

NEWBERG GRAPHIC

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NEWBERG.....OREGON

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

Less Important but Not Less Interesting Happenings from Points Outside the State.

Many political exiles of Venezuela are returning to their homes.

Roosevelt says the only thing about his African trip he fears is the fever.

It is believed American Ambassador Griseom will resign his post at Rome.

Henry W. Poor, a leading Wall street broker, has assigned. His liabilities will reach \$5,000,000.

Castro has witnessed what to him is a unique spectacle—a snowstorm and skating on natural ice.

Governor Hughes has appointed a commission to investigate the New York produce and cotton exchanges.

Chicago contractors who have been in the habit of giving presents to city officials at Christmas time this year had their gifts returned.

Gomez' power as ruler of Venezuela is finally established. Many suits have been commenced against Castro and he will lose \$2,000,000 by the turn of affairs.

Plans are all complete for the arrest of about 40 more Pittsburg grafters. The railroads are aiding the movement, as it is cheaper to oust them than to pay their price.

The bank at Monrovia, Cal., has lost \$29,000, which mysteriously disappeared.

One man was killed and three persons injured in an automobile wreck in California.

Christmas was celebrated all over the United States by lavish gifts and feasts to poor.

The bribery of Pittsburg councilmen by bankers has been taken up by the government.

A crazy French Royalist tried to pull President Fallieres' beard, and was promptly arrested.

An appeal may be made to Taft to pardon Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison in case their appeal fails.

Claus Spreckels, the sugar king, is critically ill at his home in San Francisco, and it is feared he cannot survive.

The Chicago saloon question may be put to a referendum vote next April. The anti-saloon element is gaining in strength.

Oklahoma prisoners, who are confined in the Kansas penitentiary, complain of cruel treatment and an investigation is to be made.

A boy of 15 is under arrest at Mount Clemens, Mich., charged with stealing at least \$30,000 from postoffice boxes. He was caught while cashing a check.

Express companies were swamped with Christmas business.

Cosgrove has so far recovered that he is able to walk a little.

Count Boni de Castellane lost his suit for possession of his children.

Harriman has been reported ill, but his physician says it was only a slight bilious attack.

The monitor Wyoming, now at Mare Island navy yard, will be changed to the Cheyenne.

Fire in Brooklyn drove hundreds into the streets, destroying an entire block of property, valued at \$1,000,000.

The steamer Stork sank in Hudson bay, taking down a cargo of fur valued at \$1,500,000. The crew all escaped.

The receiver of the old Panama Canal company declares the story of graft in the purchase of the property by the government a fable.

Ex-Senator Clark, of Montana, remembered his employees at Christmas by giving them turkeys. Between 10,000 and 12,000 birds were necessary.

Fire destroyed a great tenement building on West 127th street, New York. A number of people were injured and it is feared some were killed.

Secretary Root has signed an arbitration treaty with San Salvador.

A shortage of over \$7,000,000 in the city's money has been unearthed at Lisbon, Portugal.

The Japanese diet is in session. A member of the Constitutional party was elected speaker.

The supreme court has decided that Los Angeles has the right to regulate liquor establishments.

The cruiser Buffalo will leave San Francisco early in January with a battalion of marines, officers and men for Honolulu.

Two hundred thousand Chinook salmon eggs have been shipped from the government hatchery at Redding, Cal., to the Argentine Republic.

King Manuel, of Portugal, has charged Dr. W. Desperca de Lima, examiner of foreign affairs, to form a cabinet, the success of which, however, is doubtful.

The supreme court of California has denied a petition for a rehearing of the case of Mrs. Cornelia Botkin, now serving a life sentence for sending poisoned candy through the mail.

Chiefs of the native tribes of German Samoa are planning an uprising against the home government.

CUBANS IN CONTROL.

Evacuation by American Army Begins New Year's Day.

Havana, Dec. 29.—New Year's day will witness the beginning of the evacuation of Cuba by the army of pacification, which has been in possession of the island since the beginning of the provisional government, in October, 1906. The first provisional regiment of marines, numbering 900, which will be among the first troops to leave, are now concentrating from various posts at Camp Columbia.

About half this regiment will sail in January on the cruiser Prairie, which arrived here Christmas eve, bound for Newport News. The Prairie will return about the middle of the month and embark the remainder. The final embarkation will not occur until April 1.

The embarkation will be effected with as little ceremony as possible and it is probable that their departure will be made with as little notice as marked their landing. The purpose in deferring the departure of a portion of the 17th Infantry until April 1 has been the subject of considerable speculation, but it is believed this was agreed upon at a conference between Governor Magoo and President-elect Gomez. It is not thought to be a measure of precaution, for which not the slightest necessity is apparent, but it probably is for the purpose of keeping the barracks and quarters in good order until it is possible to turn over to the Cuban authorities a model camp for occupation by the new permanent army under command of General Pino Guerrero, the nucleus of which will be formed, it is intended, with the present corps of Cuban artillery and 1,000 members of the Rural Guard.

CASTRO THE LOOTER.

Unknown Ten Years Ago, Now Prominent World Figure.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Since Cipriano Castro, president of Venezuela, has left his country but slight regret over his departure and subsequent vicissitudes have been expressed on the part of the people over whom he has tyrannized and whom he has impoverished. Since 1899, when, at the head of a revolutionary army, he drove his predecessor, President Andrade, from the capital and made himself absolute ruler of Venezuela, Castro seems to have had but one object in view, namely, to enrich himself. And in this he has succeeded to an amazing extent.

Naturally no person knows, nor can an estimate be made of the wealth which Castro has garnered at the expense of the poor and rich alike among the Venezuelans. It is pretty definitely known that for years he has been sending vast sums of money to England, and this fact lends color to the belief that his departure for Europe, ostensibly to consult a noted physician concerning a serious malady, was only another of his tricks, perpetrated in order safely to escape from the country which expects to see him no more.

Ten years ago Castro was practically unknown. Born of obscure parents in the province of San Antonio in 1860, he grew up practically without education.

RELIEF WORK IS ENDED.

Committee and Red Cross Society to Go Out With Old Year.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—With the end of the old year, the San Francisco Relief and Red Cross society, which has handled \$9,500,000 in contributions since the great fire, will go out of existence. This huge sum was distributed at an expense of 2.3 per cent. Nearly \$400,000 is left, which will be transferred to various charities. The society not only fed and lodged thousands for several months after the fire, but it has provided 8,000 permanent homes for 30,000 people and has established a permanent home for the aged and infirm at a cost of \$375,000. Of the money contributed, New York gave \$2,750,000 and Illinois \$650,000.

Poison Squad Test.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—A campaign of experiments calculated to demonstrate beyond any doubt whether sulfur dioxide, as used at present in this state in the preparation of dried fruit, is harmful to the human system, has been inaugurated by the local medical men and chemists, as a result of the long-standing controversy between the pure-food authorities at Washington and the dried-fruit packers of California. A "poison squad" has been selected and it is proposed to use his own familiar weapons against Dr. Harvey W. Wiley.

Shorthand Record Made.

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—Ruth Olson, a 14-year-old San Francisco girl, has established a new world record for her age for rapid shorthand writing. In a test before Superior Judge Thomas E. Graham, the girl wrote 850 words in five minutes and read the same correctly. Miss Olson's record is considered phenomenal, as the matter read to and written by her was taken from a transcript of proceedings taken from the court files.

Natives Desire Opium.

Amy, Dec. 29.—Orders were issued Saturday to a number of natives at Tungan, 20 miles north of Amy, to cease planting opium poppies. They declined to acquiesce, and a riot followed, in which one officer and ten civilians were killed. The populace at Tungan is up in arms and 500 troops have been sent there to restore order.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

STATE TAX LEVY.

Revenue to Be Raised for 1909 Exceeds That of 1908.

Salem.—One million six hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars is the total approximate amount of revenue to be raised for state purposes for 1909. Four hundred thousand dollars of the sum will be derived from indirect sources, leaving \$1,275,000 to be apportioned among the several counties.

This amount is \$125,000 greater than the levy last year and \$250,000 greater than the levy two years ago. The increase this year is due in part to the holding up of the University of Oregon appropriation bill last year, by reason of which the levy for 1908 was at the rate of \$47,500 per year, as provided by laws then in existence. Since the appropriation bill has gone into effect, carrying an appropriation dating back to January 1, 1907, it will be necessary, in making the 1909 levy to include a University of Oregon deficit of about \$155,000. The 1909 levy will include \$100,000 for the purchase of the Oregon City locks. Should the legislature repeal the locks appropriation bill, this \$100,000 will be in the treasury subject to appropriation for other purposes. One installment of \$100,000 has already been levied.

The levy will not be made until early in January, 1909, but the total amount here indicated, \$1,275,000, is close enough to the actual amount that will be levied so that county wide the board of directors may act upon it in computing their share of state taxes. Already a number of counties have been anxiously inquiring what the state levy will be. Under existing laws, the apportionment among the counties will be made at a fixed ratio which has been in force a number of years.

In making the apportionment for 1909 the state board will be confronted with the problem of making an apportionment between Hood River and Wasco counties without any law prescribing how the apportionment shall be made. The act creating Hood River county contained no provision upon this subject. The state board passed the question up to the attorney general and that official has advised the board to divide the Wasco county ratio between Wasco and Hood River in proportion to assessed valuations.

Thus the law prescribing the ratio of apportionment of state taxes requires that Wasco county pay .0234 of the whole amount. But since then Hood River county has been carved out of Wasco. The assessed valuation of Wasco county is now \$5,927,345 and that of Hood River \$2,870,280. Dividing the apportionment accordingly, Wasco's new ratio will be .0188 and that of Hood River .0076. Though there is no law expressly authorizing such an apportionment, the attorney general expresses the opinion that this is equitable and should be adopted. The board will follow his advice.

Each county can ascertain approximately the amount of its share of the state taxes for 1909 by multiplying \$1,275,000 by its ratio. The ratios of the several counties are as follows:

County	Pct.
Baker	.0234
Benton	.0202
Clatsop	.0335
Clatsop	.0212
Columbia	.0106
Coos	.0203
Crook	.0130
Curry	.0040
Douglas	.0345
Gilliam	.0087
Grant	.0092
Harney	.0160
Hood River	.0076
Jackson	.0060
Josephine	.0115
Klamath	.0107
Lake	.0462
Lane	.0545
Lincoln	.0526
Malheur	.0094
Marion	.0613
Morrow	.0095
Multnomah	.0323
Polk	.0307
Sherman	.0087
Tillamook	.0087
Umatilla	.0490
Union	.0223
Wallowa	.0073
Wasco	.0158
Washington	.0301
Wheeler	.0391
Yamhill	.0391
Total	1.0000

Surveying for Harriman Road.

Portland.—Although the Deschutes route for the central Oregon line of the Southern Pacific has not yet been officially accepted by E. H. Harriman, the engineers in Chief Engineer Boschke's office have received orders to go ahead with the surveys south of Madras, and have located the line through Haystack, Culver and Lamonta to O'Neil, which will presumably be the junction point for the Deschutes line and the proposed line running east and west across the state, following the Central Oregon military road and connecting the Corvallis & Eastern with Vale in Malheur county. The Deschutes line will probably be extended to Bend in Crook county, on the present survey.

Umatilla Lobby Named.

Pendleton.—A legislative committee of 15 members from the county has been appointed by the Commercial association to work in harmony with the Umatilla county delegation in an effort to secure from the legislature measures which are particularly desired. Chief among these are the experiment farm for the Umatilla project, an increased appropriation for the Weston normal, a branch asylum and an amendment to the good roads law.

COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION.

Oregon Agricultural College Faculty Makes Some Suggestions.

Corvallis.—At a meeting of the agricultural faculty of the Oregon Agricultural college, the request of President Roosevelt's Country Life Commission for suggestions that might aid the commission in making its report was discussed and the following statement prepared:

"If federal appropriations are to be made for improving social and economic conditions in rural communities, it is recommended, first, that they be made to existing high schools and normal schools for the purpose of maintaining courses of instruction in agricultural, industrial and domestic arts, and including business methods and home sanitation, so that all public school teachers may have the training necessary for teaching those subjects in the public schools.

"Second, that in order to secure the full efficiency of the agricultural colleges and experiment stations, the national government should co-operate with the states in agricultural extension work, this work to be under the direct supervision of the agricultural colleges. With an adequate appropriation a comprehensive system of traveling agricultural schools, farmers' institutes and free circulating libraries could be maintained, and publications issued for free distribution so that all important discoveries of the experiment stations could be given to every farmer of every state."

Big Klamath Land Sale.

Klamath Falls.—A tract of land aggregating 3300 acres has been sold within eight miles of this city. Included in the purchase is the townsite of Midland, the first station south of Klamath Falls on the California & Northwestern railway. The purchase price was between \$75,000 and \$90,000. It is the largest sale ever made in this section. The Midland Town company, a California corporation, made the sale to E. R. Reames and D. B. Campbell, of this city.

Wage War on Coyotes.

Pendleton.—Ten thousand coyotes are to be killed in Oregon during the month of January by the stockmen, who are losing \$1,000,000 each year from the devastation of the animals. Last January the first effort at organized warfare against coyotes was made and it was reported to the board of sheep commissioners that fully 10,000 animals were slaughtered. The plan, on an enlarged scale, is to be put in operation again next month.

Ready to Build at Eugene.

Eugene.—Work on the new postoffice building for Eugene will begin soon. Preliminary arrangements for excavation for the building are already being made. The government has notified Postmaster Page that the contractor's bond has been accepted, and it is probable that a superintendent of construction will be here at once.

La Grande Land Takes Rise.

La Grande.—The price of land in the arid sections of this valley is now \$100 per acre, where formerly it was disposed of between \$25 and \$30, on account of promised irrigation. The market is dull, for there are none of the landowners that care to part with their holdings.

Snow in Umatilla County.

Pendleton.—Umatilla county wheat fields are covered with a mantle of snow. Not very much has fallen yet, but indications are that much more will come before morning. Farmers have been wanting snow for some time, and are therefore happy.

Object to Advanced Rates.

Portland.—The implement jobbers of this city are protesting against increases in freight rates.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Bluestem, 96@97c; club, 91c; five, 91c; red Russian, 88c; 40-fold, 93c; valley, 91c.
Oats—No. 1 white, 83c per ton.
Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$14 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$16.50@17; clover, \$12; alfalfa, \$12@13; grain hay, \$12@13.
Fruits—Apples, 75c@82.75 per box; pears, \$1@1.75 per box; grapes, 65c@1.50 per crate; quinces, \$1@1.25 per box; cranberries, \$13.50@14.50 per barrel; persimmons, \$1@1.25.
Potatoes—80@90c per cwt.; sweet potatoes, 2@2.25c per lb.
Onions, \$1@1.25 per hundred lbs.
Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1; parsnips, \$1.25; beets, \$1.50; horseradish, 8@10c per pound; artichokes, 90c@1.10c per dozen; beans, 15c per pound; cabbage, 14@15c per pound; cauliflower, 75c@81c per dozen; celery, \$4.50@4.75 per crate; cucumbers, \$2@2.50 per box; egg plant, 1c per pound; lettuce, 75c@81c per box; parsley, 30c per dozen; peas, 12c per pound; peppers, 15@20c per pound; pumpkins, 1@1.25c per pound; radishes, 80c per dozen; spinach, 2c per pound; sprouts, 9@10c per pound; squash, 1@1.15c per pound; tomatoes, 50c@1.75 per pound; store, 18@20c.

Butter—City creamery, extras, 36@37c; fancy outside creamery, 32@35c per pound; store, 18@20c.
Eggs—Oregon, ranch, 40@42c; Eastern, 30@33c per dozen.
Poultry—Hens, 10@11c per pound; spring, large, 10@11c; small, 13@14c; mixed, 10c; ducks, 15@16c; geese, 10@10.5c; turkeys, 17@18c; dressed turkeys, 20@23c.
Veal—Extra, 9@10c per pound; ordinary, 7@8c; heavy, 5c.
Pork—Fancy, 7c per pound; large, 6@7c.
Mutton—5@6c per pound.
Hops—1908, choice, 7@7.5c per pound; good prime, 6@6.5c; fair prime, 5@5.5c; medium, 5@5.5c; 1907, 2@2.5c; 1906, 1@1.5c.
Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 10@14c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 15@16c.
Mohair—Choice, 18@19c per pound.

NEW LIGHT ON HISTORY.

Stanford Professor Finds Key to Ancient Writings.

Stanford University, Cal., Dec. 28.—The key which bares the secrets so long hidden behind the Etruscan and old Italian inscriptions has at last been discovered by Professor George Hempl, the holder of the philological chair at Stanford university, and the manners, customs and history of a people today practically unknown may be read in the future as in a book.

Experienced in his investigations of old German inscriptions and rules, Professor Hempl was able to accomplish in a single night the feat undertaken by science ages ago and never before pushed to a successful conclusion. Members of the faculty who were present at the lecture of Dr. Hempl before the Stanford Philological association today declared that the discovery is a veritable triumph and will have far-reaching results. It will necessitate a re-stating of ancient Roman history and it will throw a flood of light on many disputed facts of Latin grammar and etymology.

It has been the generally accepted view among historians that the Etruscans were an element entirely foreign to their neighbors, the Romans. This theory is entirely and conclusively overturned by Professor Hempl, whose investigations prove a great similarity between the Roman and Etruscan languages and make possible only one conclusion, that the Etruscans and Romans sprang from one race, which, following the old legend, wandered to Italy from Troy after the fall of that great city. Thus Virgil's *Enid* is substantiated by scientific proof. Dr. Hempl's discovery is yet in its infancy. Out of 8,000 inscriptions he has read but 50, yet the little work he has done has been sufficient to convince him that the old idea of distinct races is entirely erroneous.

QUICKSAND IN FOUNDATION.

Unstable Soil Adds \$500,000 to Cost of Northwestern Depot.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A stratum of treacherous quicksand underlying the site of the new \$20,000,000 station of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, now under construction, will add about \$500,000 to the cost of the structure, owing to the increased difficulty of sinking the foundation pillars. This information has been given to the railroad company by the George A. Fuller company, which has in turn been told to go ahead with the construction of the building at any cost.

Interesting pneumatic processes are now being used to overcome the difficulties presented by the unstable soil. Engineers say that Chicago soil is alive with quicksand in the territory about the river banks. Two engineering experts who handled the situation in New York at the laying of two big river tunnels of the subway, when quicksand there furnished the gravest engineering problem of the kind in the history of America, were called by telegraph and are at work solving the problem presented.

Russia Approves Deal.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 28.—Foreign Minister Jewolsky met with a favorable reception in the duma today when he presented the annual statement of Russia's foreign policy. He referred with warm approval to the Japanese-American agreement, which he said guaranteed the open door in the Far East and the integrity of China, and the terms of which were communicated to Russia before it was signed. The rest of M. Jewolsky's speech shed no light on mooted questions, nor gave any substance to the Russian proposals regarding the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria.

New Geyser May Result.

Virginia City, Mont., Dec. 28.—Thirty earthquakes have been felt in this section since last Sunday afternoon, the last tremor being recorded at 4:10 yesterday morning. The ground has trembled very perceptibly, with the earthwave apparently coming from the south, which has lent color to the theory that a big new geyser is about to burst forth in the Yellowstone park, which lies 75 miles southeast of Virginia City. No damage has resulted other than considerable plaster having been thrown down.

Congressman Daved Dead.

New Orleans, Dec. 28.—Representative Robert C. Davey, of the second congressional district of Louisiana, died Saturday of apoplexy. He had served continuously at Washington since the fifty-third congress, with the exception of one term, when he declined the nomination. Davey was born in New Orleans in 1853, served several years in the state senate of Louisiana, was elected a judge in 1880 and in 1888 was defeated for mayor of New Orleans. He was re-elected to the sixty-first congress.

Claus Spreckles Dead.

San Francisco, Dec. 28.—After an illness of less than a week's duration, Claus Spreckles, widely known as the "Sugar King of the Pacific Coast," died at his home in this city Saturday. Mr. Spreckles was 80 years of age, and was taken ill with a severe cold early this week. This developed into pneumonia, and during the last two days the veteran sugar refiner sank rapidly, his death occurring at 4:30 o'clock Saturday morning.

Pearl Harbor Drydock.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Specifications have been issued by the navy department for the drydock at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The structure will be 1195 feet long, divided by a caisson so that two battleships can be docked simultaneously. The drydock will be 35 feet deep and 130 feet wide. Bids will be opened on February 13, 1909.

LOOK UP PACKERS

Grand Jury at Chicago Proposes to Propose.

PRICE AGREEMENT IS SUSPECTED

District Attorney Sims Declares Aim of Present Inquiry—Great Secrecy is Maintained.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Nothing less than a complete exposure of the methods of the beef trust is contemplated by District Attorney Sims in the present grand jury investigation which is being carried out with the aid of special agents of the interstate commerce commission.

It developed today that, in addition to the inquiry in regard to shipping rates and possible rebates, to which the work of the interstate commerce commission and its agents is confined, a number of secret service operatives, who work directly under the department of justice, have been looking into another phase of the packing industry.

These officials have been trying to determine whether tacit agreements between packers as to the fixing of prices and the division of territory for distribution have been in systematic operation. The sweeping nature of the inquiry was indicated today in the first positive statement made by Mr. Sims since the investigation started.

"This is no mere fishing expedition, as has been said by some critics of the department," declared the district attorney. "We know what we are going after, if we are not permitted by the nature of the inquiry to state what it is. We are now merely starting a little case, in which packers of railroads are concerned in the hope that we can unweath some information which would be of value or be useful as a basis for a new and more extensive investigation. There is nothing vague or indefinite about this inquiry, and it has a purpose which I am not permitted to disclose."

RAILROADS FOR OREGON.

Competition Forces Harriman to Consider New Lines.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Oregon bids fair soon to come into its own with respect to transportation facilities. Alarmed over the activity of other railroad corporations in surveying and constructing lines of road through various portions of the Pacific Northwest, Edward H. Harriman and his aids have decided actively to occupy all of the territory in the Northwest which bids fair to become of value from a traffic standpoint.

Plans have been perfected by Mr. Harriman for the construction of between 750 and 1000 miles of railroad in the State of Oregon alone, and that surveys have been ordered of a great deal of territory which is now without means of transportation.

Julius Kruttschnitt, director of maintenance and operation for the Harriman lines, and J. D. Isaacs, consulting engineer for Mr. Harriman, have recently returned from New York, where these plans were perfected. It is admitted by the Chicago officials that there are such plans.

JOHN BULL NOT SO MERRY.

Christmas in England is Marred by Poverty.

London, Dec. 26.—The dark side of the English Christmas is the great number of unemployed, and the distressing prevalence of destitute and suffering. This is seen principally in London and at Glasgow, and at other shipbuilding centers, where shipbuilders are out of work.

A small band of shabbily dressed, miserable looking unemployed persons have paraded fashionable streets during the past week, threatening their way among the crowds of Christmas shoppers. The police accompanied the band as it marched, in order to prevent disturbances. Its motto showed, "We want work."

More than 1000 homeless men assembled on the James embankment at midnight to get Salvation Army tickets for beds. The newspapers daily record cases of men being sentenced to imprisonment for stealing food who have families suffering from want.

New Canadian Coal Fields.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 25.—Henry Hewitt, the Tacoma smelting man, has acquired coal mining rights in Graham island, one of the Queen Charlotte group. Immensely valuable coal deposits have been discovered there and an application for a charter for building railroads and steamship wharves and for the general carrying on of business is advertised to be made at the next meeting of the British Columbia legislature. Indications are that the mines will far exceed in value the famous Dunsmit properties.

Wreckers Throw Switch.

Hillsdale, Mich., Dec. 26.—Instead of a broken flange, it is reported here today that a tunnel switch was the cause of the derailment last night near Pleasant Lake, Ind., of a Lake Shore passenger train, in which about 30 persons were injured, one possibly fatally. It is also said here that there are suspicions that it may have been misplaced by members of the gang which has been robbing safes recently in this section of the country.

Oklahoma Town Burns.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Dec. 26.—Virtually the entire business section of Ravia, Okla., a town of 1200 inhabitants in Johnston county was wiped out yesterday by fire, the loss aggregating about \$55,000.