

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting.

King Edward will visit Ireland next year. Another St. Louis boulder has been convicted. Ex-Speaker Reed's condition remains unchanged.

Two German warships have arrived in Venezuelan waters. President Roosevelt will visit the Philippines next May.

A general exchange of troops in the Philippines has been ordered. King Alfonso is having a great deal of trouble in securing a cabinet.

Blacklisted miners told the strike commission their side of the trouble. The anthracite coal trust is negotiating for the purchase of the independent companies.

Fire in Cleveland, Ohio, resulted in the death of three firemen and a heavy property loss. At least 25,000 took advantage of the low passenger rates from the East and located in California during September and October.

Emperor William, in an address to workmen, denounced socialism and warned them to have nothing to do with its doctrines. Ex-Speaker Thomas B. Reed is critically ill.

The Cuban reciprocity treaty is sure of being ratified by the senate. Mr. Buek, United States minister to Japan, died very suddenly of apoplexy.

The men who held up and robbed the Bridger, Montana, bank have been captured. The German reichstag was the scene of more rioting during a debate on the tariff question.

Senator Mitchell and Commissioner Hermann deny the prevalence of land frauds in Oregon. An effort will be made to raise several Spanish gumbats sunk in Lanau lake, Mindanao island, in 1898.

The senate committee on military affairs will report in favor of the house bill reorganizing the militia and placing it on the same footing with the regular army.

The house committee on appropriations has agreed on the pension appropriation bill. It appropriates \$139,847,600, which is \$5,730 more than for the current year.

The official vote of California on governor, as announced by the secretary of state, is: Pardee, Republican, 146,380; Lane, Democrat, 143,783. Pardee's plurality, 2,597.

France will expel many more religious orders. The Chinese government is planning a steamship line to the Pacific coast.

It is announced that President Roosevelt contemplates a hunting trip in Alaska next spring. The prospects are that Oklahoma only will be admitted as a state at this session of congress.

An unsuccessful attempt was made to blow up a train in which the emperor of Japan was riding. The bank at Bridger, Carbon county, Montana, was held up by three masked robbers and \$10,000 secured.

The opinion of the press all over the world is that the president's message is one of the ablest ever delivered by any president or monarch. A bill has been introduced into congress amending the irrigation law. It would permit reclamation and purchase under cash entry law, also allow the leasing of water power developed by the government.

A bill has been introduced in congress which, if passed, will have the effect of abolishing the office of commanding general of the army, now held by General Miles. It creates a general staff corps to act with the secretary of war. During November the public debt was lowered a trifle under a half million dollars.

The United States will not mix with Venezuela's financial affairs in the proposed new loan. The international copyright treaty with Spain has been restored to full effect by the exchange of diplomatic notes.

A bill will be presented to congress asking an appropriation of \$50,000 to pay the expenses of the coal strike commission. Minister from Colombia Concha has been relieved and will be succeeded by Thomas Herran, who has full authority to prosecute the negotiations looking to a canal treaty, with considerably enlarged powers.

Chairman Hale, of the senate naval committee, has made the statement that he favors increasing the navy, but does not think any more big battle ships should be built. Vessels of the Oregon type and cruisers are more serviceable. The United States government has been asked to help Venezuela.

President Loubet, of France, will be invited to visit the United States during the St. Louis fair. A number of German farmers are coming to the United States to study American ways of farming.

The engagement of the daughter of Commissioner Hermann to H. P. Gately, a Washington lawyer, is announced. Lieutenant Robert E. Peary says the north pole can be reached.

TO STOP LAND FRAUD.

Bill Introduced to Repeal Timber, Desert and Commutation Laws.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The first step in the direction of congressional action intended to stop land frauds was taken yesterday afternoon, when Senator Quarles, of Wisconsin, and Representative Powers, of Massachusetts, simultaneously introduced identical bills to repeal the timber and stone act, the desert land law and the commutation clause of the homestead act, the three statutes under which large areas of public land are now being taken up by speculators and corporations. The bill provides that any entries initiated under these laws prior to the passage of the act shall pass to patent if found to comply with existing law. The house public lands committee is unalterably opposed to this bill. A canvass of its members shows that most of them are hostile to the proposed legislation. On the other hand, the senate committee will probably make a favorable report in a short time. The hostility of the house committee will probably defeat action at this session.

Secretary Hitchcock expects in a few days to submit to the senate committee a letter pointing out the urgent necessity for repealing the timber and stone act, and he will probably include reasons for repealing the commutation clause of the homestead act. The main argument raised by the house committee against this new bill is that it is unnecessary, and that its enactment would practically cut off the funds with which to carry on government reclamation under the law of last session, as the three acts attacked are the ones from which most public land funds are derived. The committee believes that, while these laws are loosely drawn, yet, that if they were adequately and intelligently enforced by the local and general land offices, frauds could be reduced to a minimum, if not altogether stopped.

ONE NEW STATE.

Senate Committee Favors Admitting Oklahoma Only at This Session.

Washington, Dec. 4.—The senate committee on territories yesterday agreed to report a substitute for the house omnibus statehood bill. The substitute provides for the admission of one new state to comprise the territory now included in Oklahoma and Indian Territory, the new state to take the name of Oklahoma. The bill as reported makes no reference whatever to New Mexico or Arizona. The decision of the full committee is in accord with the conclusion reached by the Republican members, except by Senator Quay. The status of the Indians residing in the two territories is defined in a provision inserted in the first section of the bill. The section authorizes the inhabitants of the two territories to adopt a state constitution, and then says:

"Nothing contained in the said constitution shall be construed to limit or impair the rights of person or property pertaining to the Indians of said territories so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished, or to limit or affect the authority of the government of the United States to make any law or regulation respecting such Indians, their lands, property, or other rights which it has been competent to make if this act had never passed."

As is usual in the admission of states, all made citizens are authorized to vote for delegates to the constitutional convention, and a provision is added extending this privilege to Indians who are members of any of the tribes located in Indian Territory. These Indians are also made eligible to become delegates to the convention. The total number of such delegates is limited to 120, 60 each from Oklahoma and Indian Territory.

Passenger Train Wrecked.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 5.—The passenger train on the Queen & Crescent, which left Cincinnati last night, ran into a box car that had blown onto the main track at Sunbright, Tenn., early today. A fireman and R. E. Hicks, of Cincinnati, the express messenger, are supposed to have been injured in the fire which destroyed the baggage and express cars, two passenger coaches and two locomotives. The remains of a Negro tramp were found in the wreck. No passengers were hurt. One mail clerk had a leg broken.

California's Big War Claim.

Sacramento, Dec. 5.—W. W. Douglas, deputy state controller, has started on a trip to Washington, D. C., where he will institute proceedings looking to the collection of \$4,420,891 due the state of California by the United States government for rebellion war claims. Mr. Douglas will bring the matter personally to the attention of the auditor of the war department, and endeavor to give the claim a status that will demand legislation for its payment.

Gobbling Up China.

London, Dec. 5.—The correspondent of the Times, at Peking, in recording the intention of Russia to establish customs offices in Manchuria on the eastern frontier and at the frontier of the Port Arthur leased territory, where the duties will be collected by Russian officials, according to the Chinese tariff, and paid to China, says cynically the customs will be under Chinese control, but their entire separation from Chinese control is obvious.

Fourteen Men Killed by Hunters.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 3.—The season for hunting in the Northern woods closed Nov. 30. Fatalities have been unusually frequent in the woods this season, 14 men having been killed while hunting deer in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. At least 11 others have been shot and seriously wounded.

Disastrous Explosion on Steamer.

San Francisco, Dec. 5.—While the steamer Progresso was lying at the wharf of the Fulton Iron works at Harbor View this morning, an oil tank exploded. As a result 11 men are missing. A score were more or less seriously injured and property to the value of \$200,000 was destroyed.

PRESIDENT TO CONGRESS

Chief Executive Delivers Annual Message

AN ABLE DOCUMENT

SPEAKS OUT HIS VIEWS IN FORCEFUL LANGUAGE.

Favors Revision of Tariff on Some Plan Which Will Not Disturb the Country—Heartily Commends Action Taken in Irrigation Matter—Alaska Should Be Given Needed Laws.

THE MESSAGE AT A GLANCE. Build isthmian canal. Perfect public land laws. Protect game on forest reserves. Give Alaska needed legislation. Create a secretary of commerce. Extend the rural mail delivery. Establish reciprocity with Cuba. Irrigation act should receive attention. Organize navy as an organized force. Must work together for the good of the nation. International arbitration should be extended. A general staff should be at the head of the army. Filipinos are enjoying greater liberty than ever before in the world. Control of corporations should be in the hands of the government. Build up navy so as to be able to treat Monroe doctrine as cardinal feature of our foreign policy. Revise tariff law to the extent of business conditions, but do not jeopardize the exchange of currencies. All future financial legislation should look to interchangeable currency. Convertible into gold at the will of the holder.

Washington, Dec. 3.—President Roosevelt's annual address to congress was read in both houses yesterday. Following is a synopsis of the document: To the senate and house of representatives: We still continue in a period of unbounded prosperity. This prosperity is not the creature of law, but undoubtedly the laws under which we work have been instrumental in creating the conditions which made it possible, and by wise legislation it would be easy enough to destroy it. There will undoubtedly be periods of depression. The waves will recede, but the tide will advance. This nation is seated on a continent flanked by two great oceans. It is composed of men the descendants of pioneers, or, in a sense, pioneers themselves; of men winnowed out from among the nations of the old world by the energy, boldness and love of adventure found in their own eager hearts. Such a nation, so placed, will surely wrest success from fortune.

In my message to the present congress at its first session I discussed at length the question of the regulation of those big corporations which are popularly known as trusts.

Our aim is not to do away with corporations; on the contrary, these big aggregations are an inevitable development of modern industrialism, and the effort to destroy them would be futile unless accomplished in ways that would work the utmost mischief to the entire body politic. I believe that monopolies, unjust discriminations, which prevent or cripple competition, fraudulent overcapitalization, and other evils in trust organizations and practices which injuriously affect interstate trade, can be prevented under the power of congress to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several states. If it prove impossible to enact a law that will regulate these corporations, then, assuredly, we should not shrink from amending the constitution so as to secure beyond peradventure the power sought.

Stability of economic policy must always be the prime economic need of this country. This stability should not be fossilization. The country has acquiesced in the wisdom of the protective tariff principle. It is exceedingly undesirable that this system should be destroyed or that there should be violent and radical changes therein. Our past experience shows that great prosperity in this country has always come under a protective tariff; and that the country cannot prosper under fitful tariff changes at short intervals. It is most earnestly to be wished that we could treat the tariff from the standpoint solely of our business needs. The well being of the farmer, like the well being of the tiller of the soil, should be treated as an essential in shaping our whole economic policy. There must never be any change which will jeopardize the standard of comfort, the standard of wages of the American workman.

One way in which the readjustment sought can be reached is by reciprocity treaties. They can be used to widen our markets and to give a greater field for the activities of our producers, on the one hand, and on the other hand to secure in practical shape the lowering of duties when they are no longer needed for protection among our own people or when the minimum of damage done may be disregarded for the sake of the maximum of good accomplished.

It would be both unwise and unnecessary at this time to attempt to reconstruct our financial system, which has been the growth of a century, but some additional legislation is, I think, desirable. It is suggested that all future legislation on the subject should be with a view of encouraging the use of such instrumentalities as will automatically supply every legitimate demand of productive industries and of commerce, not only in the amount, but in the character of circulation; and of making all kinds of money interchangeable, and, at the will of the holder, convertible into the established gold standard.

How to secure fair treatment alike for labor and capital, how to hold in check the unscrupulous man, whether employer or employee, without weakening individual initiative, without hampering and cramping the industrial development of the country, is a problem fraught with great difficulties and one which is of the highest importance to solve on lines of sanity and far-sighted common sense as well as devotion to the right. This is an era of organized capital, and organized labor alike should remember that in the long run the interest of each must be brought into harmony with the interest of the general public, and the conduct of each must conform to the fundamental rules of obedience to the law, of individual freedom and of justice and fair dealing toward all. Each should remember that in addition to power it must strive after the realization of healthy, lofty and generous ideals. Every employer, every wage earner, must be guaranteed his liberty and his right to do as he likes with his property or his labor so long as he does not infringe upon the rights of others. It is earnestly hoped that the secretary of commerce may be created, with a seat in the cabinet. The rapid multiplication of questions affecting labor and capital, the growth and complexity of the organizations through which both labor and capital now tend toward the employment of a tendency toward corporations, and the wonderful strides of this country toward leadership in the international business world justify an urgent demand for the creation of such a position. I hope soon to submit to the senate a reciprocity treaty with Cuba. On May 20 last the United States kept its promise to the island by formally vacating Cuban soil and turning Cuba over to those whom her own people had chosen as the first officials of the new republic. Cuba lies at our door, and whatever affects her, good or for ill affects us also. So much have our people felt this that in the Platt amendment we definitely took the ground that Cuba must hereafter have closer relations with us than with any other power. As civilization grows warfare becomes less and less the normal condition of foreign relations. The last century has seen a marked diminution of wars between civilized powers; wars with uncivilized powers are largely more material for the welfare of the world. Whichever possible arbitration or some similar method should be employed in lieu of war to settle difficulties between civilized nations, although as yet the world has not progressed sufficiently to render it possible or necessarily desirable to invoke arbitration in every case. The congress has wisely provided for building at once an isthmian canal, if possible at Panama. The attorney general reports that we can undoubtedly acquire good title from the French Panama canal company. The work should be carried out as a continuing policy without regard to change of administration; and it should be begun under circumstances which will make it a matter of pride for all administrations to continue the policy. Of Porto Rico it is only necessary to say that the prosperity of the island and the wisdom with which it has been governed have been such as to make it serve as an example of all that is best in insular administration. On July 4 last peace and amnesty were proclaimed in the Philippine islands. Some trouble has since from time to time threatened with the Mohammedan Moslems, but with the late insurrectionary Filipinos the war has entirely closed. Civil government has been introduced. Not only does each Filipino enjoy such rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as he has never before known during the recorded history of the islands, but the people, taken as a whole, now enjoy a measure of self government greater than that granted to any other Oriental by any other Oriental under their own governments, save the Japanese alone. Too much praise cannot be given to the army for what it has done in the Philippines, both in warfare and from an administrative standpoint, in preparing the way for civil government; and similar credit belongs to the civil authorities for the way in which they have planted the seeds of self government in the ground tissues made ready for them. The army has been reduced to the minimum allowed by law. It is very small for the size of the nation, and most certainly should be kept at the highest point of efficiency. A system of maneuvering our army in bodies of some little size has been begun and should be steadily continued. Without such maneuvers it is folly to expect that in the event of hostilities with any serious foe even a small army corps could be handled with advantage. Our officers and enlisted men are such that we can heartily take pride in them, but they must be thoroughly trained, both as individuals and in the mass. In the circumstances of modern warfare the man must act far more on his own individual responsibility than ever before, and the high individual efficiency of the unit is of the utmost importance. I urgently call your attention to the need of passing a bill providing for a general staff and for the reorganization of the supply departments on the lines of the bill proposed by the secretary of war last year. For the first time in our history we have on a larger scale are being held under the immediate command of the admiral of the navy. Constantly increasing attention is being paid to the gunnery of the navy, but it is yet far from what it should be. There should be no halt in the work of building up the navy, providing every year additional fighting craft. We have deliberately made our own certain foreign policies which demand the possession of a first class navy. The isthmian canal will greatly increase the efficiency of our navy if the navy is of sufficient size; but if we have an inadequate navy, then the building of the canal would be merely giving a hostage to any other power of superior strength. The Monroe doctrine should be treated as the cardinal feature of American foreign policy; but it would be worse than idle to assert it unless we backed it up by a thoroughly good navy. The striking increase in the revenues of the postoffice department shows clearly the prosperity of our people and the increasing activity of the business of the country.

Rural free delivery service is no longer in the experimental stage; it has become a fixed policy. The results following its introduction have fully justified the congress in the large appropriations made for its establishment and extension. Few subjects of greater importance have been taken up by the congress in recent years than the inauguration of the system of nationally aided irrigation for the arid regions of the far west. A good beginning therein has been made. Now that this policy of national irrigation has been adopted, the need of thorough and scientific forest protection will grow more rapidly than ever throughout the public land states. Legislation should be provided for the protection of the game, and wild creatures generally, on the forest reserves. The senseless slaughter of game should be stopped at once. It is, for instance, a serious count against our national good sense to permit the present practice of butchering off such a stately and beautiful creature as the elk for its antlers or tusks. So far as they are available for agriculture, and to whatever extent they may be reclaimed under the national irrigation law, the remaining public lands should be held rigidly for the homemaker, the settler who lives on his land, and for no one else. In their timber and stone law, and the commutation clause of the homestead law have been so perverted from the intention with which they were enacted as to permit the acquisition of large areas of the public domain for other than actual settlers and the consequent prevention of settlement. Moreover, the approaching exhaustion of the public ranges has of late led to much discussion as to the best manner of using these public lands in the west which are suitable chiefly or only for grazing. In view of the capital importance of these matters, it might be well for a commission of experts to investigate and report upon the complicated questions involved. I especially urge upon the congress the need of wise legislation for Alaska. It is not our credit as a nation that Alaska, which has been ours for 35 years, should still have as poor a system of laws as is the case. It is a territory of great size and varied resources, well fitted to support a large, permanent population. Alaska needs a good land law and such provisions for homesteads and pre-emptions as will encourage permanent settlement. We should shape legislation with a view not to the exploiting and abandoning of the territory, but to the building up of homes therein. The forests should be protected, and, as a secondary, but still important matter, the game also. Laws should be enacted to protect the Alaskan salmon fisheries against the greed which would destroy them. It would be well if a congressional committee could visit Alaska and investigate its needs on the ground.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

White House Dec. 2, 1902.

KILLED IN FIRETRAP.

Chicago, Dec. 6.—Fourteen men met death by suffocation this morning in a fire which occurred at 6 o'clock in the Lincoln hotel, 176 Madison Street. Thirteen of those who lost their lives were stifled while lying in their beds. One victim was taken from the building before life was extinct, but died in the ambulance on the way to the hospital.

Fire in Chicago Hotel Causes Death of Fourteen People.

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Found Desperados Unexpectedly.

Denver, Dec. 3.—A special to the News from Lamar, Colo., says that while pursuing three men suspected of having held up and robbed the postmaster at Carleton, near here, Sheriff Frank M. Tate and Deputy J. H. Frisbie came suddenly upon the men encamped this morning. The latter opened fire upon the officers, wounding Tate in the arm. Frisbie's horse was shot from under him. The three men escaped. As soon as the affair became known, a large band of cowboys, heavily armed, took the trail.

Fatal Train Wreck.

Youngstown, O., Dec. 3.—The Chicago & Baltimore Express train No. 6 collided head-on with a freight train at Carbon, Pa., seven miles east of here. One man was killed and three others injured, one seriously. Both locomotives were completely wrecked and the express car telescoped. The collision was due to the failure of the freight brakeman to throw the switch on the main track after taking the siding.

To Lay Pacific Cable.

San Francisco, Dec. 6.—The British steamer Silvertown, which is to lay the cable between this city and Honolulu, arrived here today from London, after a voyage of 80 days.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR NORTHWEST.

Congress Will Be Asked to Continue Improvements on Pacific Coast.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The secretary of the treasury today submitted to congress an estimate of the war department for continuing the improvement of the mouth of the Columbia river, and \$100,000 for carrying on the work of opening the Columbia river between The Dalles and Celilo. Both these works are now under the continuing contract system, and appropriations therefor will be made in the sundry civil bill. On these estimates as a basis, the three members of the delegation who are here today express themselves as very ready to support such appropriations, and will urge their incorporation in full in the bill to be introduced late in the session. It is the consensus of opinion that the amounts here recommended are all that will be needed to carry the work of improvement during the next fiscal year. These works do not depend upon the regular river and harbor bill. In addition to the above items the secretary of the treasury has made the following estimates: Completion of extension of Portland postoffice, \$175,000. For keeper's dwelling at light stations Cape Blanco and Yaquina, Or., \$4,500 and \$4,000, respectively. Improvements, Salem Indian school, \$106,350, of which \$91,850 is for support and education of 550 pupils, \$3,000 for extending the water system, \$2,500 for a new dairy building, \$2,500 for a barn, and balance for improvements and salaries. The usual amounts are recommended for maintaining the several Indian agencies of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and for the assay offices at Seattle and Boise City. A lump sum of \$10,000 is needed for general Indian expenses in Oregon, \$17,000 in Washington and \$10,000 in Idaho. To establish a lighthouse at Everett harbor, Washington, \$20,000. For establishing a lighthouse on Burrow's island, Washington, \$15,000. For keeper's dwelling, Robinson point Washington, \$4,000. New works, Fort sound navy yard, \$310,200. Maintenance of yard, \$75,000. For improving Tacoma harbor, \$100,000; Alaska lighthouses \$350,000; protection of Alaska seal fisheries, \$12,950; protection Alaska salmon, \$7,000; supplies for natives of Alaska, \$15,000, with other routine appropriations.

LOOKING FOR BOER GOLD.

British Authorities After a Large Amount Which was Sent to Europe. Berlin, Dec. 3.—The British government is telegraphing to all the German ports making inquiries concerning Boer gold bars worth \$650,000 which it is supposed have been brought to this country from South Africa within the past fortnight. The bars are destined to ex-President Kruger and Dr. Leyds, and, it is presumed, had been concealed in the Transvaal. Great Britain will endeavor to legally attach the gold if it can be found on the ground that she is entitled to all the assets of the Transvaal because she has assumed responsibility for the debts of that country, including the bonds issued prior to the war. General Botha's reply to Colonial Secretary Chamberlain that the late Boer government had no assets was strictly true as far as he knew, but since receiving Mr. Chamberlain's letter General Botha learned, according to seemingly trustworthy information here, that Mr. Kruger and Dr. Leyds have in their possession \$2,500,000. General Botha requested them to turn over this gold for the benefit of the Boer people, but Dr. Leyds refused, averring the money was to be used in upholding the Boer nationality in the future. General Botha has notified Dr. Leyds that unless the gold is given up, legal proceedings will be brought against him.

MITCHELL WANTS COAST DEFENSE.

Is Busy Getting Official Endorsement for New Legislation. Washington, Dec. 3.—Senator Mitchell has been busy throughout the past week collecting recommendations from the secretary of war and other officials, touching upon needed legislation for the coast defense of the country. As chairman of the committee on coast defenses, the senator proposes to advocate the passage in the short session of such legislation as is urgently demanded. In years past, the duties of the committee on coast defenses have been cared for by the committee on military affairs. The growing importance of the coast defenses and their present inefficient equipment has appealed to the senator. He is particularly anxious that some legislation be enacted which will permit the complete fortification of the mouth of the Columbia river, but says most of the harbors are yet inadequately protected.

Valuable Letter of Washington.

Boston, Dec. 8.—A letter of George Washington, written October 29, 1785, to his friend, Patrick Henry, governor of Virginia, was sold at auction at a collector's sale to lay for \$580, the purchaser being a New York man acting as agent. The letter is given in full in Sparks' life of Washington, and is of some length. Its subject matter relates to a grant of money by the Virginia legislature to Washington in reward for his services in the Revolution, and his refusal of the same.

Wash Off the Bacteria.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Twelve million bacteria inhabit the skins of balls of powder of cherries, according to Dr. Ehrlich, a German scientist, who has made extensive experiments in regard to the infection of fruit with bacteria. Currants come next, with 11,000,000 to half a pound, and grapes next, with 8,000,000. An account of these experiments has been transmitted to the state department by United States bacteriologist Clark Marry, at Berlin. The doctor urges that fruit be cleaned by either peeling or washing before it is eaten.

The Colorado Robber-Hunt.

Denver, Dec. 8.—A special to the News from La Junta, Colo., says a telephone message from the "J. J." ranch has been received to the effect that a posse last night overtook the three men who robbed the Carlton postoffice and later shot Sheriff Tate, and in a battle which ensued two of the robbers' horses were killed. The fugitives, however, held up a party of hunters, securing fresh horses, and escaped. The posse is still in pursuit.

IN WINTER'S GRIP

ATLANTIC COAST SWEEP BY STORM OF WIND AND SNOW.

Telegraph Wires Down and Communication Difficult—Storm is General From New England to Virginia and Throughout the South—All Europe Suffering From Snow and Cold.

New York, Dec. 8.—A furious storm of wind and snow has swept the Atlantic coast for two days, and seems to have been general, not only in the new, but also in the old world. From New England on the North to Virginia on the south, the gale strewn the snow, tore down telegraph wires so that communication was seriously interrupted. Railroads were also blocked by the snow, which ranges from four to 12 inches in depth. As the storm advanced, the cold grew more severe, and the whole seaboard is in the grasp of winter. The cold wave has extended to the far south, frost being experienced as far as Mississippi. It was accompanied by storms of rain and snow, which quickly melted and swelled the rivers such a point that they in some cases overflooded their banks and drove away the inhabitants, and in one case washed out a railroad bridge. The snowfall and cold weather has been general throughout Europe, England being covered with four inches of snow, the canals in Holland and the harbor of Copenhagen being blocked with ice, and many villages in Switzerland being isolated by the deep snow.

None of Crew Escaped.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 8.—Reports received from Norfolk tonight are to the effect that none of the crew of the ill-fated schooner Wesley M. Oler escaped. Only one chance of a rescue is known. The German steamer Kohn, from Bremen to Baltimore, reported the crew of an abandoned schooner aboard while entering the Chesapeake. The three-masted schooners William D. Hilton and Melville Phillips and several smaller craft were blown ashore in the harbor during the gale. The steamer Underwriter, which was towing the Oler from Nassau, has not yet been heard from, and fears are entertained that she foundered in the gale. The crew of the schooner Ida Lawrence abandoned the vessel in a ruderless condition off Hatteras early this morning and were rescued with difficulty by the lifesavers.

WORKING FOR ST. LOUIS FAIR.

Barrett is Now Securing Exhibits From Oriental Countries. Washington, Dec. 8.—When the president comes to take up the question of the accession to the vacancy caused by the death of Minister Buek, at Tokio, it is understood that he will name John Barrett, of Oregon, at present commissioner general of the St. Louis exposition to Asia and Australasia, to be minister. Mr. Barrett is now somewhere in the neighborhood of the Straits Settlements. He has been working to secure a good Asiatic representation at the St. Louis exposition, and his efforts have been attended with success, for he has induced both China and Japan to embark upon large government exhibits when they had decided not to be represented in that way. He is now bound for Australia, where it is his hope to change the minds of the premiers in Australia and New Zealand.

CANNOT ACT TILL JUNE.

Election of New Colombian Congress Will Delay Canal Treaty. Washington, Dec. 8.—If United States Minister Hart, at Bogota, is correctly informed, no treaty providing for the construction of the Panama canal can be ratified by the Colombian congress before June 1 next. He has reported that the congressional elections have been called for the middle of next March, and Colombians here say that a period of at least 60 days is required to assemble a newly elected congress, and then some time must elapse before it is in working order. Secretary Hay, therefore, has decided to allow the treaty to be ratified in Washington first, presuming that he succeeds in negotiating one, unless the senate interposes an objection, which is not anticipated. It is expected that early this week Dr. Herran, the Colombian charge here, will be given all the powers necessary for him to sign a treaty.