

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

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

Salvador has joined Honduras against Nicaragua.

Harriman has bought the Salt Lake railroad from the Clark syndicate.

A New Mexico grand jury has indicted six corporation employes for land fraud.

President Ripley, of the Santa Fe, says Roosevelt is blame for the anti-railroad agitation.

The fisheries agreement between the United States and Great Britain is being discussed by the house of commons.

Germany and Austria are said to have changed front and now favor discussion of disarmament at the Hague peace conference.

There are signs that Roosevelt and the railroad presidents will reach an understanding on the new laws, the latter showing a stronger desire to obey.

The Nebraska land thieves who have been on trial for some time have been found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of \$1,500 each and remain in jail a year.

Sylvester R. Rush, of Nebraska, has been appointed a special assistant to the United States attorney general. He has a reputation of being as ruthless a prosecutor as Henry.

Thaw is almost certain to go to the asylum whether acquitted or convicted.

An Illinois woman will organize an army of drunkards' wives to carry local option.

President Roosevelt is said to be back of a move to start a boom for Taft for president.

President Roosevelt has appointed a commission on the improvement of waterways.

Attorney General Thompson, of Nebraska, says the new 2-cent passenger rate law is constitutional.

Germany and Austria have combined to oppose consideration of disarmament at the Hague peace conference.

Governor Johnson, of Minnesota, proposes a conference of government and state officials on railroad laws.

The reclamation service has sustained Engineer Ross, of Idaho, saying the charges are the result of work by disgruntled contractors.

The flood loss at Pittsburg is expected to reach at least \$10,000,000, and many other towns in the path of the high water are reporting losses proportionately as high. At Wheeling, W. Va., 18 people have lost their lives.

Tillman says third term will be the issue in 1908.

An Austrian officer predicts an American-Japanese war and American defeat.

The Interstate Commerce commission is after the coal roads of Illinois and Indiana.

London woman suffragists declare themselves ready to wear short hair to win their cause.

The G. A. R. national encampment will be held at Saratoga, N. Y., the week of September 9.

In a clash between American troops and Cuban rural guards at Santa Clara, Cuba, five were seriously injured.

Oklahoma's constitution has been completed. The initiative and referendum and direct primary laws of Oregon have been copied.

Roosevelt has demanded Harriman's deposition and his backers will take away control from him so he will lose all his railroads.

The railroad presidents have concluded they have no mandate to present to the president and have decided they want to obey the law.

The Japanese agreement has been carried out in San Francisco and Washington.

Dowie's funeral sermon, written by himself, cursed his enemies.

Harriman wants railroads excepted from Sherman anti-trust law.

Finland has just held its first election under universal suffrage.

So great has been the Japanese immigration through El Paso, Tex., that Mexicans have been displaced by the brown men after assisting them to enter this country.

Schmitz and Ruef, the San Francisco grafters, have lost every point so far in the courts.

The total deaths due to the disaster on the French warship Jena has now reached 103.

Speaker Cannon and other members of the congressional party at Panama express surprise at the amount of work that has been done on the canal.

Homer Davenport will send one of his Arabian horses across the continent to prove the strong enduring powers of that breed. A cousin of the cartoonist will ride the animal.

Ex-Senator Burton, of Kansas, will probably stay in jail an extra month because of his inability to pay his fine of \$2,500.

Paper manufacturers throughout the country will advance the price of their products soon.

Roosevelt has told Governor Gillette that legislation by California will prevent Japanese exclusion.

Fifteen passengers on a Los Angeles trolley car were badly injured by a Southern Pacific engine striking the car.

PLUNDERED BY HILL-MORGAN

Attorney General Asked to Air Northern Pacific Scandal.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 19.—Reduced to the form of affidavits and of documents, the authenticity of which have been proved in legal proceedings, revelations concerning the wholesale plundering of the rights of stockholders in the Northern Pacific railroad are about to be presented before Attorney General Bonaparte. At the time of the Hill-Morgan reorganization of the Northern Pacific railroad, Brayton Ives, then a prominent New York banker, was the president of the old company. In February of 1896 Mr. Ives, as president of the Northern Pacific, appointed from his board of directors a so-called "protective committee," claiming authority to proceed with the work of reorganization. Morgan & Co. were the reorganization managers, contracting with themselves as syndicate managers, but they were also syndicate subscribers, and thus appeared in a three-fold capacity, being joined as syndicate subscribers with Mr. Ives and other directors of the old Northern Pacific company. Millions of dollars were collected in assessments levied upon the stockholders of the old Northern Pacific company, which it was thought by the public were to be used to rehabilitate the company. Instead of being so appropriated they were gathered in and divided among the syndicate as commissions and profits. This is one of the features of the "sell-out" of the old Northern Pacific company and is one of the many amazing things connected with this remarkable reorganization for which a complete investigation is being demanded of the authorities at Washington.

ROCKEFELLER MAKES WILL.

Plans to Give An Immense Fortune to Use of the Public.

New York, March 19.—The Herald will tomorrow say that according to a member of John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s bible class, and who is also a personal friend of John D. Rockefeller and in a position to know of his affairs, the latter proposes to make a princely gift to New York City. It will amount to at least \$50,000,000. It will be partly charitable and partly educational. The Herald will add:

"This man said that when Mr. Rockefeller was conferring with his son at Lakewood, N. J., a fortnight ago, the meeting was not for the purpose of discussing any immediate gift, but was on the subject of Mr. Rockefeller's will, which document the old king was then completing with the aid of his son and his lawyers. It was said that this document will astonish the world when it is made public.

It will, it is declared, give no less than \$250,000,000, for charitable and educational purposes, and it will be so bestowed that the benefit therefrom will almost be perpetual.

Rate War on the Atlantic.

London, March 19.—Herr Ballin, director general of the Hamburg-American Steamship line, who is here attending the shipping conference, today said there was every likelihood of a renewal of the rate war for the North Atlantic trade with the Cunard line. Within a fortnight he expects to see a decision one way or the other. Further Herr Ballin declared the German lines had a working agreement with the White Star line, and that all possibility of friction, owing to the removal of that line to Southampton, had now been obviated.

Yellow Fever in Port.

Galveston, Tex., March 19.—A case of yellow fever was discovered aboard the British steamship Basil, which arrived in port Saturday afternoon nine days out from Para, Brazil. The case was conveyed to the St. Mary's infirmary, where the patient died Sunday, and a postmortem examination corroborated the antemortem diagnosis. The ship was placed under guard and thoroughly fumigated by the state quarantine authorities, so as to destroy all lurking mosquitoes, and towed out by the pilot boat into Bolivar roads.

Reports Massacre of Jews.

New York, March 19.—A Jewish morning paper tonight received the following cablegram from Podhilo, near Jasack, Roumania: "Terrible massacre since last Thursday. Town totally destroyed. All the Jewish population are ruined and houses pillaged. We ask help—Marcus Getzel, Elias Solomon, Slijen Stenberg." The names mentioned in the cablegram are said to be those of leading merchants of Podhilo. It is a place of about 6,000 inhabitants, 4,000 of whom are Jews. It is only 30 miles from Kishineff.

Discuss Trust Problem.

New York, March 19.—The National Civic Federation which called the trust conference of 1899 in Chicago, has decided, it was announced today, to arrange for another conference of the same nature to consider that problem in its latest aspects, especially the question of Federal and state regulation of the corporations and the question of operation of the Sherman anti-trust law. It is proposed to hold this conference in May.

Fire Gale Sweeps Bay.

San Francisco, March 19.—A fierce south and southeast gale swept the bay today, which drove small craft to shelter, caused vessels in the stream to seek positions of safety and made the ferry steamers roll unpleasantly. Outside the heads the gale raged with a velocity of 50 miles an hour, and the sea ran high. Several vessels were compelled to put back, owing to the rough condition of the weather.

Torpedo Boat is Rammed.

Ajaccio, France, March 19.—During the maneuvers last night without lights the torpedo boat destroyer Epee rammed torpedo boat No. 263. A steam-pipe on the last named vessel burst, killing two men and mortally injuring another. The Epee towed the torpedo boat ashore, where she was beached.

Japan Adds 24 Regiments.

Tokyo, March 19.—In pursuance of the program to increase armaments, 24 infantry regiments have been organized, mainly concentrated in Northern Isles. The main base will be Kurume.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

CANNOT COLLECT POLL TAX.

Attorney General Passes on Validity of Procedure.

Salem—Attorney General Crawford has filed his opinion in the validity of the poll tax collection with District Attorney John H. McNary, upon a request from the latter. House bill 325, which passed the legislature, repealed sections 3041 and 3142 of Bellingher & Cotton code, which abolishes the \$1 poll tax law of 1854 and amended in 1870 to exempt firemen from the poll tax roll. The act of 1885 and subsequent amendatory acts providing for the state revenues cover the entire ground of the section enacted in 1854, providing that state revenues shall be 5 mills on the dollar of all taxable property and in addition to the \$1 poll tax. The attorney general holds that after the repealing act goes into effect on May 25 the poll tax cannot be legally collected; that the assessment would not have the validity of a judgment until it is entered on the roll. As the roll would not be made up before the act takes effect, the assessor would have no further authority to collect the tax or make up the roll, and that there is no authority in future for sheriffs to collect the tax.

Plan to Finance Normal.

Salem—The maintenance of the Monmouth State Normal school has reverted to the shoulders of the board of regents. Under the provision made by a meeting here, a regular statement of the contingent expenses, as well as the payrolls, will be filed with the secretary of state, as heretofore, and several banks have agreed to advance the money on them, requiring an assignment of the payrolls over to them. The members of the board will individually stand responsible for the payment of the hypothecated securities. This was practically the only course they could follow, as there are no funds available by the state, and Governor Chamberlain could not take any steps towards securing assistance, even if he were so disposed.

Crop Outlook Good.

Milton—Farmers in this section of Umatilla county are very optimistic over the prospect of a bumper wheat and barley crop this coming season. The fall was an ideal one in regard to rainfall, there being plenty of moisture in the ground before the setting in of winter weather. The snowfall in the mountain districts this year has been unusually heavy, thus conserving the water supply for the summer months. With the supply already produced by the thawing out on the lowlands or light soil districts, it leaves little question as to the adequate supply of moisture.

Electric Line at Milton.

Milton—The Walla Walla Valley Traction company now has its tracks laid down to the head of Main street in this city, and it will be only a few days when there will be hourly service between this city and Walla Walla, Wash. This will be a great benefit to Milton and vicinity, and will materially aid the already rapid growth of Milton. This city is now in a very prosperous condition; all the principal streets are being brought to proper grade, and many changes for the better have recently taken place. There will soon be a \$15,000 hotel erected.

Roads Must File Schedules.

Salem—The railroad commission has issued the following important order affecting all railroad and transportation companies throughout the state: "That the time within which every railroad, etc. shall print and file with the commission its schedule, as provided in section 12 of the act creating this commission, be fixed at ten days prior to any such schedule taking effect; and that all schedules which are to be effective April 1, 1907, shall be so printed and filed as provided in said section, on or before March 20, 1907.

Horse Fair at Woodburn.

Woodburn—A livestock fair will be held at Woodburn on March 23. Six classes of stallions will be on exhibition—Percheron, Shire, Belgian, Clyde, Standard and Coach. There will also be teams, roadsters, brood mares and mules. Many blood horses will be in the parade at 2 p. m. The prizes will be awarded at 10 a. m. Among the prizes is a \$25 silver cup, donated by the Bank of Woodburn for the best horse of all.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 71@72; bluestem, 73@74; valley, 70; red, 69@70. Oats—No. 1 white, \$29; gray, \$28.50. Barley—Feed, \$22@22.50 per ton; brewing, \$23; rolled, \$23.50@24.50. Rye—\$1.45@1.50 per cwt. Corn—Whole, \$24.50; cracked, \$22.50 per ton. Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$14@15 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17@18; clover, \$9; cheat, \$9; grain hay, \$9@10; alfalfa, \$14. Butter—Fancy creamery, 32 1/2@35c per pound. Better Fat—First grade cream, 33 1/2c per pound; second grade cream, 2c less per pound. Poultry—Average old hens, 15c per pound; mixed chickens, 14c; spring, fryers and broilers, 20@22 1/2c; old roosters, 10@12c; dressed chickens, 16@17c; turkeys, live, 13@15c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18 1/2@20c; geese, live, 8c; ducks, 16@18c. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 17 1/2@18c per dozen. Apples—Common, 75c@1.25 per box; choice, \$1.50@2.50. Vegetables—Turnips, \$1@1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack; horseradish, 7c@8c per pound; cauliflower, \$2.50 per dozen; celery, \$3.25@3.50 per dozen; sprouts, 9c; radishes, 30c per crate; asparagus, 10@12 1/2c per pound; rhubarb, \$2.25@2.50 per box. Onions—Oregon, 75@90c per hundred. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, \$1.35; No. 1 choice, \$1@1.25; common, 75c@81c. Beef—Dressed, 5 1/2@6c per pound. Beef—Dressed bulls, 3@3 1/2c per pound; cows, 5@6c; country steers, 6@7c. Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 10@10 1/2c; ordinary, 8@9c per pound. Pork—Dressed, 6@6 1/2c per pound. Hops—9@12c per pound, according to quality. Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13@18c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@23c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 27@30c per pound.

Empire Mill May Reopen.

Marshfield—What is taken as a sure indication that Elijah Smith intends to again operate his large lumber mill in Empire is the fact that he has had the Arago hotel reopened. This hotel has been idle since the closing down of the lumber mill some years ago. It is the only hotel in Elijah Smith's little city and is owned by the Southern Oregon Land company. Workmen have been busy for several days repairing the machinery in the mill.

Howe Succeeds Williams.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has appointed ex-State Senator W. A. Howe, of Carlton, a member of the state board of agriculture to succeed Jasper Williams, of Albany, deceased, and President W. H. Downing, of Shaw, to succeed himself. He also re-appointed Drs. A. C. Smith, of Portland, Alfred C. Kinney, of Astoria, and C. J. Smith, of Pendleton, on the board of medical examiners. Their terms had expired.

La Grande Settlers Rejoice.

La Grande—Two thousand entrants in this district, who have been waiting for a month to two years for patents from the government, will be affected by the president's recent instructions to the general land office to expedite the issuance of patents. The local land office is six months behind in the work here, a great majority of papers being held up in Washington.

More Trout for Oregon.

Oregon City—Two hundred thousand Eastern brook trout have been received at the Clackamas United States bureau of fisheries station for distribution in Oregon, and 100,000 rainbow trout have been received from California. Superintendent O'Malley has started a subscription at Eagle Creek for steelhead trout.

POINT AGAINST HERMANN.

Answered Letters, but Copies of Answers Not Found.

Washington, March 15.—Evidence decidedly damaging to Binger Hermann was introduced by the government today in the trial of the ex-land commissioner for destruction of 35 letterpress copybooks, alleged to have contained official correspondence. Charles L. Dubois, chief of survey division; D. C. Sherman, formerly Hermann's financial clerk, and John S. Wile, another clerk in the land office, all identified several letters taken from the files of the land office, all pertaining to government business and all endorsed on the back, "answered by commissioner."

They all agreed that this endorsement signified that Hermann himself dictated the replies and that his answers were press-copied in what were known as the commissioner's "personal" letter-books. It was also brought out by the government that careful search through the letter-books now in the land office failed to disclose copies of the answers to these particular letters, thereby strongly intimating that the letters must have been copied in the books destroyed by Hermann as charged in the indictment, and that the books, therefore, contained official correspondence.

No stronger evidence in support of indictment has heretofore been given during the protracted trial. In fact, most of the evidence submitted up to this time has been designed to show a motive for the destruction of the books and had no direct bearing upon the actual charge contained in the indictment. Today's evidence is very strong in support of the indictment, and while it is circumstantial, yet leaves little doubt in the minds of those who have followed the case that Hermann's so-called "private" letter-books in fact contained much correspondence relating to the business of his office.

MAY PROMOTE IMMIGRATION.

Government Will Not Interfere With Movement of Southern States.

Washington, March 15.—Information received today renders it clear that the immigration authorities, as one result of the several conferences recently held, in which the president, Secretary Straus, Attorney General Bonaparte, Commissioner of Immigration Sargent and prominent men of the South have participated, will interpret the existing immigration law as it was interpreted in the South Carolina case. The attorney general has held that the immigrants landed at Charleston, S. C., last November, are legally in the country. They were induced to come to America by authorized agents of South Carolina and the passage money for some, at least, of them was paid by the state, and others by contributions of the citizens. Several other Southern states have decided to seek immigration along the same lines as were followed by South Carolina and it is understood they will not be interfered with.

CHANGES CANAL BOARD.

Roosevelt Receives Resignations and Appoints New Members.

Washington, March 15.—The president today received the resignations as members of the Isthmian Canal commission of Rear Admiral Endicott, Brigadier General C. P. Haines and D. M. Harrod, to take effect tomorrow. To fill the vacancies he announced the appointment of John E. Stevens as chairman of the commission to succeed T. P. Shonts, and as commissioners Lieutenant Colonel Goethals, Majors Gaillard and Siebert, Civil Engineer Rousseau, Dr. Gorges and Jackson Smith.

Ex-Senator Blackburn will have to await the retirement from the commission of Mr. Stevens about April 1.

Enjoins New Copper Deal.

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 15.—Judge Knapp, of the United States Circuit court, today admitted that yesterday he issued a restraining order forbidding stockholders of the Calumet & Hecla Mining company from holding a meeting to vote proxies in the Osceola company, and hearing on an injunction was set for March 25. Judge Knapp refused absolutely to discuss the matter. The action before Judge Knapp was instituted by Mr. Boynton, attorney for the Bigelow interests in the Osceola mine.

No Conclusion is Reached.

Washington, March 16.—Secretary of the Interior Garfield has received a report from a special agent at Boise, Idaho, relating to alleged irregularities between contractors under the reclamation service. The secretary has not reached any conclusion regarding the difficulty, and will not adjust the matter until a final conclusion has been reached. It is understood that the department that the difficulty had its origin in politics and has been under investigation by special agents for some time.

Three Drown in Ohio Town.

Zanesville, Ohio, March 16.—Three Hungarians were drowned here as the result of the flood this morning. A score of foreigners were living in a house that was surrounded by the Muskingum river, which overflowed during the night. When they started to wade to land three were caught in the current and swept out into the river. Flood conditions through Muskingum county are unprecedented and growing worse hourly. The Muskingum and Licking rivers are out of bounds in this city and doing much damage.

Edwards to Be Deposed.

Pendleton, Or., March 16.—That Major O. C. Edwards, agent of the Umatilla Indian reservation, will lose his official head as a result of the investigation conducted by Inspector Charles L. Davis, is believed in Pendleton by everyone at all familiar with the course affairs have taken. Before leaving for Yakima today, Inspector Davis announced that an order abolishing the office of guardian for all Indian heirs had been issued.

Fatal Fall From Basket.

Eureka, Cal., March 15.—Martin Uprahl, boatman of the ill-fated steamer Corona, was killed today while riding in a tram basket from the wreck to the shore. The steel hook holding the cable to its anchor on the shore snapped. Uprahl struck against the side of the vessel and his skull was fractured. Roberts escaped injury and was swimming ashore when the lifeboat, which put out to the rescue, reached him.

Congressmen Arrive at Colon.

Colon, March 13.—The steamer Panama arrived today with 53 congressmen, who are desirous of inspecting the work on the canal.

FLOOD IS RECEDING

Damage at Pittsburg Estimated Ten to Twenty Millions.

AT LEAST TWENTY LIVES LOST

Whole Business Center of the Smoky City is Submerged When Ice Gorges Go Out.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 16.—With the rapid receding of the waters in the Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers, conditions are resuming normal proportions. The approaches to the bridges are now clear of water and street car service in the flooded district has been resumed.

At 9 o'clock last night the river had fallen almost eight feet. At that hour the stage was 29 feet and dropping six inches an hour.

Ten square miles were inundated. The loss is summarized as follows:

Loss in output of steel mills, \$3,000,000.

Loss in output of other industries, \$2,000,000.

Losses in wages of employes, \$1,837,777.

Damage to industrial plants, \$2,500,000.

Total, \$9,337,000.

Various other estimates are being made, ranging from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

Reports from numerous Western Pennsylvania towns are to the effect that the flood is subsiding.

The water in this city reached 37 feet at 6 a. m. yesterday, the highest stage ever recorded. More than 100,000 persons were temporarily thrown out of employment; every transportation company in the city was interrupted; skills carried hundreds of people to their places of business, and the utilization of wagons and horses as conveyances, which did valuable service, was discontinued, owing to the strenuous protests by the humane society.

Twenty fatalities have occurred in Allegheny county, directly due to high water.

In a fire that threatened the entire Mount Washington section of the city 25 business structures and dwellings were destroyed or damaged today, causing a loss estimated at \$200,000. Many of the dwellings were tenements or apartment houses, and there were many narrow escapes.

The structures were mostly of frame construction and, because of a break in the water main, the only available fire-quenching materials were chemicals from extinguishers and buckets.

Two attempts were made to stop the flames by dynamiting buildings on either side, but each time the wreckage caught fire. It finally burned itself out.

COLLUSION, SAYS GREENE.

Substance of Idaho Irrigation Fraud Charges by Inspector.

Washington, March 16.—Secretary Garfield is working on a report sent to his predecessor by Special Agent A. R. Greene, detailing alleged frauds which he believes he has uncovered in connection with the construction of the Boise-Payette irrigation project in Idaho. Mr. Greene, so it is reported, alleges there has been collusion between contractors on the Deer Flat reservoir dam and Reclamation Engineer D. W. Ross, it being rumored that Mr. Greene charges that the contractors, in return for favors shown by Mr. Ross, made him a present of 12,000 acres of land. Officials of the reclamation service absolutely discredit the report, and have the utmost confidence in Mr. Ross. It is their belief that investigation will show Mr. Greene to be in error.

DAKOTA'S CREW PAID OFF.

Sailors of Wrecked Steamship to be Sent Home.

Yokohama, March 12.—The crew of the wrecked steamer Dakota has been discharged. The Europeans will be sent to America on the American steamer Tremont. The Asiatics will be sent to Hongkong. The majority of the passengers left here will take the steamer Siberia. Their hotel and other expenses were paid by the Great Northern Steamship company, owners of the Dakota.

The American consul has sent \$150 to the governor of Chibu prefecture for distribution among the fishermen who assisted in the rescue of the American passengers. No salvage measure has yet been taken.

An official inquiry has been arranged, steps having been taken for the preservation of evidence. Captain Francke, of the Dakota, is still at the scene of the wreck, awaiting the decision of the underwriters.

Uncle Sam to Make Torpedoes.

Washington, March 13.—Admiral Mason, chief of the naval bureau of ordnance, has completed plans for the construction of a torpedo factory at the Newport naval station, and expects to advertise at once for proposals. This will be the first time the government has undertaken to make its own torpedoes on a large scale. The new factory will give employment to at least 200 skilled workmen. It is proposed to make every part of the torpedo except the steel flask which contains the compressed air.

Expect Return of Cash.

Chicago, March 13.—A new field in the investigation of the subtreasury robbery is being explored by the Federal authorities. It is suggested that some banking institution of Chicago needed a large sum to tide over temporary difficulties, and is responsible for the disappearance of the \$173,000. The secret service operatives are working on the theory that the money that disappeared was borrowed for a day or two at the instance of a tottering institution by some employe who now fears to restore it.

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GRAFT IN IRRIGATION.

Officials and Contractors in Idaho Work Suspected.

Boise, March 13.—Evidence of graft in the arid land reclamation service of the government has been discovered and is now in possession of the department of the Interior at Washington. Action looking toward a number of indictments is anticipated. The principal evidence, so far as disclosed here, relates to grafts in Idaho, but it is said that similar conditions exist throughout the service and that officials in nearly all the Western states where irrigation work is in progress will have to answer.

The Federal grand jury, now in session here, will probably take the matter up, so far as this state is affected, if the new secretary of the interior, James R. Garfield, says the word, and decides to furnish evidence now in his possession. Agents of the department have been conducting an investigation for some time. Their discoveries in Idaho are said to typify conditions in other places, and a reorganization of the department is said to be in prospect.

The charges in general are that engineers and other officials of the department are "standing in" with favored contractors in some instances, and in other instances have thrown out bids in order to make commissions on the purchase of machinery by the government and to profit in other ways.

In Idaho the Boise-Payette irrigation project has been under special scrutiny. Evidence has been secured bearing on the relations of the contracting firm of Hubbard & Carlson, having headquarters at Boise, with certain department officials. It is charged in affidavits now on file that this firm has received many special favors and explanation has been asked of the reason for this.

EXPLOSION ON WARSHIP.

All France Appalled at Disaster on New Battleship.

Toulon, March 13.—The powder magazines on board the French battleship Jena blew up at 1:35 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and as a result Captain Adigard, commander of the battleship; Captain Vertier, chief of staff of the Mediterranean squadron, and from 70 to 80 bluejackets are dead, while Rear Admiral Manceiron and hundreds of men are suffering from injuries. Naval circles are