

The Heppner Gazette.

Issued Every Thursday Morning

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WORK STOPS.

Government Boats Cease Labor Because of Lack of Funds.

Portland, Jan. 13.—By the end of this week not a government vessel will be in commission on the Columbia and Willamette rivers or any of their tributaries. It will be the first time for many years past that such a condition of affairs has existed. The United States engineers say it is due to the fact that there are practically no funds with which to continue operations.

An order has been given out for the dredge W. S. Ladd to be taken out of service the last of this week. She has been working continuously between Pillar Rock and Astoria for the past four years, with the exception of a few days that she was laid up for repairs. The Ladd has kept the channel from shoaling in the lower river, and had it not been for this, shipping would have been so badly impaired that it would have dropped to the zero mark. Since she has been in commission it is estimated that she has removed enough material from the bottom of the Columbia river to pave all the streets a foot deep in a city fifty times as large as Portland. If her service were constantly needed in the lower harbor to maintain a ship channel many are wondering what will happen if she should go out of commission.

The tug Mendell has been laid up, and the tug Lincoln will go into winter quarters as soon as she supplies the bar dredge Chinook with coal to take her to San Francisco; they will have no work to do when the other government vessels are idle. Usually they have been kept busy escorting vessels operated by the United States engineers between the different localities, where it was desired to have work done.

Orders to tie up the dredge Wallowa, which is employed on the Snake river, were issued yesterday. Two small dipper dredges have been tied up, in addition to all the barges and flatboats owned and operated by the government in these waters.

These craft will remain idle until congress sees fit to make an appropriation for the improvement of rivers and harbors. Those vitally interested hope that means may be realized through the medium of the civil sundry bill for continuing the more important projects already under way, but they are far from confident that such will be the case.

Influential shipping men are alarmed at the situation and for the past few days have been in communication with Senator Burton, chairman of the river and harbor committee, calling attention to the importance of granting an appropriation at this session of congress. Relative to the matter, A. Tucker, manager of the local firm of Meyer, Wilson & Co., this morning said:

"We deplore the fact that the United States engineers, on account of a lack of funds, are compelled to stop all work on the rivers when the channels are really in need of attention to keep them in perfect condition. Should Congress make no provision for carrying on the work of dredging the river between Portland and Astoria, or for continuing the work at the mouth of the Columbia, it will be an outrage. I fully believe, however, that some provision will be made for continuing the work."

WILL CONTINUE WAR.

Czar Decides That Dignity of Russia Demands It.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 12.—The government seemingly is about to make the irrevocable decision that prestige abroad and the situation at home necessitate the continuation of the war till peace with dignity is possible. Beyond this point, however, no confirmation exists, especially regarding the immediate development of the interior situation.

Emperor Nicholas is still apparently vacillating as to whether he shall allow M. Witte full sway, in the meantime declining to permit Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky to retire. The latter persists in the view that the confidence of the people in the manner in which the reform manifesto is to be worked is vital, and this is impossible if the work is to be left completely in the hands of the bureaucrats. Direct consultation with representatives of the classes interested he considers essential.

It has now been definitely established that the third section of the manifesto as originally drafted by Minister Sviatopolk-Mirsky provided for representation of the Zemstvos in the council of

the Emperor, and it was stricken out against his earnest protest.

Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky's retirement from the Ministry of the Interior continues to be considered only a matter of a short time, although there is seeming evidence that the Emperor hopes by temporizing to avoid the necessity of concentrating the power in the hands of M. Witte. Should the real storm break, however, no one doubts that M. Witte is the one strong man in sight who can be called to the bridge.

Socialists, revolutionists and other extreme elements, as well as the subject races of the borders of Russia, all have different ambitions, with which the conservative Liberals, whom the government really hopes to appease have little in common; and, above all, Russia's unnumbered millions of peasants, although they have manifested an abhorrence of war, principally for economic reasons, have given almost no evidence of having been stirred by the political agitation. All is quiet in the interior, the people seemingly being absorbed with the Christmas holidays.

No further disorders have occurred in connection with mobilization, the only acute movement of any sort being

demonstrations at Nijni Novgorod and Moscow, both confined to meetings of school professors, who took advantage of the occasion to protest against the disabilities under which they declared, the staffs of the universities labored. The meeting at Nijni Novgorod was dispersed by the police and several persons outside the hall were injured, but none of them seriously.

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