

WEEK'S DOINGS

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Condensed Form.

Many shells sent to the Russians at Mukden have proved defective.

A son of General Nogi was killed in the attack on 203 Meter hill at Port Arthur.

The Japanese have sunk all the Russian battleships and cruisers at Port Arthur.

Japan has signified her willingness to participate in a second Hague peace conference.

So far in the Far Eastern war Russia has lost 23 warships of all classes and the Japanese four.

Roosevelt has abandoned the idea of a special session of congress in the spring to consider tariff revision.

A bill will be introduced in congress to connect the canal zone on the isthmus with the United States by cable.

Secretary Shaw will urge congress to increase the appropriation for the Tacoma public building from \$400,000 to \$800,000.

The handwriting experts in the Denver election frauds found evidences of repeating for both the Democratic and Republican tickets.

Senator Mitchell has a fight on his hands to secure the chairmanship of the canal committee, made vacant by the death of Hanna. The stand he took for the Nicaraguan route two years ago is the cause.

Liberal appropriations for Columbia river jetty are assured.

Russians have lost 3,000 men trying to retake 253-Meter hill.

Cocoon county will spend \$100,000 on Lewis and Clark fair exhibit.

A grand jury has been empanelled to investigate the Denver election frauds.

Taft acknowledges he made a mistake in extending Dingley tariff to canal zone at Panama celebration.

Senator Platt will introduce a bill to reduce the representation of several states, particularly in the South.

A prominent canneryman says greed and defiance of the law are ruining the salmon industry of the Columbia river.

The jury in the land fraud cases found five of the defendants guilty as charged, but cleared Miss Marie Ware.

Japanese from 203 Meter hill are shelling Russian fleet and have sunk one battleship and set a number of other ships on fire.

Germany is doubling her military strength at Kiaochow, the German port on the Shan Tung peninsula, and sending there an experienced officer from the Admiralty staff.

Eighteen persons were injured, some of them seriously, in a New York fire.

The effect of prevailing bad times throughout England will tend towards a lean Christmas.

The Portland Ministers' association is making a strong effort to have the Lewis and Clark fair closed on Sundays.

It is said the large shipment of beef from Omaha for the Russian army will go by way of the Puget sound instead of Portland.

James M. Tyner, postmaster general under President Grant and assistant attorney general until forced to resign under the recent postal fraud investigation, is dead.

A Santa Fe train was held up and robbed between Ludlow and Duggett, Cal., and the express messenger wounded. Drafts and money to the amount of \$6,000 was secured.

The supervising architect will recommend appropriations of \$100,000 and \$85,000 respectively for Federal buildings at Oregon City and Baker City.

The father of an Illinois football victim is endeavoring to have a state law passed prohibiting the game. He has secured the promise of a legislator to introduce such a bill in the Indiana legislature and hopes to succeed in Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin as well.

Simon Lake, an inventor, is building a submarine torpedo boat at Newport News in which he expects to cross the Atlantic. The new vessel is to be 83 feet long and proportionately large. She will carry four torpedo tubes.

Experts find many ballots in a Denver precinct to be illegal.

Senator Bacon, of Georgia, favors disfranchising all negroes.

Now that the capture of 203-Meter hill at Port Arthur has been confirmed, the Russians declare it to be an unimportant position.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Monday, December 5.

The short session of the 58th congress met at 12 o'clock. No business was transacted in either house excepting the usual routine work of opening day. Both houses adopted resolutions of respect to the late Senators Hoar, of Massachusetts, and Quay, of Pennsylvania, and their adjournment was a further mark of respect.

Tuesday, December 6.

President's message read. A number of resolutions have been introduced in the house looking to a change in the tariff laws.

The president sent a large number of appointments and nominations for promotion in the army and navy to the senate.

A bill has been introduced in the senate providing a pension of \$15 a month for the widows of Union soldiers, sailors and marines.

Wednesday, December 7.

The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, carrying \$28,838,709, was reported to the house today. This is \$846,498 less than the estimate and \$235,881 more than the current appropriation.

Platt, of New York, caused a stir in the senate by introducing a bill providing for a reduction of the congressional representation of the southern states, on the ground that many of the citizens of these states are deprived of the right to vote.

Senator Hale introduced a bill to require the employment of vessels of the United States in the transportation of sea of all supplies of every description for use of the Panama canal commission or the contractors in the construction of the Panama canal.

Senator Morgan, of Alabama, declares he will oppose to his utmost the proposed change in the Panama canal from a lock to a sea level canal. He says it is a scheme of the transcontinental railways to delay the construction of an isthmus waterway.

Thursday, December 8.

The senate held only a short session and adjourned until Monday.

An attempt to secure consideration of the pure food law by Senator Heyburn was defeated.

Tillman brought the case of William D. Crum, the colored man nominated for collector at Charleston, S. C., into prominence by asking for a report from the committee on judiciary as to the status of recess appointments.

In the house the civil service commission was attacked because of a proposed increase of 23 employees to constitute the rural examining board.

The pay of stenographers to the house committees has been reduced from \$5,000 to \$3,000 per annum.

A proposition to increase the salary of the secretary of the civil service commission was defeated.

NO OFFENDER TO BE SPARED.

Hitchcock Will Go to the Bottom of the Land Frauds.

Washington, Dec. 10.—An official statement was given out by the Interior department today announcing the government's purpose to prosecute every guilty man in the public land frauds to the full extent of the law and regardless of position in life. The statement follows:

"The conviction in Portland, Oregon, of five persons for land frauds, which will be followed next week by the trial of several others indicted for the same offense, is but another step toward the consummation of the policy entered upon by the secretary of the interior when it became known nearly three years ago that frauds were being perpetrated in connection with the public lands, to run down and prosecute the guilty ones to the full extent of the law without regard to their position in life. The department has encountered many obstacles while engaged in this work, but has moved steadily onward and has had the hearty assistance and co-operation of the department of justice in bringing the land criminals to justice.

"These frauds have been more far reaching than the country has suspected, and the task of unearthing them and securing the necessary proofs has been a difficult one, but there has been no abatement of the intention to secure the conviction of all land thieves.

Sensation in Panama Matters.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Representative Shackelford, of Missouri, who has a resolution in the house calling for an investigation of the Panama railroad company acquired by the United States government, is determined to force through an investigation, if it can be done. Friends say he is collecting evidence to show that a member of the canal commission was a member of the railroad company. It is understood that some sensational charges will be made in demanding a reorganization of the present canal commission.

Will Prevent Running Blockade.

Berlin, Dec. 10.—According to a dispatch from Tokio to the Lokal Anzeiger, the placing of heavy rannon on 203-Meter hill will enable the Japanese to fire on and sink junks and other craft bringing supplies for Port Arthur from Chefoo.

OREGON NEWS OF INTEREST

WATER ECHO LAND.

Coming Season will See Rapid Advance in Irrigation.

Echo—The coming season will mark more improvements and enterprises in irrigation for Echo and the vicinity tributary than ever before experienced. Not only are there immense extensions planned for old ditches, but new ones are being constructed, and land lying under both old ditches and proposed ditches is prepared for cultivation for the coming year.

With the hope of having more favorable irrigation laws passed in the coming legislature, those who have been planning projects are beginning activities. Heretofore the present laws or the lack of laws pertaining to water rights have interfered with the development of the country. Water has been in dispute. Land has been in litigation, and those who have been anxious to see the betterment of Echo and its splendid lands have hesitated in risking their all in projects that might at any time be taken into court.

The Butter creek water company has purchased an elevating grader and has commenced widening and strengthening their ditch. The Cold spring irrigation company is preparing to extend the company's ditch across to their lands on the north side of the Umatilla river, and a company has been formed to build a small ditch to water a tract of land of 160 acres adjoining Echo, now in sagebrush. The Maxwell ditch people are improving and enlarging their ditch until it will reclaim nearly 8,000 acres of land.

Besides these ditches smaller ones are constantly being built, and in a few years the entire section of waste land will be homes for farmers. This season a large number of land holders are clearing large tracts of land varying in size from 20 to 60 acres, and will sow to alfalfa.

Turns Out Many Bricks.

Weston—Clark Nelson, manager of the Weston brickyard, has returned from the Dallas, where he has been on business connected with his yard. The new I. O. O. F. temple, for which he furnished brick, has just been completed and will be dedicated at an early date. Four hundred thousand bricks were used in its construction. While in the Dallas Mr. Nelson closed a contract for the sale of 300,000 brick to be used in the construction of the new bank to be erected at Condon. The brick will not be delivered until the railroad, which runs from Arlington to Condon, is completed, which will be early in the spring.

Land Sales Fallen Off.

Salem—The 5 per cent land sales fund in Oregon this year is \$64,562.24, as compared with \$90,135.24 last year. This fund is received from the United States and is 5 per cent of the receipts from the sales of government land in Oregon. The year 1903 was a bumper one in public land business in Oregon, due in a large degree no doubt to the activity of men who were securing timber land through the mediumship of people who bought it and soon thereafter transferred it to the men who furnished the money for the deal.

War on Scabby Sheep.

Eugene—County Stock Inspector A. G. Mathews is now engaged in an attempt at purifying the sheep of the county, reports having been received from some sections that scab has been observed. Mathews went out to the district northwest of Junction to investigate reports of stockmen driving diseased sheep on the county road in violation of the law, and expects to make some arrests. One arrest and conviction for this offense has been made.

Will Chop the Alfalfa.

Echo—Robert Stanfield, who resides on Butter creek, 16 miles west of here, has received a large hay cutter to chop alfalfa hay for winter feeding. A gasoline engine supplies the power. In feeding the hay unchopped the large stems remain uneaten and are wasted, but by chopping the stock eat the hay up clean, saving a large per cent of the hitherto waste.

New Shipping Point for Coal Mine.

Cocquille—The Cocquille Coal & Lumber company has rented part of the Beaver hill bunker at Marshfield and is now shipping coal by rail to Coos bay where it goes to San Francisco. John Tawee, manager for the company, is working a five-foot vein of coal of good quality. A large contract for machinery has been let. Delivery will occur in the spring.

Eugene to Springfield.

Eugene—A project is on foot to connect Eugene with the bustling little city of Springfield by a six-foot sidewalk. The distance between the two cities is three miles, but only a little over a mile of sidewalk will have to be built to connect them. This walk, if built, will be a great convenience to bicyclists and pedestrians.

SIUSLAW WORK UNFINISHED.

Congress to be Asked to Make Use of Plant Already Installed.

Eugene—In view of the uncompleted condition of the bar improvement at the mouth of the Siuslaw river, prominent citizens of this county are now interested in bringing the matter before the river and harbor committee of congress, hoping to make it clear to that body that the continuation of work on that harbor would be wise.

Many years ago the government began the improvement of the Siuslaw harbor, after abundant reports had been secured from engineers regarding the proper method of deepening the water on the bar. The plan adopted was the jetty system. Small appropriations were made and the work progressed to the extent of the funds available. Then all would rest until another small appropriation would be made. The jetty was only fairly under way and just beginning to show what might be done, when appropriations ceased to come.

The business of the harbor has been increasing and now amounts to considerable, and business men of Florence and Eugene hope to prevail upon congress to go ahead and finish the work now well begun. The government has a plant with which to work and could in a short time deepen the channel several feet by the confining of the water to the channel.

QUIT WOOD FOR COAL.

Wood for Fuel is Getting Scarce About Pendleton.

Pendleton—Fuel dealers of the inland empire are of the opinion that the day of wood burning is soon doomed, as coal is rapidly replacing it. The best of coal from the Wyoming beds is sold at this place for \$8.50 a ton, and the coal from British Columbia and Washington beds is fast becoming generally used, both in Oregon and Washington.

At Kamela and Meacham, from where Walla Walla and Pendleton draw the greater part of their wood, there seems to be immense quantities stacked in ricks for shipment, but competent judges of fuel say that but about 25 per cent of it is clear, dry, green-cut wood, such as commands the high prices. So closely has the timber supply been cut away that two trips a day hauls are being made from back in the mountains six and eight miles. Although spurs from the main line back in the mountains might easily be built, they will probably never be built, as coal will be much cheaper than the construction of a road.

Safe Cracked at Hood River.

Hood River—Robbers cracked the safe in the Hood River postoffice and got away with \$227 in stamps and \$173 in money. There is no clew as to the thieves, except that a crowbar and other tools used in effecting an entrance came from the railroad shops here. On discovering his loss Postmaster Yates immediately wired the postal inspectors at Portland, who will make efforts to apprehend the culprits. Common black powder was used in cracking the safe door. One or two persons sleeping near by claim to have heard a slight explosion during the night, but paid no attention to the noise.

Big Business by Sugar Plant.

La Grande—The whistle of the beet sugar factory here has sounded the last call for its employees and has shut down after one of the most successful runs it has made since its establishment in this valley, it having consumed something over 21,000 tons of beets, which yielded over 55,100 pounds of sugar. The entire season's run was made without a hitch, much to the satisfaction of all concerned, and the many persons who embarked in the raising of sugar beets express themselves as well satisfied with their venture.

Indians in Better Health.

Pendleton—Dr. T. M. Henderson, who has been in attendance upon the cases of diphtheria among the Indians at the mission on the reservation, reports that no others have taken the disease, and that those affected are rapidly recovering. Only one of the patients has died, the others having been inoculated with toxine in the early stages of the malady.

Coming Events.

Poultry shows—Salem, December 15-17; Portland, December 20-26; Newberg, January 10-13; Albany, January 18-21.

Oregon Good Roads convention, Salem, December 13-15.

Oregon State Dairymen's association, December 20-21.

Inland Empire Sunday School institute, Pendleton, January 30.

Northwest Wheat Markets.

Portland—Walla Walla, 83c; bluestem, 85c; valley, 87½c.
Tacoma—Bluestem, 85c; club, 88c.

BLOW TO BRITISH PRESTIGE.

Near East Considers North Sea Attitude a Backdown.

London, Dec. 8.—Alfred Stead, who has just returned from an extended tour of the Near East, where he came in close touch with those directly concerned with the future policies of the Balkan states, said to the Associated Press today:

"British prestige has received a severe blow in the Balkans, consequent upon what is there supposed to be a diplomatic victory for Russia in the Dogger bank affair. This feeling has been created largely by colored dispatches representing that there was a British backdown. The direct result has been largely to restore waning confidence in Russia."

Mr. Stead says he found Roumanians rejoicing over Russia's defeat in the Far East, and Bulgarians and Servians beginning to believe it was time to look for another protector. He says the Turks were delighted, and even showing an attitude of defiance toward Russia.

"A month ago," Mr. Stead says, "Great Britain could have dictated the policies of the Near East states, but today a strong reaction has set in."

In the course of his tour Mr. Stead was received in audience by King Peter, of Serbia; Prince Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, and King Charles, of Roumania. He says all three of these monarchs discussed the possibilities of a defensive alliance of the three countries. While their views were expressed with the utmost caution, it was plain such an alliance was uppermost in their minds. It is evident, Mr. Stead says, that they expect British sympathy, as Lord Lansdowne's policy is similar to theirs. They prefer to follow western policies and ideas rather than those of the Far East, the present policy of Russia and Austria being, if possible, to prevent such an alliance. Mr. Stead pointed out that the United Balkans could muster over 1,000,000 soldiers, and thus become an effective barrier to the ambition of European powers to extend toward the Mediterranean. In the meantime, Austria is conducting her propaganda in Macedonia and Albania more vigorously than ever. Mr. Stead continued:

"I was impressed most favorably with King Peter. He is ruling Serbia wisely. In fact, while he has not turned out the regicides, he has not advanced them in rank. This is considered the best policy, because it at least prevents them from hatching further plots against the Serbian dynasty. However, I am positive that King Peter will retire the regicides as soon as he has the support of other strong parties."

Mr. Stead said some of the regicides are physical wrecks from remorse, and that they do not associate with other military officers or civil officers.

IGORROTES WANT TO COME.

After Visit Home They Expect to Show at 1905 Fair.

Seattle, Dec. 8.—The 68 Igorrotes now in Seattle on the way home from the St. Louis exposition are enthusiastic over the prospect of returning to America to attend the Lewis and Clark exposition at Portland next year. Every native in the crowd understands the plan and even those who have mastered but a smattering of English tell of their hope of returning to Portland. Of course, the Igorrotes are glad to go home. They want to see their mountain province again and they want to tell the other natives of their trip. But it is only a visit to Luzon they welcome.

"Just go home for visit now; back to Portland next year," one of them explained today, and the bright little Antrasto added for the party: "All of our people have enjoyed our visit to this country and have been pleased to meet its people. We expect to be as happily treated next year at Portland, and to learn as much more as we did this year. These visits will help our people too, for we will tell others the story of our trips."

Chil Antonio echoed the sentiment and others, in bidding visitors goodbye, promise to meet them at Portland in 1905. While only Antalo and Julio spoke English when the party left Luzon, most of the Igorrotes have a smattering of the language now.

Settling Down for Winter.

Headquarters of General Oku, Dec. 8.—In the villages near the actual Japanese lines houses are being built and repaired, scores of wells are being dug and villages are being denuded of trees and fuel is being carried. Every indication points to the intention to remain on the present line during the winter. The cold weather is not affecting the Japanese, although the temperature has already fallen to a few degrees above zero. There are very few sick men, and they are well cared for in comfortable hospitals.

Japanese Cruiser Blown Up.

Moscow, Dec. 8.—A special dispatch from Vladivostok says that a steamer which has arrived there from Shanghai reports that the Japanese armored cruiser Adzuma has been blown up and sunk by a mine.