

### 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.

More than 8,000 persons attended the president's New Year reception.

Taft's support of arbitration treaties is eulogized by the president of France.

A compensation act is being urged for the relief of injured postoffice employes.

The cost of living is less in the Panama canal zone than in the United States.

Aged 94 years, the oldest member of the San Diego Swimming club took a half hour's swim with the other members on New Years day.

The South Yuba river is frozen over in Southeastern California, a phenomenon never before known within the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

Salt Lake City has assumed the commission form of government, and five holdover councilmen may sue the city for salary for their unexpired terms.

Loomfixers in Massachusetts cotton mills will demand an increase of 10 per cent in wages, and a strike may involve many thousands of cotton mill employes.

Queless and sandalless Chinese in New York City celebrated the birth of the new Chinese republic, the children singing a revised version of "America."

Kolb & Dill, two of the most noted comedians of the age, who have been at loggerheads for some time, have patched up their differences, owing to a strong mutual desire for prosperity.

A new sheriff of New York has been sworn into office, and declares his intention to appoint responsible women as deputies, believing they will be more efficient than men in protecting life and property along certain lines.

The Russian council of ministers has decided not to allow the Salvation Army to carry on its work in Russia.

The name of Roosevelt will be placed on the primary tickets of many states as a presidential preference candidate.

The Union Depot & Terminal Co., of Cincinnati has been granted a franchise to erect a union station costing \$40,000,000.

Because of the omission of a word in the will of a Cincinnati millionaire, his niece will get no share in his \$1,500,000 estate.

#### 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, \$18@14; clover, \$11@12; grain, \$12@13.

Barley—Feed, \$36@37 ton. Fresh Fruits—Pears, 50c@51.50 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 1/2c 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, 6c@10c per pound; lettuce, \$2.50 per crate; peppers, 8@10c per pound; pumpkins, 1@1 1/2c per pound; sprouts, 9@10c per pound; squash, 1 1/2@1 3/4c; 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 1/2@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@5.50; 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.

#### IMPERIAL TROOPS MUTINY.

Premier Yuan Shi Kai May Yet Prevent Formation of Republic.

Pekin—Seven hundred soldiers guarding the Lanchow arsenal have mutinied. They are a part of the imperial government troops, among whom there has been a movement for some time past in favor of a republic. The commanding officer fled to Kaiping, whence he sent a message to the railway authorities at Tientsin warning them that the mutineers intended to stop all railway traffic.

The feeling in Peking, nevertheless, is that the throne has taken on a new lease of life.

There are some competent observers who believe that Premier Yuan Shi Kai will yet prevent the consummation of a republic.

The imperial cabinet has accepted the resignation of Tang Shao Yi, who was sent to the Shanghai peace conference as the representative of Yuan Shi Kai and the imperialists. The government has also telegraphed to Dr. Wu Ting Fang, leader of the revolutionists at the peace conference, saying that in future it will negotiate by telegraph.

The government declares that Tang went beyond his instructions when he signed the agreement calling a national convention to decide on the future form of government.

Premier Yuan adheres to the points of his original suggestion regarding the national convention, namely, the proper election of delegates and the selection of Peking as the gathering place.

Premier Yuan has again offered his resignation, but it was not accepted. The court also received a round robin from the generals commanding the imperialist troops in the vicinity of Peking, in which they demanded that the princes of the imperial clan withdraw their wealth from the foreign banks, where much of it has been placed recently, and deliver it into the hands of the war office.

Prince Ching, the former premier and foreign minister, received a letter from representatives of the Manchu troops in the vicinity of Peking, threatening to destroy his palace unless the hoarded money is delivered over to them.

When negotiating for a foreign loan, Yuan explained that about \$10,000,000 would carry the government on for six months. By that time, he declared, discord would have occurred among the rebels in the south and the provinces would return gradually to their allegiance. Yuan Shi Kai now has obtained from the Empress Dowager more than \$2,000,000, which will permit the carrying on of the government beyond the period which the rebels have fixed for the assembly of the national convention.

#### AMERICANS IN SAFE PLACES.

Few Remain in Inaccessible Regions, Says Official Report.

Washington, D. C.—Virtually all the American residents in China, it was reported to the State department, are safely at the treaty ports. Figures from American diplomatic representatives in China show that 190 foreigners, including 35 Americans, were reported on November 8 to have departed down the Yangtze river from Chungking, Sze-Chuen province, under the convoy of a gunboat.

The total number of Americans in the province of Shengsi is reported to be 12 adults and nine children; in Kansu province 11 American adults and seven children. These people are in the inaccessible regions.

Several Americans are said still to be in the provinces of Hunan and Hupeh.

All American women and children have left Chang Chow and other interior points in the southern part of Fukien, while those in the immediate vicinity of Hoochow have withdrawn to that port.

#### Kansas Towns Hungry.

Topeka, Kan.—The towns of Jetmore and Dighton, Kan., on branch lines of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, have notified the public utilities committee that they have had no train service since December 26, and ask immediate relief from a threatened coal famine. At Jetmore food provisions are running low. The commission is urged to get a train through to relieve the situation. The nowfall in the vicinity of these towns has been very heavy, and railroad tracks have been entirely blocked.

#### Foreign Pests Barred.

Sacramento, Cal.—The state of California now has power to declare a quarantine against any foreign country for the exclusion of pests which prey upon fruit or vegetables. This was made possible by Governor Johnson signing the bill passed by the legislature at the extra session a week ago. The bill provides a way for the state to combat the dreaded tropical fruit fly which has gained a foothold in the Hawaiian islands.

#### Snow Covers Death Trap.

Seattle, Wash.—A rotary snow plow that was fighting drifts on the Copper River railroad at Mile 75, Alaska, ran into a gulch that had until a short time before been spanned by a bridge, and Engineer J. E. Reed, of Cordova, was crushed to death beneath the rotary. The bridge had been destroyed by fire but owing to the snow the engineer did not detect the gap.

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

### STATE LEVY SET AT 3.5 MILLS.

Oregon Citizens to Be Required to Pay \$3,100,000 in Taxes.

Salem—The people of Oregon will have approximately \$3,100,000 in state taxes to pay in 1912. The state levy will be 3.5 mills. The total assessed valuation appraised by the State tax commission on public service corporations will be \$108,000,000 and by assessors \$784,000,000. The amount, \$3,100,000, which the people of the state will be called upon to pay will be the highest in the history of Oregon for one year.

The levy of 3.5 mills will not be the highest, however. In 1904 the levy was 7.006 mills, the highest in the history of the state, and the lowest was the territorial levy of 1 mill in 1858. In 1904, when the levy was the highest, only \$1,225,000 was raised on a valuation of \$173,978,888, as compared to the \$890,000,000 valuation of this year.

While the figures given above for 1911 are not final, the change will be so small as to be comparatively infinitesimal.

The Tax commission practically arrived at its final conclusion recently, working for the final extreme results, which probably will be known soon. The total of \$3,100,000 includes the appropriations for the University of Oregon and the Monmouth normal school, which in themselves amount to more than \$500,000.

The valuation, as given by the assessors this year of more than \$789,000,000, show a decided increase, while the valuation of \$108,000,000 placed by the State Tax commission on public service corporations is practically an increase of \$11,000,000 over last year's valuation of \$97,263,000.

The final figures represent the appropriations on public service corporations going well above the \$155,000,000 mark. The tax levy for 1911 is more than 1 mill increase for 1910. Last year it was impossible in making up the levy to ascertain what the appropriations of the legislature would be, and hence the increase.

#### WORK STARTED AT VALE.

Extension of Oregon Eastern Road Begins in Earnest.

Vale—Actual construction work on the Oregon & Eastern railroad has been started at mile post 15, near the mouth of the canyon. Over 100 men are located at this camp and more are being sent out daily.

Thirteen heavily-loaded wagons, belonging to the Utah Construction company, left the past week for the canyon, where tents are already erected and everything ready for work. On Wednesday fresnos, scrapers, teams and wagons left for mile post 15.

On Thursday, camp No. 2 of the Utah Construction company left for mile post 40. Work on the big tunnel there is now under way.

The Wasatch Construction company, sub-contractors, have located a large camp in the canyon, and upon the return from Salt Lake of Thomas O. Creer, in charge of the company's work, will start work immediately on a big cut in the canyon about 30 miles from Vale.

The local yards present a busy appearance. All kinds of construction material is piled up there to be sent into the canyon. Part of the material will remain here, as the Utah Construction company will start grading work from Vale as soon as W. L. Wattis returns. He is in charge of all the Utah Construction company's work.

Permanent headquarters in the Vale yards have already been built for this company. A large number of tents have been stretched, sheds erected, a warehouse is being built, water mains from the city water system have been tapped for the camp's supply, and electric lights are being installed. A large building is also to be erected by the Oregon Eastern people in the local yards for use as headquarters of Construction Engineer Osborn and his assistants.

The new \$11,000 depot is now open and passenger trains are all stopping there.

#### Dairy Interests Thrive.

Deschutes—The new year is opening auspiciously for Central Oregon. Sherwood Bros. have just unloaded a carload of 24 registered Jersey dairy cattle for their farm two and one-half miles north of Deschutes. They expect to ship in two carloads more soon. The shipment of cream to Portland creameries by some of the farmers in this vicinity has begun, about one ton a week now being shipped. Farmers are receiving 32 to 34 cents a pound for their cream, and 40 to 45 cents for butter.

#### Baker Ships Heavy Cattle.

William A. Gover, of Pine Valley, holds championship honors for the shipment of the heaviest weight steers that have gone out of Baker for a long time. He shipped recently to the Union Stockyards, Portland, four carloads of cattle, six steers in the lot averaging over 2,000 pounds each, while one weighed 2,500 pounds.

#### Money in Alfalfa Seed.

Alfalfa seed has become one of the profitable crops of the Ontario region of Eastern Oregon. More than \$30,000 has been realized from the sale of seed this season.

### URGENT CRATER LAKE ROAD.

Engineer Recommends Completion of Work Before 1915 Fair.

Washington, D. C.—"It is doubtful if any view existing in the world today is as impressive and at the same time as beautiful as the view of Crater Lake from the rim," said Major Jay J. Morrow, of the Army engineering corps, in transmitting a report to the War department, recommending the expenditure of \$642,000 for the construction of roads and trails in the Crater Lake National Park.

Coupled with his appreciation of the scenic beauty of Crater Lake park, Major Morrow urgently recommends that the main roads, for which he has made surveys and estimates, be rushed to completion in order that thousands who visit the San Francisco exposition in 1915 may, en route to or from Portland, stop off a day and see the park. If these roads can be completed in time, Major Morrow thinks the Crater Lake tour will prove to be one of the favorite side trips of travelers.

About 62 miles of good roads and 100 miles of trails, in the opinion of Major Morrow, will enable the tourist to reach the most important spots in the park with facility, and while the estimated cost is high, he believes the expenditure is fully justified, particularly as it is proposed to build the roads for automobile travel. Compared to the cost of building roads in the Yellowstone and Rainier National parks, where the topography is similar to that in the Crater Lake park, Major Morrow says the figures cited in his estimates are not excessive, but about on a par with the actual cost of building roads over like territory in the two older parks.

It probably will be somewhat difficult to secure an appropriation of \$100,000 this session for beginning work on the Crater Lake roads, for the house is inclined to hold down appropriations, and national park improvements are never regarded as of vital importance. However, it is probable that some members of the California delegation will join hands with the Oregon delegation in urging a liberal allowance, and, jointly, these two delegations may be able to get what the army engineers are asking.

Crater Lake park is about as accessible to San Francisco as it is to Portland, or will be when the Natron cutoff is completed, and California will benefit as much as Oregon from tourist travel.

#### CULVER SEES FIRST SNOW.

Crop Prospects Look Good and Farmers in Central Oregon Happy.

Culver—The first snow of any consequence to fall this season is here and crop prospects for the coming season are exceedingly good. Many acres of potatoes will be planted this spring, and a potato growers' association will be formed for marketing the product. The crop will be sorted and packed as carefully as are the fruits in the fruit section of Oregon.

This year many potatoes were grown in this section weighing from two to four pounds each. J. L. Windon raised three and four-pound spuds this year, and one hill weighed 15 pounds. This farmer lives to the southeast of Culver in the Haystack section and others there did equally as well. On the west side of the Deschutes river is a territory of something like four townships that is being connected with the railroad here by a new wagon road and bridge now under construction and this section also will be a large potato producer.

This section of the country west of the Deschutes lies from six to 12 miles from Culver and has been isolated from the railroad by reason of the fact that they were compelled to drive 40 to 50 miles to reach transportation until the new road is completed. Foot bridges have been built for use while the wagon road is being built and a mail service and postoffice to be served from Culver have been petitioned.

#### Smallpox Scare is Over.

Corvallis—"The rumor that Corvallis might be quarantined on account of smallpox is nothing but ridiculous gossip," said Dr. H. S. Pernot, city health officer. "We have not had thirty cases all together, and they were carefully quarantined and every precaution taken against the spread of the disease. The main means of contagion was the city public schools." People coming to the college for the short course would be running no more risk of exposure than they would if they stayed at home.

#### Asylum Farm is Plan Now.

Salem—That the 640 acres of land at Union, bought several years ago for an Eastern Oregon branch asylum site, be used for an asylum farm in connection with the new Eastern Oregon institution at Pendleton, is a suggestion made by Governor West to the state board, and it is probable that the board will ask the legislature to give the board power to utilize the land as it sees fit.

#### Centennial Money Maker.

Astoria—The Astoria Centennial committee has issued a financial statement showing that its receipts from all sources amounted to \$115,891.47, while its expenditures in carrying on the recent celebration were \$109,613.36, leaving a balance on hand of \$6,278.11. What will be done with the money remaining in the hands of the treasurer has not been decided.

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