



EVENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES.

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting to Our Many Readers.

Scenes at Washington resemble those preceding the Spanish-American war.

The strike of Chicago hearsdrivers continues to seriously interfere with funerals.

Revision of the Dreyfus case and his restoration to grade in the army seems assured.

Britain and France have redoubled efforts to prevent war between Japan and Russia.

It has been practically admitted that the war department will abandon Fort Walls Walla.

Enough constituents of Democratic senators will demand the passage of the canal treaty to make it safe.

The powers will try to dissuade Colombia from going to war. They have notified her that she must expect no help.

MartinC oleman, a noted New York fire fighter, and another fireman perished in flames which caused a loss of \$250,000.

Reports from Hayti and Santo Domingo show great unrest.

The United States will allow Colombia to take the initiative for war.

Secretary Root says that General Wood's promotion is in the regular order of seniority.

A Portland firm has received the contract to install water systems at Forts Worden and Casey.

The strike of hears drivers in Chicago has compelled the people to use cars and wagons at funerals.

An assassin fired at Max Nordeau, the noted Zionist and litterateur, in a Paris ballroom, but a friend saved him.

Chief Newell has given irrigation committees to understand that Oregon will not get any money for a year at least.

A vigilance committee has been named at Chi-go to clear the city of thugs, who have become bolder since the first declaration of war.

Chicago hears drivers have gone on a strike and many funerals have been postponed.

The senate has ratified the treaty with China. Russia is not at all pleased by it.

Women have been selected to act as jurors in a Chicago trial, for the first time in the history of the nation.

John R. Benson, a San Francisco timber operator, has been arrested on a charge of bribing a government official.

Sir Thomas Lipton, in accepting the silver service presented him by America, says he will try once more for the cup.

Senator Fulton, before the senate, stated the aims of the 1905 fair and made an eloquent plea for federal aid. It was his maiden speech.

The search for the wealth of Pope Leo has been ended by Cardinal Gotti turning over \$90,000,000 and an electrician accidentally discovering \$1,850,000. The late pope asked Cardinal Gotti to keep the money four months in order that the new pope might learn how difficult it is to rule without money.

Senator Hoar severely criticizes the Panama policy of Roosevelt.

The house has passed the pension appropriation bill carrying \$138,150,100.

The Nebraska grand jury has returned an additional indictment against Senator Dietrich.

The kaiser's sister is found to be suffering from a cancer and the news created a sensation in Berlin.

American troops who have been landed have discovered a force of Colombians which is probably building a road toward Panama.

Colombia has ordered the American cruiser Atlanta to quit the gulf of Darien, but the order has not been heeded. The Atlanta has discovered a detachment of nearly 2,000 Colombian troops on the western side of the gulf. She also came upon a schooner carrying armed men.

Japan will reject the answer of Russia to her far eastern demands.

The Lewis and Clark exposition is rapidly gaining friends in the senate.

The senate committee will recommend the promotion of General Wood.

Tammany will put up Bonke Cockran to succeed Mayor-elect McClellan in congress.

President Roosevelt has refused to allow a lodge of Orangemen to use his photograph on a banner.

Perry Heath and other ex-officials are seriously involved in the Conrad-Boneparte report on postal irregularities.

The friars are to get \$7,250,000 for their lands in the Philippines. They originally asked \$13,000,000 and Governor Taft offered them \$4,000,000.

W. A. McKowan, secretary of the board of regents, robbed the university of California of \$40,000 and spent it on races.

QUICK TO GET TO WORK.

Both Houses Transact Business With Dispatch.

Salem, Dec. 22.—Both houses of the Oregon legislature organized at 10 o'clock yesterday morning by electing all the officers who served at the regular session of 1903. This organization does not include the election of committee clerks, and unless the session should be prolonged more than three days no clerks other than a few stenographers will be employed.

There was nearly a full attendance in each branch of the legislature. In the house Representative Davey, of Marion, is the only absentee. In the senate, Daly of Benton, and McGinn of Multnomah, are absent and excused. No one was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the election of Senator Williamson to congress and that seat is vacant. Though the session yesterday was short the legislature accomplished more than was expected. It had been anticipated that the two houses would organize and then as a token of respect to the late Representative Murphy adjourn until today, when the governor's message would be received.

Both houses were called to order promptly, rushed the organization proceedings, and at 11 o'clock met in joint session to hear the message. This communication was short and was read by the governor in 15 minutes. The senate took the lead in the transaction of business by adopting a joint memorial introduced by President Brownell urging the claim of Oregon upon the federal government for aid to the Lewis and Clark fair and asking congress to enact the appropriation bill for that purpose. The memorial was passed without a dissenting vote.

The chief event of interest on the opening day of the legislature was the introduction of two resolutions by Democratic members of the house, the purpose of which was to precipitate the short session issue. Bilyeu, of Linn, presented a resolution declaring that legislation at the special session should be confined to tax legislation. Burleigh, of Union and Wallowa, presented a resolution declaring for adjournment on Wednesday evening. After a sharp debate both resolutions were referred to the committee on resolutions. At 11:30 both houses adjourned out of respect to the late Representative Murphy, formal resolutions on the death of his colleague being offered in the house by Representative Burleigh and adopted by that body.

Ex-Congressman M. A. Moody, of The Dalles, is here conferring with members from his section of the state regarding legislation on the portage railway and government canal.

FAILS TO FLAG TRAIN.

Brakeman is Responsible for a Bad Wreck on Kansas Road.

Kansas City, Dec. 24.—In a wreck today at Godfrey, Kan., of the "Meteor," the St. Louis & San Francisco railway fast train from the south, nine persons were killed and 32 others injured. Of the injured, five probably will die and 14 were seriously hurt. The responsibility for the wreck is laid at the door of a brakeman of the freight crew, who failed to flag the train. He has disappeared. The engine on the freight had become dead, and the crew was ordered to remain on the main track and turn the switch for the passenger, then about due, the brakeman being ordered to flag the "Meteor." This he neglected to do.

In the crash the baggage car telescoped the engine landed in a cornfield, while the smoker and the two chair cars were piled in a mass on top of the engine. Most of the injured were in the chair cars, which took fire soon after the wreck occurred.

Navy Will Control Matters.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Under the impression that war is surely to occur between the United States and Colombia, the quartermaster-general of the army has been besieged by railroad and shipping men desirous of transporting troops. It was pointed out today that while the landing of marines on foreign soil occasioned but little comment and is only an evidence of a disturbed condition of affairs, the embarking of troops puts a different aspect on the situation. For this reason the navy will be permitted to control affairs in isthmian waters.

Seven Great Boilers Explode.

St. Louis, Dec. 24.—A battery of seven boilers in the power house of the St. Louis transit company, at Jefferson and Geyer avenues exploded tonight, killing three employes, injuring six and wrecking the building. Without premonition the boilers exploded, the brick walls fell outward and the heavy truss roof dropped, covering the debris in which almost 20 employes were imprisoned. Instantly all the electric lights went out and the darkness prevented prompt work in res using.

Colombians Invade Land.

Colon, Dec. 24.—Information has been received here that about 100 Colombian troops have landed at the Island of Pines, northwest of Cape Tiburon, which is situated at the western entrance of the Gulf of Darien. The Island of Pines is in the Panama territory and is the only island along that coast which is wooded, peaked with mountains and also well watered, thus offering every facility for camping and being used as a base of observation.

Cattle Allowed on Reserves.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock today authorized the grazing of 97,000 sheep and 4,250 cattle and horses on the northern division of the Cascade forest reserve from June 10 to October next; also 20,000 sheep in the eastern division of the Washington forest reserve.

STOLE BY THE CAR

SEATTLE RING OF FREIGHT THIEVES HAS BEEN UNEARTHED.

Amounts Will Reach Far Into the Thousands—Northern Pacific and Great Northern Both Heavy Losers—Many Employes Implicated—Goods Sent to Various Points and Sold for Song.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 23.—In the arrest of Herman Rheinhardt, manager of the Arlington dock; James C. Graves, yardmaster of the Great Northern railway, and P. J. Flynn, foreman of the Great Northern freighthouse, the officials of the two transcontinental lines believe they have unearthed one of the greatest conspiracies to defraud that has ever been brought to light in the West.

The investigation has been but started, and while none of the high officials will talk regarding the matter, it is well known that the operations of a thriving ring, with headquarters in Seattle, extend over a period of at least four years and it may be five.

During that time freight cars have been robbed of their contents, and the goods consigned to one merchant sold to another in the same line of business in the same city. Again, whole freight car loads of goods have been taken and reshipped to other points where the ring is alleged to have had fences for the disposal of the stuff.

Tons upon tons of merchandise, it is charged, have been sent to Alaska, California, to Oregon, and interior Western states, sold for what it would bring and the money divided between those implicated.

The work of the detectives shows that trainmen, station agents, foremen, yardmen, engineers, and, in fact, almost every class of employes on the lines of the railroads, have been implicated. All have not been concerned in the same shipments, but at some time or other have reaped a harvest from a part of the stolen property.

The Northern Pacific railroad, it is said, is the heaviest loser in freight shipments, and the sums paid to the company for "lost goods" runs far into the thousands. The Great Northern, while it has been a sufferer from the same depredations, has not suffered to the same extent as the Northern Pacific in lost freight.

HITCHCOCK COVERS HIS HAND.

More Development in Land Fraud Cases Due at Any Time.

Washington, Dec. 23.—More important developments in the big land fraud scheme, for alleged complicity in which John A. Benson, of San Francisco, was arrested yesterday, are expected shortly, but the utmost secrecy guards the proceedings. Woodford Harlan, the former chief of division, and at present a clerk in the general land office, who is accused of taking bribes from Benson, was not at his desk today, it being explained he was away on leave of absence for two or three days.

FRIARS WILL LEAVE ISLAND.

They Have No Money to Buy Back Lands in Philippines.

Rome, Dec. 23.—The settlement of the friar lands question in the Philippines also practically settles, it is considered here, the question of the friars themselves. The Franciscans, it is believed, will abandon the islands altogether, since they have no money to purchase lands, and have no other means of support. A few of the Recollects will remain, as they still have some property left. The Dominicans will be looked after by their university and the Augustinians will rec occupy the building erected at Ilo Ilo, which is now used by the Americans as a barracks, and will claim an indemnity from the government. The Augustinians will use the building as a school.

Money Order System for Banks.

New York, Dec. 23.—After a three days' session here, the American bankers' association, representing 7,000 banks, has agreed upon a plan for a money order system whereby sums not to exceed \$100 can be sent by mail and the orders cashed by any bank belonging to the association. The scheme will, of course, come into direct competition with the money order division of the postoffice department, and it is expected out largely into the government revenues. It will be operated the same as the exchange system.

Troops to Leave Mines.

Denver, Dec. 23.—At a conference between Governor Peabody and Adjutant General Sherman M. Bell, it was decided to withdraw the troops gradually from both the Cripple Creek districts and the Telluride mining district.

CLOSE WATCH ON COLOMBIA.

American Outposts are Keeping Admiral Glass Well Informed.

Panama, Dec. 23.—By means of the gun boats, Rear Admiral Glass is keeping in almost daily communication with the two American outposts at San Miguel. One of these, composed of 100 marines and four field pieces, is well and comfortably located at Yaviza and the other, numbering 100 men, composed of marines and bluejackets, and which also has field pieces, is stationed at Real Santa Maria, 10 miles from Yaviza. Both of the outposts are encamped on the Tuira river. A distance of 60 miles, partly an estuary of the gulf and partly river, separates them from the anchorage of the American war vessels, where the Wisconsin and Boston are now lying. The Concord is going back and forth with dispatches, while the Marblehead, with Admiral Glass aboard, remains at Panama.

The outposts are all kept well supplied with all necessities, and in case of trouble could quickly communicate with the war vessels. There are also at Yaviza and Real Santa Maria about 100 Panamanians. These men have been scouting toward the Colombian frontier, but according to the latest information brought to Admiral Glass there is no sign of Colombian soldiers on Panama territory. Naval authorities do not believe Colombia will invade Panama's territory.

JAPAN WANTS GOLD STANDARD.

Suggests That Ratio of 32 to 1 be Adopted for All Silver Countries.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The commission on international exchange has received from Professor Jenks the conclusions of the monetary commission of Japan regarding the proposals of the American commission for a uniform coinage system, based upon the gold exchange standard for China.

The resolutions declare that the chaotic condition of the currency as it now exists in China is disadvantageous not to China alone, but to those countries that have commercial relations with her, and that a definite and uniform currency system should be specifically instituted and put into operation throughout the whole empire, or at least, in those parts of it that are of commercial importance.

If possible it is desirable that this system should be on the single gold standard. Inasmuch as the currency reform cannot be started on a perfect system, it is regarded as advisable to adopt the recommendations of the American commission. It suggests also that the ratio for China of 32 to 1 between gold and silver coins should be adopted for other silver using countries which may hereafter adopt the gold standard.

PREPARES FOR WAR.

Japan Gives Rush Orders to Both Army and Navy.

Paris, Dec. 23.—A private letter received here from a leading American diplomatic official in Japan says that while there are continued hopes of peace, the government is making final preparations for the eventuality of war. Preparations in the various branches of the army and navy are proceeding with the utmost energy. The whole military establishment is being placed in readiness for an aggressive campaign from the outset.

The Russian embassy here takes an optimistic view of the Far Eastern situation and considers the last dispatches exaggerated. A member of the embassy tonight said:

"The negotiations between Russia and Japan have assuredly encountered many obstacles, but they will continue, and it will not be Russia who will first break them off. The condition of the Russian naval forces is such as will guard them against all surprise."

The Japanese legation here authorizes the statement that it retains a hope of a pacific solution of the troubles. No alarming news has reached the legation from Tokyo, and the rumored recall of its military attaches to Japan, it says, is an invention.

Schooners Driven Ashore.

St. John's, N. F., Dec. 23.—During a fierce blizzard yesterday the schooner Susan was driven ashore off St. John's. Her crew, after 12 hours in an open boat, made port this morning badly frostbitten. The schooner Mary Ellen went ashore at Trepassy. The crew clung to the rocks all night and suffered terribly from exposure. The schooner Fashoda went ashore at Greens Island. The crew escaped. It is feared that the schooner Dictator has foundered in the storm with her crew of seven men.

Turkish Cruiser a Success.

Philadelphia, Dec. 23.—The cruiser Medjidia, built for the Turkish government by the Cramp ship building company, returned here tonight from her trial trip, which proved to be a success in every way to her builders. Over a one mile course the cruiser sustained 22.25 knots an hour. Her contract is for 22 knots. The new war ship made a good speed of 22.4 knots in a one hour trial and in a run of six hours maintained a speed of 20 knots flat.

Four Thousand to Be Laid Off.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Four thousand men employed by the Illinois Steel company, in south Chicago, will be laid off for an indefinite period on Thursday, the day before Christmas, according to a notice sent out by the officials of the company today.

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

YIELDS GOOD MONEY.

The Eddy Law Yearly Income Will Run to \$150,000.

Salem—When the Eddy corporation tax law was passed it was estimated that it would produce a revenue of \$100,000 a year. The act has been in force scarcely more than six months and there has been paid into the state treasury \$90,868. F. T. Wrightman, corporation clerk in the office of the secretary of state, estimates that the annual revenue will aggregate \$125,000 to \$150,000, with the latter sum not improbable. As a revenue measure, it is evident that the Eddy law will not be a disappointment.

It has been frequently charged by promoters of wildcat mining companies that the Eddy law would keep out foreign corporations and prevent the organization of new concerns. It is true that the law has put a very noticeable check upon the organization of corporations with enormous capital stock, but without any considerable assets. Corporations are now formed upon a more businesslike basis.

The assertions of the mining stock promoters served to cause some doubt as to the success of the Eddy law, but the facts gleaned from the records in the office of the secretary of state prove the error of those assertions. The corporation tax law has not kept away any corporation that desired to do a legitimate business in this state.

The records show that since May 21, when the new law went into effect, 171 corporations organized in other states have filed their articles in this state and paid \$50 each for the privilege of so doing. The total revenue from that source in less than seven months was \$8,550.

These 171 foreign corporations also paid the proportion of the annual license fee due for the unexpired fraction of the year, which fee varied according to the capital stock. The revenue from this source was \$17,559.79, making a total of \$26,909.79 which foreign corporations have contributed to the support of this state in a period of less than seven months.

During this same time 226 new concerns have been organized in this state, paying organization fees which varied according to the amount of the capital stock, and aggregating \$9,892.97.

These 226 new companies, in a period of less than seven months, means an average of more than 32 per month, which does not seem to indicate that the Eddy law has prevented the organization of corporations or forced them to go to other states to secure corporate authority. The total fees collected by the secretary of state from both foreign and domestic corporations are \$36,802.76.

Coming Events.

Northwest fruitgrowers' association, Portland, January 11-13. National livestock convention, Portland, January 12-15. National woolgrowers' association, Portland, January 12-15. Poultry show, Albany, January 12-15. Angora goat show, Dallas, January 14-15. Whitman-Oregon debate, Eugene, January 15. Oregon Christian Endeavor convention, Pendleton, February 19-22.

Athens Farmers Hold Grain.

Athens—It is estimated by the wheat buyers of this place that there are about 75,000 bushels of wheat in this district that have not been sold. John Bell & Sons have just disposed of 28,000 bushels at about 62 cents per bushel. Mr. Bell raised about 30,000 bushels this year, this being among the largest yields for one ranch. It has been learned from some of the bankers of the district that the depots in the institutions this season are not as large as had been expected, because the farmers are not selling their wheat.

Feeding a Thousand Hogs.

Athens—Hog raising is now an extensive industry of the farmers of this district. It is estimated that fully 1,000 hogs are being fed in this immediate vicinity at present. John Bell, who is an extensive hog raiser, says: "We are feeding 200 hogs this winter. Nearly every farmer of the district has increased his stock this season and they are taking a deep interest in the industry. We find a ready market for our hogs."

Plenty of Feed in the Grand Ronde.

La Grande—Prospects for hay feed this winter were never better. Up to this time the stock in the Grand Ronde valley have had to have very little feeding, although there is plenty of forage. The range along the foothills is very good and should there be little snowfall the cattlemen will pull through the winter in fine shape. Cattle and sheep are commanding fair prices.

Cotton is Agricultural Regent.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has appointed W. W. Cotton, of Portland, to succeed Benton Killin, whose term has expired, as a member of the board of regents of the Oregon agricultural college. John D. Olwell, of Jackson county, and J. M. Church, of Union county, were reappointed to succeed themselves on the same board.

Douglas Has Clean Bill of Health.

Roseburg—The local health officer, Dr. E. Du Gas, reports that not a single case of quarantine for contagious diseases now exists in Douglas county. This is the first time in several months that he has been able to report an absolutely clean bill of health, although no epidemic has existed at any time.

WALLOWA COUNTY STOCK.

Enterprise—The county assessor has just completed his statement of the number of sheep and cattle in Wallowa county for 1903. He shows the number of sheep to be 180,000. Thus Wallowa stands third on the list among the counties of eastern Oregon. It is led only by Morrow and Umatilla. The sheep in each of those counties numbered about 183,000. The average price of sheep this fall is placed at \$2.30. This makes the value of the sheep of Wallowa county \$414,000. There is little increase this year over the number raised in 1902.

The number of cattle is placed at 16,936, which is about the same as was raised last year. Wallowa county is well down the list in the number of cattle, outclassing only Morrow county. The average price of cattle this year is placed by the buyers at \$25 each. This would make the total value of the cattle \$423,400.

The value of the cattle and sheep combined would be \$1,037,400. The value of the sheep and cattle of Umatilla, Baker, Harney, Grant, Union and Morrow amounts to \$6,187,447. Thus the value of the cattle and the sheep of eastern Oregon is \$7,224,847.

WILL DIG DEEP FOR WATER.

Grand Ronde Artesian Well Company Organized and Officers Elected.

La Grande—A meeting was held at Alice last week by the Grand Ronde citizens for the purpose of organizing a company to test thoroughly the digging of the artesian well. The meeting was largely attended. J. M. Church was elected chairman of the meeting and J. D. Smutz secretary.

It was decided to organize a capital stock of \$4,000, divided into shares of \$10 each, to be known as the Grand Ronde Valley Artesian Well company. An adjournment of the general meeting of the directors met and elected E. S. Bramwell president, S. I. Brooks vice-president, Peter McDonald secretary and J. M. Church treasurer.

A well will be dug a depth of at least 2,000 feet unless water is struck before digging this far, and the experiment will be made on the sand ridge, near Alice.

Rushing to the Coal Fields.

Prairie City—There is a big rush through this place to the John Day coal fields, which have recently been discovered. Men are coming into the county to investigate, and much of the untaken land is being located. The coal is said to be superior to that produced by the Heppner coal fields, and there are indications that large deposits will be discovered in many places. Several thousand acres of the supposed coal lands have been secured by promoters, who are trying to get more.

Rich Ledge in the Santiam.

Albany—What promises to be a very rich mining ledge has been reported from the South Santiam country, near Foster. The discoveries are about two miles from the Whitcomb postoffice, in the mountains, and are 40 miles from the Southern Pacific by wagon road. The prospect has been known to a few for some time, but the matter has been kept quiet until a test could be made. An assay shows \$21 copper, \$2.40 silver and \$1.85 gold.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 71¢@72¢; blue-stem, 77¢; valley, 78¢. Barley—Feed, \$20 per ton; brewing, \$20.20; rolled, \$21. Flour—Valley, \$3.75@3.85 per barrel; hard wheat straights, \$39.00@4.10; clears, \$3.55@3.75; hard wheat patents, \$4.20@4.50; graham, \$3.75; whole wheat, \$5; rye flour, \$4.50@4.75. Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.07½@1.10; gray, \$1.05 per cental. Millstuffs—Bran, \$18 per ton; middlings, \$23; shorts, \$19; chop, \$18; linseed, dairy food, \$19. Hay—Timothy, \$16 per ton; clover, \$12; grain, \$12; cheat, \$12. Vegetables—Turnips, 65¢ per sack; carrots, 75¢; beets, 90¢; parsnips, 75¢@90¢; cabbage, 1@1½¢ per pound; parsley, per dozen, 25¢; tomatoes, \$1@1.50 per crate; cauliflower, 75¢@81¢ per dozen; celery, 75¢; pumpkins, 1¢ per pound; onions, Yellow Danvers, 80¢@1.10 per sack; growers' prices. Honey—\$3@3.50 per pound. Potatoes—Oregon, choice and fancy, 65¢ 75¢ per sack; common, 50¢@60¢; sweet potatoes, sacks, 2¢; boxes, 2½¢ per pound. Fruits—Apples, 75¢@82¢ per box; pears, \$1@1.50 per box. Butter—Fancy creamery, 27¢@30¢ per pound; dairy, 20¢@22½¢; store, 15¢@15½¢. Cheese—Full cream, twins, 14¢@15¢; Young America, 15¢@16¢. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 9¢ per pound; spring, 9¢; hens, 9¢; turkeys, live, 16¢; dressed, 7½¢; ducks, \$6@7 per dozen; geese, 8¢ per pound. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 32¢@33¢; Eastern, 25¢@30¢. Hops—Choice, 24¢ per pound; prime, 22¢; medium, 19¢; common, 15¢. Wool—Valley, 17¢@18¢; Eastern Oregon, 12¢@15¢; mohair, 32¢@35¢. Beef—Dressed, 5¢@6¢ per pound. Veal—Dressed, small, 8¢@8½¢; large, 5¢@6¢ per pound. Mutton—Dressed, 5¢@6¢; lambs, dressed, 6¢@7¢ per pound. Pork—Dressed, 6¢@6½¢ per pound.

RUSSIA MUST BOW.

Great Britain Believes That Otherwise Japan Will Go to War.

London, Dec. 22.—Official England tonight almost to a unit is convinced there is but one way to avert war between Japan and Russia, and that is for the latter to accept the demands of the mikado, made on the advice of his ministry. There has been considerable communication during the past 12 hours between the British foreign office and the Japanese legation in London, and the presumption almost acknowledged as a fact in official circles, is that the British government has asked the Japanese minister for his advice as to Japan's position in the present state of the negotiations between that nation and Russia.

From the reports current tonight it is assumed that the Japanese minister has been advised that the relations between his government and Russia have reached the breaking point. The belief has become general that the spark which may strike fire into the inflammability of Japanese sentiment is an eventuality to be expected now almost any time.

The most that can be learned from the Japanese capital is the acknowledgment that the situation is now more menacing than at any previous stage of the negotiations between Japan and Russia.

The dispatches from St. Petersburg are practically being subjected to a censorship. They are meagre in extreme, and merely announce that in spite of public opinion and alarming newspaper reports, the Russian officials believe a peaceable outcome of the far Eastern situation is still possible.

FRIARS TO GET LITTLE MONEY.

Syndicate is the Real Owner of the Philippine Lands.

Rome, Dec. 22.—Considerable excitement prevailed in the mother houses of the Dominicans, Augustinians, Franciscans and the Recollects over the friars lands question in the Philippines. The friars were glad the negotiations had been concluded, but think the orders got little for the lands, since the price they originally asked, \$13,000,000 was, they declare, under the estimated value of the lands, the value of which has much increased, especially since the American occupation and the re-establishment of order in the archipelago.

The friars say the money they will receive is scarcely enough to pay what they borrowed when they were deprived of everything by the revolution. Besides, they point out that only part of the money will go to the friars, as the lands were really transferred to a company formed in Madrid by the Marquis Di Comillias, the head of the Spanish Trans-Atlantic navigation company. The Dominicans succeeded in so thoroughly concealing their ownership of lands that the vatican itself threatened to punish them severely for having tried to deceive even the ecclesiastical authorities.

GREAT PANIC AT FIRE.