

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.

Prince Yildaroff has been reported as among the killed in a recent list sent to St. Petersburg.

The recent retirement of Rear Admiral Siras Terry has resulted in the promotion of Captain Joseph E. Craig to be admiral.

An officer from an English steamer just out from Vladivostok says no Russian torpedo boats have arrived there from Port Arthur.

Reports from points along the shore of Lake Michigan indicate that the damage resulting from the storm will aggregate \$500,000.

An unknown steamer has been stranded in Hell's Hole, off Cape Hatteras, as a result of the storm raging along the Atlantic coast.

M. A. Meyerhoff, a special land agent, on the way to Portland to help in the land fraud case, attempted to commit suicide at Denver.

Chinese warships are keeping a close watch on the Russian war vessels at Shanghai to prevent their escape or of the officers and men on them.

Two Japanese cruisers have been sighted off Hong Kong. It is believed they are scouting vessels from the fleet sent after the Russian Baltic squadron.

Governor Pardee desires to have the Mission type of architecture exemplified in the construction of the California state building at the Lewis and Clark fair. The work will start soon.

Several lives have been lost in Chicago as a result of the severe storm.

Congress will have to buy silver bullion to make much needed small coins.

The president is presenting his ideas on railroad freight rates to congressmen personally.

Vice Admiral Lord Charles Beresford will assume command of the British Mediterranean squadron May 1.

Many Russians believe a brighter day is in store for their country when the announced reforms are put in practice.

Great Britain has assumed control of the legal and financial administration of the Tonga islands, the native chiefs consenting.

T. C. Powell, of Portland, is to be appointed United States marshal at Nome, Alaska, to succeed Frank Richards, recently removed.

The government of Holland announces that the same neutrality will be observed in her colonies as at home in regard to the Far Eastern war.

A British tramp steamer is ashore on the Atlantic coast on Fire Island bar. Owing to the storm the vessel will be a total wreck. The entire crew was lost.

Free press, freedom of conscience and compulsory elementary education have been promised in Russia.

The Dawes commission says the rights of aborigines have been well protected in Indian Territory.

Seven people were killed and eight others injured in a wreck on the Southern railroad near Louisville, Ky.

Russians have been ordered to remove the hospital ships placed in front of their war ships at Port Arthur.

A Russian editor has been arrested for publishing a story of brutal conduct of an officer toward a convict convict.

E. E. Calvin is to become general manager of the Southern Pacific railroad in succession to C. H. Markham.

A general snow storm throughout Colorado and Wyoming, following suddenly an extended period of mild weather, is likely to cause considerable damage to stock on the open ranges.

Many Republican congressmen want the passage of the merchant marine bill postponed until next session, when they would favor it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Many Japanese soldiers commit suicide when defeat seems at hand.

Chinese have reported to Kuropatkin that the Japanese have lost 203-Meter 411, but the latter claim not.

WIND FANS FLAMES.

Two Million Dollars Loss From Fire in Sioux City.

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

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

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

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

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

MORE STATES IN.

New Hampshire and Vermont Will Be at 1905 Fair.

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

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

New Hampshire Steps In.

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

Disguised As An American.

Moscow, Dec. 28. — V. F. Graudevsky, correspondent of the Ruskaya Slavya, has just arrived at San Francisco after a long and hazardous trip through Japan, where he traveled as an American journalist under the name of Percy Palmer. He undertook the journey to ascertain the real situation of affairs in the enemy's country, taking the risk of discovery and execution as a spy. Graudevsky had a complete American outfit and arranged to have letters forwarded from various cities in the United States.

Strangled Grandmother.

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

Ammunition Hid in Bales.

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

ENVELOPED IN A FOG

Business Is Very Generally Suspended in England.

THAMES IS JAMMED WITH SHIPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEADS OFF LANDGRABBERS.

President Hays Has Cold Water for Rush to Port Simpson.

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

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

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

Sevastopol Is Useless.

Headquarters of the Third Japanese Army Before Port Arthur, via Fusan, Dec. 26. — During the morning of December 19 the Russian turretship Sevastopol was torpedoed by the Japanese fleet, and immediately listed 10 degrees to the right, remaining fast on the shallow shore at the foot of Liaotai mountain. The vessel is considered absolutely useless for further offensive operations. The Japanese bombardment of the Russian gunboats and torpedo craft in the harbor continues incessantly.

Big Strike in the Kootenays.

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

Torpedo Boat Sighted.

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

TO RECLAIM MUCH LAND.

Government Planning Big Task Along Oregon-California Line.

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

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

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

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

RAILROAD SETTLING.

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

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

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

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

MAY BREAK WITH SULTAN.

French Government Regards Situation as Exceedingly Grave.

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

Development of Porto Rico.

Washington, Dec. 27. — Governor Winthrop, of Porto Rico, today conferred with Secretary of Agriculture Wilson regarding the development of the agricultural resources of that island. Secretary Wilson assured him of the earnest co-operation of the department of Agriculture in furnishing scientific assistance to the Porto Ricans. He pointed out a number of crops for which large sums are paid annually to foreign countries and which should be grown in the newly acquired tropical possessions of this country.

Russians Advance Guns.

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

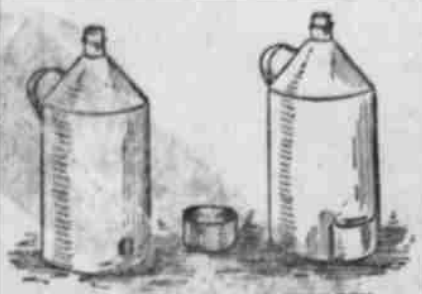
\$100,000 Fire at Los Angeles.

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



Home-Made Water Fountain.

Here is a water fountain that will answer the purpose as well as would one purchased for a dollar. Cut out a round hole in the lower part of an old tin can; now cut exactly in two parts an empty can such as chipped beef is put up in, an empty tomato can can be cut down to the right height, also if the meat can is not at hand. With the home soldering outfit, solder the half can over the opening in the can, as shown in the last part of the cut. Select a cork that will fit the top airtight. If it doesn't make a tight joint, wrap a bit of wet cloth



WATER FOUNTAIN FOR POULTRY.

about the cork. When filled, the fountain will let the water down into the drinking cup as fast as the fowls or chickens drink it and there will be no fouling of the water.

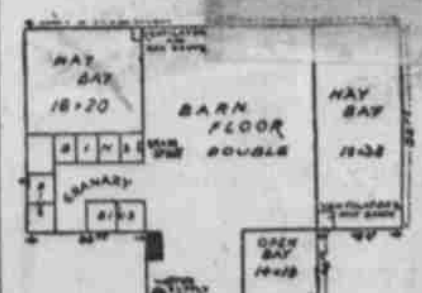
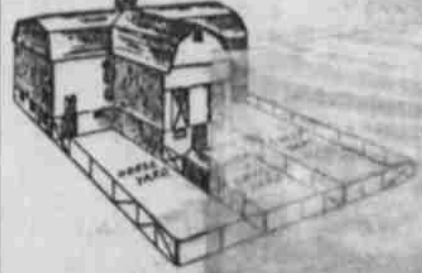
Big-Boned Steers Not Best.

There was a time, though it was many years ago, when the big-boned steer that weighed 1,800 to 2,000 pounds, was looked for by the buyers of beef, but now the animal that is sought by the butchers is one that weighs from 1,200 to 1,500 pounds.

We have long since found out that the cheapest meat is made on young animals, and the money thus invested is soonest ready to be turned over. Not only is the money tied up longest in old animals, but the cost of producing meat on them is so great that our best beef feeders are no longer attempting to do that. The method now is to keep the animals growing right along from birth to the period when they weigh what the market demands.

Steers are now ready for the market at 2 years old or under. If all the animals shipped to the stock yards were of this kind there would not be much complaint about poor returns in stock breeding and beef-making. A good many farmers are still trying to make profitable beef on old steers. But the young steer is the only animal that gives us any promise of a profit—Exchange.

Plan for Farm Barn.



Ammonia in Manure.

Land plaster or gypsum has undoubted value in holding the ammonia or nitrogen in stable manure, although some scientists dispute this. Still kainit is so much better for this purpose than the gypsum that it is a wonder any of the latter is used. It is true kainit is more expensive in first cost, but then it not only holds the ammonia better than the gypsum, but it adds to it a desirable plant food which gypsum does not.

If one must, for any reason, store the stable manure for some portion of the winter, the bulk of its value will be maintained if stored in pits with cement bottoms, so that the liquid portions are retained, and the mass treated with kainit occasionally during the winter. The cost is small compared with the increased value of the manure. Try it this winter and you will become a convert to the practice.

Feeding Milk to Poultry.

Farmers who have more or less skim milk and a generous supply of sour milk can feed both profitably to laying hens during the winter. Milk should be given as other things are fed, with a view to having as much variety as possible. While the fowls rarely tire of the milk, it generally brings the best results if the preparation of it is somewhat varied. For

example: When the weather is cold, give the birds a lot of warm milk in the morning, putting it in a trough.

The next night feed them a warm mash, but mix the bran with milk, instead of water. This is an excellent way to use the sour milk or milk that is too thick to feed alone. Another time cook a lot of small potatoes, chop them fine and mix with the sour milk, then feed warm—creamed potatoes in a way. One has no idea how laying hens enjoy such variety and what a decided difference it makes in the egg production.

Three Acres and a Cow.

The term "three acres and a cow," which was at one time quite prominent in English farm discussions, was originally suggested as a remedy for the lack of employment among mechanics and laborers. The idea was that if each workman could secure possession of a small place, he would become, in a measure, independent during a period of hard times. The actual suggestion was three and one-quarter acres, the one-fourth acre to be devoted to an orchard in which the cow could graze occasionally. The rest of the land he desired to devote as follows: Potatoes, one-half acre; turnips, one-fourth acre; winter vetch, one-half acre; spring vetch, one-fourth acre; barley, wheat or oats, three-fourths acre; clover and grass, three-fourths acre. He estimated that the product of this land would be worth about \$100, and would keep the occupier above actual want.

The Butter Eye.

A yellowish tinge in the skin is considered a point of great importance in Jersey cattle. How much foundation there may be for it has never been satisfactorily determined, but there is an impression among certain breeders that the presence of an orange circle around the eye is indicative of the ability of the cow possessing it to not only produce a great yield of butter, but to give butter of good quality and the highest flavor.

Cheap Step Ladder.

The illustration shows a cheap, handy stepladder. It need cost but very little. It is just 5 feet high and is most convenient in the house during cleaning time and out of doors at all times. During the fruit picking season it is almost indispensable. The ladder proper is made of 1x2 boards with the steps of the same material. The two opposite legs are 2x2, properly braced. The board on the top should be of good inch boards with at least two cleats underneath.

General Farm Notes.

Be systematic in the training of young horses.

Sheep to thrive well require frequent change of food.

Marketing the products in the best possible condition is where the profits are made.

A fence is no protection unless it is properly maintained.

The wheat acre is the most important in the wheat belt will often stand at a loss of wheat.

In planting out an orchard, do not plant too many trees, as they will crowd and starve.

The dairy cow should be fed on either ground or soft feed and never be given whole grains.

A sheep adapted to every section and to every breeder's surroundings cannot be grown in the same animal.

The best method of improving the soil is not to plow too great a proportion nor pasture too closely.

The horse that contracts bad habits readily is generally one that can be taught the most useful traits with the least trouble.

Poultry Notes.

A good egg will sink in water. Sitting hens should not be fed while on the nest.

Growing chicks should be protected from the sun.

The nest must occasionally be renewed and kept clean.

Road dust, with fine sifted ashes, makes a good dust bath.

Cleanliness and vigilance are the best preventives of disease.

Poultry in orchards destroy insects and keep the trees in a good condition.

Water is as important as food and should be supplied clean and fresh.

Gravel should always be supplied to fowls being fattened in confinement.

Lime is a purifier and should be used often as a wash to coops, perches and nest boxes.

Equal parts of skimmed milk and water warmed will remove fly specks from varnished wood work or furniture.

There is no economy in buying poor or musty grain. Aside from the fact that it lacks nutriment, it is often the cause of sickness, especially among the young stock. Better pay a good price and get good sound grain. It is cheaper in the end.