

HAPPENINGS GATHERED IN AND AROUND WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECLINE TO MEET PINCHOT.

Fulton and Heyburn Unwilling to Support Charges.

Washington, March 13.—In a report made to the house, Representative Littlefield, of Maine, chairman of the committee on expenditures in the department of Agriculture, defends the forestry bureau of that department.

The recent attacks made upon Gifford Pinchot, chief forester, by Senators Fulton, of Oregon, and Heyburn, of Idaho, on the floor of the senate are held to be disproved by Mr. Littlefield after an examination of Mr. Pinchot under oath. Senator Fulton charged that the forestry bureau was the "worst organized department of the government," and blamed it for the land frauds in the Far West. Upon examination, Mr. Littlefield found only one flaw in the entire organization of the bureau, which was only minor in character, and immediately remedied on his suggestion. He showed that the land frauds of which Senator Fulton complained were all perpetrated before the bureau of Forestry was established and when that branch of the government was under the control of the Interior department.

Senator Fulton declined an invitation to appear before Mr. Littlefield's committee and cross examine Mr. Pinchot, as did Mr. Heyburn, who charged that at a meeting of the advocates of forestry at Boise, Idaho, last summer he had been howled down and openly insulted by employees of Mr. Pinchot's bureau. Mr. Littlefield himself was present at this meeting, and stated that there were not to exceed twenty foresters in an audience of 1,500 at that meeting, and Senator Heyburn had never mentioned the matter to him.

PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS IN JULY

Taft Will Attend Opening of First Assembly in September.

Washington, March 15.—Secretary Taft's proposed visit to the Philippines in September to attend the opening of the first Philippine assembly has directed attention toward the new legislative body to be created for the islanders. The assembly will consist of 61 members apportioned upon the basis of one delegate for each 9,000 persons, and provision is made to increase the number to a total of 100. It will in a general way correspond to the American house of representatives, while the Philippine commission will correspond to the United States senate, and the acts of the assembly must secure the approval of the commission before they become laws.

Elections are to be held on July 30. Secretary Taft will start for the islands in August, and the first assembly will convene in September. Subsequent elections for the assembly are to be held upon the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in odd numbered years, the delegates to hold office for two years.

The election law of the Philippine islands requires that voters must be males 23 years old, citizens of the Philippines. The Australian ballot system is to be used, and heavy penalties are prescribed for corrupt practices.

COMPLETES NOBEL BOARD.

President Appoints Two More Commissioners on Industrial Peace.

Washington, March 18.—The president today appointed Seth Low, of New York, and Thomas G. Bush, of Birmingham, Ala., as representatives of the general public under the act of congress, establishing a foundation for the promotion of industrial peace, the basis of which is the Nobel prize fund, recently awarded the president of the Norwegian storking. This completes the administrative board. Other members of the board of trustees are:

John Mitchell, president of the United Mineworkers of America, as the representative of labor; Marvin Hughitt, president of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway company, representing capital; the chief justice of the supreme court of the United States, the secretary of commerce and labor and the secretary of agriculture.

Ammunition Not Guarded.

Washington, March 14.—That ammunition used in infantry rifles is not guarded as closely as has been claimed by discharged negro soldiers, and that it is possible for soldiers to obtain extra ammunition was brought out in the Brownsville inquiry today. This testimony was given by Captain D. W. Kilburn, of the Twenty-sixth Infantry, which regiment preceded the negro soldiers at Fort Brown. The same witness declared that citizens of Brownsville made threats that they would run negro troops out of town.

Will Not Draw Color Line.

Washington, March 13.—The post-office department does not intend to draw the color line in the matter of white and negro railway mail clerks. Although an intimation has been given that white clerks in the Middle West are preparing a request to the department to effect a change so as to put the negroes on runs which will not bring them in proximity to the whites, it was stated today that no such discrimination could or would be made.

Hospital for Bremerton Yard.

Washington, March 12.—The Navy department is preparing plans for a \$150,000 hospital at the Puget Sound navy yard to accommodate 100 patients.

LAND ORDER IS RECALLED.

President Finds Holding Up of Titles Hardship on Settlers.

Washington, March 14.—President Roosevelt today sent the following letter to the secretary of the interior cancelling his order of February 12, relating to the issuance of evidence of title under the public land laws:

"My order of February 12, 1907, relating to the issue of evidence of title under the public land laws is hereby cancelled for the reason that congress did not appropriate an amount sufficient to enable the commissioner of the general land office properly to carry out the purposes of that order, which were to have such examinations made of all applications for patent as would facilitate the issuance of title to bona fide settlers and homesteaders; would reduce illegal entries to a minimum and bring the work of the land office up to date. With the amount actually appropriated it is not possible to carry out the order or to provide with certainty for the detection of fraud without causing unreasonable hardship to bona fide settlers and homesteaders.

"In order to accomplish as much as can be accomplished with our present means in preventing illegal acquisition of public lands, the commissioner of the general land office will detail all his available field and office force in such manner, by concentration or otherwise, as will be effectively as possible with the actual appropriation restrict fraud, enforce the existing laws and promote the bona fide settlement of public lands by homesteaders."

WITHDRAWN FROM FOREST.

Large Area in Pend d'Oreille Mountains Open to Settlers.

Washington, March 16.—The Forest service has received notice that 372,000 acres of land in Stevens county, Wash., have been released from temporary withdrawal. This land lies between the Pend d'Oreille river on the east and the Colville and Columbia rivers on the west. It is principally unsurveyed and mountainous. The area was originally withdrawn pending examination to determine suitability for addition to the Priest River national forest.

Its release was recommended by the forester because of numerous protests by settlers against its reservation and because protection of the watersheds was not necessary in order to conserve any streams used for irrigation purposes. Reports of examiners show that it is chiefly a brush land area much burned over, though a small proportion is timbered.

The released land will be subject to settlement for 90 days before becoming subject to entry.

Will Transfer Inspectors.

Washington, March 12.—Secretary Straus, of the department of Commerce and Labor, is greatly dissatisfied with the present methods of steamboat inspection, and today announced that marked reform is to be immediately inaugurated with a view to increased efficiency of service and reducing the chances of disaster. He has directed a change in the station of all inspectors of hulls and boilers throughout the United States and will ask congress next winter to authorize him to keep inspectors continually on the move.

Gets Deserved Promotion.

Washington, March 12.—No government official ever earned promotion more than F. H. Newell, who was today made director of the reclamation service, succeeding O. D. Wolcott. Mr. Newell entered the government service in 1888, first undertaking general irrigation surveys and later taking charge of the hydrographic bureau, when it was formed. For 18 years he has devoted his entire time to studying the resources and irrigation possibilities of the arid West, and he is now better informed on this subject than any other living man.

Reopen Much Coal Land.

Washington, March 13.—President Roosevelt will sign an order restoring to the public domain practically 30,000,000 acres of land recently withdrawn as coal land. The land was part of a withdrawal aggregating 64,000,000 acres. Since the withdrawal experts of the Geological survey have been engaged in ascertaining the coal bearing value of the withdrawn land and, while the land to be restored to entry is still classified as coal land, it is understood its value as such does not warrant exclusion from public entry.

Want To Live With Sioux.

Washington, March 14.—An effort will be made by the Interior department to obtain the consent of the Cheyenne river Sioux temporarily to locate on their reservation the members of the Ute band of Indians who left their reservation in Utah last year and were afterwards rounded up at Fort Meade, S. D. Because of irrigation works under way and of the other reasons, the Utes say their reservation is not in a condition to make a living on.

New Bids for Life Saving Tug.

Washington, March 12.—Bids will again be opened April 4 for the construction of a life saving tug for the station at the entrance of the straits of Fuca. The department hopes to get bids from the Pacific coast. In previous competitions Pusey & Jones, of Wilmington, were the lowest bidders, at \$189,000, but their bid exceeded the appropriation. Congress has since increased this, and now \$203,000 is available.

POINT AGAINST HERMANN.

Answered Letters, but Copies of Answers Not Found.

Washington, March 15.—Evidence decidedly damaging to Binger Hermann was introduced by the government today in the trial of the ex-land commissioner for destruction of 35 letterpress copybooks, alleged to have contained official correspondence.

Charles L. Dubois, chief of survey division; D. C. Sherman, formerly Hermann's financial clerk, and John S. Wile, another clerk in the land office, all identified several letters taken from the files of the land office, all pertaining to government business and all endorsed on the back, "answered by commissioner."

They all agreed that this endorsement signified that Hermann himself dictated the replies and that his answers were press-copied in what were known as the commissioner's "personal" letter-books. It was also brought out by the government that careful search through the letter-books now in the land office failed to disclose copies of the answers to these particular letters, thereby strongly intimating that the letters must have been copied in the books destroyed by Hermann as charged in the indictment, and that the books, therefore, contained official correspondence.

No stronger evidence in support of indictment has heretofore been given during the protracted trial. In fact, most of the evidence submitted up to this time has been designed to show a motive for the destruction of the books and had no direct bearing upon the actual charge contained in the indictment. Today's evidence is very strong in support of the indictment, and while it is circumstantial, yet leaves little doubt in the minds of those who have followed the case that Hermann's so-called "private" letter-books in fact contained much correspondence relating to the business of his office.

MAY PROMOTE IMMIGRATION.

Government Will Not Interfere With Movement of Southern States.

Washington, March 15.—Information received today renders it clear that the immigration authorities, as one result of the several conferences recently held, in which the president, Secretary Straus, Attorney General Bonaparte, Commissioner of Immigration Sargent and prominent men of the South have participated, will interpret the existing immigration law as it was interpreted in the South Carolina case. The attorney general has held that the immigrants landed at Charleston, S. C., last November, are legally in the country. They were induced to come to America by authorized agents of South Carolina and the passage money for some, at least, of them was paid by the state, and others by contributions of the citizens. Several other Southern states have decided to seek immigration along the same lines as were followed by South Carolina and it is understood they will not be interfered with.

CHANGES CANAL BOARD.

Roosevelt Receives Resignations and Appoints New Members.

Washington, March 15.—The president today received the resignations as members of the Isthmian Canal commission of Rear Admiral Endicott, Brigadier General C. P. Haines and D. M. Harrod, to take effect tomorrow. To fill the vacancies he announced the appointment of John F. Stevens as chairman of the commission to succeed T. P. Shonts, and as commissioners Lieutenant Colonel Goethals, Majors Gaillard and Siebert, Civil Engineer Rousseau, Dr. Gorgas and Jackson Smith.

Ex-Senator Blackburn will have to await the retirement from the commission of Mr. Stevens about April 1.

Enjoins New Copper Deal.

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 15.—Judge Knappen, of the United States Circuit court, today admitted that yesterday he issued a restraining order forbidding stockholders of the Calumet & Hecla Mining company from holding a meeting to vote proxies in the Osceola company, and hearing on an injunction was set for March 25. Judge Knappen refused absolutely to discuss the matter. The action before Judge Knappen was instituted by Mr. Boynton, attorney for the Bigelow interests in the Osceola mine.

Will Enforce 8-hour Law.

Washington, March 15.—Secretary Taft has given orders to the engineer officers of the War department to enforce to the letter the eight-hour law as applied to public works under their direction. This order, which was issued with the permission of the president, will be far-reaching and, it is predicted, will greatly reduce the amount of river and harbor work that can be accomplished under the appropriations made by the last congress.

Sell to Insurance Company.

Milan, March 15.—In the town of Borsano, near this city, 2,000 persons were today made homeless by a fire which destroyed the greater part of the village. The people were indifferent to the spread of the flames, because their property was insured, and the authorities were obliged to force peasants to work to check the fire.

MUST STOP ALL IMPROVEMENTS

Heavy Loss to Railroads Caused by Hostile State Legislation.

Companies Claim Retaliation Is Not the Aim—But Simple Prudence to Stop Work Until It Is Known Where Money is Coming From to Pay for Them.

Chicago, March 14.—Railroad presidents agree that the general disposition all over the country to attack the roads by means of hostile bills has reached a stage where some decided action must be taken or the country will suffer severely. As a matter of fact, the roads already have suffered tremendous losses, but eventually the heaviest burden will fall upon the public in diminished and inferior service, general retrenchment, cheaper equipment and the abandonment of extensions which would develop new country.

The greatest danger, according to all authorities, lies in the great crop of two-cent rate bills, regardless of the conditions in the states adopting the bills. In the East it is possible to maintain good service at this rate. In the West it is not.

Benjamin Winchell, president of the Rock Island system, probably best epitomizes the sense of all the replies received to messages sent all presidents asking for an opinion on present conditions and what was necessary to reduce the danger of poorer service. Mr. Winchell says:

"If the Interstate Commerce commission does its work wisely and sanely, as I believe it will do, the railroads have nothing to fear. They will get even justice, which is all they ask. I am relying on the sound sense of fairness of the American people to stop before the situation becomes acute financially. It is a mistake to say the railroads are retaliating by reducing their service and abandoning great enterprises. It is simple prudence, a bowing to the storm. We are forced to stop building new lines, buying cars and other equipment until we know where the money is coming from. It is simple business sense, and not retaliation."

HOPE TO RECOVER THE MONEY

Treasury Theft Has Not Yet Been Returned, However.

Chicago, March 14.—"If the man who got the \$173,000 from the treasury will send it back through the mail or by express, the chances are that he never will be detected."

This observation was made yesterday by a high federal official working on the disappearance of the money, and it represents the hope of the government authorities, so far as can be learned from anyone engaged in the investigation. The hope that the money would be returned in some mysterious fashion failed to materialize.

Deputy Treasurer Bantz admitted for the first time that there is a remote possibility that the cash in the treasury is not \$173,000 short. He made it with a reservation.

Defects Found in Dreadnaught.

London, March 14.—According to the Chronicle today, the official accounts of the Dreadnaught's behavior on her trip to Trinidad are not altogether supported by private letters. The engines worked well, but the heat in the engine room exceeded anything ever experienced by those on board. Owing to the great size of the ship, her maneuvering qualities at slow speed were not equal to those of small ships. It is stated that the big battleship cannot keep her station with reciprocating ships at 20 knots, and that for night maneuvering without lights, in close formation, the ship is out of the running.

Floods in Ohio Valley.

Pittsburg, March 14.—The Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio, rivers are tonight rising rapidly. A stage of 26 feet has been reached in this city, and by tomorrow night 28 feet is anticipated. This stage is six feet over the danger mark. Reports from upriver points are alarming. A greater part of many towns in the Monongahela valley is submerged, and many persons narrowly escaped with their lives. The property damage is heavy. A bridge at Harnersville collapsed, precipitating a freight train into the water.

Germany Buying New Guns

Berlin, March 14.—The appropriations committee of the reichstag today approved the bill authorizing the issue of treasury bonds with which to strengthen the available funds in the imperial treasury. The government, it is understood, since the beginning of 1906 has expended or contracted to expend sums estimated to amount to \$75,000,000 in completing the re-arming of the artillery and the improvement of the rifle now issued to the army.

Pennsylvania Streams Swollen.

Pittsburg, March 14.—Dispatches from all sections of Western Pennsylvania report heavy rains last night and rapidly rising waters. Streams are already beyond their banks and much territory is submerged.

GRAFT IN IRRIGATION.

Officials and Contractors in Idaho Work Suspected.

Boise, March 13.—Evidences of graft in the arid land reclamation service of the government has been discovered and is now in possession of the department of the Interior at Washington. Action looking toward a number of indictments is anticipated. The principal evidence, so far as disclosed here, relates to grafts in Idaho, but it is said that similar conditions exist throughout the service and that officials in nearly all the Western states where irrigation work is in progress will have to answer.

The Federal grand jury, now in session here, will probably take the matter up, so far as this state is affected, if the new secretary of the interior, James R. Garfield, says the word, and decides to furnish evidence now in his possession. Agents of the department have been conducting an investigation for some time. Their discoveries in Idaho are said to typify conditions in other places, and a reorganization of the department is said to be in prospect.

The charges in general are that engineers and other officials of the department are "standing in" with favored contractors in some instances, and in other instances have thrown out bids in order to make commissions on the purchase of machinery by the government and to profit in other ways.

In Idaho the Boise-Payette irrigation project has been under special scrutiny.

Evidence has been secured bearing on the relations of the contracting firm of Hubbard & Carlson, having headquarters at Boise, with certain department officials. It is charged in affidavits now on file that this firm has received many special favors and explanation has been asked of the reason for this.

EXPLOSION ON WARSHIP.

All France Appalled at Disaster on New Battleship.

Toulon, March 13.—The powder magazines on board the French battleship Jena blew up at 1:35 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and as a result Captain Adigard, commander of the battleship; Captain Vertier, chief of staff of the Mediterranean squadron, and from 70 to 80 bluejackets are dead, while Rear Admiral Manceron and hundreds of men are suffering from injuries. Naval circles are aghast and the public is stunned by the appalling catastrophe, coming so soon after the loss of the French submarine boat Lutin, in which 16 men met death.

The entire after part of the Jena was blown to pieces. The bodies of the victims were hurled through the air by a succession of explosions and panic stricken workmen at the arsenal fled for their lives from the vicinity of the drydock. Scores on board the Jena jumped overboard on the stone quays and sustained serious injuries.

The primary cause of the accident was the premature explosion of a torpedo. What caused the explosion is not known, but the powder magazines of the Jena were set on fire and the resulting explosions practically destroyed what was considered one of the best vessels of the French navy. The Jena had just undergone the final construction of her hull and machinery, the latter part having been partly overhauled preparatory to joining the squadron today.

DAKOTA'S CREW PAID OFF.

Sailors of Wrecked Steamship to be Sent Home.

Yokohama, March 12.—The crew of the wrecked steamer Dakota has been discharged. The Europeans will be sent to America on the American steamer Tremont. The Asiatics will be sent to Hongkong. The majority of the passengers left here will take the steamer Siberia. Their hotel and other expenses were paid by the Great Northern Steamship company, owners of the Dakota.

The American consul has sent \$150 to the governor of Chiba prefecture for distribution among the fishermen who assisted in the rescue of the American passengers. No salvage measures have yet been taken.

An official inquiry has been arranged, steps having been taken for the preservation of evidence. Captain Francke, of the Dakota, is still at the scene of the wreck, awaiting the decision of the underwriters.

Uncle Sam to Make Torpedoes.

Washington, March 13.—Admiral Mason, chief of the naval bureau of ordnance, has completed plans for the construction of a torpedo factory at the Newport naval station, and expects to advertise at once for proposals. This will be the first time the government has undertaken to make its own torpedoes on a large scale. The new factory will give employment to at least 200 skilled workmen. It is proposed to make every part of the torpedo except the steel flask which contains the compressed air.

Fatal Fall From Basket.

Eureka, Cal., March 13.—Martin Upmull, boatswain of the ill-fated steamer Corona, was killed today while riding in a tram basket from the wreck to the shore. The steel hook holding the cable to its anchor on the shore snapped. Upmull struck against the side of the vessel and his skull was fractured. Roberts escaped injury and was swimming ashore when the lifeboat, which put out to the rescue, reached him.

Congressmen Arrive at Colon.

Colon, March 13.—The steamer Panama arrived today with 53 congressmen, who are desirous of inspecting the work on the canal.

DECISION IN LAND FRAUDS

Williamson Biggs and Van Gesner Fall in Plea.

Ex-Congressman's Appeal Dismissed and Biggs and Van Gesner's Writ of Error Overruled—Last Two in Shadow of Prison—Little Chance for Williamson.

Portland, March 12.—Thrice tried, finally convicted, and facing sentences of both fine and imprisonment for complicity in the Oregon land frauds, J. N. Williamson, ex-congressman, Dr. Van Gesner and Marion Biggs have met with an adverse ruling from the Circuit court of Appeals, sitting at San Francisco. By a decision handed down yesterday the Appellate court confirmed the conviction of Van Gesner and Biggs, overruling the long writ of errors that they had taken from the findings of the lower tribunal. In the case of Williamson, the appeal was dismissed for the reason that a similar appeal has been taken to the Supreme court of the United States.

Although through a technicality the appeal of Williamson is thus dismissed, the decision is as clearly a victory for the government in his case as in the cases of Van Gesner and Biggs. The ex-congressman's appeal was taken upon exactly the same grounds as those of his co-conspirators. In their cases the decision was absolutely adverse, which is equivalent to an adverse decision in the Williamson appeal, so far as the merits of the case are concerned.

There was imposed against Williamson a sentence of 10 months' imprisonment and a fine of \$500 and a similar sentence was pronounced against Biggs. Because of Van Gesner's age and impaired health the court made the imprisonment in his case only five months, but ruled that he should pay a fine of \$1,000.

If the law is permitted to take its course, the mandate from the court of Appeals will issue in about 15 days. Application will then be made by the Federal authorities to have the mandate entered in the court here. Following that an order for the imprisonment of Van Gesner and Biggs will be issued by the United States marshal. The hearing of Williamson in the Supreme court will probably occur within the next three months.

HUMILIATION TO JAPANESE.

Limitation on Destination of Immigrants Resented.

Tokio, March 12.—A question has arisen regarding the last clause of article second of the treaty between Japan and the United States, which has been cited by the government at Washington as authority for the statement that the Japanese government hitherto has been issuing passports limiting the destination of emigrants. The passports simply certify to the nationality of their holders and the placing of a restriction on them by an administrative measure, is declared here to be unauthorized by law and an infringement of the personal right to travel guaranteed by the constitution.

In view, however, of the attitude of the American government, in not calling for the enforcement of the clause mentioned, it is thought that the limitation so placed will be left unquestioned. Even then Japanese jurists believe that the action of the American government in restricting the destination of holders of passports will not be upheld before a court. Administrative action and litigation since the San Francisco school trouble have brought the clause into prominence, and Japan has begun to smart under the alleged humiliation. It would be no surprise should pressure be brought on the government to have it abstain from issuing passports limiting the destination of their bearers.

Will Soon Lift Embargo.

Tacoma, March 12.—Indications point to an early release from the embargo on the shipments of lumber over the lines of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern, which was instituted six weeks ago. Railroad officials report good progress in clearing up the freight that accumulated in the yards and sidetracks along the lines during the floods and snow blockades. Tracks on the Pacific division are rapidly being put in good condition, and traffic is nearly up to the volume attained before the washout.

Play No Favorites.

Washington, March 12.—No easy help to Wall street by rushing to the relief of the money market; no favoritism to any clique of banks; no more "leaks" of important financial information in advance of action. Such are the promises of the Cortelyou administration of the Treasury department. Secretary Cortelyou intends to put a stop to treasury leaks that give certain financial interests inside information on intended moves by the government.

Drastic Anti-Trust Law.

Sacramento, March 12.—The assembly this morning passed Cartwright's anti-trust law, which is almost identical with the Ohio anti-trust law. It is drastic in the penalties that it provides for violations, and is sweeping in its definitions of what constitutes a trust. The bill now awaits the governor's approval, and goes into effect 60 days after it is signed.