

THE GOOD

Olive Branch Commerce Commission.

BIG ROADS OF ONE MIND

Knell to Illegal Practices Will Be Sounded at St. Paul Meet- ing Within Few Days.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—The railroad interests of the entire country have decided to hold out the olive branch to the government and join hands with the interstate commerce commission to secure a rigid enforcement of law. To his end two moves have been begun, one embracing all the railroads east of Chicago and St. Louis, and the other taking in all railroads west of the same points.

The Eastern movement was begun several weeks ago, and the commission has been asked to meet a committee of railway men in a conference regarding the situation in the East. The Western movement is of more recent date and J. C. Stubbs, traffic manager of the Harriman lines, is in charge of it. Yesterday Mr. Stubbs wired the Interstate Commerce commission asking for an early conference between that body and a committee representing every Western railroad, to discuss plans for a joint effort to prevent further violations of the laws governing transportation. It is expected a date will be set before the close of the year, and the conference is likely to take place in St. Paul next Friday, when the commission has a hearing in that city.

The railroads insist they are in earnest and that, if the commission is in sympathy with the move, it means the knell of the freight rebate, the "midnight tariff" of preferential rates, of arrangements with industrial railroads, of the payment of unlawful commissions, and, in short, the end of everything which comes within the purview of the interstate commerce act or the Elkins amendment.

ALL RAILROAD BIDS REJECTED.

Government Will Again Offer Con- cessions in Philippines.

Washington, Dec. 23.—All the bids for concessionary contracts or grants for the construction of railroads in the Philippine islands, recently submitted to the bureau of insular affairs, were today rejected because of the departure from the terms of the circular calling for proposals. Secretary Taft, after a number of conferences with Governor Wright and Mr. Forbes, of the Philippine commission, and Colonel Edwards, chief of the insular bureau, today decided to re-advertise the proposals, and on January 20, at 10 a. m., has been fixed as the date for the opening of new bids. The terms will be modified in some particulars.

Where bidders propose to construct a road without guarantee they will be limited in their bids only by the terms of the Philippine government railroads acts of 1902 and 1903. But where bidders wish to take advantage of a guarantee of a certain interest on their investment, they can vary from the original invitation to bid only in point of time or on the cost of construction per mile as affected by contractors' profits.

ALL RUSSIA PARALYZED.

Empire Tied Up by General Strike and Food is Scarce.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 23.—With the strike in force throughout the entire empire, conditions are again becoming more and more alarming. While it is certain that the strike leaders are absolutely opposed to violence, it begins to look as though they would be unable to control the forces. Famine is the one thing to be feared, inasmuch as the supplies of food within the city have been heavily drawn upon during the last 30 days, and now that all the output of the foodstuffs is at an end, prices are beginning to advance and the common people must certainly suffer.

French Ship on Voyage.

Paris, Dec. 23.—A cruiser detached from the French squadron at Saigon, French Indo-China, is now proceeding to Shanghai. The officials here say this is a measure of precaution, as no French interests have as yet been disturbed. The recent disturbances occurred in the international concession, which is separated from the French session. An official dispatch from Peking today says an imperial edict just issued, following energetic protests on the part of foreign ministers, promises to end the trouble.

Not a Wheel Turns in Moscow.

Moscow, Dec. 23.—The town is in a state of complete paralysis. The employees of the municipal authorities have abandoned their posts. Fifty thousand factory hands are idle. The troops are confined to barracks and every possible precaution for eventualities has been taken. The strikers' pickets are all over the city persuading or threatening those who are reluctant to join the strike for freedom.

Troops to Suppress Revolt.

Paris, Dec. 23.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Petit Parisien, in a dispatch dated yesterday, says that the government is preparing to suppress the revolt along the Baltic.

MACKENZIE PROMISES AID.

Recommends Total Appropriation of \$1,400,000 for Jetty.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Senators Fulton and Gearin today called on General MacKenzie, chief of engineers, in regard to the needs of the Columbia river jetty. General MacKenzie gave them renewed assurance of his friendliness and said he was doing everything in his power to secure money to keep work in progress.

He has recommended not only an appropriation of \$400,000 in cash, but has urged that authority be granted for the expenditure of an additional \$1,000,000. He explains that \$400,000 is required for "rocking" the jetty as far out as the end of the present tramway, but will not be ample for any extension. If authority can be secured for the expenditure of \$1,000,000 additional, it will be possible next season to push the jetty much farther seaward, and in fact approach the point where it is expected to end.

Major Roessler, in his report, recommended an appropriation of \$1,900,000 to complete the jetty. This is a higher figure than the previous estimate, but his estimate is reduced materially by the War department.

The Oregon senators will exert their best efforts to secure the appropriation recommended by General MacKenzie, and will furthermore insist upon the authorization of additional work to the extent of \$1,000,000. The other Northwestern senators and representatives will work in accord with them.

INVESTIGATES INSECT PESTS.

Government Solves Problems of Cotton and Wheatgrowers.

Washington, Dec. 26.—According to the annual report of L. C. Howard, in charge of the Bureau of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture, the main work of the bureau for the past fiscal year, ended June 30, 1905, was in connection with the cotton boll weevil, the cotton boll worm, importation of beneficial insects from abroad, investigations of insects damaging forests and deciduous fruit trees, work on insects injurious to vegetable crops and effecting the great staple field crops, and work in silk and bee culture.

The investigations into the cotton boll worm were such that cotton planters will, it is stated, be enabled to control that injurious pest. Experiments on a large scale, extending over practically the whole of the wheat growing area, have been looking toward the elucidation of certain as yet unsolved problems in the propagation of the Hessian fly and of the joint worms of wheat, and also to determine the best time to sow wheat in the autumn in order to ward off the autumn attack of the fly. Investigations of the same insect in the spring wheat regions have been begun, since only recently has the Hessian fly spread into this new country.

IRRIGATE YAKIMA RESERVE.

Jones' Plan to Secure Water and Ad- mit White Settlers.

Washington, Dec. 26.—As the first step in the direction of adjusting conflicting water rights on the Yakima Indian reservation, Representative Jones will introduce a bill, when congress convenes, authorizing the Yakima Indians to sell 60 acres of their respective allotments, and directing the secretary of the interior to apply a portion of the proceeds to the purchase of water rights for the remaining 20 acres of each allotment.

The passage of this bill will permanently provide for the irrigation of Indian lands and at the same time open the way for the settlement of a large portion of the Yakima reservation. This Indian land has been selling for from \$40 to \$50 per acre, and a large surplus will be realized for the benefit of the Indians.

Indian Commissioner Leupp is in favor of this plan and will lend his assistance to secure its favorable consideration by congress.

New York Traction Merge.

New York, Dec. 26.—A consolidation of the subway, elevated and surface traction lines of Manhattan island is believed to be probable, as a result of the sale of the interests of Thomas F. Ryan in the Metropolitan Street Railway system to August Belmont. The Metropolitan system includes practically all of the surface roads on the island, and Mr. Belmont is president of the Interborough Rapid Transit company, which operates the elevated roads and subway. The price paid was not made public.

Irish Leaders May Get Together.

Dublin, Dec. 26.—William O'Brien is making overtures to the parliamentary party, led by John Redmond, for a working agreement and the adoption of a common line of action in the forthcoming general elections. The overtures have been received in a friendly spirit, but so far there has been no interview between the leaders. Mr. Redmond and John Dillon have issued an announcement that nothing has yet resulted from Mr. O'Brien's action.

Alfonso Betrothed at Last.

Paris, Dec. 26.—The Figaro this morning declares that a definite agreement has been reached between the British and Spanish governments regarding the betrothal of King Alfonso and Princess Ena of Battenberg, but that the official announcement will not be made for several weeks.

REBELS IN CONTROL

Russian Revolt Has Won in the Baltic Provinces.

CASTLES BECOME FORTS AGAIN

Insurgent Army Numbers 100,000
Well Armed Men—Revolted Re-
gion Has Provisional Head.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 21.—The war in the Baltic provinces has spread throughout Lithuania. The insurgent army is believed to number 100,000, and it is constantly increasing. Women and children are participating in the hostile movement against the government forces. Thirty thousand troops are either in retreat or are cooped up in the cities, where they lack provisions and must either surrender or be annihilated by the insurgents. Russian officials and some German barons have been imprisoned. A committee of Livonians and Jews is administering the affairs of the revolted region. It controls the railroads and telegraph lines, permitting private messages to pass over the latter, but refusing all government communications.

The mediaeval castles in these provinces have been turned into fortresses, some of which are held by their owners against the insurgents, while others are in the possession of the latter. Guerrilla warfare is in progress at many points. Except for a few beleaguered garrisons, the czar's rule is gone. Agrarian riots in the southern portions of the empire are increasing. The landowners are fleeing to the towns, leaving their property to the mercy of the rioters. Revolutionists are reported to hold Kharkoff and Sevastopol. In the latter city the soldiers demand the release of the imprisoned sailors who were concerned in the recent mutinies. Finland continues to arm.

HOODOO OF KANSAS SENATORS

Beginning in 1861, the Office Has
Been Full of Trouble.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 21.—"The fatal succession" is the name Kansas has given to the senatorship of which Joseph Ralph Burton, the latest incumbent, is under conviction of grafting. A dark hued bird of evil omen seems to watch over those who take the seat first occupied by James H. Lane.

The hoodoo started at the outset. In 1861, when Kansas was admitted as a state and chose two senators, they tossed a coin to see which should get the short or four-year term. It went to Lane.

He served his term, was re-elected, and committed suicide. E. C. Ross, appointed to succeed him, failed to heed the demand of Kansas for the impeachment of President Johnson. Ross' vote saved the president, but Ross was defeated for re-election, cast aside, and now lives a humble life.

Alexander Caldwell took the place, held it two years, and resigned, it is said, to avoid fighting charges. Robert Crozier was appointed and ousted as soon as the legislature met. James M. Harvey was elected and defeated for renomination.

Preston P. Plumb was then chosen, was re-elected twice, and died a tragic death within a year after starting his third term.

B. W. Perkins could hold the job after appointment only until the legislature convened. John Matrin, his successor, held the place two years and dropped out of sight.

Lucien Baker served his full term of six years, but was forced to withdraw from the race for re-election. Joseph Ralph Burton succeeded him, and before half his term was served was under jail sentence.

The line of Kansas senators who succeeded Pomeroy, chosen simultaneously with Lane, has numbered but five, and included the brilliant Ingalls and the highly esteemed W. A. Harris.

Dynamite Kills Three.

New York, Dec. 21.—Three men were blown to pieces seven others were more or less seriously hurt and the occupants of fashionable hotels and residences in the vicinity of Fifth avenue and Thirty-fourth street were startled today by an explosion of dynamite in an excavation for the new Altman building. Fragments of the bodies of the dead were scattered over an area of hundreds of feet.

The explosion was caused by a workman striking a heavy charge of dynamite which had defied all efforts to explode it at the proper time.

Germany Apologizes to Brazil.

Berlin, Dec. 21.—The German government has directed its minister Petropolis to express to the Brazilian government its regret that the officers and men of the cruiser Panther sent ashore at Itajahy to obtain unobtrusively facts concerning a supposed deserter from the Panther overstepped the proper forms. Germany also affirms that Steinhof, the man who is said to have been maltreated, was not taken on board the Panther, nor had he been near the vessel.

Killed by Robbers in Mexico.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 21.—Two men named Rutherford and McMurray, both from Philadelphia, were killed last night by highwaymen on a ranch at Diaz, a small settlement in Chihuahua, Mexico. A man named Finstad, of Los Angeles, and another known as "Shorty" were wounded.

CZAR IS WARNED.

Revolutionists Will Not Be Responsible
for His Safety.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 25.—There is a persistent rumor in circulation here, a well known revolutionary leader being the authority, that the czar has been warned to leave Russia. This communication was sent to the ruler in three different ways in order to guarantee its reaching him. The czar was notified that the limit of patience had been reached and that he had ceased to be ruler of Russia, save in name only. The czar was advised, for his own sake as well as for his family's, to leave the country at once.

The communication is also said to have stated: "We do not want to harm any member of the imperial family, but we will not be responsible for their safety in the present critical time."

It is stated on high authority that one copy of the warning was taken to the czar's private apartments at Tsarkoo-Selo a few days ago.

The czar is heavily guarded in the palace, which is surrounded by a formidable array of troops, while dozens of maxims and large supplies of ammunition are stored away. Few of the officials have access to the czar.

MOSCOW REDS RAISE SIEGE.

Escape From Meeting Hall by Break- ing Through Railings.

Moscow, Dec. 25.—The 12,000 persons who were besieged in the Aquarium since last night forced the railings surrounding the building at 9 o'clock this morning and escaped through an adjacent schoolhouse. A few were wounded in their attempts to escape the military cordon.

Seventy of those attending the meeting were arrested, but they were subsequently released. A few revolvers were seized and many daggers and revolvers were left behind in the garden surrounding the schoolhouse.

Demonstrations of the strikers were continued all day, but in every case they were dispersed by Cossacks and dragoons. Several persons were injured, but no one was killed. During the day wholesale arrests were made. All business has been stopped. Several of the bakery shops have been plundered.

The strikers are using the strongest measures to enforce the complete cessation of business, but notwithstanding these measures the postal operations continue.

At a meeting of bankers today it was decided to open the banks tomorrow.

BLAZE ON CROWDED FERRY.

Thousand Passengers Nearly Jump Into Hudson in Terror.

New York, Dec. 25.—While the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western ferryboat Montclair was crowded from end to end on a trip tonight from the foot of Christopher street to Hoboken, fire burst out beneath the midst of the inner row of seats in the men's cabin on the starboard side. So sudden was the outbreak of flames that those sitting on the seats had narrow escapes from burning.

The shouts of fire sent the passengers in a rush to the open ends of the boat, men almost pushing one another into the water. The panic spread to the women's cabin, which was also crowded, there being 1,000 passengers on the boat. The Montclair was in midstream. As quickly as they could make their way to the fire extinguishers, the deckhands took them down and played on the fire, which quickly became only a smudge of stifling smoke.

The boat was driven full speed, with whistle shrieking, to the Hoboken slip. The passengers rushed ashore and the fire department put out what remained of the blaze. It is supposed that a smoldering cigar stub communicated fire to rubbish and started the blaze.

Canada Quarantines American Hog.

Ottawa, Dec. 25.—An order in council has been passed providing that "all swine imported must be accompanied by a certificate signed by veterinarians of the United States bureau of Animal industry, stating that neither swine plague nor hog cholera has existed within a radius of five miles of the premises in which they have been kept for a period of six months immediately preceding the date of shipment, but such swine shall nevertheless be inspected, and shall be subject to a quarantine of 30 days."

Heyburn Loaded for Bear.

Washington, Dec. 25.—When the senate reconvenes after the holidays, Senator Heyburn intends to make a speech on his forest reserve bills. He will air his difference with the president and Gifford Pinchot, and urge curtailment of the president's power to create reserves. His bill has not been reported. A severe arraignment of the administration is expected. The senator will also speak in advocacy of his national board of corporations bill.

Traffic of Soo Canal.

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Dec. 25.—The government report places the total freight tonnage of the Soo canal for the year at 44,270,860 tons, an increase over last year of 40 per cent.

Martial Law for Poland.

Warsaw, Dec. 25.—A proclamation of the governor general was gasseted here today, establishing martial law in all the 10 governments of Russian Poland and appointing ten temporary military governors general.

FAITH IN

I used to watch
With childish faith
And listen in the
To hear his sleigh
Beside the door
Of trust and vain
To feed the prancing
That sped him on his
I pictured him a jolly
With beard of frosty
And cheeks so fat that
They hid his eyes from
A heart that overleaped
For little girls and boys,
And on his back a bulging
Brimful of gorgeous toys.

If children of a larger growth
Could have a Christmas tree
From Father Time, one gift alone
Would be enough for me—
Let others take the gems and gold
And trifles light and vain,
But give me back my old belief
In Santa Claus again!

—Life.

NANNIE'S XMAS IN 1799.

BY JULES ADAMS POWELL.

It was the day before Christmas. Dame Yarrow stood in the store-room doorway, gowned in a warm frock of gray wool homespun, over which was tied an ample white apron. Her white-capped head nodded as she counted the pies on the shelves.

"Fifteen pumpkin—fifteen mince—fifty custard cups and two plum puddings—eighty-two in all, not counting Nannie's three little turnovers. I think that will do for the holidays this year, though Brother John is coming with those ten boys and one little girl. How cold it is. There is surely a storm brewing, and I hope the folks will get here before it breaks."

The good woman turned the key in the lock, and a door blowing open just at that moment, at the other end of the passageway, she hurried off to close it and forgot about the key.

By 3 o'clock madame was robbed in her pretty gray poplin with white kerchief crossed on her breast, and a dainty white lace cap on her brown curls, which would stray out from beneath the cap band, and which Papa Yarrow slyly pulled as he passed through the hall where sat his wife and little daughter in front of the blazing wood fire.

"All ready for company, Nancy mine?" He caught the little one up in his arms and kissed her on either cheek, continuing: "And mother, too? Why she looks as young as the day I saw her for the first time."

Farmer Yarrow put the little girl down, glanced at his wife, who, with drooping face, did not respond to his merry speech.

Her husband, noticing this, bent over her tenderly, with the words, "Yes, my wife, our life has been one of great happiness, marked only by one sorrow. If he—our eldest child—our Henry—were alive to-day, he would be a brave lad of 17."

"John," for the first time his wife raised her head and looked into his face, her brown eyes filled with tears. "John, sometimes, methinks our boy may yet be alive. In the fight with the Indians, we were told that he was carried away by them, and even though the country about was searched by scouts and others, it might be that they saved his life, for he was but a baby—5 years old, and if there was a woman in that tribe surely she would have mother-heart enough to preserve the life of an innocent babe who had never done harm to any."

"Wife, wife, this is very wrong for you and hope for the return of one who has been many years from home. I am sure that our son cannot be alive, or we would have heard of him in some way. Ah! I hear sleigh bells."

Catching Nannie up again, he turned toward the window, and coming up the driveway were seen three immense sledges drawn by strong horses and filled with merry faces, the owners of which were soon clambering out. The front door was thrown open, and Madame Yarrow's tears vanished in the hearty handshakings and embraces of sisters, cousins and aunts.

Even Great-grandmother Hartwell had come, for this year it was Mary Yarrow's Christmas feast, and all had come to make the old house ring with joy and laughter until after New Year.

The night a merry crowd sat down at the supper table. There was Cousin John Hartwell, his wife and eleven children. There was Great-grandmother Hartwell and her daughter-in-law, Grandmother Hartwell. Mr. Yarrow's father and mother were present, as were also his two brothers and one sister with their wives, husband and children. In all there were thirty-three.

One might well wonder where all this goodly company were to sleep, but if you had gone into the great garret you would have ceased wondering, when you saw the trundle beds for the little ones. Of course, the very smallest babies slept in their mothers' rooms.

Christmas Eve the children were always under an extra half hour around the fireside to listen to the stories of their elders, while the corn popped and chestnuts burned black, or else hopped across the floor.

On this evening Nannie sat in her favorite place on Cousin Roderick's knee. Uncle Tom had just been saying that a few days previous he had heard that the Indians had been causing trouble for the farmers. They were stealing the hoarded corn and wheat, and in one instance, after taking the grain, they had set fire to the granary.

Cousin Rod saw the look of terror in the eyes of some of the little ones, and interrupted with the words, "Well, now, Aunt Mary, wouldn't it be a great joke if these hungry Reds should get into your storeroom and carry off all those pies and puddings I know you have there for to-morrow?"

"Are they really so hungry, Cousin Rod?" asked a little voice from his lap. "Yes, dear, an Indian is always ready to eat one out of house and home."

Late that night no one heard the "pit-pat of tiny bare feet along the dark, cold hall, as a little white figure emerged from the attic, and flew downstairs in the moonlight, which flooded the house with its kindly rays.

She went directly to the storeroom. At the same instant a tall, dark form, that had but a moment before climbed

to the other inmates, they all were alarmed, and overpowered the Indian, and he was taken to a room where he was to be an Indian, and something that sounded like a house, which was built of had a heavy iron door. The Indian watched nearby the rest of the night.

At breakfast on this Christmas morning, Father Yarrow told the story of the previous night, and Nannie had her full share of caresses and praise from aunts, uncles and cousins alike.

Then there was a clamor from the youngsters to "see the prisoner," so after breakfast they all went forth to the temporary jail, Dame Yarrow among the others.

The great doors were pushed back, and lying on the floor was the Indian, asleep. "But was it an Indian? Instead of the straight black hair, his hair was brown and curly."

Dame Yarrow gave one look, then turned to her husband, with extended hands, and the cry, "Oh, John, it is he!" fell fainting into his arms.

The lad was awakened and taken to the house. He spoke English brokenly, but could give no account of his former life, before he became one of a tribe of half-friendly Indians.

He explained his being in the storeroom by telling his hearers that his tribe of Indians that was encamped several miles above, on the river bank, had been living on what they could steal from the whites.

He had been sent out on this night, and seeing a window open in the back of the Yarrow homestead he determined to crawl in and view the premises.

Mrs. Yarrow knelt before him and gazing searchingly into his eyes, which were blue, asked over and over, "Don't you know me, Harry, darling? I am your mother." But he could not be made to understand. He begged leave to return to the tribe, saying he would come back again with information.

This the men were inclined to believe a trick to get away, but when Mrs. Yarrow pleaded for him they let him go.

All idea of church-going was abandoned, for the first time on Christmas Day in the life of any member in that household, and dinner awaited at the bidding of madame until the return of the youth. He was seen coming up the walk at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and with him was an old Indian.

The following tale they all listened to with great interest: "In the great Indian fight of twelve years before, the little captured boy was taken to the Indian encampment, and given to the care of a young squaw, the favorite wife of the chief of the tribe."

"One day she overheard the chiefs talking about the white man's child. They said he had brought misfortune to the Indians, as they had lost several battles since he had been with them, so they had decided that the innocent child should die."

"The squaw had learned to love the little one. That night she arose, and taking him in her strong arms she carried him away to another tribe of Indians, who were bitter enemies of her own, and in order to save the boy's life, she told the chief of a deep-laid scheme that her tribe had planned for attacking them."

"She asked them to take the child and keep him, till perhaps, some day he would be restored to his 'white tribe.'"

The old Indian was well rewarded with a load of wheat and corn to carry home on a hand sled.

Then the long-lost Harry Yarrow was made to understand that this was his home, and that he was to remain there. The Christmas dinner did not suffer that night for want of attention, but before they partook of it, Farmer Yarrow, with his arm about his son, thanked God for this greatest of all His blessings.—Home Monthly.

NOTHING FOR FREDDIE GREEN.

Freddie Green he said 'at Santa Claus was lat a fake an' he laid awake in bed to find out for sure, an' w'en Santa came in with a whole lot of things, he hollered right out loud to 'Get a to Santa Claus, an' Santa Claus-fer me, an' he turned out the 'lectric light an' Freddie Green didn't get nothing! Pa says Freddie Green hain't got no manners—an' 'at's the reason.

An Improved Diary.

"This," explained the bookseller, "is our latest patent diary. We think it is the cleverest thing in that line ever devised."

The shopper turns the leaves idly. "But I can't see where it is different from any other," she observes.

"No? Well, if you will look at the dates after Jan. 23 you will see in each space has been printed, 'I ate breakfast, lunch and dinner and went to bed.' That insures a complete record for the year."—Judge.

The Dawn of Christmas. Christmas day begins in the Pacific ocean, and Santa Claus starts on his only journey of the year.