isthmus of Tehuantepec, where slightly constructed houses were cracked. One shock lasted 40 seconds.

Jerome Smeathers, his wife and seven children were poisoned at Yelvington, Ky., with Paris green, which accidentally fell in a bucket of water. One child is reported dead, two dying and possibly none will recover.

Owing to engineer and conductor forgetting orders a freight train crashed into a work train, both going at a high rate of speed, near Hudson, Wisconsin, and four workmen were instantly killed, three bodies being burned.

There was a collision between American and Spanish marines in Vera Cruz, Mexico. The Spanish hurrahed for Weyler and the Americans for Cuba. The latter were helped by Mexicans and the marines were put to flight.

The department of state has been officially informed that an international conference will be held in Berlin from October 11 to 16, 1897, to discuss the leprosy question. There will be lectures and exhibits connected therewith.

A Spanish captain and two lieutenants were tried by court-martial in Las Cabanas fortress and sentenced to be shot for cowardice in having, after 11 days siege, surrendered the government forts at Casa Orro in eastern Cuba, to the patriot forces of General Calixto Garcia.

More than three score of men have recently deserted from the warships New York and Massachusetts, together with those who left the Texas while she was in New York. Twenty-eight men took French leave of the Texas and 30 are missing from the New York. It is not known how many are missing from the Massachusetts. In every case the deserters are of foreign birth.

Alfred Pearce, in attempting to board a train at Mendota, Cal., was run over and horribly mangled. He died at the hospital a few hours after the accident.

Lansing, Ia., was visited by a supposed earthquake. An explanation has been found in the fact that a meteor was seen to fall near the city at the time of the shock.

James Williams, editor of the Chronicle, of Armore, I. T., was shot and killed by a prominent attorney of that city for an attack made through the columns of Williams' paper.

The grasshoppers are doing considerable damage in Morrow county, Or. Gardens have been completely ruined around Lexington, and in many places entire fields of wheat have been eaten up.

The pleasure steamer Hermosa, of San Francisco, while 20 miles off the Golden Gate, was shaken up considerably while on her last outward trip by colliding with a whale. The whale was nearly cut in two and the steamer will have to go to the drydock for repairs.

News comes from Grant county, Or., of the tragic death of Jeff Conley, a sheepman, at his cabin in the mountains. He went to the creek to get water, and as he stooped over, his pistol fell from his belt against the rail he was carrying, and the weapon was discharged. The bullet passed through his body, resulting in death the following day.

An Astoria dispatch says the past week has seen a radical change for the better in the run of salmon. The deliveries of fish have been remarkably large, even for this time of the year. The canneries are all running at full capacity. Not only are the fish unusually numerous, but the run as to quality is extraordinarily fine. As an example, a fisherman one morning, after a few hours' work, turned into one of the lower town canneries 30 chinook salmon, which averaged by actual weight more than 50 pounds apiece.

MURDER THE CHARGE.

Bates Soper, Alias Homer Lee, Arrested in Ashland.

Ashland, Or., June 14.—S. E. Lowe, of an Eastern detective agency, left here on this evening's train for Portland, en route eastward, with Bates Soper, alias Homer Lee, arrested by him near Ashland late last evening on a requisition from the governor of Missouri, on a charge of murder in the first degree.

It is alleged that six years ago last April Soper murdered his wife and two children, at Archie, Cass county, in Missouri, by deliberately chopping them to pieces with a hand ax.

Soper, according to his own story, came away from Missouri in 1891, and was over in Washington two months. He then came to Oregon, and lived in the Willamette valley, above Oregon City, for a year and a half. He then went to Portland, he says, and lived there four years, being known as Sandy Soper, and having employment most of the time with the Pullman Car Company in cleaning and such work in the railroad yards. He was married in Portland, and his wife is there now, though he refused to give her address. When Soper left Portland, it is claimed he had a 2-year-old child with him, and it is suspected that he made way with this child, too, after leaving Portland.

Soper left Portland last April, and passed through here to Sissons, where he remained a week, and then came back to Ashland, April 28, where he has been working since in farming and orchard work. He had leased an orchard tract here, and, at the time of his arrest, was working on the Owen farm, south of town. Those who have known him say that he was an exceedingly quiet and inoffensive man, and was an unusually good worker. He was known here as Homer Lee.

When arrested he did not deny being Bates Soper, the man wanted, though he does not admit the crime charged against him.

Lowe, the young detective who captured him, claims to have spent a year and a half in searching for Soper, and to have been on the case off and on for six years, locating his man in Portland last December. He was not entirely satisfied, so returned for further instructions, to come back and follow his trail from Portland this way. He claims to have spent months in following a clew at Cripple Creek, and then returned East with the wrong man.

CANNON BLOWN TO ATOMS.

Explosion of a Gun Cotton Shell at the Indian Head Proving Grounds.

Washington, June 14.—The state of Maryland trembled last evening as the result of an explosion of 330 pounds of gun cotton at the government proving grounds at Indian Head. A 12-inch breech-loading rifle weighing 101,000 pounds and worth \$25,000, was blown to pieces. The armor-covered "bombproof" in which the spectators take refuge while tests are made was wrecked and a dozen naval officers and ordnance experts narrowly escaped with their lives.

The final test was being made of a gun cotton shell invented by a Chicago man, and through some unaccountable accident the shell exploded in the gun, wrecking the monster and its carriage and throwing some of the pieces more than a mile down the Potomac.

Colonel O'Neill, the chief of ordnance for the navy, and several United States naval officers and naval attaches from the various foreign legations had fortunately taken refuge on a navy-tug about a mile from shore. Lieutenant Anderson, who had been directed to fire the gun by electricity when the signal was given from the tug, had gone behind a big earth bank or "butt" about 300 yards from the gun. He and other spectators were unhurt, though a massive piece of the gun, weighing many tons, flew through the air with frightful velocity and struck the water within 100 feet of the tug.

If the spectators had gone into the "bombproof," as they usually do, when such tests are made, they would all have been killed, for a big piece of steel struck it and ripped through the 12-inch armor as if it had been so much paper. A great hole was torn in the ground where the gun stood and the buildings at the proving grounds were badly shaken. Not a particle of the massive gun or its carriage remained.

This was the largest charge of gun cotton ever fired or attempted to be fired from a powder gun. The government paid about \$25,000 for the gun blown up, and it was built especially for these tests. A shell shot from this gun was expected to perforate 21 inches of steel at a distance of 1,500 yards and to travel from six to ten miles before losing its momentum.

A Cyclone in Iowa.

Mason City, Ia., June 14.—At 6:50 tonight a cyclone struck northwest of Lyle, Iowa, taking a southeasterly course. Several people are reported killed and injured. The cyclone tore up houses and other buildings in its course, and the territory is now bare. The path of the storm was about half a mile in width. All telegraph lines north are down, and box-cars on sidings were crushed into kindling.

A cyclone passed over the town of Kandiyoh, Wilmar county, Minn., and entirely demolished the buildings on the farm of John Berquist.

IS UNDER SEALED ORDERS

Mysterious Mission of the Cruiser New York.

NAVAL OFFICIALS RETICENT

General Belief in Havana Is That Weyler Will Be Recalled—Cubans Win in Several Small Engagements.

Boston, June 14.—The United States cruiser New York, the flagship of the North Atlantic squadron, with Rear Admiral Montgomery Sicard on board, steamed out of the harbor at 5 o'clock this afternoon, not a soul on board knowing to what port she is bound, for it will only be when the big white cruiser is well outside of Boston light, with her pilot over the side, that the sealed orders will be opened and her destination ascertained.

It is generally believed, however, that when she reaches Cape Cod, she will turn her nose to the southward and that her twin screws will not stop until she is somewhere in the immediate neighborhood of Cuba; for when she started she was fully provisioned and coaled, and could, if necessary, go to Gibraltar or a long distance without laying in supplies.

The New York arrived here on May 26 to participate in the ceremonies attending the unveiling of the Shaw monument. The battle-ship Massachusetts came with the flagship, while the battleship Texas had arrived some days previously. The Texas left a few days ago, but the other two ships have been swinging at their moorings off the navy-yard until today.

The rear admiral might have had some inkling of an important cruise from the fact that for the last few days the entire crew has been hard at work getting the ship ready for sea, while her coal bunkers have been filled to overflowing. Shortly after 4 o'clock, the guns of the cruiser boomed a parting salute to Commodore Howison, of the navy-yard. The anchor was weighed and the cruiser swung around in the stream and started out to sea, although a furious gale was blowing.

Naval Officials Reticent.

Washington, June 14.—The navy department officials were singularly reserved about the movements of the New York, and showed a reluctance to answer any questions. Secretary Long, in answer to a direct interrogation, replied:

"The New York is not going to Cuba; she will next be heard from at some point on the Atlantic coast well north of Cuba."

The secretary refused to answer further. It was learned, however, that the cruiser is expected to report next at Hampton Roads, Va., and that she will be at sea about two days. It is surmised that the navy department, which has been charged of late with the whole duty of looking after filibusters afloat, has been advised of the intention of some formidable expedition bound for Cuba to put out from some northern port. In such case, the department would send out a smaller cruiser usually, but it is said that at this time it was a case of choice of the vessel able to get under way first.

Weyler's Term Is Short.

New York, June 14.—A dispatch to the Herald from Havana says: It is believed here since the long suppressed news of the affairs in Madrid have been made public that General Weyler's return to Spain will be the most important result of Canovas' success in retaining power. Private telegrams have been sent to persons here in which it was distinctly stated that Campos, Dominguez and Pidal had given their support to Canovas only with the plain stipulation that General Weyler should go.

In fact, it is felt here that General Campos, who is now in power in Spain and fills the popular eye, would not on any account lend himself to the continuation of General Weyler's policy. The plan is to send General Marin here from Porto Rico and then supplant him in turn by General Blanco or Campos.

Opinion of One of Weyler's Generals.

New York, June 14.—A dispatch to the Journal from Havana says: Another of Weyler's generals, Lono, inspector-general of the civil guard in Cuba and military governor of Havana, has resigned in disgust, and expects to leave the island by the transatlantic liner sailing on June 30 for Spain direct.

Lono regards Weyler's early recall as quite assured and thinks Blanco or Lopez Dominguez will come out as his successor. Both are unusually intimate with Martinez Campos, to obtain whose support in the recent ministerial crisis Canovas is known to have made important concessions. Weyler is reported to have cabled Canovas insisting that Minister Dupuy de Lome demand from the Washington government the extradition of Nunez, Cartaya and Artega, alleged filibusters recently captured by the United States authorities on the Florida coast, alleging old criminal indictments against three of them, said to be still pending in the courts here.

AN UPRISING IN INDIA.

A Number of Officers Reported Killed by the Natives.

Bombay, June 14.—A dispatch from Simla announces serious trouble on the northern frontier, and the massacre of a number of British officers and native soldiers in the government employ.

From particulars obtainable it seems that two guns belonging to the Bombay mounted battery, escorted by 300 men belonging to the First regiment of Sikhs and the First Punjab infantry, were treacherously attacked in Tochi valley by a large force of hostile natives. The first reports said Colonel Bunny, two officers and 26 privates had been killed, and three officers and 24 men injured. Indications are that the affair is more than a conflict with warlike natives, and that the notorious Mullah of Piewindah is at the bottom of the trouble.

The latest advices, however, are that a political officer, Mr. Gee, was visiting Shirani with an escort of troops, when he was attacked at Manza by superior forces. The British troops were compelled to retreat and were followed several miles by overwhelming numbers of the enemy. The fighting was desperate. All the British officers were severely wounded. Captain Browne, of the First Sikhs, son of the late Sir James Browne, and Lieutenant Crookshank, of the royal artillery, were killed and Surgeon Higginson, Lieutenant Higginson, of the First Sikhs, and Lieutenant Seaton Browne, of the Punjab infantry were wounded.

A second dispatch says Colonel Gray has taken command of the British troops, and it is inferred that Colonel Bunny is among the dead, as at first announced.

Tochi valley lies north of Gumala, and on the road to Ghuzni and Wazirism. It has been controlled by the British since the elimination of the Hindoo-Afghan frontier, but the tribes have always been turbulent. The mullah of Piewindah is a notorious fanatical priest, and has always been hostile to the British.

PROPOSED FORTIFICATIONS

Contractors Looking Over the Site at Marrowstone Point.

Port Townsend, Wash., June 14.—The advertisement by the government for bids to prepare the site for the erection of Puget sound fortifications here has brought to inspect the site contractors from all over Washington, Oregon and California. Marrowstone point is a rough steep, high promontory, and the first work will necessarily be the providing of a source of fresh water. Prospective contractors think it will be necessary to dig a well 80 to 100 feet deep to obtain it. The contract for the Marrowstone point work will be let June 30. Condemnation proceedings for title to 1,000 acres for the fortification site on Point Wilson are under way and bids for contracts for preparing the site will appear in a short time. Fifteen hundred acres of land are included in the Point Wilson fortification reserve. The advertisement for bids stipulates that work must begin within 10 days after the contract is awarded.

CHEYENNE WAR SCARE OVER.

Yellow Hair and Sam Crow Arrested and White Bull Will Surrender.

Denver, Colo., June 14.—A special to the Rocky Mountain News from Miles City, Mont., says: Sheriff Gibbs and Stock Inspector Smith reached this city this evening, having in custody Yellow Hair and Sam Crow, the two Cheyenne Indians implicated in the Hoover murder. Agent Stouch called the Indians all in and the arrests were made by the Sheriff, no resistance being offered. Chief White Bull is still at liberty, but can be arrested at any time, having expressed himself as willing to appear in court when wanted. The sheriff did not think it advisable to arrest him until matters had subsided a little.

Washington, June 14.—A telegram received at the war department from headquarters at St. Paul states that all is now quiet among the Indians in Southern Montana, and that it is safe to withdraw the troops sent from Forts Custer and Keogh, which will be done.

May Search the Elbe.

Milwaukee, June 14.—It the wrecking company which has discovered the long-lost Pewabic is successful with its new diving apparatus in this venture, a contract will be closed with the North German Lloyd to recover the ocean steamer Elbe and its treasure of \$500,000 in gold.

The Elbe lies in 250 feet of water, a depth at which diving bells heretofore constructed have been useless, and from observations and soundings taken, is in good condition. The Elbe was sunk in collision in the North sea on the night of January 30, 1895, and 300 lives were lost. The officers of the wrecking company have been negotiating with the German Lloyd Company for some months and the result of the Pewabic will decide the outcome.

Death on the Waves.

San Francisco, June 14.—The brig Geneva, which sailed from Sydney on March 23, has arrived. Captain Paulson reports that First Officer W. E. Laideck had been lost overboard, and that one of the sailors had been crippled on the voyage.

FOR A REVENUE PRODUCER

Finance Committee Propose Bank-Check Stamp Tax.

THE SUGAR DEBATE OPENED

Jones, Vest and Caffery Are for the Position—Original Senate Committee Amendments Were Withdrawn.

Washington, June 12.—The long-deferred debate on the sugar schedule of the tariff bill came on abruptly at 10 o'clock today, after the senate had disposed of the cereals in the agricultural schedule. Jones of Arkansas opened the debate to some extent, answering Aldrich's statement on the sugar trust, and argued that the tariff were a further tribute to its vast resources. Caffery of Louisiana also opposed the schedule as a whole.

No final action was taken on the feature of the schedule, further than the withdrawal of the original senate committee amendments. This leaves the house provisions of the bill, with an amendment increasing the bounty differential from 875-1000 to 95-100 cent per pound.

The provisions relating to the Hawaiian islands went over by mutual consent.

Early in the day Tillman made a lively speech in favor of the amendment giving an export duty on agricultural products. The bounty amendment was defeated, 10 to 59.

Committee Amendments.

Washington, June 12.—The Republican members of the finance committee will withdraw the amendments for an additional tax on beer and for a duty of 10 cents per pound on tea. The question of revenue is giving the committee considerable concern. If there should be a withdrawal of the increase on tobacco, the bill would not meet the needs as a revenue producer. For this reason, it has been practically determined to make a bank check stamp tax.

The committee has agreed upon a number of additional amendments to the agricultural schedule, the most important of them relating to fish.

The rate on chicory root was fixed at 2½ cents per pound, the present rate being 3 cents and the original finance committee rate of 2 cents.

Concerning the Hawaiian treaty, there are several propositions under consideration by the committee. They include the indorsement of the Davis amendment and continuing the present treaty in force without reservation, a suggestion to the president that a new treaty should be negotiated, modifying the terms of the existing agreement so as to render them less partial to Hawaii, and a proposition looking to the giving of a year's notice to the Hawaiian government of the abrogation of the present treaty. This latter proposition is understood to originate with Senator Aldrich, and is antagonized by the special champions of Hawaii. The opinion is freely expressed by senators that the question of annexation will be taken up by the administration as soon as the tariff bill is passed.

PFANNER IS MISSING.

Disappearance of the President of the Forest Grove Bank.

Forest Grove, Or., June 14.—The Forest Grove bank closed its doors at noon today, because of an order to that effect received by Cashier E. T. Kane from Anton Pfanner, the president of the bank.

The order came in a registered letter to Mr. Kane, from Portland, in which letter was also an assignment to S. Hughes and A. Hinman, made by Mr. Pfanner for the benefit of all his creditors.

In the letter, Mr. Pfanner said that he felt that he had reached the point where he feared to go on with his business affairs, as he did not feel that he would be able to stand the mental strain; that he intended to go off among strangers for quiet, and if he got well, he would return; if not, he would die among strangers.

It is feared here by many that he has committed suicide.

About three months ago Mr. Pfanner had a serious illness, and had not fully recovered. He had for the last few days a premonition that he would have a recurrence of the trouble, and feared that it would result fatally.

Mr. Pfanner was considered one of the wealthiest men in the county, and it is thought he had plenty to pay all claims against him. There does not seem to be any reason why any one should worry who have claims against him. An inventory of his real estate was being made today, and his personal effects will be inventoried tomorrow. Until this is complete, it will not be known what his liabilities and assets are.

Mr. Pfanner did a large real estate and loan business, and enjoyed the public confidence. He was at the front in many ventures of a public nature, and it was he who built recently a private telephone line from here to Hillsboro.