

CONDITIONS WORSE

Troops and Workmen Fight on Streets of Riga.

WARSHIPS TO REGAIN CONTROL

Provisional Government Has Been Established in Baltic Provinces—Public Buildings Burned.

St. Petersburg, via Eydtkuhnen, Dec. 16.—It is stated upon the highest authority that two cruisers and two torpedo boats have been ordered by the minister of Marine, acting under instructions of Count Witte, after an audience with the czar, to proceed from Libau to Riga and shell the city, if the revolutionists refuse to surrender.

A provisional government has been established there and the public buildings are occupied by representatives of the home rule party, who have determined to make Riga the capital of the Baltic provinces.

Barricades have been erected everywhere, and steamers arriving at the port are unable to communicate with the shore. Public buildings have been burned. The population is fleeing and merchants are abandoning their business.

The new strike law provides heavy penalties, and drastic punishment for participants and instigators of strikes. They may be sent to prison for from 18 months to four years for an offense.

Government Openly Defied.

Paris, Dec. 16.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Matin, under date of December 15, says the sudden return of the government to reactionary measures has aroused the interest of the revolutionaries, who are holding meetings and passing resolutions declaring their determination to resist the government. As the resolutions are passed they are forwarded to the ministers, who do not reply to them.

A St. Petersburg dispatch to the Journal, dated December 15, says: "At a meeting of engineers tonight it was resolved to demand the immediate release of Schmidt, the leader of the mutiny at Sevastopol."

"Alarming reports are arriving concerning the troops at Moscow, who appear to be thoroughly disaffected, and who, in addition to demanding increased pay and shorter terms of service, ask for liberty to read all newspapers."

DECREASE OF POSTOFFICES.

Result of Rural Delivery—Local Parcels Post Proposed.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The annual report of Fourth Assistant Postmaster General P. V. DeGraw says there has been a decrease of 575 in the new postmasters commissioned, as compared with the previous year. The actual number of postoffices in the United States at the close of the fiscal year was:

First class, 275; second class, 1,258; third class, 4,120; fourth class, 62,478; total, 68,131.

This, the report says, was a reduction, resulting mainly from the discontinuance of 3,492 fourth class postoffices during the year by reason of the establishment of rural free delivery. The aggregate compensation of the postmasters thus displaced amounted to \$198,994.

City free delivery had been extended during the year to 44 new postoffices, as against 69 in 1904. The gross receipts of free delivery offices during the year had increased 8 per cent and the cost only 2 per cent.

Mr. DeGraw renews the recommendation that a rate of 3 cents per pound or any fractional part thereof be fixed on packages not exceeding five pounds mailed at the distributing postoffice of any rural free delivery route. This rate should apply only to packages deposited in the local postoffice for delivery to boxes of patrons on routes emanating from that office, and not to mail transmitted from one office to another.

Army of Strike Breakers.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—The Chicago Employers' association, at a meeting today, formulated plans for the establishment of a standing army of laborers, both skilled and unskilled and representing every branch of trade to be prepared to go to any city in the United States to fill the places of strikers when necessary. The scope of the association will be extended so as to include every city in the United States with a population of 50,000 or more. Employment bureaus will be maintained where nonunion workmen can register.

Promotion for MacArthur.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The authoritative statement was made at the War department today that, on the retirement in September next of General Corbin, who will succeed General Bates in April next as lieutenant general of the army, General MacArthur, the officer next in line of succession, will be promoted to the grade of lieutenant general. It also was announced that General Wood probably will succeed General Corbin in the Philippine division.

Horizontal Reduction of Tariff.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Senator McCrea yesterday introduced a bill to reduce the tariff of the United States by providing that there shall be levied upon all articles imported from foreign countries a rate equal to three fourths of the present schedule.

LAI D TO REST.

Funeral of the Late Senator John H. Mitchell Takes Place.

Portland, Dec. 13.—Impressive funeral services over the body of John H. Mitchell were held at the First Congregational church yesterday afternoon. The large auditorium was crowded to the doors long before 2 o'clock, the hour when the ceremonies began. In the front pews sat the members of Hasalo lodge No. 15, I. O. O. F., Portland lodge No. 142, B. P. O. E., and the Portland bar. The pallbearers occupied seats at the right and the public filled the remainder of the building. All of the available standing room was filled and hundreds were turned away.

The Elks were in charge of the funeral services from the time that the body was taken from the city hall, where it had lain in state during the morning, until the ceremony at the church was over and the long procession of carriages started for Riverview cemetery, where interment took place in the family lot. The services at the grave were conducted by the Odd Fellows in accordance with the ritualistic procedure for their departed members.

At the church, aside from the ceremony of the Elks' ritual, there were beautiful anthems, an eulogy by D. Solis Cohen, and prayer by Dr. E. L. House. One of the notable features of the occasion was the reading by Dr. House of Senator Mitchell's favorite poem, "Not Understood."

The floral pieces were a cause of comment, because of their beauty and profusion. They completely covered the coffin, which was encased in black broadcloth and had extension bar handles after the style of casket used only for the interment of men who have held high public position.

BURTON FOR JETTY.

Pledges Himself to Secure Appropriation This Winter.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Chairman Burton, of the house rivers and harbors committee, is not only in favor of making an appropriation this session for continuing the improvement at the mouth of the Columbia river, but he will, at the proper time, take off his coat and go to work to get sufficient money to keep work in progress until another river and harbor bill can be passed. How he will strive to accomplish this result Mr. Burton has not decided, but in conference with Senator Fulton he expressed his friendship for the project, and said he was fully aware of the necessity for making an appropriation this winter.

Chairman Burton, who is in a position to do more for the mouth of the Columbia river than any man in the house of representatives, will work in behalf of that project with double energy in view of the fact that Oregon has no representation in that body to look after her interests. He will not let the Columbia go because there is no one from Oregon to press its claim, but will himself shoulder the burden which would have fallen on the Oregon congressmen had it been possible for them to attend this session. He will have the hearty co-operation of Representative Jones, of Washington, who is also on the rivers and harbors committee, and who is anxious to aid in procuring an appropriation for continuing work on the jetty.

SENATOR JOHN M. GEARIN.

Governor Chamberlain Appoints Successor to Mitchell.

Salem, Dec. 14.—John M. Gearin was yesterday formally appointed United States senator to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator John H. Mitchell, and his commission was taken to him by W. B. Ayer, who was in Salem on business. The appointment caused no surprise, for it has been believed by all who have given the matter any attention that Mr. Gearin would receive the appointment. The selection meets general commendation here and the opinion is quite frequently expressed that the new senator will be of material assistance in securing from congress the recognition Oregon expects in the way of public improvements.

"I shall start for Washington just as soon as possible—probably on Saturday," said Mr. Gearin. "Governor Chamberlain made the appointment quickly in order that Oregon might be represented at Washington at once. I ought to respond by going immediately, and I shall do so. I don't know that the governor has picked out the best man for the place, but I am going to do the best I can in it."

Recount Not Legal.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 15.—The Court of Appeals in a decision handed down today in the New York City ballot-box case sustains the contention of counsel for Mayor McClellan and denies that of attorneys for William R. Hearst and his colleagues on the Municipal Ownership ticket. The court holds, as was argued by ex-Chief Judge Parker and his associates, that the courts have no power under the election law to order by mandamus the opening of the ballot boxes and a recount and canvass of ballots.

River Leaves Its Channel.

Sacramento, Dec. 15.—J. B. Lippincott, hydrographic engineer, and Engineer E. C. Grunsky, have reported to Governor Pardee that the conditions at the Colorado river are very serious. Nearly all of the river has left its channel and is flowing through the Imperial canal. Some of the water is being diverted into the volcanic lakes, and unless steps are taken to strengthen and heighten the banks of the lakes, the water will flood Imperial valley.

Complaints on Illegal Fishing.

Tillamook—Deputy Fish Warden H. A. Webster has filed two complaints in Justice Haberkamp's court on account of the alleged violation of the fishing law in Tillamook bay. One is against the Elmore Packing company, and the other against W. W. Ridebaugh, manager of the cannery at Garibaldi.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

MEET AT PORTLAND IN JANUARY

Development League and Press Association to Hold Joint Session.

The Oregon Development league and the Oregon Press association will hold a joint convention under the auspices of the Portland Commercial club, January 12 and 13. A rate of one fare for the round trip will be made from Roseburg and all points south and from Pendleton and all points east. The rate from those points nearer Portland will be a fare and a third for the round trip. The program of this meeting is now being prepared and gives promise of being the most interesting of its character yet held in this state—elaborate preparations for entertainment are also being made by the Portland Commercial club. In addition to the joint meeting of the two organizations there will be business meetings of each, while sections will discuss a particular industry only.

Excursion to California.

Under the auspices of the Oregon Development league, and immediately following the joint convention of the league and Press association, an Oregon excursion will be run to California. While the special train will start from Portland the party will be made up of members from all parts of the state. Each individual ticket, including round trip fare, Pullman berth to Los Angeles and three meals on the diner, will be \$63—when two persons occupy one berth, charge will be \$58 each. The trip to Los Angeles, including stops at principal California points, will occupy about six days. At Los Angeles the party will disembark, returning as they choose according to special railroad arrangement. Secretary Tom Richardson of the Oregon Development league, will furnish any information, and those desiring to go should send their names to him.

CURE OF THE INSANE.

Good Record the Past Year at the Oregon Asylum.

Salem—An unusually good record in the curing of patients has kept down the number of inmates of the state insane asylum and has probably averted congestion at that institution. When the last legislature met, there was every reason to believe that the construction of a new wing would be absolutely necessary within the ensuing two years. An appropriation for an addition of three wards was made, but the appropriation was included in the omnibus appropriation bill and was held up by the referendum. Construction of new rooms was therefore made impossible.

The usual rate of increase in population at the asylum is 50 per year, and at that rate the institution would have been crowded to the limit before another legislature could take action. Of late, however, a large number of patients have been discharged.

Should the next legislature make an appropriation for a new wing, containing three wards, it will be at least two years from the present time before the addition would be ready for occupancy. There is now room for 68 more patients in the men's department and ten in the women's department. Unless, therefore, the present low rate of increase continues, the building will be full before the capacity can be enlarged.

In any event it will be necessary to transform one of the men's wards into a ward for women, and probably it will be necessary to use some of the men's smoking rooms for dormitories.

Take Water From Minam River.

La Grande—Articles of incorporation have been filed for the Grand Ronde Irrigation company, with a capital stock of \$100,000. The incorporators are Walter M. Pierce, C. H. Crawford and T. R. Berry. The object is to secure 10,000 inches of water for irrigating in Grand Ronde. The water is to be secured from Minam river by means of canals, conduits and pipe lines. It will be the most extensive irrigation project in this section.

New Cut-Off Nearly Done.

McMinnville—The new St. Joseph-Lafayette cut-off, which is nearly completed, will enable the Yamhill division of the Southern Pacific to have regular trains over the new road within a short time. The new stretch of track is nearly two and a half miles long, and will do away with keeping up the nine miles of road from Whiteson to Lafayette and the big bridge near the latter place. If the present schedule remains in force, three trains a day will run into Portland—at 6 and 8 a. m. and 3 p. m.

Snow Falls Early.

Burns—The first snow storm of the year has visited this county, and snow is now 12 inches deep in the valley and three feet on the mountains. This is more snow than fell all last winter, and old settlers say it is more than has fallen in this time of year since the hard winter of 1887-88, when 75 per cent of the stock perished. The early snow indicates a long, cold winter, but the stockmen have plenty of fodder for five months' feeding.

Complaints on Illegal Fishing.

Tillamook—Deputy Fish Warden H. A. Webster has filed two complaints in Justice Haberkamp's court on account of the alleged violation of the fishing law in Tillamook bay. One is against the Elmore Packing company, and the other against W. W. Ridebaugh, manager of the cannery at Garibaldi.

DIGGING LONG TUNNEL.

Baker City Irrigation Co. to Conduct Water Through Hill.

Baker City—The 500-foot tunnel of the Baker City Irrigation company through the hill on which is situated the city reservoir is under way by a gang of 40 men, with all the necessary machinery. Work was commenced at both ends simultaneously, and unless the plans of the engineers go wrong, the two crews will meet in the middle of the hill.

When completed this will be the greatest irrigation tunnel in Eastern Oregon.

The entire cost of the tunnel will be about \$40,000, while the system this company is putting in will cost over \$100,000. The headgates are on Powder river, about seven miles above Baker City. The ditch follows the foothills down to the big reservoir hill, where a tunnel was found necessary. After leaving the tunnel the water will be taken around the east side of Baker City and put on about 5,000 acres of land adjoining the city limits on the northeast.

This land will be devoted to fruit raising and small farming. E. L. Smith, of Hood River, is at the head of the company building this ditch, and it is the first and only irrigation project of any magnitude in Baker county.

Linn Farms May Yield Oil.

Albany—Are the foothills of Linn county charged with crude oil that will make the owners of the land fabulously rich? This question is agitating the minds of a large number of people since the investigation of the land has been taken up by A. A. Horter, William S. Harris and W. F. Keady. For some time these men have been prospecting in the coal fields around LaComb, and now have arranged to lease several hundred acres in that neighborhood for the avowed purpose of boring for oil.

Linn County Taxes Fixed.

Albany—At the regular December term of the county court for Linn county the tax levy for Linn county for all purposes was fixed. The total levy to be paid by residents of the county who are not subject to a city tax will be 21 mills. This includes state, county and the several special taxes, divided as follows: State, 6.5 mills; school, 5.4 mills; county, 3 mills; roads and bridges, 4 mills; indigent soldiers, 0.1 mills; special road, 2 mills; total, 21 mills.

Line to Run Through Vale.

Vale—A corps of railroad engineers, who arrived in Vale several weeks ago, left recently for the Malheur canyon, about 14 miles west of Vale, in the vicinity of the proposed government irrigation canal. Here they are surveying the land for the road, which it is said will soon be built through Malheur valley, touching at Vale. Several very important meetings of citizens have been held to consider plans for benefiting the city.

Bright Outlook for Show.

Albany—December 19 to 23 are the dates set for the annual exhibition of blooded fowls under the auspices of the Linn County Poultry association. This bazaar promises to be one of the best yet held, and many prizes will be offered for the best exhibits, for many of which there is material in Linn county.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 72c per bushel; blue-stem, 74c; valley, 73c; red, 68c.

Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$27.00; gray, \$26.50 per ton.

Barley—Feed, \$22.25 to 25 per ton; brewing, \$22.50 to 23; rolled, \$23 to 25.

Rye—\$1.50 per cental.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$14.50 to 15.50 per ton; valley timothy, \$11 to 12; clover, \$8 to 9; cheat, \$5.50 to 9.50; grain hay, \$8 to 9.

Fruits—Apples, \$1 to 1.50 per box; pears, \$1.25 to 1.50 per box.

Vegetables—Beans, wax, 12c per pound; cabbage, 10 to 12c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.25 per crate; celery, 45 to 75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50 to 60c per dozen; pumpkins, 3 to 4c per pound; tomatoes, \$1 to 1.25 per crate; sprouts, 7c per pound; squash, 3 to 4c per pound; turnips, 90c to \$1 per sack; carrots, 65 to 75c per sack; beets, 85c to \$1 per sack.

Onions—Oregon yellow Danvers, \$1 to 1.25 per sack.

Potatoes—Fancy graded Burbanks, 65 to 75c per sack; ordinary, 55 to 60c; Merced sweets, sacks, \$1.90; crates, \$2.15.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 27 to 30c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 35c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 12c per lb; young roosters, 10 to 11c; springs, 11 to 12c; dressed chickens, 12 to 13c; turkeys, live, 16c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 17 to 18c; geese, live, 9 to 10c; ducks, 14 to 15c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, choice, 10 to 11 1/2c per pound; olds, 5 to 7c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 16 to 21c per pound; valley, 24 to 26c; mohair, choice, 30c.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 1 to 2c per pound; cows, 3 to 4c; country steers, 4 to 5c.

Veal—Dressed, 3 to 7 1/2c per pound.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 7 to 7 1/2c per pound; ordinary, 4 to 5c; lambs, 7 to 7 1/2c.

Pork—Dressed, 6 to 7c per pound.

CANAL BILL IS FIRST.

An Emergency Appropriation Will Be Passed in Some Form.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The first important measure which will involve the attention of the senate will be the Panama canal emergency appropriation bill, and its consideration will begin this week. Some senators predict that it will become a law before the close of the week, but others have expressed the opinion that final action will be deferred until the week following. There will be no effort to prevent the passage of the bill in some shape, but there will be some opposition to the proposed restoration of the \$5,000,000 subtracted from the house from the amount to be appropriated.

Regardless of the sum, the bill will be used as a basis for the general discussion of the canal question. It is expected that the debate will deal largely with the question as to whether the canal shall be constructed on the sea level. There is some conflict of opinion as to whether the bill shall be referred to the committee on appropriations or to the committee on interoceanic canals.

The general expectation is there may be comparatively little additional legislation before the Christmas holidays. Several other measures will be vigorously pressed during the session, but with the exception of the merchant marine bill, the sponsors of the bills do not count upon getting early consideration. Senator Gallinger will call up the merchant marine bill at the first opportunity and is hopeful that debate will not be long delayed.

No one counts upon even getting a report from committee on the railroad rate bill until some time after the holidays. The three measures mentioned are considered the most important that will come before the senate this session, and they will receive much attention until they are finally disposed of.

The consideration by the senate of the joint statehood bill and the bill for the reduction of the duty on Philippine importations into the United States will necessarily be postponed until after the holidays. No one now expects any effort to modify the tariff, unless in the direction of Senator Lodge's bill providing for a maximum and minimum rate. The Massachusetts senator regards this proposal with much more favor and will press it strenuously.

TOO MUCH FREE MAIL.

Postmaster General Points Out Cause of Deficit.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Postmaster General Cortelyou, in his annual report for the past fiscal year, says that while a self-sustaining condition of the postoffice would be gratifying, he is less concerned about the deficit than the efficiency of the administration. For the fiscal year 1905 the total receipts from all sources were \$152,826,584, and the total expenditures \$167,399,169, leaving a deficit of \$14,572,584. In connection with these figures the postmaster general directs attention to the increased amount of free matter handled, which he says averaged 12.58 per cent of the entire weight carried, or a loss in revenue of \$19,822,000.

"Manifestly," he says, "had the matter carried free been required to have been prepaid, notwithstanding the large expenditures for the rural free delivery service, there would have been no deficit."

Answering some of the criticisms which he says have been directed against the postal service, the postmaster general says that most of it overlooks the unusual conditions existing in this country, its great extent of territory and its widely scattered population. With the introduction of rural free delivery as yet unfinished, and other details of postal development incomplete, he thinks it the part of wisdom to proceed conservatively until the present service is more perfected.

Grist of Bills Before House.

Washington, Dec. 12.—That there will be no lack of legislative proposals is indicated by the 5,963 bills which have already been introduced in the house since the opening of this session. Many of these are known as private bills, affecting only individual interests. The holiday adjournment, it is believed, will be fixed on as Thursday, December 21. Leaders are disposed to expedite consideration of the Philippine tariff bill and hearings will undoubtedly begin as soon as the ways and means committee has organized.

Boycott All Foreigners.

Shanghai, Dec. 12.—As the result of a dispute over a kidnaping case in a mixed court between Chinese magistrates and the municipal police, a fight followed. The Chinese of the city became greatly excited and held meetings at which 3,000 merchants declared that a boycott on foreign goods be begun at once and that taxes would not be paid unless the police inspectors concerned in the dispute are removed forthwith. The situation is serious.

Powers Asked to Intercede.

Antwerp, Dec. 12.—A group of international lawyers is endeavoring to induce the powers to intercede with the Turkish government in the case of Edward Jors, a Belgian, who was condemned to death by a native court at Constantinople for alleged participation in an attempt to assassinate the sultan in July last.

Mutiny in Penitentiary.

Havana, Dec. 12.—The convicts in the penitentiary mutinied tonight and a fierce fight between them and the guards followed, in which two of the prisoners were mortally wounded, 16 more or less seriously wounded and three of the guards slightly injured.

VERY LITTLE DONE

Both Houses of Congress Slow in Getting to Business.

CANNON ANNOUNCES COMMITTEES

Senate Takes Up Railroad Rates and Refers Bill for Canal Appropriation to Committee.

Washington, Dec. 12.—With spirited debate on the subjects of railroad rate legislation, arising through the introduction of a bill by Mr. Tillman to authorize the Interstate Commerce commission to fix maximum rates, and of the Panama canal, due to a controversy over the reference of the emergency appropriation bill to a committee, yesterday's session of the senate continuously proved interesting for more than four hours.

An adjournment was taken without a mention of the late Senator Mitchell of Oregon, and so for the first time the death of a senator was permitted to pass unnoticed by the senate. The estate of Mr. Mitchell's name from the rolls followed. Chaplain Hale recalled the situation to mind in his prayer by referring pointedly to corruption and death and by praying that members of the senate be given strength to bear each other's burdens.

After more than a score of senators had discussed the Panama bill it was referred to the appropriation committee by a vote of 40 to 23.

The senate then, at 4:30 p. m., went into executive session and at 8:10 adjourned.

In the House.

The only matter of importance coming up in the house was the announcement of committee appointments by Speaker Cannon, after which adjournment was taken until Wednesday.

Northwest Committeemen.

Humphrey, Wash., was placed on the merchant marine and fisheries committee; Jones, Wash., rivers and harbors; French, Idaho, public lands and immigration and naturalization; Herman, Ore., Indian affairs; Williamson, Ore., mines and mining and irrigation of arid lands; Cushman, Wash., stays on interstate and foreign commerce and on private land claims.

The following are the principal committees with chairman: Ways and means, Payne; appropriations, Tammey; foreign affairs, Pitt; judiciary, Atkins; military affairs, Hull; naval affairs, Foss; insular affairs, Cooper; banking and currency, Fowler; merchant marine and fisheries, Grosvenor; territories, Hamilton; elections, Mann; rivers and harbors, Burton; railways and canals, Davidson; agriculture, Wadsworth; postoffices and post roads, Overstreet; public lands, Lacy; Indian affairs, Sherman; manufactures, Ribley; mines and mining, Brown; invalid pensions, Sulloway; pensions, Loudenslager; claims, Miller; war claims, Mallon; irrigation of arid lands, Mondell; immigration and naturalization, Howell; printing, Wachter.

FRANCE WEARY OF WAITING.

Patience is Becoming Exhausted by Castro's Procrastination.

Washington, Dec. 12.—France has refused to withdraw her note to Venezuela, protesting against President Castro's treatment of M. Taign, the French diplomatic representative. M. Jusserand, the French ambassador, had a long conference with Secretary Root today regarding the Venezuelan situation, which it can be announced on high authority is daily growing worse. France, it is understood, would have taken steps to protect her own interests in Venezuela before this, had it not been for the unwillingness of the French government to make any move which would hinder or embarrass the settlement of the American troubles with Venezuela. This is thoroughly understood by Secretary Root and although Mr. Russell, the American minister, is still endeavoring to assist in reaching a peaceful settlement of affairs at Caracas, it is evident that French patience is about exhausted.

Bill for Federal Control.

Washington, Dec. 12.—A novel method of seeing Federal control over insurance is proposed in a bill introduced yesterday by Representative Landis, of Indiana. The bill cites that congress has exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, the territories and the insular possessions of the United States. In consequence authority is given the department of Commerce and Labor to require full statements from all insurance companies doing business within such jurisdiction over which congress controls.

Mitchell Case Dismissed.

Washington, Dec. 12.—On motion of ex-Senator Thurston, Chief Justice Fuller, on behalf of the Supreme court of the United States, today directed the issuance of an order dismissing the appeal of the late Senator Mitchell in the case against him. The proceeding was brief. Senator Thurston announced the death of the Oregon senator and moved the dismissal of the case. The chief justice merely remarked that this course was usual in criminal cases.

Sympathy for Russian Jews.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Representative Sulzer, of New York, yesterday introduced a resolution of sympathy for Russian Jews.