

LAND REFORM

Committee Declines to Recommend of Roosevelt.

CHANGE PRICE OF TIMBER LAND.

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

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—It was finally decided at a meeting of the house land committee yesterday to attempt any legislation in the line of reforming the land laws, recommended by President Roosevelt in his annual message. The committee is repealing the desert and homestead laws as they were taken up informally. The committee was practically unanimous in rejecting all three sections of the bill, the only constructive suggestion being a provision to increase the price of timber lands from \$1.25 to \$2.50 per acre, and to increase the price of timber lands in states west of the Rocky mountains from \$2.50 to \$10 an acre.

The bill was favored as it especially by the members of Colorado and Wyoming, on the ground that the law is being honestly carried 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 burden on the settler to reside five years on his claim before securing title. In fact, the recommendations of the president found not a single supporter in this committee.

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

Bad Effect on Irrigation.
Lacey maintains that it would be a practical repeal of the irrigation law to repeal the present land laws, proposed, on the ground that notwithstanding the provisions of that law no settler on land irrigated by government will ever pay back the treasury any of the cost of the water on his land, thus indicating the probable passage at some time of another free homes bill to the government irrigate.

His solicitude for the reclamation bill is not entirely in accord with the opposition last winter to the passage of the law creating the reclamation fund.

The land committee has agreed not to take up any legislation until the latter part of the year. There is now considerable doubt as to the attitude of this committee toward any changes in the law. The majority one way or the other would be narrow and the result probably be divided. There are active interests behind these recommendations except the recommendations of the department and of the committee for expenditure in the states and in fact would have the effect of limiting operations. The suggestions are looked upon as purely matters of public policy and local interests are apparently opposed to legislation which would take the idea of the greatest benefit to the greatest number. Like the land question is a local matter.

Slight Chance of Legislation.
Prospects at this time for any land legislation at this session of congress is slight. There is an equal probability that the interior department will make little or no headway in securing a law for the protection of the public domain at this session. In discussing the status of the land laws, nearly every member of the house committee stated that they believed the laws as they stood to be theoretically correct, and that if they are properly administered no one should fall upon the government, and that the settlement of the land would proceed to the advantage of all.

Compared with these statements, however, was considerable criticism of the administration of the land laws to the effect that the administration was lax in investigating the legality of filings and final proofs, and in accepting alleged improvements which did not really comply with the law as well as the letter of the law.

Critically Ill.
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 Assurance of Its Passage.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 12.—The house public lands committee today gave a hearing to City Attorney Heggart, of Nome, who made impressive appeals for land laws for Alaska. He said he would concentrate his demands 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 to hold title to acquire title to the same after making final proof. If such homesteaders are located before the lands are surveyed, settlers will be expected to privately survey and mark out their homesteads, which are to be rectangular in form as far as possible, the boundary 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 locating mineral claims there would be no trouble in getting that provision adopted by the house.

The committee was favorably impressed with both propositions advocated, and will probably act favorably if opportunity presents itself.

Woman Suffragists Meet.

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 12.—The faithful 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 association, presiding. It is the purpose of the meeting to reorganize the old forces and to draw up plans for renewed activity during the coming year.

Partridge Resigns.

New York, Dec. 12.—Police Commissioner 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 Silvertone commenced laying the Honolulu cable today. President Mackey says that it will be in operation by Christmas. Thousands witnessed 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 Reduction on Goods

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

News came by cablegram from Secretary 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 divulged, 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 immense canals, 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 the tract which was set aside several years ago for a national park because of its beautiful scenery.

Celebrates Golden Jubilee.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 12.—Grace Protestant Episcopal church, the leading church of its denomination in Baltimore, today began a notable celebration 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 Maryland, and President Ira Remsen, of Johns Hopkins University.

A spirited rivalry is growing up between Hood River and Rogue River apple growers.

VENEZUELAN ARE ARMING

Castro Calls for Volunteers and Great Patriotic Demonstrations Occur.

ALLIES WILL MERELY MAINTAIN A BLOCKADE.

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

Caracas, Dec. 12.—Rumor is current that Minister Bowen has been asked by President Castro to arbitrate the controversy between Britain, Germany and Venezuela.

Notwithstanding the report, preparations for resistance are being made with feverish energy. The defenses at all the strategic points surrounding 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 transportation of troops by rail is impossible.

Castro Weakening.

London, Dec. 12.—The La Guayra Harbor Company here, received a cablegram 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 ammunition and organize an army.

It is presumed that Bowen, in the capacity of temporary representative of Britain and Germany, will communicate President Castro's proposition 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 Britain and Germany. However, he is not in any sense to act as a representative 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 representation on the Venezuelan coast.

Seize Railroad.

Laguayra, Dec. 12.—The government 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 decision to fight in no wise changes Germany's attitude regarding the occupation of the Venezuelan territory. They will not advance into the interior, 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 dispatch from Minister Bowen to the state department this morning says that Castro has requested him to ask Germany and Great Britain that difficulties arising out of claims for alleged damages and injuries to German and British subjects during the civil wars in Venezuela be submitted to arbitration. In obedience to orders from the navy department, the gunboat 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 Castro's decree calling all Venezuelans between the ages of 18 and 50 to arms, carries with it the order to arrest all those who refuse to volunteer as traitors. Great patriotic demonstrations continued in Caracas. Attempts to seize La Guayra and Cabello 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 appointment as minister to Japan, giving 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 to the United States to Japan.

TO ERADICATE CATTLE DISEASE

Committee of Agriculture Asks for an Immediate Appropriation of \$1,000,000.

TO INVESTIGATE PLAGUE OF NEW ENGLAND CATTLE.

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

Washington, Dec. 12.—Representative Wadsworth, of the committee of agriculture, today asked unanimous consent for an immediate appropriation of a million dollars for investigating and eradicating the foot and mouth disease of cattle in the New England states.

The question of proposing an amendment to the constitution, giving 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 today 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 appropriating \$1,500,000 for a new agricultural building.

Concerning Venezuela.

A resolution calling on the secretary of state for all information in the possession of the department concerning the Venezuelan difficulty, was introduced by Senator Wood, of Missouri. It closes by asking whether a firm assertion of the Monroe doctrine would not preserve the independence and integrity of Venezuela.

Want Chinese.

Washington, Dec. 25.—William Hayward, representing the Hawaiian sugar planters, told the senate committee on immigration that the educational test in the immigration bill would have the effect of keeping out of Hawaii the only labor the Hawaiians can now obtain. Joseph Smolinski, representing the American Polish Alliance, opposed the educational test, and A. P. Anderson, representing the American Steamship Line, suggested that various changes be made in the measure.

Canadian Coal.

McCall introduced a bill giving President Roosevelt authority to enter 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 Canada.

UNION OFFICERS UNEMPLOYED.

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

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 12.—Former Docking Boss Ridgeway of the Temple Coal Company, was the first witness this morning before the commission.

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 officers out of employment.

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

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 farmers in closely competitive districts, showing that the combination had compelled higher rates and routing of shipments as best suited the convenience 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 returned to Portland.

GRAIN MARKETS.

Quotations Furnished by the Coo Commission Company—L. C. Major Local Manager, Room 4, Association 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

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 police called at the coal offices of the Lill Company today to quell the demonstrations of would-be-purchasers of anthracite. The company has three vessels lying off the yards containing coal costing \$50,000, for which it demands 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 attendance of prominent growers. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss questions relative to crops, prices, organization, 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.—Panic conditions prevailed on Wall street this morning, and the greatest excitement in many months. The brokers were flooded with selling orders.

Among other securities the Southern 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. Towards noon a big rally began.

FIRE AT SPOKANE.

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

Spokane, Dec. 12.—Fire this morning 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 in their night clothes and went to neighboring hotels. Policeman Ware, who aroused the guests, was overcome by smoke in a passage, but was rescued by the firemen.

Dinner to General Chaffee.

New York, Dec. 12.—Elaborate arrangements have been made by the Union League Club, of Brooklyn for its banquet tonight in honor of General Chaffee, who recently assumed command of the Department of the East. Three hundred invitations have been issued and the guests will include 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 today for babies. Landlords prefer to let houses to families that have no children to do damage to the property and annoy the neighbors. Apartment houses are generally closed against the little ones. Dogs may be accepted, but no children. The applicant for a place as janitor, steward, coachman, or any of a dozen other places of domestic service may be allowed 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 living 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 composing 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 EXPLAIN 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 advised by active irrigators in every section of Umatilla county that enthusiastic 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 substantial, 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 borders of this and perhaps Morrow county. The invitation to join with Umatilla has been extended to Morrow county, and Judge Hartman yesterday evening received a letter from Judge Bartholomew, of Morrow county, stating that the people of that section were deeply interested and would send a delegation to the convention tomorrow afternoon.

Program Not Extensive.

No extensive preliminary arrangements are necessary in organizing the irrigation association. The subject has been constantly before the people for months, and the committee on program has no formal announcement 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 evening 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 interested in the subject. Permanent organization will then be effected and officers 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 district supreme court. The case has attracted wide attention because of the assertion that Miss Taylor was discharged 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 demanded an investigation. Secretary Root adhered to his original order of dismissal, 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 feeling 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 coming 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 business 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 operation 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 selling at 50c and worth more
South Pole is starting at 15c

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