

WANTS NO ISLANDS AS STATES.

Whitelaw Reid Makes Notable Speech on Expansion at Banquet.

New York, Dec. 26.—The annual dinner of the New England society of the city of New York held tonight in the Waldorf-Astoria was a more notable affair than any held during the 48 years since the incorporation of the society. There were 554 diners.

After a toast had been drunk to the "President of the United States," Whitelaw Reid spoke on "Forefathers' Day." Passing to a consideration of national expansion, he said: "Shall we find that safe course by roaming the oceans to drag in semi-tropical and revolutionary communities, to be made states in the American union, equal from the start to ourselves, with sometimes, perhaps, a balance of power that may enable them to govern us and the land of our fathers?"

"Such questions have burst upon us too suddenly out of our recent expansion to justify at the outset harsh criticisms of any rash or ill-considered proposals that may rise to the surface in the first froth of public discussion. But I venture to predict that the time will come within the lives of many who now hear me when the man who shall propose the incorporation as a state into this government of the United States of America of any island of the sea, the Philippines, the Sandwich Islands, or Porto Rico, or Cuba, will be hunted from political life as a political enemy, whether he be animated merely by lingering reminiscences of the filibusters and the slavery propaganda, or whether he represent a sugar trust in Wall street or a sage brush state in the United States senate."

COLOMBIAN TROOPS SIGHTED.

Cruiser Mayflower Returns From a Cruise to Gulf of Darien.

Colon, Dec. 26.—Everything is quiet along the Atlantic coast. The cruiser Mayflower came in today from the gulf of Darien, to which place she went after stopping at the Isle of Pines. The Mayflower was sent out hurriedly on receipt of the news brought by a native coasting schooner that Colombian troops had been landed on the island. Arriving at the island, which is inhabited by San Blas Indians, the Mayflower made a thorough examination and found the report to be untrue. The Mayflower then continued to cruise along the coast toward the gulf of Darien examining the coast, and in the afternoon reached Titumati, where the cruiser Atlanta saw the Colombian troops a week ago.

The Mayflower ran in close to the Titumati shore and clearly saw a number of Colombian soldiers on the beach. No landing was made by the Mayflower, which did not attempt to communicate with the Colombians, and shortly afterward departed.

While steaming out of the gulf, the Mayflower sighted and soon passed close to the Colombian cruiser General Pizon, which was steaming at the rate of six knots toward Titumati. It was seen that the General Pizon had about 350 Colombian soldiers aboard.

SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC IN UTAH.

Great Number of Persons Were Exposed at a Public Ball.

Salt Lake, Dec. 26.—An epidemic of smallpox is raging in Cache and Box Elder counties in the northern portion of this state and the medical authorities in the affected districts have appealed to the state board of health to establish a quarantine. The rapid spread of the disease is said to be the result of numerous dances held recently, which were attended by persons suffering from the contagion.

In Box Elder county 77 cases have already been reported, the little town of Mantua alone having 49 cases within its borders.

In Cache county the scourge, while widespread, has not as yet assumed such a serious aspect as in the adjoining county. The disease is of a comparatively mild form, and no deaths from it have yet been reported.

Military Tells Officers to Work on O.

Victor, Colo., Dec. 26.—Major H. A. Naylor, in command of the district during the absence of Colonel Vandenberg, made the statement today that owing to the large number of idle men throughout the district, an order would be made early next week that all those having no employment or visible means of support would be given the alternative of one of three things—either to go to work, leave the district or go to the bullpen for an indefinite term. The disbursement of \$20,000 to the soldiers began today.

Sounds Berlin Bankers.

Berlin, Dec. 26.—The Tageblatt's St. Petersburg correspondent says it is said in financial circles that the Russian government is sounding Berlin bankers regarding the floating of a loan amounting to \$125,000,000. The Russian government, the correspondent says, thinks it can use the negotiations for a commercial treaty between Russia and Germany as a club to compel the German government to permit the loan.

Bid on Irrigation Project.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Bids were opened at the interior department today for constructing the 500 feet of tunnel preliminary to the work of building the Salt River irrigation project in Arizona. About \$10,000 is involved in this part of the project, and Wilton & Ross, of Riverside, Cal., who bid \$38.50 a lineal foot, were the lowest of the four bidders.

TRAIN WRECKED

Sixty-Three Dead and Thirty Injured in Pennsylvania.

VICTIMS ARE ROASTED TO DEATH

Timbers Which Had Fallen on Tracks From Freight Train the Cause—Many Wild and Horrible Scenes Followed.

Connellsville, Pa., Dec. 28.—With a terrible crash the Duquesne limited, the fastest through passenger train from Pittsburg to New York, on the Baltimore & Ohio, plowed into a pile of lumber at Laurel Run, two miles west of Dawson, at 7:45 o'clock tonight, and it is estimated that 63 lives were lost, and 30 persons were injured.

The train left Pittsburg this evening, running a few minutes late, in charge of Engineer William Thornley, of Connellsville. When approaching Laurel Run, which is a particularly good piece of road, the train was running at a high rate of speed. Suddenly the passengers were thrown from their seats by the lightninglike application of the brakes, and a moment later there was a terrific crash.

The train was made up of two baggage cars, two day coaches, one sleeper, and one dining car, and at the time was carrying at the lowest estimate 150 passengers. The train plowed along for a considerable distance, and the cars were torn to pieces, passengers jumping, screaming and falling from the wreck as it tore along. Suddenly the engine swerved to the left and the coaches plunged down over the embankment to the edge of the Younghooky river.

The moment the cars stopped rolling there was a wild scene. Many persons were pinned beneath the wreckage, and the screams and cries that rent the air were beyond description. Many were injured in their mad excitement and plunged into the river. Others, pinned beneath the heavy timbers, pleaded in agonized tones for release. So terrific was the force of the wreck that nearly every passenger suffered a moment's unconsciousness, and many of the able-bodied men were unable to assist in helping the injured from the wreck on account of having fainted.

The wreck was caused by the breaking of castings on a carload of bridge timbers on a west bound freight train which had passed Laurel Run not more than 15 minutes before the ill-fated passenger train. The wreck occurred on a curve, and it was impossible for Engineer Thornley to see far enough ahead to detect the obstruction on the tracks.

LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS.

Three Days' Session Sufficient to Enact Needed Legislation.

Salem, Dec. 24.—The special session of the Oregon legislature ended last night at 11:15 o'clock. In a three day session the legislature accomplished all that had been desired, an achievement made possible by perfect harmony among the members.

Yesterday both houses passed the bill appropriating \$100,000 for securing a right of way for the Cello canal, and also a number of bills of minor importance.

Killing of Chinese pheasants has been prohibited until 1906. Ten per cent has been fixed as the maximum rate of interest to be charged upon property sold for taxes. No person, except the person paying the same, will be permitted to maintain a suit to recover fees paid to county recorders under the invalid fee law.

A law has been passed permitting owners of water rights to condemn and appropriate the property and water rights of others for a public use.

The total cost of the session has been about \$7,500, for the payment of which an appropriation was made.

The new barracks at the soldiers' home at Roseburg will be furnished at a cost of \$2,500.

The legislature memorialized congress in favor of the Department of the Interior bill, which, if passed, will bring an appropriation of \$250,000 to Oregon, and also in favor of increasing salaries of rural mail carriers from \$500 to \$800 per year.

For Ratifying Treaty.

Washington, Dec. 28.—It is learned at the state department that the period of time from now until October 8 of next year is open during which the exchange of ratifications may take place between the United States and China of the commercial treaty recently ratified by the senate. The ratifications must take place in Washington. There has been some intimation that they never will take place, because secret opposition of foreign powers may cause the Chinese government to withhold its ratification of the treaty.

Assistant to Cortelyou.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Lawrence O. Murray, of Chicago, has been chosen assistant secretary of commerce and labor. The selection was announced today by the president, who stated that the office had been tendered to and accepted by Mr. Murray, and that the nomination would be sent to the senate after the holiday recess. The appointment is made on the recommendation of Secretary Cortelyou, who has known Mr. Murray for a number of years.

Authorized to Sign Treaty With Cuba.

Rome, Dec. 28.—Signor Savina, the Italian minister to Cuba, has been authorized to sign a treaty of commerce and navigation between Italy and Cuba similar to that of 1890 between Italy and Mexico and including provisions for arbitration in the case of disputes.

QUICK TO GET TO WORK.

Both Houses Transact Business With Dispatch.

Salem, Dec. 22.—Both houses of the Oregon legislature organized at 10 o'clock yesterday morning by electing all the officers who served at the regular session of 1903. This organization does not include the election of committee clerks, and unless the session should be prolonged more than three days no clerks other than a few stenographers will be employed.

There was nearly a full attendance in each branch of the legislature. In the house Representative Davey, of Marion, is the only absentee. In the senate, Daley of Benton, and McGinnis of Multnomah, are absent and excused. No one was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the election of Senator Williamson to congress and that seat is vacant. Though the session yesterday was short the legislature accomplished more than was expected. It had been anticipated that the two houses would organize and then as a token of respect to the late Representative Murphy adjourn until today, when the governor's message would be received.

Both houses were called to order promptly, rushed the organization proceedings, and at 11 o'clock met in joint convention to hear the message. This communication was short and was read by the governor in 15 minutes. The senate took the lead in the transaction of business by adopting a joint memorial introduced by President Brownell urging the claim of Oregon upon the federal government for aid to the Lewis and Clark fair and asking congress to enact the appropriation bill for that purpose. The memorial was passed without a dissenting vote.

The chief event of interest on the opening day of the legislature was the introduction of two resolutions by Democratic members of the house, the purpose of which was to precipitate the short session issue. Billyen, of Linn, presented a resolution declaring that legislation at the special session should be confined to tax legislation. Burleigh, of Union and Willowa, presented a resolution declaring for adjournment on Wednesday evening. After a sharp debate both resolutions were referred to the committee on resolutions. At 11:30 both houses adjourned out of respect to the late Representative Murphy, formal resolutions on the death of his colleague being offered in the house by Representative Burleigh and adopted by that body.

Ex-Congressman M. A. Moody, of The Dalles, is here conferring with members from his section of the state regarding legislation on the portage railway and government canal.

FAILS TO FLAG TRAIN.

Brakeman Is Responsible for a Bad Wreck on Kansas Road.

Kansas City, Dec. 24.—In a wreck today at Godfrey, Kan., of the "Meteor," the St. Louis & San Francisco railway fast train from the south, nine persons were killed and 32 others injured. Of the injured, five probably will die and 14 were seriously hurt.

The responsibility for the wreck is laid at the door of a brakeman of the freight crew, who failed to flag the train. He has disappeared. The engine on the freight had become dead, and the crew was ordered to remain on the main track and turn the switch for the passenger, then about due, the brakeman being ordered to flag the "Meteor." This he neglected to do.

In the crash the baggage car telescoped the engine landed in a cornfield, while the smoker and the two chair cars were piled in a mass on top of the engine. Most of the injured were in the chair cars, which took fire soon after the wreck occurred.

Navy Will Control Matters.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Under the impression that war is surely to occur between the United States and Colombia, the quartermaster-general of the army has been besieged by railroad and shipping men desirous of transporting troops. It was pointed out today that while the landing of marines on foreign soil occasioned but little comment and is only an evidence of a disturbed condition of affairs, the embarking of troops puts a different aspect on the situation. For this reason the navy will be permitted to control affairs in isthmian waters.

Seven Great Boilers Explode.

St. Louis, Dec. 24.—A battery of seven boilers in the power house of the St. Louis transit company, at Jefferson and Gay streets, exploded tonight, killing three employees, injuring six and wrecking the building. Without premonition the boilers exploded, the brick walls fell outward and the heavy truss roof dropped, covering the debris in which almost 20 employees were imprisoned. Instantly all the electric lights went out and the darkness prevented prompt work in re-uing.

Colombians Invade Land.

Colon, Dec. 24.—Information has been received here that about 100 Colombian troops have landed at the Island of Pines, northwest of Cape Tiburon, which is situated at the western entrance of the Gulf of Darien. The Island of Pines is in the Panama territory and is the only island along that coast which is wooded, peaked with mountains and also well watered, thus offering every facility for camping and being used as a base of observation.

Cattle Allowed on Reserves.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock today authorized the grazing of 97,000 sheep and 4,250 cattle and horses on the northern division of the Cascade forest reserve from June 10 to October next; also 20,000 sheep in the eastern division of the Washington forest reserve.

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