

Heppner Weekly Gazette

Published Every Thursday.
HEPPNER, OREGON.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

An interesting collection of items from the two Hemispheres presented in a condensed form.

Thirty-seven people were drowned in the wreck of the steamer *Clan Drummond* in the bay of Biacay.

A gift to Wellesley college of \$50,000 from the estate of Charles T. Wilder has just been announced.

The 50th anniversary of Francis Joseph's accession to the throne was celebrated throughout Austria.

Three coal barges were lost and the lives of 10 or 12 men were sacrificed in the recent Atlantic storm off Bargate.

The Philippine insurgents demand 7,000,000 pesos for the release of 40 friars imprisoned since the commencement of the war.

A fire fiend attempted to burn John Wanamaker's big department store in Philadelphia, but was arrested before serious damage was done.

The liabilities of Gillett, the absconding Kansas cattle-plunger, continue to grow, the latest estimate placing the total at \$1,500,000.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to hold up a Missouri Pacific passenger train near Sedalia, Mo. One bandit was captured and another was severely wounded.

Aginalbio is said to be preparing to make resistance, and Spanish sympathizers in Madrid declare 60,000 men armed with Mausers will oppose American control of the Philippines.

Secretary Long has ordered the cruiser *New York* to Havana. On his arrival, Sampson will hoist his flag on the cruiser, and it is expected she will bring the admiral north next month.

A German government official, in an interview with a correspondent of the press in Berlin confirmed the report that Germany was negotiating with Spain for the purchase of the Caroline islands.

Advices from New Guinea say the native tribes living on Musa river lately raided the Masini villages, in Gollingwood bay, and massacred 15 coast people. There are no police to deal with the murderers.

News from Samoa states that the natives held a meeting October 13 to discuss the question of the kingdom. A number of conciliatory speeches were delivered, but no candidate was named, nor was any decision arrived at.

Two men have been arrested at London on charges of having robbed the Duchess of Sutherland of valuable jewelry in France last month. Part of the stolen jewelry was in the possession of the robbers when they were arrested.

Chile is on a specie basis and no more paper money will be issued.

It is announced at Washington that no more presidential postmasters will be named until congress meets.

The battleships *Oregon* and *Iowa* have been ordered to proceed from Montevideo to Valparaiso, where further orders will await them.

Troubles have arisen in Africa between Germany and the Congo Free State, relative to the respective boundary lines north of Lake Tanganyika.

General Thomas Regalado, the head of the revolutionary movement in Salvador, has returned to the presidency and proclaimed himself chief executive of the republic.

The attempt to effect a coalition between the states of Nicaragua, Honduras and Salvador, to be conducted as the United States of Central America, has failed completely.

Arrangements are being made by the war department to disinter the remains of all the soldiers who lost their lives in the campaign before Santiago and bring them to this country.

Great improvement in the health of the army has taken place within the last two months, as shown by the last reports to the surgeon-general from the field and general hospitals.

There is a band of American swindlers in Hamburg, Germany, who are passing worthless American paper money, for which they not only procure valuable merchandise, but even obtain money in exchange for their victims.

It will probably be the end of December or the beginning of January before any further news is received from the men who have chosen to spend the winter on the rich gold-bearing creeks of the Klondike. About 500 men will winter on the creeks in the Atlin river country.

The navy department has made public a report from Admiral Sampson, covering the operations of the United States blockading fleet off Santiago after the destruction of Cervera's squadron. The report covers General Shafter for making public important telegrams and refusing to recognize the admiral in the surrender.

Minor News Items.
The steamer *Monarch* cleared from New Orleans for Liverpool with the largest general cargo ever carried from that port, embracing 20,630 bales of cotton, 128,000 bushels of corn, 10,000 staves.

Sarah Bonnell, an Abilene, (Kan.) young woman, has received a legacy of half a million dollars from a New York friend interested in her musical education. She will go to Paris soon to complete her musical education.

Prisoners when arrested in Morocco are required to pay the policeman for his trouble in taking them to jail.

Professor Henry Van Ingen, the artist who had been art instructor of Vassar college since its opening in 1863, died suddenly of angina pectoris at his home in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., aged 65 years.

John H. Buckman, captain United States navy, retired, enlisted in the navy 18 years before the civil war and served with Dewey. At Port Fisher he reced Lieutenant Bob Evans up a scaling ladder.

LATER NEWS.

Virde rioters will be prosecuted as fast as information can be obtained against them.

The Carlist movement in Spain is gaining ground owing to the apathy of the Spanish government.

The official trial of the new torpedo boat *Farragut*, in San Francisco bay was a successful one in every respect.

Meyer of Louisiana, has introduced in the house a bill appropriating \$12,000,000 for the construction of a wide, deep channel from deep water of the Mississippi river to deep water of the Gulf of Mexico.

The history of the document which will certify the passing of the oldest colonial power in the world and the advent of the newest was epitomized by Judge Day in a single sentence: "A peace treaty to contain anything which the victors put into it."

News has been received of one vessel boarded by the Spaniards during the late war. She was the British bark *Nellie Brett*, and after a thorough examination was allowed to proceed.

The boarding crew was from the *Alfonso XIII*, afterwards sunk by the Americans.

Senor Romer, Mexican minister to Washington, has notified Secretary Hay that Mexico has determined to advance her mission here to the rank of an embassy. Consequently, as soon as the necessary steps are taken, the United States minister to Mexico, Clayton, will become an ambassador.

Representative Cousins, of Iowa, has the honor of introducing the first bill in the house at this session. It is entitled "A bill declaring a standard of value in the United States," and provides that the standard of value in the United States is hereby declared to be and is the standard gold dollar of 25.8 grains of standard gold, 900 fine.

In conformity with the requirements of the law the secretary of the treasury has transmitted to congress the estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year, ending June 30, 1900, as furnished by the several executive departments. Those estimates include the permanent annual appropriation aggregating \$993,048,378, as against \$808,878,885, the amount of the appropriation including deficiencies and miscellaneous expenses for the fiscal year of 1898, and \$102,047,885, the amount of the estimates of 1899.

The estimates given below are the appropriations for Oregon and Washington for the coming year: Gray's harbor, Washington, \$600,000; Yaquina bay harbor, Oregon, \$400,000; Astoria harbor, Oregon, \$200,000; Columbia river and Willamette river below Portland, \$150,000; Columbia river at the Cascades, \$100,000; entrance to Coos bay and harbor, Oregon, \$100,000; lighthouse at Scimitar bay, Washington, \$25,000; lighthouse at Middle Ground, Columbia river, \$24,000; lighthouse at Burrows island, Washington, \$15,000.

Superior Judge Rhodes Borden died at his home at San Francisco.

A boiler in a sawmill near Montrose, Colo., exploded, killing three men.

General Miles has prepared a draft for a bill providing for a standing army of 100,000 men.

It is reported that the Great Portland has purchased a line to Portland and will soon come into that city over its own tracks.

Mad Mullah's fanatical movement has been partly checked, and a strong British force is held in readiness to move against the Rebels.

The appeal of General Lord Kitchener, of Khartoum, for funds to found a Gordon memorial college at Khartoum met with an immediate response in London. Over £70,000 out of the £100,000 asked for has already been subscribed.

During the past week five bodies have been picked up on the beach between Florence and Gardiner, Or., with a few miles' space. They are supposed to be the bodies of sailors of the wrecked *Atalanta*. If so, they must have been carried 40 miles by the ocean currents.

The young king of Spain has had a very pleasant windfall in the shape of a legacy of 3,000,000 pesetas, bequeathed to him by an old gentleman named Solar, who had a close though unacknowledged relationship to the king, being the natural son of Ferdinand VII, and great uncle of King Alfonso.

Advices from Russia say the reports of threatened famine there are growing more gloomy every day. Count Leo Tolstoy has petitioned the government for permission to form relief committees to cope with the distress, and the czar himself has contributed 500,000 roubles to the Red Cross Society to aid the starving peasants.

Thurlow Weed Barnes has brought suit in the New York supreme court against the American-China Development Company for \$1,000,000 for services in obtaining railroad concessions from the imperial Chinese government, through the Chinese minister at Washington. The concessions are worth in net profit at least \$12,000,000 to the company, and they may be worth \$24,000,000.

California mine owners assert the gold output of the state has been curtailed at least 50 per cent by a prolonged drought.

Oliver Clement, aged 18, of Poplar Bluff, Mo., has married Mrs. Hannah McInnis, aged 50. She was his stepmother's stepmother.

Though one of the youngest general officers in the confederate army General Wheeler was the oldest in the national service against Spain.

The rapid expansion of our export trade is illustrated by some figures just prepared by the treasury bureau of statistics showing the gains in our exports to Africa.

The workmen of the Libby Glass company in Toledo, O., have completed the largest cut glass bowl ever made in the world, for presentation to President McKinley. It weighs 75 pounds.

The death of Colonel Amos Webster, in Washington, leaves General Horace Porter as the only surviving member of General U. S. Grant's personal staff.

SESSION OF CONGRESS

Opening Marked by Interesting Circumstances.

CROWDED WITH SPECTATORS

A Few Bills Introduced in the House—Adjournment Soon After Reading of the Message.

Washington, Dec. 7.—When the senate convened Monday to begin the closing session of the 55th congress, the chamber presented a notable and beautiful appearance. By 11 o'clock the public and private galleries were filled almost to their capacity with a distinguished assemblage, including many ladies in brilliant attire.

On the floor of the senate the display of flowers was unusually beautiful even for the opening day of a session of congress. The odor of flowers filled the chamber. The memorable scenes enacted in the chamber during the last session, and the momentous events that have occurred since congress last adjourned created a feeling of intense expectancy on the part of the spectators and the members of the senate. This was made manifest by the long lines of people in the corridors anxious to gain admission to the galleries and by the early arrival of the senators on the floor. Through the courtesy of the vice-president, the members of the joint high commission were admitted to the floor of the senate, and were the recipients of much attention.

Just before the senate was called to order, several well-known members of the diplomatic corps appeared in the gallery.

Promptly at 12 o'clock Hobart rapped for order. Mr. Milburn, the venerable blind chaplain, in a profoundly impressive manner, returned "devout and reverent thanks for God's goodness to us as a nation and for his care of us since last gathered in the chamber."

The call of the senate developed the presence of 67 members. The usual resolutions were offered and adopted. Cullom of Illinois offered one to appoint a committee to inform the house that the senate was ready to transact business; Hale of Maine, one fixing the hour of daily meetings at 12 o'clock noon, and Morrill of Vermont, one to appoint a committee to notify the president that the senate was awaiting any communication he might desire to make. Morrill of Vermont, and Cockrell of Missouri, were named by the vice-president to join a like committee of the house to call on the president.

McBride of Oregon, presented the credentials of his colleagues, Simon, to whom the vice-president administered the oath of office.

The reading of the message occupied two hours and 18 minutes. Many persons remained in the galleries throughout the reading, but, as is usual, little attention was given to the presentation of the message, either in the galleries or on the floor, after the first few pages.

The senate adjourned shortly after the reading of the message.

In the House.
Washington, Dec. 7.—The opening session of congress Monday was a spectacular occasion, animated and brilliant. There were more than the usual number of distinguished personages in the thronged galleries, including many representatives of foreign governments, high officials, and ladies and gentlemen conspicuous in social and political life. The greetings of the members were most cordial, and there was no outcropping of partisan tanor to mar the occasion. One of the most striking incidents was the cordial meeting between the floor leaders of the respective sides, Messrs. Dingley and Bailey. In view of the gossip about the possibility of Mr. Bailey being deposed as the minority leader, it is significant that the speaker named Mr. Bailey as the minority member of the committee to wait upon the president, an honor always bestowed upon the recognized leader of the minority.

Speaker Reed received a warm welcome from both sides of the house when he ascended the rostrum to call the house to order, but perhaps the greatest personal ovation any member was that given Major-General Wheeler, of Alabama, who has not been seen by many of his old colleagues since he went to the front at the head of the cavalry division of General Shafter's army. Mr. W. A. Stone, of Pennsylvania, McMillin, of Tennessee, and Mr. Sayers, of Texas, who have been elected governors of their respective states since congress adjourned, were also overwhelmed with congratulations.

The floral tributes today were unusually numerous and made the hall a veritable bower of beautiful flowers. The proceedings themselves were dull, all interest centering in the reading of the president's message. For over two hours the clerk droned through the long document, but the interest of members and spectators never flagged. With apt attention they followed the president's recital of the war and listened eagerly to every suggestion or recommendation he had to offer. No expressions of approval or disapproval interrupted the reading.

Chicago Theater Burned.
Chicago, Dec. 7.—Fire badly damaged the Lincoln theater at 468 North Clark street tonight. The evening performance had been concluded and the audience had left the building but a few minutes, when the fire broke out. The members of the "Dawn of Freedom" company, which is at the theater, were still in the building, and they were compelled to make a hasty exit, none of them saving any considerable portion of their clothing. The loss is about \$60,000.

Care of Troops.
Washington, Dec. 7.—Lieutenant Colonel R. O'Reilly, chief surgeon, and Lieutenant Weston will start in a day or two on the hospital steamer *Bay State*, from New York for Kingston, Jamaica, to make a thorough investigation of the British method of caring for troops in tropical climates. Surgeon O'Reilly is to be the chief surgeon at Havana under the temporary occupation.

Hugh C. Griffin, 19 years of age, was sentenced at Santa Rosa, Cal., to life imprisonment for train wrecking.

MESSAGE COMMENT.

Views of a Number of Senators and Representatives.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Many senators expressed themselves from expression of opinions at length upon the president's message, on the ground that they had not been able to give careful attention to all the details. Republican senators were, however, willing to express themselves in a few general words of commendation.

Senator Cullom regarded it as "a painstaking, entertaining and accurate historical review."

Senator Platt, of New York, commended the expression of a determination to increase the standing army, and to maintain order in Cuba until the Cubans can take care of themselves.

Senator Wolcott said it was an admirable document.

Senator Lodge said it was "able and excellent."

Senator Foraker—A good presentation of facts generally, but a little indefinite on the question of Cuban independence.

Senator Proctor—A good American paper.

Senator Perkins—An able resume of the situation and facts leading up to the war.

The Democrats were even more adverse than the Republicans to discuss the paper. Senator Jones, of Arkansas, was an exception. He found in the message a number of points which did not accord with his views. One of these was the proposition to continue the volunteer army in existence until the standing army can be increased.

"Some of us do not favor the increase of the standing army," he said, "and the president has no right to assume that a majority stand with him on that proposition."

As Viewed in London.
London, Dec. 7.—Much having been expected, there is a certain tone of disappointment in the morning paper editorials on President McKinley's message. Its noncommittal character is attributed to the fact that the negotiations of the peace commissioners at Paris are not finished.

Considerable satisfaction is expressed at the references to Anglo-American relations, and at the coldness displayed toward Russia.

The Daily News complains of the "ambiguity of the message on commercial and currency matters," and "the conspicuous absence of any allusion to free trade."

The Times says: "It is creditable to both the dignity and good sense of the American people that a message announcing the victorious ending of the great war, the acquisition of territory and initiation of an imperialist policy is sober in tone and moderate in recommendations."

The Daily Chronicle pays a tribute to the "sober, sound common sense and straightforward language" of the message, pointing out that President McKinley's reference to the military occupation of Cuba virtually outlines a policy "precisely the same as Great Britain in Egypt and likely to have the same effect."

DEBTS OF THE ISLANDS.
They Will Not Be Mentioned in the Treaties.

London, Dec. 6.—The Paris correspondent of the Standard, says: The peace commissioners have agreed not to mention the Cuban or Philippine debts in the treaty, because it might lead to misapprehension. The American commissioners have indicated to the Spaniards that these debts cannot possibly, in law, right or equity, be saddled upon Cuba or the Philippines, since the money employed was not for the benefit of the colonies, but to compel them, by force of arms, to suffer the oppressive Spanish rule from which they are seeking to free themselves.

The Madrid correspondent of the Daily News says: It is officially announced that the Spanish peace commissioners have secured a concession granting Spain commercial advantages in the Philippines for 10 years. An effort will be made to secure a similar concession in the Antilles.

FIVE LIVES LOST.
A Terrible Nitro-Gelatin Explosion at Pinedale, Cal.

Pinedale, Cal., Dec. 7.—The nitro-gelatin house of the Judson Powder Company blew up at 3:35 this afternoon, killing Superintendent Charles Kennedy and four Chinese, the only workmen in the building at the time.

The explosion was a terrific one, four tons of nitro-gelatin blowing up, completely demolishing the building. The same house was badly damaged by an explosion six weeks ago, and two Chinese were killed. Superintendent Kennedy was superintending some mixing when the explosion of this afternoon occurred. It is probable that the cause of the explosion will never be known, as no one who was in the building escaped death.

Newport, R. I., Dec. 7.—Block island suffered a terrible storm last night. The three-masted North Scotia schooner *Yamoco*, loaded with coal, went ashore during the night on Clay head, on the east side of the island. The captain and mate were drowned. Two of the crew were able to reach shore in safety, and four others were taken off by the life-saving crew in the breeches buoy.

Garca at Washington.
Washington, Dec. 7.—General Garcia, with his staff, called at the war department today to pay his respects to Acting Secretary Meiklejohn. Mr. Meiklejohn chatted for a few minutes with his callers, but not upon matters of business. The Cubans had previously seen Secretary Gage and conferred with him on economic questions relating to the administration of affairs in Cuba. They professed themselves very well satisfied with the reception accorded them by Mr. Gage.

Engineer and Fireman Killed.
South Berwick, Me., Nov. 29.—Harley Bates and Fred Hallaway, of Portland, Me., engineer and fireman of a Boston & Maine locomotive driving a snow plow, were killed today by the engine plunging over an embankment.

Advices from New South Wales say the steamer *Coluga* has sailed from Sydney with a cargo of provisions for Admiral Dewey's fleet at Manila. The cargo consisted of 3,000 carcasses of mutton, 250 of lamb, 135 tons of potatoes, 51 tons of onions and 22 tons of corn.

GREAT NEW YORK FIRE

A Million Dollars' Worth of Property Destroyed.

ROGERS, PEET & CO. BURNED OUT

Skyscrapers of the Home Life Insurance and Postal Telegraph Companies Gutted.

New York, Dec. 6.—In a blinding rain storm tonight, the massive block of buildings on Broadway, Nos. 253 to 259, and situated between Murray and Warren streets, was almost destroyed by fire. Within three hours more than \$1,000,000 worth of property was destroyed.

The fire began in the five-story brick building occupied by the men's furnishing firm of Rogers, Peet & Co., on the southwest corner of Broadway and Warren street. Adjoining the Rogers-Peet building, and south of it, was the magnificent white building of the Home Life Insurance Company, and next to this was the brownstone building of the Postal Telegraph Company, erected at a cost of millions only a few years ago. Within a few minutes after the discovery of the fire the Rogers-Peet building was a roaring furnace, and an alarm had been turned in which brought more than a score of engines to the scene. It was but a short time when the flames had eaten through the wall of the Home Life, and were roaring high above that lofty structure. Thousands of people had gathered on the scene, and the blinding glare of the flames lighted up the lower part of the city. Even in the downpour, the great crowd of people grew and the police reserves were called out from many stations and kept the people back for blocks. Great showers of sparks were carried in all directions by the gale, that blew 80 miles an hour. It was a picturesque fire.

The Home Life Insurance building was occupied by that company and a large number of men prominent in various lines of business. Every effort was made to save the valuable papers stored in some of the offices, but many of these were lost. The offices of the rapid-transit commission were on the ninth floor of this building, and it is believed that all the plans and schemes of work with which the company has been working for many years are destroyed.

In the Postal building, as well, there were many serious losses of a private nature, and when the flames reached the operating room of this structure, which they did within three hours of the outbreak, the one or two solitary operators who remained at their posts were compelled to flee for their lives.

The fire burned even more fiercely in the Home Life building, owing to the great height of this structure and in an incredibly short time the upper half of this magnificent building was in flames. The water towers in the street were able to throw their heavy streams only into the lower part of the structure, and the firemen, though they worked with great bravery and untiring energy, in the blinding smoke and heat, could do little in the face of such a fierce sweep of flames and gale. It was only a question of time when the Postal building, so far as the upper stories were concerned, went the way of the others.

The estimate of the losses by Chief Bonner after midnight was \$1,000,000 with a probability of a still further loss should the fire continue to make anything like rapid progress. At that hour, however, he believed that he had the fire under control within reasonable limits.

MORE WRECKS REPORTED.
News of Several Disasters Reaches New York.

New York, Dec. 6.—Vessels that left this port November 25 bore the brunt of the double hurricane. In many cases the names of wrecked sighted at sea cannot be made out, and agents are worried. Other vessels have not been heard from.

Swan & Son, agents for the bark *Gleiwida*, received word last night from Captain Corning that she was wrecked, and that the crew were in Bermuda. She was struck by the storm and dismantled November 26. She was abandoned on the 29th. The *Gleiwida* had cleared for Buenos Ayres.

Word was also received yesterday of the wreck of the schooner *Kate S. Flint*.

The British steamship *Baron Cavdor*, Captain Sutherland, just arrived from Java, had a boat and hoist-engine gear smashed during a 48-hour's struggle with the gale.

The German steamship *Gera*, from Bremen, which arrived with passengers yesterday, had the forward part of her saloon stove in and her bridge stanchions twisted.

Three barges which were out loose on the sound since Saturday have been rescued from the north shore of Long Island. Thirteen schooners were taken safely into New Haven by a tugboat.

The Sunset limited transcontinental train of the Southern Pacific, west-bound, was badly wrecked two miles west of Jennings, La. No lives were lost.

Troops for Philippines.
Milwaukee, Dec. 6.—Information received in this city is that in accordance with later orders from the war department, several regiments of the United States army will in a few weeks embark for the Philippines. The order, which is said to include the Third Infantry from Fort Snelling, and the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Fifteenth and Twentieth regiments, requires that these regiments be prepared for prolonged foreign field service in the tropics, outside the limits of the United States. The regiments, with cavalry, are ordered to rendezvous at San Francisco between January 1 and 12.

Attacking Iloilo.
Madrid, Dec. 6.—An official dispatch from the Visayas island, in the Philippines, announces that the insurgents have doubled their attacks upon Iloilo. The government advises that: "The rebels have their guns trained on the city, and fire on our troops nightly. Our troops maintain a spiritless fire and have killed a number of the enemy."

OLD GLORY RAISED.

Two Santa Clara Cities in Control of Americans.

Havana, Dec. 6.—At noon today the American forces, having previously taken charge of Sancti Spiritus and Trinidad, in Santa Clara province, the Stars and Stripes were officially and with impressive ceremonies hoisted over the city hall and the military and other public buildings in those cities. When the flags were unfurled, the bands played "The Star Spangled Banner," and the soldiers and crowds of citizens cheered enthusiastically.

General Wade, president of the United States evacuation commission, accompanied by Colonel Glone, judge-advocate, Captain Hart, the official interpreter and Major Almy, Allison, Butler and Brooks, called upon Captain-General Castellanos at the palace today. They were received by the president of the Spanish evacuation commission, who introduced them to General Castellanos. The meeting was of a most cordial nature, and when the Americans retired, the captain-general accompanied them half way down stairs and shook hands with all of them. The Spanish military guard on duty at the palace was drawn up and rendered the utmost honors to the American visitors.

San Antonio de Los Baños, province of Havana, and Jagua in Grande, province of Matanzas, were evacuated by the Spanish troops yesterday.

The Spanish transport *Gran Antilla* sailed today for Spain with 1447 Spanish troops; the *Fuila* will sail Monday and the *Werra*, San Ignacio and Juan Forgas Tuesday. The Spanish commission was advised today that by Monday next the evacuation of Batabanay and the entire line of San Felipe will be finished. This will complete the evacuation of the entire island west of those points.

A deed of sale of the Tacon theater to an American syndicate, the property passing into the hands of the Tacon Realty Company. The Tacon, which is the eighth largest opera-house in the world, occupies an entire block.

STEAM PIPE BURST.
Six Men Killed on the Steamer *Alamo* at New York.

New York, Dec. 6.—Six men of the Mallory line steamer *Alamo* were killed tonight by the bursting of a steam pipe while the vessel lay at her pier in the East river. The dead are: Patrick Murphy, second engineer; Thomas McHugh, fireman; Patrick Farrell, oiler; Frank McMahon, fireman; L. Connell, fireman; J. Ryan, a coal-heaver; John Stoneham, a passenger of Albany, was seriously scalded.

The *Alamo* has only recently been discharged from transport service for the government, and was just overhauled at Rocher's yard. She has new stean pipes and boilers. She was about to sail for Galveston with 80 passengers. At the time of the accident, about 7 o'clock, the ship had cast off her lines and the tugboat *President* had her line taut to assist the *Alamo* into midstream. Her engines had made but two or three revolutions when the explosion came. It gave forth a roar that was heard all through South and Water streets, and the force of it sent a shock and a shiver throughout the length of the ship. The flooring of the deck immediately over the engine room was torn into splinters, and steam poured up through the open spaces in clouds.

The sound of escaping steam was mingled with the shrieks of the dying men, who were enveloped in it. The flow of the steam was checked with great difficulty, and not until the lapse of five or six minutes. Then it was found that it had completely filled the engine-room and fire-room, and that all who had been confined had been not only parboiled, but suffocated by it. There was no sign of life left in any of the bodies, and in several instances the skin had peeled from their hands and faces. The second engineer was found close to the break, in a position which indicated that he had tried to shut off the steam at the boiler when the accident occurred, and had died in the attempt. Two of the firemen were found gripped in one another's arms at the foot of the ladder leading from the fire-hole.

Porto Rico Wants Reforms.
San Juan de Porto Rico, Dec. 6.—The report put in circulation here that the United States government will take no definite action to establish a comprehensive scheme of Porto Rican administration for at least a year has provoked much adverse comment.

A meeting has been held by local business men, Americans and Porto Ricans, to protest vigorously against any delay in reforms which are absolutely necessary to prevent the continuance of serious abuse. The same meeting condemned the action of the American authorities in collecting arrears of Spanish taxes since 1883, and called for the application of American laws and the establishment of free trade with the United States.

Fire in Ferrer.
Ferrer, Spain, Dec. 6.—A fire which occurred in the government dock yards at this place last night, gutted several buildings and before the flames were extinguished, a number of bombshells exploded. The loss is estimated at 4,000,000 pesetas.

Fire in Catholic Church.
New York, Dec. 6.—Fire this morning wrecked the end of St. Agnes' Catholic church, on Fifty-third street, near Third avenue, destroying valuable altars, paintings and a new organ. The loss is \$100,000.

Berlin, Dec. 6.—Seven persons were burned to death today in a fire which broke out in the small hamlet of Exenthal, near Sonneburg, Saxe-Meiningen, about 14 miles northeast of Coburg.

Internal Revenue Report.
The commissioner of internal revenue in his annual report, the principal feature of which was made public in July last, recommends that the war revenue law be amended so as to allow a discount of 3 per cent to purchasers of \$100 or more instead of 1 per cent, as now provided. Unless such action is taken, the commissioner says, a very large increase in the number of stamp duties will be necessary. The number of internal revenue stamps issued during the year was 1,442,374,189, of the value of \$199,155,923.

AGAINST EXPANSION

Senator Hale's Opinion of Public Sentiment.

PHILIPPINES NOT DESIRABLE

Senator Kyle Declares That the Present Senate Will Not Ratify the Peace Treaty.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Senator Hale, of Maine, today announced his opposition to the peace treaty which is being formulated in Paris. He is opposed to the acquisition of the Philippines, and his antagonism to the treaty will be based upon that section of the treaty which deals with the Philippine question.

"The negotiation of the treaty, unfortunate as it is," said the senator today, "by no means insures the actual annex