

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.

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.

Aberk 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 Six large firms of San Francisco have withdrawn.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.

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.

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 Chicago university has just received gift amounting to \$437,370.

Eight persons were killed in the wreck of the Crocker hotel in Minneapolis.

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

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

Governor Bates, of Massachusetts, tendered his good offices and urges a termination of the Fall River strike.

One of those accused of illegal voting at the recent election in Denver was a girl who is said not to have been of age.

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

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.

The sultan of Morocco has removed foreigners and will take charge of his own army.

There has been a great increase in the number of accidents on railroads during the past year.

The Federal grand jury is now in session at Portland behind closed doors, investigating various land frauds.

The Smoot investigation continues before the senate committee on privileges and elections, but nothing new is being developed.

Many hundred Chinese youths at in Japan taking instructions in the art of war. Many are also at the front where a practical view can be had.

It is probable that the North sea incident will be put down as an unfortunate blunder, whereby the Russian commander mistook two of his own vessels for an enemy.

The United States supreme court has granted the motion to advance the hearing of the Benson-Hyde-Diamond conspiracy cases and they were set down for February 20. The cases involve the question of removal from one jurisdiction to another.

Oregon expenses for 1905-1906 are estimated at \$2,000,000.

The complete election returns give Roosevelt a plurality of 2,526,470.

The members of the North sea commission are gathering in Paris to enter upon their work.

Russia is assembling a third Pacific squadron, and it is believed it will be sent to the Far East.

The Colorado supreme court has thrown out the entire vote in three Denver precincts on account of fraud.

While particulars are not obtainable, it is believed that General Soemmel's latest report to the czar is couched in a despairing tone.

PLANS FOR CANAL.

Four Schemes Before Chief Engineer of Isthmian Canal Commission.

Washington, Dec. 21.—John F. Wallace, chief engineer of the Isthmian canal commission, has given the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce the benefit of his investigations so far as made regarding the engineering tasks to be performed in the construction of the Panama canal. The testimony was taken aboard the army transport Sumner in Colon harbor on the occasion of the recent visit of the committee to the canal zone. It is to be printed for the use of congress.

Asked by members of the commission for an estimate of the cost of the various plans, Mr. Wallace said the best estimate that could be made at present would be based on the estimate of the former commission of \$200,000,000 for a 90-foot level canal. Figuring with this as a basis, the 60-foot level canal would cost \$225,000,000, could be open for traffic in 10 years, and fully completed in 12 years; the 30-foot level canal would cost \$250,000,000 and be open for traffic in 12 years and completed in 15 years; the sea-level canal would cost \$300,000,000, could be open for traffic in 15 years and completed in 20 years.

Chairman Hepburn's questions developed that the estimate of time to build a canal was based on a 10-hour day, and that with the construction of the Gamboa dam and the operation of the power plant, electric light sufficient to illuminate the whole of the Culebra cut might be had, thus making practical the working of two or more shifts and shortening the time of construction.

Mr. Wallace stated that the excavation of this cut was the feature of the construction of the canal that took the time. He said:

"Upon the economical and efficient handling of material from Culebra depends the cost and time it would take to complete the canal. Every other question and every other problem connected with the entire work is subordinate and inferior to the problem of excavation and disposal of the material from the Culebra cut; that is the principal problem of this work."

Work is now going on in the cut, one American steam shovel and some of the French machinery being on the operation. Fourteen American steam shovels have been purchased, one of which is being set up. The others are to be delivered at the rate of one a month. During October 3,185 men were on the payrolls of the commission. Of those 2,165 were laborers. More laborers are to be employed in the immediate future.

Answering a question about the operation of a sea-level canal, Mr. Wallace said:

"A sea-level canal would be less expensive to maintain and less expensive to operate, save time in passage through it, and could be widened and deepened when required without interfering with traffic."

RIOT IN MOSCOW.

Students and Police Battle for Hours in City's Streets.

Moscow, Dec. 21.—This city was the scene of a revolutionary demonstration today from noon until nearly evening. Probably 5,000 persons actually participated. Fortunately the agitators did not succeed in drawing the workmen from the factories into the disturbances, and after many collisions the police firing blank volleys and charging with their sabers, the crowds finally were dispersed.

Many were wounded, and more were arrested. As far as known none of the rioters were killed. One policeman is reported fatally injured. Many on both sides were roughly handled.

The authorities knew in advance that trouble was impending, and many houses along the Tverskaia street were specially guarded. Several squadrons of mounted gendarmes were concealed in the courtyards of houses, ready for an emergency.

Aid Russian Deserters.

Craew, Dec. 21.—A combination has been effected between Christian and Hebrew committees organized for the purpose of aiding Russian deserters. The two bodies now work hand in hand and in this manner have greatly facilitated the difficult task of avoiding government interference. The Jewish committee, which carries the phrase "for the aid of Russian deserters" in its official name, has eliminated these words in response to a hint from the authorities that the phrase was highly objectionable.

Dummy Ships on Guard.

London, Dec. 21.—A report from Chefoo that a portion of the Japanese fleet has left for Singapore and that a number of Japanese merchantmen have been lightly armed to maintain the blockade of Port Arthur is published today in a Chefoo dispatch to the Daily Telegraph.

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. Probstel, Weston; J. W. Scriber, La Grande; R. Alexander, Pendleton; F. M. Saxton, Baker City; Representatives W. D. Chamberlain, Athleta; William Blakely, Pendleton; State Senator N. Wheldon, 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.

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 15.

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 Douty & 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 "clinch" 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.

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, 88@89c; valley, 87c. Tacoma—Bluestem, 88c; club, 85c. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 32c. Butter—Fancy creamery, 26@27½c. Hops—Choice, 20@30c; prime, 27@28c. Wool—Valley, 19@20c; Eastern Oregon, 10@17c; mohair, 25@26c.

FATAL FIRE ON SHIP.

Long Island Steamer Burns and Nine Lives are Lost.

New York, Dec. 20.—By the burning of the Starin line steamer, Glen Island, in Long Island sound today, nine lives were lost and property roughly estimated at \$250,000 was destroyed. That more lives were not sacrificed was undoubtedly due to the personal courage of the officers of the crew and the excellent discipline maintained when a horrible death for all seemed almost a certainty. When the steamer was abandoned she was flame-swept from stem to stern, and yet the only persons who lost their lives were those whose escape had been entirely cut off by the fire before the alarm reached them.

Of the 31 persons, including 10 passengers, who sailed away on the Glen Island last night, 22, including eight passengers, were brought back today.

The Glen Island left her dock here last night for New Haven. The trip down through the sound was without incident. About midnight, when three miles west of Greenwich, Conn., there came a rush of stifling smoke from the hold and every electric light on board the craft went out.

Captain McAllister sent in the alarm for fire drill, and the men came tumbling out of their bunks. In the meantime the steering gear had been blocked, and the pilots, finding themselves unable to direct the course of the steamer, hurried to the assistance of the other members of the crew in saving lives.

How and where the fire originated is a mystery, but it is believed to have started in a dynamo located below and near the center of the vessel. Nearly all the passengers were in their berths when the vessel suddenly became filled with stifling smoke and the lights went out.

GREAT WEAKNESS OF CHINA

Diplomat Shows It Is Her Lack of An Effective Army and Navy.

Philadelphia, Dec. 20.—Sir Chen Tung Liang Cheng, the Chinese minister to the United States, tonight addressed the American Academy of political and social science on the subject, "China's Traditional Policy." Among other things he said:

"For two thousand years China has not swerved an iota from steadily pursuing a consistent policy of peace. This may be put down to the fact that all the men who have played a prominent part in Chinese affairs have invariably been true followers of Confucius.

"It may be urged that the Chinese people have brought much unnecessary suffering upon themselves by their firm adherence to the principles of peace. It is true that they have left their country practically exposed to foreign invasions. They maintain no effective army; they have no battleships. These weaknesses are patent to all, but China's strength does not lie so near the surface.

"They may be wanting in those showy qualities of mind and body which the people of the West admire and cultivate, but they are endowed to an eminent degree with those hardy virtues which tell most in the struggle for existence, namely, patience, industry and thrift."

CANNOT ADD WING.

Congress Will Have to Authorize Further Change in Postoffice.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Senator Mitchell today telegraphed Theodore B. Wilcox, chairman of the executive committee of the Portland Commercial club, explaining that it will be impossible for the supervising architect to add another wing to the Portland postoffice without the authority of congress. The appropriation made two years ago authorized the wing now under construction, and provided only enough money to complete it.

If it can be shown that the new wing will not provide all the room necessary, congress will have to make another appropriation before a second wing can be built. Senator Mitchell has asked for some showing upon which he can request congress to pass a bill making another appropriation for further additions to the postoffice building. When this is relieved he will join with the delegation in an effort to have provision made in the omnibus bill.

Philippine Tariff Considered.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Secretary Taft today had a long talk at the War department with Chairman Payne, of the house committee on ways and means, and Representative Dalzell, the next ranking member of that committee, relative to tariff legislation for the Philippines, upon which subject the secretary of war made recommendations to congress in his annual report to the president. Colonel Edwards, chief of the Bureau of insular affairs, also was present and took an active part in the discussion.

Russia Places Big Hay Order.

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—A secret order for several thousands tons of hay for export shipment has been placed with one of the leading firms of the city during the past few days, and circumstances point to the Russian government as the purchaser.