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THE LEADER.

THE RAILROAD GATEWAY
—TO—
....BOHEMIA GOLD MINES

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COTTAGE GROVE AND LEMATI.

THE LEADER.

Devoted to the Best Interests of Cottage Grove, Lemati and Bohemia Gold Mining District.

LEADER BUILDING

E. P. THORP,
EDITOR and BUSINESS MANAGER

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CHURCH DIRECTORY.

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Sunday school, 10 A. M. Preaching, 11 A. M. and 7 P. M., first and third Sunday in each month. Prayer meeting, each Wednesday at 8 P. M. ("We are journeying unto a place of which the Lord said, I will give it you: come thou with us and we will do thee good."—Numb. 10:29). REV. C. A. WOOLEY, Pastor.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH—SERVICES AT 11 A. M. and 8 P. M. Sunday school at 10 A. M. Y. P. S. C. E., each Sunday at 4 P. M. Midweek prayer and praise services, Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock. Musical rehearsal, each Saturday evening at 7 o'clock.

METHODIST CHURCH—SUNDAY SCHOOL at 10 A. M. Preaching each fourth Sunday morning and evening. Prayer meeting, every Thursday night. "The Lord is in His holy temple." REV. M. O. BRINK, Pastor.

VENEZUELAN AFFAIR

AS VIEWED FROM AN ENGLISH STANDPOINT.

A London Paper Publishes a Mass of Matter—One Writer Says the Claim Would Be Similar to One Made by Spain for Gibraltar.

London, Dec. 31.—The Chronicle publishes a mass of matter on the Venezuela affair, including maps in possession of the colonial office, extracts from the American papers which have arrived by mail and an article by Frederick Harrison, declaring that the Venezuela claim is on all fours with a Spanish claim to Gibraltar. Harrison adds:

"If the United States can persuade Venezuela to submit to a bona fide boundary settlement and to drop her swagger about Charles V and Philip II of Spain, and can enforce an award when it is made, the question could be settled in a month."

The Brussels delegate to the Venezuela government, Velos Guiticoa, recently visited The Hague, and exhausted every channel without success in support of the Venezuela claim.

Five years ago the British vice-consul at Ciudad Bolivar, examined the Spanish records and proved the British aspect of the case completely."

The Berlin correspondent of the Standard says:

"I have excellent reasons to state that the reports of an agreement between Russia and the United States about Venezuela are unfounded. On the contrary the czar was painfully surprised at President Cleveland's message, and any war involving England would be unwelcome to the Russian court, on the approach of the coronation."

The New York correspondent of the Times, while he affirms his previous convictions that there is no longer any feeling for war with England at present in the United States, says there lies a real danger in the future. He attributes this partly to the personal character of the president or that quality of it "which his friends call firmness and his enemies stubborness."

The proposed meeting of the American society for the purpose of an expression of the people for an amicable settlement of existing differences between England and the United States has been abandoned in view of the improved situation.

The Order of Crusaders has forwarded through the Hon. Neal Dow, Mother Stewart and Miss Frances Willard, a New Year's greeting to the Temperance Workers of America, with the hope that the war will now be averted.

The Venezuela Commission.

Hagerstown, Ind., Dec. 31.—The report that Richard H. Alvey, chief justice of United States court of appeals, District of Columbia, has been requested by President Cleveland to become a memeber of the Venezuela commission, is confirmed. The request was made Thursday last in Washington. The proposition took Judge Alvey by surprise, and he begged for time to consider the matter before committing himself. This the president granted. He is at his home in Hagerstown, and will be here until his court meets the first Monday in January.

Tonight Judge Alvey said that he had not yet fully made up his mind whether he would accept or not, for many of his cases would come up before the district court of appeals at the January term. Because of his heavy judicial duties, and for other reasons, he hesitated about immediately accepting the president's offer. He is heartily in accord with the president's views, and feels under obligations to further Mr. Cleveland's policy.

Cause of His Silence.

London, Dec. 31. — The Chronicle says: "Lord Dunraven's failure to incriminate Defender's owner or crew is complete. He may now in cold blood reflect that he has done more to breed bad blood between the two nations than all others combined."

The Southern Pacific Dividend.

New York, Dec. 26.—The announcement was made in Wall street today that the Southern Pacific will pay, January 2, to stockholders of the Central Pacific, as under agreement, a semi-annual dividend of ½ of 1 per cent.

STRATHNEVIS IS SAFE.

The Disabled Steamship Has Reached Port Townsend.

Port Townsnd, Wash., Dec. 27.—The steamship Strathnevis, which sailed from Tacoma October 12 for the Orient and was about given up for lost, arrived in port at 10 o'clock last night, in tow of the steamer Mineola. The officers report a remarkable voyage, one filled with danger and privations, and Monday afternoon last all hope of saving the vessel was abandoned, and liferafts and boats were manned, and preparations made for leaving the vessel, as she was in imminent danger of drifting ashore on Destruction island, where certain death stared them in the face.

Now that the Strathnevis is safe, grave fears are entertained for the safety of the Australian steamship Miowera, which had the Strathnevis in tow for five days. The captain of the Miowera personally assured the chief officer of the disabled steamship that his vessel would stand by at all hazards to render assistance in saving lives.

Ten miles off Cape Flattery last Friday afternoon, during a violent gale, the two steel hawsers parted suddenly, and the Miowera disappeared in the storm. The Miowera had the Strathnevis in tow five days and had exhausted the larger part of her fuel. The master told the captain of the Strathnevis that the Miowera would have to return to Puget sound for coal.

BACK DOWN OR FIGHT.

George Kennan Says That Is What This Country Will Have to Do.

Cleveland, Dec. 27.—George Kennan, the well-known writer and lecturer, speaking of the Venezuela dispute, said:

"I am surprised, in fact dumfounded, at the readiness of the American people to bring on a first-class war. Two months ago every mouth in this land was preaching peace at the contemplation of war in the Orient and Europe, and here today even the ministers of the gospel are shouting for war.

"I regrat the condition, because I greatly fear that a terrible war is imminent. England will not back down from her position. This can be taken for a certainty. If President Cleveland's interpretation of the Monroe doctrine is not altered and is to be upheld, we shall have war, and the greatest war which ever transpired. It will not only take in the United States and Great Britain, but would involve the world.

"A foreign war will be very disastrous to us, and, while I have have no doubt that we shall win and add Canada to our possessions, it will be very close to ruination to us.

"Such a war is bound to come unless the United States backs down, and I don't think it will. It will be the greatest calamity to humanity which has ever occurred."

THE STRIKE ENDED.

Basis of Settlement Reached by the Company and Striking Employes.

Philadelphia, Dec. 26.—The great trolly strike is ended. This is the final. John Wannamaker is the man who brought about the settlement. He was aided by members of the Chirstian League. The basis of the settlement is as follows:

First—While the Union Traction Company will treat only with the workmen in its employ, it will allow them membership in any lawful organization.

Second—It will take up their greivances and give them full and fair consideration.

Third—It will immediately put on the old men as fast as vacancies arise; will give preference to any of the old men yet unemployed, and endeavor to arrange the trips of the cars to favor the old men as far as possible without violating its contract with the new men.

The questions of compensation and hours are left for future determination.

Concessions were made by both sides. The battle has been mainly fought on the question of the employes' membership in the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employes, which the company has persistently refused to recognize. The new men engaged since the strike beagn number nearly 1,000. There were about 5,000, strikers. They will report for work tomorrow morning.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

Movement to Substitute the Popular Vote for the Electoral College.

New York, Dec. 26.—A local paper says:

T. M. Curtin, a cousin of the late Andrew Curtin, who was governor of Pennsylvania, and a relative of Jeremiah Curtin, who for many years was connected with the United States legation at St. Petersburg, is preparing to spend $100,000 to secure an amendment to the constitution of the United States. Most of the money will come from Mr. Curtin's own pocket. The balance will be given by two friends, who are earnest believers in his project and who have the utmost faith in his ability to accompiish his object.

Mr. Curtin and his private secretary are at present visiting friends in this city. The amendment to the constitution for which Mr. Curtin is now working is the election of the president by a popular vote instead of by a college of electors.

After he has accomplished this, as he feels sure he will, he intends to work for a change by which United States senators will also be chosen by popular vote. Such a change, Mr. Curtin thinks, would be of great benefit to the country and would prevent much injustice from which the people are now suffering. As a first step toward bringing about the change, Mr. Curtin and his friends are about to establish a bureau in Washington through which an expression of opinion as to the best man to be nominated for president by the leading parties will be secured. This bureau will be opened in a few days and will be at work until after the Democratic and Republican conventions.

Duke of Leeds Dead.

London, Dec. 26.—George C. Osborne, the ninth duke of Leeds, is dead, aged 58.

DOINGS OF CONGRESS

ROUTINE WORK OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION.

Substance of the Bills and Resolutions Introduced in the Senate and House—Make-up of the Various Committees—The Senate.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The Democratic steering committee of the senate today completed the last assignment of minority members of the committees, and handed the list to Mitchell, chairman of the Republican caucus committee. The chairmen of the more important committees are as follows:

Appropriations, Allison; finance, Morrill; foreign relations, Sherman; judiciary, Hoar; commerce, Frye; interstate commerce, Cullom; military affairs, Hawley; naval affairs, Cameron; public lands, Dubois; Indian affairs, Pettigrew; claims, Teller; coast defense, Squire; education and labor, Shoup; territories, Davis; Pacific railroads, Gear; pensions, Gallinger; postoffices and postroads, Wolcott; agriculture and forestry, Proctor; private land claims, Harris; manufactures, Wetmore; fisheries, Perkins; civil service and retrenchment, Pritchard; immigration, Lodge; irrigation and reclamation of arid lands, Warren; mines and mining, Stewart; railroads, Clark; Indian depredations, Wilson; transportation routes to the seaboard, McBride; Nicaragua canal and Nicaragua claims, Morgan; international exposition, Thurston; national banks, Mantle; forestry reservations and protection thereof, Allen; to investigate tresspassers on Indian lands, Baker; woman suffrage, Call.

House.

Washington, Dec. 26.—It being generally understood that the ways and means committee would not be prepared to report its bill for the relief of the treasury situation before Friday, the attendance in the house today was comparatively small.

Mr. Dingley, chairman of the ways and means committee, said the committee met this morning and unanimously decided, in view of the president's message, that it was not appropriate for the house to adjourn until a proper response had been made.

"On Friday," he contnued, "we hope the house will make a response to the urgent request of the president and take some action which will relieve the situation in which the country finds itself."

Beach of Ohio will introduce in the house tomorrow a bill providing that duties imposed by the tariff laws of the United States shall not apply to food products and raw materials from such nations as may make equivalent reciprocal concessions in favor of merchandise imported from the United States.

Washington, Dec. 27. — The two bills to be presented to the house for action and their text are as follows:

No. 1—"A bill to maintain and protect the coin redemption fund, and to authorize for the resumption of specie payments," the issue of certificates of indebtedness to meet the temporary deficiencies of revenue.

"Be it enacted, etc., that in addition to the authority given to the secretary of the treasury by the act approved January 14, 1875, entitled 'An act to Provide for the Resumption of Specie Payments, he is authorized from time to time, at his discretion, to issue, sell and dispose of, at not less than par, in coin, coupon or registered bonds of the United States to an amount sufficient for the object stated in this section bearing not to exceed 3 per cent interest per annum, payable semi-annually and redeemable at the pleasure of the United States in coin, after five years from their date, with like qualities, privileges and exemptions provided in said act for the bonds therein authorized.

"And the secretary of the treasury shall use the proceeds thereof for the redemption of United States legal-tender notes, and for no other purpose.

"Section 2—In order to provide for any temporary deficiency now existing, or which may hereafter occur, the secretary of the treasury is hereby authorized, at his discretion, to issue certificates of indebtedness of the United States to an amount not exceeding $50,000,000, payable in three years after their date, to the bearer, in lawful money of the United States, of the denomination of $20, or multiples thereof, with annual coupons for interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum, and to sell and dispose of same for not less than an equal amount of lawful money of the United States.

Bill No. 2.—"A bill to temporarily increase the revenue to meet the expenses of the government and provide against deficiency.

"Be it enacted, etc., that from and after the passage of this act, and until August 1, 1898, there shall be levied, collected and paid on all imported wools of classes 1 and 2, as defined in the act hereinafter cited, approved October 1, 1890, and subject to the conditions and limitations thereof, and on all hair of the camel, goat, alpaca and other animals, except as herein provided; and on all noils, shoddy, garnetted waste, top waste, slubbing waste, roving waste, ring waste, yarn waste and all other wastes composed wholly or in part of wool, and on all woolen rags, mungo and flocks, and a duty equivalent to 60 per cent of the duty imposed on each of such articles.

"Section 2—That from and after the passage of this act and until August 1, 1898, there shall be levied, collected and paid on all imported articles, made in whole or in part of wool, worsted, or other materials described in section 1, of this act.

"Section 3—That after passage of this act, and until August 1, 1898, there shall be levied and paid on import lumber and other articles designated in paragraphs 674 to 683, inclusive, of an act entitled 'An act to Reduce Taxation, to Provide Revenue for the Government and for Other Purposes,' which became a law August 27, 1894, a duty equivalent to 60 per cent of the duties imposed on each of such articles."

Washington, Dec. 30.—The house today responded to the appeal of the president by passing a tariff bill, the operation of which is limited to two and a half years and which is designed to raise $40,000,000 for the relief of the treasury. The vote today was on party lines, with two exceptions. The Republicans all voted for the bill except Hartman of Montana, who did not vote, and the Democrats and Populists against it, save Newlands of Nevada, who voted in favor of the measure. The special order under which the bill was brought to a vote, after three and a half hours of debate, was ironclad in character and compelled the members to adopt or reject it without opportunity of offering amendments of any kind.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The house today passed the bond bill by a vote of 170 to 136; and the house, having discharged the task for which it had been sitting during the recess, effected an agreement by which it should adjourn next week, three days at a time, in order to give membres an opportunity to rest and visit their homes. The closing hours of the debate today were lacking in spirit, and there was practically no excitement until the vote was taken. The margin of 34 by which the first section of the bill, against which the Republican opponents of the measure massed their opposition, was passed showed that the friends of the measure had marshaled every vote in its favor available. As it was 47 Republicans refused to act with the majority of their party. The Populists and Democrats, with the exception of Hutchison, who voted for the bill, presented an unbroken front against the bill.

DEATH IN HOT WATER.

The Terrible Fate of Albert Staub, a Sausage-Maker.

Portland, Or., Dec. 27. — Albert Staub, a sausage-maker, fell into a tank of hot water in the steam sausage factory at the corner of Flanders and Ninth streets, about 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and was so badly scalded that he died at 7:30 o'clock last evening.

Staub had been at work almost night and day for the past four days, rendering lard and preparing for a holiday display. After this had been taken away, he had been killing chickens, and yesterday he started to clean up the premises. He had heated water for that purpose in a steam tank, which is about four feet square and the water was two and one-half feet deep in it. The valve for shutting off the steam is at the back of the tank, so as to be out of the way. Staub stood on a sort of grating in front of the tank, which is raised from the floor on slats, and reached across to turn off the steam. As he leaned forward the grating slipped on the greasy floor, and he pitched head first into the boiling water. In a moment he had his head above the surface, sprang out of the tank, and ran to the door, calling in agonized tones, "Help! help!"

R. Gerdes and his brother, who live near by, ran to his assistance. Staub was in great agony and his screams were pitiful. They tore off his shirt as quickly as possible, and, when the sleeves were pulled down over his hands, the skin of his arms came away from the elbows down over the hands to the ends of the fingers, where it hung, like long gloves turned inside out.

As quickly as possible, physicians were summoned, and did all in their power for the sufferer.

He lingered through the afternoon, gradually failing, and finally fell into a comatose condition, and about 7:30 passed away. Staub was a Swiss by birth, about 26 years of age, and leaves a wife and infant child. He had taken out an accident policy a month or two since; so they will not be unprovided for.

THE VENEZUELA SITUATION.

English Press Comment Is Calmer and a Peaceful Settlement Hoped For.

New York, Dec. 27.—The World publishes the following cablegrams received in reply to its requests for opinions upon the Venezuelan situation:

From the Prince of Wales—Sir Francis Knolleys is desired by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York to thank Mr. Pulitzer for the cablegram. They earnestly trust, and cannot but believe, the present crisis will be arranged in a manner satisfactory to both countries, and will be succeeded by the same warm feeling of friendship which has existed between them for so many years.

From the Bishop of London—With all my heart I pray to God to avert from this country and the United States the crime and disaster of war between them; and I hold it to be the bounden duty of every man in both countries to avoid all provocative language, and to do all that he can conscientiously to promote peace.

The following unsolicited dispatch was received from the Freemasons of Manchester: "Christmas Greetings Freemasons' Club, Manchester, to American Freemasons: Glory to God in the Highest; on earth, peace, goodwill to men."

Various English religious bodies have cabled their brethren in America their sympathy with their efforts for peace.

London, Dec. 27.—The afternoon newsapers today continue their comments upon the Venezuela question, and hopes are expressed that the Christmas holidays will continue to bring about a calmer mood on both sides of the Atlantic. The possibility of war between Great Britain and the United States is regarded as past and the affair is now viewed chiefly from the standpint of American domestic politics and its bearing upon the financial situation.

Thomas A. Edison, the inventor, is being pleasantly chaffed as the result of the publication here of an alleged interview with him, in which he is quoted as describing a number of startling inventions which he is said to be ready to bring forward in the event of war.

The St. James's Gazette, commenting upon the statement attributed to John Redmond, the Irish leader, regarding the attitude of Ireland in case of war, styles him a traitor, and says it believes him also to be a libeler when he says that Ireland would go solidly American. The St. Jame's Gazette asks what would happen to the American politician just now who would say, in the event of war, Ireland would fight for Enlgand.

TOWN AND COUNTY

PROGRESS AND DOINGS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

Supreme Court of Washington Sustains Acts of Capitol Commission—Over 500 Homestead Entries Filed in the Nez Perce Reservation—Oregon News.

Much valuable data is contained in the recent annual report of the engineer in charge of the improvement of the Willamette and Lower Columbia river and their tibutaries. It is a very exhaustive report and covers comprehensively all the improvements and surveys under Major Post's charge. The report was transmitted to congress by the secretary of war, who summarized its principal features in his own report. Mouth of the Columba river, Oregon and Washington—The project for this work was adpoted in 1884. During the year ending June 30, 1895, 138,900.1 tons of rock was added to the jetty which was raised to its completed height for a length of about three and a quarter miles (station 53 to station 230). Groins Nos. 3 and 4 each 1,000 feet long were also finished and the main line of the jetty with the exception of about 700 feet at the inshore end, where some additional rock is still required, was completed. An elevated track for use in constructing the shore revetment which has a total length of 3,675 feet, has been nearly finished. Soundings taken in May and June, 1895 show that there is now a direct channel over the bar seven-eights of a mile wide and thirty feet deep at low water and that for a width of one-half mile the low water channel depth is at least thirty-one feet. Columbia and Lower Willamette rivers below Portland, Or.—The project for improving these rivers, adopted in 1877 and modified in 1891, contemplates securing a channel from Portland to the sea having a low water depth of twenty-five feet. Prior to commencing the improvement the low water depth of the channel was from ten to fifteen feet at the shoalest places. Up to 1891 this depth had been increased to ninteen feet by the construction of dams at Swan island chute, at Willamette slough, and at other sloughs in the Willamette river near its mouth, and of a dike at St. Helens and dams at Burke slough and Martin slough in the Columbia river, the effect of these works being aided by dredging and bank protection where most needed. Since the modification of the porject so as to secure a channel depth of twenty-five feet, dikes have been built by the port of Portland and St. Johns and Postoffice bars in the Willamette river, and at Walker's island, Snag island, and Cathlamet bay in the Columbia river. This corporation has also dredged the channel at Swan island and Postoffice bar in the Willamette river and in the Columbia river at the mouth of the Willamette at St. Helens, at Martin's island, Walker's island, and in Cathlamet bay, removing a total of 320,241 cubic yards of material at these points. The work done by the United States has consisted in extending the dike at St. Helens, in constructing a dike at Martin's island, in the Columbia river, in dredging the channels of both rivers at various places, and the removal of snags wherever necessary. During the year ending June 30, 1895, the dike at Martin's island has been thoroughly repaired, and dredging has been carried on to maintain, and, as far as practicable, to increase the depth of the channel from Portland to the sea, the total quantity of material removed being 423,372 cubic yards. In the Willamette dredging was done at Postoffice bar and at the mouth of the river, and in the Columbia river, on the bars at Hunter's point, at Martin's island, at Pillar rock, at Walker's island, and opposite Astoria. Vessels drawing twenty feet can now pass over the shoalest places at low water, and, by taking advantage of the tides, vessels drawing twenty-three feet of water or more can come to Portland without difficulty. Columbia river between Vancouver, Wash., and the mouth of Willamette river—The project for this improvement, adopted in 1892, provides for the construction of a low dam across the slough on the Oregon side of Hayden island to increase the volume of water, and by the additional scour to remove a troublesome bar in the main channel. Work during the fiscal year has consisted in dredging the bars on the notrh side of the island for the relief of navigation, the depth on these bars having been increased from nine feet to thirteen feet at low water. Willamette river, above Portland, and Yamhill river, Oregon—At the time of the adoption of the present project, in 1878, the mouth of the Yamhill river, forty miles above Portland, was the head of low-water navigation, with a draft of two and one-half feet. The project of 1878 contemplates the improvement of the river by the removal of obstructions and the construction of dikes to contract the waterway at shoal places so as to secure a navigable channel for light-draft boats from Portland to Eugene, a distance of 172 miles. This project was extended in 1892 to include the removal of obstructions in the Yamhill river from its mouth to McMinnville, and by the river and harbor acts of 1892 and 1894 allotments of $3,000 and $2,000, respectively, were made for the purpose from the appropriations for improving the Willamette river above Portland. During the past year snagging operations have been continued from Portland to Eugene on the Willamette river and to McMinnville on the Yamhill river. Amount that can be profitably expended in fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, $25,000.

Washington.

Davenport wants a new town hall.

The construction of the new Catholic church at Marysville has been commenced.

It is reported that an electric light plant will be put in at Stella to light up the water front.

Hanson's Ferry is to have a two-story building, the lower floor to be a postoffice, and the upper story to be a public hall.

The Commercial Club at Everett is to publish pamphlets descriptive of the place, 20,000 copies of which are to be printed in January.

The Asotin flouring mill, recently burned, is to be rebuilt on a larger plan. The work of rebuilding will be commenced shortly.

The New Whatcom council has been petitioned for a franchise by the B. B. & E. Railroad Co., to build a bridge and single track railroad. The motive power to be steam or electricity.

The prospective owner of the Tacoma, Lake Park & Columbia River railway has arrived for the purpose of looking over the road with a view to extend it through the Cowlitz pass.

The North Yakima Commercial Club wants the Northern Pacific to put up a new depot building there, adequate to the needs of that section and in keeping with its commercial importance.

It is reported that a charter has been applied for from the Columbia river to the Kettle river district and that the road will be built next season. The Canadian Pacific is reported to be back of the enterprise.

One of the biggest jams known in the Skagit for five years occurred recently. Loggers claim that 16,000,000 feet of logs came down. The river was filled so solidly for three hours that it could be safely crossed.

Iron ore has been brought from the Conner mines near Hamilton to Everett to be tested. It is rumored that the tests have proven satisfactory and that soon shipments at the rate of ten carloads per day will commence.

It is now understood that the agent of the Boston capitalists, who thought of advancing funds to complete the Blaine & Eastern have decided to report unfavorable, because of the scattered condition of the subsidy proposals.

Eastern orders have taken a sudden sump and the shingle trade is at a standstill. For the past three weeks little or no business has been done by the dealers than to clean up the orders on hand. The situation of two months ago is reversed.

The new gymnasium of the university of Washington offers unexcelled facilities for athletic training. The number in attendance at the college this year is somewhat smaller than last year, owing to the standard being raised and two departments, music and art, being dropped.

The supreme court has sustained the position of the capital commission. This removes the last barrier to the board awarding the contract. The decision was written by Judge Gullen and is concurred in by the entire court. A call for a meeting of the commission has been issued and new bids will be doubtless called for.

The loggers of the Sound, controlling about three-fifths of the output have held a secret meeting for the purpose of forming plans with which they can compete with mill-owners. They intend to put an end to excessive competition by combining with an established and uniform price and classification, and by amicable agreement of the mill-owners to secure advance of price whenever the condition of the market warrants it.

Idaho.

James R. Sheldon, a pioneer of Lewiston, is dead.

Five thousand rabbits were killed at a recent drive at Oakly.

The Presbyterian church of Boise has decided to erect a parsonage.

The Albion State Normal school will be completed about the first of April.

The state treasurer has given notice that the capital building bonds Nos. 26 to 50 are now payable by him.

Two or possibly three new steamers will be built on the Kootenai for passage between Bonners Ferry and Lake Bounds next spring.

Since the opening of the Nez Perces reservation 507 homestead entries have been filed. At present few filings are being made, but the land office officials expect a grand rush in February when the date approaches for the expiration of the ninety days' preference right given to the first actual settlers on the land.

A special agent of the treasury has disbursed in payment $50,000 to the Nez Perce Indians. It is estimated that 343 native Nez Perces have died since the Fletcher allotment of lands was completed in 1893. The births are recorded to the number of ninety-four. These statistics show the destiny of this favored Indian tribe.

Montana.

The people of Billings are taking steps to found a public library.

Montana cattle shpiments for 1895 is placed at 225,000 head. The cattle received compared with 1894 will probably show 700,000 decrease.

The report that scab had gotten among the sheep on the Marias proves to be untrue. Commissioner Miller and others have investigated the matter, and found no trace of the dangerous disease. Sheepmen report their herds perfectly clean.

British Columbia.

Application will be made at the next session of the assembly at British Columbia for the incorporation of a company to maintain and support an electric light and power plant and water works at or near the town of Rossland.

The preliminary steps in the organization of the fruit exchange has been taken at Vancouver, B. C. The organization will have power to operate fruit canneries, evaporators and cider mills.

An application will be made to the legislature to construct and maintain a telegraph and telephone line. It will be carried by the Nelson & Fort Shepard Railway Company.

It is reported that the Kasslo and Slogan Railroad Company will, at the coming session of the legislature, apply for permission to extend the road from Landon to Silverton. Ths extension will probably be begun in the spring.

A fish packing company capitalized at half a million will start operations shotly at Vancouver.

Report of Cuban Defeat Confirmed.

Madrid, Dec. 26.—A dispatch from Colon, province of Matanzas, Cuba, confirms the report that Spanish troops routed 4,000 insurgents on the Calmena river. One hundred of the enemy were killed.

NEW FARM INDUSTRY

FLAX-RAISING WILL RECEIVE SERIOUS ATTENTION

At the Hands of Northwestern Farmers—Whatcom Board of Trade Encourages the Raising of Flax Fibre on Puget Sound.

Success in flax culture for fibre depends upon thoroughness and attention to the lesser details of practice, says the Montana Stockman. Three things are essential: A most careful selection of the soil, with a thorough soil preparation and fertilizing; the use of the best seed that can be purchased; and, lastly, careful and intelligent handling and manipulation of the crop from the time the flax is pulled until the straw is ready for the operation of cleaning or scutching. Only the first two considerations interest the farmer, the third consideration belonging properly to the manufacturing side of the industry, although some foreign flax farmers do pull and ret their crops. The Belgian farmer selects a deep and well cultivated soil that is not too heavy, experience proving that in a dry, calcareous soil the stalk remains short, while in a heavy clayey soil it gives greater length, though at the expense of finer fibre. In Ireland, any clean land in good state of fertility that will produce a good crop of wheat, oats or barley is considered suitable for flax. On heavy soils the Dutch seed is thought to give the best results, while Riga seed is sown upon the light or medium soils. Recent experiments in our own country have demonstrated that the heavier soils, when well drained and of proper fertility, are preferable to lighter soils, known as sand loams. But more depends upon soil selection, where reasonalbe care has been exercised. Among the favorable soils mentioned in the report of the agricultural department experiments are "dark, rich, loamy clay," "heavy clay loam well drained," and "soils varing from sandy loam to the heavier alluvial of the timber lands." In general terms, a moist, deep, strong loam upon upland will give the best results.

Will Flax Pay.

Will flax-raising pay? The Montana Stockman says: "Well, we should say so. A yield of from two to four tons of flax straw and from fifteen to twenty-five bushels of flax seed can be raised to the acre. Hackled flax sells in Boston at from $370 to $800 per ton. Scutcher flax fetches from $180 to $500 per ton and the seed sells in Chicago at 90 cents per bushel. Dr. Thornton says that a necessary plant to hackle flax could be put in for $11,500 and expense account of $28,000 for the first year, a total of $40,000, the net profit on which would be $31,250. This is important to Teton county, if true, because the farmers can raise flax to beat the world. It grows wild there.

A Remunerative Crop.

The Whatcom Board of Trade says:

"We have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the linen manufacturers of the country that flax fibre of the finest quality can be grown on Puget sound and we feel certain that flax will be the leading and safest crop of our farmers and the most remunerative.

"In Whatcom county each acre yields four tons of flax straw, which makes one and one-third tons of scutched fibre. For this fibre, properly prepared, there is always a ready market at prices ranging from $140 to $800 per ton, according to quality—the better the quality the greatar the demand.

"Besides fibre, each acre produces fifteen bushels of seed, worth from $2 to $3 per bushel.

"The cultivation of flax and preparation of the fibre requires the greatest care and skill, and we advise farmers without experience to sow flax in small quantities the first year, and to grow none at all except for seed, unless arrangements are made to properly ret and scutch the fibre. For seed part of the flax should stand still fully matured.

"We recommend the building of co-operative scutch and oil mills. A scutch mill will cost from $300 to $500; an oil mill is a trifle more expensive.

"Further information can be obtained from the secretary of the board of trade, with whom all persons desiring to grow flax next season should immediately correspond in regard to seed.

"Farmers' bulletin, No. 27, relating to flax culture, can be obtained free from the United States agricultural department."

Grafting Experiments.

Experiments in grafting tomato cions on potato stocks, as well as potato cions on tomato stocks, have often been carried on in this country. Of course, in the latter case, the tomato roots do not produce potatoes, but the tomato grafts may bear potato flowers and seed. In a lecture on pototoes, delivered before the Royal Horticultural Society lately, Mr. A. Suttons spoke on a plant graft on a tomato, in which the plant, after having produced a truss of flowers and several berries, seemed to have determined that it was its peculiar duty to produce tubers, and, therefore, several of these were started from the axils of the leaves. A picture of this plant showed half a dozen good-sized tubers growing along the stem.

There is danger that the prevailing price for cotton will tempt planters next year to abandon, to a considerable extent, the safe plan of raising abundant home supplies.

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THE VENEZUELA MATTER.

Spirited Opinions From All Shades of the American Press.

[Chicago Chronicle.]

The president's message is not only a strong appeal to American pride and patriotism in a matter now at issue; it is a clean cut and vehement enunciation of the Monroe doctrine, which in his hands is vitalized as never before since its promulgation.

Unanswerable Argument.

[San Francisco Chronicle.]

The argument of the president is unanswerable. Americans of all shades of political opinion will endorse the special message of the president in that regard.

Approval Is Assured.

[Cincinnati Enquirer.]

President Cleveland may rest well assured of the hearty approval by the American people of the stand he has taken. He can depend on them to follow him to the fighting point, and then through the fight on this important issue.

Few Discordant Voices.

[Iowa State Register.]

The few discordant voices in the Monroe chorus are, we are sorry to say, in Mr. Cleveland's own party. The New York World, which is a popular and powerful exponent of the Democart party in New York city, calls the president's message a blunder and a humiliation.

There Can Be No War.

[Chicago Times-Herald.]

Great Britain will not engage the United States in war for two sufficient reasons. Frist, because she is dependent on foreign soil for more than half her food supply. Secondly, because in addition to starvation her people would be threatened with paralysis of their industry.

Better Late Than Never.

[Boston Journal.]

If a fraction of the administration's vigor had been manifested two year ago, it might not be necessary to speak out so plainly now and the country would have been saved some humliating experiences. But better late than never is a sound maxim. We can afford to let bygones be bygones.

Memorial of John Paul Jones.

[St. Louis Globe Democrat.]

It was in the year 1777 that John Paul Jones, commanding a ship of eighteen guns, appeared on the British coast and made a raid on the coast of Whitehaven. The Declaration of Independence was then but little more than a year old. If England is counting on immunity from attack at her own doors in case of war with this country she has forgotten the grit and enterprise of American sailors.

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