

# NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

## HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

The senate will not increase the Columbia river appropriations.

Joseph W. J. Lee has been named for consul general at Panama.

The Panama canal commissioners have violated the law in buying supplies without advertisements public for bids.

George S. Boutwell, of Massachusetts, formerly secretary of the treasury, is dead.

Peasants are joining in the strike movement in Poland and are burning saloons.

The Russian officers who broke their parole have been ordered back to San Francisco.

The final settlement of the Klamath irrigation scheme has been postponed until April.

The Russian government has adopted strong measures to keep the railways in operation.

The Russian Third Pacific squadron has passed Cherbourg, France, on its way to the Far East.

Gorky, the priest strike leader, has been released and re-arrested, to be exiled from St. Petersburg.

Eleven persons were killed and more than 50 others injured, some probably fatally, by the collapse of a floor in a New York colored church.

Starvation threatens Fairbanks, Alaska.

Secretary Taft will speak at the Lewis and Clark fair.

Oil men of several states have united to fight the Standard Oil company.

Northwest senators have asked an increase in river and harbor appropriations.

Automobiles are to race from the Atlantic coast to Portland for the Lewis and Clark fair.

A big ice gorge has carried out a Union Pacific railroad bridge on Loup river, at Columbus, Nebraska.

St. Louis financiers are interesting capital for the construction of an electric road from St. Louis to Kansas City.

What is believed to have been Paul Jones' body has been found by the searchers in the old St. Louis cemetery, in Paris.

The secretary of state has received for presentation to President Roosevelt a large photograph of the empress dowager, of China.

The Japanese have captured a Russian position of importance after an awful battle. The losses of both sides will reach into the thousands, but it is believed the Japanese lost the most men.

It is believed that Judge Swayne will be acquitted.

John D. Long says the Monroe doctrine is carried too far.

The blockade of Vladivostok is now complete, but food is not scarce.

King Edward favors Irish liberty as a step to Anglo-American alliance.

The czar has yielded to the railroad strikers and traffic will be resumed.

Norway threatens to dissolve her

union with Sweden and establish a republic.

The greatest battle of the war has begun in Manchuria, the Japanese outflanking the Russians.

The bill dividing Oregon into two judicial districts has been killed and a similar Washington bill passed.

Dr. Louis Wilcoxson, who was charged with having a United States bond, stolen 20 years ago from the Manhattan bank, has been released on \$10,000 bail, and will now seek for S. W. Milleer, from whom he obtained the bond.

Fire broke out in the New York juvenile asylum, but all the 1,200 children were taken out in 15 minutes and the flames were soon extinguished.

Riots at Baku, Russia, have caused 1,000 deaths, and twice as many were wounded.

Railroad strikes have cut off Poland and all southwestern Russia from the rest of the world.

Following an operation for appendicitis, Sidney Dillon Ripley, the financier, is critically ill at his home in New York.

The state assembly of Wisconsin has passed a bill prohibiting the sale of giant firecrackers and other dangerous explosives.

Twenty-one buildings in the heart of Cape May Courthouse, the county seat of Cape May county, N. J., were destroyed by fire.

It seems that the decision of the North sea commission will let both nations down easily, not being a decided report either way.

The freezing of the Chesapeake bay has caused an oyster famine in Boston.

The work of rescuing the dead from the Virginia mine, in Alabama, is proceeding slowly. Foul gas greatly hinders the work. The fourth day after the explosion 92 bodies had been recovered.

All talk of peace is scouted by both Japan and Russia, and both nations are preparing for a decisive battle.

King Alfonso, of Spain, is to marry Princess Victoria, of Prussia, daughter of Kaiser Wilhelm.

### Compensation for Packing Company.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The senate committee on claims has reported favorably without amendment, the claims of the Wales Island Packing company and recommends the passage of the bill, which awards to the packing company \$81,689. Wales island became Canadian territory under the settlement of the Alaskan boundary question in 1903, and it was estimated by the State department that the amount awarded by the bill is a minimum valuation of the loss sustained by the company by the charge.

### Warships Bombard Rebels.

Constantinople, Feb. 24.—Extremely alarming reports are current here concerning the situation at Batoum and Poti. It is alleged that some vessels of the Black sea squadron (Russian) have bombarded Poti. An English merchant who has just arrived here says he was obliged to flee from Batoum, where his life was menaced by strikers and his office destroyed. This merchant says the authorities of Batoum are powerless. The strikers are all Georgians, and are estimated to number 40,000.

### Rumors of Great Events.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.—A second day has passed without dispatches having been given out from General Kuropatkin, which is interpreted to support the rumors that great events are in progress in Manchuria. The war office, however, steadfastly maintains that there is no important news and that there have been no developments since the last dispatches made public, in which the commander-in-chief reported all quiet.

## AIMING AT MUKDEN

Japanese Strike Decisive Blow at Main Position.

## OYAMA ORDERED TO ADVANCE

Must Act Before Snow Melts — May Attempt to Isolate Vladivostok at Same Time.

Tokio, Feb. 28.—Following the custom of the Japanese government, the officials at the war office refuse to discuss the present movements in Manchuria, but there is a general air of confidence among the higher officers, who are absolutely posted on the situation, which is believed to indicate that General Kuroki has again scored a complete success and that official announcement may be expected very soon.

Up to midnight Monday no particulars of the fighting had been given out, but it was stated that, so far as was known, only the right and center of Marshal Oyama's army had been engaged and that the conditions on the left are unchanged.

It is the general opinion among the best informed experts in the Japanese capital that the present movement, before it ends, will result in the capture of Mukden. It is known that orders have been sent to Field Marshal Oyama, telling him that the time is ripe for taking the Russian main position, as, if action is postponed much longer, the spring thaws with their resultant floods will be upon him and it will be impossible to do any fighting until the roads dry up.

There is, of course, a possibility that the present movement may have for its object, as well as the capture of Mukden, the isolation of Vladivostok. In view of the recent reports that the port was being blockaded by sea by a Japanese squadron of torpedo boats and protected cruisers, there can be little doubt that, if Kuroki crushes the Russian left, such troops as can be spared will be assigned to a special campaign against the Siberian stronghold.

### DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

#### Tuesday, February 21.

The house today passed the Philippine tariff bill, practically as it came from the committee. The river and harbor appropriation bill was then taken up but it was soon laid aside and several measures were passed, the most important of which was the authorization given the secretary of war to return to the several states the Union and Confederate battleflags.

The senate committee today reported that it would be impossible to act on the railroad rate bill at this session without ignoring the railroads. Consideration of the Indian appropriation bill was begun. A short time was given to the defense of Judge Swayne, and the senate began the consideration of the bill for the government of the isthmian canal zone.

#### Wednesday, February 22.

Government ownership of railroads was discussed by the senate today in connection with the purchase of the Panama railroad, while the bill for the government of the canal zone was under consideration. Consideration of the bill was not completed when the senate adjourned.

A number of witnesses were examined in behalf of Judge Swayne in the impeachment proceedings against him.

After a brief but spirited debate the house today sent back to conference the army appropriation bill. All senate amendments were again disagreed to, excepting one appropriating \$95,000 for continuing the cable from Valdez to Seward, Alaska.

#### Thursday, February 23.

Without a dollar being added or subtracted the river and harbor appropriation bill passed the house today, after the session had run well into the evening. The total amount carried by the bill is \$17,234,657. It was impeded by the offering of amendments, but only those presented by the committee were adopted.

The last testimony in the interest of Judge Swayne in the impeachment against him was today presented to the senate.

The bill providing a form of government for the Panama canal zone was passed early in the day.

#### Friday, February 24.

The time of the senate today was divided between the Swayne impeachment trial and the motion of Beveridge to appoint conferees on the joint statehood bill. It is the expectation that a vote on the Swayne matter will be reached Monday. No agreement was reached in the appointment of statehood conferees.

A resolution was introduced in the house directing the attorney general to proceed against the armor plate trust. A number of pension bills from the senate were considered, altogether 125 being passed. Four hours was given to the sundry civil appropriation bill.

#### Saturday, February 25.

The house today divided its time between legislation and patriotic exercises. An hour and a half was spent in passing minor bills. The same period was devoted to the sundry appropriation bill, without reaching a conclusion. Legislation then gave way to speeches by several members honoring the memory of Houston and Austin; when the marble statues of each, given by the state of Texas, were accepted.

Some sharp criticisms of the president's policy towards Santo Domingo and in enlarging the navy was indulged in today by senators on both sides during the debate on the naval appropriation bill.

A vote on the Swayne impeachment case will be taken Monday.

#### Monday, February 27.

Charles Swayne, district judge of the Northern district of Florida, was today acquitted by the senate of all 12 articles of impeachment against him.

President Roosevelt's policy of building up a great navy came in for more criticism today in the senate when the naval appropriation bill was under consideration. The bill was passed, carrying appropriations of \$100,300,000.

The house agreed to the conference report on the army appropriation bill. The sundry civil appropriation bill was passed, carrying \$45,272,280.

#### Awful Crimes Stain Baku.

Baku, Feb. 25.—The town is now quiet. All the Armenian shops have been closed, but the banks are doing business under military protection. Order has been restored at Balakhany, but at Romany today strikers attacked two factories and as a result 30 persons were killed or wounded. In Baku many terrible murders have been committed. Manager Adamoff, of the Naphtha Refining works, his wife and children, were burned to death.

#### Passes Taken by Japanese.

Mukden, Feb. 28.—The Russians report that the Japanese are in possession of Taling, and also the pass between Taling and Katouling. The possession of Taling threatens Fushank, Tiepling and Hiegesway. Taling is regarded as of the same consequence to the Japanese in their operations against Mukden as was Motienling in relation to Liao Yang. In case the Japanese push on to the southeast, their operations will be in the hills.

#### Anti-Salt Trust Measure Killed.

Topeka, Feb. 28.—A house concurrent resolution calling for an investigation of the salt trust was defeated by a vote of 57 to 19. It was necessary for the resolution to receive a two-thirds vote, or 63 votes.