

Bohemia Nugget

COTTAGE GROVE... OREGON.

WEEK'S DOINGS

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Condensed Form.

Experts find many ballots in a Denver precinct to be illegal.

Senator Bacon, of Georgia, favors disfranchising all negroes.

Now that the capture of 203-Meter hill at Fort Arthur has been confirmed, the Russians declare it to be an unimportant position.

The supervising architect will recommend appropriations of \$100,000 and \$35,000 respectively for Federal buildings at Oregon City and Baker City.

Representative James A. Hemenway, of Indiana, is sure of Senator Fairbanks' seat in the senate, as all the other candidates for the place have withdrawn.

Russians at Fort Arthur are engaged in clearing the harbor of mines, which would seem to indicate that the remainder of the fleet intends to make another effort to escape.

The Russian supreme prize court upholds the seizure of 5,000 sacks of flour on board the Portland and Asiatic line steamer Arnia, seized by the Vidvostok squadron, July 22.

The Russian supreme court in the appeal of the German steamer Thes, which was sunk off the Japanese coast by the Vladivostok squadron, has decided that the act was unjustifiable.

Bristow urges that the postage rate on packages be reduced along rural routes.

Denver ballot boxes have been opened and fewer votes found than were given in the returns.

The merchant marine commission will urge a bill to give Panama business to American shipowners.

The Russian press urges that the Black sea and Baltic fleets be combined. Great Britain would object.

General Rennenskampff is vigorously pursuing the Japanese in Manchuria, who are retreating. St. Petersburg is fearful lest he fall into a trap.

St. Petersburg has almost given up hope for Port Arthur. The Russians have made several unsuccessful attempts to retake 203-Meter hill.

Fire which is believed to have been of incendiary origin, destroyed three of the St. Louis fair buildings and many valuable paintings. The loss is placed at \$75,000.

There has been tremendous rains throughout Chile, such as have seldom been equalled at this season of the year. The crops have been damaged fully 50 per cent.

Taft's mission to Panama will be a success.

The Japanese expect the fall of Port Arthur December 12.

Queen Alexandra, of England, has just celebrated her 60th birthday.

Reports have reached the state department of a very unsettled state of affairs in Venezuela.

The Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads are considering a plan to electrify the route through the Cascade mountain district.

The last monthly report of the chief of surgeons of the Philippines shows that the health of the troops in the islands is exceptionally good.

James R. Young, of Philadelphia, has been appointed superintendent of the dead letter department of the post office service, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of D. P. Mibhart.

The annual report of the general superintendent of the life saving service shows that during the year assistance was rendered to 1,061 vessels, involving the lives of more than 3,400 persons and property to the value of \$7,000,000.

Admiral Dewey has declined to become a member of the North sea commission.

Roosevelt is likely to visit the South and make it a point to meet the masses.

Governor Pardee is working for a California state building at the Lewis and Clark fair.

Whites in German Southwest Africa are reported to be in great danger of being massacred.

The 31st national convention of the W. C. T. U. is in session in Philadelphia. Five hundred delegates, representing every state and territory, are in attendance.

The New York state court of appeals has declared unconstitutional the labor law which prohibits a contractor from employing his men more than eight hours a day on city, county or state work.

All exhibitors from foreign countries may now send their wares to Portland for the 1905 fair without paying any duty.

David M. Parry, president of the Citizens' Industrial association, says the "open shop" movement is gaining, as is also his organization.

Paul Morton, now secretary of the navy, may succeed Secretary Shaw, of the treasury department, if the latter does not remain in the cabinet.

Japanese are making progress in the assault on Port Arthur.

Russia has accepted the invitation of America to negotiate for an arbitration treaty.

Russia and Britain both want an American officer of high rank on the North sea commission.

Ten American fishing craft have been seized by Canadian officers and fined for fishing in Canadian waters.

General Kurapatkin has an automobile in which to travel from one part to another of his line. He wants 20 more in which to carry ammunition.

TASK IS ENDED.

A Complete Agreement is Reached With Panama.

Panama, Dec. 6.—The difference between the United States and Panama which made necessary the visit of Secretary of War Taft to the isthmus were settled today by the issuance of an executive order signed by Secretary Taft for President Roosevelt and assented to in a letter by President Avondor of Panama. The order provides that no trade for the canal zone or the republic of Panama can enter the ports established by the United States at either end of the canal, supplies for the construction of the canal and articles in transit being excepted. This turns the customs receipts of those ports over to the government of Panama.

Panama agrees to reduce her tariff from 15 per cent ad valorem to 10 per cent. This reduction applies to all goods except wines, liquors, alcohol and opium. Panama also agrees to reduce her consular fees and port charges to 60 per cent of the rates at present charged.

Absolute free trade is to apply between the canal zone and the republic of Panama. Vessels entering the canal ports are granted free entry to the ports of Colon and Panama, and vessels entering the latter ports are extended the same privileges in the canal ports.

Complete jurisdiction is granted the United States in the harbors of Colon and Panama as to sanitation and quarantine regulations.

Panama reduces her rate of postage to 2 cents and is to furnish all stamps in the republic and in the canal zone. The zone authorities are to purchase stamps from Panama at 40 per cent of their face value.

The order of Secretary Taft is to be ineffective unless Panama shall put into effect the gold standard, according to the currency agreement of June 20, 1904. It also makes a stipulation regarding citizenship rights to Panamanians in the canal zone and provisions is also made in the order for maintenance by the United States of important highways, partly in and partly out of the canal zone, and also for the building of a hospital. The order is made effective December 12, 1904.

EDUCATION IN PHILIPPINES.

System Introduced by Americans is Eminently Successful.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The Bureau of Insular Affairs, War department, is in receipt of a number of bulletins published by the Bureau of Education, Manila, which show that the system of public instruction introduced into the islands is eminently practical.

The purpose of those who are directing the course of studies is to exalt the dignity of labor. Effort is made to train the eye and the hand as well as the head. In the provincial secondary schools two-year courses in mechanical drawing, woodworking and ironworking are prescribed for students in arts and crafts, and give the students a fair knowledge of mechanical drawings, blacksmithing and toolmaking. A more advanced course includes architecture, cabinetmaking, carriagebuilding, woodturning and pattern making. There are also courses for machinists and steam engineering.

Tools and equipment have been secured for eight different schools with woodworking machinery and for three schools for ironworking outfits. Particular attention is given to the care of instruments and tools.

Particular attention has been given to normal school work in order to train up a class of native teachers for the public schools of the islands and this course has been pursued with eagerness by hundreds of natives, but at present there is no institution in the Philippines in which instruction is given in English of a sufficiently advanced character to fit students to enter American colleges. It is therefore proposed to offer in the normal school preparatory courses of an advanced nature adequate for the attainment of this purpose.

Alaskan Judge is Named.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Again President Roosevelt has utterly disregarded the recommendations of senators and representatives, and has appointed a man of his own choice to a responsible office. Royal A. Gunnison, of Birmingham, N. Y., was today appointed United States judge for the First division in Alaska, to succeed Melville C. Brown, whose resignation has been demanded. He was offered the place by the president several days ago because of his known fitness and high character.

Not One Killed.

Hulden, Mo., Dec. 6.—Missouri Pacific passenger train No. 1, westbound from St. Louis to Kansas City, due here at 4 o'clock this afternoon, was wrecked at the waterworks bridge, two miles east of here, resulting in the injury of about 45 passengers, ten seriously. The accident was caused by a broken rail, which projected from the track, catching the first coach behind the mail car, throwing it and the truck down a 20-foot embankment, and causing two other coaches, a Pullman and the diner to follow it.

Knolly Tariff Problem.

Washington, Dec. 6.—President Roosevelt was called upon today to consider an important question in connection with the present tariff law. Secretary Shaw and Senator Hansborough, of North Dakota, talked to him regarding the payment of a drawback on flour manufactured in this country from imported wheat and then exported. Senator Hansborough presented the views of the wheat raisers of the West, but he declined to go into details.

To Fix Status of Hospital Ships.

The Hague, Dec. 6.—An international conference concerning the status of hospital ships in war time will be held here December 13. A majority of the powers will be represented by their respective ministers, Russia sending Professor de Martens, professor of international law at the University of St. Petersburg, who will be accompanied by a naval officer.

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

LIBRARIES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Light Tax Not Burdensome in Oregon—Convention of Officers.

Salem—Two departures in public school work are proving very successful wherever tried and promise to become permanent features of the public school system. They are the common school library, supported by special taxation, and the convention of school officers. Four counties have levied the library tax, amounting to 10 cents per capita upon the school population, and it is found that by this means the country schools are provided with bookcases good as those accessible to the pupils of town schools.

"The tax, being one-tenth of 1 mill, is not felt," says Superintendent Alderman, of Yamhill county, "and it puts the best books where they do the most good. The library law has now been in operation two years and has given complete satisfaction. While the amount that some of the small districts get is small, yet it is in proportion to the number of pupils. I consider the law a boon to the country boy and girl and I think it ought to be made mandatory on the county courts."

Conventions of school officers have been held this year at Baker City, Dallas and McMinnville, at each of which there was a very full attendance of school directors and clerks. Addresses were made by Superintendent Ackerman, by the county superintendent and outside educational workers, and those present held discussions of topics of general interest to school officers.

Consolidation of schools and school districts was one of the principal topics discussed at these conventions and the members of school boards learned the plan and purpose of this latest move for the improvement of the rural schools.

Briggs Strikes It Rich Again.

Grants Pass—David Briggs and boys, who were made rich in a day by the fabulous surface wealth of the Wounded Buck claim, on Upper Sucker creek, have located a claim on Upper Chetco, away up in the mountains near the Curry county line, and will work the rich ledge they have found there. They have had samples from this claim recently assayed here, and, while they do not give the returns the Wounded Buck quartz has given, the proposition appears very promising, and the lucky family will move their scene of operations from the Upper Sucker to the Chetco. The Wounded Buck is under bond to a company for a consideration of \$100,000.

Government Gets Site.

Baker City—A deed has been filed with the county recorder from W. A. Houston to the United States for 100 feet square on the corner of Main street and Auburn avenue. This was the site selected for the government building soon to be erected in this city. The deed calls for \$4,800, the amount appraised for the purchase of a site, while, as a matter of fact, the property brought over double that amount, the balance having been raised by adjacent property owners.

Electric Companies Consolidated.

La Grande—The La Grande electric company has consolidated with the Cove Power company, and they have incorporated under the name of the Grand Ronde electric company. The directors are Walter Pierce, J. A. Thomson, T. H. and Clarence Crawford and T. B. Berry. The consolidation was effected because the La Grande plant needed more power. The power from Cove will have a fall of 890 feet and will require 3,700 feet of pipe to convey it to the power station. The force will create 800 horse power.

Hopes to Irrigate Umatilla.

Pendleton—John I. Whistler, government engineer in charge of the reclamation work in Oregon, with headquarters at Pendleton says that the Umatilla proposition is not yet abandoned and that the outlook is not bad for finding another reservoir site. The residents of the county, have hopes of interesting the government in building ditches for winter irrigation even if they do not secure reservoir sites. Mr. Whistler says that they will be built if the people can show how it will reclaim properly the land.

Eating Spring Vegetables.

Pendleton—The markets of Pendleton and Walla Walla are being supplied with all the vegetables to be had early in the spring. Because of the exceptionally good weather of the fall and the few rains at the right time, gardeners have been able to produce all of the early vegetables. The good weather is being ideal for these growers, but the farmers are somewhat worried as to the effect the dry weather will have upon next season's grain. The extreme dryness has again necessitated the use of the street sprinklers.

Only Few Sales of Cattle.

Susquville—The sale of beef cattle has been light in this vicinity this season. A Portland buyer picked 107 head from a round up of several hundred, paying from \$2.10 to \$2.50 per hundredweight, the former figure being for cows. Few cattle will be wintered here, no more than to supply the local market. Some are being driven to Prairie City, but the greater number will be taken to various places down the river.

Power Plant Almost Ready.

Milton—The frame for the Milton city power plant has been completed and workmen are finishing the power house. The plant will be completed about December 15.

Northwest Wheat Markets.

Portland—Walla Walla, 83c; blue stem, 88c; valley, 87 1/2c. Tacoma—Bluestem, 86c; club, 88c.

PLAN TO RAISE PORTAGE FUND.

Prominent Umatilla Men on Committee to Unavish the County.

Pendleton—At a mass meeting of business men and prominent farmers the subject of raising \$5,000 as Umatilla county's portion asked by the Open River association for the portage road was discussed and plans decided upon. A committee was appointed to take active charge of the work and is composed of the following: George Peringer, M. M. Wyrick, W. P. Temple, T. J. Kirk, extensive wheat raisers, and County Commissioner Horace Walker.

The committee will make a thorough canvass of the county. It will be the plan to divide the county into districts and each member of the committee have charge of the district he may choose. In this manner it is believed the entire county can be covered in a few days and the desired amount raised without difficulty. A large portion of the amount asked for has already been donated.

Timber for Land Hunters.

Grants Pass—It is quite evident that there will be a grand rush for the woods when the final announcement is made of the release of the forest lands of Southern Oregon, which were withheld from entry several years ago, but which are soon to be thrown open to buyers, settlers and squatters. While the lands are not the regular forest reserves, they cover a large portion of the well-timbered sections of Josephine, Jackson and Curry counties, Southern Oregon, and parts of Siskiyou and Del Norte counties, California. A great portion of them is covered with fir and pine, with considerable sugar pine.

Hammond Company's Title Clear.

Astoria—A deed has been filed for record whereby the Seaside Spruce Lumber company sells to the Hammond Lumber company 2,184.67 acres of timber lands in the Necanicum river district. The price is not made public and the consideration named in the deed is \$1. The transfer is understood to have been made in connection with the settlement of the claims held by numerous persons and firms against the Seaside company. These claims have all been settled and the mill property leased, so that it can resume operations at once, after a shut down lasting for several months.

Trappist Colony in Linn.

Albany—A colony of Trappist Fathers has been founded in Jordan valley, in the northern part of Linn county. Having been forced to leave their homes in France because of religious persecution, a number of these Trappist Fathers have come to the United States, and six of them located in Jordan valley, about three months ago, with the ultimate object in view of founding a Trappist colony there. They recently purchased considerable land, and are preparing to make extensive improvements, in anticipation of the arrival of more than 50 of the same order from France next spring.

INTERNAL REVENUE RECEIPTS.

Commissioner Yerkes Reports an Increase of \$2,163,079 Per Year.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The annual report of Commissioner Yerkes, of the Internal Revenue bureau, shows that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, the receipts of the bureau were \$232,904,004, an increase of \$2,163,079 over the collections for the next year preceding. The cost of collection was 1.98 per cent, as against 2.07 for the year 1903, and 2.83 per cent, the average cost of collection since the formation of the bureau.

President Did Not Say It.

Washington, Dec. 3.—It was authoritatively stated at the White house today that the president had no recollection of a visit from John Beattie, the representative of the Master Painters' and Decorators' association, who, at the convention of the Men Citizens' Industrial association in New York today declared that the president had indicated a proposition to put upon labor unions the responsibility for paralyzing business by lockouts. It was also announced that the president did not make the remark.

Cockrell to Choose.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Senator Cockrell, of Missouri, called today on President Roosevelt and had an extended conference with him. The president informed Senator Cockrell that he would appoint him as a member either of the Isthmian canal commission or of the Interstate commerce commission, as the senator might elect. Senator Cockrell did not indicate to the president what he might do regarding the offer, and said he would not announce his decision perhaps for several weeks yet.

To Expedite Ratification of Treaties.

Washington, Dec. 3.—That the ratification by the American senate of the arbitration treaties recently signed, and of those now being negotiated, may be expedited, the state department is endeavoring to have all the treaties identical in form. Belgium and several other powers have suggested a new form of treaty, and should any power insist on this the negotiation of the treaty necessarily would be delayed thereby.

Fearful Conditions in Mexico.

Mazatlan, Mexico, Dec. 3.—Late reports from the northern part of this state say that fearful conditions exist there. Deaths range from 30 to 40 per day, owing to starvation and malaria. In many instances the dead are not given burial, it is said, but are thrown into open ditches and canals. The authorities are unable to cope with the situation.

CZAR FOR PEACE.

Is Ready to Receive Such Proposal From Japan.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 3.—A report which comes from an unimpeachable source has reached the Publishers' Press correspondent that Russia is not only ready to receive any peace proposal Japan may have to make, but that with the fall of Port Arthur she will be ready to sue for peace. That is the situation today, notwithstanding the swashbuckling attitude of those who profess to frame the empire's policy, and will be the situation right along, even if this and subsequent statements to this effect were officially denied. Before the world at large Russia cannot afford just now to appear tired of the struggle and skeptical as to its outcome, but diplomatic circles are permitted to know the truth, and Russia's representatives all the civilized world over have received strong intimations that sincere and authoritative offers of mediation must not be treated lightly in the future.

It is therefore to be assumed that Russia considers that the conflict is entirely hopeless. There are sure to be some Russian victories in Manchuria and the general belief is that they will come soon, owing to the fact that Field Marshal the Marquis Oyama has been compelled to part with large bodies of his men in order to hasten the fall of Port Arthur. But Russia has far Eastern interests of much greater importance than even the possession of Port Arthur, and as these interests have been attacked in the past by Great Britain and China alike, she is in dire need of an ally. That ally will be Japan, if the plans of today do not miscarry. The battles of today are to be followed by close ties of commercial and political union tomorrow.

RECEIPTS ABOUT \$10,000,000.

Concessionaires Believed to Have Taken in Equal Amount.

St. Louis, Dec. 3.—While it will be impossible to obtain the actual receipts and expenditures of the Louisiana Purchase exposition company before the middle of December, Secretary Walter B. Stevens, of the World's fair, made the following statement to the Associated Press tonight:

"From reports that have been submitted of the admissions to the grounds we estimate that the attendance on 'Francis day' will be a few thousand in excess of 200,000, and that the attendance for the Exposition period will be in the neighborhood of 18,800,000."

"In round numbers the Exposition company has expended \$22,000,000 since the inception of the World's fair project, and the expenditures of the several states and territories have reached a total of \$9,000,000. The receipts since the opening day, April 30, have amounted to about \$10,000,000, consisting of admissions and concession royalties. In addition to these receipts were the funds, amounting to about \$12,000,000, raised by subscription and appropriations to build the exposition."

INTERNAL REVENUE RECEIPTS.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The annual report of Commissioner Yerkes, of the Internal Revenue bureau, shows that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, the receipts of the bureau were \$232,904,004, an increase of \$2,163,079 over the collections for the next year preceding. The cost of collection was 1.98 per cent, as against 2.07 for the year 1903, and 2.83 per cent, the average cost of collection since the formation of the bureau.

Commissioner Yerkes Reports an Increase of \$2,163,079 Per Year.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The annual report of Commissioner Yerkes, of the Internal Revenue bureau, shows that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, the receipts of the bureau were \$232,904,004, an increase of \$2,163,079 over the collections for the next year preceding. The cost of collection was 1.98 per cent, as against 2.07 for the year 1903, and 2.83 per cent, the average cost of collection since the formation of the bureau.

Heavy Rains Loggers' Boon.

Astoria—The severe storms recently, with the accompanying large rainfall, has had benefits that many do not realize. It has been a boon for the loggers, and logs have been floated out of some streams that have been on their banks for a couple of years. How many feet of logs have come out of these streams to tidewater cannot yet be estimated with any definiteness, but it is fully 20,000 feet, and it may be done this amount in the Lower Columbia river district.

Epidemic Among the Chickens.

Albany—Several different citizens of Albany and vicinity have lost a number of chickens recently, they having died suddenly from some unknown cause. One Albany citizen lost all his chickens in a few hours, and a farmer named Cary living near this city, a few weeks ago lost 90 chickens in a short time. The fact that only a few flocks belonging to citizens living far apart have died, and that where any died almost all the flock died, leads to the supposition that death was caused by poisoned wheat.

Eating Spring Vegetables.

Pendleton—The markets of Pendleton and Walla Walla are being supplied with all the vegetables to be had early in the spring. Because of the exceptionally good weather of the fall and the few rains at the right time, gardeners have been able to produce all of the early vegetables. The good weather is being ideal for these growers, but the farmers are somewhat worried as to the effect the dry weather will have upon next season's grain. The extreme dryness has again necessitated the use of the street sprinklers.

Only Few Sales of Cattle.

Susquville—The sale of beef cattle has been light in this vicinity this season. A Portland buyer picked 107 head from a round up of several hundred, paying from \$2.10 to \$2.50 per hundredweight, the former figure being for cows. Few cattle will be wintered here, no more than to supply the local market. Some are being driven to Prairie City, but the greater number will be taken to various places down the river.

Power Plant Almost Ready.

Milton—The frame for the Milton city power plant has been completed and workmen are finishing the power house. The plant will be completed about December 15.

Northwest Wheat Markets.

Portland—Walla Walla, 83c; blue stem, 88c; valley, 87 1/2c. Tacoma—Bluestem, 86c; club, 88c.

PLENTY TO DO

Congress Will Have a Very Busy Session.

FEW NEW LAWS ARE PROBABLE

Appropriation Measures Will Take Up Much of the Time—Rivers and Harbors are Safe.

Washington, Dec. 5.—On the stroke of 12 today the second session of the 68th congress will be called to order by President Pro Tem Frye in the senate, and by Speaker Cannon in the house. When the gavel of the presiding officer summons the senators and representatives to duty nearly every member will be in his seat, but only routine business will be transacted.

The president's message generally is received and read the first day, but the senate is punctilious in certain matters, and is almost sure to adjourn as a tribute of respect to the late Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, and the late Senator Quay, of Pennsylvania. The message, therefore, probably will not be read until Tuesday.

After the opening day, when the message of the president is read, the regular business of the session will begin and the legislative wheels will grind steadily until March, 1905. There is plenty to do. The calendars of both houses are loaded with bills of all kinds; hundreds of new bills are ready to report enough to keep congress busy for 12 months, but in the three months congress probably will do little more than pass the regular annual appropriation bills.

There has been some talk of a possible extra session. The only reason why such a session should be called is because there is a demand in certain quarters for a revision of the tariff, but many of the incoming congressmen during the past two weeks have made it plain they do not want tariff revision and further say that they do not want an extra session.

There is one feature of the tariff revision talk that has some substance. More revenue must be had, or there must be a curtailment of expenditures. With the increasing annual appropriations, a river and harbor bill, increase of the navy, the Panama canal and other features of extraordinary disbursement, there will be need of more money than present customs and internal revenue provide. An intimation has been made that curtailment will satisfy many congressional leaders, but the majority may determine otherwise, in which event some revenue legislation may be necessary, and an extra session for that purpose may be called.

But this is said to be a remote contingency, and the probabilities, according to the leaders who are here, are that there will be neither tariff legislation nor an extra session.

WILL WORK FOR SIUSLAW RIVER.

Hermann Will Co-operate With San Francisco Delegation.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Representative Hermann appeared today before the river and harbor committee with the expectation of having a hearing, so that he might present the needs of various river and harbor improvements along the Oregon coast, but was informed that the committee is giving no hearings. An arrangement has been made, however, for a hearing before the subcommittee, at which time Mr. Hermann will appear with the delegation from San Francisco, now en route to Washington to urge a liberal appropriation for the improvement of the Siuslaw river. Mr. Wandling, a large shipowner of San Francisco, who is deeply interested in the Siuslaw trade, will head the committee. If permitted to do so, Mr. Hermann will also urge the subcommittee to make liberal appropriations for other rivers and harbors along the Oregon coast.

Taft's Mission a Success.

Panama, Dec. 5.—Negotiations are still in progress between Secretary of War Taft, representing the United States, and the Panama government, in looking to the settlement of points in dispute regarding the government of the canal zone, and an agreement may be said to be in sight. In order that possible complications may be avoided the conferences are being conducted in secret, and nothing will be given out until both sides are agreed. President Avondor tonight gave a banquet in honor of Secretary Taft.

Health Good in Islands.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The last monthly report of the chief of surgeons of the Philippines, covering the year ending October 10, just received by Surgeon General O'Reilly, shows the percentage of sick out of a total strength of 17,664 soldiers, to have been less than 6 per cent. The surgeon general regards this as a splendid showing for the tropics. But six deaths occurred during that month from disease. The chief surgeon reported an entire absence of smallpox among the troops.

Will Wait on Russia.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Official announcement was made at the state department of Russia's conditional acceptance of the American government's invitation to join the other powers at The Hague for a second peace conference. Russia's suggestion for a postponement of the congress until the close of the war must necessarily delay further steps for the present, for the reason that it is desired that Russia shall participate in this conference.

New Russian Loan Soon.

Paris, Dec. 5.—The bankers here expect that the new Russian loan of \$50,000,000 will be issued this or next month. A syndicate of French banks will take approximately \$100,000,000, and the German banks \$100,000,000. It is believed that the new loan will be readily taken up at nearly par, or above 98 1/2.

Coast Shipping Considered.

Washington, Dec. 1.—The Merchant Marine commission today made further progress toward completion of its report to congress. Some attention was given to the difficult problems presented by the conditions on the Pacific coast. The commission regards American shipping relatively stronger on the Pacific than on the Atlantic coast at the present time, yet the American ships, it is stated, are being severely pressed by foreign competition.

Calls Witnesses in Smoot Case.