

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

CONGRESS MEETS.

Republicans are Gloomy; Democrats and Insurgents Rejoice.

Washington, Dec. 5.—"O, wondrous change" was the sentiment felt today by many Republicans and expressed by the Democrats when the closing session of the 61st congress was opened.

In the senate the first rap of the gavel sounded the knell of Senator Beveridge, who will be replaced by Kern. It was as dismal for Aldrich and Hale, whose reign of dictatorship ends with this assembly. For Carter, of Montana, Dick, of Ohio, and Keen, of New Jersey, the session is just as foreboding, this congress marking their last term as national lawmakers. While joy prevailed on the Democratic side, gloom overhung many a Republican head. Among the leaders for whom this session writes a death warrant are Burkett, of Nebraska, Burrows, of Michigan, Depew, of New York, Dick, of Ohio, Flint, of California, Frazier, of Tennessee, Hale, of Maine, Piles, of Washington, Scott, of West Virginia, and Warner, of Missouri.

While gloom pervaded the senate, the house appeared grief-stricken, the havoc to be wrought in the upper body not equaling the downfall that awaits the representative chamber. Speaker Cannon today began his last period of rule over the lower house and for many of his colleagues this session is a farewell before enforced retirement. Among those is Tawney, of Minnesota, chairman of the appropriation committee.

With the Democrats and even the insurgents the situation is different. For the Democrats joy is unconfined, this session of congress being a precursor of greater things, of which the predicted rise to the speaker's chair of Champ Clark is the foremost.

Sure of control of the next house, the Democrats are jubilant and smiles were worn today by Bourbons who, heretofore, wore gloom even in merry sessions. The insurgents, too, partook of the elation of the Democrats, as the turn of affairs brought about by the recent election enables them to command respectful attention in the Republican caucuses where heretofore they were spurned as outcasts.

No business was transacted, both branches meeting merely to appoint a joint committee formally to appraise the president that the legislative branch of the government was ready to proceed, to call the rolls and to adjourn after adopting resolutions to the memory of members who had died since congress last met.

THREATEN HARD TIMES.

Railroads Will Fight Reduction in Freight Rates.

Washington — That the railroads which have demanded freight increases that will amount to \$75,000,000 annually are in league with "big business" to enforce the rates through is a story in circulation here.

The business interests are opposed to regulation such as is proposed by President Taft, and it is said that Wall street will join the railroads in the fight for higher rates.

The club that is to be held over the interstate commerce commission and the country in general is "hard times." Financial depression and panic, it is predicted, will be the outcome if the rate increases are not granted and the business interests let alone. This is said to have been intimated plainly enough to be a Wall street threat. Big business men and railroad officials who have been in Washington during the discussion of the rate question are said to have been very pessimistic in their views for the future financial outlook. Prosperity seems to have lost its charm, according to the magnates, and the way in which they have said it has been tantamount to an expression of their intention to bring about a financial depression, officials here say.

Small Farms Increasing.

Rapid settlement of the country adjacent to Bend, Prineville, Lakeview and Silver Lake, Oregon, has caused the national forest service to materially reduce the number of cattle allowed to the big cattlemen on the ranges of the Fremont national forest. The reductions were made by Thomas P. McKenzie, of the department of silviculture of the forest service.

Oklahoma Has 1,657,155 People.

Washington—The population of the state of Oklahoma is 1,657,155, according to statistics of the 13th census made public by Director Durand. This is an increase of 242,978, or 17.2 per cent over 1,414,177 in 1907.

Illinois' Population 5,638,591.

Washington—The population of the state of Illinois is 5,638,591, according to the census bureau. The increase is 317,041, or 18.9 per cent. At the present apportionment, Illinois would gain four congressmen.

ESTIMATES ARE MADE.

Columbia River Allowed \$1,725,000; Others Fare Well.

Washington—Estimates of the cost of river and harbor improvements throughout the United States for the year to end July 1, 1912, contained in the annual report of General Bixby, chief of army engineers, shows a total of \$22,227,361.

In his report General Bixby selects 211 projects as worthy of congressional appropriations. Among these recommendations are:

Ohio river, \$3,550,000.
Mississippi river, \$3,400,000.
Columbia river above Celilo falls to Snake river, \$25,000.
Columbia river, Celilo falls to Dalles rapids, \$600,000.
Columbia river below Portland, \$150,000.
Columbia river mouth, \$950,000.
Los Angeles harbor, \$270,000.
Ocean front, near San Luis Obispo, Cal., \$110,000.

San Francisco harbor, \$30,000.
Oakland harbor, \$150,000.
Eureka, Cal., harbor, \$185,000.
Grays Harbor (Wash.), \$300,000.
Snohomish river, \$75,000.
San Joaquin river, \$25,000.
Coos Bay harbor \$40,000.

Appropriations for the Sacramento river were not recommended, as the report of engineers had not yet been completed.

The lakes to the gulf waterway project is not mentioned in the report.

That the rivers and harbors recommendations may precipitate a fight against President Taft's plan to eliminate the "pork barrel" was intimated by the politicians. It is predicted that soon after congress convenes certain congressmen will frame a rivers and harbors bill carrying about \$30,000,000 in appropriations. With the usual additions to early estimates, it is likely that such a bill would carry between \$40,000,000 and \$50,000,000 in the aggregate.

The politicians base their prediction on the president's action at the time he signed a measure carrying \$50,000,000 for the same purpose. At that time he sent a message to congress which said:

"I once reached a conclusion that it was my duty to interpose a veto in order, if possible, to secure a change of method of framing these bills. Subsequent consideration has altered my view of my duty."

The president withheld his veto because for three years there had been no rivers and harbors appropriations and had he failed to sign the measure, government engineers would have been seriously handicapped.

The White House idea is embodied in General Bixby's recommendations, that money should be set aside for the prompt completion of more important projects, and that scattering appropriations for projects which have been dragging along for years should be withheld.

Senator Burton staunchly supports the president and is prepared to make a strong fight against piecemeal appropriations, such as legislators whose political lives depend on the government appropriations would introduce. The same legislators are placed in the predicament of organizing a fight to pass a "pork barrel" bill over the veto of the president.

YEAR IS BIG FOR LIQUOR.

Tobacco Also Furnishes Record Government Revenue.

Washington—The United States has just passed through a banner year for drinks, smokes and oleomargarine. Here is the nation's record for the 12 months ended on June 30, as it shows in the figures of the internal revenue bureau:

Of distilled spirits, 163,000,000 gallons, 30,000,000 gallons more than the year before.

Of fermented liquors, 59,485,111 barrels, an increase of 3,000,000.

Of cigars, 7,600,000,000, or 160,000,000 more than 1909.

Of cigarettes, 6,830,000,000, an increase of 1,000,000,000.

Of plug, fine cut, cube cut, granulated or sliced smoking or chewing tobacco or snuff, 402,000,000 pounds, 4,000,000 more than the year before.

Of oleomargarine, 141,862,282 pounds, 50,000,000 pounds increase.

Illicit distilling and manufacturing of moonshine whisky is on the increase "especially," the bureau says, "where there are state-wide prohibition laws."

The internal revenue receipts on all these things—and certain other things, such as playing cards and mixed flour—amounted to more than \$289,000,000.

Lorimer Report Due Soon.

Washington—Senator Burrows, of Michigan, chairman of the senate committee on privileges and elections, said that the sub-committee that investigated in Chicago the charges against Senator Lorimer, of Illinois, would make a full report to the committee immediately after New Year's.

OREGON HAS 672,765.

State Entitled to Another Representative—Idaho Has 325,598.

Washington—Oregon has a population of 672,765, as shown by the 13th census. The population ten years ago was 413,536. The increase the past ten years, therefore, has been 62.7 per cent. The population in 1880 was 313,767. The increase in 20 years has been 114 per cent. The census bureau's figures indicate that Oregon will be entitled to another representative in congress two years hence, even if the ratio of representation is increased, in accordance with custom.

The announcement of the population of Idaho, also made public, indicates that that state also will gain one representative.

The figures show that there are in Multnomah county, outside of Portland, 19,047 persons. The population of the county is given as 226,261, the population of Portland having been announced previously as 207,214. The whole county shows an increase of 123,094. The county has more than doubled its population in the past ten years. It had a population of only 4,150 in 1860, the first year in which there is a record of the county's people.

The figures of the bureau show that Idaho, which is credited with a total population of 325,598, as compared with 161,272 in 1900, a gain of 101.9 per cent, has a greater increase in the past ten years than any other state in the Union thus far announced, except Oklahoma.

LOVE NOT JAP MOTIVE.

Great Britain's Belief in Friendship Shattered.

London—When Japan recently gave orders for a new dreadnaught to be built in England, the proponents of the English-Japanese alliance were loud in referring to this act as having been inspired solely by an desire of Great Britain's Far Eastern ally to prove by friendship the pact was not obtained with the flavor of business bargaining, but simply intended gracefully to draw more tightly the "ties of alliance."

All this sentiment has been rudely shattered by Fred T. Jane, naval expert and student of international fighting ships.

"The report that Japan, while leaving five of her own shipyards empty, has ordered a dreadnaught to be built in England to show her admiration for the Anglo-Japanese alliance, is somewhat weak in the matter of assigned cause," Mr. Jane asserts.

"The actual facts appear to be that although Japanese yards are now fully capable of turning out moderate-sized vessels and very good destroyers, the building of monstrous battleships is rather beyond the capacity of their existing plants. This probably explains the tremendous delays in recent Japanese construction. It is far cheaper and expeditious to have a ship built outright in England than to import large quantities of material to be put together in Japan.

ARBITRATION REACHED.

Chicago Garment Workers Reach Agreement With Big Firm.

Chicago—Through the influence of the City Council committee, which realized that a continuation of the garment workers' strike meant a big financial burden on the city, an arbitration has been reached between the firm of Hart, Schaffner & Marx, and its 10,000 employees, who have been on strike for nearly two months.

With nearly 100,000 persons affected by the strike, it was rapidly becoming a serious problem to the city authorities. This mass of people, mostly foreigners, were destitute, and with the advance of cold weather the situation would have become a desperate one.

The Council committee conferred all day behind closed doors with representatives of the clothing makers, but details of the conference are withheld until the terms are voted upon by the employees. It is known, however, that in the compromise the strikers have won substantial gains.

Fatal Portent Fulfilled.

New York—For the reason that both his brother and his sister had died just as each was approaching the age of 17, John Smyth, a young resident of the Upper East Side, had frequently expressed a fear that he would never live to celebrate his own 17th birthday. He was nearing what he considered this crucial age, when Saturday he fell eight stories through the elevator shaft of a new building at Broadway and Ninety-second street, and died as the last rites of the church were being administered to him.

Two-Dollar Counterfeits Out.

Washington—Christmas shoppers in Chicago and other Middle Western cities will do well to examine closely any two dollar bills they may receive in change. A new counterfeit two-dollar silver certificate has been discovered in circulation. The note is not a good one on close examination, but would easily deceive any one not accustomed to paper money.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

ORCHARD BRINGS \$300,000.

Michigan Capitalists Buy Great Lowndale Property.

Lafayette—Millard O. Lowndale, pioneer orchardist of Oregon, and founder of the great apple growing industry in the Northwest, has retired from active life. He has sold his 300-acre orchard near Lafayette to a company of Michigan capitalists. Although Mr. Lowndale is silent as to the financial consideration which the deal involves, it is understood that the purchase price is close to \$300,000.

Mr. Lowndale was virtually the pioneer of all latter-day apple growers in the Willamette valley. When he planted his orchard 21 years ago apple growing was almost a lost art. The possibility of growing apples often had been denied, even the pioneers of the valley having concluded that it was not possible to produce the wonderful results that had given the valley a great reputation before the fruit pests appeared.

The work of Mr. Lowndale has re-established the apple growing industry in the great valley reaching from Portland to Eugene. His orchard has been a material demonstration of his ideas, this year crowning his success with a record production of 75,000 boxes.

Mr. Lowndale has in mind the establishment of a market for handling the fruit of this Oregon, and hopes to effect the organization of a Willamette Valley Fruit Growers' association, the object being to provide a common channel for the output.

RECLAIM 15,000 ACRES.

Weed Interests Build Big Levee in Wood River Valley.

Klamath Falls—To reclaim 15,000 acres of land in the Wood River valley, a levee 24 miles in length is being built by Senator Abner Weed, of Siskiyou, Cal. The work is about half finished.

Senator Weed owns 15,000 acres of land in the valley between the mouth of Wood river and the mouth of Sevenmile creek, and this levee along the lake shore is to protect these large holdings from the lake overflow in the wet seasons. This land of the senator's is some of the best in this valley for hay and grazing purposes. The levee will serve as an embankment to keep the water from overflowing the land and the ditch will serve as a drain for the wet land lying along it.

OREGON COW BRINGS \$700.

W. O. Minor Gets Top Price for Shorthorn at Chicago Show.

Chicago — "Bright Star," a Shorthorn cow brought to the International Livestock exhibition by W. O. Minor, of Heppner, Or., was sold for \$700.

The animal is 2 years old. Mr. Minor has secured top prices for all the breed animals he brought to the show, besides winning several prizes with them.

W. A. Forbes, of Sacramento, Cal., is attending the show, with the intention of buying 300 dairy cattle to take back to his California farm. He is the proprietor of one of the largest dairies on the Coast.

Three Postoffices for Crook.

Prineville—Three postoffices were established in Crook county December 1. Hat Rock is a new office, 11 miles from Prineville. It is located south and east of Powell Buttes, near the Prineville Bear Creek Butte road. Mrs. Louise E. Becker is postmistress.

Rolyat is situated in Ireland valley, almost south of Prineville, about 50 miles. The postmaster is Mr. Schrader. His mail supply will come from Prineville and will be delivered once a week by the Prineville-Fife stage line.

La Pine is the postoffice for the new town, which takes the place of Rosland. It is near the location of the former Rosland office, on the line of the Oregon Trunk railroad. The mail supply will be daily over the Prineville-Silver Lake line.

Cows Pay Well.

Monmouth—Frank Loughary is taking \$100 a month from the product of 16 cows. Besides this cash revenue, he has lots of skim milk to feed to his pigs, and he aims to turn them off at 8 months old, weighing 200 pounds each. With hogs selling at \$9 a hundred in the market one can readily see that this is a quick way of bringing in good money at practically no outlay.

Oldest Peach Tree Dies.

Jacksonville—On Thanksgiving day, weighted down with two inches of heavy snow, the first peach tree to be planted in Southern Oregon bowed its head and died. Peter Britt planted the tree in 1857 in his yard in Jacksonville and it has borne fruit continuously since 1860. It was no doubt one of the oldest fruit trees in Oregon.

NEW LAWS SOUGHT.

Farmers' Union Would Regulate Warehouse Shipments.

The Dalles—Resolutions recommending the enactment of a law by the state legislature requiring warehouses to ship grain in the order that orders for shipping are given them, as a fair deal to all growers, was adopted by the State Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union, in session here.

Upon the recommendation of the legislative committee, the union also decided to send committees to sessions of the state legislature whenever matters of importance to agriculturists were under consideration.

The enactment of a grain inspection law was urged and this will be one of the important matters in which the legislative committees will interest themselves. In general, the resolutions adopted by the present convention are those adopted by the North Carolina Farmers' Union, at its session in September.

The state board of the union has decided to hold its next meeting at Pendleton the second Friday in January, at which time a campaign to increase the membership of the union and to promote its interests will be started in the jurisdiction, which includes Oregon and all of the state of Idaho south of Idaho county.

Mine Brings \$750,000.

Baker City — The Gold Coin mine, one of the richest placer properties in Eastern Oregon, located about 20 miles south of Baker City, has been sold to a syndicate of Eastern capitalists organized by Thomas Nevins & Sons, 37 Wall Street, New York, for \$750,000. This property adjoins Mormon Basin on the north, where are located a number of rich quartz mines.

Teach Advance Geography.

University of Oregon, Eugene—The university has added a new department to its curriculum, that of Geography. Courses are given in Economic Geography, physiography, history of geographic influences, physiography of the United States, and field geography. The work is under Professor F. G. Barker.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Track prices: Bluestem, 81 @82c; club, 80c; red Russian, 78c; valley, 80c; forty-fold, 80c.

Barley—Feed, \$21@21.50 per ton; brewing, \$23.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$25 per ton; middlings, \$33; shorts, \$27; rolled barley, \$24@25.

Hay—Track prices: Timothy, Willamette valley, \$20@22 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$23@24; alfalfa, \$14.50@15.50; grain hay, \$14.50@15.50; clover, \$15.

Corn—Whole, \$30; cracked, \$31 per ton.

Oats—White, \$28@28.50 ton. Poultry—Hens, 14@14½c; springs, 13½@14c; ducks, white, 16@17c; geese, 12c; turkeys, live, 16@17c; dressed, 20c; squabs, \$2 per pound.

Eggs — Oregon ranch, candled, 42½c; Eastern, April, 30@33c; Eastern, fresh, 37½c.

Butter — Official quotation: City creamery, solid pack, 37c per pound; butter fat, 35@37c; Eastern, 31@34c.

Pork—Fancy, 10½@11c per pound. Veal—Fancy, 85 to 125 pounds, 12½ @13c per pound.

Apples—King, 40@75c box; Wolf river, 75c@81; Waxen, 85c@1.25; Baldwin, 75c@1.25; Northern Spy, 75c@1.25; Snow, 1.25@1.50; Spitsenbergs, 1.25@2; Winter Banana, 1.75@3.50.

Green Fruits—Pears, \$1.25@2 per box; grapes, \$1.35; cranberries, \$8@9.50 per barrel; quinces, \$1@1.25 per box; huckleberries, 6@8c per pound.

Vegetables—Beans, 10@11c pound; cabbage, \$1@1.25 per hundred; celery, California, \$3@3.25 per crate; pumpkins, 1@1½c per pound; sprouts, 7@8c; squash, 1@1½c; tomatoes, \$1.25 per box; carrots, \$1@1.25 per hundred; parsnips, \$1@1.25; turnips, \$1; beets, \$1.25@1.50.

Potatoes—Oregon, \$1.25 per hundred.

Onions—Oregon, jobbing price, \$1.40 @1.50 per hundred.

Hops — 1910 crop, 11@13c; 1909 crop, 7@8c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 13@17c per pound; valley, 17@19c; mohair, choice, 32@33c.

Cattle—Beef steers, good to choice, \$5.25@5.65; fair to medium, \$4.50@5; choice spayed heifers, \$4.75@5; good to choice beef cows, \$4.50@5; medium to good beef cows, \$3.50@4; common beef cows, \$2@3.50; bulls, \$4 @4.25; stags, good to choice, \$4@4.50; calves, light, \$7@7.50; heavy, \$4@5.25.

Hogs—Top, \$8@8.25; fair to medium, \$7.50@7.75.

Sheep—Best valley wethers, \$3.25 @3.50; fair to good wethers, \$3@3.25; best yearling wethers, \$4.25@4.50; best valley, ewes, \$3.50@4; lambs, choice mountain, \$5.75@6; choice valley, \$4.75@6.