Hillsboro Independent

Issued Friday of Each Week

HILLSBORO.....OREGON

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.

Senator Brown is at the point of death.

Democrats in the house oppose Moody's confirmation as supreme judge.

Mexico had a net surplus of $20,000,000 for the year ending June 30, 1906.

Three women are implicated in the Nebraska land frauds now on trial at Omaha.

Representative Kahn, of California, is very bitter against Japanese immigration.

France has expelled the pope's agents and is otherwise pushing the war on the church.

Rockefeller has offered $100,000 toward missionary work in Egypt and the Soudan.

The Spanish government is considering the question of placing an import duty on wheat.

Ice blocks the "Soo" canal and there is a great fleet of vessels at each end waiting to get through.

Roosevelt will drop Bristol if the senate refuses to confirm him as United States attorney for Oregon.

The Russian minister of foreign affairs declares it will not be necessary to borrow money again in the near future.

Commissioner Garfield says Federal license is the method which will control the trusts and corporations in the future and is the only solution.

Religous strife is assured in France.

Mayor Schmitz wants the time of his trial extended.

Canada is also having trouble with Japanese coolies.

The pope declares nothing will stop the struggle in France except victory for the church.

John Barrett is almost certain to be chosen director of the bureau of American republics.

Andrew Carnegie has given $32,000 towards rebuilding the college recently burned at Kankakee, Ill.

Mrs. Storer says she is the one who brought Roosevelt to the front and he owes everything he is to her.

Lands around the Salton sink, Cal., will be flooded for a year as the result of the recent break in the dam.

Young Teddy Roosevelt is having hard work these days being initiated into one of Harvard's secret societies.

Nearly 5,000 employes of the Washington navy yard will receive an increase in wages of 10 per cent January 1.

President Roosevelt has expressed the hope that a treaty can be negotiated which will exclude Japanese coolies from the United States.

There is little hope of ex-Senator Brown, of Utah, surviving the wound inflicted with a revolver in the hands o a woman he had wronged.

School teachers of San Francisco have formed a union.

New York bank reserves are far below the legal limit.

Harriman plans to secure control of Chicago's electrical appliances.

The St. Paul railroad has made official announcement of its route to the Pacific coast.

Bellamy Storer has written an angry letter to President Roosevelt about his dismissal as ambassador to Austria.

Many rich men of San Francisco are coming to the front with money to help Mayor Schmitz out of his troubles.

The attorney general of Texas has produced proof that Senator Bailey was hired by the oil trust.

Many of the losers in the San Francisco fire and earthquake are receiving their money and present indications are that 80 per cent of the losses will be paid.

The house committee on appropriations has given Roosevelt's simplified spelling a slap by ordering all government printing to be spelled according to Webster.

The National Rivers and Harbors congress has asked the president to work with them to secure an annual appropriation of $50,000,000 for the rivers and harbors of the United States.

The president and all officials deny that a new treaty with Japan is being considered.

Another small revolution has broken out in Ecuador.

Ex-Senator Brown, of Utah, has been shot and seriously wounded at Washington by a woman he wronged and refused to marry.

Dr. Lapponi, physician to the pope, is dead.

A house committee is considering a bill which provides for a rate of 2 cents per mile on all railways of the United States.

Conditions are being slowly improved at Clifton, Ariz., one of the towns recently flooded. Searchers have just recovered six bodies from the mud.

Secretary Metcalf proposes a national license to corporations.

Opening of bids for Panama canal work has been postponed.

Attorney General Moody's work against the trusts have resulted in fines of over $400,000 being imposed and many cases are still pending. He says the passage of a bill against immunity is needed.

SHOULD BE CITIZENS.

President Makes a Strong Plea for Porto Rican People.

Washington, Dec. 12.—In a special message sent to congress yesterday, President Roosevelt strongly advocates granting citizenship to the people of Porto Rico, and recommends other reforms. He begins by reviewing his recent tour of the island and declares we have cause to be proud of our representatives there, adding:

"It would be impossible to wish a more faithful, a more efficient and a more disinterested public service than that now being rendered in the island of Porto Rico by those in control of the insular government."

He speaks in terms of high praise of the schools and the devotion of the teachers, both native and American. He compliments the insular police and the Porto Rico regiment of infantry, recommending that the latter be made permanent. He comments on the rapid growth of sugar and tobacco culture, and says the imports and exports last year were $45,000,000, against $18,000,000 in 1901, and $23,000,000 in 1896, the best year prior to American annexation. In conclusion he says:

"All the insular governments should be placed in one bureau, either in the department of War or the department of State. It is a mistake not so to arrange our handling of these islands at Washington as to be able to take advantage of the experience gained in one, when dealing with the problems that from time to time arise in another.

"In conclusion, let me express my admiration for the work done by the congress when it enacted the law under which the island is now being administered. After seeing the island personally, and after five years' experience in connection with the administration, it is but fair to those who devised this law to say that it would be well nigh impossible to have devised any other which in the actual working would have accomplished better results."

NEW PLAN TO BUY SUPPLIES.

Keep Commission Proposes to Put It on Business Basis.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The committee on department methods, popularly known as the Keep commission, has submitted to the president its report on the standardization and method of purchase of department supplies. The report reviews at some length the present unbusinesslike and needlessly expensive method of purchasing supplies, by which each of the several departments in Washington has its own standards of quality and makes its own purchases entirely independent of others.

Briefly, the report is as follows: Provision is made by which the preparation of the schedules, advertising for proposals and making the contracts for the purchase of department supplies are placed in the hands of a board to be known as the general supply committee, such board to be under the supervision and control of the secretary of commerce and labor. The head of each department or independent bureau to serve as a member. The board thus constituted is hereafter to purchase the department supplies heretofore acted upon by the board of award. The committee, however, makes exceptions in the case of the military and scientific departments of the government.

TWO EMPIRES STARVING.

Claims of Chinese and Russian Famine Sufferers Conflict.

Washington, Dec. 12.—For the present at least no governmental appeal will be made to the people of the United States for aid for the famine sufferers of China. This decision was reached after the State department had communicated with Louis Klopsch, of the Christian Herald, who raised $200,000 for the Japanese sufferers, and who regards the Russian famine as infinitely worse, 30,000,000 people or twice the number suffering in China being affected.

According to letters received by Mr. Klopsch, 40,000 square miles in China, supporting a population of 15,000,000, have been flooded and so great is the destitution that many parents are drowning their children rather than see them starve, and are themselves committing suicide.

Companies are Badly Managed.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 12.— Senator Rummell, the Socialist member of the state senate investigating committee which has been probing life insurance conditions in Wisconsin, has written a minority report, in which he declares that extravagant salaries are paid, relatives are employed, premiums are too high, policy holders are discriminated against, and private management of the insurance business compares unfavorably with national control of the same line of business in foreign countries.

Japanese Veterans Coming.

Honolulu, Dec. 12.—Many Japanese laborers wearing war medals arrived here today, on the steamer Nippon Maru, from Yokohoma. Labor Commissioner Sargent, who came here from Washington recently, in connection with labor matters, said today that the plantations should pay better wages, and that he disapproved of Filipino immigration. General Harrison Gray Otis, of Los Angeles, was a passenger on the Nippon Maru. He expressed himself as being opposed to Japanese naturalization and immigration.

Acknowledge Their Sins.

New York, Dec. 12.—Fines aggregating $150,000 were imposed today by Judge Holt in the United States Circuit court upon the American Sugar Refining company and the Brooklyn Cooperage company, after the defendants through counsel had pleaded guilty to indictments charging the acceptance of rebates on sugar shipments in violation of the Elkins anti-rebating act. The sugar refining company was fined $80,000 and the cooperage company $70,000.

King of Cigarette Fiends.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—Julius Persky, of Hammond, Ind., died last night from excesisve smoking of cigarettes. He said that he had smoked 500,000 cigarettes during his lifetime. His only sustenance for three months had been diluted alcohol and cigarettes.

DAMAGES BAY CITY

Heavy Wind Blows Down Tents and Ruined Walls.

ONE KILLED AND SCORE INJURED

Temporary Structures Demolished, Schoolhouses and Dwellings Unroofed and Goods Damaged.

San Francisco, Dec. 11.—The fiercest storm that this city has experienced in many years swept over San Francisco yesterday, causing the death of one man, injuring a score of others and doing damage estimated at $500,000.

Sections of ruined walls were leveled, temporary structures blown down, schools and houses unroofed, cellars and basements flooded, streetcar service interrupted for several hours and all activity on the water front suspended. Forecaster McAdie, of the Weather bureau, said that it was the severest storm experienced on this part of the coast for 14 years.

At 11:30 the wind reached a velocity of 52 miles an hour, while off the Heads it was blowing 60 miles an hour.

During the day 2.6 inches of rain fell. The storm abated in the afternoon, but the rain is still continuing.

Aside from the dead and injured and the pecuniary loss sustained by many, the worst sufferers were the inmates of the refugee camps, where misery and wretchedness reigned. Tents were carried away, flimsy temporary cabins blown down, while many of those which withstood the wind leaked badly. Hundreds of refugees who were burned out in the big fire had their few belongings, saved from the disaster, or since acquired, utterly ruined or badly damaged.

All streetcar traffic was suspended in the forenoon by masses of brick and steel which had fallen into the streets, carrying poles and wires with them and the danger from the tottering walls swaying in the high wind. The obstacles, however, were not as great as at first thought.

LAW IS WEAK.

Radical Change in Wisconsin's Insurance Measure Likely.

Madison, Wis., Dec. 11.—Many far reaching reforms in the management of the life insurance business are recommended in the report of the Wisconsin investigating committee to the legislature, which was filed with Governor Davidson today. Its work was thorough, and, unlike the Armstrong committee in New York, the report deals more particularly with the cost of insurance in general than it does with the manner of management of the investments or features of particular companies.

The conclusion of the committee is that the present cost of insurance is too high; that there should be a reduction in the premiums; that the expense charges of insurance managements are excessive and are apportioned unjustly among different classes of policies; that there is discrimination in the apportionment of dividends between annual and deferred policies; that the companies make excessive charges for the surrender of policies and that unreasonable forfeitures of the reserves are exacted during the first three years; that the policies and loan agreements of the companies are harsh.

SEEKS SENATE APPROVAL.

President Starts Move to Stop Villainies in Congo State.

Washington, Dec. 11. — President Roosevelt's next role in the field of world politics will be as champion of reform in the Congo Free State. The United States is about to assume an active part in putting a stop to the almost incredible horrors practiced in this territorial division of Darkest Africa by giving moral support to any world power signatory to the treaty of Berlin that desires to act. It is believed that Great Britain, being one of the powers signatory to the treaty in question, is about ready to make a move.

Leveeis Beaten Down.

Los Angeles, Dec. 11. — Telegraphic advices today from Yuma to General Superintendent R. H. Ingram, of the Southern Pacific, stated that the Colorado river levee was completely beaten down and that the flood waters were pouring uninterruptedly into Salton sink. The railroad officials have determined upon no definite plan of action. It is likely that they will immediately begin the building of a spur track along the border of Salton sea, thus anticipating the rise in the sea from the river inflow.

Castro on Deathbed.

Fort de France, Island of Martinique, Dec. 11.—The French line steamer Normandie, which touched at La Guayra, Venezuela, December 8, arrived here today and reported that in view of the apparently approaching end of President Castro revolutionary events are likely to occur soon. Government troops left Caracas December 6 for the western part of the republic, where a serious revolutionary movement has occurred. The Venezuelan insurgents, commanded by General Montilla, have captured Marquesito, capital of Lara.

Labor Law for Oklahoma.

Guthrie, Okla., Dec. 11.—The convention which will make the constitution for the new state of Oklahoma inaugurated its third week by unanimously adopting its first ordinance, which accepts the enabling act. Peter Hanraty of the United Mineworkers of America, looked after labor's rights by proposing an eight hour law on public works, a fellow servant law, and ordinances affecting the laboring man in general.

Make South Sea Islands Good.

Washington, Dec. 11. — President Roosevelt today sent to the senate in executive session an agreement of the powers to prohibit the sale or importation of firearms, opium or intoxicating liquors to the South Sea islands.

SHOWS BIG DEFICIT.

Postal Department Runs Behind $10,516,995 94 in Year.

Washington, Dec. 11. — The annual report of Postmaster General Cortelyou shows receipts for the past year were $167,932,782.95, while expenditures were $178,449,778.89. The deficit is $10,516,995.94.

Th postmaster general discusses the deficit but says he is less concerned about that than about the efficiency of the department. He attributes the failure to show a profit to the growing public demand for increased postal facilities. The deficit is not charged to any one branch of the service.

The remarkable efficiency of some departments is commented upon, particularly of the registry service. For half a century all causes of loss, including burglary, theft and fire, have shown a loss of only three one-thousandths of 1 per cent. Mr. Cortelyou recommends that a deputy postmaster general be appointed, who shall relieve the burden borne by the postmaster general and his four assistants. The department has 320,000 persons in its employ and it is recommended that the deputy's position be made permanent and that he shall be general manager of the postal service. Greater accuracy in statistics is recommended and Mr. Cortelyou asks that provision be made for expert statisticians and accountants. The congestion of mail in New York City is indicated and attention called to the new postoffice building, a site for which has been acquired at the proposed terminal station of the Pennsylvania railroad.

FROM PRESIDENT'S VIEW.

Gives Reasons for Dismissing Former Ambassador Storer.

Washington, Dec. 11. — President Roosevelt tonight made public a long letter addressed to Secretary Root, giving correspondence between the president and ex-Ambassador Bellamy Storer, in which he says that Mr. Storer's refusal to answer his letters and the publication of various private letters justified the ambassador's removal; that Mr. Storer's publication of private correspondence was peculiarly ungentlemanly and that he (the president) had stated with absolute clearness his position, the reason why it was out of the question for him as president to try to get any archbishop made cardinal, though expressing his admiration for Archbishop Ireland as well as leaders of other denomination.

The president's action follows the publication of a "confidential pamphlet" which Mr. Storer last week sent to the president, the cabinet and the senate and foreign relations committee.

PRESIDENT CASTRO ILL.

Chief Executive of Venezuela Removed to Seacoast Town on a Bed.

Fort de France, Martinique, Dec. 11.—Reliable advices here from Venezuela set forth that President Castro was moved down to the little seacoast village of Macuto, near La Guayra, last week. The president is described as being very ill. He made the trip from Caracas in a bed. When he arrived at Macuto, he appeared to be absolutely unconscious. It is generally believed that he has no chance of recovery.

Violently worded posters have been circulated in Caracas declaring that no one is today deceived regarding the gravity of President Castro's illness, and insisting that the exercise of the executive power be assured through a vice president, which is provided for in the constitution. For a long time past the poster continued, only routine government matters have been attended to, and important questions are being hel in abeyance.

General Parades, an ex-revolutionists, now in exile, is organizing a serious insurrectionary movement, and declares that he will soon take the field. He claims to have 15,000 rifles at his disposition.

Ten Days' Time to Refund.

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 11.—State Commissioner of Insurance R. E. Folk today sent telegrams to the Mutual Life and New York Life Insurance companies giving them ten days in which to refund certain amounts of policy holders' money. The Mutual, he charges, has used several thousand dollars as compensation and expenses for agents to electioneer for the administration ticket. The New York Life officials are given ten days in which to cover its treasury money spent for printing and circulating 800 administration ballots.

Shinamura in Command.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 11.—The steamer KaguMaru brought news that Admiral Shinanmura will probably command the Japanese squadron, consisting of the cruisers Matsushima, Itsukushima and Hashidare, which will leave Japan next month for Honolulu, San Francisco and the Puget sound. The vessels will be commanded respectively by Captains Nawa, Nomaguichi and Yamagata. Reports are current that Rear Admiral Tomerka, president of the Yetajima naval college, may also accompany the fleet.

Sale of Mexican Mine.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 11.— News was received today of the consummation of the sale of the two most famous gold and silver mining properties in the state of Sonora. Las Chishas, a famous producer, has been sold to a New York and Paris syndicate for 6,000,000 pesos ($3,000,000 gold). The Badicanora mines, in the same district, one of the most famous of the Antiguas group, has been sold to D. F. O. Pease, of Chicago, and his associates.

Sampans Sunk in Squall.

Tokio, Dec. 11.—A number of sampans (small harbor boats) belonging to the Japanese cruiser Chitose were sunk in a squall here today while she was returning from a trip. A number of the boats were overturned and 60 men were drowned.

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Tuesday, Dec. 11.

Washington, Dec. 11.—The question of Senator Reed Smoot's right to a seat as United States senator from Utah was discussed by Senator Burrows in the senate today for more than three hours. The senator had carefully prepared his speech, which received the closest attention throughout by a large attendance of senators and crowded galleries. Smoot occupied his place in the chamber. No interruptions were made during the entire speech, which was an arraignment of Mormonism and the responsibility which attached to Smoot for Mormon principles as a member of the apostolic body in the church.

Washington, Dec. 11.—This was a field day for oratory in the house. The executive, legislative and judicial appropriation bill afforded an opportunity for general debate covering a wide range of subjects, from a dissertation on Alfred Nobel, the founder of the Nobel prize, to the raising of salaries of members of congress and including a discussion of simplified spelling.

Boutell, of Illinois, in speaking of the bestowal of the Nobel prize upon President Roosevelt, praised the president's decision to use this money in establishing a fund for bringing about a friendly understanding between capitalists and laborers as "noble, humanitarian and characteristic."

Gaines, of Tennessee, urged incerases of salaries for members of congress beginning with the Sixty-first congress. Murdock, of Kansas, spoke on railway mail pay.

The house at 5:05 adjourned until noon tomorrow, no action looking to the close of general debate on the bill having been taken.

Monday, Dec. 10.

Washington, Dec. 10. — The senate committee on judiciary today authorized a favorable report on the nomination of William H. Moody, the present attorney general, to be an associate justice of the Supreme court of the United States.

A favorable report was ordered also on the nomination of Charles J. Bonaparte, the present secretary of the Navy, to be attorney general, and Alford W. Cooley to be assistant attorney general. Many other nominations were reported favorably.

The nomination of Leffeus R. Wilfley to be judge of the United States Circuit court for China was referred to a committee of Senators Spooner and Bacon, who are members of the foreign relations committee.

The nomination of George B. Cortelyou to be secretary of the Treasury and James R. Garfield to be secretary of the Interior, will be taken up tomorrow at a special meeting of the senate committee on finance.

The senate committee on commerce has been polled and will report favorably the nomination of Oscar Straus to be secretary of Commerce and Labor.

Washington, Dec. 10. — The house today began consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill. No effort was made to limit the time for general debate, the desire of the Republican leaders being to keep the bill before the house until adjournment for the Christmas holidays.

Simplified spelling held the attention of the house for an hour or more, the paragraph in the bill fixing the orthographic standard as some recognized authority furnishing Clark, of Missouri, Gillette, of Massachusetts, and Livingston, of Georgia, an opportunity to express themselves on the merits of the president's order to the public printer relative to the modified spelling of 300 words in common use.

Macon, of Arkansas, delivered a speech on "bucket shops," and in favor of his bill prohibiting gambling in agricultural commodities. The house at 3:05 adjourned until noon tomorrow.

Friday, December 7.

Washington, Dec. 7. — By a practically unanimous vote the house today passed the bill limiting the regulation of interstate commerce between the several states in articles manufactured by convict labor or in any prison or reformatory. The bill was introduced by Hunt, of Missouri, a practical stone mason. Under the Wilson bill, which became a law in 1890, convict labor-made goods may enter into active competition with the goods manufactured by "free labor" and under this Federal law a state could not pass a law that would prevent the shipping into the state of prison-made goods of other states.

The sovereignity of the state was the subject of earnest debate in the house today, growing out of the consideration of a bill to establish a game preserve of nearly 700,000 acres in the Olympia forest reserve in the state of Washington. The bill was passed without division.

Thursday, December 6.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The senate today adopted the Penrose resolution asking the president for information regarding the discharge of the negro troops of the Twenty-fifth infantry, and also the Foraker resolution directing the secretary of War to transmit information on the same subject.

Senator Beveridge introduced a bill today to amend the meat inspection act by requiring that the cost of inspection shall be paid by the packers. Another amendment requires that the date of inspection and packing or canning shall be placed on each package.

Washington, Dec. 64. — The house by a vote of 110 to 164 today defeated the bill of Littlefield of Maine removing discriminations against American sailing vessels in the coasting trade. The debate raged for four hours and a half and the result of the vote was a surprise to the friends of the measure, who openly charged its defeat to the American Federation of Labor.

Wednesday, December 5.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The brief session of the senate today resulted in the introduction of many bills, resolutions, petitions and memorials, and the receipt of a number of communications from the executive department. Senator Foraker's insistence that immediate action be taken on the pending resolutions asking for information regarding the discharge of negro soldiers of the Twenty-fifth infantry developed discussion, but resulted in postponing action until tomorrow.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The house today, awaiting the report of the appropriation bills, began its legislative grind by passing three measures:

Incorporating the National German American alliance; authorizing the secretary of the treasury to duplicate gold certificates in lieu of ones lost or destroyed; and amending the national banking laws, permitting national banking associations to make loans on real estate as security and limtiing the amount of such loans.

REDUCES FREIGHT RATES.

Railway Charges Always Low Where Navigation is Available.

"There are a few things they do better abroad," said Congressman Ransdell in a recent speech on river and harbor improvement, delivered in Portland, "and among these things is the foreign way of handling waterway transport. Other nations, notably Germany, Holland and England are expending annually upon canals and rivers sums by the side of which our expenditures are but trifles. A study of foreign conditions develops a few incontrovertible facts. Among these: Whenever canals, rivers, lakes and other waterways are properly developed, so that navigation is first class, freights are cheap and there is no demand for rate regulation. This demand comes entirely from communities which have no waterways.

"Showing the comparative cost on railroad and water transport our own lake traffic is a good illustration. It cost 90c a ton to transport iron ore from Ashtabula to Pittsburg by rail, a distance of 135 miles. It costs 80c per ton to carry the same ore by water from Duluth to Ashtabula, a distance of 1,000 miles. Imagine, you people of the Northwest, what the development of your own magnificent natural waterways would mean to every farmer, merchant and manufacturer. Each farmer would add to his profit seventenths of the sums now paid the railroads for the carrying of his grain and fruit; each merchant would effect a saving in the cost of his merchandise and each manufacturer in the cost of his raw product. I believe, and we can demonstrate it by unassailable statistics, that were the national government to refuse appropriations for rivers and harbors it would be the most profitable of investments for you of the Northwest to bond your magnificent country for any sum, however great, that your unparalleled natural waterways be developed to the highest point of efficiency."

Investigate Hill Lines in January.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Chairman Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce commission, said today that it had not been decided where or when the investigation of the Hill lines will take place. It is known, however, that inquiries will be made at St. Paul and Chicago, and it is probable that Commissioners Prouty and Lane will conduct them. It is not believed that the work will start much before January 15, after the Harriman investigations, in which the inquiries will be made probably December 26 or 27.

Must Appear in St. Louis.

St. Louis, Dec. 7.—The clerk of the United States Circuit court today received notification from the United States marshal's office in New York that service had been ordered on John D. Rockefeller and others in the government suit against the Standard Oil company recently filed in St. Louis. In addition to Rockefeller, the following joint defendants with him were served: Henry H. Rogers, William Rockefeller, John D. Archbold, H. M. Flagler and Oliver H. Payne. They will be required to enter an appearance here.

Edgar and Earl Both Fined.

New York, Dec. 12.—C. Goodloe Edgar and Edwin Earl, members of the firm of William Edgar & Sons, sugar dealers of Detroit, today in the United States court pleaded guilty to accepting rebates on sugar shipments. They were fined $6,000 each. Edwin and Earl were indicted in connection with the New York Central Railroad company and the American Sugar Refining company. The New York Central was fined $108,000 and the sugar company $18,000, after being convicted by jury trial.

Champions Interior Towns.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 7.—Senator Heyburn today proposed an amendment to the railway rate law which will require railroads to give Boise, Spokane and other interior points the advantage of long haul rates. At present these cities pay the rate from Chicago to the Pacific coast, plus the local rate from the coast back to Boise or Spokane. Mr. Heyburn would compel the railroads to give interior points the same rate as is paid on through shipments to the coast.

Say Elkins Law is Dead.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—The fight of the Standard Oil company against the ten indictments against the Standard Oil company of Indiana which were returned August 29, was commenced today in the United States District court before Judge Landis. The attorneys for the Standard Oil company contend that section 10 of the rate law passed by congress June 29 repeals the Elkins law, under which the government is bringing the action.

Lesson to Free-Traders.

London, Dec. 7.—The Daily Mail comments this morning upon the "Tale of American Prosperity" told in Secretary of the Treasury Shaw's report. It says the striking fact about this dazzling prosperity is that it prevails in a country which British free traders, 15 years ago, predicted would be ruined by protection. The Daily Mail regards Mr. Shaw's currency proposals as a bold statement, not feasible except for the $60,000,000 duties collected.

PROBE HILL ROADS.

"Empire Builder" is Next Candidate for Commission Griddle.

Washington, Dec. 10.—An investigation of the operations and management of the railroads controlled by James J. Hill and associates, including the Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Chicago, Burlington & Quincy is in contemplation by the Interstate Commerce commission. After certain preliminaries have been arranged and counsel for the commission selected, formal announcement of the proposed inquiry will be made.

As in the case of the proposed investigation of the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific railroads of the Harriman system, the inquiry is not the outgrowth of any specific complaints of violations of the interstate commerce law, but it is to be undertaken by virtue of the general inquisitorial powers conferred upon the commission by congress.

The inquiry will be broad and comprehensive, with a view to ascertaining the exact condition of affairs regarding the railroad's compliance with the interstate commerce act. A member of the commission, in speaking of the proposed inquiry, said:

"Although there has been outward compliance with the decree of the Supreme court in dissolving the Northern Securities company, yet there has been no difference in the rates given upon the united system."

WOULD WELCOME CITIZENSHIP.

Viscount Aoki Says Japanese Are Eager for Naturalization.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Favorable action by congress on the recommendation of the president in his last annual message that an act be passed specifically providing for the naturalization of Japanese who come to the United States intending to become American citizens, will go far toward securing a continuance of the traditional friendly relations between this country and Japan, is the opinion of Viscount Aoki, the Japanese ambassador.

"Of course," said Viscount Aoki, today, "no nation likes to see its subjects leave to take up a permanent abode in a foreign land and lose all relation with the fatherland, but in many cases it cannot be helped."

The ambassador expressed the belief that there were not so many Japanese in this country to take advantage of naturalization if it were granted, but he thought that such an opportunity should be afforded them along with the citizens of other countries. He said he did not think it probable that those Japanese who were emigrating in large number to Hawaii and the Pacific coast would avail themselves of naturalization, because of the fact that they represented the poorer classes, and most of them ultimately returned to Japan. Viscount Aoki said he had every confidence in the outcome of the test case which will be brought in the California courts.

FIX LUMBER PRICE.

Senate May Investigate Manufacturers Who Control Industry.

Washington, Dec. 10.—An investigation of the lumber combine, as proposed in the resolution introduced by Senator Kittredge, of South Dakota, will be productive of more good to the people, in the opinion of some Western senators, than any inquiry instituted in recent years. Mr. Kittredge has collected considerable material, and, when it is presented to the senate in connection with details Senator LaFollette and other Western senators will bring out, a strong majority is expected in favor of the resolution.

In many respects the "gentlemen's agreement" which controls the price of lumber is like that which was alleged in the beef packing industry. There are several associations, such as the Hemlock association, the Pine association and the Hardwood association, whose representatives meet once a month, discuss the conditions and fix prices.

There are no records and no documents that would incriminate, but through an agreement of "gentlemen" the output is regulated and prices fixed.

Rat Plague in Manila.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Reports have reached the War department that a few months ago great numbers of plague infected rats were found in Manila, and since then a large body of professional rat catchers have been hard at work to protect the city's health. It was evident that the plague of rats infected only two sections, and in both of these districts a thorough disinfection was at once undertaken. Every house was systematically cleaned and all the habitual abiding places of the rodents were removed.

East River Tunnel Bores Joined.

New York, Dec. 10.—Manhattan and Brooklyn boroughs were connected under the East river today by the piercing of the last section which separated the ends of the north tube of the tunnel of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit extension. The East river tunnel extends from the Battery to Joralmon street, Brooklyn. It will form part of the Subway Rapid Transit system from Kings Bridge to Brooklyn. Electric cars of the Long Island railroad will also run through the tunnel. At the point of connection the tunnel is 75 feet under water.

No More Postal Franks.

New York, Dec. 10.— Clarence H. Mackay, president of the Postal Telegrape & Cable company, stated today that the board of directors of that company had passed the following resolution: "Resolved, That owing to changed conditions, it has been found necessary to stop all free transmission of messages and this company will absolutely discontinue its free list on and after January 1, 1907." There are many franks outstanding.

Wealth From Montana Mines.

Butte, Dec., 10.—Montana produced in the calendar year of 1905, copper, silver, gold and lead to the value of $70,677,583. These values came from 5,000,000 tones of ore, and the aggregaet production was greater by $10,086,736 than the value of the output of 1904, which was approximately $10,000,000 than the year before.