

# 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 state treasurer of Kansas will be ousted from office.

Stormy times are expected in the Morocco conference.

The canal commission has called for bids for supplying labor.

A negro colony from Florida is to be established in Southern Idaho.

A bomb was thrown at the sultan of Turkey, but he was not injured.

Another batch of indictments has been returned against Milwaukee grafters.

Georgetown, Indiana, near the Kentucky line, has been washed away by a cloudburst.

Some Russian defenses have been captured by the Japanese, together with several guns.

A murderer sentenced to be hanged 23 years ago has been found alive in the Illinois penitentiary.

A storm has swept over Midway island, destroying the military camp maintained by the United States.

It is said that in the peace terms to be demanded by Japan is a provision against double tracking the Siberian railway. Russian papers declare that the acceptance of this would be commercial suicide.

Japanese positions in Manchuria are strongly fortified.

Chairman Shonts and Chief Engineer Stevens are on their way to the isthmus.

The Russian garrison at Vladivostok expects an attack by land and sea any time.

Baron Komura, Japanese peace envoy, has arrived in Seattle and started on east to Washington.

China will insist on Manchuria being returned to her when the war is over, no matter how it terminates.

A cloudburst near Joplin, Missouri, caused great damage to crops. The loss will reach \$150,000. One man was drowned.

A majority of the naval board of construction has recommended that no more work be done on the cruiser San Francisco, and it has been taken out of commission.

After being on strike for 105 days, during which time 19 people were killed and 462 injured, the Chicago teamsters have surrendered and will seek employment where they can.

Gifford Pinehot, United States forest superintendent, has started west for a tour of forest reserves. He will be joined later by Secretary Wilson, who will accompany him on a part of the journey.

Norway will ask the United States for recognition.

Travel to the Lewis and Clark fair surprises Eastern railroads.

Rumors are thick in St. Petersburg of plots to dethrone the czar.

Newark, N. J., offers a bounty on pests which infest shade trees.

Witte says other powers may be called into the peace conference.

Both Norway and Sweden are preparing for war while trying to keep peace.

There is a great increase of immigration to the United States from Norway and Sweden.

British cotton manufacturers have combined to promote the growth of cotton in the island possessions of Great Britain.

President Roosevelt says he has done his part in bringing the warring nations together and will not meddle in the peace conference.

The governor of Alabama has called out the state cavalry to prevent the lynching of a negro confined in the Linden, Marengo county, jail.

Russia is making arrangements to double track the Siberian railway.

Japan has succeeded in raising the battleship Bayan, sunk at Port Arthur. Five Russian vessels are said to be in such shape that they can easily be put into commission.

King Oscar says he does not favor a forcible union with Norway.

A severe wind storm has wiped out the town of Anawa, Wisconsin.

All telegraph operators on the Northern Pacific railway are ready to go on strike.

The Union passenger depot at Louisville, Kentucky, has been burned. Loss, \$350,000.

A Boston man has been arrested in Kingston, Jamaica, for taking photographs of the fortifications.

Witte says that while he favors peace with Japan, he will not agree to it at any terms that may be offered.

Unusually heavy rainstorms are reported in various parts of Germany. Immense damage has been done to crops.

## WANT A LONG CONTRACT.

Only Terms on Which Japanese Will Work on Canal.

Seattle, July 18.—Japanese labor contractors will not agree to the Isthmian commission's programme of experimenting with the labor of different countries. A recent dispatch from Washington says the commission has decided to secure 2,000 laborers of different nationalities under a 500-day contract, with the idea in view of renewing the contract for such laborers as were found satisfactory.

The question of employing Japanese laborers on the isthmus was first taken up with the commission and Secretary Taft by the Oriental Trading company, of Seattle. This is the most important labor contracting firm in the Northwest.

Vice President C. T. Takahashi said today that his company would not agree to such a proposal. "There is no money in such a short contract," he continued. "If we could get a four-year or a five-year contract, Japanese laborers could be supplied. As it is the laborers would have to be brought from Japan and returned to their homes after the work was completed.

To collect 2,000 men, carry them to the isthmus and then return them to their homes after a 500-day contract had been completed is not practicable.

"Our proposal to supply Japanese labor has been before the commission and Washington officials for some time. We have not been notified that an experimental contract might be made and I do not think we would accept a contract if offered one."

The Oriental Trading company proposed to provide its own foremen, choosing men accustomed to directing railroad and similar construction work.

## MINERS IN TERROR.

Appeal to Government for Protection Against Outlaws.

Seattle, July 18.—Miners operating on the creeks near Fairbanks, Alaska, have appealed to the United States government for protection from outlaws who are terrorizing that district.

General Constance Williams, in command of the Department of the Columbia, has been instructed by the War department to investigate, and if conditions are as bad as the miners claim, troops will be rushed into the Tanana country. The telegraph lines into Fairbanks are down and General Williams' investigation is likely to be delayed for several days. In the meantime a large Alaska community is terrorized, for the situation is even worse than that which existed at Skagway during the "Soapy Smith" days.

Telegraphic advices from the North declare that hold-ups and the boldest of robberies are becoming so frequent that an attack on some of the banks is feared by the miners. The mine owners are afraid to either bring their dust into town or keep it at their camps. The outlaws are holding up strong pack trains and robberies at camps are so numerous that they have become expected.

The miners in the Tanana country have but a few weeks in which to make their annual cleanup and the deprivations of the outlaws threaten the year's business. The district about Fairbanks has had a remarkable winter and the cleanup would be the heaviest in the camp's history if the miners are able to work. Fear of losing everything by robbery is holding back the spring clean-up.

## INDEPENDENCE FOR COREA.

Honolulu, July 18.—Coreans here have raised a fund to send Rev. P. T. Yun, a Korean Methodist minister, to Washington to see President Roosevelt for the purpose of asking that efforts be made by the United States in the forthcoming negotiations to bring about an agreement by which the Korean nation will become independent within 20 years if it shows fitness for self-government. Rev. Mr. Yun will solicit the good offices of President Roosevelt to ask Japan to grant independence as the United States did Cuba.

## OFF FOR THE NORTH POLE.

New York, July 18.—The Roosevelt, in which Captain Robert E. Peary hopes to reach the north pole, started on her long voyage today. Captain Peary and a party of guests were on board at the start, and remained with the ship on her trip down the bay, but they left her at the narrows, returning to the city on a navy tug. Captain Peary started tonight by rail for Sydney, Cape Breton, where he will join the ship.

## CAPTAIN KING IN BLACKMAR'S PLACE.

Baltimore, July 18.—By the death of General Blackmar, Captain John R. King, of this city, senior vice commander in chief, becomes, under the laws of the G. A. R., acting commander-in-chief, and will continue such until the next National encampment. Captain King is pension agent for Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia and West Virginia, and has an office in Washington.

## RIPE FRUIT CAN BE CARRIED.

Sacramento, Cal., July 18.—Harold Powell, of the United States Department of Agriculture, says he has demonstrated conclusively that ripe fruit, well refrigerated before shipment will arrive sound under ordinary railroad refrigeration, even after being from 10 to 15 days on the way.

## PACKING PLANT IS DESTROYED.

Columbus, O., July 18.—The plant of the Columbus Packing company on the South Side, was destroyed by fire today. Loss, \$185,000. The fire is believed to have been of incendiary origin.

# CLAIMS INNOCENCE

Williamson Denies Entering Plot to Suborn Perjury.

## KNOW GESNER LOANED MONEY

Cross Examination by District Attorney Heney Brings Out This Fact from Witness.

Portland, July 18.—After the counsel for the defense places several witnesses on the stand this morning to show that the timber claim of Marion R. Biggs, one of the defendants in the trial of Representative Williamson and Dr. Gesner, was valuable for timber, all of the evidence will have been laid before the jury. By refusing to permit the defense to place on the stand a long list of witnesses to prove the good character of the three defendants, Judge De Haven shortened the trial and for the next few days the courtroom will be ringing with the voices of the attorneys making their argument to the jury.

Yesterday morning Representative Williamson took the stand in his own behalf and declared to the jury that he was innocent of the charge of conspiring to cause certain applicants for government timber land to commit perjury. He was inclined to be combative under cross-examination but District Attorney Heney, apparently had no desire to press the witness to the point where he would lose his temper. During the direct and redirect examination, Representative Williamson frequently turned full upon the jury and delivered his evidence at various times directly at the 12 men who will later pass judgment upon him. Naturally his testimony was the feature of the day, and while he made a good witness for himself, Mr. Heney nevertheless got admissions from him that tended to show that he knew that Gesner was making loans to entrymen.

## TO TAKE VLADIVOSTOK.

Japanese Hope to Capture Fortress Before Envoys Reach America.

Tokio, July 18.—Judging from the activity at present being displayed at the Navy department, it seems certain the investment of Vladivostok can be expected before the end of this week.

All arrangements are known to have been completed, and it is reported, evidently upon the best authority, that Admiral Togo's entire fleet will sail from Sasebo before nightfall. In addition, an army of invasion, which was landed from transports in Peter the Great bay very recently, is already moving to complete the investment by land. Since June 1, 50 ocean-going foreign steamers have been placed under the Japanese flag, laden with ammunition and supplies, and will accompany Togo's fleet.

It is the hope of the Japanese government that Vladivostok will be taken before the peace envoys land on United States soil. With this object in view, nothing is to be left undone to make the campaign, as planned, brief and eminently successful.

## HEAT IS KILLING.

Temperature in Metropolitan of United States Causes Prostrations.

New York, July 18.—After a respite of one day, the hot wave that swept over New York last week, causing scores of deaths and hundreds of cases of prostrations, returned today with renewed intensity, the temperature being by far the highest of the season.

The highest point reached was at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the weather bureau thermometer touched 95 degrees. In the streets, however, the heat was much greater, some thermometers recording as high as 103.

While the heat was intense, the air was stirred by light breeze, and the general suffering was somewhat mitigated by the absence of the excessive humidity that prevailed last week. It was largely owing to this that only two cases of death directly resulting from heat were reported.

## Nothing to Investigate.

Caracas, July 18.—Venezuelans were very much surprised on receiving the news that President Roosevelt had appointed Judge Calhoun a special commissioner to Venezuela to investigate the claims of America. The Constitution, the government organ, says: "If the claims of Americans or others existed, they would have been already heard before competent authorities. It may be the president requires information regarding the case of the New York & Bermudez Asphalt company, which is still pending."

## Rapid Transit for London.

London, July 18.—A bulky bluebook tonight contains the report of the royal commission on locomotive transport in London. The advisory board of engineers recommends the construction of two main avenues through London, 140 feet wide and between four and five miles long, carrying four lines of tramways on the surface and four lines of railways below the surface. It is estimated that the cost of construction will be £12,000,000.

## Assistant Engineer of Canal.

San Antonio, Tex., July 18.—Jackson Smith, formerly passenger agent of the National railroad of Mexico, has been appointed assistant to Chief Engineer Stevens of the Panama canal, according to a telegram received here tonight.

## NEW TRIAL DENIED.

Judge De Haven Denies Motion in Mitchell Case.

Portland, July 16.—"The motion in arrest of judgment will be denied. "The motion for a new trial will be denied.

"Is the defendant in court?"

Senator John H. Mitchell was not in court when Judge De Haven pronounced the words quoted from his decision in answer to the motions made last week by his attorneys. Senator Mitchell was represented by Judge Bennett and ex-Senator Thurston, and while Judge De Haven did not say that he would have rendered judgment upon the senator, had he been in court, it is believed from the fact that he asked if "the defendant was in court," that he would have done so. Senator Thurston, when Judge De Haven put his query, rose and stated that he wished further time in which to draw up a bill of exceptions, and he was given until a week from Monday morning to present them.

This means another ten days before Senator Mitchell will have judgment pronounced upon him. The senator's counsel informed the court that by tomorrow they would have their bill of exceptions ready and in the hands of United States District Attorney Heney, so that he might in turn have his answer ready by the time that the case will again be taken up by the court. Judge De Haven seemed willing to grant the delay, and as there was no objection from Mr. Heney, His Honor set Monday, July 31, as the day for receiving the exceptions.

## BIGGS TESTIFIES FOR DEFENSE.

Vigorously Denies Any Thought of Perpetrating Fraud.

Portland, July 16.—This coming week, unless some unforeseen accident should occur, will see the end of the Representative Williamson, Dr. Van Gesner and Marion R. Biggs trial. Yesterday Marion Biggs, who is the United States land commissioner, took the stand in his own behalf, and when Judge De Haven adjourned court until Monday morning, he had passed through the hands of the district attorney. On the whole, he made a fair witness for himself, and the two defendants charged jointly with him in the alleged conspiracy. Under the skillful hands of Attorney Wilson, Biggs told a plausible story, but District Attorney Heney, during the course of an extremely rigid cross examination, tangled the witness up several times.

From the beginning of his testimony to the end, Biggs contended that he was innocent of any wrongdoing, and he denied having any part in the alleged conspiracy of suborning entrymen to commit perjury.

## DIES AT BOISE.

Commander-in-Chief of G. A. R. Was Touring Northwest.

Boise, Idaho, July 16.—General W. W. Blackmar, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, died at 5 o'clock this evening of intestinal nephritis. His wife was with him during his illness. The body will be embalmed and taken to the home of the family in Boston.

The general arrived here on the 10th on a tour, during which he intended to visit Grand Army posts throughout the Northwest. He was ill when he arrived and gradually failed. The seriousness of his condition was kept from the public at the request of his wife.

General Blackmar was born July 25, 1841, at Bristol, Pa. He enlisted in the Fifteenth Pennsylvania cavalry and subsequently joined the First West Virginia. He served with distinction throughout the war and at Five Forks was promoted on the field by General Custer to the rank of captain. Through the three administrations of Governors Long, Talbot and Rice he was judge advocate general of Massachusetts. At the last National encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic he was elected commander-in-chief.

## Costly Dirt in New York.

New York, July 17.—From the exempt tax list, as published today in the City Record, some idea of the value of earth in that part of the globe covered by New York City may be gathered. The total estimated value of real property which pays no taxes is more than \$1,000,000,000, and it is safe to say that the real worth of the property is more than \$2,000,000,000. Adding to this more than \$5,000,000,000 of real estate which was taxed, the actual value of the city is more than \$7,000,000,000.

## Rain Ruins Indiana Wheat.

Indianapolis, Ind., July 17.—Reports to the News from all counties of Indiana show that continuous rains have prevented almost entirely the threshing of wheat in this state so far. Two weeks ago Indians apparently had the greatest yield of wheat in many years, but since harvest there has been rain practically all the time. Returns so far indicate a yield of 20 bushels to the acre. The Indiana corn crop will be tremendous.

## Canal Laborers Leaving.

Panama, July 17.—Owing to dilatory methods of paying laborers, a general exodus of workmen is taking place among employes of the canal. Reports from Culebra indicate that, because they cannot get paid, laborers are quitting in scores, and have taken to the woods of bananas and other tropical fruit to ward off starvation.

## COLLEGE HONORS---THE FINAL AWARD.



## GREAT RUSSIAN WATERWAY.

Czar's Government Planning for Baltic-Black Sea Ship Canal.

The recent appointment of a commission to examine the question of constructing a canal to unite the Baltic and Black Seas revives interest in this tremendous project, which is no less than digging a canal equal in length to most of the so-called canals on Mars. It is by all odds the greatest canal scheme of modern times, and while it presents difficulties, such as passing the Cataracts of the Dnieper River, which have a total fall of 107 feet, it is not considered by any means impracticable.

While the canal is primarily a strategic work, for Russia has a large fleet in the Black Sea which is rusting from inertia, it is just as important commercially, for, as no other agency



ROUTE OF PROPOSED CANAL.

could, it will open up trade in the interior of the Tsar's European domains, and by its tolls be not only self-supporting but a source of revenue to the government.

## Longest Canal in World.

From Riga, on the Baltic, to Kherston, at the entrance to the Black Sea, is only 800 miles in a straight line, but the canal, as mapped by Mr. Ruckteschell, who, it is said, will possibly be entrusted with its building, will be almost twice as long, or between 1,410 and 1,468 miles, according to the route selected. When completed it will be the longest canal in the world, but in spite of these superlatives, its cost will, comparatively speaking, not be great. An American syndicate has offered to construct the work for \$315,000,000, or for about three-fifths the bid made by a Russian syndicate.

These bids were made a year ago on the favorite route mentioned. Since then, however, a scheme has been prepared by a Belgian engineer, Comte Gustave Defosse, in which J. King & Co., of London, are interested. The details of this proposal have not yet been made public, but they are said to apply to a waterway about 400 miles shorter and having a uniform depth of 28 feet and a breadth on the surface of 208 feet, and at bottom of 114 feet. If this plan is followed, the engineer states the canal can be completed in about six years. With a speed of eight knots, the passage would occupy about five days.

The original plan, which, in view of the rapidly increasing size of vessels, is more accommodating, was for a waterway 31½ feet deep, 140 feet wide at bottom and 200 feet wide at surface. Included in this plan is a broad, well-paved roadway, built at the side of the canal for its whole length. As Russia is not famed for its good roads, this improvement will be

of almost as much importance as the canal itself.

Apart from the extensive works to be built at the cataracts and the actual digging of only twelve miles through a country presenting no great difficulty to the operation, the canal building will very largely be the simple work of dredging a deep channel in the rivers and the existing canal and the widening of the latter.

No one familiar with Russia's humiliating position on the Black Sea need be told that the subject is an old one and a recognized necessity, for while the Tsar has been permitted to build a powerful fleet of warships on the Black Sea, treaties and conventions extending back almost a century, or since 1800, have closed the gates of the Dardanelles upon them.

The Black Sea fleet, which consists of about 150 ships, has been "locked" in the Black Sea principally through British action, although Russia is a party to most of the treaties, recognizing the fact that it is some consolation to know that no other force, not even a British fleet, may pass through the straits, "the key to the Tsar's home," as Napoleon described it.

During the last year, however, Russia has felt the need of her caged fleet, which, if it could have been dispatched to the Far East at an opportune time, might have changed the history of the war. At present the Black Sea fleet can only be used to menace the "sick man of the East," whom most of the powers do not desire disturbed, for fear of the awful contention for the "remains" if the Turk were driven out of Europe.

While Great Britain is distributing her fleets has always made due allowance for the ineffective character of the Black Sea fleet, and consequently has been able to curtail the size of her Mediterranean squadron, there is a general impression that Russia would by means characteristic be able to send her Black Sea fleet past the Dardanelles if a European war were forced upon her and made such a coup desirable.

The canal from the Baltic to the Black Sea would bring St. Petersburg 3,000 miles nearer the Far East, and what is more to the point, would bring it so much nearer Egypt and India. It is no secret that notwith-



BLACK SEA AND SURROUNDING TERRITORY.

standing the disastrous outcome of the war in the Far East, Russia will strike for an outlet on the Indian Ocean. The British have been guarding the northern boundary of India for years, in anticipation of any Russian movement on the frontier. A quarter of a century ago the Russians were at the "gate of India," within a few miles of Herat. There they still are, but it is beyond belief to think they are content to stay there.

## Norfolk Rabbit Warrens.

The great headquarters of the natural warren of England is in Norfolk, and more especially in the neighborhood of Thetford. There for mile after mile rabbits are the main "crop" of the country, and a paying one, for the only labor involved is that of catching them. You can walk for miles and see nothing but rabbit warrens on every side. The woods and parks are warrens, and so are the heaths. The only houses in sight are warreners' cottages, and instead of plowmen at work, or men sowing corn, or shepherds and their collies, the only workmen visible are all warreners.—London Country Gentleman.

For every mean man who dies at least two more are born.