

BRIEF NEWS OF THE PAST WEEK

Interesting Events from Outside the State Presented in a Manner to Catch the Eye of the Busy Reader—Matters of National, Historical and Commercial Importance.

France is in a panic at the inroads of American commerce.

President Taft is being urged to make active war on the trusts.

Zelaya boards Mexican gunboat under eyes of American marines.

J. D. Warren, who pursued and helped to capture Jesse James, is dead.

Storm in Spain wrecked five vessels at the mouth of the Douro river.

A Texas man has made \$15,000,000 speculating in cotton for two years.

Blizzards sweep the east from Winnipeg to Illinois, and Chicago faces a coal famine.

The famous Garden of the Gods was given to the city of Colorado Springs for a Christmas present.

The greatest labor struggle in history is said to be impending between the railroads and their employees.

The bones of Cortez, the ancient conqueror of Mexico, are said to have been found after a search of nearly a century.

Six coaches full of Christmas travelers were stalled on a car ferry in the Detroit river, and had to wait till the ice was cut away.

Railroad officials and switchmen hold conference in St. Paul.

Value of the Harriman estate is questioned by gossips in the east.

Bryan is suffering from pneumonia and is too ill to make a speech.

Albert I. is crowned king of Belgium and promises reforms in Congo.

Schley demands that Peary also submit his records to the Danish university.

The Northern Pacific has bought 14 blocks for terminal grounds in North Portland.

Ex-President Zelaya has fled from Nicaragua and taken refuge on a Mexican gunboat.

Eight are killed and hundreds have narrow escape from explosion in Illinois coal mine.

A fierce storm swept the Korean coast, destroying fishing fleets and drowning 2,000.

Secretary Knox has notified President Madrid, Zelaya's successor, that he will be held responsible for the safety of Americans in his country.

Explorers find that the treasures of the island of Tiburon, in the Gulf of California, are mythical, but the island is alive with deer and wild pigeons.

Mark Twain has returned home without benefit to his health from his ocean trip.

It is definitely known that 18 persons perished in a department store fire in London.

A monster benefit was given in New York city to help the cause of home rule for Ireland.

Cook's first prize was \$25,000 from two leading newspapers for his "exclusive" story of his trip to the Pole.

Abdication of the king of Greece is considered inevitable and the crown prince's son has been chosen by the Military party.

Leopold's legal wife will not attempt to put her son on the Belgian throne, but will fight for his fortune of many millions.

The successful uprising of the Young Turk party in Turkey has made Palestine free for the first time since the Christian era began.

The committee from the University of Copenhagen reports that Cook's records are wholly insufficient to establish his claim that he was at the Pole.

John R. Bradley, who fitted out the Cook expedition to the Pole, says he is thoroughly disgusted with the whole business.

Oregon conservationists declare that two or three varieties of insects do more harm to the forests of the northwest than forest fires do.

The supreme court of Oregon has ordered that the Portland Railway company must reduce fares to Milwaukee to 5 cents, and Oak Grove to 10 cents.

Twenty-seven persons were drowned by the collapse of a wooden bridge in Russia.

Two negroes and one white man were killed and six negroes wounded in a race war in Louisiana.

The probation officer of the night court in New York says the white slave trade is on the increase.

Provisional President Estrada, of Nicaragua, has requested official recognition from the state department.

Miss Anna Morgan, daughter of J. P. Morgan, and Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont have taken up the cause of the striking shirtwaist workers of New York City.

A final appeal in the case of John R. Walsh, convicted banker, has been made to the United States supreme court.

Leaders of the American Federation of Labor urge Secretary Nagel to make a thorough investigation into the various phases of industrial education.

Dr. Brashers, a noted astronomer of the university of Pittsburgh, says he does not believe either Cook or Peary can furnish any good proof of having reached the pole.

HOPEFUL VIEW IS TAKEN.

Wall Street Optimistic Over Prospective Labor Troubles.

New York, Dec. 28.—Preparations were in progress last week to meet heavy obligations incident to the January disbursements, which in New York are estimated to be \$225,000,000.

Heavy remittances to foreign markets to meet payments of dividends and interest to holders of American securities made it a question until the middle of the week whether gold would not have to be shipped to London.

Volatile rises occurred in individual stocks, most from vaguely rumored causes, but there were enough dividend increases to keep up a hopeful spirit among stockholders.

The census bureau's cotton-ginning estimate was regarded as confirmatory of the agricultural department's view of the cotton crop shortage, and the rise in cotton to above 16 cents pointed to causes responsible for the high cost of living and the disadvantages this involved.

Added interest was given to this question by steps taken by railroad employees to formulate demands for an increase in wages early next year. Sentiment is not free from apprehension that labor troubles may have to be reckoned with in reaching settlements.

The disposition in financial circles, however, is to take a hopeful view. This same is true of the subject of legislative and executive activities in the direction of corporation regulation, which promises to be brought forward early through special messages from the president.

FEAST TO FREE CONVICT.

Minnesota Prisoner Proves to Be Second Burbank.

Stillwater, Minn., Dec. 28.—A Christmas dinner given at the Minnesota state prison has started a movement for a pardon for "Sinbad the Sailor," an illustrious life convict, supervisor of everything that grows on the state penal reserves, on a basis of his "services to the state of Minnesota and general scientific knowledge."

Among Warden Wolfers' guests was a member of the pardon board, who commented on the immense lemon, weighing three pounds and measuring 18½ inches, major circumference.

The guests, excited by the warden's story of the presence of a second Burbank as a convict, directed him to bring in the creator of the monster lemon.

He took the guests to the greenhouse and explained how he had grafted tropical lemon and grapefruit. He also showed many other graftings, producing rare fruits and flowers.

His roses for years captured first honors. His real name is Charles Price, and he was sent up for life for killing a laborer with a pick.

ORDERS FOR STEEL FEWER.

Consumers, However, Press for Deliveries on Past Contracts.

New York, Dec. 28.—Heavy specifications on contracts for finished steel products continue to roll in upon the mills, and consumers generally are pressing for deliveries. But new business in both finished products and raw material is being contracted.

Rail contracts placed in 1909 for 1910 delivery have aggregated almost 3,500,000 tons. New orders for fabricated steel for buildings and bridges have aggregated only 25,000 tons, but it is probable that the December business will total 100,000 tons at least.

Evidence of contraction in the volume of business in sheets and tinplate is shown by a less heavy output and the closing of several mills for the holidays. Great activity continues in wire products, and shipments for November were 175,000 tons. Prices of mercantile pipe will be readjusted on January 1.

Additional orders have been placed for cars by railroads, bringing the total for the month thus far to 11,200.

Whisky Is Whisky.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Whisky is whisky, President Taft has at last decided. It is whisky when made of neutral spirits, says the president, if reduced to potable strength. But it must be branded so that those buying it may know just what they are getting.

The decision, made after a long series of hearings participated in by members of the government's pure food department and distillers, was announced today. The president covered various details in his decision and gave directions for the proper branding of the various varieties of liquor, holding among other things, that whisky made from a mixture of "straight" whisky and "neutral spirits" may be called a blend.

According to Mr. Taft's instructions, "straight whiskies" hereafter will be branded as such, but the brand may be accompanied by the legend "aged in wood," and whisky made from rectified, distilled, or neutral spirits will be branded so as to make known the principal ingredient. In addition, if they so desire, manufacturers of straight whisky also may use the word "bourbon" or "rye," as the facts may warrant.

Flood Drowns Shepherds.

Madrid, Dec. 28.—Official reports today indicate that the situation in the regions recently swept by storms and floods is improving. The cabinet decided to grant financial relief to sufferers. Related advices give details of the destruction caused by the overflowing of rivers in the northwest. The Elsa and Orbridge, in the northern part of Leon, rose 15 feet, destroying several hamlets. A large number of shepherds, surprised by the floods, took refuge in tree tops.

Czar Promotes Ketten.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 28.—Colonel Von Ketten, chief of the secret police of Moscow, has been appointed to succeed Colonel Karpoff, chief of the secret police of St. Petersburg, assassinated on December 22. Several attempts have been made against the life of Colonel Von Ketten, who for many years has been hunting revolutionists.

NEWS NOTES GATHERED FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF OREGON

COPPER IN OREGON.

Eastern Part of State Promises to Become Great Producer.

Baker City—Charles P. Murphy, a prominent attorney and mining man of Baker City, believes that the greatest copper field in the country is rapidly being developed in the Homestead camp in Eastern Oregon and the Seven Devils mining district in Idaho.

Mr. Murphy spoke as follows of the development in that section:

"With the advent of the Lewisohns into the Homestead camp of Eastern Oregon and the Seven Devils mining district of Idaho come the assurance of this being a camp that will rival, if not surpass, the greatest copper camps in the history of the United States. The Erie capitalists, who several years ago secured the Iron Dyke mine, have sold to the Lewisohns at a handsome figure. Rumor has it that the price was \$1,650,000.

"The Lewisohns have also acquired the McDougall group, about three miles from Homestead, and also the Iron Mountain property at Mineral, Idaho. It is rumored that they have secured the Arkansas property, close to the Fidelity mine at Lime Peak, and opposite the McDougall mine on the Idaho side of the Snake river. They have just completed a survey for a trolley road from the Landore, in the heart of the Seven Devils mining district, to a point on the mountain opposite Homestead, from whence it will be an easy matter to tram the ores of the Seven Devils district down to the smelter or reduction works at Homestead. Work has been commenced on a large scale in the Iron Dyke mine as well as in the McDougall. The railroad, recently constructed from Huntington, on the main line of the O. R. & N., is practically completed, the steel being laid on the last few miles."

Water From Clear Lake.

Klamath Falls—Considerable agitation has been caused by the report coming from Modoc county, Cal., that an effort is to be made to utilize the waters of Clear lake for the irrigation of lands in California, instead of the lands in what is known as the upper project of the Klamath system. The waters of Clear lake could be diverted so as to irrigate either the lands in Oregon or those in California.

There is, however, not enough water for both projects. It is claimed by the people of Modoc county there are 30,000 acres of irrigable lands in California all of which would be subscribed for government irrigation in the event of the waters of Clear lake should be diverted so as to be utilized in the reclamation of the Modoc county lands. In Oregon there are more than twice as many acres, but less than 300,000 have been subscribed for government.

While there many Klamath landowners who are inclined to believe that there is a remote chance that the waters of Clear lake may be diverted for the benefit of Modoc county, there others who feel that the project is too far advanced to permit of an action of this kind.

Hood River to Get New Depot.

Hood River—A passenger depot to cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000 is to be erected here next year. The new building will be fire-proof brick and stone structure, embodying the most modern features of railway station architecture and of the type being built along the Harriman system. A hot air or steam heating plant will be installed and the floors of the building will be of tile or cement. It will be similar to stations under construction at Baker City and Pendleton.

Sale of Hood River Apple Land.

Devlin & Firebaugh report the following recent sales in the Hood River district: Eight acres of improved land from Frank Jones to W. G. Banks, consideration \$3,800. Mary Davenport estate to L. Mumford and wife of Portland, 10 acres of improved land at Mosier, consideration \$4,000. Also 20 acres of unimproved land seven miles from Hood River, Dr. M. F. Shaw to Miss Ottilie G. Boetzkes, consideration \$5,000.

Water Right Case Comes to Close.

Pendleton—Hearing of the case of the Allen Ditch company against the Henrietta Milling company, in contest over water rights, came to a close after two weeks had been consumed with introducing testimony. Both sides have been granted 30 days in which to file depositions. It will probably be the first of February before the case is argued and submitted. A second case involving the same dispute will be started Monday.

Dr. Brooke Buys Farm.

Forest Grove—Dr. F. W. Brooke, of Portland, has purchased the G. W. Poole farm at Hillsdale, seven miles northwest of this city, for a consideration of \$11,000. This farm is one of the best in Washington county. The stock and farm implements were included in the sale. Dr. Brooke will set out several acres in apples and pears next spring.

Road Work in Douglas.

Oakland—Douglas county is going into road building on a large scale. Out of 56 road districts in the county, 45 of them have voted a special tax for road building during the coming year. In addition to this special tax, these districts will receive their pro rata of the general road fund.

NEW COAST LINE IN SPRING.

Corvallis & Eastern Company Will Build from Yaquina to Newport.

Newport—Surveyors for the Corvallis & Eastern Railroad company have for several days past been locating a line from Yaquina to Newport along the north side of the bay, over which, Superintendent Walsh of the company says, the C. & E. will build this spring, completing the road in time for the early summer travel to the beach.

The question of the establishment of the depot is one which is causing considerable speculation in the minds of Newport business men. Many rumors are afloat, but thus far nothing definite is known as to the location of the depot.

Linn Dairies Only Average.

Albany—M. S. Schrock, deputy state food and dairy commissioner, who has been investigating the condition of the dairies which supply milk and cream to Albany, says they are only average. In places the cows are very poorly kept, while in others the barns are in bad condition. On the basis of 40 per cent, if the equipment was perfect, and of 60 per cent if the methods used were perfect, or a total of 100, he found the dairies here as follows: The J. W. Kuthe dairy scored 21.7 on equipment and 28.4 on methods, total 50.1; the H. M. Palmer dairy, equipment 18.5, methods 29.7, total 48.2; the E. P. Mishler dairy, equipment 22.7, methods 22.4, total 45.1, which really shows a poor condition when taking the totals in comparison with the possible 100 points.

Sweeney Sells His Gilliam Co. Farm.

The Sweeney wheat farm located in Gilliam county and comprising about 3,000 acres of the best wheat land in eastern Oregon, has been sold by the former owner, Frank A. Sweeney to M. L. Eskridge and R. I. Giles of Ohio. The land was sold for \$25 per acre, the total amount involved in the transaction amounting to \$71,000. The purchasers of the property are men of means and practical grain growers.

Wallows Gets New Mill.

Wallows—Sawmill machinery with a capacity of 20,000 feet a day has just been unloaded here for Haaland Brothers, recent arrivals from North Dakota, who will install it on their timber holdings, at Spring Dale, 12 miles northeast of this city. The lumber will be marketed at this point. Nine mills with a capacity of more than 30,000,000 feet of lumber, annually shipped from Wallows, are now located here.

Second Graduating Class.

Pendleton—Pendleton will have two graduating classes from her high school in 1910, something that has never occurred before, the first to be held on January 21, at which time six girls will have finished the regular high school course and will receive their diplomas. The class will be composed of Hazel Rader, Lucille Rader, Margaret Lowell, Grace Cole, Hazel Means and Edna Slater.

Buys Thoroughbred Cattle.

Baker City—Three fine, prize-winning Galloway bulls have arrived from Chicago for John Thompson, who purchased the animals for his ranch on Burnt river and will have the celebrated Galloway stock in the future. Each of the bulls won a prize at the Chicago stock show.

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PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem, \$1.20@1.21; club, \$1.10; red Russian, \$1.08; valley, \$1.05. Barley—Feed and brewing, \$30@31 per ton. Corn—Whole, \$35; cracked, \$36 per ton.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$33 per ton. Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$18@20 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$18@21.50; alfalfa, \$16@16.50; clover, \$15@16; cheat, \$15@16; grain hay, \$15@16. Butter—City creamery, extras, 39c; fancy outside creamery, 34@39c per pound; store, 22½@24c. Butter fat prices average 1½c per pound under regular butter prices.

Poultry—Hens, 14½@14¾; springs, 14@14½; ducks, 20@22½; geese, 14½; turkeys, live, 22½; dressed, 27@30c.

Eggs—Fresh Oregon, extras, 12½c per dozen; Eastern, 30c@35c per dozen. Pork—Fancy, 10c@10½c per pound. Veal—Extras, 11c@11½c per pound. Fresh Fishes—Apples, \$16@3c per box; pears, \$16@15c per box; cranberries, \$9 per barrel.

Potatoes—Oregon, 60c@80c per sack; sweet potatoes, 1½@2c per pound. Vegetables—Artichokes, 75c per doz.; cabbage, 1½c per pound; horseradish, \$1.50 per box; pumpkins, 1¼@1½c; sprouts, 8c per pound; squash, 1¼@1½c; tomatoes, 75c@81c; turnips, \$1 per sack; carrots, \$1; beets, \$1.50; parsnips, \$1.50. Onions—Oregon, 15c per sack.

Hops—1909 crop, 20½@22c. Wool—Eastern Oregon, 16c@23c per pound; olds, nominal. Mohair—Choice, 25c per pound. Casaca Bark—4½c per pound. Hides—Dry hides, 18c@19c per pound; dry kip, 17c@18c per pound; dry calfskin, 19c@21c per pound; salted hides, 10½@11c; salted calfskin, 15c@16c per pound; green, 1c less.

Cattle—Best steers, \$4.50@4.75; fair to good, \$4@4.25; medium and feeders, \$3.25@3.50; cows, \$2.50@3.85; fair to good, \$3@3.25; common to medium, \$2.50@3.75; bulls, \$5.25@5.50; heavy, \$4@4.75.

Hogs—Best, \$8.50@8.75; medium, \$7.50@8.25; stockers, \$6.50@6.75. Sheep—Best wethers, \$5.50@5.75; fair to good, \$4.50@5; ewes, ½c less; yearlings, best, \$5@5.25; fair to good, \$4.50@4.75; lambs, \$6@6.25.

CONFLICT SEEMS IMMINENT.

Railroads Say They Can't Pay Higher Wages.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Some members of the interstate commerce commission and many railroad officials believe they can see rapidly approaching one of the severest contests between labor and capital in recent history. This does not necessarily mean that railroad men generally are expecting big strikes in the labor world. Such strikes, however, are always among the possibilities when labor and capital clash. It is firmly believed by the railroad men that this struggle will be begun by the railroad labor organizations, will rapidly spread to other lines of work and may eventually result in a complete readjustment of industrial conditions.

The situation with respect to railroad labor is unique in the history of this or any other country. Never before has labor enjoyed such high wages. During the recent periods of great prosperity wages in the railroad field have mounted very high. As a result, labor men have become accustomed to living on an entirely different plane from formerly. They are living in better neighborhoods, are dressing better, are educating their families, and altogether are taking a different view of life.

Notwithstanding the fact, however, that exceedingly high wages, comparatively speaking, have enabled the laboring classes in the railroad field to better their conditions, they now find themselves unable to live on their present rates of pay. One of two things must result, namely, either the railroad laborer must return to his old style of living or he must have increased wages. Railroad managements everywhere recognize this economical fact.

They say, however, that they would be willing to increase wages if they could do so without menace to the property entrusted to their care. They say, with some show of reason, that it is impossible for railroads to continue to absorb the increased cost of living on behalf of their employees and at the same time stand the increased cost of all material and everything which enters into the operation and maintenance of a railroad. The point has been reached, they insist, where railroads must receive more for the transportation services if they are to continue increasing wages. Upon this platform the railroads say, they must stand firmly.

BLIZZARD IN THREE STATES.

Trains Stalled and Chicago Faces Coal Famine.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—The entire west and northwest, from Winnipeg, Man., to the lower tier of Illinois counties, along the Ohio river, are hard and fast in the grip of the Storm King. An average of seven inches of snow blankets all this vast territory, crippling all transportation lines, bringing intense suffering to the poor, making acute the coal famine which menaces Chicago and other big cities and reducing supplies of all kinds because the railroads cannot transport farm products to the cities.

Meager reports from Michigan indicate that state has suffered most severely. A few telegrams drifting through tell of blockades in all directions. Grand Trunk and Pere Marquette trains are absolutely snowbound at Detroit streetcar traffic is badly impeded, and the car ferries have been fast in the ice of the Detroit river for 24 hours.

Trains into Chicago from all directions are from three to ten hours late, and unless the storm soon abates conditions will be much worse. While the elevated trains are running fairly well the surface roads are badly handicapped. Not only is Chicago's transportation badly hampered, but the city is facing a coal famine.

It became apparent three days ago that the supply would run short, and every railroad tapping Illinois and Indiana coal fields had made arrangements to take advantage of the coal holiday to rush a big supply to this and other cities. With the roads bending every effort to get passenger trains through the snow, however, the moving of freight was absolutely out of the question, and the large supply of coal waiting to be moved still remains on the sidetracks.

Charitable associations are burdened to the limit by calls for assistance.

Jump to Save Is Fatal.

Camden, N. J., Dec. 27.—White Christmas brought death and sorrow to two families at Malaga, N. J., this afternoon. Mrs. Mary Price was killed by a train. William Hageman, who made an attempt to save her, received injuries from which he died. Mrs. Price was standing on the platform at Malaga when she slipped and fell on the tracks, just as the train was pulling in. Without hesitation Hageman jumped to rescue her, but before he could drag her from danger both were struck by the locomotive.

"Tramp" Pays Old Score.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 27.—Seven years ago James L. Harvey, now a Rio Grande switchman here, was brakeman on a freight in Oklahoma, and befriended a tramp. Today Harvey received a letter from the tramp, Charles McNamara, now a rich miner of Maray, Idaho, enclosing a check for \$500 as a Christmas gift. Harvey permitted McNamara to ride over his division, gave him clothes, a meal, a bed and a \$2 bill.

Dying Woman Refuses Aid.

Los Angeles, Dec. 27.—Mrs. Polly Bolotin, who suffered frightful burns last night, when she used kerosene to encourage the fire under the family's Christmas turkey, died early today. Despite her fatal burns, Mrs. Bolotin refused to accept medical aid until assured by sight that her five children were safe.

EXPLOSION KILLS EIGHT IN MINE

Hundreds Have Narrow Escape from Fire and Smoke.

Open Lamps Carried by Engineer and Assistants Cause of Disaster—Fire Drives Back Rescuers and Prevents Recovery of Bodies—Prompt Action Saves Hundreds.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 25.—Eight men were killed and the lives of 400 persons were imperiled by an explosion of gas in mine A of the Chicago & Carterville Coal company at Herrin, Ill., late Thursday. Open lamps carried by the mine engineer and his assistants caused the disaster, according to a long-distance telephone message from the mine office to the Associated Press. There were three men and a boy in this party. All lost their lives.

Prompt action by the management resulted in the safe exit of the hundreds of men at work below ground. Within five minutes after the first report of the explosion, miners in the immediate vicinity of the accident were started toward the surface and on the return trips of the cages rescuers were lowered to entries No. 7 and No. 8, west, where the catastrophe took place. Among the dead were:

W. T. Pierce, mine engineer. Eugene Barrett, assistant engineer. Thomas Williams, assistant manager. Thomas Guinney, superintendent of the mine, and Robert Huston, manager, headed the first relay of rescuers. Despite the black damp that flowed into the chambers adjoining those in which Pierce and his party were killed, these men plunged into the workings.

Three bodies blocked their path. Hasty examination showed that the men were alive, and they were rushed to the surface. One was A. J. Huston, brother of the manager. The others, Charles Klem and Albert Shelton, and Huston were revived, and all are expected to recover from the effects of the gas.

The rescuers next found the bodies of Snyder, Grecco and Romeo, miners. None of these men had been burned, the condition of the corpses testifying to the force of the concussion. The body of Harbor, a miner, was badly burned, the features being scorched almost beyond recognition.

Efforts of the rescuers to penetrate more deeply into the workings were repulsed by increasing afterdamp. The ventilating apparatus of the mine had not been damaged, but it could not cope successfully with the gases, and Guinney and Huston and their helpers were forced to retreat, leaving the bodies of Pierce and his companions. The fire also began to gain headway, and it is not expected the bodies can be recovered before tomorrow.

News of the explosion soon spread through Herrin, and women and children rushed at once to the shaft-house. But as the cages emptied load after load of rescued miners sobs of anguish gave way to cries of joy. These in turn were soon hushed to murmurs of sympathy as the bodies of the dead were brought to the surface.

SKY LIGHTS SEEN AGAIN.

Many Towns Report Searchlight Borne by Airship.

Boston, Dec. 25.—Following the report from Worcester Thursday night of the discovery above that city a strange moving light, apparently the searchlight of a dirigible aircraft, last night brought stories of the observance of similar lights from villages east of Worcester, and even from Boston Common. People in Marlboro, South Fremington, Natick, Ashland, Grafton, North Grafton, Upton, Hopdale and Northboro turned out in throngs last night and saw a mysterious light in the sky.

Many declared that it had the appearance of a strong light and, while they could discover no framework behind it, such