

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

Bitter cold marked the incoming of the new year throughout the old world.

A British steamer has just arrived at New York with a cargo of 1,100 tons of European wheat.

The Oklahoma statehood bill will come before the senate immediately after the holiday recess.

Several torpedo boats escaped from Port Arthur and took refuge at Shanghai just prior to the surrender of the fortress.

Before surrendering Stoessel sunk the damaged warships in Port Arthur harbor. The Japanese severely criticize this.

Now that Port Arthur has fallen the bulk of the besieging army will be sent north, but some of them will go home. The army before Port Arthur is variously stated as being between 70,000 and 120,000 men.

If Senator Mitchell follows the inexorable rule of senatorial etiquette, he will not appear on the floor of the senate again until the courts have taken final action in the matter of the indictment against him.

The cotton mill strike at Fall River, Mass., continues with both sides determined not to give in.

The grand of the Federal grand jury goes on, and another report for the expectant public will soon be made.

Silver is growing scarce. The price has advanced, and the market is such that the consumer waits on the producer.

Chicago held memorial services December 30 in remembrance of the Iroquois theater disaster, the occasion being the first anniversary.

Preparations are being made at Vladivostok for the reception in the dry docks of any of the Baltic squadron that may need docking when the fleet reaches that port.

The London city police have arrested two members of an international gang which for two or three years is alleged to have been conducting extensive forgeries in 25 Bank of England notes.

Boston's submarine tunnel is open for business. The tube is a mile and a half long, and connects Boston and East Boston, running under the harbor. The cost was three million dollars. About three and one-half years was consumed in constructing the tunnel.

Owing to the crisis in Morocco, the French navy yards show great activity.

England is again enveloped in a heavy fog and all ships are detained at the mouth of the Thames, unable to proceed.

Admiral Kazankoff has been recalled as Russian commissioner in the North sea inquiry and will be replaced by Vice Admiral Doubasoff. Sickness is given as the reason.

The Montana agricultural exhibits at St. Louis are being packed for shipment to Portland. The mineral exhibit will leave Butte for the Lewis and Clark fair shortly.

Kuropatkin is absolutely certain that he will ultimately win over the Japanese, while the vice governor of Japan's national bank says Japan must win; that no sacrifice is too great.

The Japanese attempts to raise the Russian cruiser Varig have been discontinued. It will be impossible to recommence work before spring, by which time the steel plates forming the hull will be useless.

The Colorado canvassing board has given certificates of election to two Republican senators, whose places were contested by Democrats. Democrats regard it as highly probable that Governor Peabody will be reelected by this action.

Prince Yildaroff has been reported as among the killed in a recent list sent to St. Petersburg.

The recent retirement of Rear Admiral Silas Terry has resulted in the promotion of Captain Joseph E. Craig to admiral.

An officer from an English steamer just out from Vladivostok says no Russian torpedo boats have arrived there from Port Arthur.

Reports from points along the shore of Lake Michigan indicate that the damage resulting from the storm will aggregate \$500,000.

The president is presenting his ideas on railroad freight rates to congressmen personally.

An unknown steamer has been stranded in Hell's Hole, off Cape Hatteras, as a result of the storm raging along the Atlantic coast.

Two Japanese cruisers have been sighted off Hong Kong. It is believed they are scouting vessels from the fleet sent after the Russian Baltic squadron.

M. A. Meyerdorff, a special land agent, on the way to Portland to help in the land fraud cases, attempted to commit suicide at Denver.

FIND THE TRUTH.

Denver Election Frauds to be Probed to the Bottom.

Denver, Jan. 4.—Stretching its hands so as to cast a shadow over every man and woman in any way implicated in election frauds in the city and county of Denver, on, before or after November 8, the supreme court has ordered an investigation so sweeping in its scope that every phase of the election may be scrutinized and everything that bears upon it in any way may be made known by judicial inquiry.

Alva Adams, Democratic candidate for governor, who appeared from the returns to have been elected, but who has declared that he does not want the office tainted with fraud, asked the court to open every Denver ballot box, but the order of the court goes beyond the mere examination of the ballots and provides for an investigation of the registration lists, the campaign expenditures, and, in brief, all election matters. Samuel W. Belford, attorney for Adams, and Henry J. Hersey, attorney for the Republicans, asked the court to make its order of such breadth that the court need not stop at anything in the investigation. The court said that was what it meant to do, and instructed the lawyers to agree upon the wording of the order, and present it to the court for approval.

Chief Justice Gabbert said that while the petition did not state facts entitling the petitioner to such an investigation as proposed, the court had decided that an investigation might end in discovering the guilty persons who were responsible for the commission of the gross frauds that had been revealed in the contempt proceedings. There must have been some persons behind the election officers and others who committed frauds, the court believed.

GUILTY ONES DISCHARGED.

Ball Cartridges Among Blanks Are Traced to the Packers.

Washington, Jan. 4.—As the result of investigation made by direction of General Crozier, chief of ordnance, it has been ascertained that among the 1,750,000 blank cartridges issued last summer to the regular and militia troops which took part in the manoeuvres at Manassas, Va., and in California, two ball cartridges were found, one at the Virginia camp and the other in California. The person who packed the California cartridge was traced by the initials on the box and was promptly discharged. In the Virginia case it was impossible to find the offender.

As an additional precaution, all the blank cartridge cases at the Frankford arsenal have been overhauled and weighed, with the result that one ball cartridge was found. In that case the person who packed the case was discharged.

To guard against the possibility of such an occurrence, General Crozier has directed that each box of blank cartridges shall be weighed before sealing. The presence of a ball cartridge can be easily detected by this method.

WHIP WIFE-BEATERS.

Washington Grand Jury Adopts the President's Suggestion.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The local grand jury in making its final report for the present term of the supreme court of the District of Columbia today recommended the establishment of whipping-posts in the district. The question has been much agitated ever since the president in his last annual message recommended corporal punishment for wife-beaters in the District of Columbia. The recommendation of the jury was as follows:

"The efficacy of establishing the whipping-post as a means of punishing wife-beaters and petty larceny offenses has been investigated by this body, and the majority of the members are of the opinion that it would prove very effective in reducing the number of these reprehensible crimes."

Bandits Are Supreme.

Paris, Jan. 4.—The measures contemplated by the French government for the security of the neighborhood of the towns in Morocco have not yet been completed, partly owing to the fact that there has not yet been the time necessary for the purpose since France first undertook the task, and partly because many matters of detail remain to be settled when the French representative, M. Saint-Rebe Taillander, meets the sultan at Fez at the end of the month. Oriental dilatoriness also counts for something in the delay.

Coal for Russian Fleet.

Bombay, Jan. 4.—Russian agents here are endeavoring to purchase 100 tons of coal and to charter vessels to carry it. Up to the present no shipments have been made, but it is believed that the British steamer Henry Bolckow, of 639 tons net, owned by the Bombay & Persian steam navigation company, limited, of Bombay, has been sold to Russia. She has sailed hence in ballast for Saigon, French Cochinchina.

Two Cruisers Return.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 4.—A report that the cruisers Orel and Izumrud, of the second Pacific squadron, have been ordered to return is current here, but lacks official confirmation. If the report should prove true, Vice Admiral Rojstvensky may be obliged to await reinforcements from the Third Pacific Squadron.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

ALL ARE BUYING CATTLE.

Good Prices and Brisk Market Prevail in Grant County.

John Day—Cattle buying among Grant county stockmen has been quite active since the heavy sales last fall. So many engaged in this rather unusual form of stock transaction that the home supply became practically exhausted some time ago, and they are reaching out into the surrounding territory. The bulk of the business was carried on very quietly, and resulted in a good many surprises. Growers who make a practice of selling off young stock were approached by local buyers, and asked whether they knew of any such for sale in their neighborhood. The reply was generally that they had bought up all to be found.

Conditions favor this demand. Prices have been down to bedrock, close sales of fat stock had been general throughout the county, and feed and pasture are unusually plentiful. Ize cattlemen have made the largest purchases of young stock and steers, and several large bands have been taken into that section for wintering. Henry Trowbridge and Johnny Laycock have just driven 436 head of steers over to their pastures in that valley. They were purchased chiefly in the Burnt river country, at prices ranging from \$12 to \$25 per head.

Gold Found Near Mosier.

The Dalles—Parties from Mosier, who were in The Dalles say considerable excitement has been caused in Mosier over the discovery of gold on the head of Mosier creek. A man named Thomas is reported to have come into Mosier a few days ago with a handful of gold that he stated he had dug out of the ground five or six miles south of the town. Thomas is said to be a responsible person, and his report of finding a valuable mine is given credence by the people who know him. Several residents of Mosier have gone to the vicinity of the reported find, intending to locate claims if the alleged mine proves to be what Thomas represents it to be.

New Company at Work.

Grants Pass—The Michigan Mining & Milling company, which recently bought a large tract of mineral ground on Applegate creek, of Murphy district, near Grants Pass, has gone enterprisingly to work under the supervision of W. T. Perry, of Portland, in the development of the property. The land embraces much good timber, water right and quartz and placer diggings. The quartz ledges will be given especial attention by the Michigan company, as the veins give promise of unusual worth. Buildings and quarters for the workmen will be erected at once, and the opening up of the claims will proceed with the best possible dispatch.

Coming Events.

Inland Empire Sunday school institute, Pendleton, January 30.
Animal shows, Polk County Goat, Poultry and Sheep association, Dallas, January 19-20; poultry show, Newberg, January 10-13; poultry show, Albany, January, 18-21.
State Horticultural society, Portland, January 10-11.
Prohibition Oratorical-League contest, McMinnville, April 14.
National American Woman Suffrage association, Portland, June 22-28.
Lewis and Clark Centennial exposition, Portland, June 1-October 15.

Diphtheria Under Control.

Grants Pass—The health officers of the city have the diphtheria epidemic, manifest here for several weeks past, well under control. The original 13 or 14 cases have now been reduced to five or six, and most of these are on the way to recovery. Five deaths occurred. Strict quarantine regulations have been enforced upon those afflicted and upon the inmates of residences where the disease has been. Coming at Christmas time, the dread caused a considerable falling off in the anticipated holiday shopping.

To Enlarge Brick Plant.

Eugene—After a year or more of planning and experimenting, Messrs. Martin & Mack, who own the brickyard on Wallace butte, near this city, have finally completed arrangements to enlarge their plant to a great extent. They intend to put up a large building, a new mud mill to be secured, and several other pieces of machinery, which will make their plant complete. The new plant will be a great addition to Lane county.

Reserve Land Restored.

Oregon City—By the recent order of the Interior department there is reinstated for public entry substantially the same acreage in the Cascade forest reserve that was withdrawn about one year ago, pending an investigation by the department. Much of this land, having been restored to settlement, will be open to settlers within three months through the Oregon City land office.

Road to Sweepstake.

Cottage Grove—John Brund and Alex Lundberg have built 600 feet of road from the Sweepstake group to a point near the Vesuvius mine. When completed the road will be two miles long and will be of great advantage to the Sweepstake locality.

ROAD TO SWEEPSTAKE.

New Railway From Medford Along Crater Lake Route.

Medford—For several months past the Southern Oregon Development company has been engaged in running surveys, securing rights of way, and doing other preliminary work toward the building of a railroad to the big timber belt located about 20 miles east of Medford, on the Crater lake road. The surveys have been made from the site of the Butte Falls Mining company's plant to a point on the desert some eight miles from Medford, and rights of way have been secured over most of the route. The Medford and Crater Lake Railroad company has been organized by A. A. Davis, B. F. Adkins, J. M. Keene, R. H. Whitehead, B. H. Harris, W. F. Enthrop and W. I. Vawter. Articles of incorporation were prepared and filed with the secretary of state. The capital stock of the incorporation is placed at \$500,000, and its object is to construct and operate a railroad from Medford east to the timber belt and Crater Lake.

This company supersedes the Southern Oregon Development company, and takes over the rights of way, surveys, etc., of that company. A permanent organization, with election of officers will soon be made.

IRRIGATION FROM BIG WELLS

Scheme To Be Tried Out by Interested Parties Near Freewater.

Freewater—A. C. Brannon and J. B. Twelliger, who reside west of this place, are sinking wells to irrigate tracts of hitherto unimproved lands to the west and north of Freewater. The water will be pumped with gasoline propelled pumps, for distribution over the land. There are at least 1,000 acres tributary to Freewater which are idle for the lack of water. The Walla Walla river has been appropriated by persons having riparian rights, and only by sinking wells can a supply be obtained. The Freewater section seems to have once been the head of a lake, and the gravel has so accumulated that water percolates as though through a sieve. winter irrigation seems to have the desired effects in soil of sufficient density to grow crops without summer irrigation, but this soil needs water through the hot months.

Line Into Nehalem.

Astoria—While no information of an official nature can be obtained, there is an authentic report that the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad company has purchased the six miles of logging road built by the Benson Logging company at Clatskanie, and is preparing to extend it into the Nehalem valley, as an excellent grade can be found in that section. The road, which is of standard gauge, was built and equipped for conducting logging operations. Recently all the logging trains were taken off, and the line is now used exclusively by the railway in hauling freight to Clatskanie and vicinity.

Power for Trolley Roads.

Eugene—Chief Engineer Diers, of the Willamette Valley Electric Railway company, is now preparing to put a force of men at work at Martin's Rapids, on the McKenzie river, where the waters are to be taken out by means of a flume and conducted to the site selected for the power station some distance below. The engineer estimates that 5,000-horsepower will be developed, which, he thinks, will be sufficient for operating the entire system of electric roads as planned at the present time.

Bores for Artesian Water.

Baker City—W. L. Vinson, manager of the Emma mine, a few miles east of this city, has begun to bore an artesian well to obtain water for the mine. The work is being watched with a great deal of interest by a number of people who own land in the vicinity of the mine. If Mr. Vinson succeeds in procuring water it will demonstrate the fact that perhaps other land can be brought under cultivation by boring wells for irrigation.

Prize-Packed Fruit.

La Grande—The Oregonian Produce company, of La Grande, has been awarded first honors by a committee of over 50 commission men and dealers in San Francisco, for the best packed fruit, competing with Colorado, California, Washington and Idaho. A. A. Gust, manager of the company in this city, has just returned from San Francisco.

Year's Work Shows Progress.

Cottage Grove—The year that has just passed finds the Bohemia mining district in advance of the years that have gone by. There has been no boom, but lots of good hard work that showed when the books were closed at the end of the year. The quantity and quality of the ores are satisfying to the owners.

THE MARKETS.

Wheat—Portland—Walla Walla, 85c; bluestem, 88@89c; valley, 87c. Tacoma—Bluestem, 88c; club, 85c. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 31c. Butter—Fancy creamery, 25@27 1/2c. Hops—Choice, 29@30c; prime, 27@28c. Wool—Valley, 19@20c; Eastern Oregon, 10@17c; mohair, 25@26c.

A GENERAL MOVE.

President is Making Several Changes Among Ambassadors.

Washington, Jan. 3.—President Roosevelt is devoting some time at present to consideration of important appointments in the diplomatic and consular service, which are to be made formally by him at the beginning of next March. Secretary Hay had a conference with the president today before the meeting of the cabinet, and it is understood that the matter of appointments in the diplomatic service was one of the subjects discussed. While no official announcement of the president's intention regarding the positions has yet been made, it is known that he has decided upon several changes. Joseph H. Choate, ambassador to the court of St. James, has indicated that he does not desire to continue in that position. He will be succeeded by Whiteslaw Reid, proprietor of the New York Tribune, who was at one time minister to France.

General Horace Porter, American ambassador to France, will retire from that position soon after March 4. He was appointed by the late President McKinley, and, with the expiration of his present term, will have served the United States at the French capital eight years. The president has decided on General Porter's successor, but at this time no announcement of his decision can be made.

Charlemagne Tower, American ambassador to Germany, and Robert S. McCormick, American ambassador to Russia, will continue at their respective posts.

Bellamy Storer, American ambassador to Austria-Hungary, will continue in his present place until the president decides to transfer him to another post in the diplomatic service.

As to the ambassadorship to Italy, nothing definite can be said now. It has been rumored that Ambassador George Von L. Meyer is to succeed General Porter at Paris, but it can be said that such a change is not certain. The probabilities are that Mr. Meyer will remain at Rome. General Powell Clayton having decided to relinquish his post as ambassador to Mexico at the end of the present administration, he will be succeeded by Edwin H. Conger, now United States minister to China. It is not expected that Mr. Conger will continue long at the Mexican capital, as he is understood to intend to return to his home state of Iowa to be a candidate in succession to Governor Cummins. He will be succeeded by David E. Thompson, of Nebraska, who at present is minister to Brazil. Mr. Thompson accepted the appointment to Brazil with the understanding that he would be appointed to a higher place in the diplomatic service as soon as opportunity afforded.

Mr. Conger will be succeeded at the court of Peking by William W. Rockhill, at present director of the bureau of American republics, who is recognized as an authority on all subjects pertaining to China and the Chinese.

John K. Gowdy, who was appointed by President McKinley American consul general at Paris, will be succeeded by F. H. Mason, who is now consul general to Berlin. In succession to Mr. Mason, John Lewis Griffiths, of Indianapolis, will be named.

It is expected that some other changes will be made in the corps of American ministers, but at this time they are not obtainable for publication.

New Fraser River Mill.

New Westminster, B. C., Jan. 3.—A large sawmill on the Fraser river that has been closed for 15 years will open in a few weeks to cut 250,000 feet of lumber a day, under American capital. The mill was purchased by Lester W. David, for years manager of the Monarch lumber mills in Blaine. The company will be known as the Fraser River Lumber Mills company and will employ nearly 300 men. It will ship both by rail and vessels. In the marine shipping, E. J. Dodge, the millionaire lumber man of San Francisco, will use his own fleet of lumber vessels. Already a market has been opened in Australia and the first cargo sent by water will go there.

Cunning of the Japanese.

Mukden, Jan. 3.—Irrefutable evidence, has been obtained at headquarters that the Japanese are not only hiring Chinese bandits to operate on the Russian flanks, but that they are enlisting Chinese under Japanese officers. The Japanese are adopting cunning expedients to defeat surprise attacks of the Russian scouts, from which they have suffered so much. They cover the steep approaches of their trenches with water, which freezes, forms ice slides and makes the scouts slip and fall in confusion.

Good Health on Isthmus.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Commissioner Greene and Examiner Snyder, of the civil service commission, returned here today from a three weeks' visit to the Panama canal zone, where they went for the purpose of introducing the commission's rule for the employment of people connected with the canal. There has been an average of 1,500 Americans on the isthmus for the past eight months, and not one death has occurred among them.

Chicago Is Not Liable.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—Judge Charles M. Walker today decided that the city of Chicago is not liable for damages growing out of the loss of life in connection with the Iroquois theater fire. This was the last day in which, under the law, claims for damages could be filed. In the last hour of the court today 49 suits aggregating \$490,000 were filed in the circuit and supreme courts.

IN HANDS OF JAPS

Port Arthur Gives Up After Fighting Eleven Months.

CAUSES GREAT JOY IN TOKIO

Stoessel Confesses He Fought Further Resistance Was Only a Useless Sacrifice of Lives.

New York, Jan. 3.—Port Arthur, whose hills for months have run red with the blood of the bravest of two-warlike nations, has at last succumbed to the fierce tenacity of the Japanese attack. General Stoessel, most stubborn in carrying out the will of his sovereign, has seen the advance of the besieging army gain in momentum and energy, until to hold out longer would have been a crime against humanity.

The conditions of the surrender are not yet known, but in all quarters it is anticipated that they are such as an honorable soldier may accept from a brave and victorious enemy.

At 9:45 o'clock last night the commissioners completed signing of the capitulation agreement. Both armies had suspended hostilities five hours earlier. The city of Port Arthur will be occupied by the Japanese today.

The authorities at St. Petersburg, in the absence of direct official notice from General Stoessel that Port Arthur has surrendered, have not permitted the news to become public. Emperor Nicholas is in the south of Russia, and his ministers are for the time being in the dark as to what dispatches have been sent to him from the front. Tokio is the scene of rejoicing, people finding in the outcome compensation for all the sacrifice of life and money that was entailed in the ten months' siege.

To what extent the fall of Port Arthur will make for a restoration of peace is an open question. There is an encouraging note in the expression of Baron Hayashi, Japanese minister to London, of the "hope that in some way it will facilitate final peace."

Both in Paris and London it is believed that the squadron under Vice Admiral Rojstvensky, which started from Libau for the Far East three months ago, will have to retrace its way home, as an adherence to the original plans would invite disaster without probability of effecting a juncture with the warships at present in the harbor of Vladivostok.

HALL IS REMOVED.

Summary Action by the President in Land Fraud Cases.

Washington, Jan. 3.—President Roosevelt has directed the absolute removal of John H. Hall, United States district attorney for the district of Oregon. The action was taken at the request of Francis J. Heney, who was being conducting, as the nominal assistant of Mr. Hall, the land fraud cases in Oregon.

The announcement of this action was made by Attorney General Moody as he was leaving the White house after a conference with the president. Mr. Moody declined to say what the charges against Mr. Hall were, if any, but did say that it was for the good of the service to dispense with him, particularly in regard to the conduct of the land fraud cases now being investigated.

Mitchell and Hermann Indicted.

Portland, Jan. 3.—The Federal grand jury fulfilled the expectations of the public when it returned indictments against Senator Mitchell, Binger Hermann and George Sorenson. Mitchell and Hermann were indicted jointly and are charged with having conspired with all of the defendants heretofore indicted to defraud the government out of land situated in township 11 south, range 7 east. Sorenson is indicted for having offered a bribe of \$5,000 to District Attorney Hall on March 28 last, when the indictment against the conspirators who were convicted in the Federal court.

New Navy for Russia.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 4.—With reference to the report published in the United States under a St. Petersburg date that Emperor Nicholas has petitioned the expenditure of \$80,000,000 for rebuilding the navy, the fact is that Russia's naval program has not yet been definitely decided or promulgated. All that is positively known is that the plans cover a long period of years. The absolute necessity of a sea power is one of Russia's latest lessons of the present war.

Bay City Is Shocked.

San Francisco, Jan. 4.—This city experienced a number of earthquake shocks today. At 3:20 o'clock a severe shock, which lasted for six seconds, occurred. At 4:25 o'clock and a few minutes before 8 o'clock tonight other shocks were felt. The plate glass in a few buildings was shattered. One of the small towers on the city hall was twisted. Officials at the hall, however, say that the tower was faultily constructed.

Cold Suspends Mobilization.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 4.—The intensely cold weather which prevails in the center of Russia has caused a temporary suspension of the mobilization and movement of troops. Today the temperature is 40 degrees below Fahrenheit.