

## LAND REFORM

### Committee Declines to Recommendations of Roosevelt.

### CHANGE PRICE OF TIMBER LAND.

No Large Interests Are in  
of the Measures—The Wish  
People Is to Be Ignored—  
the Administration of  
Offices.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—It was  
ally decided at a meeting of  
the land committee yesterday  
attempt any legislation in the  
of reforming the land laws,  
commended by President Roose-  
his annual message. The  
-Powers bill repealing the  
desert and homestead com-  
the laws was taken up informal-  
the committee was practically  
in rejecting all three sec-  
of the bill, the only construc-  
suggested being a  
to increase the price of  
homesteads from \$1.25 to  
an acre, and to increase the  
of timber lands in states west  
the Rocky mountains from \$2.50  
or even \$10 an acre.

Timber law was favored as it  
especially by the members  
Colorado and Wyoming, on the  
that the law is being honestly  
ed out and was benefiting the  
states. The committee also took  
ground that the commutation of  
homestead should be allowed to  
be for cases in which it was a  
ship on the settler to reside five  
upon his claim before securing  
In fact, the recommendations  
a president found not a single  
er in this committee.

Chairman Lacey stated this after-  
that he was in favor of dispos-  
the matter at once, and if that  
is taken it means that no bill  
be returned by the committee to  
house—this notwithstanding that  
Lacey himself a day or two ago  
several separate bills repealing  
desert and commutation laws. He  
regard this action as a tem-  
aberration on his part.

Bad Effect on Irrigation.  
Lacey maintains that it would  
practical repeal of the irrigation  
to repeal the present land laws,  
opposed, on the ground that not-  
withstanding the provisions of that  
no settler on land irrigated by  
government will ever pay back  
the treasury any of the cost of  
the water on his land, thus indi-  
cating the probable passage at some  
time of another free homes bill  
to the government irrigate.

His solicitude for the reclama-  
tion of the land is not entirely in accord  
with the opposition last winter to the  
passage of the law creating the

land committee has  
agreed not to take up  
until the latter part  
of the year. There is now considerable  
opposition to the attitude of this com-  
mittee. The majority one way or  
the other would be narrow and the re-  
sult probably be divided. There  
are active interests behind these  
recommendations except the recom-  
mendations of the department and of the  
secretary. The bill carries no appro-  
priation for expenditure in the states  
west, and in fact would have  
the effect of limiting opera-  
tions. The suggestions are looked  
upon as purely matters of public  
policy and local interests are appar-  
ently opposed to legislation which  
would be to the greatest number. Like  
the land question is a local

Slight Chance of Legislation.  
Prospects at this time for any land  
legislation at this session of congress  
is slight. There is an equal proba-  
bility that the interior department  
will make little or no headway in sec-  
uring a law for the protection of  
public lands on the public domain at this  
session. In discussing the status of  
the land laws, nearly every member  
of the house committee stated that  
theoretically correct, and that if  
they are properly administered no  
should fall upon the government,  
and that lawful settlement of the  
country would proceed to the advan-  
ce of all.

Complimented with these statements,  
however, was considerable criticism  
of the administration of the land of-  
fices to the effect that the administra-  
tion was lax in investigating the le-  
gality of claims and final proofs, and  
in accepting alleged improvements  
which did not really comply with the  
act as well as the letter of the law.

Critically III.  
Pittsfield, N. J., Dec. 12.—Mrs.  
Anna Nelson, who inherited a fortune  
from her daughter, Mrs.  
Charles Fair, is critically ill.

## HOMESTEAD LAW FOR ALASKA.

### House Land Committee Gives Assur- ance of Its Passage.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—The  
house public lands committee today  
gave a hearing to City Attorney Hegg-  
gart, of Nome, who made impressive  
appeals for land laws for Alaska. He  
said he would concentrate his de-  
mands on two items—first a town-  
site law, and second a homestead  
law which would permit any settler  
who lives on a tract of 320 acres for  
five years in good faith to acquire  
title to the same after making final  
proof. If such homesteaders are lo-  
cated before the lands are surveyed,  
settlers will be expected to privately  
survey and mark out their home-  
steads, which are to be rectangular  
in form as far as possible, the bound-  
ary lines running approximately  
north and south and east and west.

Chairman Lacey told Mr. Heggart  
that the house had already passed the  
320-acre homestead act, and if he  
could induce the senate to insert the  
provision permitting the location of  
homesteads after the manner of lo-  
cating mineral claims there would be  
no trouble in getting that provision  
adopted by the house.

The committee was favorably im-  
pressed with both propositions advo-  
cated, and will probably act favor-  
ably if opportunity presents itself.

### Woman Suffragists Meet.

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 12.—The faith-  
ful band of women who devote their  
time and energies to keeping alive  
the agitation for equal suffrage in  
Mississippi are assembled in state  
convention here today. The sessions  
are being held behind closed doors  
with Mrs. Hala Hammond Butt, of  
Clarksdale, president of the state as-  
sociation, presiding. It is the purpose  
of the meeting to reorganize the old  
forces and to draw up plans for re-  
newed activity during the coming  
year.

### Partridge Resigns.

New York, Dec. 12.—Police Com-  
missioner Partridge today handed his  
resignation to Mayor Low.

## LAYING CABLE TO HONOLULU

### CABLE SHIP SILVERTON LEAVES SAN FRANCISCO.

Thousands Witness the Ceremony of  
Starting, Including School Children  
and Officials of San Francisco—  
Will Be in Operation by Christmas.

San Francisco, Dec. 12.—The cable  
ship Silvertton commenced laying the  
Honolulu cable today. President  
Mackey says that it will be in operation  
by Christmas. Thousands witness-  
ed the ceremony at the beach,  
including school children and public  
officials.

### CUBAN TREATY SIGNED.

Terms Are Not Divulged—Thought  
to Provide for a 20 Per Cent Reduc-  
tion on Goods

Washington, Dec. 12.—The com-  
mercial treaty between Cuba and the  
United States has been signed.  
20 Per Cent Reduction.

News came by cablegram from Sec-  
retary Bliss this morning saying the  
draft of treaty had been signed by  
himself, secretary of state and the  
secretary of the treasury at 11 o'clock  
last night.

The terms of the treaty are not di-  
vulged, but it is understood that it  
provides for a 20 per cent reduction  
on goods passing either way between  
the United States and Cuba.

### WILL INCREASE NAVY.

Russia Will Spend \$9,000,000 for New  
Ships in 1903.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 12.—A large  
increase in the navy is planned for  
1903. The budget made public today  
shows an increase of \$9,000,000 for  
new ships.

### Idaho Irrigation Scheme.

Boise, Idaho, Dec. 12.—The state of  
Idaho is soon to be the scene of the  
largest irrigation works in the United  
States, and the third in scope in  
the world. The land to be reclaimed  
is along the Snake river, and the tract  
is 271,000 acres in extent. The scheme  
includes the building of two immen-  
surable, the development of power at  
Shoshone Falls, and the building of  
an electric railroad 45 miles long  
from the Oregon Shore Line Railroad  
at Shoshone to the two towns. The  
area to be reclaimed includes sev-  
eral tracts which was set aside sev-  
eral years ago for a national park because  
of its beautiful scenery.

### Celebrates Golden Jubilee.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 12.—Grace  
Protestant Episcopal church, the lead-  
ing church of its denomination in  
Baltimore, today began a notable cele-  
bration of its golden jubilee. The  
anniversary exercises are to continue  
through Sunday and among notable  
participants will be Bishop Potter,  
of New York, Bishop Brewster, of  
Connecticut, Bishop Paret, of Mary-  
land, and President Ira Remsen, of  
Johns Hopkins University.

A spirited rivalry is growing up be-  
tween Hood River and Rogue River  
apple growers.

## VENEZUELAN ARE ARMING

### Castro Calls for Volunteers and Great Patriotic Demon- strations Occur.

Preparations for Resistance Are Be-  
ing Rapidly Made at Caracas—  
Minister Bowen Has Been Asked  
by Castro to Arbitrate the Matter.

### ALLIES WILL MERELY MAINTAIN A BLOCKADE.

Caracas, Dec. 12.—Rumor is cur-  
rent that Minister Bowen has been  
asked by President Castro to arbitrate  
the controversy between Brit-  
ain, Germany and Venezuela.

Notwithstanding the report, pre-  
parations for resistance are being  
made with feverish energy. The de-  
fenses at all the strategic points sur-  
rounding La Guayra are being pushed.  
All the coal is being sent from La  
Guayra to Caracas. All the railway  
cars on the British line have been  
sent out of La Guayra so that trans-  
portation of troops by rail is impos-  
sible.

### Castro Weakening.

London, Dec. 12.—The La Guayra  
Harbor Company here, received a cable-  
gram this afternoon reading:  
"Embargo taken off our property,  
Castro weakening."

### State Department Puzzled.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Castro's  
proposition to Minister Bowen is  
puzzling the state department. They  
are unable to decide whether he  
means to surrender or is merely  
playing for time to secure ammuni-  
tion and organize an army.

It is presumed that Bowen, in the  
capacity of temporary representa-  
tive of Britain and Germany, will  
communicate President Castro's prop-  
osition direct to the foreign offices of  
those countries.

Secretary Hay has wired to Bowen  
permission to grant Castro's request  
in submitting the proposition to Brit-  
ain and Germany. However, he is  
not in any sense to act as a representa-  
tive of the United States.

At a cabinet meeting this morning  
it was decided that there would be  
no change in the policy of the United  
States at present, and there will be  
no increase of our naval representa-  
tion on the Venezuelan coast.

### Seize Railroad.

Laguayra, Dec. 12.—The govern-  
ment has seized all the German and  
English railways and telephones.

### To Maintain Blockade.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—It is officially  
stated here today that Castro's deci-  
sion to fight in no wise changes Ger-  
many's attitude regarding the occu-  
pation of the Venezuelan territory.  
They will not advance into the in-  
terior, neither attempt to capture  
Castro, but will merely maintain a  
blockade.

### CASTRO ASKS FOR ARBITRATION

### American Gunboat Goes to La Guayra to Protect Interests There.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—A dis-  
patch from Minister Bowen to the  
state department this morning says  
that Castro has requested him to ask  
Germany and Great Britain that dif-  
ficulties arising out of claims for al-  
leged damages and injuries to Ger-  
man and British subjects during the  
civil wars in Venezuela be submitted  
to arbitration. In obedience to orders  
from the navy department, the gun-  
boat Marietta sailed from Caracas for  
La Guayra, this morning to protect  
American interests there.

### VENEZUELAN MUST ENLIST.

Those Who Refuse to Join the Army  
Will Be Arrested as Traitors.

La Guayra, Dec. 12.—President Cas-  
tro's decree calling all Venezuelans  
between the ages of 18 and 50 to  
arms, carries with it the order to ar-  
rest all those who refuse to volunteer  
as traitors. Great patriotic demon-  
strations continued in Caracas. At-  
tempts to seize La Guayra and Ca-  
bello are momentarily expected.

### BARRETT DECLINES.

As Oriental Representative of the St.  
Louis Exposition Does Not Desire  
Appointment to Japan.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The state  
department today received a dispatch  
from John Barrett, declining the ap-  
pointment as minister to Japan, giv-  
ing as a reason his employment as  
her oriental representative of the St.  
Louis exposition.

### Driscoll May Be Chosen.

It is generally believed that Lloyd  
Driscoll, now minister to Persia, will  
be chosen as minister from the  
United States to Japan.

## TO ERADICATE CATTLE DISEASE

### Committee of Agriculture Asks for an Immediate Appro- priation of \$1,000,000.

House Takes Up Many Important  
Matters—Salaries for 1904 at \$27,  
250,000—Calls for Information Con-  
cerning Venezuelan Troubles.

### TO INVESTIGATE PLAGUE OF NEW ENGLAND CATTLE.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Representa-  
tive Wadsworth, of the committee of  
agriculture, today asked unanimous  
consent for an immediate considera-  
tion of a bill appropriating a million  
dollars for investigating and eradicat-  
ing the foot and mouth disease of cat-  
tle in the New England states.

The question of proposing an  
amendment to the constitution, giv-  
ing congress the power to pass and  
enforce polygamy laws, was laid on  
the table by the judiciary committee  
today.

### Great Salary Bill.

The appropriations committee to-  
day reported a great salary bill. It  
places the legislative, executive and  
judicial expenses for 1904 at \$27,250,  
000.

### Court of Justice Building.

The public buildings committee  
authorized a favorable report on the  
Mercer bill appropriating \$7,000,000  
to purchase ground for the erection  
of the court of justice buildings for  
the accommodation of the supreme  
court, law library and the department  
of justice. Favorable action was  
taken also on the senatorial bill ap-  
propriating \$1,500,000 for a new ag-  
ricultural building.

### Concerning Venezuela.

A resolution calling on the secre-  
tary of state for all information in  
the possession of the department con-  
cerning the Venezuelan difficulty,  
was introduced by Senator Wood, of  
Missouri. It closes by asking  
whether a firm assertion of the Mon-  
roe doctrine would not preserve the  
independence and integrity of Vene-  
zuela.

### Want Chinese.

Washington, Dec. 25.—William  
Haywood, representing the Hawaiian  
sugar planters, told the senate com-  
mittee on immigration that the edu-  
cational test in the immigration bill  
would have the effect of keeping out  
of Hawaii the only labor the Hawai-  
ians can now obtain. Joseph Smolin-  
ski, representing the American Polish  
Alliance, opposed the educational  
test, and A. P. Anderson, represent-  
ing the American Steamship Line,  
suggested that various changes be  
made in the measure.

### Canadian Coal.

McCall introduced a bill giving  
President Roosevelt authority to en-  
ter into an agreement with Great  
Britain by which all coal mined in  
Canada shall enter the United States  
free and all coal mined in the United  
States shall also be admitted into

### UNION OFFICERS UNEMPLOYED.

Miners Testify That Since the Strike  
There Was an Inclination to Keep  
the Strike Officers Out of Employ-  
ment.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 12.—Former  
Docking Boss Ridgeway of the Tem-  
ple Coal Company, was the first wit-  
ness this morning before the commis-  
sion.

He said he was required to make  
an average deduction of from 5 to 7  
per cent continually, even in cases  
where the coal was perfectly clean  
and carrying the necessary amount  
of topping. He denied the company's  
claim of docking only 1 per cent.

Other witnesses testified regarding  
the operators' attitude since the  
strike had been called off, showing  
an inclination to keep the strike of-  
ficers out of employment.

The entire afternoon was taken up  
in hearing witnesses concerning the  
dockage rules of the anthracite com-  
panies.

### MERGER HEARING.

Combination Had Compelled Higher  
Rates—Shipped by Routes to Suit  
Their Convenience.

St. Paul, Dec. 12.—The merger  
hearing today was devoted to taking  
the testimony of merchants and farm-  
ers in closely competitive districts,  
showing that the combination had  
compelled higher rates and routing of  
shipments as best suited the conven-  
ience of the railways.

Thirty-four men sent by the United  
States government to build light-  
houses and fog signals at Scotch Gap,  
Unamik Island, Alaska, have return-  
ed to Portland.

## GRAIN MARKETS.

Quotations Furnished by the Coe  
Commission Company—L. C. Major  
Local Manager, Room 4, Associa-  
tion Block.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—		
Wheat—	Opened.	Closed.
December	76 1/2	75 3/4
May	77 1/2	77 1/2 @ 78
Corn—		
December	57	57 1/2
May	44 1/2	44 1/2
Oats—		
May	33 1/2	33 1/2
Pork—		
January	1650	1667
May	1545	1552
Minneapolis, Dec. 12.—		
Wheat—	Opened.	Closed.
December	73 1/2	74
May	76 @ 75 1/2	75 1/2
New York, Dec. 12.—		
Wheat—	Opened.	Closed.
December	—	83
May	—	80 1/2
July	—	79 1/2

Wheat in Chicago.  
Chicago, Dec. 12.—Wheat—76 @ 75  
1/2 per bushel.

### CHICAGO COAL RIOTS.

Detail of Police Guard Offices of Lill  
Company to Quell Demonstrations  
—Coal 45 Cents a Bushel.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—A detail of po-  
lice called at the coal offices of the  
Lill Company today to quell the dem-  
onstrations of would-be-purchasers of  
anthracite. The company has three  
vessels lying off the yards containing  
coal costing \$50,000, for which it de-  
mands 45 cents a bushel, making the  
cargos worth nearly \$170,000.

### Tobacco Growers Meet.

Paris, Ky., Dec. 12.—The Tobacco  
Growers' Association of Kentucky is  
in session here today with a good at-  
tendance of prominent growers. The  
purpose of the meeting is to discuss  
questions relative to crops, prices, or-  
ganization, taxes, etc.

### A PANIC ON WALL STREET

BROKERS WERE FLOODED  
WITH SELLING ORDERS.

Some Firms Lost Heavily—Union  
Pacific Securities Drop 2 1/2 Cents—  
Two Companies Fail.

New York, Dec. 12.—Panicly con-  
ditions prevailed on Wall street this  
morning, and the greatest excitement  
in many months. The brokers were  
flooded with selling orders.

Among other securities the South-  
ern Pacific last 3 cents and the Union  
Pacific 2 1/2. Some firms were hard  
hit. Pearson & Co., and one smaller  
but well-known company, failed. To-  
wards noon a big rally began.

### FIRE AT SPOKANE.

Destroys Contents of Hotel Ridpath  
at a Loss of \$200,000.

Spokane, Dec. 12.—Fire this morn-  
ing at 1:40 in the basement of Hotel  
Ridpath, destroyed its contents, at a  
loss of \$200,000. The hotel was  
crowded with guests, who escaped to  
their night clothes and went to neigh-  
boring hotels. Policeman Ware  
who aroused the guests, was over-  
come by smoke in a passage, but was  
rescued by the firemen.

### Dinner to General Chaffee.

New York, Dec. 12.—Elaborate ar-  
rangements have been made by the  
Union League Club, of Brooklyn for  
its banquet tonight in honor of Gen-  
eral Chaffee, who recently assumed  
command of the Department of the  
East. Three hundred invitations have  
been issued and the guests will in-  
clude state officials of New York,  
army officers, members of congress  
and other men in public life.

### Are babies Becoming Extinct?

There is little place in city life to-  
day for babies. Landlords prefer to  
let houses to families that have no  
children to do damage to the prop-  
erty and annoy the neighbors. Apart-  
ment houses are generally closed  
against the little ones. Dogs may be  
accepted, but no children. The ap-  
plicant for a place as janitor, steward,  
coachman, or any of a dozen other  
places of domestic service may be al-  
lowed to have a wife and perhaps  
bring her with him for service, but  
the mahogany doors will not swing  
open to servants' children. The poor  
widow who is forced to make the liv-  
ing for herself and little ones finds  
them a barrier wherever she turns.

### His Occupation.

In the halls of the vast institution  
of learning they warn us to tread  
lightly as we pass the seat of the  
pallid youth who is moodily compos-  
ing something upon a sheet of pure  
white paper.

We see his knitted brow, his air of  
intense thought, his every evidence of  
a great mental struggle.

"Ah," we whisper, "is he preparing  
some weighty treatise on political  
economy, or some thesis which shall  
show the nations of the world the  
proper system of government?"

"No," whispers the guide in reply,  
"He is getting up the new class yell."  
—Baltimore American.

## BRIGHT PROSPECT

### Indications Point to a Large Attendance at Tomorrow's Meeting.

JUDGE LOWELL WILL EX-  
PLAIN IRRIGATION LAW.

No Elaborate Program—Temporary  
Organization at Afternoon Meeting  
—Evening Session to be Held at  
Which Permanent Officers Will be  
Elected.

The East Oregonian has been ad-  
vised by active irrigators in every  
section of Umatilla county that en-  
thusiastic delegates will be sent to  
the meeting in this city tomorrow  
afternoon. Milton, Weston, Helix,  
Adams, Pilot Rock, Umatilla, Echo  
and Ukiah have each signified their  
intention to send delegates and take  
an active part in organizing a sub-  
stantial, vigorous, aggressive county  
association, or district association, if  
Morrow county accepts the invitation  
to join with Umatilla county in the  
movement.

### Morrow County Interested.

The plans to be presented to the  
convention will contain every feasible  
scheme that lies within the bor-  
ders of this and perhaps Morrow  
county. The invitation to join with  
Umatilla has been extended to Mor-  
row county, and Judge Hartman yester-  
day evening received a letter from  
Judge Bartholomew, of Morrow coun-  
ty, stating that the people of that sec-  
tion were deeply interested and  
would send a delegation to the con-  
vention tomorrow afternoon.

### Program Not Extensive.

No extensive preliminary arrange-  
ments are necessary in organizing the  
irrigation association. The  
subject has been constantly before  
the people for months, and the com-  
mittee on program has no formal an-  
nouncement to make in regard to  
plans, other than that a temporary  
organization will be formed at 2:30  
p. m., and the subject of irrigation  
and the various plans to be presented  
will be discussed at that time.

### Address by Judge Lowell.

Judge Lowell will address the even-  
ing session upon the provisions of  
the "Carey and Maxwell Laws." This  
will be a highly interesting feature  
of the session, as the exact meaning  
and aim of the different irrigation  
laws are not thoroughly understood  
by a majority of the people interest-  
ed in the subject. Permanent organ-  
ization will then be effected and of-  
ficers elected.

### Rebecca J. Taylor's Case.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—The  
petition of Miss Rebecca J. Taylor for  
a writ of mandamus to compel the  
secretary of war to reinstate her in  
her position at the war department  
came up for hearing today in the dis-  
trict supreme court. The case has at-  
tracted wide attention because of the  
assertion that Miss Taylor was dis-  
charged on account of making certain  
criticisms of the administration's  
Philippine policy. Miss Taylor averred  
that her removal was in violation  
of the civil service rules and demand-  
ed an investigation. Secretary Root  
adhered to his original order of dis-  
missal, and Miss Taylor then appealed  
to the courts to compel the secretary  
to reinstate her. The final result of  
the proceedings is awaited with keen  
interest in departmental circles.

### Increased Earnings Predicted.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 12.—Probably  
never before has a more general feel-  
ing of confidence prevailed among any  
class of railroad officials regarding  
the outlook for traffic than is felt  
among the Western contingent at the  
present time regarding the outlook  
for 1903. A canvass of the officials  
of the principal Western roads fails  
to find a single one who is not of the  
opinion that the volume of traffic and  
earnings on the roads during the com-  
ing year will be far in excess of the  
figures for the current year. One  
particular fact is emphasized, and  
that is the rate situation, which is  
said to be perfect. The large amount  
of east and westbound traffic has  
given all the railroads as much busi-  
ness as they can possibly handle with  
their present equipment, and there  
has been no incentive for cutting  
rates.

### CRACKER CREEK FACTS

The value of the Company's operat-  
ing on the mother lode is as follows,  
based on the same capital as South Pole

Columbia \$1 per share  
E. and E. 90c per share  
North Pole \$5 per share  
Golconda started at 10c now sell-  
ing at 50c and worth more  
South Pole is starting at 15c

The time to buy is on the first offer-  
ing of stock and profit by all advances.  
Gabagon at Harman's abstract office.