

PHILIPPINE AND PANAMA AFFAIRS

Complete Transfer of the Canal Zone Will Be Effected Without a Hitch.

FIRST SESSION OF THE PANAMA COMMISSION.

Commissioners Sail for Isthmus on March 29—Major General Davis Will Be the Resident Governor of the Canal Zone—Secretary Taft Urges Government Aid for Capital, Else it Will Not Invest in the Philippines.

Washington, March 23.—Attorney-General Knox announced after the cabinet meeting this afternoon that there will be no hitch in the progress of arrangement for the transfer of the Panama property to the United States; that Assistant Attorney-General Jay J. Russell will leave for Paris tomorrow to complete the details.

The newly organized Panama commission met last evening for the first time, all the members being present. After a business session, at which was only a general discussion of plans, the commissioners adjourned to the White House, where they were entertained by the president at luncheon. They sail for the Isthmus March 29.

Resident Governor on Strip. Washington, March 23.—Major-General Davis was today selected by the president to be resident governor on the canal strip.

Government Aid for Capital.

Washington, March 23.—Secretary Taft is before the house committee on insular affairs, discussing the Copper bill authorizing the Philippine commissioners to issue bonds for improvements. Unless there be some government aid, capital will not go into the islands for the construction of railroads.

He encouraged in the view that electric roads should be included and all built by native laborers. This will be more expensive, perhaps, but having the advantage of creating good feeling.

Of 1,000 miles of railroad needed, one-third would prove a paying venture, and would not call for payment of a guaranty.

Kill and Capture Insurgents.

Manila, March 23.—Macario Sakay, president of the "Filipino republic," with 15 followers, were killed and the remainder of the band captured by Captain Dewitt's constabulary and Lieutenant Pitney's scouts. No casualties to the Americans.

MARTIAL LAW.

Colorado Again on the Verge of Civil War. Trinidad, Col., March 23.—Four hundred troops, infantry, cavalry and artillery, arrived this morning in command of Major Hill, who will be military ruler in Las Animas county during the martial law declared by the governor.

Following the Telluride precedent, a strict press censorship will be maintained. The special miners' convention in district 15, called for last Thursday, which promised to result in a settlement of the strike, now may prove abortive because of the presence of troops.

Subonic Plague in Africa.

Pretoria, March 23.—One death from bubonic plague here today. The authorities believe it originated at Johannesburg, where it has been raging. They are unsuccessful in isolating it, and it is feared it will spread through South Africa.

Finding Wreckage.

Victoria, B. C., March 23.—More wreckage from the lost Lamorna indicates she was probably wrecked three days ago on the Starlight reef off Ucllet Bay. There is but little doubt that all on board were drowned.

Natural Gas Exploded.

Littleton, W. Va., March 23.—The Sharpe hotel was blown up by natural gas this morning. William Lawson, of Pittsburg, was killed, and it is feared five others were burned to death in the ruins. Gas had accumulated in a storage cellar, and was ignited by a servant with a lighted lamp.

PROGRESS OF BOTKIN CASE.

State Presents Some Damaging Testimony.

San Francisco, March 23.—The court room was again crowded with women when the Botkin trial was resumed this morning. Long before the doors opened a great mob of women congregated in the corridors. As soon as the doors were thrown open they made a rush to get inside, knocking down the policeman guarding the entrances.

Candy Box Identified.

Lella Dunn, daughter of one of the victims, was the first witness. She partook of the poisoned candy, became quite ill, but soon recovered. She identified a candy box shown her as the one received by Mrs. Dunning. When the box was exhibited Mrs. Botkin was agitated. She whispered excitedly to her attorneys. She soon quieted, however, and resumed her customary stolid demeanor.

Dr. A. G. Bishop, the family physician, followed and told of the symptoms of the death of Mrs. Dunning, and said arsenical poisoning was responsible. He became badly mixed when asked regarding the difference between arsenical and ptomaine poisoning symptoms.

VAST RAILROAD DEALS IN SIGHT

MERGER DECISION HAS UNEXPECTED EFFECTS.

General Rate War May Be Precipitated by the Hill Interests—Capture of Hill Interests by the Harriman Combination Is Looked for by Some—Santa Fe May Enter a General Merger of Pacific Interests.

New York, March 23.—Wall street is filled this afternoon with rumors regarding a rise in Union Pacific and the stocks of the subsidiary companies of the Northern Securities as well. The Union experienced tremendous dealings and rose to seven points, Southern to three.

One story is that the war of three years ago, which culminated in the panic of 1901, has been renewed by the Hill-Harriman interests. The theory is that Union Pacific will control Northern Pacific on the dissolution of the Northern Securities, and force the return of the merged stocks.

To offset this, street gossip has it that Hill interests have bought heavily into Union and Southern. Still another story is that Union is by harmonious agreement to be made the dominating interest in the Northern Pacific and Great Northern. Other stories have it that the Santa Fe is to be made a member of the family of Pacific roads.

WALLA WALLA SPORTS.

Will Bowl With Pendleton Team—Ten-Round Scrap at Garden City.

Captain John Kremer of the Walla Walla bowling team, was in the city this morning, having come with his team to bowl with the Pendleton team.

He reports that there will be a 10-round scrap at the Walla Walla Athletic Club rooms tomorrow night between Barney Mullin, of Spokane, and Fred Muller, of Astoria. Both of the men are in good condition and will weigh in at 138 pounds. Great interest in the contest is being manifested in the Garden City and vicinity, and it is thought that the building will be crowded when time is called.

Captain John Kremer, Charles Andree, Ban Lankard, Harry Powell and A. L. Hastings, representing the bowling team from the Walla Walla Athletic Club, left this morning for their homes, after having done things to the Pendleton boys in the bowling contest. The visitors made a total of 4,379 pins, which was 145 more than the Pendleton boys could succeed in knocking over, and were thus awarded the decision. The highest average was won by Harry Boswell, with a total of 242 pins.

Columbia College Students.

Alfred J. Curtis, Earl J. Phea, J. M. Bickford, Walter H. Gay and Henry Curtis, all students of the Columbia College at Milton, were in the city last night while on their way to the valley. Some of them are going to their homes for a short time, while Mr. Curtis is on his way to San Francisco. He is just recovering from a hard attack of appendicitis.

Gone to California.

Charles E. Green will leave in the morning with a carload of household effects for Grass Valley, Cal., where he expects to make a home for himself and family. Mrs. Green and children left this morning. Mr. Green came to this city about a year ago from Holton, Kan., and for some time has been the owner of the fish market on Main street, formerly known as the Castle fish market.

RURAL CARRIERS WILL BE AGENTS

Proposal to Authorize Them to Do Business for the Newspapers.

PRESIDENT ADVISES PINE RIDGE INDIANS.

Continued Hearings in the Postal Frauds Cases, Before the House Committee—General Tendency to Whitewash Members of Congress Is Noted—Senator Gibson Introduces a Bill to Repeal the Desert Land Act—Land Fraud Indictments.

Washington, March 23.—Newspaper publishers appeared before the senate committee on postoffices this morning to urge that rural free delivery carriers be permitted by law to act as agents for newspapers and periodicals in the collection of subscriptions, the newspapers to pay the carriers for such services.

Although no vote was taken, it was made evident that the committee will favor the proposition. The newspaper delegation had previously elected M. A. McRae as chairman and delegated him to make the principal address.

Roosevelt Advises the Indians.

President Roosevelt preached a homely sermon to a delegation of Indians from Pine Ridge this morning, urging them to sell half their ponies and get more cattle. "The government will help you all it can, but it cannot help men who can work and won't." The bucks noted their approval.

Postal Frauds Hearing.

Washington, March 23.—The house postal irregularities committee this morning heard First Assistant Postmaster-General Wynne.

His first knowledge of the discontinuance of allowances, 900 in all, came to the house postoffice committee through Waters, January 11. He said Waters was addressing the committee on the appropriations bill.

The next he heard was when the postmaster-general handed him, January 15, a letter from Chairman Overstreet, asking for that list. He sent for Waters and directed him to bring it. He recalled attention to the fact that it contained names of members of congress. He and the postmaster-general agreed with Beavers and Machen because they had done nothing wrong.

More Indictments.

Secretary Hitchcock received word today that seven more indictments in land fraud cases have been returned in Oregon.

To Repeal Desert Land Act.

In the senate Gibson introduced a bill providing for the repeal of the desert land act and gave notice that he would address the senate tomorrow.

Lake Shore Wreck.

Eric, Pa., March 23.—A Lake Shore & Pittsburg express ran into an open switch northeast of her this morning. Two trainmen were fatally hurt and passengers badly shaken. The train left the track.

PENDLETON POSTOFFICE WILL REMAIN IN PRESENT QUARTERS

Washington, D. C., March 22.—Postmaster Pendleton, Oregon:—Hotel proposal to renew lease from April first was accepted yesterday. See instructions in letter. J. J. Hawley, acting first assistant postmaster-general.

The foregoing telegram was received last night by Postmaster Livermore and settles the mooted question of the location of the postoffice, for the time, at least.

Work will begin at once on the interior of the office and it will be entirely remodeled. The space occupied by the news stand conducted by R. E. Baum in the left-hand corner as you enter the door, will be removed and all that side of the house will be enclosed with a partition extending into the main room about 14 feet.

Immediately as you enter the building and to the left will be found the private office of the postmaster, after the alterations are made. Next to this will be the money order win-

RUSSIA LOSES A BATTLESHIP

Said to Have Been Destroyed During an Engagement on March 18.

KOREANS ENLISTING IN RUSSIAN SERVICE

Russian Engineers Killed While Repairing the Retvizan—Ice Is Breaking in the Yalu—Japan Has a Distinct Purpose in Hoping That China Will Remain Neutral—Japanese Editor Arrested and Paper Suppressed.

London, March 23.—A Tokio dispatch says a report is received there from Moji, on the coast, that a Russian battleship was destroyed in a Japanese attack on Port Arthur March 18, and the city bombarded. Naval authorities are not advised.

Russians Lose a Warship.

London, March 23.—A Moji dispatch after the Japanese had thrown a number of shells into the city, the Russian fleet engaged them outside of the harbor, the Russians losing one warship. The Japanese casualties are placed at seven. No mention is made of injury to the Japanese fleet.

Public Houses Closed.

Port Arthur, March 23.—General Stosel, commandant, has closed all public houses as a result of the increased drunkenness.

Word is received that 100 Koreans at Poissan Bay, have volunteered for the Russian army. Two engineers were killed by an explosion while repairing the battleship Retvizan.

Ice Breaking Up.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—New Chwang dispatches state that the last firing at Yinkow was due to gun practice at the forts. The ice in the river is breaking rapidly.

Italians Working for Japan.

Rome, March 23.—The Japanese government has arranged for a party of Italian naval engineers and workmen to go to Japanese dockyards and assist in work there.

Accused of Being a Spy.

Tokio, March 23.—Tiesuke Akiyama, a member of parliament and publisher of a newspaper here, is to be investigated by a committee of parliament. He is accused of being a spy, having attacked the government, his paper charging it with forcing capitalists to subscribe to the war bonds. The paper has been suppressed.

Strict Censorship.

Washington, March 23.—Minister Allen, of Seoul, cables today: "Specie caravan bound for the mines was stopped by Japanese forces south of Anju and the miners were not allowed to proceed further in that direction."

Newspaper correspondents have been called from Northern Korea to Seoul. The censorship is strict. After hard marches the Japanese troops are arriving at Pnyang.

Want China to Remain Neutral.

Vienna, March 23.—The Neu Priereraz learns that Japan has intimated to China she earnestly desires

that China's neutrality be strictly maintained in the Far East, fearing that Chinese participation will seriously affect her foreign trade and possibly cause a boxer uprising, thus leading to intervention by the powers.

FOR FRATERNAL BUILDING.

State Convention of the Maccabees Indorse the Plan of Oregon Fraternal Societies.

Portland, March 23.—The most important business transacted by the state convention of the Maccabees yesterday, was the adoption of the plan of Oregon fraternal societies to build a fraternal hall for the Lewis and Clark fair.

A resolution was unanimously adopted authorizing the expenditure of \$50,000 for this purpose.

Central Texas Floods.

Fort Worth, Texas, March 23.—terrible hail and windstorms in Central Texas washed out the bridges and tracks of the Santa Fe for many miles. H. Burger, in Yell county, was killed in the debris of a barn. Crops have been vastly damaged. On the Brazos, in Palo Pinto county, the loss of stock is tremendous.

SUMPTER TIRES OF BRAZEN VICE

CITIZENS HAVE PETITIONED FOR CLOSE OF GAMES.

Mountain Town Now Flooded With the Worst Class of Tinorns Ever Seen There—Open Gambling and Immorality Causes Law-Abiding Element to Revolt—District Attorney Sam White Now Investigating.

Sumpter, March 23.—The citizens of this city, tiring of the terrible increase of crime and immorality, have petitioned the district attorney to suppress gambling and close the dens of vice now running openly and brazenly on some of the business streets.

Since the closing of gambling joints in Washington towns and Pendleton this city has been flooded with the worst class of tinorns and suspicious characters ever seen here. Petty crime, attempted holdups and open gambling in ever saloon, and other forms of immorality have increased fifty-fold within the past three months, and the law-abiding citizens are weary of the sight.

District Attorney Sam White of Baker City, is now in conference with Mayor McCullough, with a view to closing all the gambling houses, and making a raid on the tenderloin district, in hopes of ridding the town of the worst element, at least.

The strike of the E. & E. mine has brought over a hundred miners to the city, and for the past 10 days the city has been on a rampage of drinking and gambling.

COUNCIL MEETING TONIGHT.

Several Matters of Unusual Interest Will Be Considered.

The council will meet this evening with several things to do.

The sewer committee has been working on the new plumbing ordinance, and has the general plan well in hand, though it is not yet put into final form. It is the intention of the committee to submit the ordinance to the council this evening, if it is possible to get it written before the time. It will be exhaustive in its treatment of the question, and will provide for all the contingencies which may arise in the future plumbing of the city.

The street committee is also looking into the Webb street grading question, and it is probable that some action will be taken this evening in regard to whether or not the work shall be done by the city and charged to the property owners.

It was thought that some interesting developments would come to light this evening in connection with the levee riprap, which had been taken for roundation stone, but this hope of a scrap seems to have gone glimmering. The home builder who used the stone has decided that he would rather bring the stone back or replace it than to cause the council any trouble or loss of temper, and has so expressed himself to some members of the committee. It is possible that instructions will be given to him to make the damage good for fear the subject may slip from his mind.

TENNIS GROUNDS.

Will Be Three Courts, and Games Will Begin April 1.

The Tennis club has just secured a lease on three lots on Aura street, near the O. R. & N. track, on which work will be commenced immediately for laying out three courts. The grounds will then be enclosed by a fence of wire netting 16 feet high. Twenty-five enthusiastic members have placed the club on a firm financial basis, and the boys expect to be ready to play ball by April 1.

LOST LEFT ARM UNDER WHEELS

Laboring Man Was Crippled for Life Yesterday at Thorn Hollow.

FIRST ATTEMPT TO BEAT HIS WAY ON RAILROAD.

Was Out of Money and Trying to Get to Baker City—A Man of Good Address and Appearance—Had No Intention of Beating His Way Until a Slow Train Came Along—Victim Is at St. Anthony's With Only a Slim Chance for Recovering.

J. O. Boucher, a laboring man, was run over by an O. R. & N. freight train yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock at Thorn Hollow, and is in St. Anthony's hospital, with but little chance for his life. After the accident he was brought here, arriving about midnight. He was greatly weakened from loss of blood, and this morning the surgeons in charge had but little hopes that he could recover.

In attempting to catch the train he slipped, and his left arm was ground to pulp from the shoulder to the hand. Though very weak from loss of blood and in great pain, the man consented to tell his story this morning. He said:

"My name is J. O. Boucher and I am 32 years of age. I came from Blackburn, Oklahoma, and have been in this country for some time. I have been working at lone for quite a while, but ran out of work and some of the people told me that I perhaps could get something to do on the farms in this section, so I came across country looking for work. I did not find it and was intending to go to Baker City.

"At Thorn Hollow I was walking along the track when the train came along, and it seemed to be going slowly. I did not know how to board it, for this was my first attempt at beating my way. It is about the first time I was ever broke when I had to travel, and I did not know how to get aboard.

"I tried to catch the end ladder of a car, but the sand gave way under my feet, or else I was not active enough, and I fell between the ends of two cars. As I struck I thought I was clear under and gave up; but the next instant I was thrown to one side of the track, with just my arm torn off, and I was never so tickled in my life. I am pretty weak, but think when the doctors get me fixed up that I will be all right in a little while."

Boucher was operated on this morning and his arm was taken off at the shoulder joint, and at last reports he was resting easily, though it is doubtful if he will recover from the shock of the operation, owing to the loss of blood and his weakened state.

The man is not a tramp, as can be seen from his general appearance and his dress. He was clean, both in person and in clothing, and is one of those unfortunates who are compelled to take chances by the irony of fate.

SHIPPING ELGIN GRANITE.

L. Monasterelli Now Superintending the Shipment of Three Carloads of Fine Stone.

L. Monasterelli left this morning for Elgin, where he will remain for the next week superintending the shipment of three carloads of Elgin granite, from his quarry near that place. This granite will be used in this city, Heppner and Walla Walla, for buildings and monuments and is one of the finest granites in the West. It is found in different colors and is easily worked. The supply of the stone is apparently inexhaustible and all the towns in Eastern Oregon are now using it.

Land Sale.

Otis C. Ingle has sold to Pauline Ingle for \$1,450, a tract of land in section 12, township 5 north, range 35, being property in Milton.

Wife and Paramour Killed.

Jersey City, N. J., March 23.—His wife not returning home all night, Theodore Schultz, a salesman, confirmed his suspicions that she was with George Borchard, a machinist, by going to the latter's room and breaking in the door. He found the woman and Borchard both dead in bed, with pistol shot holes in their heads.