The Estacada Progress

Issued Each Thursday

ESTACADA ..... OREGON

BRIEF NEWS OF THE PAST WEEK

Interesting Events from Outside the State Presented in a Manner to Catch the Eye of the Busy Reader —Matters of National, Historical and Commercial Importance.

Economy will be the watchword of the present congress.

Commissioner of Corporations Smith condemns dealing in futures on the cotton exchange.

Canada will rebuild the Welland canal, reducing the number of locks from 25 to seven.

Glenn H. Curtiss and seven other aviators are to fly at the aviation meet at Los Angeles.

Central American diplomats meet daily in a Washington cafe to discuss the Nicaraguan situation.

The president has ordered strict examinations of ambassadors' secretaries, to determine fitness and govern promotion.

Tugs have failed to pull the cruiser Prairie off the mud flats in the Delaware river, and her cargo of arms and ammunition will be transferred.

The Chicago Federation of Labor has pledged its moral and financial support to the striking switchmen, and affiliated unions may join in a sympathetic strike.

A radical change in the administration of Indian affairs is to be inaugurated, and the Indians taught to be more economical in the use of government supplies.

During a fire in a menagerie at Colorado Springs a lioness was liberated to save her from the flames, but on hearing the cries of her dying cubs she rushed back and died with them.

Princess Waldemar of Denmark is dead.

A woman is walking from Shoshone to Denver on a wager.

Ballinger is planning a complete change in the reclamation service.

Railroads have stopped employing strikebreakers and declare conditions are normal.

The city marshal of Lake Arthur, La., has resigned, declaring he has nothing to do.

William Calhoun, a Chicago lawyer, is mentioned as a possibility for minister to China.

Bridgeport, Ohio, is under martial law, owing to a strike of 2,000 tinplate workers.

The United States army is very much put out because only marines have so far been sent to Nicaragua.

One of the first moves in the coming congress will be to find out its exact feelings toward Taft.

Zelaya asks a commission to investigate Nicaraguan affairs and promises to resign if they are not found satisfactory.

It is believed that the downfall of Zelaya will be the signal for a general uprising of the revolutionary party in Honduras.

Land Commssioner Dennett declares that the proper use of national resources is as important as mere conservation of them.

Andrew Carnegie was arrested and fined $20 for exceeding the speed limit in Pittsburg. He had but 87 cents in his possession and pledged his East Side home, worth several millions.

British bark Matterhorn founders off Cape Flattery and six men are lost.

Government inspector says sugar scales in custom house were doctored.

It is said that quails are becoming a pest to suburban residents of Seattle.

British parliament ends and taxes can be collected only by consent of the powers.

Secretary of Navy Meyer in his annual report asks two more heavy battleships.

Nicaraguan minister and associates in Washington indulge in drunken carousal.

Northwestern roads say they have plenty of switchmen and deny talk of settlement.

Zelaya ignores government's ultimatum and sends agents to Washington to work for its withdrawal.

All efforts to bring peace to warring Chinese tongs in San Francisco have failed and more blood will flow.

It is believed that J. P. Morgan is trying to bring about an insurance combine with a capital of $1,700,000,000.

Ruef has been released from jail on $300,000 bail, pending an appeal.

President Zelaya plans to resign, placing some trusted henchman in charge.

The property loss by the recent storm in the Northwest is estimated at $2,000,000.

British house of commons is preparing for a final struggle with the house of lords.

Eighty per cent of the striking switchmen of Duluth have voted to return to work.

United States hurries warships to both coasts of Nicaragua to protect American interests.

Three hundred strikebreakers have been imported to St. Paul to replace striking switchmen.

The cabinet used its blue pencil unsparingly on the advance proofs of Taft's coming message.

San Francisco has passed a radical city ordinance for the eradication of tuberculosis. A patient may be taken from his home by force, if necessary.

J. P. Morgan has acquired a controlling interest in the Equitable Life Assurance society of New York.

Mrs. Nicholas Jacobs died at the hospital in Los Angeles as the result of a Thanksgiving day automibile accident. She was the sixth victim. The only remaining member of the family is the baby, which is suffering from concussion of the brain and a broken arm.

It is believed in most coast cities that the switchmen's strike will not last long.

Ballinger is completely exonerated in report of attorney general.

UNIONS WILL AID STRIKERS.

Chicago Federation of Labor Pledges Its Support.

Chicago, Dec. 7.—Indorsing the stand taken by the switchmen in the northwest, unions affiliated with the Chicago Federation of Labor have pledged the strikers moral and financial support. Bitter attacks were made on the railroad brotherhoods who have refused to aid the switchmen.

That the men in Chicago expect to be drawn into the struggle was made plain by James B. Connors, vice-president of the switchmen's union, who declared that if a strike is ordered here the union men belonging to the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen will go out with the switchmen and "refuse to be led by a wolf in sheep's clothing."

President Hawley, of the switchmen's union in St. Paul, announced tonight that the men at all eastern points were prepared to strike on a moment's notice, but that the situation at this time does not warrant ordering them out, as the tie-up in the northwest is practically complete.

Against the optimistic views of President Hawley, dispatches from the cities affected stated that the movement of trains was being hindered more by the heavy fall of snow than by any lack of men to throw the switches. Nearly 100 cars of wheat were moved into Minneapolis today by the Great Northern, and freight was handled at the Minnesota transfer for the first time since the strike began.

"We have everything tied up from Duluth to Seattle," said Mr. Connors, "and we are going to keep it tied up until the railroads are ready to treat us fairly. The only thing that can defeat the switchmen in this struggle is the treachery of kindred organizations. All we want those organizations to do is to keep their hands off and let us attend to our own affairs. It has been charged by President Lee, of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, through his press agent, that members of our organization took the places of other men on strike That is a lie, and I defy any man to show that a member of the switchmen's union ever 'scabbed' in his life."

GEORGE OF GREECE TO QUIT.

Prefers Abdication Now to Disgrace Which Seems Certain.

Berlin, Dec. 7.—King George of Greece says the "Wiener Allgemeine Zeitung," which is inspired by the Austrian foreign office, has resumed the idea of abdicating for himself and his dynasty.

The king cannot overcome the fact that his sons have been forced to quit the army and the navy, a fact which he believes renders it impossible for the crown prince ever to ascend the throne, after having been excluded from the country's service.

Efforts are being made on the part of several courts to dissuade the king from taking this step.

His majesty last August determined to resign, and made all preparations, only giving up the idea on receipt of a telegram from King Edward, who was then at Marienbad, imploring him not to resign in order to avoid great political complications.

King George, however, is now greatly depressed by recent events, and is afraid of being deposed unless he abdicates. The chances of maintaining the dynasty appear to him very small.

CANADA OPENS WAR ON U. S.

Grain Men See Fight if Erie Channel Is Not Improved.

Ottawa, Canada, Dec. 7.—The prime minister has practically assured a deputation of shipping interests that the government has decided to reconstruct the Welland canal.

New plans will reduce the number of locks from twenty-five to seven, and this is regarded by shipping men as the first step in a long war between the grain-carrying interests of the United States and Canada. Since the Welland locks were deepened to 14 feet, the Erie barge canal, from Buffalo to New York has been doing practically no business.

It is pointed out that an appropriation from the state of New York of over $100,000,000 was made a short time ago, and the Erie canal will be deepened to 12 feet.

The Erie when six feet deep could carry grain through to New York cheaper than it could be carried via the Welland canal, when that canal was only eight feet deep. With the Erie 12 feet deep, it is argued that the United States would get all the business.

Cook's Data at Christiania.

Christiania, Dec. 7.—Walter Lonsdale, secretary to Dr. Frederick A. Cook, arrived today at Christiania aboard the steamer United States. He said he had with him all of Dr. Cook's records and reports concerning his north pole expedition. Mr. Lonsdale said that when he left New York Dr. Cook was suffering from overwork, but could not be described as "broken down." He added that when he had delivered the documents to the university of Copenhagen he would be ready to give information concerning Dr. Cook's plans.

Fears Felt for Steamer.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 7.—It is feared here tonight that the Red Cross liner Rosalind, commanded by Captain Smith, and bound from New York for St. Johns, N. F., was a victim of a furious gale which swept the seas of southwestern Newfoundland last week. She had a large passenger list. The steamer, which sailed from here for St. Johns on Tuesday, was last heard from by wireless Wednesday morning, when she reported a terrific gale and a hard passage. The steamer at midnight was 100 hours overdue.

Lumber Steamer Ashore.

San Francisco, Dec. 7.—The lumber steamer Excelsior was driven ashore at Moss landing, 80 miles south of this city, during the storm last night. All the crew escaped without injury, and the position of the vessel is not believed to be dangerous. The steamer was loaded with lumber and could not make headway against the storm which arose so suddenly that there was no chance to get clear of the coast before it broke. The revenue cutter McCulloch has gone to the aid of the Excelsior.

Tong War Still Rages.

San Francisco, Dec. 7.—Despite the efforts of the Chinese Six companies and the peace officials of this entire state to bring an end to the tong war which has been raging for over a month between the Yee family and the On Yick tong, two more lives were snuffed out today, making eight murders since the war was declared.

NEWS NOTES GATHERED FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF OREGON

DEMAND TRAINED TEACHERS.

Ackerman's Advice to School Officers' Convention on Country Schools.

In an address before the school officers' convention of Marion county, Superintendent of Public Instruction J. H. Ackerman made the statement that every district school is now acting as a training school for the city schools, and urged the directors present to demand that laws be placed on the statute books of this state requiring every teacher in every district school to have a thorough training before she starts her work in the school.

"We have normal schools now, but the training is given for the city children at the expense of the children of the country schools. Every district school is a normal school. You send the inexperienced young girl out into the country, and when she secures training she goes to the city. The child of the city is given his education with the bill footed by the child of the rural district."

Over 100 school officers from all over Marion county were in attendance. That they were in entire sympathy with the speaker, and are determined to demand normal training for their teachers was shown by expressions from different members and by the resolutions adopted at the close of the session. Organization was perfected with the following officers: President, J. M. Poorman, of Woodburn; vice-president, Dr. M. Staples, of Turner; secretary, W. M. Smith, of Salem.

Among the speakers were C. L. Starr, who spoke on the history of school officers' conventions, being founder of the plan, and Prof. E. D. Ressler, of the Oregon Agricultural College, who spoke on "Industrial Education"; J. M. Poorman, Woodburn, on "The Responsibilities of the School Director." The following committee on resolutions was chosen: Max Mati, of Mount Angel; Mayor McKinney, of Turner; B. J. Teal, of Chemawa.

Resolutions were passed recommending that a united effort be made all over Marion county by the school officers, teachers and patrons to increase the usefulness of the county schools along one or more of the following lines:

First—Placing works of art on the schoolroom walls, planting flowers, trees and shrubbery, and otherwise beautifying the grounds.

Second—Securing teachers with special training, and, in order to do so, paying better salaries.

Third—Consolidating weak schools and transporting pupils where conditions are favorable.

Fourth—That the county fund law be enacted at the general election in 1910, making possible the distinctly country high school. These high schools will make it possible for the boy and girl in the country to obtain a high school education and still remain under home influence and help with home duties.

Fifth—That the present school laws be amended to provide for a two days' session of the directors' convention, allowing all the necessary expenses for all the directors and clerks.

Complain Against Rates.

Salem—F. A. Ketchem, of the Peninsula Feed & Fuel company, has filed a complaint with the railroad commission against the Northern Pacific and against the Spokane, Portland & Seattle road, charging that those two transportation companies enforce excessive rates for delivering coal in different parts of the city of Portland.

Bank for Halfway.

Halfway—Halfway is to have a bank. W. J. Douglass, of the United States National bank of Vale, is backing the proposed institution.

Cheese Wins Gold Medal.

Forest Grove—Mr. and Mrs. O. Brown, of this city, have received word from their son, Frank Brown, a cheesemaker of Fulda, Wash., that he had been notified by the authorities of the A.-Y.-P. exposition at Seattle that he had won the gold medal for the best cheese exhibited at the fair, both as to quality and preparation. Frank was raised here, and his friends are much pleased over his recognition by the officials of the fair. Mr. Brown, senior, is a cheesemaker by profession, and taught his son the business.

Bank and Cannery Proposed.

New Bridge—A bank and a cannery are among the enterprises coming to this place. Development has been rapid during the past few months, and building shows no considerable abatement on account of winter weather.

Wild Fowl Plentiful.

Tillamook — Thousands of ducks, geese and swan cover Tillamook bay and its rivers and lakes. Not for many years have so many wild fowl been seen on the bay.

Contracts for Water System.

Newport—A contract has been signed up with Engineer George Lea for the construction of a gravity water system for Newport, at a cost of $13,150. The total cost of the system will be $30,000 The Portland Wood Pipe company will furnish the pipe, and the Southern Pacific company has agreed to give a special freight to this city. Water will be brought from Blattner creek, a pure mountain stream five miles north of the city.

Debating League Issues Bulletin.

University of Oregon, Eugene—The demand by literary societies throughout the state for the Oregon High School Debating League Bulletin has been large, but there is still a small supply to be had for the asking from the University of Oregon registrar. The bulletin contains a full discussion of effective debating, in addition to complete bibliographies on a number of important subjects.

U. of O. to List High Schools.

University of Oregon, Eugene—The University of Oregon expects to issue, as a supplement to the February number of the University Bulletin, a complete directory of all Oregon high schools. It will contain the names of the teachers, the subjects taught by each, their preparation, the number of years in the high school course, etc., and is to be sent out free of charge.

Most Rain for 13 Years.

Albany—The rainfall for November was 11.24 inches, the largest amount of rain falling during the month of November for the past 13 years. In November, 1903, it was 11.02. Since 1896 it has been exceeded only once, in February, 1904.

TURKEY "CROP" $100,000.

Douglas County Sends Out 40,000 Birds for Thanksgiving.

Roseburg—Not less than 40,000 turkeys were shipped from Douglas county for Thanksgiving dinners, largely in San Francisco. For the birds at least $100,000 was paid to the farmers who raised them. These figures must be considered with the important fact that many of the turkey raisers throughout the country are holding their product for the Christmas trade. Ordinarily the late shipments bring from a cent to a cent and a half more per pound than the Thanksgiving shipments.

Those citizens of Douglas county who have engaged in the raising of turkeys during the past year have fared exceptionally well, the price paid by buyers this fall showing a substantial increase over prices paid in former years. No birds were purchased in the county for less than 21 cents, while in many instances the birds brought the raiser 23 cents.

J. H. Grande shipped 19½ tons of dressed birds to San Francisco, this being the largest individual shipment. Contrary to usual conditions, Roseburg shipped more birds this year than Oakland, notwithstanding the fact that Oakland has held the record as a turkey-raising section for many years.

Dividend Declared in Defunct Bank.

La Grande—The comptroller of currency has ordered the issue of a 10 per cent dividend to depositors of the defunct Farmers & Traders National bank of this city, and Receiver Neidner is now making out the checks. They will be hurried to Washington to be returned in time to come as Christmas gifts to the depositors. It became definitely certain today that the bank will not pay more than 65 per cent. To make the last and final issue, the bank must win all suits now pending. If such is the case, the grand total of dividends will aggregate 65 per cent.

Regents Exceed Authority.

Salem—The secretary of state has held up the settlement by the board of regents of the University of Oregon of the first payment and interest due on the bonds for the improvement of streets in Eugene abutting on the property of the university in that city on the grounds that the board of regents has no authority to pledge the credit of the state for debts of this nature. An opinion has been asked by Governor Benson of the attorney general, who is preparing a written opinion on the matter.

Bank Deposits Gain at Prineville.

Prineville—A statement rendered by the local banks shows a gain of almost $100,000 in deposits during the past three months. The total recources of the First National bank according to this statement is considerably above the $500,000 mark and is constantly increasing, as the statements are rendered from time to time. This increase is noted in spite of the fact that new banks are being started in various parts of the county.

Model Walnut Orchard Planned.

Sheridan—The Willamette Orchard company is planting 160 acres to Franquette walnuts, using Lambert cherries as "fillers." The planting and cultivating of the trees will be under the supervision of the company's foreman, Claud Schrack, a trained horticulturist. The company is not planting for speculation, and does not intend to sell acreage, but will make a model orchard on the tract.

Milk Condenser Ready.

Hillsboro—The Hillsboro condenser will reopen December 1 and continue in operation as long as the milk supply is adequate to justify the operation of the factory. The condenser has been closed several weeks, and workmen have been busy overhauling the plant. It is now in first-class condition. The opening of the plant will give employment to 30 or 40 people, which is quite a factor in the city's industrial life.

High Price for Land.

Newberg—Gus Guddat has hold his farm of 157 acres in the Rex neighborhood to Captain Paul Reimers, of Portland, for $125 per acre.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Fresh Fruits—Apples, $1@3 per box; pears, $1@1.50 per box; quinces, $1.25@1.50 per box; cranberries, $9@9.50 per barrel.

Potatoes—Oregon, 50@65c per sack; sweet potatoes, 1¾c per pound.

Vegetables—Artichokes, 75c per doz.; beans, 10c per pound; cabbage, ¾@1c per pound; cauliflower, 90c@$1.25 per dozen; celery, $3.75@4 per crate; eggplant, $1.75 per box; pumpkins, 1@1½c; sprouts, 8c per pound; squash, $1@1.10; tomatoes, 75c@$1.

Sack Vegetables—Turnips, 75c@$1 per sack; carrots, $1; beets, $1.25; rutabagas, $1.10 per sack; parsnips, $1.25.

Onions—Oregon, $1.50 per sack.

Wheat—Bluestem, $1.15; club, $1.03; red Russian, $1.01½; valley, $1; Turkey red, $1.04; forty-fold, $1.04.

Barley—Feed, $28.50; brewing, $28.50 per ton.

Corn—Whole, $33.50; cracked, $34.50 per ton.

Oats—No. 1 white, $31@31.50 per ton.

Hay—Timothy, Willamette valley, $15@19 per ton; eastern Oregon, $18@21; alfalfa, $16@16.50; clover, $15@16; cheat, $15@16; grain hay, $15@16.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 37c; fancy outside creamery, 32½@36c per pound; store, 22½@24c. (Butter fat prices average 1½c per pound under regular butter prices.)

Eggs—Fresh Oregon, extras, 45c per dozen; eastern, 32@38c per dozen.

Poultry—Hens, 15@16c; springs, 16@16½c; roosters, 9@10c; ducks, 15@16c; geese, 11@12c; turkeys, live, 18c; dressed, 22@23c.

Pork—Fancy, 10@10½c per pound.

Veal—Extras, 11½@12c per pound.

Cattle—Best steers, $4.50; fair to good, $4@4.25; medium and feeders, $3.50@3.75; best cows, $3.50@3.75; medium, $3@3.75; common to medium, $2.50@3.75; bulls, $2@2.50; stags, $2.50@3.50; calves, light, $5.25@5.50; heavy, $4@4.75.

Hogs—Best, $8@8.10; medium, $7.50@7.85; stockers, $4@4.75.

Sheep—Best wethers, $4.50@4.75; fair to good, $4@4.25; best ewes, $2.75@4; fair to good, $3.50@3.75; lambs, $5@5.35.

Hops—1909 crop, 18@23c; 1908 crop, nominal; 1907 crop, 12c; 1906 crop, 8c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 16@23c per pound. Mohair—Choice, 25c pound.

Cascara Bark—4½c per pound.

SWITCHMEN GO ON STRIKE.

Order Promptly Obeyed by 2,300 Men Throughout Northwest.

St. Paul, Dec. 1.—After 15 days of negotiation between the Switchmen's union of North America and the joint committee of railroad managers, representing 13 railroads of the northwest, a strike involving 2,300 switchmen became effective at 6 o'clock last night.

The men are employed by railroads running west and north of St. Paul from Lake Superior to the Pacific coast, and, unless speedily settled, the strike will mean a serious interruption to the traffic.

Twenty-three hundred men are involved.

All Hill line switchmen in Seattle, Tacoma, Bellingham, Everett, Spokane and other western division points are out.

Passenger trains where necessary are being made up by terminal superintendents and their assistants.

The railroad managers charge that the strike order is a violation of the spirit of conference pending to obtain arbitration under the Erdman law.

The switchmen declare the railroads forced the issue.

The demands of the switchmen are for double pay for Sundays, holidays and overtime; an advance of 60 cents a day of ten hours in the wages of switchmen, switch tenders, towermen, engine herders and assistant yardmasters; a modification of the rule providing for the payment of penalty in case of failure to permit switchmen to secure their meals in the middle of their shift at a stated period, which contemplates double pay in cases where it became necessary to work a portion of the meal hour, and the elimination of the physical examination and the age limit placed upon switchmen entering the service.

Both sides to the dispute issued statements tonight. That of the railroad managers declares that an increase of 2 cents an hour, or 20 cents a day, was offered by the railroads in territory west of Billings and Havre, Mont., but declined. Further increases were refused, the statement says, because pay of switchmen had been increased previously and now averages more than $100 a month. The railroads say the strike order was issued while a conference with United States Commerce Commissioner Knapp and United States Commissioner of Labor Neill, looking to arbitration under the Erdman act, was pending. Bad faith in calling the strike is charged.

KILL JOHN D. PLOT TOLD.

Oil King Guarded to Foil Assassins or Kidnapers.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 1.—Acting upon information given by a man who said he overheard a conversation in which plans to assassinate John D. Rockefeller were discussed, the police guarded Forest Hill, Rockefeller's home, all night. The information was given by Sawyer Smith, of Minerva, O., who said he heard the plot discussed by two men at Alliance, O.

Smith, who is a lumber dealer, said that while visiting in Alliance Sunday night he accidentally came near two men near a railway track. He heard the men plotting against Rockefeller, and said they declared they were to be well paid for either killing or kidnaping him.

It was agreed by them that it would be easier to kill, and the reward would be the same, Smith says. It is believed that in consequence of this warning Mr. Rockefeller decided not to attend a church banquet last night, at which he was to have spoken. Mr. Rockefeller left today for New York.

LORDS DEFEAT BUDGET.

King's Agents Are Without Authority to Collect Taxes.

London, Dec. 1.—The house of lords tonight, for the first time in 300 years, refused its formal assent to the budget, thereby making it illegal for the king's agents to collect taxes with which to carry on the government.

This action of the peers was taken in direct disregard of the advice of such able members as Rosebery, Morley, Lord James of Hereford, Lord Cromer, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the Earl of Lytton, Lord Courtney and the Archbishops of Canterbury and of York.

The budget will now go before the country for its approval or rejection; that is, the crown, through the ministry, will dissolve the house of commons and order a general election. Whether the present liberal house and ministry shall be sustained in insisting on the budget will be the issue in the contest at the polls.

Rebels Defeat Big Force.

Colón—A wireless dispatch received from Bluefields says: After five hours of fighting yesterday 600 revolutionists under General Matuty defeated 1,000 government troops under General Zasquez in the mountains above Rama. Several standards and a quantity of arms and ammunition fell into the hands of General Matuty when the government troops withdrew. The Zelayan troops lost 80 men killed and many wounded, while the revolutionists, who fought behind boulders and other protections, lost 20 men killed.

Child Ordered Released.

Fresno, Cal.—By a writ of habeas corpus Mrs. Minnie Spring today regained possession of her 4-year-old daughter, Ruth, held by Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Holland for debt. The Hollands claimed $50 for the care of the child. Judge Church, who issued the writ, said that in this civilized age the holding of a child under lien or chattel mortgage was not to be thought of. The charges were brought under an old territorial law. The officials say the arrest was a case of persecution and not prosecution.

T. R. Sees Lion-Spearing.

Londiana, British East Africa—Colonel Roosevelt, Kermit Roosevelt, Edmund Heller and Leslie A. Tarlton arrived here today from the Gusaisgishcu plateau. All are in splendid health. Among the sights witnessed was a display of lion-killing with spears by Mandi warriors. The exhibition was a thrilling one. This evening the party will proceed to Njoro, where they will be guests of Lord Delamere, on the latter's ranch, until December 10, when they will proceed to Nairobi.

Exchange Seat, $94,000.

New York—A price within $1,000 of the record was paid today for a seat on the New York Stock exchange. It brought $94,000 as against the record figure of $95,000 paid for a seat several years ago. The late E. H. Harriman's seat was sold to Robert H. Loeb for $85,000 only two weeks ago. Since then another seat has sold for $92,000.

WOULD ORGANIZE INSURANCE TRUST

Assets of Companies Concerned Aggregate $1,700,000,000.

Combine Has Been Long Planned—"Big Three" Companies Reported In On Deal—Saving in Management Would Result—Question of Policies Not Clear.

New York, Dec. 4.—The amalgamation of the "big three" life insurance companies—the Equitable Life, New York Life and Mutual Life—is possible as the result of the purchase of control of the Equitable by J. Pierpont Morgan & Co.

Such a consolidation was seriously considered several years ago, before the upheaval in the Equitable which made so many radical changes in the insurance business. These changes have greatly increased the probability of an amalgamation and have removed many of the conditions which then made it impossible. The advantages are said to be many and important and the objections are not insurmountable.

From a financial standpoint the consolidation would be highly desirable for those in control, as it would put assets of $1,700,000,000 under the direction of a single group of financiers and would result in a material saving in the present distributed control.

Mr. Morgan, if he were to dominate the consolidated companies, would have the handling and investment of an annual income of $275,000,000. The average cash in bank of the three companies is now $25,000,000.

There are several great railroad systems in which the combined holdings of the three companies would be $50,000,000 and over, with all that it implies in influence. Of New York Central bonds alone the three hold $45,000,000, to say nothing of other lines that are part of the New York Central system. In Pennsylvania bonds the three hold $38,000,000. Even Mr. Morgan's steel trust is dwarfed by the possibilities of this combine.

GALE SINKS FREIGHT SHIP.

Six Men Go Down With British Bark Off Cape Flattery.

Portland, Dec. 4.—Six lives were claimed for toll by the rock-bound shores of Cape Flattery when the British bark Matterhorn foundered in a heavy sea, 70 miles off Umatilla reef lightship, November 27.

Leaving the vessel during the heavy gale that prevailed, the first officer's boat was dashed to pieces, and the mate, steward and four of the sailors were drowned.

Captain Salter and second mate and 25 of the crew launched a large lifeboat, and after battling with the storm for 27 hours, and enduring great hardships, succeeded in reaching Umatilla lightship.

Crazed by exposure, one sailor jumped overboard when approaching the lightship, and was rescued with difficulty by his comrades.

On Saturday, November 27, the day on which the Matterhorn foundered, one of the fiercest storms which has been experienced in years swept the entire Pacific coast between Northern California and Alaska.

At North Head the wind registered as high as 84 miles an hour, and it blew with even greater velocity at Tatoosh Island. Vessels a day behind the Matterhorn and Howard D. Troop were bar-bound at Astoria for several days, and vessels outside hovered around the lightship, unable to get in.

During the same gale which wrecked the Matterhorn, the steamer Argo went ashore off Tillamook bar, November 26, when five lives were lost.

In charge of Captain Salter the Matterhorn crossed out over the Columbia River bar at 10:20 a. m. November 26. She was in company with the British ship Howard D. Troop, and at that time the Portland waterfront figured out a race between the two vessels on the voyage around the Horn. The Matterhorn carried 105,021 bushels of barley and was bound for Ipswich, direct. The cargo was dispatched by Balfour, Guthrie & Co. She carried a master, two mates and 29 men.

The Matterhorn was a four-masted iron bark and was built at Greenock in 1882, and was owned by C. E. DeWolf & Co. She was classed in Lloyds as 100 A-1.

Plot to Kidnap Three Foiled.

St. Louis, Dec. 4.—Four men were arrested in Collinsville, Ill., today charged with participating in a plot to kidnap the three young children of L. F. Lumaghi, an ex-mayor of the town. They are held under bonds of $4,000. Lumaghi received "black hand" letters demanding $6,000 on pain of losing his children. Under advice of the police he put this amount in stage money in the designated place and early today an Italian was caught at the spot. He confessed and implicated four others, three of whom were apprehended.

Foote, I. W. W., Gets Jail.

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 4.—E. J. Foote of Portland, Ore., tried on the charge of conspiracy, was found guilty as charged today and sentenced to six months in the county jail. Foote is one of the leaders of the Socialist I. W. W. movement to violate the street-speaking ordinance in Spokane. He has been connected with the publication of the Industrial Worker, published by the local organization, and is accused of being one of the ten or more leaders who incited and encouraged mobs to violate the ordinance.

Two Girls Ride Under Train.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 4.—Two little girls, Agnes Smith and Annie Luecke, both 13 years old, who escaped from the industrial school here on the night of November 29, made a 40-mile trip to Jefferson Junction clinging to the rods underneath a passenger coach, and then walked ten miles across the country in an attempt to outwit officers they knew would be seeking them. Both are sick from their hazardous escapade, and the Smith girl is not expected to live.

Queen Lil Aids Orphans.

Honolulu, Dec. 4.—Former Queen Liliuokalani, of the Hawaiian Islands, it was announced today, has executed a deed of trust to W. O. Smith and C. I. P. Laukie, whereby a great part of her estate, which is valued at $200,000, after her death shall go toward the endowment of orphan asylums for Hawaiian and part Hawaiian children.

WHITE PLAGUE GETS BLOW.

San Francisco Health Board Wins Fight on Disease.

San Francisco, Dec. 3.—An ordinance framed by the board of health, imposing regulations upon persons afflicted with tuberculosis, was passed by the board of supervisors yesterday.

Under it physicians are required to report within 24 hours every person coming under their notice who shows symptoms of tuberculosis. A complete record of every case will be kept by the health department.

When a case is reported, it is made the duty of the physician to make immediate report if the patient vacates the quarters he was then occupying, or if there is no physician, then the duty devolves on the landlord. The apartments must be disinfected and renovated before they can again be occupied. The cleaning or renovating must be done at the expense of the landlord, and if it is not done to the satisfaction of the health authorities, then the following notice will be posted at the door of the room:

"Tuberculosis is a communicable disease. These apartments have been occupied by a consumptive, and may be infected. They must not be occupied until the order of the health officer, directing the disinfection and renovation, has been complied with."

The most radical feature of the new law is that which gives the health authorities power to remove a victim from his own home by force, if it is believed that his presence there menaces his children or the other members of his family. The health officer becomes clothed with unlimited power in his campaign against the disease, and there is no appeal from his order. Another section bars children showing symptoms of the disease from the private and public schools.

START FOR NICARAGUA.

Marines Gather on Both Coasts, With Flag Officer in Command.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Naval forces of the United States are being moved forward tonight to both coasts of Central America to protect American life and property in Nicaragua, by force of arms if necessary.

With the departure this afternoon from Philadelphia of troopship Prairie, with 700 marines aboard, for the isthmus of Panama, and, if it be so decreed, Nicaragua, and with the sailing from Magdalena bay of the protected cruiser Albany, and the gunboat Yorktown, for Corinto, on the Pacific coast, activity of the navy department was becoming manifest on both oceans that wash the Nicaraguan shores.

Besides, the cruisers Des Moines and Tacoma and the gunboat Marietta are lying off Port Limon, Costa Rica, ready for any call upon them, and guns of the little gunboat Vicksburg are pointed toward the custom house and town of Corinto. The gunboat Princeton is also endeavoring to make her way from the Bremerton navy-yard, Washington, to Corinto.

With the probability of many delicate questions arising in Nicaragua, the navy department decided to send a flag officer to Nicaragua to take command of the American naval forces. Rear-Admiral William W. Kimball was chosen. He sailed for Colon today on the Prairie. He will make his way from there to Corinto. Admiral Kimball is a member of the naval board of examinations and retirements and the bureau of construction.

300,000 DEMAND MORE PAY.

Eastern Railroad Men Will Ask Ten Per Cent Raise.

New York, Dec. 3.—Representatives of trainmen on all the eastern railroads of the country, comprising 300,000 employes, issued a statement today declaring they would soon present a demand to the railroads for a 10 per cent increase in wages. The statement reads in part as follows:

"The votes in the various districts have all been taken by members of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and soon will be presented to all eastern railway companies. Everything possible will be done to avoid a strike. Though the Switchmen's union of North America believes in radical measures, the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen does not. The agreements with the eastern railroads stipulate that they may be terminated upon 30 days' notice by either party. No such notice has as yet been given."

Duluth Men Will Go Back.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 3.—As a result of a meeting of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen this afternoon, 80 per cent of the striking trainmen here will return to work tomorrow, most of them for the Northern Pacific. It was decided that the order to switchmen to strike was unconstitutional, and all were advised to hold out no longer. Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha announced tonight that they are ready to receive freight. One hundred strikebreakers will be here in the morning to enable them to conduct the business.

Wheat in Fine Condition.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—B. W. Snow's crop report for December 1 estimates the winter wheat acreage seeded at that date at 29,914,000 acres, against a harvested area this year of 27,536,000 acres, with seeding not yet completed on the Pacific coast, and some yet in progress in Kansas. The seed bed was in excellent shape. Fall weather has been highly favorable, germination full and prompt and early growth strong, and the December 1 condition is reported at 96.2, against 78.9 at this date a year ago.

Zelaya Would Add to Navy.

Panama, Dec. 3.—The Nicaraguan consul-general here is negotiationg for the purchase of a schooner named Herald for the use of the government of Nicaragua. It is planned to equip the vessel with rapid-fire guns obtained from the government of Panama. The deal is hardly possible of completion, as the Herald is American-owned, and the republic of Panama is not likely to furnish artillery to a country that is not on friendly terms with the United States.

Battle Follows Strike.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 3.—Shots were exchanged today between strikers and the men who yesterday voluntarily returned to work in the mills of the American Sheet & Tinplate company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel corporation. One man employed in a factory adjoining the mills was slightly wounded. Extra deputies have been summoned.