

# 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.

Slight earthquake shocks continue in Italy.

Wholesale assassinations are the order at Baku, Russia.

The yellow fever situation at New Orleans is improving.

Five cases of yellow fever have been discovered at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The gulf between Norway and Sweden is widening and they are on the verge of war.

Foreign engineers on the consulting board believe a sea level canal at Panama will prove best.

The government has completed its side in the third trial of the Williamson-Gesner-Biggs case.

By an explosion in a fuse factory at Avon, Conn., seven persons were killed and seven more fatally burned.

The old Grant farm of 440 acres near St. Louis, long the home of General U. S. Grant, has been sold for \$113,000 and will be converted into an amusement park.

Western Iowa and Eastern Nebraska have been visited by a tornado. Five people are known to have been killed and many hurt. The property loss will be heavy.

The Baldwin airship Gelatine has made the most successful flight of any airship in the world. During the last flight the aeronaut started from the exhibition grounds, beat the street cars into the city, maneuvered over the business portion and returned to the starting place.

Spain has ordered a quarantine against German vessels putting into her ports.

The state auditor of Indiana has been removed by the governor and accused of embezzlement.

Representative McCleary, of Minnesota, favors an import tariff on coffee to offset the government deficit.

Admiral Rojstevensky has entirely recovered from the wounds he received in the battle of the sea of Japan.

Baron Komura, the Japanese peace envoy, is recovering from his illness and expects to start home October 2.

The president has approved the contract for the hotel and subsistence concession on the Panama canal zone, let by Chairman Shonts.

The Union Pacific has completed a second gasoline car at its Omaha shops which is a great improvement over the first. On its trial trip a speed of nearly a mile a minute was attained.

Nebraska Republicans, at their state convention, nominated Charles B. Letton, of Fairbury, for justice of the Supreme court. Resolutions were also adopted demanding action on railroad rates.

The New York legislative committee probing life insurance companies' methods has found that enormous dividends are being paid, one company paying profits exceeding the purchase price.

Witte has left America for Europe.

Oyama and Linievitch have arranged an armistice.

Many Colombian laborers are being employed on the canal.

Sweden refuses to change terms of disunion with Norway.

A crank who desired to see the president and talk with him about the price of coal has been placed in an asylum.

The czar has appointed Louis Napoleon as governor of Caucasus in hopes he may quell the rioters.

German diplomats are working on a trade treaty which they hope will be acceptable to the United States.

A railroad bridge across the Zambesi river, East Africa, is 420 feet above the water, the highest in the world.

Thousands of smuggled rifles have been seized among Finnish rebels.

New York customs officers have discovered that importers have been shipping olive oil into this country in rough, dirty barrels labeled machine oil, which pays no duty. Olive oil is liable to 40 cents per gallon duty.

The Esch-Townsend railroad bill will be introduced at the next session of congress practically in the same form that it passed the house last session. This is the determination of Representatives Townsend, and Esch, who drew up the measure.

Baron Komura is seriously ill and may not be able to return to Japan as soon as planned.

A stampede occurred at a cattle show at Salamanca, Spanish, and 120 persons were injured.

The Mexican government has put a stop to all forms of gambling, including lotteries, in the republic.

The cotton crop of Mexico this year is estimated at 90,000 to 100,000 bales, against 75,000 bales last year.

## BABY CROP DECLINING.

Rapid Decrease in Birthrate of Oregon and Washington.

Washington, Sept. 12.—The Census Bureau through a recently published bulletin, calls attention to the fact that the birth rate is declining in Oregon faster than in any other state in the Union, and Oregon, which only 45 years ago held the record birth rate of the United States, is now nearing the foot of the list. In 1860 the birth rate in Oregon was nearly double that in the entire United States; five years ago, according to the last census, Oregon had fallen below the general average, and well below almost every other state in the West, California excepted.

Oregon, a good Roosevelt state on political issues, seems to disagree with Mr. Roosevelt on the race suicide question, for Oregon is tumbling from its lofty position to the foot of the list at a rate which, if kept up for two more decades, will place Oregon behind every other part of the country in this important respect.

Take Washington: The record of that state is not to be applauded. It is almost, but not quite, as bad as Oregon's. Back in 1860, when there was a child for every woman between the ages of 15 and 49 (which is not saying that every woman between those ages was possessed of one lone child), Washington stood third on the list of states as to birth rate, being ranked only by Oregon and Utah. Since then there has been a gradual decline, until, according to the census of 1900, the rate in Washington is only 469, five below the general average for the United States.

Then there is Idaho, which is neither a record-breaker nor a slouch. In 1870, the time of its first census, the rate was 715. It has fallen but 5 per cent, for the last census showed it to be 644—away above the general average. In fact, a rate that is exceeded only in North Dakota, Oklahoma and Indian Territory.

## COLOR LINE DRAWN.

Negroes May Carry Letters, But Are Undesirable as Clerks.

Washington, Sept. 12.—The Civil Service commission has been engaged in the investigation of charges of discrimination against negroes in the matter of examination for offices in the Southern states. Two of the cases concerning which inquiry has been made are those of William C. Carter and Martin J. Hornby, both of whom allege they resigned under pressure from the postoffice at Yazoo, Miss.

In the case of Hornby the charge was made that he had been maltreated at Yazoo, and there seems to be a general feeling that the people of that section had demanded that, while negroes might act as carriers for the postoffice at that place, they would not be permitted to fill the places of clerks in the office. The investigation showed that the examinations were conducted fairly, but owing to the feeling of the white people it was suggested that if the negroes prefer to act as carriers this can be brought about without any discrimination by the Civil Service commission against an eligible because of his color.

## CANAL HOTEL CONTRACT.

Markel Gives Out Terms of His Deal With Government.

Omaha, Sept. 12.—J. E. Markel, to whom has been let the contract for feeding the laborers on the Panama canal, today made the following statement to the Associated Press: "I presume that some of the rival contractors who made bids were disappointed in not securing the job. That is the only explanation I can give for their making charges of unfair dealing. Every detail of the entire transaction was open and above board, and all the papers are on file in New York, where they may be examined by the public at any time."

"The statement that the contract would amount to \$50,000,000 is wrong. It will amount to about \$100,000 a month, or from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 a year for seven years, which is the life of the contract. We will have ten hotels, each of which will feed from 150 to 250 persons, and good, wholesome food and clean and comfortable accommodations for all laborers will be supplied."

## Privileges Are Too Great.

Havana, Sept. 12.—Two of the principal commercial and economic associations, responding to a confidential request made by the foreign relations committee of the senate for advice as to whether the pending treaty between Cuba and Great Britain ought to be ratified, declare emphatically against ratification. The principal reason given is that Cuba's commercial interests are too inevitably bound to her great customer, the United States, to permit of granting for ten years such privileges to British ships and citizens.

## California Is in the Lead.

Washington, Sept. 12.—Director of the Mint Roberts today made public his estimate of the production of gold and silver in the United States for the calendar year 1904. These figures show an increased production over the calendar year 1903 of \$7,131,500 gold and 3,486,000 fine ounces of silver. The largest gain was by California, which increased about \$3,000,000 more than in the previous year, and a larger amount than in any year since the '60s.

## Salt River Dam Washed Out.

El Paso, Tex., Sept. 12.—The Arizona Water company's costly dam, furnishing water to irrigate many hundreds of acres of land near Phoenix, with water from the Salt river, was washed out by a big rise in the stream. The damage will be heavy.

# TWELVE ARE DEAD

New York Elevated Car Falls to Street Below.

## MORE THAN FORTY ARE INJURED

Train Leaves Track On Curve and One Car Lands on Pavement With Trucks on Top.

New York, Sept. 12.—Through somebody's blunder, a Ninth avenue elevated train went through an open switch at Fifty-third street about 7 o'clock this morning. One car crowded with people fell to the street, and 12 persons were killed and more than 40 injured, 14 of them seriously.

The cause of the accident and the immediate responsibility remain to be seen. The motorman of the wrecked train is a fugitive, while a switchman, conductor and four guards are under arrest. The switchman is charged with manslaughter and the trainmen are held as witnesses.

Whatever may have caused the mishap, the accident, the worst in the history of the elevated railroads in New York, came when a south bound train on the Ninth avenue line was switched off to the Sixth avenue line at the Forty-third street junction. The motorman, expecting a clear track on the direct line of the Ninth avenue, without regarding the warning signal that the switch was open, rushed his train along at a high rate of speed. The first car swung around the right angle curve, holding to the rails because of the weight of the train behind. Then the strain became too great. The couplings broke, the second car was whirled about almost end for end, and, to the horror of those who looked on from below, pitched into the street.

Those passengers who had not jumped from the platforms and windows before the plunge came were thrown into a mass at the forward end of the car. As the injured men and women were struggling to free themselves the heavy front trucks of the third car fell almost in their midst, as the car itself jumped partly off the elevated structure and was wedged against a building at the southeast corner of Ninth avenue and Forty-third street.

## EFFORT TO INTIMIDATE.

Witness So Testifies in Land Fraud Cases Before Hunt.

Portland, Sept. 12.—Have the defendants in the Williamson-Gesner-Biggs case tried to intimidate the witnesses for the government? According to the testimony of Campbell A. Duncan, brought out yesterday morning by District Attorney Heney, and unshaken by the cross examination of Mr. Bennett, the effort has been made. For the first time in the course of the third trial the spirit of sensationalism was introduced yesterday morning, when Duncan told of his visit to Representative Williamson in his rooms at the Imperial hotel, and stated that the visit had been prompted by the advice and request of Attorney Barnes, of Prineville, who has figure has the silent shadow during the three trials. Campbell A. Duncan, was called as the first witness of the day. He was called in the morning and the afternoon found him still on the stand.

The witness gave much the same testimony as at the first and the second trials, though there were one or two more points brought out, owing to the more lenient ruling of Judge Hunt than were put in evidence at the first and second trials. One statement of importance and one that will perhaps play an important part in the settlement of the case, was made by the witness, who told of having had a conversation with Marion R. Biggs in which Biggs stated that while no written contract could be made between Gesner and the applicants for timber lands, yet an understanding could be reached by which the claimants could know that they would be able to sell their claims to the firm of Williamson & Gesner at a stated figure, as soon as title had been gained from the government.

## Holding Its Grip.

New Orleans, Sept. 12.—The fact that the general mass of the people are not working with the same zeal that marked the earlier stages of the fight is given by the authorities as one of the reasons why yellow fever is not declining as steadily as it was a couple of weeks ago. The death rate continues to be exceedingly low, because the fever is now only occasionally found among the Italians, but more new cases are reported daily than the Marine hospital authorities expected would be reported at this time.

## Uniforms for Forest Service.

Washington, Sept. 12.—In the near future forest rangers and all field employees of the Forest service will be uniformed. Their suits, patterned after army uniforms, will be of drab green tint, the equipment to further consist of a gray flannel shirt, gray felt hat, black riding boots and double breasted overcoat to match the suit. Buttons bearing an embossed fir tree and the words "Forest Service" will be used on the uniforms.

## Crisis in Negotiations.

Christiania, Sept. 12.—The tone of the Norwegian newspapers indicates that the commissioners of Norway and Sweden, regarding the dissolution of the union, have reported an empane-

## EXPLOSION AT POWDER MILL.

Nineteen Men Killed and Entire Plant a Total Wreck.

Connellsville, Pa., Sept. 11.—The Rand powder mills, at Fairchance, six miles south of Uniontown, were entirely wiped out by an explosion today. Of the 32 men who went to work in the mills, 19 are known to be dead. Of these 13 have been identified.

Besides nine of the factory force who were seriously injured, scores of people in the town of Fairchance, within half a mile of the powder mills, were more or less painfully injured.

The shock of the explosion was distinctly felt in Connellsville, 20 miles away, buildings being rocked to their foundations. At Uniontown hundreds of panes of glass were broken. In the town of Fairchance there is scarcely a house that did not suffer damage. Hay stacks were toppled over in the fields, and livestock were stunned. The rails of the B. & O. and the West Pennsylvania Traction company were thrown from the roadbed and traffic delayed six hours. Train No. 52, on the B. & O., had a narrow escape from annihilation. It had just passed the Rand mills when the explosion occurred. The windows in the coaches were shattered and passengers thrown in a panic. A street car on the West Pennsylvania railway had also passed a few seconds before the explosion, and was far enough away to escape damage, though it was derailed.

## RIOTS ABOUT OVER.

Baku Situation Shows Marked Change for the Better.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 11.—The situation at Baku yesterday showed a slight but perceptible change for the better. Dispatches received here indicated that the rioters had made no headway in their attempts at incendiarism in the "black town" quarter, where comparative order was restored and only occasional shots were being fired. Several banks will reopen today.

Oil men, escorted by troops, were able for the first time to visit the oil fields, which for four days had been practically in the hands of the Tartars. They report scenes of indescribable destruction. About three quarters of the property there, they say, was burned to the ground, and plundering and incendiarism continued. Hundreds of tanks were destroyed, the pumping machinery is useless, and the houses of the workmen destroyed.

It is impossible to fix accurately the losses sustained, but rebuilding operations will take half a year if the workmen return immediately. One of the oil men estimated the number of dead at over 1,000, half of whom were killed in the city during the early rioting, but he admitted that the estimate was only a guess.

## POOR FOOD AT CANAL.

Condition at Panama Was Caused by Abnormal Rates.

New York, Sept. 11.—It was learned today that a condition of practical starvation which has several times recently threatened Panama canal laborers was one of the grounds which caused Theodore P. Shonts, chairman of the Panama Canal commission, to accept the J. E. Markel bid for supplying food to government employees at Panama, causing two unsuccessful bidders to protest to President Roosevelt. Chief Engineer John F. Stevens has been sending daily appeals to the canal commissioners' headquarters to send his men food.

It was said today by authority that the laborers who are doing the hard work have been for some time in a half starved condition, due to the fact that the demand for food has raised the prices of all commodities to abnormal figures in Panama. The dollar-a-day men, with eggs at 10 cents each and had meat from 20 to 40 cents a pound, have gone for two and three days at a time without any food except that got from sucking the wild cane in the swamps. They have gathered around the quarters of the officers, begging for food, and daily cables to Washington for food supplies have been the result. In this emergency one of the reasons for accepting the Markel bid, it is learned, was the fact that he has an organized force ready to put into Panama at once.

## Aguinaldo Still a Rebel.

Manila, Sept. 11.—Captain W. P. Baker, medical officer of the constabulary, serving in the province of Cavite, while testifying in a libel suit against the Renacimiento, a native newspaper, declared that Aguinaldo was in league with the native outlaws. He said that evidence to this effect was obtained from captured chiefs. "The people understand," he added, "that Aguinaldo is the director of the outlaw campaign, and supposedly peaceful natives are aiding the movement under the same understanding."

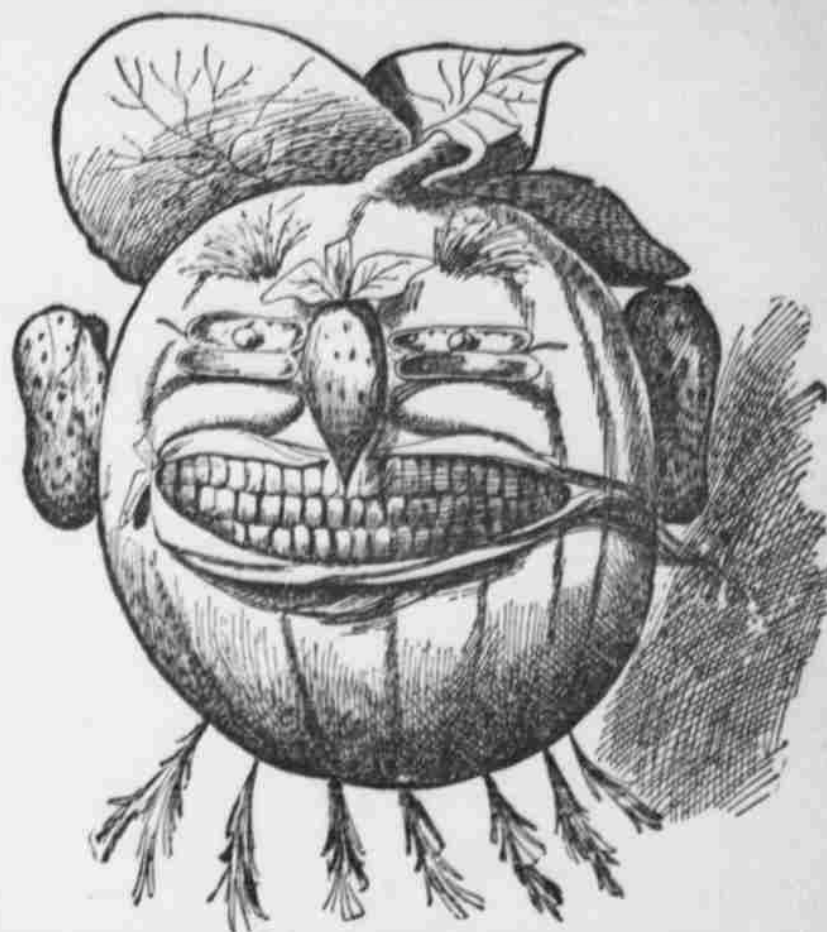
## Lay All Blame on Newspapers.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 11.—Local Japanese believe that the present riots are stirred up by the newspapers antagonistic to the government. It is believed here that the Japanese parliament, which is to convene in November, will explain the meaning of the peace treaty and the people will be satisfied. It is announced that, when the envoys left Japan, there was no expectation in government circles of securing an indemnity.

## Seven Deaths in 24 Hours.

Berlin, Sept. 11.—An official bulletin this afternoon announces that 19 new cases of cholera and seven deaths were reported during the 24 hours ending at noon.

## ALL READY FOR THE STATE FAIR.



clot at the back of the seat just above the head.

The fittings of the train are of the most sumptuous description. Electric light and electric fans are found everywhere. The chief feature of the train, however, is the fact that for the first time in the history of British railways valets and ladies' maids are carried, in addition to the guards and dining car attendants.

The ladies' maids are neatly attired in a black alpaca dress with white linen collar and cuffs, a nurse's bonnet, fancy apron and a badge in silver thread inscribed: "G. W. R. Lady's Attendant." The valets wear a smart serge uniform. The maids will constantly patrol the train to render services to ladies and children and they will specially watch over ladies traveling without an escort. The valets will do everything for a male passenger's comfort and at a pinch are prepared to clean his boots.

The new French De Glehn four-cylinder compound locomotives, the largest and most powerful engines yet seen in this country, have arrived at Swindon, and will be employed on the service when it starts.

## CORN MILL 92 YEARS OLD.

Yet Doing Duty in a Rural District of North Carolina.

The windmill here shown is 92 years old, and has steadily been doing duty grinding corn. It is just as busy as it



ever was, and bids fair to keep right on grinding for many decades. It is situated near Swanquits, N. C., and is a landmark which is held in highest consideration.

Delayer.

He was a laggard at wooling and the dear girl had quite lost her patience.

One evening he said in a casual way, "I'm a firm believer in the old proverb, 'Marry in haste and repent at leisure.'"

She looked up at him and smiled wearily.

"But, of course," she said, "that couldn't really interest you."

"And why not?" he asked.

"Because you wouldn't have any time left to repent in."

He thought this over for some time and finally saw the point. When he left an hour later they were engaged.

Moral Delirium Tremens.

"His talk is entirely too coarse to suit me."

"Oh! he's merely gotten into the habit of calling a spade a spade."

"I wouldn't mind that, but he insists upon calling lots of things spades that are not."—Philadelphia Press.

Something Wrong.

"Ob, yes, he's a self-made man."

"I thought you said his name was Taylor."

"Well?"

"Well, it takes nine tailors to make a man."—Philadelphia Press.

Trees Which Produce Oil.

In China there is a tree which produces oil. Recently about 1,000 were transplanted from China to California, and at last reports were doing well.

Why is it people always look at a man's socks when he takes off his shoes?