

BEFORE GRAND JURY

Senator Mitchell and Representative Hermann Appear.

WERE CALLED BY GOVERNMENT

Congressmen Were Not Informed Before They Entered Jury Room of Testimony Against Them.

Portland, Dec. 29.—The Federal grand jury listened to the testimony of Senator Mitchell all of yesterday morning and for a part of the afternoon. The rest of the time was taken up by Representative Hermann, who was in the jury room when the session was adjourned for the day. He will resume his examination this morning and will in all probability finish by noon. In spite of the fact that both Senator Mitchell and Mr. Hermann had announced that they would not appear before the jury unless the names of the government witnesses and the charges to be made against them were shown prior to their entrance to the jury room, both congressmen were ready to answer the call of the government attorneys when it came.

Senator Mitchell went into the room at 10 o'clock in the morning and remained until noon. The senator is much chagrined at the notoriety he is receiving as the result of the land fraud investigations and does not take kindly to any of those who are conducting the case. Before entering the room in the morning he was silent and distant. He emerged at noon tired and showing the strain which the ordeal had apparently been to him. Upon the conclusion of his testimony in the afternoon he left the building for his hotel.

The afternoon with the jurors might have been a session of congress, however, for all the effect it had upon Mr. Hermann. He appeared shortly after 2 o'clock in the afternoon and went into seclusion in the inner office of the district attorney, after he had greeted a few acquaintances in the outer office and the hall. When called to the jury room shortly before 3 o'clock he shook hands with those whom he knew in the corridor and patted Mr. Heney heartily on the back as he entered the door. When the session had closed for the afternoon, Mr. Hermann remained in the jury room for some time conversing with Mr. Heney and the jurors, among whom he found several whom he had known in various parts of the state. These he gave cordial handshakes.

PRESIDENT TO GIVE HIS VIEW

No Railroad Administration To Be Sent to Congress

Washington, Dec. 30.—President Roosevelt embraced the opportunity today to take up with the members of the cabinet many questions of detail in departmental administration, the semi-weekly meeting of the cabinet being longer than usual. At the conclusion of the meeting the members of the cabinet said in response to inquiries that little business of serious importance was considered.

After other members of the cabinet had left the executive offices, Attorney General Moody discussed with the president some phases of the railroad freight questions. Both the president and the attorney general recently have devoted much time to that problem. The latter is giving particular attention to the legal side of the question, so that he may be prepared to advise with the president on the subject and with such members of congress as may wish to consult him. It is understood not to be the intention of the president and attorney general to prepare and press the consideration in congress of an "administration measure," dealing with the railroad freight problem. Such a bill, it is thought, (to quote a member of the cabinet), would be destined to defeat.

Burning Their Cotton.

Fort Gaines, Ga., Dec. 30.—The farmers and merchants of this county met today at Fort Gaines and decided to burn their share of 2,000,000 bales of surplus cotton. A starter was made today when a bonfire was made on the streets. It is not yet determined where it will stop. The farmers have decided to set the pace, and are moving determinedly. A large crowd paraded with much spectacular ceremony. The object is to show that the farmers are ready to sacrifice a few bales for the benefit of the masses.

Panic in Jute Mills.

New York, Dec. 30.—Engineer Charles Hebe was instantly killed, his assistant, Daniel Frazar, probably fatally injured, and the lives of hundreds of young women endangered today, when the cylindrical head of the great power engine in the Chelsea jute mills in Brooklyn blew out. The noise of the explosion threw into a panic the 1,200 young women at work in the building. Many of them were badly bruised and hurt in their efforts to escape.

Big Dock for the Navy.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The bureau of yards and docks, Navy department, today awarded the contract for the completion of the drydock at the Mare Island navy yard to the Schenck company, of Philadelphia. The amount of the contract is \$1,385,000, and the drydock is to be completed in three months. This drydock will be the largest in the United States.

BILL BY ELKINS.

Its Object Is Regulation of Railroad Freight Rates.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Senator S. B. Elkins, of West Virginia, chairman of the senate committee on interstate commerce, is busily engaged in framing a bill for the purpose of carrying out the views of the president in relation to the abolition of freight rebates. The senator, in discussing the subject today, said among other things:

"There should be some power in this country to declare what rates should be on the railroads. The United States supreme court has decided that the fixing of a railroad rate is a legislative and not a judicial power. So we cannot depend upon the interstate commerce commission to fix these rates, and, in fact, no commission or other court can be depended on for that important function. What we can do is to empower a court to declare when a rate is excessive and in that way send the rate back to the railroad to be lowered.

"I do not think we need fear that the roads will attempt to evade the execution of such instruction in good faith, by attempting to come back again with another rate, slightly lowered, so as to result in no benefit. We can depend upon public opinion as a power to force them to accept this method of regulating the rates in good faith. If the lower rate they fix is not low enough, it can again be declared to be too high and would go back to them.

"For several reasons I think the interstate commerce commission is not the proper tribunal for the fixing of rates by this method. It should be done in a circuit court of the United States, and that court should be presided over by a justice of high character, who ought to receive a salary of \$10,000, \$12,000 or \$15,000 a year. Such a judge would, of course, be appointed for life, and would be in a position to fix these rates. He could devote his entire thought to the questions that would come to his attention.

CHOATE COMING HOME.

To Resign as Ambassador to England After the Inauguration.

London, Dec. 31.—While numerous statements have been published here that Ambassador Choate is about to retire from diplomatic circles, it can be stated that Mr. Choate has not sent in his resignation or any communication on the subject to President Roosevelt or the State department, nor has he received any inquiry either from the president or Secretary Hay concerning his future plans. It can be safely asserted, however, that it is Mr. Choate's intention to tender his resignation soon after the inauguration of President Roosevelt.

"Six years is a long time slice out of the life of a man of my age," said Mr. Choate, recently, to friends here, "and while I have enjoyed the life and people I have met in England, I have determined to go home and devote the remainder of my time to looking after my own affairs."

Dredges Stop Work.

Portland, Dec. 31.—All but two of the river dredges operated by the United States engineers in the Columbia river and its tributaries are laid up for lack of funds with which to carry on operations. The W. S. Ladd, on the lower river, will probably continue in operation for a month yet and then will quit for the same reason. The dredge Willows, on the Snake, is also still in operation, but the Columbia dipper dredges, No. 1 and No. 2, and the snag boat are all out of commission, as the engineers have not sufficient funds with which to operate.

Mail Service in Bad Shape.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—As a result of storm conditions, trains on nearly every railroad entering Chicago were one to four hours behind schedule today. Great difficulty was experienced by railroad officials on securing telegraphic reports of the movements of trains. Wires were down in many places. Points in the northwestern states could be reached only by circuitous routes. The mail service of the entire middle west is in bad condition. Transfer connections with a number of outboard trains were missed.

Neutrality of Dutch Ports.

The Hague, Dec. 31.—In connection with rumors of a possible infringement of the neutrality of ports in the Dutch East Indies, it is officially pointed out that the neutrality of Sabang and other ports will be maintained. Two Dutch battleships, two cruisers and five smaller warships are now in those waters, while two additional vessels are ready at Nieuwe-Diep, Holland, to reinforce them if necessary.

Snow is Ten Feet Deep.

La Crosse, Wis., Dec. 31.—A drop in the temperature of 40 degrees following the blizzard which ceased at midnight, brought a heavy snowfall. Snow is drifted to a depth of eight and ten feet in the city. A large gang of men are engaged in clearing the snow from the streets and sidewalks, so that traffic can be re-

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

TWO FREE COURSES.

Lectures on Agriculture and Dairying at Corvallis College.

Corvallis — Immediately following the winter holidays the Oregon Agricultural college will give free of charge two popular short courses of instruction—one in agriculture, the other in dairying. These courses consist chiefly of lectures by specialists from the faculty and from abroad, combined with work in the laboratories, where students have access to the apparatus of the college and experiment station. The lectures are designed for busy men and women who desire to advance with this progressive age but cannot avail themselves of the full four years' course of instruction; hence the courses of lectures will come at the most convenient season of the year for combining pleasure and recreation with profitable study.

The instruction, which is simple, is adapted to the literary attainments of all; hence no educational test is required for admission to either of the courses. The course in agriculture will begin January 9 and continue 10 days. Some of the subjects to be discussed are: "Horticulture," "Plant Breeding," "Bacteriology," "Chemical Elements," "How Plants Work," "Budding of Plants Based Upon Plant Culture," "How to Conserve the Fertility of the Soil," "Drainage," "Soil Moisture," "Rose Culture," "Veterinary Surgery," "Rotation of Crops," "Roadmaking," "Fertilization and How to Make the Old Farm Pay."

The course in dairying will commence January 21, and continue eight weeks. Students will meet for work six days of the week. The mornings will be devoted to practical work in dairy rooms; two days will be devoted to butter making, two days to cheese making, and two days will be spent in the dairy laboratories. In the afternoon of the days, except those devoted to cheese making, lectures will occupy two or three hours. There will be no fees except the breakage deposit of \$3.

School for Defective Youth.

Pendleton—State Senator C. J. Smith and two others of the hold over legislative committee visited the Washington school for defective youth at Vancouver and will recommend that one be established in this state. Other matters decided upon by the committee was that the health board should have more authority than hitherto, so as to be able to enforce regulations made, instead of recommending that they be carried out. Typhoid fever was made a quarantine disease instead of being reported, as hitherto.

Corner on Wallows Wool.

Enterprise—R. C. Mays, who is buying wool in this county for the S. Koshland company, has closed contracts for over 500,000 pounds more wool. This makes about three-fourths of the total wool clip of this county, including 1,000,000 pounds which he has already purchased. The total wool clip is estimated at 2,000,000 pounds. With 16-cent wool and the prospect of a substantial rise in cattle, good times are prophesied for the people of this county next year.

Activity at Sumpter.

Sumpter — Indications point to unusual activity in the Sumpter mining district during the coming year. Many owners of claims who have been away during the past season are returning daily, with the intention of completing their assessment work before it is too late. The faith awakened in the district by operations of the smelter is having its effect, and properties that have attracted little attention are now being put in shape.

To Collect Salmon Eggs.

Albany—C. Wallich, superintendent of the Clackamas fish hatchery, has gone to the Yaquina coast in search of a suitable place for a collection station for steelhead and silverside salmon eggs. Manager Edwin Stone stated that there are a number of places on the Yaquina river which are suited to such purposes, and it is likely a station will be established there.

Coming Events.

Inland Empire Sunday School institute, Pendleton, Ore., 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.

New Plant for Imperial.

Sumpter—As soon as General Manager Sibley, of the Imperial group, returns from the East, more extensive operations will be carried on. The installation of a larger hoisting plant is one of the first improvements to be made.

New Sawmill at Lacomb.

Lacomb—The new sawmill at Lacomb is almost completed. It will be one of the largest and best equipped in Linn county, with a capacity of 20,000 feet of lumber per day.

DEEPEN THE WILLAMETTE.

Commercial Club Wants More Open River During Entire Year.

Albany—The Albany Commercial club at a recent session discussed the question of an open river between Albany and Portland the year round, instead of a few months each year, as prevails at present, and decided to memorialize congress for an open river. A committee was appointed to take charge of the work and impress upon the Oregon congressional delegation the necessity of an open river.

Captain A. B. Graham, of Portland, one of the managers of the Oregon City Transportation company, which operates boats on the Upper Willamette, addressed the meeting regarding the improvements that are necessary to make the Willamette navigable by good sized boats all the year. He emphasized the necessity of dredging the upper river to remove some of the bars that are the greatest hindrance to navigation, of building revetments opposite Albany, Corvallis and Independence; to keep the river in its channel and deepen the same, and in general indorsed the recommendations of Major Langfitt, who recently examined the river on behalf of the government and whose recommendations are now embodied in the river and harbor appropriation bill pending before congress. It was further recommended that the War department be encouraged to purchase the locks at Oregon City, thus removing that obstruction to upper river traffic. These locks add 50 cents per ton to freight rates between all lower and upper river points.

The club appointed a committee consisting of F. J. Miller, Dr. W. H. Davis and E. D. Cusick to confer with like committees from the Commercial clubs of Salem, Independence and Corvallis, and to draft resolutions favoring the immediate improvement of the river, according to the recommendations of Major Langfitt, and to secure a visit to the upper river from Senator J. H. Mitchell and Congressman Binger Hermann during their stay in Portland.

Tin Pan Changes Hands.

Grants Pass—An important mining sale has just been consummated here in the exchange of the Tin Pan mine, of Galls creek. It was sold by Willis Kreamer and H. C. Reed to A. A. Taubeneck and associates, of Allegheny, Pa. The consideration is \$10,000 cash. The Tin Pan is one of the most promising of the Galls creek district properties, and is well developed. The ore of the Tin Pan is remarkable by reason of the large percentage of lead and silver carried, which with the gold brings the values up to \$25 and \$30 a ton.

For Grand Ronde Exhibits.

La Grande—The contract for an exhibit hall in La Grande has been let by M. L. Caney to Peter Bosquet for \$500. The building will be 40 feet in length by 10 feet wide and the ceiling will be 14 feet high. The hall will be used only for the exhibition of Grand Ronde fruits, grains, grasses and different produce grown here. The Commercial club and citizens in different parts of the valley subscribed for the building.

Ex-Sheriff to Poorhouse.

Hillsboro—Ex-Sheriff W. D. Bradford, who a week ago was stricken with paralysis, has been removed to the county poor farm, where he is to be cared for. He served as sheriff two terms and was a popular official, but sickness in his family and the death of his wife, a few years ago, have ruined him financially. His condition is not improved, and fears are entertained for his recovery.

Two Gold Bricks.

Cottage Grove—F. J. Hard returned from Bohemia and brought with him two gold bricks, the result of the recent clean-up from the ten-stamp mill that is in operation at the Vesuvius mine. Mr. Hard says the plant is working to the company's satisfaction, and the mill is kept running day and night. This is the second clean-up from that new plant since it started a short time ago.

Another Livestock Delegate.

Salem—Another delegate, in the person of O. G. Andrews, of Linn county, has been appointed by Governor Chamberlain to attend the convention of the National Livestock association, to be held at Denver, Colo., January 10 to 13, 1905.

Sinking Main Shaft.

Sumpter—Columbia company is now sinking the main shaft, which is down 60 feet below the 700-foot level. Ore for the mill is being stopped from the upper works, and enough is in sight to insure an indefinite run.

THE MARKETS.

Wheat—Portland—Walla Walla, 85c; bluestem, 85@89c; valley, 87c. Tacoma—Bluestem, 86c; club, 85c. Eggs—Oregon ranch, 32c. Butter—Fancy creamery, 25@27 1/2c. Hope—Choice, 20@30c; eastern, 27@28c. Wool—Valley, 19@20c; Eastern Oregon, 10@17c; mohair, 25@26c.

VESSELS IN VERY BAD SHAPE

Russ Says They Would Not Be Able to Reach the East.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—In an outspoken article, in reply to a recent letter of Admiral Bierleff, which appealed to Russians not to criticize the condition of the navy openly, the Russ today declares the time is past for silence, in view of the fact that the "old system of concealing facts is responsible for the loss of 150,000,000 roubles' worth of warships and has covered us with shame and grief. It would be absurd to hide the defects that can still be repaired in the ships which remain at Cronstadt and Libau. We have already criminally wasted enough time."

The Russ enumerates the defects in the ships still in Russian waters, averring that the "peculiarities of structure of several of the vessels destined for the Far East make the voyage dangerous, and the torpedo boats are in such shocking condition that it is a matter of surprise that the authorities accepted their delivery. Torpedo boats intended to reinforce Vice Admiral Rojestvensky must clearly not be dispatched with the numerous defects which have been proved to exist in them.

"Even if Admiral Rojestvensky is a clever leader and his 12,600 comrades are heroic sailors, everyone knows that we have imposed upon them an almost superhuman task in consequence of our not being furnished with a true account of the gravity of the events which have occurred since the fatal night of February 8."

WILL TRY SEVEN.

Federal Grand Jury Files New Indictments in Land Case.

Portland, Dec. 29.—The Federal grand jury made its second public appearance yesterday afternoon, at which time it returned indictments against Salmon B. Ormsby, of Salem; William H. Davis, of Albany; Clark E. Loomis, of Eugene; Henry A. Young, George Sorenson, of Portland; John Doe and Richard Roe. The charges that the indicted men entered into a conspiracy on December 29, 1901, having as their object the defrauding of the government of the United States out of a portion of its public lands in township 11 south, of range 7 east, and that by means of false and forged affidavits and proofs of homestead entry and settlement, some in the names of real and some in the names of fictitious persons, the government was induced to issue patents to the lands.

It is charged that in furtherance of the conspiracy William H. Davis swore to an affidavit before S. E. O'Connell, in which he said that he had taken upon the claim taken by himself, law required, and it is also alleged that the conspiracy was a part of the one entered into by S. A. D. Pater, Hiram G. McKinley, D. W. Tarpley and Emma L. Watson.

IN FOG AND ICE.

Great Storm Rages from Rocky Mountains to Atlantic.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—One of the severest storms of recent years has raged throughout the territory lying between the Rocky mountains and the Great lakes since early this morning, and has caused much trouble to street car companies, railroads and telegraph companies. The latter were the greatest sufferers from the blizzard, which swept through the West and Northwest during the last 24 hours, and which was preceded by a heavy fog and drizzling rain, which made the wires almost unworkable.

The intense cold and terrific gale that followed close upon the fog coated the wires with ice, and later in the day threw poles to the ground, crippling the companies badly. Railroad trains were badly delayed all through the west, some of them being 24 hours late. Street-car traffic in all the cities of the West and Northwest was practically at a standstill at some time during the day.

In its extent the storm was the most widespread of any during the last 15 years. Counting the fog as a component part of the storm, it stretched from the Rocky mountains to New York, and from Winsipeg to New Orleans.

Will Make Lots of Money.

Portland, Dec. 29.—It was decided yesterday that the offer from the government to install two coin machines in the government building at the fair will be accepted, though the cost of operation will fall on the management of the exposition. The machines will be run by electricity and an expert will be sent from Washington to take charge. All the workings of a large mint will be shown in this exhibit, and the methods of making coins displayed. It is expected to be one of the chief attractions of the government building.

Porter is To Retire.

New York, Dec. 29.—The Herald will say tomorrow: It has been definitely decided that General Horace Porter, of New York, shall retire as ambassador to France and he will have his resignation in the hands of President Roosevelt before his inauguration. This announcement was received by the Republican leaders. General Porter's successor to Paris will be George Von L. Meyer, the present ambassador to Italy.

Hurry Work on Black Sea Fleet

Sevastopol, Dec. 29.—The dockyard laborers have been released from their obligation as members of the reserves in order that they may continue the work on the vessels of the Black sea fleet, which is being pushed with great energy.

BUSTLE AT TOKIO

Great Army Is Now Being Mobilized for War.

HALF MILLION MEN FOR OYAMA

Thousands of Recruits are Pouring In—Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery Are Drilling.

Tokio, Dec. 28.—Tokio is again a great military camp and the scenes of last spring, when the first armies were mobilized and dispatched, are being duplicated. Thousands of recruits and reservists are being assembled, drilling and equipping preparatory to taking the field. The permanent and temporary barracks are filled and it is necessary to billet the soldiers brought in to the city.

Oyama Field is the center of activity, where infantry, cavalry and artillery are constantly drilling. The batteries fire blank cartridges for the purpose of breaking in the new horses. The general military preparations are enormous. It is planned to give Field Marshal Oyama a rough total of 500,000 men, with a heavily increased artillery arm, besides providing a defense for Formosa and the Southern islands in anticipation of the Russian second Pacific squadron's attempt to seize a base.

The port of Kelang, in Formosa, has been declared in a state of siege and other positions in Formosa and the Pescadores are progressing.

STRUCK HIS CHIEF.

Japanese General Has Been Recalled From the Front.

Paris, Dec. 28.—The Tokio correspondent of the Temps wires that Lieutenant General Kodama, Field Marshal the Marquis Oyama's chief of staff, has been recalled from the front for striking the field marshal. Lieutenant General Kodama is without doubt one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of Japan's generals, and at the time of the outbreak of the war it was generally believed that he would be appointed commander in chief of the Manchurian army. The announcement of his appointment to be chief of staff was received with general satisfaction as the preparedness of the Japanese army was generally credited to his foresight and wonderful executive ability.

For years prior to the outbreak of war General Kodama was engaged in perfecting both the home defense and the means of mobilization of the army on short notice. The scope of the work was a revelation even to the government, for General Kodama had worked out many details.

WILL BATTLE FOR NEW MEXICO

Gen. Lew Wallace Will Leave Sick Bed to Aid Toward Statehood.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 28.—General Lew Wallace, who has been ill for months, and who is believed to be dying by inches, is very indignant over the statehood bill, and declares that it is a great outrage on New Mexico, of which he was once territorial governor. He said:

"I consider it nothing short of a criminal mistake that congress seems able of force New Mexico to accept statehood with Arizona. It means that the name 'New Mexico' is to be forever lost. It means the practical disfranchisement of the whole people of both territories."

As he warmed up to his subject, his old vigor returned. Fire leaped into his eyes as he leaned forward in his chair and raised his hand with the benediction finger tremblingly shaking with pent-up emotion his anger brought out as he said:

"And this thing will never be brought about as long as I can fight it. I'll go back down there to those people and help them fight this battle at the polls."

Sleet and Snow in Kansas.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 28.—A severe winter storm prevails over Kansas tonight. Much sleet and snow have fallen with a rapid fall in temperature. There will be little suffering among stock, the farmers being generally well prepared for the winter. There is a blizzard sweeping over Indian Territory. There was a drop of 35 degrees in the temperature. Stockmen assert that the cold wave will not effect cattle as they are in excellent condition and able to stand much cold weather. Feed is plentiful.

Zero in the Dakotas.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Reports to the weather bureau say the first decided cold wave of the season is spreading rapidly southward over the east slope of the Rocky mountains. The temperature this morning is below zero in the Dakotas, Montana, Western Wyoming, with a minimum rating of 30 degrees below at Havre, Mont. The area of high pressure attending this cold wave occupies the northeast Rocky mountain slope.

Nogi is Badly Wounded.

London, Dec. 29.—The Chefoo correspondent of the Telegraph says it is reported that General Nogi, the commander of the Japanese forces besieging Port Arthur, has been taken to the hospital at Dalny. He was wounded severely in the arm and leg by three rifle bullets, according to the correspondent.