

EVENTS OF THE DAY

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

The second trial of Mrs. Botkin has opened in San Francisco.

Bristow declares that he did not regard Beavers as an honest man.

Baron De Rosen, ex-minister of Japan, declares that the cabinet was dragged into the war.

The house committee has decided to recommend that Federal Judge Swayne, of Florida, be ousted.

The British house of commons had a warm debate over the admission of Chinese into the Transvaal, but vote of censure was defeated.

Henry Norman, a member of the British parliament, declares that the control of China is the real issue of the Japanese Russian war.

An amendment has been attached to the Indian appropriation bill to pay the Klamath Indians \$537,007, in settlement of their claims against the government.

The senate committee on Indian affairs, in reporting the Indian appropriation bill, cut off the provision for increasing the capacity of the Chemawa school. This reduces the appropriation for that school \$8,000.

An immense steel plant will be erected at San Diego, California.

Andrew Carnegie has given another \$5,000,000 for educational purposes.

America has asked Russia to treat kindly Japanese noncombatants in Siberia.

Germany will support Russia in protesting against the concentration of Chinese troops.

Republicans of the Tenth congressional district, Georgia, have nominated a negro for congress.

C. H. Markham, formerly of Portland, is to be made manager of the Southern Pacific railroad.

Captain Piper, of New York, on investigation, declares Chicago police to be a disgrace to the city.

Rear Admiral Walker tells the house committee that actual work on the Panama canal will be begun about June.

Chairman Tawney, of the house committee on expositions, still contends that the government appropriation for the 1905 fair must be expended by agents.

Sully, the great cotton king, has been forced to suspend.

Japan promises America to protect fully all foreigners at Fusan.

The senate has confirmed the nomination of Wood to be major general.

Bombardments of Port Arthur have not changed the general aspect of the town.

Russian troops have been ordered to wear crests instead of fighting them as belligerents.

Chief Pinchot urges the house committee to provide for a forestry exhibit at the 1905 fair.

Hearst has asked the house to appoint a committee to investigate the workings of the trusts.

Booker Washington declares encouragement of negroes to be taxpayers is the salvation for the race.

The house will require the postmaster general to make known regulations before he can make appropriations for handling "unusual business."

The Russian fleet has returned to Port Arthur, being unable to locate the enemy.

Britain and France have settled long standing dispute over Newfoundland fisheries.

Japan is landing a third force in Korea, which will join the army at Ping Yang.

Bristow exonerates congressmen from wrongdoing in securing increases in postal clerk hire.

Japan tells correspondents they can soon go to the front, indicating that a land battle is near.

Leader Williams, of the Democrats in the house, declares that the post-office department is corrupt from top to bottom.

District Attorney Jerome, of New York, is determined to send Canfield to prison, and asks that the law be amended so he can make Reginald Vanderbilt testify.

A Russian torpedo boat entering the Port Arthur harbor struck an unplaced mine and was blown up. Only four of the crew was saved. This was one of the largest torpedo boats in the Russian navy.

The Russian Vladivostok fleet is on the way back to Russia to effect a union with the Baltic squadron.

Russians do not propose to evacuate Port Arthur.

Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, is much improved.

The house has again had the Bristow postal report up for discussion.

Japan believes the Russian fleet has left Port Arthur for Vladivostok.

DEPENDS ON FIRST LAND BATTLE.

Russia Believes That It Will Decide Whether China Remains Neutral.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—In government circles there exists a strong belief that the question as to whether China will observe her neutrality will depend largely upon the result of the first heavy land fighting. A big victory by the Russian army, it is believed, will insure the acquiescence of the Celestial empire, but there are grave fears as to what might happen in the event of a signal Japanese success in the early stages of the land operations. For the time being the situation appears to be satisfactory, and it is certainly much better than it was three weeks ago. The Pekin government has reiterated its professions regarding neutrality to Paul Lessar, the Russian minister, and has given him fair assurances in answer to his questions regarding the movement of Chinese troops north of the great wall. The natives manifest a friendlier disposition than they did at the beginning of the war, but the Russians know the Oriental character as no other Europeans do. They know how deep seated is the hatred for foreigners in China, and that the only prestige of the Russians is their strong arm.

The recent naval success of the Japanese has not greatly impressed the Chinese, but if the Russians should sustain a really disastrous defeat on land the Chinese might suddenly be aroused, with the connivance or even the consent of Japan, against Russia, and perhaps against all foreigners. Russia's present plans are based on the appreciation of the supreme importance of the first land battle, and no fighting on a large scale will take place, if it possibly can be avoided, until the Russians feel morally certain that they can deal the enemy a crushing blow.

WIND LIFTS ROOF.

Tornado Wrecks Fifty Buildings in a Missouri Town.

Higginsville, Mo., March 23.—Fifty buildings are partly wrecked, one man is mortally injured and several others hurt, the town is in darkness, and the streets strewn with debris as the result of a tornado and hailstorm, which struck this place late this afternoon. The hail on the streets was a foot deep within five minutes after the storm came, and some of the hailstones were very large. Dozens of trees in the town were blown down and several horses were killed in the street.

The storm came without warning. The wind and hail came first and were followed by a terrific downpour of rain which flooded nearly every cellar in the town. The storm came from the west. It kept within a narrow path, at least the tornado portion, only about two blocks of the business portion of the town being damaged.

Two other towns in this section were in the path of the storm, and both have populations of from 500 to 600. According to meagre reports that are received here tonight several houses in both places have been wrecked, but the exact extent of the damage is not known.

A grocery store in the business part of this place was wrecked by the storm. John Dolphen, a clerk, was mortally injured.

More than 50 houses were unroofed.

ICON TO SHED SHOTS.

Sacred Relic Sent to Russian Torpedo Boat Destroyer.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—Vice Admiral Makaroff has reported the miraculous escape of four sailors from the torpedo boat destroyer Streguchitchi, which foundered during the naval battle off Port Arthur March 9. The men escaped by swimming when the boat sank and succeeded in keeping afloat until picked up.

The metropolitan archbishop of St. Petersburg has sent an icon to the torpedo boat Doshitely, which in the conflict of March 9 managed to elude the Japanese fire. This icon, it is believed, will safeguard the boat from further harm.

Prince Abemlik Lazareff, a descendant of the Armenian kings, is giving a series of fetes for the benefit of the Red Cross society at his historic mansion. Society leaders are figuring in the dances at the fetes.

One Thousand Soldiers a Day.

Harbin, March 23.—Only 33 military trains have reached here since war was declared and not less than half of these brought ammunition and provisions. Of the 20,000 troops landed here during the last four days, 4,000 have been sent to Port Arthur, Niu Chwang and Mukden, while 2,000 have been sent to Vladivostok. Of the rest, the greater part are on sick leave, having arrived in a wretched condition. It is stated by the commanding officer that hereafter the men will arrive at the rate of a thousand a day.

Filipinos Are Good Politicians.

Washington, March 23.—Secretary Taft has received a mail report from Governor Wright, concerning the recent gubernatorial elections. Elections were held in 32 provinces. Governor Wright said that the elections had passed off quietly, and that great interest was manifested in the results. He added that the Filipinos showed themselves adepts in political methods, and in some respects better than the people of the United States.

Range Fire Burns Buildings.

Hemingford, Neb. March 23.—Disastrous prairie fires have swept the range country. One strip burned is six by 12 miles, another more than 20 miles long, and is still burning. Ranch sheds, barns, groves on timber claims and property along the railroad have been destroyed. Several narrow escapes are reported from the ranches.

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

FLAW IN EXEMPTION LAW.

Use of a Semi-Colon Leaves Meaning of Phrase in Doubt.

Salem—One more flaw has been found in the tax exemption act passed by the legislature at its special session. While there is no uncertainty as to the intent of the framers of the bill, the punctuation leaves opportunity for question whether there is any limit to the value of household goods that may be claimed as exempt. The doubt arises from the use of the semi-colon instead of a comma.

Representative Shelley, of Lane county, father of the bill, was communicated with in regard to it, and replied that it was his intention that the limitation on the exemption should apply to all the items of property enumerated. In other words, that the \$300 exemption might be made up from any or all the items mentioned. The question is whether this intention can be ascertained from the language used.

Subdivision 8, of the act of the special session of 1903, provides that the following property shall be exempt from taxation:

"The following property, if owned by a householder and in actual use, or kept for use, by and for his or her family; household goods, furniture and utensils; two cows ten sheep, five swine and the tools, implements, apparatus, team, vehicle, harness or library necessary to enable any person to carry on his trade, occupation or profession by which such person earns his or her living to the amount of three hundred (\$300) dollars, the articles to be selected by such householder; provided, however, that when the assessed valuation of the personal property above enumerated shall amount to less than three hundred (\$300) dollars, then only such amount as the total of such property herein enumerated, shall be exempt from taxation."

The supreme court of this state has several times decided that punctuation marks are not controlling in construing an act for the purpose of ascertaining its meaning. In the port of Portland case, decided last July, the supreme court changed the location of punctuation marks in order to arrive at the meaning of the legislature. But in that case the court found that the meaning was otherwise clear. It is not certain that the language of the exemption act shows that the punctuation was erroneous.

NO DEMAND FOR PRUNES.

Eastern Market Has Been Supplied at Very Low Figure.

Salem—"The prune situation in the East didn't look good to me," said Bruce Cunningham upon his return from a recent trip to Iowa. Mr. Cunningham is a well-known prune grower of the Liberty neighborhood. After waiting all winter for an opportunity to sell his crop at what he considered a fair price, he took a load of fruit back to Iowa to sell it himself.

"The prune market doesn't look good and I don't see any reason to believe that it will improve any this season," he continued in answer to inquiries. "The fact is that the trade is already supplied. Everywhere I went I found that dealers have all the prunes they want and most of it was bought at pretty low prices. I found a jobber supplied with Oregon prunes that he bought from an Oregon firm at 4 1/2 cents in 25 pound boxes. These prunes he will sell to the retail dealer at 5 1/2 to 6 cents and the retailers will sell them to consumers at 8 1/2 cents, or three pounds for a quarter."

"How did the jobber get them so cheap? That beats me; but he had them, and others bought at the same figure. I learned that early in the season—as long as last July, jobbers were selling Oregon and California prunes. Dealers bought early and when they had all they wanted they stopped buying. That is the condition that exists—the market has been supplied and no more are wanted. It looks to me as though we will have a considerable quantity of carry over stock to sell in competition with 1904 prunes."

Sheep Losing Their Fleeces.

Echo—Sheep shearing is now in full swing in the Echo country, and almost every able-bodied man in the neighborhood is making arrangements to join some crew and go to clipping wool. The price as established here for shearing is 8 cents where the crew board themselves and 7 cents with board. The latter arrangement prevails here this year. As this is a forward spring in the Umatilla valley, sheep shearing will have to be rushed to get it out of the way before haying begins, which is fast approaching.

Not Much Illegal Fishing.

Astoria—So far as can be ascertained there is very little if any illegal fishing being done on the Columbia at the present time, and the closed season is being observed more closely than for several years. Deputy Fish Commissioner Burton, of Washington, with Deputy F. B. Lippincott, of the Puget sound district, are patrolling the river, but the Oregon officers are not out, although they are watching the shore to see that no fish are delivered.

Sowing Beet Seed at Echo.

Echo—A large lot of sugar beet seed has been received here and planters are busily engaged in preparing the ground.

BETTER LUMBER RATE WANTED.

Cottage Grove Citizens Inaugurate Movement Affecting Southern.

Cottage Grove—A meeting of the business men of this place was held at the city hall last week for the purpose of discussing and effecting an organization with the object of trying to obtain a better lumber freight rate from the Southern Pacific. The rate as it now is is demoralizing the lumber industry in this valley and if a better rate cannot be obtained many of the mills will be forced out of business.

A committee was appointed to draft some line of procedure and after much discussion the meeting adjourned to meet again Tuesday night. If the recommendations of the committee will be adopted all Western Oregon will be drawn into the matter in question.

Far-Reaching Irrigation Rules.

Salem—The proposed irrigation rules which were recently submitted to the state land board for approval are designed to apply to all the irrigation projects in the Deschutes country. The rules were proposed by both the Deschutes irrigation and power company and the Three Sisters irrigation company. The former company has absorbed the Pilot Butte development company and the Oregon irrigation company and acquired other interest giving it control of some 200,000 acres of arid land. The Three Sisters company has a tract of 27,000 acres.

Grand Ronde Fruit Outlook.

La Grande—Judd Geer, horticulturist commissioner for the Eastern Oregon district, states that the fruit prospects for this district are excellent for all varieties, and that the weather conditions have been very favorable for fruit. Budding has been kept back to an extent on account of the cool weather, and the trees are considered beyond the danger line as far as frost or freezing is concerned. Mr. Geer looks forward to one of the most productive seasons in the fruit line that this valley has ever known.

Favorable Report on Rural Route.

Oregon City—E. C. Clement, special inspector for the government for rural free delivery mail routes, has inspected and favorably reported on a third route to be operated from the Oregon City postoffice. The route was inspected after a largely signed petition having been forwarded to the government authorities asking that the route be established. The new route will dispense with Beaver Creek, Scheubel, Carus and Needy postoffices.

Resigns From Fair Board.

Salem—G. A. Westgate, of Albany, has tendered to the governor his resignation as a member of the state fair board. No reason was given for the resignation. The resignation of Westgate makes the fourth change in the personnel of the board in the last few months, and but one experienced member remains.

Cattle Sold for Nome.

Echo—R. N. Stanfield has sold to Mr. Cox, agent for the Pacific cold storage company, of Tacoma, four carloads of his heaviest beef steers. These cattle will remain here until April 15 and are destined for Nome.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 75c; bluestem, 80c; valley, 81c.

Barley—Feed, \$21.22 per ton; brewing, \$22.50; rolled, \$24.25.

Flour—Valley, \$3.90@3.95 per barrel; hard wheat straight, \$4.40; clear, \$3.85@4; hard wheat patents, \$4.40@4.60; graham, \$3.50@3.90; rye flour, \$4.50@4.90.

Oats—No 1 white, \$1.15@1.20; gray, \$1.10@1.15 per cental.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$18@19 per ton; middlings, \$24.50@26; shorts, \$19@20; chop, \$18; linseed, dairy food, \$19.

Hay—Timothy, \$15@16 per ton; clover, \$10@11; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$11@12.

Vegetables—Turnips, 80c per sack; carrots, 80c; beets, \$1; parsnips, \$1; cabbage, 1 1/2c; lettuce, head, 25c; 40c per doz; parsley, 25c; tomatoes, \$1.50@1.75 per crate; cauliflower, 75c @ \$1 per doz; celery, 65c@80c; squash, 2c per lb; cucumbers, \$1.75@2.25 per doz; asparagus, 12 1/2c; peas, 9c per lb; beans, 10c; onions, Yellow Danvers, \$2@2.50 per sack.

Honey—\$3@3.50 per case.

Potatoes—Fancy, 90c@91 per cental; common, 60@80c; new potatoes, 3 1/2c per lb; sweets, 5c per lb.

Fruits—Apples, fancy, Baldwins and Spitzenbergs, \$1.50@2.25 per box; choice, \$1@1.50; cooking, 75c.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 16 1/2c.

Butter—Sweet cream butter, 30c per lb; fancy creamery, 25@27 1/2c; choice creamery, 23@24c; dairy and store, nominal.

Butter Fat—Sweet cream, 28 1/2c; sour cream, 26 1/2c.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 12 1/2c @ 13c per pound; springs, mixed, 16@17c; hens, 13@14c; turkeys, live, 15@16c; dressed, 18@20c; geese, live, 8c; ducks, \$8@9 per doz.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 12@13c; Young America, 14@15c.

Beef—Dressed, 5@7 1/2c per pound.

Mutton—Dressed, 6@7c; lamb, 8c.

Veal—Dressed, 7@8c.

Pork—Dressed, 7@7 1/2c.

Hops—Choice, 25c per pound prime, 24c.

Wool—Valley, 17@18c; Eastern Oregon, 12@15c; mohair, 32@35c.

TO SMOTHER BILL.

House Committee Will Prevent Passage of Land Reforms.

Washington, March 22.—Convinced that congress will not, at the present session, amend the public land laws in a way to shut off fraudulent operations, as recommended by the public lands commission, the interior department has determined to take advantage of the present laws, and to construe them in such way as to minimize fraud.

Early in the session hope was entertained that the timber and stone act would be modified or repealed, and the lieu land law robbed of its vicious features, but there now appears to be no chance of securing remedial legislation of this character. In fact, it turns out that the Quarles bill repealing the timber act and authorizing the sale of public timber to the highest bidder, was only passed through the senate after a deal had been made with influential members of the house committee on public lands to smother this measure when it reached them.

The same fate awaits the Mondell bill, modifying the lieu land law, if it passes the house and reaches the senate committee.

Under the present law, timber entries as well as lieu selections, can be made only of surveyed land. It appears from land office records that the most valuable surveyed timber lands in the West have now been taken up, but in order to get that which remains unsurveyed, speculators and holders of scrip have been endeavoring to have virgin lands surveyed. It is a rule of the department that no township shall be surveyed until its survey is asked for by at least three bona fide settlers on lands within that township. In a number of instances in Oregon, Washington and Idaho applications have been recently made for the survey of heavily timbered townships, the persons making the request representing themselves as bona fide settlers. Upon examination, the department finds that in three out of four cases the men asking for surveys are not residing on lands for which surveys are asked, but have merely erected crude huts, which they point to as "improvements." The huts are not only uninhabitable but are unoccupied, consequently requests for surveys are denied.

FLEETS TO JOIN.

Russia Plans a Rude Awakening for the Japanese.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—The whereabouts of the Vladivostok squadron is a profound official secret, but there are those here who believe the Japanese may wake up some morning to find that the two divisions of Russia's Pacific squadron have perfected a juncture. It is betraying no confidence to state that both the admiralty and Vice Admiral Makaroff, before he left for the Far East, regarded the fact that the divisions were separated as most unfortunate for Russia's chances of success at sea. Realizing that offensive naval operations are impossible under present conditions, it is believed no opportunity will be neglected to repair this initial misfortune, even should it involve considerable risk.

Consequently the report that seven Russian warships were sighted the other day off the Gensan creates much speculation here as to whether they could be the vessels of the cruiser division under Captain Reitzenstein. The number of ships sighted apparently does not tally with that of the Vladivostok division, which properly consisted of four fast cruisers and the transport Lena.

It is learned, however, that the outbreak of hostilities found two ships of the volunteer cruiser fleet at Vladivostok, and there is reason to believe that these have since been fitted out with guns taken from mountain batteries. It is therefore possible that the ships sighted were those of Captain Reitzenstein, whose object, if he ventured so far down the coast, could hardly be anything except to slip into Port Arthur. If this is true, it is calculated that the squadron must have already run the gauntlet of the Corea strait and be very close to Port Arthur.

Must Stay Hand of Turkey.

Paris March 22.—It is the expectation in official quarters that France and the other signatories of the Berlin treaty will unite in emphatic representations to Turkey against the carrying out of the Sultan's plans for the suppression and probable extermination of a considerable portion of the Armenians. The government is in possession of much information showing the nature of the troubles and Turkey's intention in dealing with them. This information shows that some reports of the atrocities have gone too far.

America May Decide.

Panama, Marh 22.—The monetary question is arousing much discussion here. The partisans of the gold standard apparently have a majority in the national assembly, but the most conservative element favors a system under which two silver dollars shall be equal to one gold dollar. It is believed that the opinion of the United States may decide the matter, as the adoption of the gold standard would double the expense of constructing the canal.

Long-Distance Wireless Telegraph.

Washington, March 22.—The signal corps of the army is now communicating daily by wireless telegraphy between Forts Schuyler and Wright, a distance of 97 miles. This is the longest distance covered by wireless telegraphy. The speed of transmission varies from 10 to 30 words a minute. Similar apparatus will be installed at Nome and St. Michaels, Alaska, as soon as the weather conditions permit.

CAPTURES FORT

PORT ARTHUR SAID TO HAVE FALLEN INTO JAPS HANDS.

Engagement by Land and Sea Forces Said to Have Lasted Two Days—Land Forces Were Victorious—Russians Reported to Have Been Routed in Interior With Heavy Loss.

Tokio, March 23.—The newspapers here publish extra editions which contain a report that Port Arthur has fallen.

They state that a combined land and sea attack began on Saturday, was continued throughout the day and night and on Sunday.

The attack was renewed Monday morning and the fortress was taken. There is no confirmation from government sources of the newspaper reports.

A Japanese victory is declared to have resulted from a sharp encounter with the Russians at Chyong Syong. The Russian losses in killed, wounded and prisoners are said to be 600.

COLLIDE WITH THE RUSSIANS.

Japanese Cross Tatung Pass, Forty Miles From Haicheng.

London, March 23.—The Daily Chronicle's Shanghai correspondent hears from Niu Chwang that the Japanese crossed Tatung pass, 40 miles from Haicheng, and that collisions with the Russians occurred.

Reports from Seoul and Tokio are to the effect that Marquis Ito has arranged to lend 5,000,000 yen (\$2,500,000) to Corea on easy terms.

According to the Standard's Tien Tsin correspondent, China is appealing to the powers for an extension of a year in the payment of the indemnity growing out of the Boxer troubles.

The correspondent at Tien Tsin of the Daily Mail reports that Kataoka, a Japanese merchant and Russian spy, has been assassinated by being buried alive, but that the Japanese authorities disavow any knowledge of the assassination.

RAMMED IN FOG.

Hole Torn in a British Troopship in the English Channel.

Southampton, March 23.—The American line steamship New York, Captain Young, from New York March 15, for Plymouth, via Cherbourg and Southampton, met with two mishaps today, grounding off Cape La Hague, France, in the early morning, and later coming in collision in the English channel with the Peninsula & Oriental steamship Assaye, under contract to the British government and used as a troopship, bound for Bombay with 500 troops on board.

There was great excitement on both vessels. The boats of the Assaye were lowered and the troops were mustered, but the bulkhead of the troopship saved her and the vessel was able to enter Southampton, and the New York was docked at 6:30 for temporary repairs. Nobody was injured.

RUSSIA EXPECTED AS MUCH.

Abandonment of Anju by Her Outposts Was Planned.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—General Zhilinsky's official confirmation of the reports that the Russian outposts abandoned Anju on the approach of the Japanese in force, causes no surprise here, as such action is in perfect accord with the Russian plan of campaign. The Russian skirmishing and advanced outposts, thrown forward solely for the purpose of harassing and worrying the Japanese outposts, fell back as the main body of the enemy moved forward until the strong positions at the Yalu river are reached. The 50 miles of country between Anju and the Yalu are very difficult for the movement of a large force. There may be some lively skirmishing as the Japanese advance progresses, but the Russians are resolved to avoid a decisive engagement until certain of victory.

Is Military Precaution.

Paris, March 23.—The Russian order stopping entry into Niu Chwang without a permit is understood in official quarters here to be a military precaution due to the uncertainty as to which of five places the Japanese will choose will choose for their first extensive land operations. The five points are the Yalu river, Niu Chwang, Port Arthur, Vladivostok and Pigeon bay. The Russians being unable to determine where Japan will make her main attack are making preparations and taking precautions at all five points.

No Battle on the Yalu.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—Beyond the movement of troops to the Far East, which is progressing satisfactorily, and in accordance with Russian plans, the advices indicate little change in the situation. No official telegrams announcing collisions with the enemy had been received up to noon. The government had no information to substantiate the reported capture of 1,800 Japanese north of the Yalu river, and is discreet.

Midshipmen From Washington.

Washington, March 23.—The following midshipmen have been appointed to the Annapolis naval academy, from Washington: Guy H. Calhoun, of Seattle, by Representative Humphrey; Ralph Hoyer, of Hoquiam, by Representative Jones; and James H. McCool, of Walla Walla, by Representative Cushman.