

to extend our foreign commerce. To
and our merchant marine should be
enlarged. We should do our
share of the carrying trade of the
world. We do not do it now. We should
be regarded any longer. The inferi-
ority of our merchant marine is justly
regarded as a national disgrace. The gov-
ernment, by every proper constitutional
means, should aid in making our ships
competitive with every commercial port
of the world, thus opening up new and
valuable markets to the surplus products
of the farm and factory.

NEEDS OF ALASKA.

Conditions Demand a
Change in the Laws.

The territory of Alaska requires the
prompt and early attention of congress.
The conditions now existing demand a
change in the laws relating to
territory. The great influx of popula-
tion during the past summer and fall and
the prospect of a still larger immigra-
tion in the spring will not permit us to
neglect the extension of civil au-
thority within the territory or postpone
the establishment of a more thorough
government. A general system of public
lands has not yet been extended to
Alaska, and all entries thus far made in
the district are upon special surveys.
The act of congress extending to Alaska
the laws of the United States con-
cerning the reservation that it should not
be put in force the general
laws of the country.

An act approved March 3, 1891, au-
thorized the entry of lands for
public purposes, and also for the pur-
pose of not exceeding 100 acres then or
hereafter occupied for purposes of
mining and manufacture. The pur-
pose of congress, as thus far
expressed, has been that only
rights should apply to the territory
which would be specifically named. It will
be seen how much remains to be done for
this vast, remote, and yet promising por-
tion of our country.

Special authority was given to the pres-
ident by the act approved July 24, 1897,
to divide the territory into two land dis-
tricts and to designate the boundaries
thereof, and to appoint registers and re-
ceivers of said land offices, and the pres-
ident was also authorized to appoint a
surveyor-general for the entire district.
According to this authority, a surveyor-
general and receiver have been appoint-
ed with offices at Sitka. In the enu-
meration of the conditions justify it, the ad-
ditional land district authorized by law
will be established with an office at some
point in the Yukon valley. No appropri-
ation, however, was made for this pur-
pose, and that is now necessary to be
made.

The Military Post.

In accordance with the secretary of war in
his suggestions as to the necessity for a
military force in the territory of Alaska
for the protection of persons and prop-
erty, already a small force consisting
of 25 men and two officers, under com-
mand of Lieutenant-Colonel Randall, of
the Eighth infantry, has been sent to
Michael to establish a military post.
It is to the interest of the government
to encourage the development of the coun-
try and its duty to follow up its citizens
with the benefits of legal machinery.
I earnestly urge upon congress the
establishment of a system of government
which flexibility as will enable it to ad-
apt itself in the future to the needs at-
tending upon a greater population.

Relief for Starving Klondikers.

The startling though possibly exagger-
ated reports from the Yukon river
country of the probable shortage of food
for the large number of people who are
wintering there without the means of leav-
ing the country, are confirmed in such
measure as to justify bringing the matter
to the attention of congress. Access to
country this winter can be had only
by the passes from Dyea and vicinity,
which is a most difficult and perhaps im-
possible task. However, should these re-
ports be further verified, every effort at
relief should be made to carry them
out.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

For Further Improvement,
Which Will Be Made.

The important branch of our govern-
ment known as the civil service, the prac-
tice of improvement of which has long been
subject of earnest discussion, has of
late years received increased legislative
attention. During the past
months, the service has been placed
on a still firmer basis of business meth-
ods and personal merit. While the right
of veteran soldiers to reinstatement
in the service has been asserted, dis-
cussion for merely political reasons have
been carefully guarded against, the exam-
ination for admittance to the service
has been at the same time rendered
more technical and more practical, and a
marked advance has been made by giving
priority before dismissal upon all cases
of incompetency is charged or a de-
cision is made for removal of officials in
the line of the departments.

The order has been made to give the ac-
cused his right to be heard without in-
fringing the power of removal,
which should always be exercised in cases
of incompetency or incompetence, and which
is one of the safeguards of the civil ser-
vice system, preventing stagna-
tion and deadwood and keeping every
employee keenly alive to the fact that se-
curity of tenure depends not on favor,
but on his own tested and carefully
recorded service. Much, of
course, still remains to be accomplished
before the system can be made reasonably
just for our needs. There are places
where the classified service which ought
to be exempted and others unclassified
which should properly be included. I shall not hesi-
tate to exempt cases which I think have
not properly been included in the classified
service, and I will promote the public ser-
vice. The system has the approval of the
people and it will be my endeavor to up-
hold and extend it.

As forced by the length of this mes-
sage to omit many important references
to the affairs of the government with which
I have to deal at the present
time. They are fully discussed in the
biographical reports, to all of which I
invite your earnest attention.
The estimates of the expenses of the
government by the several departments
will have your careful scrutiny. While
I cannot find it an easy task to re-
duce the expenses of the government, it
is not my duty to encourage their in-
crease. In many branches of
government without injury to the pub-
lic service. It is a commanding duty to
the appropriations, within the re-
straints of the government and thus prevent
excess. WILLIAM McKINLEY.

Manston, Dec. 6, 1897.

INCENDIARISM SUSPECTED

Ellis Island Immigrant Sta-
tion Fire in a New Light.

RESULT OF A DELIBERATE PLOT

Thieves May Have Fired the Building
to Cover the Robbery of the Rail-
road Ticket Office.

New York, Dec. 13.—Facts have
come to light that suggest the possi-
bility that the mysterious fire that de-
stroyed the great immigrant buildings
on Ellis island a few months ago, was
started by thieves, who had carefully
planned a \$10,000,000 robbery, says
the Journal and Advertiser today. Ten
of the trunk lines leading to the West,
including the New York Central, the
Pennsylvania, the Erie, the Delaware,
Lackawanna & Western and the New
York, Ontario & Western, unite in
maintaining a railroad on the island,
and at all times there are quantities of
tickets there.

General Ticket Agent Robinson, of
the Ontario & Western, says that on
the night of the fire a conservative es-
timate would place the value of tickets
in the island office at \$10,000,000.
The tickets, with much cash, were
locked in drawers in wooden cases and
desks, and the entire parcel was sup-
posed to have been totally destroyed.
The different roads posted notices that
if tickets of a certain form and series
should be presented, they should be
taken up and fare demanded.

A few days ago a ticket issued by
the Ontario & Western from Chicago to
Kansas City was received from a pas-
senger and found to be one of the tick-
ets supposed to have been burned. The
part of the ticket calling for passage
from New York to Chicago has not yet
been presented.

Now the officials are asking how
many other tickets out of the \$10,000,-
000 worth are in existence. It is
deemed not impossible that the entire
lot was stolen and held until conductors
should forget the warning.

Commissioner Senner, who was in
charge of Ellis island at the time of the
fire, deems the hypothesis by no means
improbable.

"The origin of the fire was never
learned," he said. "It began in a
tower of the main building some dis-
tance from the offices occupied by the
railroad people. Every one of the gov-
ernment guards were busy getting the
immigrants safely out. It is not im-
possible that thieves deliberately start-
ed the fire in the expectation, justified
by events, that the ticket office would
be quickly deserted."

General Ticket Agent Robinson said
he could scarcely believe that any such
wholesale robbery had taken place.

"I have communicated with other
roads, and they have had no such tick-
ets presented as yet. I think it more
likely that the report of sales for the
day preceding the fire was not correct.
Of course, though, if someone had used
that ticket, if it was honestly disposed
of, it should have turned up sooner.
An investigation will be made."

TRAIL TO KLONDIKE.

Several Lives Lost in White Horse
Rapids.

Victoria, Dec. 13.—Five or six, and
perhaps seven, lives have been lost in
the White Horse rapids, Lewis river,
during the last two months, according
to John Hepburn, who arrived from
there today. A boat built for four or
six men was found below the rapids one
morning, but there was no trace of the
occupants. They must all have been
drowned. Other parties lost their out-
fits, but managed to save their lives.

There is now very little open water
between the rapids and the lakes, most
of it being frozen over.

At White Horse rapids there are
about 30 people, and there are 35 at the
foot of Marsh lake. There are at least
100 more below White Horse rapids,
and many others have gone into the
Hootalinqua country to prospect during
the winter. Hepburn had heard of no
strikes being made on the Hootalinqua
or tributaries, but a man named Davis
washed \$1,600 from the river bars last
summer. Hepburn believes that rich
strikes will be made on the Hootalin-
qua this winter.

At Tagish house, the weather was
bitterly cold, the thermometer regis-
tering 42 degrees below. People were
met making their way down all along
the route to head of Lake Bennett.
Among the goldseekers was a woman,
who was pulling her sled all alone, and
she was making fair time.

Lake Bennett was still open 15 miles
from the foot, on November 17, and
the mercury stood at 24 below.

Attempt on the Sultan's Life.

London, Dec. 13.—The Athens corre-
spondent of the Chronicle says that on
Monday last, two soldiers in the im-
perial service at the Yildiz Kiosk, the
palace of the sultan, made an attempt
on the sultan's life. This was frus-
trated by the attendants of the sultan.
The sultan had the men tortured in the
hope of extracting the names of the
instigators, but both succumbed with-
out revealing anything.

AGAIN IN SESSION.

First Regular Meeting of the Fifty-Fifth
Congress.

At noon Monday the first regular ses-
sion of the 55th congress was launched
upon the unknown sea of legislation.
Simultaneously at both ends of the capitol,
Speaker Reed in the house and
Vice-President Hobart in the senate,
dropped their gavels and called to or-
der the bodies over which they preside.
The sun shone brightly from a cloudless
sky, making a glorious bright Decem-
ber day, with a tinge of frost in the air,
and a breeze just strong enough to keep
the stars and stripes snapping from
the flagstaves.

At the capitol crowds swarmed into
the corridors at an early hour and
choked the marine steps as they ascend-
ed to the galleries from which they
were to view the show. As is usual on
such occasions, the reserved galleries
were carefully guarded, admission be-
ing only by card, and the public had
great difficulty wedging itself into the
limited space set aside for it.

In the Upper House.

The senate chamber at the opening
session was a veritable conservatory.
The floral display was beautiful. Pre-
cisely at 12 o'clock the gavel of Vice-
President Hobart fell, and the senate
was called to order. An invocation
was delivered by Rev. Milburn, the
blind chaplain. Seventy-seven senators
responded on roll-call.

The venerable Mr. Morrill, of Ver-
mont, was first recognized by the vice-
president. He offered a resolution,
which was passed, in the usual form,
that the secretary inform the house
that the senate was in session and
ready to proceed to business.

Allison of Iowa presented a resolu-
tion that a committee of two senators
be appointed to join a like committee
from the house to inform the president
that congress was in session, and pre-
pared to receive any communication he
might desire to make. The resolution
was passed, and the vice-president
named Allison and Gorman as a senate
committee.

By resolution of Cullom of Illinois,
the time of the daily meetings of the
senate was fixed at noon. On motion
of Hale of Maine, a recess was then
taken until 1 o'clock.

At 1:30 the senate reassembled and
the committee, headed by Gorman, re-
ported. The president's message was
presented by Mr. Pruden at 1:30
o'clock, and was laid before the senate
and read.

In the Lower House.

The house of representatives present-
ed an animated appearance long before
noon. The surrounding corridors were
filled with jostling, moving crowds be-
fore 11 o'clock. The galleries which
overlook the floor were black with peo-
ple. Floral tributes for members were
numerous, and in some instances im-
posing.

As the hands of the clock pointed to
12 Speaker Reed, attired in a black
cutaway coat, and wearing a red tie,
ascended the rostrum. The crack of
the gavel subdued the din on the floor
and conversation in the galleries. In
the deep silence which followed the
calling of the assemblage to order,
prayer was offered by the eminent
divine, Rev. Charles A. Boney, of
England, who delivered an invocation
solemn and impressive.

The speaker then directed the clerk
to call the roll. The roll call showed
the presence of 301 members. There
were 55 vacancies from death or resig-
nation during the recess, and the cre-
dentials of the members-elect were read
by direction of the speaker, who then
administered the oath of office to them.
On motion of Dingley a resolution was
adopted for the appointment of a com-
mittee of three to join the senate com-
mittee to wait upon the president and
inform him that congress was ready to
receive any communication he desired
to make. The speaker named Dingley,
Grosvenor and Bailey for this honor.
On motion of Henderson of Iowa daily
sessions to begin at noon each day were
ordered. The house then took a short
recess.

When the house reassembled the
committee appointed to wait upon the
president reported, having perfected its
mission. Mr. Pruden, who had fol-
lowed the committee into the hall, im-
mediately presented the message, which,
by direction of the speaker, was read at
the clerk's desk.

Appropriations Recommended.

Secretary Gage Monday transmitted
to congress estimates of the appropri-
ations required for the fiscal year ending
June 30, 1899, as furnished by several
executive departments. The total
amount called for in the estimates is
\$462,647,885, which is about \$32,000,-
000 in excess of the appropriations for
1898, including deficiencies and miscel-
laneous expenses, and about \$41,000,-
000 more than was estimated for 1898.
Under the head of public works the
treasury department, among other items,
asks for \$100,000 for the erection of a
courthouse, penitentiary, etc., at Sitka,
Alaska, and \$50,000 for continuation
of the work on the public building at
Portland, Or.

Hayti Ready to Pay.

A dispatch to the Frankfurter Zeit-
ung of Berlin from Washington says
Hayti is ready to pay Germany the in-
demnity demanded for the alleged ille-
gal arrest and imprisonment of Herr
Emil Lueders, a German subject.

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE DAY

Epitome of the Telegraphic
News of the World.

TERSE TICKS FROM THE WIRES

An Interesting Collection of Items From
the New and the Old World In a
Condensed and Comprehensive Form

A French expedition is reported mas-
sacred.

The Chinese are endeavoring to settle
matters with Germany.

The Chickasaw and Cherokee Indians
are to colonize in Mexico.

A vessel has sailed from Portsmouth,
N. H., for the Klondike.

The National Guard asks for an ap-
propriation of \$2,000,000.

There is a possibility of a rate war
between Western railroads.

A party has left San Francisco to
survey a new route to the Klondike.

San Francisco merchants are being
prosecuted for selling adulterated olive
oil.

At Salinas, Cal., two burglars cleverly
jailed the jailer and a deputy
sheriff.

A tremendous rich gold strike is re-
ported on Dog creek, a tributary of the
Yukon.

The son of a New York millionaire
died in the county hospital in San
Francisco.

The Georgia senate wants to send
state convicts to Cuba to fight for the
insurgents.

Senator Perkins has introduced a
joint resolution authorizing the pres-
ident to appoint a committee to draft a
code of laws for the territory of Alaska.

The man who helped hang Frank
Butler, the "murderer of the moun-
tains," in Australia, was arrested in
San Francisco, accused of larceny of a
coat.

One of the most horrible lynchings
ever known in Nevada has occurred at
Genoa, 14 miles from Carson. Aram
Uber, who last week shot and killed
Hans Anderson in a Millerville saloon,
was taken by a mob of masked men and
hanged to a cottonwood tree half a
mile from the jail. When taken from
his cell, the victim had nothing on but
a shirt. This was torn off by the
lynchers, and the nude body was left
dangling in the air for six hours. As
the body was being pulled up the mob
riddled it with bullets. When satisfied
that the man was dead the vigilantes
dispersed and returned to their
homes.

E. L. Hewes, the Wichita mountain
boomer, who has been at Wichita for
three weeks trying to organize a party,
has left for Oklahoma City without a
single follower. At different times he
claimed to have from 500 to 1,000
boomers ready to follow his lead into
the country.

Toru Hoshi, envoy extraordinary and
minister plenipotentiary from Japan to
the United States, was a passenger
from the Orient on the City of Peking,
which has just arrived in San Fran-
cisco. He will leave for Washington
at once carrying with him instructions
in reference to the Hawaiian treaty of
annexation which will be considered
by the United States senate.

When the German reinforcements,
consisting of four companies of in-
fantry, numbering 23 officers and 1,200
men, and a company of naval artillery,
arrive at Kiao Chau bay, for which
point, as already cabled, they will soon
set out, they will bring the German
force there up to 4,566 men, the large-
st body Germany has ever sent be-
yond European waters. It is understood
that the reserves had to be drawn upon.

Surgeon-General Wyman, of the
marine hospital service, has submitted
his annual report to Secretary Gage. It
shows that during the fiscal year ended
June 30, 1897, the total number of
patients treated at hospitals and the
dispensaries connected with the service
was 54,477. Although the total num-
ber of patients treated was 673 in ex-
cess of those treated during the pre-
vious fiscal year, the expenditures were
\$638,536, which is \$21,000 less than
the previous year.

The annual report of James H. Eckles,
controller of the currency, for the year
ended October 31, 1897, opens with a
brief resume of the history of the legis-
lation which constitutes the present
National bank act, and invites the at-
tention of congress to amendments to
the law recommended in former reports,
without specifically repealing them.
The controller renews his recommenda-
tion of last year, urging that national
bank examiners be paid an annual sal-
ary instead of fees, as now.

Further information from Washing-
ton respecting the proposed canal and
locks for the channel at the dallas is to
the effect that it is proposed to push
the work with a deal of rapidity. The
contract system and modern methods of
excavation and building have made it
clear that years need not be spent upon
a work of this character. If the con-
tract for improving the Columbia by a
small channel at the dallas is adopted
it will no doubt be stipulated that the
work must be done with rapidity.

THE ALASKA RUSH.

Western Roads Preparing to Ignore the
Canadian Pacific.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—The Western
roads have for some time been figuring
earnestly on the business that is ex-
pected to set in in the late winter, and
the early spring toward Alaska. They
have been doubtful whether the pur-
chasers of transportation would wish
to buy tickets through to Dawson City,
or only to the ports on the coast, and
today the roads took their first action
bearing on the question of Alaska rates.
They have decided to get out their rate
sheets showing the rates to Alaska and
will ignore entirely the claims of the
Canadian Pacific for the differential on
the business. The rates of the Cana-
dian Pacific will not be shown on the
sheet at all.

In the days of the old Transconti-
nental Association, the Canadian Pa-
cific was allowed a differential of \$5 on
its Pacific coast business, and it claims
the same now, but the roads of the old
association, and those of the Western
Passenger Association, after the pro-
mulgation of the supreme court deci-
sion regarding the formation of pools
and associations, absolved them from
all further obligations to allow the
differentials of the Canadian Pacific.
The latter road has never seen the mat-
ter in that light and it will make a
fight that is very likely to demoralize
the rates to Alaska, and North Pacific
coast ports.

FIGHT ON THE BORDER.

Three Mexican Guards and One Des-
perado Killed.

Denver, Dec. 13.—News is received
of a desperate fight that occurred near
the border of Arizona and old Mexico.
Three guards of the Mexican service
and one desperado were killed. The
latter was Franco Phallard, one of
Black Jack's gang, and an outlaw from
Texas, whose two brothers were killed
while members of Billy the Kid's gang.
A few days ago the border guards
learned of a raid that was designed by
Black Jack to loot a town across the
river. A start was made from Leander
Springs, and the guards had no diffi-
culty in finding them. The two forces
met face to face at a turn in the road.
There were eight outlaws against three
officers, but the latter opened the at-
tack with orders of "hands up." Two
of the outlaws turned their horses for
the hills, but Phallard dismounted,
and drawing his Winchester, opened
fire and killed the three officers before
he fell with a wound in his side which
proved fatal.

Phallard is the last of the Sam Bass
gang of trainrobbers, who cleaned out
Custer City many years ago.

HIS LAST HOPE GONE.

The California Supreme Court Decides
Against Durrant.

San Francisco, Dec. 13.—Late this
afternoon the supreme court dispelled
the last hope of W. H. T. Durrant, the
murderer of Blanche Lamont and Min-
nie Williams, by disposing in a sum-
mary manner of his two appeals.

In a written opinion, from the pen of
Chief Justice Beatty, which is con-
curred in by all but one of his col-
leagues, the court affirms the judgment
of Judge Bahr, in remanding the pris-
oner to San Quentin until the time set
for his execution, but reverses that
sentencing Durrant to be hanged on Novem-
ber 11, and remands the case to the
superior court, with instructions to pro-
ceed according to law.

As the remittur was ordered issued
forthwith and the court holds that ex-
ecution can only be stayed now by the
issuance of a certificate of probable
cause, it only remains to resentence the
condemned murderer, which will proba-
bly be done tomorrow.

Justice Garoutte alone dissented from
this opinion, maintaining that Dur-
rant's appeals should have been dis-
missed, as the time required by law for
their perfection had been allowed to
lapse.

BRAVE PORTLAND GIRL.

Rescued a Woman From a Burning
Victoria Lodging House.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 13.—Through
the courage and promptitude of Lily
Baldwin, a Portland girl, a life was
saved here under sensational circum-
stances, yesterday evening. There had
been an explosion of gasoline in the oil
tent factory of Fryon & Co., and the
entire premises were soon blazing. On
the upper floor was the American lodg-
ing-house, whose proprietress, Mrs.
Fox, was ill in bed. In the confusion
she was forgotten until the Portland
girl, a lodger, remembered her. She
ran upstairs and carried down the
landlady, who by that time was uncon-
scious from suffocation. Both escaped
with slight burns, although their dan-
ger was imminent.

Rich Strike in Montana.

Butte, Mont., Dec. 13.—Reports
from the Lowland mining district are
that a rich strike of gold and silver
quartz has been made in the Ruby
mine, and that over a million dollars'
worth of ore is in sight. The owners
are taking out over \$2,000 a day. The
property was purchased last summer
from Adolph Moulshauer, of San Fran-
cisco, for \$90,000, the principal owner
being M. E. Graves, a New York man.