

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

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

A grand jury says New York liquor men send large sums to influence legislation at Albany.

An Austro-Hungarian admiral has been chosen as the fifth member of the North sea inquiry commission.

A representative of a large French steel company is looking for available site for the establishment of factories in the United States.

Governor Odell and ex-Governor Black are both said to be candidates for United States senator from New York for Senator Platt's place.

George C. Brownell, president of the last Oregon senate, will be called before the federal grand jury to explain certain papers he affixed his name to as notary public, in connection with the land fraud investigation.

It is reported in Paris that the Japanese government has expressed a wish to be represented at the session of the international commission inquiring into the North sea tragedy, and is said to claim equal rights with the Russians before the commission, especially as the Russians still maintain that Japanese war vessels were seen among the Hull trawlers.

Nine miners were smothered in a coal mine at Garfield, Pa.

Many Japanese soldiers commit suicide when defeat seems at hand.

Chinese have reported to Kuropatkin that the Japanese have lost 203-Meter hill, but the latter claim not.

It is officially reported in Paris that the attorney general has recommended a retrial of the Dreyfus case.

The Japanese are reported to have captured another fort at Port Arthur, with heavy loss to the Russians.

A gang of bell boys, organized to steal the property of guests has been discovered in the Chicago downtown hotels by the police.

Four Denver men have been found guilty of repeating at the November election and sentenced to six months in jail and to pay a \$100 fine.

Robert S. McCormick, American ambassador to Russia, who has been on a two months' vacation in the United States, has returned to his post.

Two of the largest plants of the Illinois Steel company in South Chicago are to resume operations the first of the year. Their reopening will mean employment to at least 3,000 men.

The sultan of Morocco has issued an order expelling all foreign missions, delegates and employees at present attached to his court at Fez. He is afraid his brother will be made sultan.

It is probable that a part of the new Russian loan will be placed in New York.

The present war in the Far East has proved interesting relative to the value of the balloon in time of war.

Abalak in the Pacific coast sugar pool is looked for. Six large firms of San Francisco have withdrawn.

The cotton manufacturers of Fall River, Mass., have refused the offer of the union to arbitrate the differences between the two organizations.

The postmaster general has removed two rural mail carriers charged with efforts to influence legislation. One was from Colorado and the other Ohio.

But one bid on the government contract for more than 2,000,000 feet of lumber to be used at Manila, was found when the bids were opened at Tacoma. It was from a Tacoma firm.

Dispatches from Western Pennsylvania are to the effect that industrial activity in many centers is threatened on account of the protracted drought. Unless conditions change soon it is possible thousands of men may be thrown out of employment in the mills, mines and coke fields.

The 1905 fair will contain 2,500 individual exhibits. There will be 25 exhibit buildings. The fair site covers 182 acres of land and 220 acres of water. The project of the exposition will involve an outlay of about \$3,000,000.

Claims against the Russian government on account of the North sea affair aggregate \$600,000.

Mukden has recovered from its panic caused by the retreat of the Russian army and the Manchurian town has resumed its wonted aspect.

The Minnesota state board of pardons has released the brother of ex-Mayor Ames of Minneapolis.

Governor Bates, of Massachusetts, has tendered his good officers and urged a termination of the Fall River strike.

Many witnesses wanted in the Smoot investigation have fled to Canada and cannot be reached. Those who have testified say that polygamy is openly practiced by the Mormons and many plural marriages have occurred since the manifesto was issued.

WIND FANS FLAMES.

Two Million Dollars Loss From Fire in Sioux City.

Sioux City, Dec. 28.—A fire, which resulted in the death of one man, a monetary loss roughly estimated at \$2,000,000, and the destruction of nearly two whole blocks, started in the basement of the Pelletier department store, in the Toy block, a six-story stone building at Fourth and Jackson streets, at 8 o'clock tonight. The district burned over lies in the center of the business portion of the city, and among the buildings were several of the most substantial structures in the city. In these buildings were located a large number of large stores and several wholesale establishments and three national banks.

The fire started in the basement of the store, but its cause is in doubt. The man killed was a tenant in the Massachusetts block, who jumped from the fifth story.

A large number of shoppers crowded the Pelletier and other stores, and it was with difficulty that all managed to escape from the burning building. The flames enveloped much of the building before the fire department arrived, and was quite beyond control. For three hours and a half, until they had got beyond range of the large buildings, the flames carried everything in their path.

Both telegraph companies were put out of business by reason of their wires being all burned out, and the office of the Western Union was destroyed. Although a large number of telephone circuits were within the district, long-distance circuits were established with outside points. The fire was conquered at 11:30.

From the Pelletier store the flames spread to the Massachusetts block, on the west, a large six-story building. The fire continued westward, driven by a brisk wind. In the course of their flight, the flames were communicated to a score of other business places located in the buildings west of the Toy block.

MORE STATES IN.

New Hampshire and Vermont Will Be at 1905 Fair.

Portland, Dec. 28.—Vermont will be represented at the Lewis and Clark exposition by a reproduction of one of the most valuable buildings, so far as historical value goes, in the United States. Word was received at exposition headquarters yesterday that the building to be erected by Vermont will be a replica of the old Constitution house of 1777. In writing the letter, Arthur C. Jackson, commissioner for Vermont to the Lewis and Clark exposition, stated that a conclusion had been reached in the matter, and though it could not be stated, at present, how large the state appropriation would be, it is anticipated that Vermont will be as well represented at the exposition as she was at St. Louis.

In this novel exposition building, Vermont will have exhibits to show the resources of that state. Historical public records, too, will be there, and by this means the state will show her part in the upbuilding of the nation. Modern exhibits will tell of the progress of Vermont from revolutionary days to the present time. The middle ages of the state will not be shown; just the past and the present, with a hint of the future. The building will be arranged in an attractive manner, and will, no doubt, be the mecca of thousands of visitors.

New Hampshire Steps In.

Following the idea of Vermont, New Hampshire will place her exhibits in the replica of a historical building, the particular edifice to be a reproduction of the birthplace of Daniel Webster. Here there will be on exhibition public records and data concerning the life of Webster, and other men of New Hampshire whose names have gone down to the ages. The buildings of Vermont and New Hampshire may rest in the same vicinity with each other, thus giving to their particular sites a decided historical touch.

Banker Charged with Arson.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—The grand jury today returned two indictments against Isaac N. Perry, ex-president of the National Bank of North America. The indictments charge him with arson in connection with the burning of the plant of the Chicago Car and Locomotive works at Hegewick, Ill. He was president of the locomotive company, which was in financial difficulties. The works were heavily insured. Mr. Perry was acquitted at a preliminary examination before a jury in the police court.

Strangled Grandmother.

New York, Dec. 28.—Wearing cartridge belts and having their pockets filled with dime novels, two boys have been arrested in Harlem on charges of feloniously attacking their grandmother, strangling her into unconsciousness and then robbing her of jewelry and money amounting to more than \$25. Several pawn tickets were found on the youths, together with a signed resolution that they should never part and that they should never marry.

Ammunition Hid in Bales.

Pekin, Dec. 28.—The Chinese yesterday seized 3,000,000 rounds of Russian rifle ammunition near Feng Tai, in the vicinity of Pekin. The ammunition was consigned to a Russian firm at Tientsin, and was evidently destined for Port Arthur. The shipment was concealed among bales of wool brought on the backs of camels from Kalgan, the caravan being in charge of the agent of a German firm.

ENVELOPED IN A FOG

Business Is Very Generally Suspended in England.

THAMES IS JAMMED WITH SHIPS

Link Boys With Torches Furnish the Only Useful Lights in London—No Sign of Pall Lifting.

London, Dec. 26.—There is as yet no sign of the lifting of the fog which envelops the kingdom. The absence of wind throughout Great Britain is almost unprecedented, and meteorologists do not expect any change in the conditions for another 24 hours. Considering the almost insuperable difficulties attending locomotion of any form, the number of fatal accidents has been remarkably small.

The congestion and suspension of business are very general. So far as London is concerned, the tube railways are the only concerns benefitted, and their daily traffic is reaching record figures.

A condition resembling chaos prevails in the postal service. All railway trains are many hours late and many trains between London and the suburbs occupy a couple of hours in making the distance of eight miles.

Mail boats in all directions are similarly disorganized. Only two vessels entered the port of London yesterday, a condition of affairs such as has not occurred for 60 years. The mouth of the river is jammed with vessels loaded with perishable foodstuffs of all descriptions.

The streets of London present remarkable scenes. Nothing is visible except link boys' torches and the occasional flare of big crescent lights which the authorities are beginning to employ to assist traffic.

HEADS OFF LANDGRABBERS.

President Hays Has Cold Water for Rush to Port Simpson.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 26.—With the idea of preventing any rush to Port Simpson or Kaien island, C. M. Hays, president of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, has publicly announced that the mere filing of plans with the railway department at Ottawa does not signify that either of those places will be selected as the terminus of the line. Said he: "It simply supplies the government with information regarding what the company may ultimately require." Mr. Hays has again declared that it may be some time before definite announcement can be made as to where the British Columbia end of the new transcontinental line will be situated. He said in an interview:

"We have not definitely determined the Western terminus. We always say Port Simpson, but when we make use of that expression we mean any point within 50 miles of the place. There are three or four inlets, all of about equal merit, that we might use, but before we reach a decision quite a number of hydrographic surveys must first be made. Nothing has been done along that line on the Pacific coast for a number of years."

As for the prairie section of the line, preparations are well under way for commencing construction at Winnipeg, both east and west, as soon as the snow goes in the spring. Mr. Hays has stated that the financial arrangements necessary to the successful flotation of the scheme have all been made, and the outlook for the satisfactory inauguration of the big work is very bright.

Weakened and May Be Dissolved.

San Francisco, Dec. 26.—Purchases of the four sugar jobbing firms which have seceded from the Pacific Traffic and Commercial association, aggregated approximately 40 per cent of the sugar bought by the association from the refineries, and the dissolution of that organization seems preaged. The four firms are Haas Bros., Tillman & Bendel, Sussman, Wormser & Co. and the Lewin-Meyer company. Whether or not the association is able to carry on, it will be considerably weakened by the loss of these firms.

Big Strike in the Kootenays.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 26.—A 100-foot ore chute, three feet wide and giving values ranging from 160 to 240 ounces of silver, and from \$10 to \$60 a ton gold, with three per cent copper, is the mining sensation of the month in the Kootenays. The big strike was made on the La France group, La France creek, five miles east of Kootenay lake. Americans own the property, the claims belonging to Chicago capitalists.

Torpedo Boat Sighted.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 26.—According to a local paper a number of English fishermen have appeared before the Russian consul in London and have deposed to have seen foreign torpedo boats among the Hull fishing fleet. Their depositions, it is added, will be submitted to the international commission, now in Paris, the circumstances under which they were obtained being explained.

TO RECLAIM MUCH LAND.

Government Planning Big Task Along Oregon-California Line.

Portland, Dec. 27.—Harry Holgate, legal adviser in the United States reclamation service, is in Portland to attend to matters connected with the Klamath river irrigation project, which he states is promising, and may result in throwing open 2,000 homes for settlers.

"The land to be benefitted by the project," said Mr. Holgate today, "is extensive and lies partly in California. In order to make the matter a success some legislation is needed from both Oregon and California, and it is for the purpose of looking after that that I have been sent here."

"I have been to interview Governor Pardee, of California, regarding the lands in that state, and he is very enthusiastic over the matter. I will remain in Portland until after the legislature meets to urge some action that will benefit the project."

"Before coming up to Portland I spent a few weeks in Klamath county, looking over the conditions there, and it is my opinion that the project will be a success. It includes the draining of several lakes and a system for irrigating the land thus obtained, together with large amounts of other land, by means of ditches from the Klamath river. It is my opinion that but little trouble will be experienced in getting the government to finance the system."

MAY BREAK WITH SULTAN.

French Government Regards Situation as Exceedingly Grave.

Paris, Dec. 27.—The French government considers the situation in Morocco extremely grave. The sultan's dismissal of his French and other military advisers has been followed by a number of acts showing his intentions to interrupt the execution of the French policy. Accordingly the French minister at Tangier has been instructed to secure the immediate withdrawal from the Moroccan capital of the French consul, the commander and all the members of the military mission, and all French citizens, unless the sultan vacates his previous offensive action and offers a suitable explanation. The French minister has been instructed to communicate to the sultan at the same time he notifies the consul, military men and citizens to prepare to depart. The officials here say that no definite military or naval steps have yet been taken as these await the sultan's response to the minister's demand, but a demonstration in force will follow if a suitable explanation and reparation are not promptly given.

RAILROAD SETTLING.

Portions of Lucin Cutoff Over Great Salt Lake Sink Nine Feet.

Reno, Nev., Dec. 27.—Every available laborer in the employ of the Southern Pacific between here and Ogden is now at work on the Lucin cutoff, engaged in a desperate effort to keep the treacherous line across the neck of the Great Salt Lake open to the heavy traffic on the line. Late yesterday, a few minutes after the overland flyer, eastbound, passed over this road, it sank nine feet. This condition is not for the entire distance, but in spots clear across the lake.

The startling condition of the roadbed was noticed in time to prevent an accident, and since that time men have been at work, not to keep the line level, but to keep the rails in condition to allow the trains to pass over. Today every mile of the track across the cutoff, a distance of 30 miles, is patrolled. Construction trains are at work hauling material to build up the sinking roadbed, which now presents the appearance, in stretches of a mile or more, of waves on an ocean.

Until yesterday the sinking had been gradual.

It is understood that the company is confident of yet being able to overcome the strange condition in the lake, and will spare neither effort nor expense in doing so. The big force of men now at work will be maintained until the line is again in perfect working order.

Turned Out 3,441 Engines.

New York, Dec. 27.—Returns received from the car building plants of America show that in the past year approximately 62,950 cars have been built, including cars for use on elevated railroads, but exclusive of street or other electric cars. These figures do not include cars built by the railroads at their own shops. During the year 3,441 locomotives were built at the various plants, against 5,152 last year. The number for the current year does not include locomotives built by the railroads at their own shops.

Russians Advance Guns.

Mukden, Dec. 27.—The Russians succeeded today in advancing the position of their siege guns four miles south along the wagon road. This was accomplished in the face of a heavy artillery fire from the Japanese, who fired upwards of 100 shells, which, however, did little execution, only two men being wounded. On account of the difficulties of getting supplies here, many Chinese and refugees have been sent north by the officials.

\$100,000 Fire at Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, Dec. 27.—Fire today destroyed a brick building occupied by the Pioneer Roll Paper company, entailing a loss to the building and stock estimated at \$100,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

WILL ASK FOR NEW COUNTY

Antelope Anxious to Sever Connection with Wasco.

Hood River.—At the coming session of the legislature the people of Antelope will renew their efforts to have a new county created out of Southeastern Wasco, with Antelope as the county seat. This new division is to be known as Stockman county. Although in the two previous sessions The Dalles has stoutly opposed the move for Stockman county, it is understood that the city is pledged this time to support the demands of Antelope.

There has been some talk of Hood River asking for a new county at this session of the legislature. The people here have long had the ambition to govern themselves in county affairs, but the interested citizens realize that with stubborn opposition in the senate from The Dalles, the requests of this city would receive little attention at this time, especially since the formation of Stockman county is considered certain.

Representative Jayne, of this city, at the request of the Finance committee of the Hood River city council, will present a bill to the legislature next month asking for an amendment to the city charter, permitting the town to issue bonds in excess of the 5 per cent limit now in force. This city finds itself short for funds and must resort to borrowing money to defray expense for the coming year.

MORE CASH FOR SCHOOL.

Regents of Western Institutions Talk With Representatives.

Weston.—The board of regents of the state normal school at this place met here last week with the representatives of the county. The meeting was held to investigate the conditions at the school and to consider whether or not the appropriation should be raised from \$16,000 to \$20,000, which will be ample to maintain the school for a year. The representatives present are in favor of raising the appropriation, as the school is crowded and the cost of maintenance has been increased accordingly.

The regents and representatives present were: G. W. Proebstel, Weston; J. W. Scriber, La Grande; R. Alexander, Pendleton; F. M. Saxton, Baker City; Representatives W. D. Chamberlain, Athena; William Blakely, Pendleton; State Senator N. Whealdon, Wasco county; P. A. Worthington, Portland, and President R. C. French of the school.

Prepares for School Exhibits.

Pendleton.—Superintendent Frank K. Welles of the Umatilla county schools has 5,000 sheets of practice paper on hand which will be distributed in the schools throughout the county, preparatory to making school exhibits to be placed in the educational department at the Lewis and Clark fair. The exhibit will consist of maps, penmanship, drawing and all other work that can be properly displayed on paper. Mr. Welles will commence an active campaign about the first of the year, in order to have the best specimens ready for the opening.

Report of State Biologist.

University of Oregon, Eugene.—The second biennial report of State Biologist A. R. Sweetser, of the University of Oregon, which has been prepared to submit to the 23d legislative assembly is out and gives valuable data concerning the water supply of all valley towns. The report first gives a knowledge of the most dangerous forms of bacteria, with references to typhoid and B. Coli bacteria. Generally the data gives evidence of the fact that all valley towns use wholesome water, unless the sewer system is poor.

Athena Buys a Water Supply.

Athena.—The city of Athena has decided to purchase the Gallagher springs, two and one half miles southeast of town, for its future water supply, \$150 being paid for the privilege of beginning work and \$1,100 to be paid Roy Gallagher, the minor owner, when he reaches his majority, November next, if the springs are adequate for the supply. When the final payment is made the city will receive a clear title, leaving Mr. Gallagher free use of water.

Few Oregon Soldiers will Go.

Salem.—Governor Chamberlain is in receipt of a letter from Chairman George H. Harris, of the committee on military organization of the president, inquiring as to how many of the Oregon troops will be sent to participate in the inaugural. Unless they should choose to attend at their own expense, it is not probable that any Oregon troops will take part.

To Work Camp Carson Placers.

La Grande.—A company of capitalists who have purchased the old Camp Carson placer mines in the Grand Ronde, have incorporated with a capital stock of \$1,000,000 for their operation and development. The articles of incorporation have been filed with Secretary of State Dunbar at Salem.

COMING EVENTS.

Inland Empire Sunday School institute, Pendleton, January 30.
Oregon State Horticultural society, Portland, January 10-11.
National American Woman Suffrage association, Portland, June 22-28.
Lewis and Clark Centennial exposition, Portland, June 1-October 18.

CHANCE FOR SCHOLARSHIP.

Examination for English University Commences Next Month.

University of Oregon, Eugene.—A memorandum giving the conditions under which the second Cecil Rhodes scholarships examination is to be held has been received by President P. L. Campbell and notifications will be mailed to all the recognized degree granting colleges in Oregon. According to the circular the qualifying examinations will be held January 16 and 17, and the competitive quiz will be held before the end of March. Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, Latin and Greek are the subjects to be considered. Aside from an examination in these subjects recognition will be given to the applicants' natural aptitude in athletics, power of leadership, strength of character and scholastic attainments. All scholars must be between 19 and 25 years of age and must be citizens of the United States.

Harvey B. Densmore, a university graduate, won the scholarship last year and he urges every student to make an effort to come in touch with English ideals and university life.

MAKES TIMBER AVAILABLE.

Logs Will Be Hauled Direct From Forests to Water Transportation.

Independence.—Survey has been made by Civil Engineer Hanson, in the employ of the Southern Pacific, preparatory to building a boom pond, by means of which timber loaded on the cars at Falls City can be dumped into the river here without a change of cars. There is a large section of desirable timber of different varieties, which has been ready for the market for years, but could not be gotten out. The building of the Falls City railroad to Dallas, connecting with Independence, and the gravel spur built from the main track of the Southern Pacific to the river, with the proposed boom pond, which can be put in at a very reasonable expense, will make this timber available. Once in the river at this place, transportation of the logs is a simple matter. This will also enable the new Dooty & Simpson sawmill, at this place, to get logs by water and rail.

Buys Million Pounds of Wool.

Enterprise.—Wool in this county has begun to move. R. C. Mays, who is buying for S. Koshland & Co., of San Francisco, has closed contracts with the sheepmen of this place for 1,000,000 pounds of wool. As a result sheepmen and other business men are in a happy mood, rejoicing in the fact that they have a "cinch" on 16 cents per pound for their 1905 wool clip. On the sale just made Mr. Mays turned over to the sheepmen of this city \$53,000, this being one third of the contract price of the wool. This amount will relieve the sheepmen to a great extent, as money is always scarce with them at this time of year, and they are compelled to borrow at a high rate of interest. Mr. Mays expects to contract the entire clip of the county, which will amount to about 2,000,000 pounds.

Mayflower Is Rich.

Baker City.—Word from Cornucopia states that the biggest strike of rich ore ever made in that camp has just been uncovered in the Mayflower mine, owned by G. W. Boggs and associates. It joins the celebrated Searles property, which is now in litigation, and on which H. H. Rogers, of the Standard Oil company, is attempting to foreclose a mortgage of \$100,000. The ore runs into the thousands and the body is a large opening in the main ledge on the lower workings. There is much excitement in the camp.

Special Trains for Fair.

Grants Pass.—The lumber and timbermen of Josephine county, of whom there are several hundred, are planning a "lumbermen's excursion" to the Lewis and Clark fair. Those who have the matter in charge feel confident the excursion will be a "go." A similar excursion under the auspices of the miners is also being planned. The two excursions will take a very large part of the populace to the fair instead of going at different times.

More Alfalfa Acreage.

Pendleton.—E. W. McComas, who has control of Switzer's island, near Cold Springs station, is increasing his alfalfa acreage on the island, until now he has nearly 200 acres. Mr. McComas will not raise beets next year nor will the Echo growers, as the sugar company of La Grande has purchased 2,000 acres of land near Union and will have all the acreage desired for cultivation.

Wade Creditors Get Little.

Pendleton.—The final report of the trustee in bankruptcy of C. B. Wade, former cashier of the First National bank, who failed for \$360,000, have been filed. The hearing is set for January 2. The creditors will realize about 10 cents on the dollar.

THE MARKETS.

Wheat—Portland—Walla Walla, 85c; bluestem, 88c; valley, 87c. Tacoma—Bluestem, 88c; club, 85c. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 32c. Butter—Fancy creamery, 25c; 27c. Hope—Choice, 29c; prime, 27c. Wool—Valley, 19c; Eastern Oregon, 10c; mohair, 25c.