

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Doings of the World at Large Told in Brief.

General Resume of Important Events Presented in Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

Imperial forces in China are preparing for another big battle.

Samuel and William Muncy, twins, of New York City, celebrated their 93d birthday on Christmas day.

President and Mrs. Taft escaped their special guards and went calling on friends for two hours on Christmas eve.

More than 1,000,000 gallons of molasses were destroyed by fire on the wharves of the Boston Molasses company.

Europe is profoundly impressed by the force of public opinion in the United States on the Russian passport question.

A South Chicago newspaper which had been active against writers of Black Hand letters was dynamited and the plant practically destroyed.

General Reyes, head of the new Mexican insurgent movement, was located by government authorities on a ranch, together with five of his followers, and captured.

A throng of 100,000 people gathered on the streets and at the windows and on the roofs and balconies of buildings in the heart of San Francisco on Christmas eve and sang songs of peace and good will.

Russian and Persian troops have had a battle near Tabriz.

Alaska delegation says that territory can support millions of people.

Persian officials declare the Russians are murdering women and children in cold blood, and ignoring overtures for peace.

Several hundred newsboys struggled for hours in the streets of Portland Christmas day for coins thrown by generously inclined parties.

Several hundred men are racing with dog teams to a new strike on the head of Sixty-Mile river in Alaska. The temperature is about 40 degrees below zero.

Senator Borah plans a new irrigation loan which will help the Umatilla project.

Indicted packers in Chicago declare the public was benefitted by their business methods.

C. L. Smith, newly appointed agriculturist for the O.-W. R. & N. Co., will visit many farms along the line to gather practical information.

A government engineer has approved the proposed expenditure of \$800,000 for the improvement of Tillamook bay, on the Oregon coast.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, 81@82c; club, 79c; red Russian, 78c; valley, 80c; forty-fold, 79@80c.

Corn—Whole, \$37; cracked, \$38 ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$23 per ton; middlings, \$30; shorts, \$24; rolled barley, \$37@38.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$30.50@31 ton.

Hay—No. 1 Eastern Oregon timothy, \$18@18.50; No. 1 valley, \$15@16; alfalfa, \$13@14; clover, \$11@12; grain, \$12@13.

Barley—Feed, \$36@37 ton.

Fresh Fruits—Pears, 50c@1.50 per box; grapes, \$1.25@1.50; cranberries, \$12@13 per barrel; casabas, \$1.50 per crate.

Apples—Jonathans, \$1.50@2.25 per box; Spitzenberg, \$1@2.50; Baldwin, 75c@1.50; Red Cheek Pippin, \$1.25@1.75; Northern Spy, \$1.25@1.75; Winter Bananas, \$2@3; Bellflower, \$1.10@1.35.

Potatoes—Buying prices: Burbanks, 90c@1.20 per hundred.

Onions—Jobbing price, \$1.50 per sack.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 90c per dozen; cabbage, 1@1 1/4c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.90@2 per crate; cucumbers, \$1.25@1.75 per dozen; celery, California, \$4@4.25 per crate; egg plant, 12c per pound; garlic, 6@10c per pound; lettuce, \$2.50 per crate; peppers, 8@10c per pound; pumpkins, 1@1 1/4c per pound; sprouts, 9@10c per pound; squash, 1 1/4@1 1/2c; tomatoes, \$1.75 per box; carrots, \$1 per sack; turnips, \$1; beets, \$1; parsnips, \$1.

Butter—Oregon creamery butter, solid pack, 36; prints, extra; butter fat, 1c less than solid pack prices.

Poultry—Hens, 12c; springs, 11@12; ducks, young, 17@18c; geese, 12@13c; turkeys, live, 20@21c; dressed, choice, 22@23c.

Eggs—Fresh Oregon ranch, candled, 37 1/2c per dozen; case-count, 35c per dozen.

Pork—Fancy, 8@8 1/2c per pound.

Veal—Fancy, 14@14 1/2c per pound.

Cattle—Choice steers, \$5.75@6; good, \$5@5.60; choice cows, \$4.60@5; good, \$4.25@4.50; choice spayed heifers, \$5@5.25; good to choice heifers, \$4.50@4.60; choice bulls, \$4.25@4.50; good, \$4@4.25; choice calves, \$7@8; good, \$6.75@7.

Hogs—Choice light hogs, \$6.55@6.65; good to choice hogs, \$6.25@6.50; fair, \$6@6.25; smooth heavy hogs, \$5.25@5.50.

Sheep—Choice yearling wethers, \$3.75@4; choice killing ewes, \$3.25@3.75; choice lambs, \$4.90@5.10; good to choice lambs, \$4.75@4.90; culls, \$3@4.

SHUSTER READY TO QUIT.

Chief Concern is for Staff of American Assistants.

Teheran—M. W. Morgan Shuster, the American treasurer-general who has been dismissed from office by the cabinet in compliance with the demands contained in the Russian ultimatum, has sent his reply to the cabinet, in which he stated his willingness to hand over his accounts when his successor was named. He added that his chief solicitude was for the welfare of his 14 American assistants, concerning whom nothing has yet been decided.

Meetings were held in the various mosques to protest against the action of the government. The minister of the interior has issued an order that new elections be held as soon as possible.

The latest dispatches from Tabriz report a temporary lull in the fighting. A telegram from Shiraz, province of Fars, where a boycott has been instituted against the Indian troops, reports another attack on the Indians near Kazeroun, in which two Sowars were killed. The situation is regarded as serious.

ADMIRAL DEWEY IS 74.

Hero of Manila Bay Holds Informal Birthday Party.

Washington, D. C.—Admiral George Dewey, celebrated the 74th anniversary of his birth December 26. Twelve years after all other naval officers are by law retired from active service, the admiral was busy at his desk. He received a few old friends at his home in the evening, among the callers being President Taft.

The admiral believes the secret of good health is congenial employment. His walk is brisk, his handclasp as firm and his energy as abundant as that of a man many years younger.

He appeared at his office promptly at 9 o'clock and plunged into his work. At intervals he was interrupted to receive greetings and congratulations of almost all the senior officers of the navy and army and then again he laid aside official papers to scan some telegram or letter of birthday greeting.

The admiral said he would head the line of naval officers that would pass in review before President Taft at the New Year's reception at the Whitehouse.

KING'S SKULL IS STOLEN.

Tomb of Black George of Serbia Desecrated; Jewels Untouched.

Vienna—The vault in St. Mark's cemetery in which reposed for many years the bones of Kara-George Petrovitch, founder of the Servian dynasty, has been desecrated. The skull of the former Servian chief has been stolen, but the decorations and rings were not touched.

The coffin of Queen Persida was not opened. There is no clew to the desecrators.

Kara-George (Black George, or George Czerny) was a peasant, born in 1766, who in 1806 became the leader of the Servians in the revolt against Turkey. He defeated the Turks, captured Belgrade and liberated Serbia. He was driven out of Serbia in 1813 and was murdered in 1817.

Contract is Not Yet Off.

Washington, D. C.—American Treasurer General Shuster's contract with the Persian government to manage the finances of Persia has not been formally cancelled, so far as the State department can learn. A cable message received from American Minister Russell at Teheran, however, dealt with plans being made to get Mr. Shuster and his family safely out of Persia.

Hence it is assumed that the formalities attending the termination of Mr. Shuster's activities in that country will not be long delayed.

The meagerness of the news from the Persian capital has led to the suspicion that a severe censorship is being exercised by the Russians, who control some of the telegraphic channels of communication.

Rate Reduction Made.

Seattle—Announcement was made here of a freight rate reduction of 10 cents a hundred pounds on lumber shipments from Western Washington to Denver and points in that territory. The new rate, which will go into effect the latter part of January, will increase the market for red cedar shingles at least 25 per cent, lumbermen say. The railroads have also announced reductions ranging from 10 to 20 per cent on fir lumber from the Pacific Coast to points east of the Rocky mountains.

Funeral Charges Go Up.

St. Louis—The St. Louis Livery & Undertaking association has announced an increase of \$1 on every carriage and \$2 on every hearse used in funerals in this city. The readjustment makes the scale uniform throughout the week. "The automobile has just about put the cab to the bad," said Louis Landvogt, president of the association. "What the automobile hasn't done in this line the owl car has."

Luggage Explosive Laden.

Pittsburg—Carrying a suit case containing 72 sticks of dynamite, a roll of fuse and two quarts of whisky, George Bridges, who refuses to tell anything concerning himself, was arrested at Moenssen, Pa., a mill town near here.

MEN OF THE HOUR IN THE CHINESE CRISIS.



ABOVE, DR. WU FANG, WHO REPRESENTS REPUBLIC IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, AND HIS WIFE. BELOW, DR. WU WITH HIS FAMILY.

TAFT SAYS DUTY EXCESS.

Recommends Reduction, But Does Not Name Rate.

Believes Difference Between Cost at Home and Abroad is Proper Basis for Tariff.

Washington, D. C.—President Taft sent a message to congress Thursday recommending a downward revision of the tariff on wool. Accompanying the message was the report of the tariff board. Neither the message nor the report attempts to fix the rate of duty, but the president recommends that the proposed revision adhere to a policy of protection based upon the difference in cost of production at home and abroad.

The message says that the present method of assigning the duty on raw wool operates to exclude wools of high shrinkage in scouring, but of fine quality, from the American market, and thereby lessens the range of wools available to the domestic manufacturer, and that the duty on scoured wool of 33 cents is prohibitory and operates to exclude the importation of clean, low-priced foreign wools of inferior grade, which are, nevertheless, valuable material for manufacturing and which cannot be imported in the grease because of their heavy shrinkage. Such wools, if imported, might be used to displace the cheap substitutes now in use, the president says, and continues:

"These discriminations could be overcome by assessing a duty of ad valorem terms, but this method is open to the objection, first, that it increases administrative difficulties and

Commission Form Wins.

Baker, Or.—Mayor Palmer made public his first annual report under the commission form of government and says he believes that the new form, although beset with many difficulties resulting from inexperience and reorganization, has, on the whole, proved entirely satisfactory and that it is better, because those in charge have given constant consideration to the municipal affairs. The necessary changes and improvements, have caused an expense of 14.7 mills, while for next year they will be 6.4 mills.

Postal to String Heavy Wires.

New York—Minor M. Davis, who was recently appointed superintendent of telephones for the Postal Telegraph Cable company, announced that his company has issued instructions to its construction department to proceed with the erection of additional heavy copper wires between all important points on the system of the company for the purpose of extending the telephone use of the same to the independent telephone companies.

'Chaperonage is Urged.

Chicago—Better medical supervision in co-educational institutions, training in the newer vocations for women, self-government and closer chaperonage of girls were urged in resolutions adopted at the close of the fifth biennial conference of deans and advisers of women in state universities.

THE VANISHED YEAR

C. F. GEORGE.

Once again a year has vanished,
To the realm of by-gones banished,
Where the past years sleep in glory—
Not forgotten—gone before—
And the New Year comes to greet us,
On the wings of Time to meet us,
And to tell the old, old story
Of the years that are no more.

Let us greet the New Year gladly—
Though we miss the old one sadly—
Let us hope for bright skies o'er us,
Let our dreams be ever fair—
Let us banish care and sorrow,
Hope for gladness on the morrow—
Let us build for days before us
Brighter ones than the air.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN THE WEST

Francis Fentiman.

FOR nearly three days the blizzard had raged against the rude log shanty, which stood on a rising piece of ground amid a sea of dead-white snow. Through the cap of the stove-pipe, which thrust its end above the level of the roof top, it shrieked all sorts of menaces to the man and the boy who sat huddled round the fire, their feet in the oven with the idea of extracting the last particle of warmth from the rapidly diminishing embers.

Even if the blizzard was balked of its desire to wreck the shanty it was not wholly to be denied, but drove in between the ill-joined logs and belled out the sacks and blankets which had been hung against them for protection, while the in-driven snow lay in oddly assorted mounds on the floor.

Both were reflective, the man because he realized the gravity of the situation, the boy because he had so recently left a home in the east. It was the first day of the new year, and possibly he was picturing to himself what they were doing at that identical time.

Presently the man looked up. "Did you hear that?" he said.

"No," replied the boy. "What was that?"

"The shriek of the blizzard," said the man, and he shuddered at the shrill, rattled chorus of the storm.

"Have water," said the man, and he looked at the boy.

"Water?"

"Yes, water. The horses are thirsty. They are dropping."



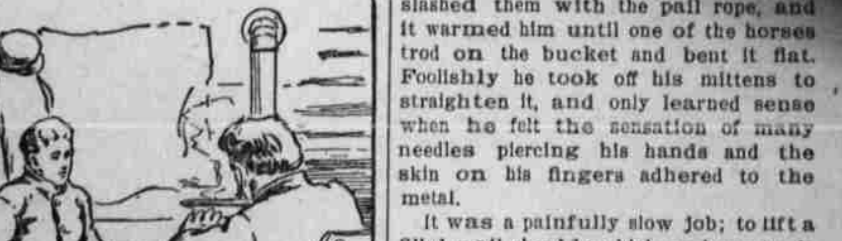
Fought impossible. In the struggle he rubbed his eyes and... It was a slow and tedious... he soon was ragged, because his muscles are not hardened. The... knocked him over and the sleigh... over his legs, but, being light, only bruised him. In his puny rage he... slapped them with the pall rope, and it warmed him until one of the horses... trod on the bucket and bent it flat. Foolishly he took off his mittens to... straighten it, and only learned sense when he felt the sensation of many needles piercing his hands and the skin on his fingers adhered to the metal.

"Aren't you a fool to suggest fetching water?" said the boy. "Why, you got lost walking to the stable not an hour ago."

The man did not reply until the boy asked him whether he really considered his suggestion possible.

"Yes," said the man slowly, "it is possible."

"I suppose," remarked the boy, "you are aware it will take four barrels at



Both Were Reflective.

least, that the nearest well is old man Reid's, which is three miles away, and that you can't see six feet in front of you?"

"I know all that," said the man, "and more. I can tell you that the horses will go like the wind, and when they have had their fill of cold water there'll be no holding them while the barrels are filled. Of course the trail's obliterated, but they'll find their way like a blue streak."

"Sounds inviting," said the boy with his ridiculous laugh. "I'd offer to toss as to who goes if I had a coin, but as I haven't (more injudicious), we'll draw straws."

"It's the only way," replied the man. "Those cattle are our all. If they break loose they'll be frozen stiff. The one that wins harnesses the horse, and divides the water round when the loser gets back. Is it a bargain?"

The boy cut two straws of unequal length, put them in a basin, covered it with a cloth, and shook it about.

Where the horses went he knew not, and if they tipped the lot over again he cared not. He was past caring. With what little sense remaining him he rather hoped they would, and so end it. He believed they stopped, but couldn't be quite sure. It seemed hours after in a dream that he fancied he heard the man's voice: "My God, I thought you were never coming back," and in the same dream he heard himself saying: "Neither did I."

I knew the boy in those long years ago. I see him and it is in day dreams myself sometimes even now, especially on New Year's day, as I sit round the fireside here at home. It is incongruous that pictures should appear in the embers, but so they do, or else one's fancy paints them there. Then a coal drops out, and I wake up to the remembrance that I was once that boy.