

Lincoln County Leader

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TOLEDO.....OREGON

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE DAY

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

No appointments will be made by the president during the recess of congress except in case of emergency. Despite the announcement of this fact, the number of visitors at the White House are unusually large.

The long-continued cold and heavy snow of the past month are beginning to have a serious effect upon sheep in Wyoming, and it is feared that, unless there is a break in the weather soon, the losses will be heavy. Shepherds report that a number have already perished.

The controller of the currency has received information of the failure of the First National bank, of Pembina, N. D. The bank has a capital of \$50,000, and, according to its last statement, had deposits aggregating \$95,000. Bank Examiner Anheiser has been placed in charge.

Mr. Coffin, the acting controller of the currency has called attention to the fact that the retirement of national bank notes during the first 20 days of December reached the sum of \$3,000,000. This is said to be the first time during the last 10 years that the voluntary retirement has reached this amount in any one month.

After a week of conference in Boston, Justices Putnam and King, the commissioners for the United States and Canada, respectively, in the arbitration of the Behring sea claims, have completed their work for the present, and it is understood will soon begin the preparation of their reports to their respective governments.

The first meeting of the National Building Trades Council was held at St. Louis, and was marked by a scathing denunciation of the American Federation of Labor for having passed a resolution at Nashville opposing the formation of the national council. The Federation of Labor opposed the new organization as tending to create a further division in the ranks of labor.

Fireman Martin J. Oakley was killed at a fire in a five story tenement on East Forty-fourth street, New York city. Oakley was suffocated by smoke and escaping gas. Assistant Fireman Thomas Head, James Davis and Peter Connelly, of the same company, were rendered unconscious by inhaling smoke and gas, and were with difficulty revived. They are in hospitals, and their condition is serious.

While skating on the ice near Gardner, Miss., three young people suddenly broke through, and before assistance could reach them were drowned.

At Tonawanda, N. Y., while a party were skating, the ice gave way and precipitated four young people into the water. Three of them were drowned.

China approves of the Russian fleet wintering at Port Arthur, being persuaded that this action is taken in the interest of China, and necessitated by the German occupation of Kiao Chou.

A rate war is on between the various river transportation lines running to The Dalles. A reduction of fare from The Dalles to Portland is the result. This cut in rates has been looked for by the public since the opposition line was put on, some two months ago.

F. M. Gideon, the clerk of the general land office, who was referred to by Thomas Reddington in the testimony before the senate Pacific railroad committee, Saturday, as having changed the land-office records so as to throw 5,000,000 acres of government land to the Southern Pacific, has made a clear denial of the charge.

A dispatch from Christiania, Norway, to the London Chronicle, says the political situation, since the failure of the united committee on foreign affairs, has become critical, and it is feared that Sweden will seek an occasion for armed intervention in Norway. The dispatch adds that the Swedish press hopes for assistance from Emperor William.

The committee appointed at the house civil service conference 10 days ago to draft modifications of the civil service law have met and gone over the various bills pending before the house. The committee expects to have a measure framed by the time congress reconvenes. Its members are opposed to the present law as including too many offices within its scope.

A freight train of 21 loaded cars, traveling down the mountain to Altoona, Pa., became unmanageable in consequence of the slippery condition of the tracks, making the 12 miles from Gallitz into Altoona in as many minutes and crashing into a freight train directly in front of the passenger station. About 50 cars were completely broken up, and the Holidaysburg passenger train, which was standing on the track near the passenger shed, was thrown over on its side. Three of the train crew were fatally injured.

ADRIFT IN A GALE.

Rough Experience of the Steamer Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse.

New York, Dec. 27.—The giantess of ocean liners, the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, of the North German Lloyd line, arrived from Bremen a day late. She brought over 461 cabin and 393 stowage passengers. The passengers told of a terrible experience. From Cherbourg she met gale after gale.

On the third day out from Cherbourg, while a heavy sea was running and nearly all of the passengers were seasick in the berths, the ship's machinery was suddenly stopped. Some of the officers thought the machinery had broken, others that the engines had gone to pieces, and still others that the rudder was disabled. After the ponderous vessel was hove to she began to drift. For eight hours she was adrift till she was 50 miles out of her course, when she started again.

The facts in the case are that on the evening of the 19th the head of the main boiler was wobbling. Investigation showed that one of the steel bands had broken off. To prevent the boiler from vibrating and a possible explosion, it was necessary to draw the fire, stop the ship and allow the parts to cool. Captain Englehart laughed when the idea of danger in connection with the break was mentioned.

THE METHOD WAS FIENDISH.

Jacob Weiman Strangled With Cloth Ranched Down His Throat.

St. Louis, Dec. 27.—A post mortem was held yesterday on the remains of Jacob Weiman, who was found dead in his kitchen Friday evening, having been murdered. At the time a towel was found tightly twisted about his throat, but the post mortem revealed a peculiarly fiendish method the murderers had resorted to. Far down in the man's throat, tightly imbedded in the bronchial tubes, was a wad of thick cloth, which had been wrapped with horsehair. Fingers could not have reached that far, and a stick was probably used to ram the wadding down. In 1893 a soldier at Jefferson barracks was murdered in a similar manner, and the similarity of the murder of Friday with the latter has caused excitement in police circles.

TO CONTROL COAL MARKET.

Plans of a Great Combine Forming in the East.

New York, Dec. 27.—It has developed that a big coal-selling combination of the anthracite railroads whereby the production is to be doled out by the supreme head, is only a part of a vast project for control of the entire coal industry in the East. J. Pierpont Morgan's plan involves the creation of a similar central selling agency to cover each of the great bituminous coal districts of Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois and a uniform working arrangement between them that shall put a stop to rate cutting and demoralization of trade. The companies are to agree upon the proportion each is to mine and haul, and the buying company is to call upon them accordingly as fast as it needs coal for the market.

TRAIN WRECKERS AT LARGE.

Futile Attempt Made to Ditch a Burlington Passenger.

Thayer, Ia., Dec. 27.—An attempt was made between here and Murray last night to throw from the track the Burlington train No. 2. Whether the attempt was made for the purpose of robbery or for maliciousness is not known at present. About 9:30 o'clock as the train was approaching the foot of Murray hill, the engine left the track. Fortunately no particular damage was done to it or to the train, nor was anyone on board injured. On examinations it was found the track had been tampered with, and footprints of men were seen on the hill leading away from the roadbed. Spikes had been pulled out of the ties for three rail lengths, the work being done with a wrench and pinchebar, which had been stolen from the carhouse at Thayer.

Would Abolish Coroner's Office.

New York, Dec. 27.—The December grand jury handed to Judge Hurd, in the county court today, a recommendation that the office of coroner be abolished, because that office is of no practical effect in ferreting out crimes; the methods are open to the most severe censure; the manner of conducting the business is inefficient, and the power of the coroner is delegated to subordinates, whose chief functions seem to be to collect fees incidental to their office for their chief.

Good News for Hawaii.

Honolulu, Dec. 27.—The Mariposa arrived from San Francisco yesterday, bringing news of the opening of congress. Regarding the annexation treaty, the Hawaiian government received advices from Washington on the day the steamer sailed, which state that the opposition is not as strong as indicated in the press dispatches.

Wages in the South Go Up.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 27.—The Cerona Coal Company and the Virginia & Alabama Coal Company, employing about 1,200 coal miners, in Walker county, today announced that January 1, they will advance wages from 60 to 70 cents per ton.

THE COMMISSION'S FINDINGS

Made Known to the State Department.

END OF A LONG CONTROVERSY

The Award is Final, and Disposes of all Cases Before the Commission—The Award Nearly Half a Million.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The findings of the British-American commission chosen to assess the damages for seizures of British ships in Behring sea have been received by the state department and the British embassy. The strictest reticence is maintained, however, on the general character of the findings, though it is admitted the total award against the United States is \$464,000, which includes principal and interest. The finding against this government is no surprise.

The controversy has occupied the attention of the authorities here and in London for the last 11 years. At the outset the tone of the controversy was belligerent, suggesting a possible resort to arms. This was following the seizure, by the United States steamer Corwin, of the British sealers Carolina and Thornton, on August 1, 1886. The facts of the seizure were not known until some time later, and in the meantime, the Corwin had taken the Onward and Favourite. The same policy of seizure and confiscation occurred during the next sealing season, despite the protests of Great Britain, the United States steamer Rush taking the Sayward, Grace, Anna Paek, Dolphin, Alfred Adams, Triumph, Junita, Pathfinder, Black Diamond, Lilly, Arctic and Kate and Minnie, and the cutter Bear taking the Ada.

The claims for these seizures took a wide range, beginning with the value of the vessels and outfits, and including not only the value of sealskins confiscated, but also the skins which might have been taken if the ships had not been seized. This last feature of prospective damage caused the main contention. In the case of each British ship, the largest item of the claim was for estimated future catch. For instance, in the case of the Carolina, the claim for the ship was only \$4,000, while that for skins which might have been taken that year it she had not been seized was \$16,867. Each ship estimated a prospective catch of from 3,500 to 5,000 skins, the value being from \$3.50 per skin in 1887 to \$12.25 in 1889. The total of the claims, without interest, amounted to \$439,161, and with interest at 8 per cent reached \$786,166.

The only official statement that could be secured here of the judgment reached by the commissioners is contained in the following announcement given out at the state department:

"The award of the Behring sea claims commission has been filed in the department. The claims as presented by the British government on account of British vessels seized in Behring sea, aggregated, with interest, \$1,500,000. These included several cases not embraced in the settlement proposed by Secretary Gresham. The award now made amounts to \$204,181.91, to which will increase the total about 50 per cent. The award is final, and disposes of all cases before it. Payment under the treaty must be made within six months."

The departmental officials, it is assumed, will proceed at once to prepare a bill or an amendment to one of the appropriation bills for submission to congress, covering the necessary appropriation to pay the judgments, for, being bound by treaty not only to pay any judgments rendered, but to pay them promptly, the government is in honor bound to take the remaining steps toward a settlement in short order.

There appears to be little doubt that the United States carried its point on the question involved, as the prospective damages were evidently scaled down to an insignificant amount, or rejected entirely. While the department officials will make no definite announcement to this effect, intimations are given that the smallness of the award precludes the possibility of any allowance having been made on account of prospective damages. The American claims commissions established the precedent that no prospective damages could be included in a claim, and the present award is evidently on the same line.

General J. W. Foster, who is now in general charge of Behring sea affairs, said tonight, as to the award, that he was not surprised at the result. President Cleveland having officially declared that \$425,000 was a just and equitable sum in settlement, and having appointed as the American commissioner to adjudicate the claims a close personal and political friend, it could hardly be expected that the latter would strenuously contend for an award of a less amount. Mr. Foster was absent from the country in Japan when congress took action on President Cleveland's recommendation, but he regarded the commission as the proper method of reaching a settlement, and the only one which would satisfy the country.

OUR ONLY INTEREST.

Government Sounded on Its Attitude Toward China.

Washington, Dec. 24.—It is understood the authorities here have been unofficially sounded as to the attitude of the United States toward the complications in the Far East, with the view of learning whether American interests in China were regarded as sufficient to warrant any active step by this government.

From what source the inquiries have come is not disclosed. If from Great Britain, they must have come through Colonel Hay, the American ambassador, as the British officials here have received no instructions as to the Chinese situation.

It is well understood, however, that Great Britain would look with favor on any active step by the United States which would serve as a check for the advances of Germany and Russia. The British interests in China are ten times greater than those of Germany, Russia and the United States, and yet, with Germany and Russia firmly located on Chinese soil, Great Britain is left in a sort of cul de sac. It is known also that the Chinese authorities would welcome a movement by the United States, and that this has been communicated to officials here.

Although these soundings, for they amount to nothing more as yet, have not taken official form, they have been sufficient to gain a pretty general understanding as to the attitude of this government. This, in brief, is that the United States has no interest in territorial extension now going on in China; that she will not land at any of the coast ports of China, as Germany and Russia have done, and that her only consideration is to guard established American interests in China.

GRADE CROSSING ACCIDENT.

Twenty Persons Injured on the Lackawanna Railroad.

New York, Dec. 24.—Twenty persons were injured, three perhaps fatally, at a grade crossing on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, between Passiac and Delaware, N. J., tonight. They were in a stage which was struck by a train. That any of them escaped is regarded as a miracle.

All the victims are employed in the Wothern & Aldrich mill, at Delaware, two miles from Passiac. They rode to and from their work in a big covered stage. There were 36 persons crowded into the stage tonight. The party relieved the monotony of the trip by singing, and it was not until the horses were on the track that the engine was seen by the driver. The driver struck his horses sharply with the whip, and they leaped forward, and then stopped abruptly as the gate closed on the other side of the track. The locomotive struck the stage almost in the middle, hurling it several feet ahead, then struck it again, throwing it from the track. The occupants of the stage were scattered in all directions.

BEHRING SEA AWARD.

Arbitrators Agree on the Amount Canada Claimed.

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—The government has received a communication from the arbitrators appointed to deal with the claims of the Behring sea sealers against the United States government for losses caused by the seizure of their vessels, submitting the award. The arbitrators were Judge King of the supreme court of Canada, and Judge Putnam of the United States. The award is \$464,000, with two reserved cases, those of the Black Diamond for \$5,000, and the Ada for \$1,000. It will be remembered that in 1890 the United States offered \$400,000, and Canada claimed \$450,000. Afterward, a compromise was reached, and the amount placed at \$425,000, but congress refused to vote that sum. The present award is virtually what Canada agreed to accept, with interest.

And Now a Milk Trust.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—A special to the Tribune from New York says: A milk trust has been incorporated with a capital of \$15,000,000. The articles of incorporation have been filed. John D. Gilmer, the promoter of the new company, is a rich baker of 203 Greenwich street. He formed the famous corporation known as the New York Biscuit Company. Mr. Gilmer and his associates have been busy for over a year in organizing the new company. His son, W. P. Gilmer, says they will begin business at once. He says he has control of the milk delivery of over 1,000 wagons, and that a large majority of the milkdealers of the city are in the corporation. Three hundred creameries and 300 retail companies who deliver milk to consumers are to be consolidated in one great company. The present price of milk is six cents, and Gilmer says the trust could do business at a profit by selling at three cents a quart.

Three Deaths Resulted.

Altoona, Pa., Dec. 23.—As a result of last night's freight wreck, caused by a runaway train on the Pennsylvania road, three men lost their lives, and damage to the amount of \$75,000 was done to the rolling stock. The dead are: S. Kuster, Charles J. Namer and S. C. Corbin. Three locomotives, four passenger coaches and 28 loaded freight cars were wrecked.

THE CUBAN VERSION OF

Battle of the Cauto River

Crushing Spanish Defeat

AMERICAN OFFICER'S BRAVERY

Though Confronted by a Superior Force the Insurgents Inflicted Terrible Punishment on the Enemy.

New York, Dec. 23.—The Cuban version of the battle fought at Yacata on the Cauto river, December 14, has been received through the mail by Captain Alfredo Rodriguez, a Cuban insurgent officer, who is invalided in this city. It tells of a routing inflicted upon the Spanish General Pando. Captain Rodriguez's correspondent says:

"A part of General Calixto Garcia's force under Lieutenant-Colonel Pando Rios was holding the Yacata on the Cauto river. It was impossible for Pando's forces to reopen the river in order that reinforcements might be sent to the city of Bayamo, besieged by General Roloff. General Garcia's main force was a little farther up the river, protecting a ford guarded by General Pando. General Alldave, in command of 2,000 Spanish infantry, 'regulares,' a squadron of cavalry and 3,000 guerrilla volunteers, 22 cannon and six light gunboats, attacked Rios.

"Disposing his artillery on the left commanding the Yacata ford, Alldave opened a hot fire on the insurgents working on the opposite side of the river and his 500 Cubans retired to the cover of the woods, and the ford was open for the Spaniards' passage.

"Alldave advanced a column of infantry across the ford, holding the rifles and ammunition belts above their heads, the men being protected by continual artillery fire. Rios, seeing that he could not hold his position without help, sent a volunteer company, Lieutenant Charles Hickman, American, to General Calixto Garcia up the river. His courier had been directly through the enemy's fire, and made the passage safely.

"Meanwhile General Alldave lost 1,500 more men on the further bank and General Pando, with a large force at this time made a feint on the upper ford. General Garcia, deceived by Pando's movement, decided that he could spare only a small reinforcement to Colonel Rios, and sent Colonel Carlos Garcia with only 200 mounted men down the river. This reinforcement, small as it was, renewed the hopes of the defenders of the Yacata, and they charged the Spanish with bayonet.

"The Cubans, however, were heavily outnumbered that they were forced to give way. Carlos Garcia's horse was shot from under him, and Colonel Rios was slightly wounded in the leg. Colonel Garcia's exertions renewed the charge with machetes in time, and held the Spanish from check for a short while.

"By then, General Calixto Garcia had seen through General Pando's feint on the upper ford, and despatched General Rabi, with 1,000 cavalry, to their relief. These arrived just as the Spanish were recovering from the machete charge, and fell suddenly upon their rear, throwing the troops who had crossed the ford into confusion. The Spanish had to give ground and became exposed to the fire from the own artillery from the hills, and from the six gunboats, which had joined the bombardment of Rios' men. General Alldave ordered this fire to be reformed his attacking party, and he dispatched a message to General Pando for assistance in carrying the Cuban position.

"But it was too late. The Cuban reforming, raised their battle shout, 'A la machete, Cuba libre,' and upon the Spanish ranks with terrific effect.

"A body of 1,000 guerrillas was cut off from Alldave's force, and they down their arms. General Rabi, knowing the half-hearted loyalty of these volunteers, told them they might fight their own comrades or be cut to pieces, and they obeyed, and fought desperately on the Cuban side.

"General Alldave, seeing that his men would be annihilated, withdrew them across the ford, again protected by the artillery fire. General Pando with an escort, rode down from the upper ford and directed the Spanish retreat.

"The Cuban loss in this engagement was 106 killed and about 300 wounded. General Rabi's men found 200 Spanish dead and General Alldave, in his report to Havana, said his wounded numbered 200. The Cubans believe they inflicted much more damage, as the Spanish troops carried away many of their dead, and minimized the number of wounded, reporting only one-fourth of the Cuban killed was Major Lelada and Charles Garcia, a Spanish rich planter. The Spanish left a field Lieutenant-Colonel Alldave, two majors and one assistant surgeon, and standard of arms of the battle of Yacata.

"General Garcia promoted Hickman the daring courier, to captain on the field.