

## 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.

The senate will not increase the Columbia river appropriations.

Joseph W. J. Lee has been named for consul general at Panama.

The Panama canal commissioners have violated the law in buying supplies without advertisements public for bids.

George S. Boutwell, of Massachusetts, formerly secretary of the treasury, is dead.

Peasants are joining in the strike movement in Poland and are burning saloons.

The Russian officers who broke their parole have been ordered back to San Francisco.

The final settlement of the Klamath irrigation scheme has been postponed until April.

The Russian government has adopted strong measures to keep the railways in operation.

The Russian Third Pacific squadron has passed Cherbourg, France, on its way to the Far East.

Gorky, the priest strike leader, has been released and re-arrested, to be exiled from St. Petersburg.

Eleven persons were killed and more than 50 others injured, some probably fatally, by the collapse of a floor in a New York colored church.

Starvation threatens Fairbanks, Alaska.

Secretary Taft will speak at the Lewis and Clark fair.

Oil men of several states have united to fight the Standard Oil company.

Northwest senators have asked an increase in river and harbor appropriations.

Automobiles are to race from the Atlantic coast to Portland for the Lewis and Clark fair.

A big ice gorge has carried out a Union Pacific railroad bridge on Loup river, at Columbus, Nebraska.

St. Louis financiers are interesting capital for the construction of an electric road from St. Louis to Kansas City.

What is believed to have been Paul Jones' body has been found by the searchers in the old St. Louis cemetery, in Paris.

The secretary of state has received for presentation to President Roosevelt a large photograph of the empress dowager, of China.

The Japanese have captured a Russian position of importance after an awful battle. The losses of both sides will reach into the thousands, but it is believed the Japanese lost the most men.

It is believed that Judge Swayne will be acquitted.

John D. Long says the Monroe doctrine is carried too far.

The blockade of Vladivostok is now complete, but food is not scarce.

King Edward favors Irish liberty as a step to Anglo-American alliance.

The czar has yielded to the railroad strikers and traffic will be resumed.

Norway threatens to dissolve her union with Sweden and establish a republic.

The greatest battle of the war has begun in Manchuria, the Japanese outflanking the Russians.

The bill dividing Oregon into two judicial districts has been killed and a similar Washington bill passed.

Dr. Louis Wilcoxson, who was charged with having a United States bond, stolen 20 years ago from the Manhattan bank, has been released on \$10,000 bail, and will now seek for S. W. Miller, from whom he obtained the bond.

Fire broke out in the New York juvenile asylum, but all the 1,200 children were taken out in 15 minutes and the flames were soon extinguished.

Riots at Baku, Russia, have caused 1,000 deaths, and twice as many were wounded.

Railroad strikes have cut off Poland and all southwestern Russia from the rest of the world.

Following an operation for appendicitis, Sidney Dillon Ripley, the financier, is critically ill at his home in New York.

The state assembly of Wisconsin has passed a bill prohibiting the sale of giant firecrackers and other dangerous explosives.

Twenty-one buildings in the heart of Cape May Courthouse, the county seat of Cape May county, N. J., were destroyed by fire.

It seems that the decision of the North sea commission will let both nations down easily, not being a decided report either way.

## DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Tuesday, February 21.

The house today passed the Philippine tariff bill, practically as it came from the committee. The river and harbor appropriation bill was then taken up but it was soon laid aside and several measures were passed, the most important of which was the authorization given the secretary of war to return to the several states the Union and Confederate battleflags.

The senate committee today reported that it would be impossible to act on the railroad rate bill at this session without ignoring the railroads. Consideration of the Indian appropriation bill was begun. A short time was given to the defense of Judge Swayne, and the senate began the consideration of the bill for the government of the isthmian canal zone.

Wednesday, February 22.

Government ownership of railroads was discussed by the senate today in connection with the purchase of the Panama railroad, while the bill for the government of the canal zone was under consideration. Consideration of the bill was not completed when the senate adjourned.

A number of witnesses were examined in behalf of Judge Swayne in the impeachment proceedings against him. After a brief but spirited debate the house today sent back to conference the army appropriation bill. All senate amendments were again disagreed to, excepting one appropriating \$95,000 for continuing the cable from Valdez to Seward, Alaska.

Thursday, February 23.

Without a dollar being added or subtracted the river and harbor appropriation bill passed the house today, after the session had run well into the evening. The total amount carried by the bill is \$17,234,657. It was impeded by the offering of amendments, but only those presented by the committee were adopted.

The last testimony in the interest of Judge Swayne in the impeachment against him was today presented to the senate.

The bill providing a form of government for the Panama canal zone was passed early in the day.

Friday, February 24.

The time of the senate today was divided between the Swayne impeachment trial and the motion of Beveridge to appoint conferees on the joint statehood bill. It is the expectation that a vote on the Swayne matter will be reached Monday. No agreement was reached in the appointment of statehood conferees.

A resolution was introduced in the house directing the attorney general to proceed against the armor plate trust. A number of pension bills from the senate were considered, altogether 125 being passed. Four hours was given to the sundry civil appropriation bill.

Saturday, February 25.

The house today divided its time between legislation and patriotic exercises. An hour and a half was spent in passing minor bills. The same period was devoted to the sundry appropriation bill, without reaching a conclusion. Legislation then gave way to speeches by several members honoring the memory of Houston and Austin; when the marble statues of each, given by the state of Texas, were accepted.

Some sharp criticisms of the president's policy towards Santo Domingo and in enlarging the navy was indulged in today by senators on both sides during the debate on the naval appropriation bill.

A vote on the Swayne impeachment case will be taken Monday.

Monday, February 27.

Charles Swayne, district judge of the Northern district of Florida, was today acquitted by the senate of all 12 articles of impeachment against him.

President Roosevelt's policy of building up a great navy came in for more criticism today in the senate when the naval appropriation bill was under consideration. The bill was passed, carrying appropriations of \$100,300,000.

The house agreed to the conference report on the army appropriation bill. The sundry civil appropriation bill was passed, carrying \$45,272,280.

Warships Bombard Rebels.

Constantinople, Feb. 24.—Extremely alarming reports are current here concerning the situation at Batoum and Poti. It is alleged that some vessels of the Black sea squadron (Russian) have bombarded Poti. An English merchant who has just arrived here says he was obliged to flee from Batoum, where his life was menaced by strikers and his office destroyed. This merchant says the authorities of Batoum are powerless. The strikers are all Georgians, and are estimated to number 40,000.

Rumors of Great Events.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.—A second day has passed without dispatches having been given out from General Kuropatkin, which is interpreted to support the rumors that great events are in progress in Manchuria. The war office, however, steadfastly maintains that there is no important news and that there have been no developments since the last dispatches made public, in which the commander-in-chief reported all quiet.

Extra Session of Senate.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The president today issued a proclamation convening the senate in special session at 12 o'clock noon on March 4 next, to receive such communications as may be made by the executive.

## AIMING AT MUKDEN

Japanese Strike Decisive Blow at Main Position.

OYAMA ORDERED TO ADVANCE

Must Act Before Snow Melts — May Attempt to Isolate Vladivostok At Same Time.

Tokio, Feb. 28.—Following the custom of the Japanese government, the officials at the war office refuse to discuss the present movements in Manchuria, but there is a general air of confidence among the higher officers, who are absolutely posted on the situation, which is believed to indicate that General Kuroki has again scored a complete success and that official announcements may be expected very soon.

Up to midnight Monday no particulars of the fighting had been given out, but it was stated that, so far as was known, only the right and center of Marshal Oyama's army had been engaged and that the conditions on the left are unchanged.

It is the general opinion among the best informed experts in the Japanese capital that the present movement, before it ends, will result in the capture of Mukden. It is known that orders have been sent to Field Marshal Oyama, telling him that the time is ripe for taking the Russian main position, as, if action is postponed much longer, the spring thaws with their resultant floods will be upon him and it will be impossible to do any fighting until the roads dry up.

There is, of course, a possibility that the present movement may have for its object, as well as the capture of Mukden, the isolation of Vladivostok. In view of the recent reports that the port was being blockaded by sea by a Japanese squadron of torpedo boats and protected cruisers, there can be little doubt that, if Kuroki crushes the Russian left, such troops as can be spared will be assigned to a special campaign against the Siberian stronghold.

## FOR PHILIPPINE FREE TRADE

House Committee Reports in Favor of Curtis' Tariff Bill.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Chairman Paine, of the house ways and means committee, today filed a report favoring the passage of the Curtis bill providing for the free entry of products from the Philippine islands, except sugar and tobacco, on which 25 per cent of the Dingley tariff is to be collected. The report declares that the only logical result of our possession of the islands is free trade.

It has been definitely settled, it says, that we will retain the islands until their population is fitted for self-government, and he repeats Secretary Taft's suggestion that this will be at least one generation. Until the treaty stipulation between the United States and Spain shall expire in 1909, all tariff advantages given by the islands to the United States must be given to Spain, and for that reason reciprocal free trade is not feasible. The present bill, says the report, goes as far as is practicable under these conditions.

## FOUR SENATORS EXPELLED.

Result of Bribery Investigation in the California Legislature.

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 28.—Crowded galleries and lobbies this afternoon watched a dramatic scene when Senators Bunkers, French, Wright and Emmons were expelled from the state senate of California by a vote which contained no dissenting voice. Bunkers' case was first to be considered. Thirty-four brother senators supported the report of the investigating committee that he be put out. No one voted for him. He was not present.

The report of the committee recommending expulsion of all four was adopted by 35 votes to 0, the four accused senators and Senator Welch not voting. Expulsion ballots then followed separately.

## Anti-Trust Law Sustained.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The supreme court of the United States has decided the case of the National Cotton Oil company vs. the state of Texas, involving the Texas anti-trust law. The state court found the company guilty under that law and held that it had forfeited its right to do business in the state. The case was appealed to the supreme court on constitutional grounds. That court, however, in its opinion today, held that the claim was untenable and sustained the verdict of the court below.

## Passes Taken by Japanese.

Mukden, Feb. 28.—The Russians report that the Japanese are in possession of Taling, and also the pass between Taling and Katouling. The possession of Taling threatens Fushan, Tiepling and Hiegsaway. Taling is regarded as of the same consequence to the Japanese in their operations against Mukden as was Motienling in relation to Liao Yang. In case the Japanese push on to the southeast, their operations will be in the hills.

## Anti-Salt Trust Measure Killed.

Topeka, Feb. 28.—A house concurrent resolution calling for an investigation of the salt trust was defeated by a vote of 57 to 19. It was necessary for the resolution to receive a two-thirds vote, or 63 votes.

## AT LEVEL OF SEA.

Panama Canal Commission's Plans for Isthmian Waterway.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The first definite engineering plans for the construction of the Panama canal have just been laid before the isthmian canal commission by the engineering committee of that body, consisting of Commissioners Burr, Parsons and Davis. The principal recommendations are summed up in this resolution:

"Resolved, That this committee approve and recommend for adoption by the commission a plan for a sea-level canal, with a bottom width of 150 feet and a minimum depth of water of 35 feet, and with twin tidal locks at Miraflores, whose usable dimensions shall be 1,000 feet long and 100 feet wide, at a total estimated cost of \$230,500,000.

"Such estimates include an allowance for administration, engineering, sanitation and contingencies, amounting to \$38,450,000, but without allowance for interest during construction, expense of zone government and collateral costs and water supply sewers or paving of Panama or Colon, which last items are to be repaid by the inhabitants of those cities."

The committee estimates that a sea-level canal can be completed within 10 or 12 years from the present time.

These recommendations are the conclusion of a report to the committee prepared in the canal zone under date of February 1 last, and based on complete engineering reports on all of the problems involved.

The committee decided that, under no circumstances, should the surface of the canal be more than 60 feet above the sea, and estimates that this level the cost would be \$178,013,06. A 30-foot level is estimated to cost \$19,213,406.

## MINERS LOSE LIVES.

Twenty-Three Killed in West Virginia Mine Explosion.

Bluefield, W. Va., Feb. 28.—As a result of an explosion in shaft No. 1 of the United States Coal and Coke company, at Wilcox, today, 23 miners are supposed to have lost their lives, and it is possible that the number will exceed this.

Up to 8 p. m. 15 bodies had been taken from the shafts. A large rescuing party is in the mines tonight. It is barely possible, but not likely, that some of the remaining entombed miners will be rescued alive.

The explosion was of terrific force, and shattered windows a mile distant. Immediately after the shock great clouds of smoke and dust gushing from its mouth. Mothers, children and other relatives soon were weeping and pleading for the rescue of those dear to them entombed in the mine. The officials of the mine were soon on the scene.

The company usually work in this shaft about 75 miners, but today the men were not all in, and the small loss of life can be attributed only to this fact.

## VICTORY IS BARREN.

Russians Were Able to Retire from Position in Good Order.

Tokio, Feb. 28.—The reports that are arriving from the front indicate that the severe engagements of the last few days are the prelude of what now seems will prove one of the bloodiest battles of the war. A large portion of General Kuroki's army has been engaged since Thursday, and the latest reports indicate that the fighting still continues, with the advantage on the side of the Japanese.

The capture of Beresneff by the Japanese, while a brilliant exploit, was practically barren of results, in that the Russians were enabled to retire in good order, and concentrate at Tzenti pass, which is now being attacked.

According to the latest reports from the front that the public is permitted to have access to General Kuroki's column has been heavily reinforced, especially with artillery, and many of the siege guns of heavy caliber which were used by the Russians at Port Arthur, and fell into the hands of General Nogri's men after the fall of the "Gibraltar of the East," are now being trained against General Kuropatkin's forces.

## Troops Moving Slowly.

London, Feb. 28.—The correspondent at St. Petersburg of the Times says that the government is making concessions to the railway men and placing the railways under martial law with a view to expediting the transportation of troops to the Far East. The South rifle brigade, which left Odessa two months ago, is still near Omsk. The latest units ordered for service include some 25,000 men and 48 guns from Caucasian garrisons. They cannot reach General Kuropatkin before April, at the earliest.

## Prince of Wales to Visit India.

London, Feb. 28.—It has been officially arranged that the prince and princess of Wales shall visit India in November, and stay until March, making a tour of the principal cities and native states, receiving the chiefs and princes on behalf of King Edward, who, after consultation with the viceroy, has directed that for this occasion the exchange of ceremonial presents shall be dispensed with. Consequently no presents will be accepted.

## Deacons Await Their Prophet.

Mexico City, Feb. 28.—Prophet Dowie, of Zion City, is expected to arrive here tomorrow from Cuba. His five deacons now here refuse to talk on the Zionist's plans, but it is understood a Zionist colony will be settled in the hot country, and devote itself to raising sugar cane, coffee and other products.

## OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

## NO STATE FAIR THIS YEAR.

Attorney General Says State Funds Cannot be Used for Race Meet.

Salem—"No state fair can be held in 1905," declares Attorney General Crawford, in answer to an inquiry from the state fair board. The legislature at its recent session passed an act authorizing and directing the state fair board to expend the annual appropriation of \$10,000 for improvements in 1905, and relieving the board from holding an exhibit in that year.

The fair board, however, was anxious to hold a fair this year and sought to find authority therefor in section 4138 of the code, making it the duty of the board to hold "an annual fair or exhibition," which section has not been repealed.

The attorney general holds that, although this section has not been repealed, expressly or by implication, the legislature has suspended the holding of the fair for one year. He also holds that the annual appropriation of \$10,000, together with the additional \$5,000 appropriated by the legislature, must be used for improvements at the fair grounds during the year 1905, and that any sum not so used will revert to the general fund. In conclusion Attorney General Crawford says there is nothing to prevent the board from holding a race meet in 1905, but none of the state appropriation can be used for that purpose.

## SNOW COVERED WASCO FIELDS.

Only Damage to Wheat is Along the Columbia River.

The Dalles—From reports farmers make, Wasco county has withstood the recent cold better than almost any other section of Eastern Oregon. During the cold weather snow covered all grain fields, with the exception of those in the extreme north part of the county, hence very little, if any, damage, was done fall grain in the principal wheat section of the county. Along the Columbia river the snow had melted before the freeze came, and in that section grain has been more or less injured, and reseeded will be necessary. On Tygh ridge and about Dufur, the most extensive grain growing section, the damage is nominal, and only isolated instances will be required. Where the snow has gone off since the freeze grain is of good color and thrifty, and bids fair to make an excellent crop.

## New Grants Pass Iron Foundry.

Grants Pass—Two carloads of machinery have arrived here for the new Grants Pass Iron and Steel works, the enterprise that has become a necessity by the rapid growth of the mines and the demand for mining machinery and castings. Local people are backing the enterprise, and it will be the largest foundry and machine shop in the state south of Portland. The huge planing machine, turning lathes and drill press, capable of handling the largest castings or shaftings, are among the consignments and are being unloaded. A five-ton and three-ton cupola will handle the casting for the foundry.

## Contracts to Sell Wool.

Pendleton—Kil Kenney, who resides southwest of here, has contracted his wool for this year to Zack Brown, the hide dealer of this city, receiving 13 cents a pound for the clip. The wool comes from the Sandy district, and, although the price seems small for this year's crop, it is an advance of 3 cents over last year and is a good figure. Mr. Kenney is one of the few of the county who have contracted, as the greater number of the sheepmen desire to hold, believing that the price will advance even more than it has.

## Cougars Destroying Stock.

Cottage Grove—Cougars are quite numerous in the hills west of this place. A few farmers have reported a combined loss of \$140 in the last few months and numerous goats and sheep have been disappearing for the past month. Several cougars have been killed this winter, and if there was a bounty for the killing this part of Lane would furnish its share of the beasts. Where a cougar turns his attention to goats, he often "gets away" with about two a day.

## Peach Crop Injured by Cold.

Milton—S. S. Shields, commission merchant here, says that on his investigation and inquiry from others the peach crop for the coming year has been seriously injured by the recent severe cold snap. He estimates that there will be half a crop or better. The varieties most injured are the Elberta, Solway and the late Crawford. Other varieties seem to have fared better. Other kinds of fruits seem to have escaped.

## Almond Trees in Bloom.

Grants Pass—Almond trees are in bloom in Grants Pass, the warm weather of the past month having brought them out several weeks earlier than usual. Peach trees are also ready to burst into bloom, and will be in full blossom within the next ten days. The bloom is very heavy on the almond trees, and if not nipped by late frosts, the crop of almonds from Southern Oregon will be good this season.

## Will Open Seed House.

Pendleton—S. H. Forshaw, the florist, has leased the Despain building on Alta street, formerly occupied by D. Kemler with a grocery store, and will open a seed room, handling also cut flowers and nursery stock.

## GRAIN OUTLOOK GOOD.

No Damage Done by Cold in Grand Ronde and Acreage Large.

La Grande—Up to the present prospects for the largest grain crop ever raised east of the Blue mountains are most flattering in the Grand Ronde. The late cold spell did not do the slightest damage to any of the fall sown grain, which is looking excellent. Since the passing of the cold wave the Grand Ronde has been having ideal weather. Farmers in the valley are overhauling their agricultural implements with the intention of doing a greater amount of plowing than ever. Ground both in the Grand Ronde and Wallawa valleys is in excellent condition, owing to the abundant rainfall during the winter months, the acreage in 1905 will far exceed that of any previous year.

Not only in cereals, but also in sugar beet cultivation will the acreage be increased.

G. W. Buckman, one of the prosperous farmers in this valley, will plant 200 acres in beets. He will also put in 2,000 acres in wheat, and will do all his plowing by steam this season.

## RICHER THAN FIRST REPORTED.

Strike in Bohemia Mine Improves on Further Development.

Cottage Grove—The strike in the Crystal Consolidated mine in Bohemia, made over a month ago, of six feet of ore, partly free milling and partly base, has greatly improved since then. The drift has been extended some 25 feet and the ledge now shows seven feet of solid ore. The ore is high grade. Tests were made on the ore at the time of the strike and assayed \$54 per ton, carrying copper, lead and zinc.

One of the miners just arrived from there reports that the ore is now much better than it was given when the test was made. The company is getting everything ready to start its stampmill as soon as the weather will permit, probably April 1. The object of milling this ore is to reduce it to concentrates, which will probably be 4 to 1, and separate the copper, lead and zinc on their concentrators. The concentrates will then be shipped to smelters where that class of mineral is treated.

## Another Independent Line.

Chemawa—Poles have been set and wires strung for the Chemawa farmers' telephone line. A stock company has been formed and incorporated and the members of the association have done the construction work among themselves. An agreement has been entered into with the Pacific States telephone company on terms that will assure the subscribers of the system very reasonable rates. They now have about 30 phones on the system, which taps one of the best suburban districts of the capital city, and will mean an increase of business for several Salem firms.

## New Telephone Line March 5.

Pendleton—The change from the old style telephone system to the central energy system will be completed by the 5th of March, when the cut over will be made. Under present circumstances the old telephones may be used with the new board, which has been placed in position, but the new instruments will not work with the old board. The new instruments are a great improvement over the old ones in appearance, being much smaller. The battery box is dispensed with and the electricity generated at the central office.

## Purchases Large Sheep Ranch.

Pendleton—Joseph Dougherty has sold his interest in the firm of Dougherty Brothers to his brother Patrick, and has purchased Cass Matlock's farm over the Morrow county line, together with his sheep. The farm consists of several thousand acres, and the price paid was \$15,000, including 2,200 sheep. Patrick Dougherty will continue the raising of sheep on the ranch formerly held in joint partnership.

## To Enlarge Mill at Weston.

Weston—J. J. Morton, of Weiser, Idaho, has purchased the flouring mill of Frank Blair, Sr., Mr. Morton is going to enlarge and remodel the mill, which, when completed, will have a capacity of 50 barrels a day. He will have it in shape to commence on the new crop. The power will be steam, with water when Pine creek affords a sufficient supply.

## Grand Ronde Farm Sold.

La Grande—John S. Killan has purchased a 240-acre farm west of Summerville from J. F. Westover, paying \$12,000, or \$52.20 per acre. It is considered one of the first-class farms in the Grand Ronde.

## PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 85c; bluestem, 92c; valley, 87c per bushel.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.35@1.40; gray, \$1.40@1.45 per cental.

Hay—Timothy, \$14@16 per ton; clover, \$11@12; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$12@13.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 16½@17c per dozen.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 27½@32½c. Potatoes—Oregon fancy, 75@90c; common, 60@65c.

Apples—4-tier Baldwins, \$1.25@1.50; Spitzenbergs, \$1.75@2.

Hops—1904, 24@26c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 19@20c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 12@17c; mohair, 25@26c per pound for choice.