

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.

The czar has decided to send 200,000 more troops to Manchuria.

The Japanese found 48,000 prisoners in Port Arthur, of whom one-third are sick.

The flagship of the Baltic squadron is reported to have struck a rock and sunk.

The czar's decision to continue the war causes great indignation and brings revolution near.

The interstate commerce committee of the senate is working on a bill to regulate freight rates.

As a result of a collision on the Lake Erie road near Angolen, N. Y., eight passengers were injured.

The continued internal strife in Santo Domingo may necessitate the United States to step in and put a stop to it.

Secretary Hay recommends that the naturalization law be amended so as to restrict many courts from granting papers.

Although orders have not been issued, it is positive that the Russian Baltic squadron will return to European waters.

In an address before the American Forestry congress the president declared we must make and enforce laws that will protect the great forests of the United States.

Russia scouts all talk of making peace.

The czar gave General Stoessel a free hand at Port Arthur to do as he thought best.

More charges of land frauds implicate Idaho citizens, including Senator Heyburn, also Senator Clark, of Montana.

An Ohio river steamer blew up near Huntington, W. Va., killing 16 people and injuring 12 others. The steamer and 29 barges burned.

More than 500 delegates were present at the opening session of the American Forestry congress in Washington. Secretary Wilson welcomed the delegates and in his address advocated needed changes in present laws to protect the forests and water supply.

There is a movement on foot to secure legislation during this session of congress that will abolish the Isthmian canal commission and place the construction under the direct supervision of a board of engineers. It is understood the president favors this plan. The present commission is fooling away too much time quarreling.

Bitter cold marked the incoming of the new year throughout the old world.

A British steamer has just arrived at New York with a cargo of 1,100 tons of European wheat.

The Oklahoma statehood bill will come before the senate immediately after the holiday recess.

Several torpedo boats escaped from Port Arthur and took refuge at Shanghai just prior to the surrender of the fortress.

Before surrendering Stoessel sunk the damaged warships in Port Arthur harbor. The Japanese severely criticized this.

Now that Port Arthur has fallen the bulk of the besieging army will be sent north, but some of them will go home. The army before Port Arthur is variously stated as being between 70,000 and 120,000 men.

If Senator Mitchell follows the inexorable rule of senatorial etiquette, he will not appear on the floor of the senate again until the courts have taken final action in the matter of the indictment against him.

The cotton mill strike at Fall River, Mass., continues with both sides determined not to give in.

Chicago held memorial services December 30 in remembrance of the Iroquois theater disaster, the occasion being the first anniversary.

Preparations are being made at Vladivostok for the reception in the dry docks of any of the Baltic squadron that may need docking when the fleet reaches that port.

The London city police have arrested two members of an international gang which for two or three years is alleged to have been conducting extensive forgeries in £5 Bank of England notes.

The grind of the Federal grand jury goes on, and another report for the expectant public will soon be made.

Silver is growing scarce. The price has advanced, and the market is such that the consumer waits on the producer.

The Japanese attempts to raise the Russian cruiser Variag have been discontinued. It will be impossible to commence work before spring, by which time the steel plates forming the hull will be useless.

A GENERAL MOVE.

President is Making Several Changes Among Ambassadors.

Washington, Jan. 3. — President Roosevelt is devoting some time at present to consideration of important appointments in the diplomatic and consular service, which are to be made formally by him at the beginning of next March. Secretary Hay had a conference with the president today before the meeting of the cabinet, and it is understood that the matter of appointments in the diplomatic service was one of the subjects discussed. While no official announcement of the president's intention regarding the positions has yet been made, it is known that he has decided upon several changes. Joseph H. Choate, ambassador to the court of St. James, has indicated that he does not desire to continue in that position. He will be succeeded by Whiteslaw Reid, proprietor of the New York Tribune, who was at one time minister to France.

General Horace Porter, American ambassador to France, will retire from that position soon after March 4. He was appointed by the late President McKinley, and, with the expiration of his present term, will have served the United States at the French capital eight years. The president has decided on General Porter's successor, but at this time no announcement of his decision can be made.

Charlemagne Tower, American ambassador to Germany, and Robert S. McCormick, American ambassador to Russia, will continue at their respective posts.

Bellamy Storer, American ambassador to Austria-Hungary, will continue in his present place until the president decides to transfer him to another post in the diplomatic service.

As to the ambassadorship to Italy, nothing definite can be said now. It has been rumored that Ambassador George Von T. Meyer is to succeed General Porter at Paris, but it can be said that such a change is not certain. The probabilities are that Mr. Meyer will remain at Rome. General Powell Clayton having decided to relinquish his post as ambassador to Mexico at the end of the present administration, he will be succeeded by Edwin H. Conger, now United States minister to China. It is not expected that Mr. Conger will continue long at the Mexican capital, as he is understood to intend to return to his home state of Iowa to be a candidate in succession to Governor Cummins. He will be succeeded by David E. Thompson, of Nebraska, who at present is minister to Brazil. Mr. Thompson accepted the appointment to Brazil with the understanding that he would be appointed to a higher place in the diplomatic service as soon as opportunity afforded.

Mr. Conger will be succeeded at the court of Peking by William W. Rockhill, at present director of the bureau of American republics, who is recognized as an authority on all subjects pertaining to China and the Chinese.

John K. Gowdy, who was appointed by President McKinley American consul general at Paris, will be succeeded by F. H. Mason, who is now consul general at Berlin. In succession to Mr. Mason, John Lewis Griffiths, of Indianapolis, will be named.

It is expected that some other changes will be made in the corps of American ministers, but at this time they are not obtainable for publication.

Gold Found Near Mosier.

The Dalles—Parties from Mosier, who were in The Dalles say considerable excitement has been caused in Mosier over the discovery of gold on the head of Mosier creek. A man named Thomas is reported to have come into Mosier a few days ago with a handful of gold that he stated he had dug out of the ground five or six miles south of the town. Thomas is said to be a responsible person, and his report of finding a valuable mine is given credence by the people who know him. Several residents of Mosier have gone to the vicinity of the reported find, intending to locate claims if the alleged mine proves to be what Thomas represents it to be.

New Company at Work.

Grants Pass—The Michigan Mining & Milling company, which recently bought a large tract of mineral ground on Applegate creek, of Murphy district, near Grants Pass, has gone enterprisingly to work under the supervision of W. T. Perry, of Portland, in the development of the property. The land embraces much good timber, water right and quartz and placer diggings. The quartz ledges will be given special attention by the Michigan company, as the veins give promise of unusual worth. Buildings and quarters for the workmen will be erected at once, and the opening up of the claims will proceed with the best possible dispatch.

Coming Events.

Inland Empire Sunday school institute, Pendleton, January 30.

Animal shows, Polk County Goat, Poultry and Sheep association, Dallas, January 19-20; poultry show, Newberg, January 10-13; poultry show, Albany, January, 18-21.

State Horticultural society, Portland, January 10-11.

Prohibition Oratorical League contest, McMinnville, April 14.

National American Woman Suffrage association, Portland, June 22-28.

Lewis and Clark Centennial exposition, Portland, June 1-October 15.

Only One Foot of Snow.

Canyon City—Although winter has fairly set in here, the snowfall is very light. The ground is hardly covered in the lower valley, while the depth in the mountains scarcely exceeds one foot. This is not considered a promising feature of the season, for though heavy falls of snow may come later, they do not have the same opportunity to freeze and harden, and melt too rapidly in the spring. But as the surface of the ground is but slightly frozen, the moisture will mostly sink into the ground.

Bores for Artesian Water.

Baker City—W. I. Vinson, manager of the Emma mine, a few miles east of this city, has begun to bore an artesian well to obtain water for the mine. The work is being watched with a great deal of interest by a number of people who own land in the vicinity of the mine. If Mr. Vinson succeeds in procuring water it will demonstrate the fact that perhaps other land can be brought under cultivation by boring wells for irrigation.

Good Health on Isthmus.

Washington, Jan. 3. — Commissioner Greene and Examiner Snyder, of the civil service commission, returned here today from a three weeks' visit to the Panama canal zone, where they went for the purpose of introducing the commission's rule for the employment of people connected with the canal. There has been an average of 1,500 Americans on the isthmus for the past eight months, and not one death has occurred among them.

Chicago Is Not Liable.

Chicago, Jan. 3. — Judge Charles M. Walker today decided that the city of Chicago is not liable for damages growing out of the loss of life in connection with the Iroquois theater fire. This was the last day in which, under the law, claims for damages could be filed. In the last hour of the court today 49 suits aggregating \$490,000 were filed in the circuit and supreme courts.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

ALL ARE BUYING CATTLE.

Good Prices and Brisk Market Prevail in Grant County.

John Day—Cattle buying among Grant county stockmen has been quite active since the heavy sales last fall. So many engaged in this rather unusual form of stock transaction that the home supply became practically exhausted some time ago, and they are reaching out into the surrounding territory. The bulk of the business was carried on very quietly, and resulted in a good many surprises.

Growers who make a practice of selling off young stock were approached by local buyers, and asked whether they knew of any such for sale in their neighborhood. The reply was generally that they had bought up all to be found.

Conditions favor this demand. Prices have been down to bedrock, close sales of fat stock had been general throughout the county, and feed and pasture are unusually plentiful. Local cattlemen have made the largest purchases of young stock and steers, and several large bands have been taken in that section for wintering. Henry Troubridge and Johnny Laycock have just driven 436 head of steers over to their pastures in that valley. They were purchased chiefly in the Burnt River country, at prices ranging from \$12 to \$25 per head.

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ROAD TO SWEEPSTAKE.

New Railway From Medford Along Crater Lake Route.

Medford—For several months past the Southern Oregon Development company has been engaged in running surveys, securing rights of way, and doing other preliminary work toward the building of a railroad to the big timber belt located about 20 miles east of Medford, on the Crater lake road.

The surveys have been made from the site of the Butte Falls Mining company's plant to a point on the desert some eight miles from Medford, and rights of way have been secured over most of the route. The Medford and Crater Lake Railroad company has been organized by A. A. Davis, B. E. Atkins, J. M. Keene, R. H. Whitehead, B. H. Harris, W. F. Enthrop and W. J. Vawter. Articles of incorporation were prepared and filed with the secretary of state. The capital stock of the incorporation is placed at \$500,000, and its object is to construct and operate a railroad from Medford east to the timber belt and Crater Lake.

This company supersedes the Southern Oregon Development company, and takes over the rights of way, surveys, etc., of that company. A permanent organization, with election of officers will soon be made.

IRRIGATION FROM BIG WELLS.

Scheme To Be Tried Out by Interested Parties Near Freewater.

Freewater—A. C. Brannon and J. B. Tweliger, who reside west of this place, are sinking wells to irrigate tracts of hitherto unimproved lands to the west and north of Freewater. The water will be pumped with gasoline propelled pumps, for distribution over the land. There are at least 1,000 acres tributary to Freewater which are idle for the lack of water. The Walla Walla river has been appropriated by persons having riparian rights, and only by sinking wells can a supply be obtained.

The Freewater section seems to have once been the head of a lake, and the gravel has so accumulated that water percolates as though through a sieve. winter irrigation seems to have the desired effects in soil of sufficient density to grow crops without summer irrigation, but this soil needs water through the hot months.

Line Into Nehalem.

Astoria—While no information of an official nature can be obtained, there is an authentic report that the Astoria & Columbia River Railroad company has purchased the six miles of logging road built by the Benson Logging company at Clatskanie, and is preparing to extend it into the Nehalem valley, as an excellent grade can be found in that section. The road, which is of standard gauge, was built and equipped for conducting logging operations. Recently all the logging trains were taken off, and the line is now used exclusively by the railway in hauling freight to Clatskanie and vicinity.

Power for Trolley Roads.

Eugene—Chief Engineer Diers, of the Willamette Valley Electric Railway company, is now preparing to put a force of men at work at Martin's Rapids, on the McKenzie river, where the waters are to be taken out by means of a flume and conducted to the site selected for the power station some distance below. The engineer estimates that 5,000-horsepower will be developed, which, he thinks, will be sufficient for operating the entire system of electric roads as planned at the present time.

To Enlarge Brick Plant.

Eugene—After a year or more of planning and experimenting, Messrs. Martin & Mack, who own the brickyard on Wallace butte, near this city, have finally completed arrangements to enlarge their plant to a great extent. They intend to put up a large building, a new mud mill to be secured, and several other pieces of machinery, which will make their plant complete. The new plant will be a great addition to Lane county.

Prize-Packed Fruit.

La Grande—The Oregonian Produce company, of La Grande, has been awarded first honors by a committee of over 50 commission men and dealers in San Francisco, for the best packed fruit, competing with Colorado, California, Washington and Idaho. A. A. Gust, manager of the company in this city, has just returned from San Francisco.

Year's Work Shows Progress.

Cottage Grove—The year that has just passed finds the Bohemia mining district in advance of the years that have gone by. There has been no boom, but lots of good hard work that showed when the books were closed at the end of the year. The quantity and quality of the ores are satisfying to the owners.

THE MARKETS.

Wheat — Portland — Walla Walla, 85c; bluestem, 88@90c; valley, 87c. Tacoma—Bluestem, 88c; club, 85c.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 28 1/2@30c.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 25@27 1/2c.

Hops—Choice, 20@30c; prime, 27@28c.

Wool—Valley, 19@20c; Eastern Oregon, 10@17c; mohair, 25@26c.



A Combination Building.
Here is a plan for a combined corn crib, granary and wagon shed as given in the Ohio Farmer. It is 32x50 and 10 feet high to eaves, and has a tight floor, which is reached by means of a movable platform, D. The building is set up on short wooden posts, B, standing on a flat stone, C, and a galvanized iron pan inverted over the top, A. This makes it rat and mouse proof, if the platform D is pulled away from the building when not in use. The plan is shown in the second picture. The grain bins are arranged with slid-



COMBINATION FARM BUILDING.

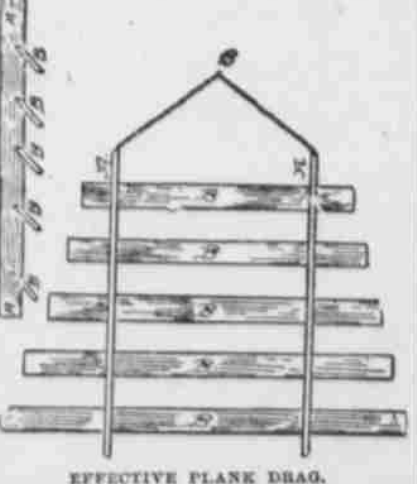
ing boards in front, same as in any granary. The attic can be used for storing tools or anything else desired. In that case there should be a window in each gable end. The center of driving floor makes a good wagon and buggy shed. The platform D can be made stationary by covering the lower part of the door, and the door sill, with sheet iron and extending the sheet iron strip out toward corner of building a foot or so on each side. Such an approach can be provided at each end, so that the team can be driven through the building. Instead of posts and inverted pans, it is cheaper to set the building on 8-inch sewer pipe 2 feet long. Rats and mice can't climb the glazed pipe.

Hogs for Next Season.

Hardly two men will agree in all respects as to what constitutes the best sow for breeding purposes, although the most successful hog raisers are coming around to the belief that the medium animal gives the best returns, so that the old idea that the brood sow should be of large size is being abandoned. Size determined on, then other characteristics should be sought. If the sow has had one litter it is easy to know if she is fitted to continue the work. If she was not a good mother, if she did not have the proper amount of milk (provided she was properly fed) then she will not prove a profitable mother for other seasons. When the sow is bred for the first time, then one is taking some chances, but it ought not to be hard, after the first year, to get together a fine lot of sows simply by remembering how they acted in previous years.

Home-Made Plank Drag.

I have a home-made plank leveler and clod crusher which I think an improvement upon those made by overlapping planks, writes a correspondent of the Rural New Yorker. It does exceedingly good work, leveling so a field may be made as even as a floor. Mine is about eight feet wide and six



EFFECTIVE PLANK DRAG.

feet long. I have tried to show how it is made in the cut. Two planks are set on edge, and a series of planks notched into their lower edges, sloping backward at an angle of about 45 degrees. I have tried to present a view of one plank on edge, showing how the cross planks are inserted. I make the forward cross planks shorter than those in rear, as it leaves smoother work made thus. Board may be nailed on top to stand upon when it is desired to do extra heavy scraping.

Leaves Fed to Cattle.

The use of leaves for cattle fodder is seriously urged by a French writer, who declares that the idea is an old one, such food having been fed to cattle in ancient times. The Roman farmers, he says, used to feed green leaves during eight months of the year, and also in winter when fodder was scarce, they soaked dry leaves in water to soften them before feeding to the cat-

tle. The abundance of fodder in this country is not likely to force farmers to any such expedient; and dairy farmers have a well-founded suspicion that the flavor of milk is affected when cattle browse on various kinds of foliage.

Prices for Horses Are High.

All the large horse markets report high prices this year. The demand was never better in all parts of the country, particularly for the best animals. Some very fine drafters have sold for as much as \$500 to \$600 in the Chicago market. These, of course, are exceptional prices, and have certainly been very remunerative to the growers.

In the financial depression that followed 1863 values dropped to so low a figure that breeders restricted their operations to such an extent that breeding stock went away down below the numbers kept in previous years. In fact in some localities that were more or less distinguished for their industry, it went almost entirely out of existence.

Fortunately with the revival of prices a marked revival is manifesting itself in breeding. Of course, there is a possibility that breeding may be overdone, but the probability that such will be the case is not very strong. The depletion of this class of horses has been so great that unless depression should come and should be severe those who are rearing draft horses may expect to find a good market for them providing they have been properly reared.

Wherein the Silo Pays.

To permit the corn to stand in the field and be frost-bitten is to render it practically useless and valueless, but with the silo it is possible not only to save it but to have for the animals a food supply that is extremely valuable. If one has a silo and the kernels on the corn ears have begun to harden the crop is ready for the silo, ears and stalks. There are so many kinds of silos that are valuable that it is not possible to describe the best one nor the methods employed in filling one. The better way is to visit a silo near one and see how the structure is built and how the work is done and follow along the lines of success. Next thing to a silo is the plan of cutting the corn stover or shredding it so that the animals can get all there is to get of the nourishing part of the corn.

Grain Led by Cotton.

The exports of grain and flour from the United States for the ten months ending October were less than one-half in value of those of the corresponding period in 1903 or 1902, and only one-third as much as those of the corresponding period of 1901 or 1899. Yet the total volume of exports for the ten months was \$90,000,000 greater than for the same period of last year, indicating that the shortage of grain products was more than offset in other ways. Manufactured goods seem to have made up the bulk of increase, the gain being over \$50,000,000 as compared with last year. Shipments of raw cotton also show a gain of \$22,000,000, suggesting that for the time, at least, cotton, rather than wheat, is king of the agricultural export trade.

Stealing Fruit.

Any person who willfully enters without the consent of the owner or occupant, any orchard, fruit garden, vineyard, or ground whereon is cultivated any fruit, with intent to take, injure or destroy anything there growing or grown; or cuts down, destroys or injures any shrub, tree or vine growing within and on such orchard, garden, vineyard, or upon any such ground, or any building, frame or erection thereon, is punishable by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or a fine not exceeding \$250, or both.—Green's Fruit Grower.

Farm Fences.

The legal fence should be of wire with a rail at the top so as not to obstruct snow, or to be affected by winds. The neighborhood could get along without any fences if suitable laws were passed. The coming age will know no farm fences. If the farmers could lay by all they spend on fences they would get rich. Farm fences and common pastures will both die a natural death soon. Both belong to a pioneer period which we have outgrown.

Poultry Pickings.

No success can be achieved with poultry without cleanliness! It's a poor plan to wash eggs for keeping. Don't do it, unless eggs are to be used right away.

Whatever you do, unless you fatten for market, don't give an exclusive corn diet, and better not even then.

For sweeping the hen houses, perches, etc., what better do you want than an old broom which the good woman has cast aside as too much worn?

In poultry feeding there are innumerable ways that may lead to success. In fact, the combinations of foodstuffs that can be made are almost without limit. But when mixing feeds, mix common sense with the other ingredients.

Barns, outbuildings, back porches, etc., are poor places for poultry. Have the poultry house or houses, even on farms, in a sheltered place at some distance from house or barn, or so located that the hens will not be liable to make a nuisance of themselves.

To cure the chick upon whose throat gape worms have got a firm foothold, various methods of treatment are recommended. One is to remove the worms by means of a small feather, stripped to near the point, then dipped in turpentine and sweet oil, and inserted carefully into the windpipe, twisting it and finally removing it again together with the gape worms that were loosened from the windpipe in the process.