

REPORT ON CANAL

Isthmus Has Been Made Healthy as First Essential.

PAYROLL OF \$600,000 A MONTH

Working Year Will Be of Only Eight Months, Owing to Difficulties of Rainy Season.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Conditions on the Isthmus of Panama and the progress which is being made on the gigantic enterprise before the Canal commission were set forth in the annual report of that body for the year ending December 1, submitted to President Roosevelt today. According to the report, the work up to this time has been confined mostly to the preparatory operations, although some excavation work has been in progress which will be mostly of use in making estimates upon the cost of future excavation. Sanitary conditions have also received much attention, and as a result the health of the isthmus is now in good shape.

While this preparatory work has been in progress, very little has been done in the way of actual excavation. Eleven steam shovels have been in operation in Culebra cut and approximately 1,000,000 cubic yards of material have been removed. By this work the levels of the cut are being put in condition for the installation of the largest number of machines which can be effectively operated, and data is being gathered which will be useful for estimates of the cost of future construction.

The chief engineer, John F. Stevens, reports that the working year will be of only eight months, due to the rainy season. The problem of the Culebra cut is simply a matter of disposing of the material excavated. He also states the necessity of obtaining more efficient labor, and asserts that there are exceptional opportunities for young men from the United States to secure good positions.

A thorough business administration of affairs on the isthmus, he says, is essential. The old railroad used by the French company, was in bad condition, especially the rolling stock.

The payroll on the isthmus at present amounts to approximately \$600,000 a month. An immediate appropriation is therefore necessary.

GOOD HAVEN FOR BIG THIEVES.

Cannot Be Extradited From France and Germany.

Washington, Dec. 30.—It is probable that steps will soon be taken by the State department to secure a revision of the existing extradition treaties with France and Germany. Recent events have drawn attention to some very serious defects in the old conventions, and it is feared that before long France and Germany will become havens of refuge for a certain class of American criminals.

Within the past fortnight, the chief of police of Hoboken cabled a request to the Paris municipal authorities to arrest and return to the United States a man named Sasola on the charge of grand larceny. The French authorities were surprised at this request, coming not through the American embassy, and, finding that no regular application had been made for extradition, placed him at liberty. In the course of the proceedings it was discovered that there was absolutely no provision in the extradition treaty for the surrender of a person charged with grand larceny. The treaty with Prussia and the German states, made in 1852, likewise fails to include grand larceny as an extraditable crime.

Send Squadron to Relief.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Washington says: The administration will send a squadron, and not a single ship, to European waters for use in the Russian crisis, in case American life and property are menaced. At a conference yesterday between the president, Secretary Root and Secretary Bonaparte, instructions were given Admiral Sigsbee, commanding the cruiser division of the North Atlantic fleet, to proceed to Madeira. Then, if necessary, the squadron will go to the Baltic.

Yerkes at Death's Door.

New York, Dec. 30.—A bulletin was issued tonight relative to the condition of Charles T. Yerkes, stating there had been no change in the past 24 hours. Dr. Loomis, the attending physician, added that, while there were no immediate symptoms of approaching death, the end might come at any moment. Mr. Yerkes' business affairs in London are said to have been recently so arranged that they will not be jeopardized by his illness.

May Quarrel With Germany.

London, Dec. 30.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Times reports that the relations between Russia and Germany are distinctly strained and that there is a possibility of international complications arising from the rebellion in the Baltic provinces.

Rebel Plans All Foiled.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 30.—The energetic measures taken by the government have completely overturned the plans of the revolutionists in St. Petersburg. Practically all the leaders have been arrested.

AFTER THE OIL BARONS.

Missouri Summons W. G. Rockefeller and Six Others.

New York, Dec. 29.—William G. Rockefeller, son of William Rockefeller, was, it was learned yesterday, served Christmas evening with a subpoena to appear at a hearing in the case of the state of Missouri against the Standard Oil company at the offices of Henry Wollman, here January 5. Christmas day is a legal service day, though most holidays are not a proper service time for subpoenas. The service was made as Mr. Rockefeller was stepping into his automobile in front of his residence.

Edward T. Bedford, also one of the directors of the Standard Oil company, was served with a subpoena in the same proceedings.

Henry Wollman, New York counsel for the state of Missouri in the proceedings, said yesterday that he thought some of the Standard Oil men were attempting to evade service.

"They are making it very difficult for us," he said, "but we are succeeding steadily. We have already served seven. The hearing will begin January 5 and Attorney General Hadley and I will take the testimony of all the witnesses we get by that time, and then we will adjourn from time to time to get all of them. It is probable that we will give notice to take depositions in some of the neighboring states, where some of them are now residing temporarily."

BOYCOTT IN ALL PROVINCES.

Will Be Continued Until Exclusion Law is Relaxed.

New York, Dec. 29.—Dr. F. F. Tong, the representative of the Chinese government who is here to create a public sentiment against the exclusion law, as administered, declared yesterday that there would be no abatement of the boycott in China against American goods until the desired change was made.

He said that his most recent advices indicate that the movement of retaliation had spread to every province of the empire. Everywhere merchants and their customers are working together to shut out goods made in the United States. At Tien Tsin, Dr. Tong asserted, mills for the production of cotton and woolen goods have been started, and a flour mill is in operation. Women are heart and soul with the men in the fight against American goods. In purchasing powder for their faces the first question they ask is: "Was it made in America?" If the answer is affirmative, they refuse to buy.

"What we are seeking to accomplish," said Dr. Tong, "is an adjustment of the law and its administration that will put a stop to the injustice to which Chinese in this country are constantly subjected."

CLAIM FOR STEAMERS.

Heirs of Rebel Commodore Revive Civil War Incident.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Secretary Shaw and the United States treasurer are defendants in a suit instituted today in the Federal court here to recover from the government the value of 25 steamboats alleged to have been taken from James E. Montgomery during the Civil war by men representing themselves to be military officers of the United States.

Mr. Montgomery, who is now dead, was a prominent steamboat owner, and lived in St. Louis. The suit is brought by the trustee of the Montgomery estate, who seeks to recover \$250,000 for the heirs. The petition states that Mr. Montgomery opposed secession, but was compelled to cast his lot with the Confederacy, as his property interests were chiefly in Mississippi. He became a commodore in the Confederate navy, but was the first Confederate officer to take the oath of allegiance to the United States after the war.

He took the oath in the presence of General U. S. Grant, his neighbor, who was the first Federal officer to congratulate him on his return to the support of the Union.

Warships to Santo Domingo.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The gunboat Paducah left Norfolk today for Monte Cristi. The Navy department has advised Rear Admiral Bradford of her departure, and that she will be at his disposal as soon as she arrives in Dominican waters. The Paducah is a sister ship to the Duquesne, and will be attached to the squadron guarding American interests in the West Indies. As soon as she can be commissioned, the cruiser Dixie will be ordered to the West Indies, carrying a strong marine guard.

Purchase Oregon City Locks.

Washington, Dec. 29.—When congress reconvenes after the holidays, Senator Fulton will introduce a bill authorizing the secretary of war to purchase the canal and locks at Oregon City, provided they can be had for \$600,000. If a higher price is asked, his bill authorizes their acquisition by condemnation. There has been loud clamor for free navigation on the Willamette, and this bill is intended to do away with the tolls.

Morales Severely Wounded.

Washington, Dec. 29.—The Navy department has received a cablegram from Commander Chambers, of the gunboat Nashville, dated Puerto Plata last night, stating that he had been informed from a government source that President Morales had been shot and seriously wounded.

Will Adopt Extreme Measures.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 28.—After an exciting meeting of the workmen's delegates to the Union of Unions, it was decided to continue the strike and adopt the most desperate measures.

SALARIES TOO LOW

Poor Service Rendered by Cheap Clerks in Postoffices.

MONEY ORDERS SHOW INCREASE

Large Amount of Money Received in Dead Letters Mailed to Fraudulent Concerns.

Washington, Dec. 28.—In his annual report made today First Assistant Postmaster General Hitchcock says that the low salaries paid clerks in first and second class postoffices are decreasing the standard of efficiency. It is impossible, he says, to induce efficient men to enter his branch of the service, when the salary to begin with is but \$600 a year, with no certainty of promotion for perhaps several years.

Mr. Hitchcock strongly recommends a discontinuance of the practice of installing postoffices in public buildings devoted in part to other branches of the government service. The best type of quarters for postoffice purposes, he says, is a single large room in a one-story building.

Much embarrassment has been occasioned the postal authorities to provide emergency mail facilities in mining towns, and Mr. Hitchcock recommends an emergency appropriation of \$75,000 to meet such requirements.

There has been an increase of more than \$18,000,000 in the amount of domestic and of more than \$5,000,000 in the amount of foreign money orders issued during the year over the year preceding.

While the number of undelivered letters which are on their way to the dead letter office during the year was smaller than during the previous year, the number of undelivered letters with valuable enclosures greatly increased. General prosperity of the country is given as one reason; another is the suppression by the department of concerns using the mails for fraudulent purposes. Mail for such concerns containing money, money orders and commercial paper was received at the dead letter office in unusual quantities. Nearly 11,000,000 pieces of mail were received at the dead letter office during the year, including 1,668 that failed of delivery in the Panama canal zone.

Over 1,500,000 cases of alleged indecent and scurrilous matter received attention. In the summer the influx of offensive pictorial post cards became so great as to call for a special order by the department looking to the abatement of the nuisance. As a result of this order, many thousands of objectionable cards have been withdrawn from the mails by postmasters and forwarded to the department for destruction.

FLOUR TRADE MENACED.

Puget Sound Mill's Oriental Business Falls 30 Per Cent.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 28.—According to Superintendent Armstrong, of the Tacoma Warehouse & Sperry Mills company, the boycott in China is proving a serious menace to the milling interests of Tacoma. Where years ago full cargoes of flour were being shipped to China and mills were running overtime to fill orders, shipments to the Orient have fallen off over 30 per cent and mills are running only part of the time.

"The boycott in China has knocked the bottom out of the flour business, as far as exports are concerned," said Superintendent Armstrong. "Local freight keeps up well but we need foreign shipments. It would be good business policy to get that boycott out of the way as soon as possible."

Ralph Smith agent of the Puget Sound Flouring Mills company, says:

"We are shipping less flour than usual to China, and the boycott is responsible for it. I don't know what else could be the trouble. Home trade keeps up about as usual."

Volcano Smothers Savail.

San Francisco, Dec. 28.—According to the passengers who arrived yesterday on the liner Ventura, the volcano on the island of Savail, in the Samoan group, is still in vigorous activity. The blaze from the crater at night, it is said, is visible at sea many miles away. The lava has covered an area of 30 square miles. This molten flow has filled 11 miles of a deep valley and is heading for the seashore. Natives whose homes are near the beach are preparing to abandon their houses and coconut groves on short notice.

Many Horses Fall Dead.

New York, Dec. 28.—Afflicted with spinal meningitis, more than a score of horses dropped dead in the streets of Williamsburg today, and at least half of them succumbed to the disease before a veterinary could reach them. Every veterinary surgeon in Williamsburg was called into service, and they were kept busy from before daylight until tonight trying to check the spread of the disease. Up to 6 o'clock one had been called to attend 18 cases.

Will Adopt Extreme Measures.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 28.—After an exciting meeting of the workmen's delegates to the Union of Unions, it was decided to continue the strike and adopt the most desperate measures.

BATTLE IN MOSCOW.

Rebels Receive Reinforcements From Neighboring Cities.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 27.—The battle in Moscow is still raging, the victory being undecided. Considerable reinforcements for the revolutionists have arrived from the neighboring districts of Yaroslavl, Vladimir and Tambov. The loyal troops of the government now in Moscow number 8,000 cavalry and Cossacks, while the infantry regiments there incline toward the revolutionists. The number of killed and wounded in the fighting thus far exceeds 10,000. The artillery and fire lighted by the revolutionists have destroyed many blocks of houses, and it is feared that Moscow will be involved in a conflagration before the present struggle is over.

Members of the government are reported to believe, from information which has reached them, that the Moscow affair is only a demonstration, and that the decisive battle with the revolutionists is to be fought in St. Petersburg before many days. In this city and its suburbs and on the frontier of Finland are concealed large quantities of revolutionary arms and ammunition. Eighty thousand laborers are expected to march on the capital from Narva and Revel at the appointed time. At present, however, the city is comparatively quiet.

Encounters with strikers in the suburbs have lately caused the death or injury of several hundred victims. The chief city surgeon, M. Rosen, says he examined the wounded and killed and found among them many schoolboys and young girls. This fact further affords proof of the cruelty of the Cossacks.

NO INTERVENTION.

Civil War in Santo Domingo No Affair of United States.

Washington, Dec. 27.—For the present there will not be any interference by the United States in the difficulty which has arisen in Santo Domingo. The trouble is regarded by the State department officials as entirely an internal one, and so long as outside interests are not menaced this attitude of non-intervention will be maintained.

If, however, conditions should change materially and lawless acts should be committed against Americans and American interests, involving the collection of the Dominican customs by this government, or other violence should occur which, in the opinion of the officials here would make it proper for this government to interfere, this step will be taken, and measures adopted to quell the trouble.

This decision was reached by State department officials during the day and was confirmed at a conference at the white house late this afternoon, in which the president and Secretaries Taft, Root and Bonaparte participated. The cabinet officers remained in the white house until nearly 6 o'clock. The gathering, however, was not called specifically for the purpose of discussing matters bearing on the developments in Santo Domingo, but to talk over a number of questions which the president was anxious to dispose of preliminarily to his departure for an outing of several days in Virginia.

SMITH TO BE GOVERNOR.

Will Soon Succeed Wright in Philippine Possessions.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Despite denials and assurances recently credited to Governor Luke E. Wright, there is no longer serious doubt of the administration's purpose to make a change in the head of the Philippine government. James F. Smith, formerly of San Francisco, now a member of the Philippine commission, is the man picked for the succession as governor general. His installation in the post is likely to be accomplished in the not distant future.

Abolish Hanging in Jersey.

New York, Dec. 27.—Assemblyman Berg, of New Jersey, has drafted a bill to abolish capital punishment in that state, and will go to Trenton tomorrow to ask Governor Stokes to grant reprieves to all condemned murderers until the legislature shall have acted on the question. If Governor Stokes accedes to the Assemblyman's request, two women, Mrs. Valentine and Mrs. Lotta, and a man awaiting death in the Hackensack jail, and three men under sentences in other county jails, will be given reprieves until well into spring.

Big Factory Building Burns.

New York, Dec. 27.—Five alarms, summoning 32 fire companies and the reserves from nine police precincts, were sent out tonight for a blaze which completely gutted the six-story factory buildings, Nos. 102, 104, 106 Wooster street, entailing a damage estimated at \$300,000. Five firemen sustained slight injuries. No one was in the building when the fire started and its origin is unknown. Some insurance was carried.

China Makes Demands.

London, Dec. 27.—The correspondent of the Morning Post at Shanghai says that the Chinese foreign office has instructed the Chinese minister at London to negotiate with the British government regarding the mixed court dispute, to demand the dismissal of the British ambassador, and to insist on the punishment of the police concerned in the recent outbreak.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

BUY FORESTRY BUILDING.

State Board of Agriculture Proposes Moving It to Salem.

Salem.—At the meeting of the state board of agriculture last week John H. Albert, of the Lewis and Clark fair commission, submitted a communication suggesting that the board take steps to secure the forestry building erected at the Lewis and Clark fair and move it to Salem.

Mr. Albert said that neither the city of Portland nor the Oregon Historical society has taken action toward preserving the building, and he thought it would be a good plan to move the structure to Salem and erect it in the state fair grounds near the Southern Pacific track, where all persons passing on the train could see it. He thought the huge structure of logs would not only be an attraction at the state fair, but when so situated would be a perpetual advertisement for Oregon's timber resources.

The Board of Agriculture appointed a committee composed of W. H. Downing, J. D. Matlock and Frank Lee to ascertain the cost of transporting the building to Salem, and also whether the owner of the land upon which the building now stands will permit it to remain there until the legislature meets in 1907.

WOOLEN MILL FOR ALBANY.

Subsidy of \$15,000 Will Insure Rebuilding on Larger Scale.

Albany.—The Commercial club appointed a committee of leading business men to secure \$15,000 in subscriptions toward reorganizing the Hancock Manufacturing company, to rebuild the woollen mill recently burned, replacing it with a mill double the capacity. The company is to have \$100,000 capital and a practical woollen manufacturer is to run the mill. The new factory will give employment to 100 people.

The proposal is to bring machinery for a six-set mill from Massachusetts, the owner to take stock in the mill for the machinery and run the plant. The old building is to be rebuilt with money subscribed for stock in Albany, the old company to put in its property at half cost and raising \$40,000 additional stock. This will give the company a complete plant with a working capital of \$40,000. Business men here are taking hold with a will and the plans promise success. Over \$2,000 was subscribed by three men on the spot.

The Commercial club re-elected the entire board of directors and officers, President M. H. Ellis and associates holding another year.

Statistics of Feeble-Minded.

Salem.—An effort has been made by the commission authorized by the last legislature to inquire into necessity or the advisability of establishing a school in this state for the feeble minded, to find out how many unfortunate of this character are to be found in the state. A report received at the office of the secretary of the State Library commission, compiled from a census taken in several Eastern states, shows the average number of feeble minded persons is 2 to 1,000. On this basis there would be about 1,000 feeble minded persons in Oregon.

Candidates Must File Notice.

Salem.—Secretary of State Dunbar calls attention to the fact that it is necessary for candidates for state or district offices to first file a notice of intention to become a candidate with the secretary of state, before or at the time of beginning the circulation of petitions for the primary elections. A candidate is permitted to write a platform, not exceeding 100 words, to be filed with this declaration, and to have printed on the official ballot a condensed platform, not exceeding 12 words.

Census Returns Slow.

Salem.—Only 17 of the 33 counties of the state have filed their census returns with the secretary of state. Scarcely any of the reports are complete. Duplications have been discovered in several instances, while glaring inaccuracies are alleged in others. Klamath county only reports eight Indians, whereas the great Klamath Indian reservation is in this county, and should have been reported, according to state officials. Names, residences and places of birth are improperly recorded on many returns.

Will Extend Railroad.

Klamath Falls.—J. W. Alexander, connected with the Weyerhaeuser lumber syndicate, which recently purchased the Klamath Lake railroad, running from Thrall to Pockama, in connection with the large timber holdings of the railroad company situated on the Jony creek plateau, denies the statement that the new owners of the road intended discontinuing the passenger service toward Klamath Falls the first of the year.

Lincoln County Shows Decrease.

Salem.—Lincoln county's assessment summary for 1905 has been received at the office of the secretary of state. It shows a decrease of 10 per cent in the valuation of taxable property, the total for 1904 being \$1,039,592, as compared with \$939,454 in 1905.

Mill at Enterprise.

Enterprise.—Otto Brothers have installed a chop mill near here, a large race affording power. The flouring mill in Enterprise is frequently compelled to close down, but the chop mill can be run at any time.

MAKING READY IN KLAMATH.

Government Engineer Lippincott Now On the Ground.

Klamath Falls.—Supervising Engineer J. B. Lippincott, for the Reclamation service in California, and having charge of the Klamath project, arrived here Sunday. Mr. Lippincott came to Klamath Falls to clear up all preliminaries and arrange for paying all obligations against the government in connection with the Klamath irrigation project.

Several private companies were bought out by the government officials, or arrangements were completed for the purchase of all conflicting irrigation ditches put here previously by private concerns, and though the payments had been authorized by government, none of these private companies received their money. This had caused considerable speculation, and the coming of Mr. Lippincott, with the announcement that his mission here was to clean up all these claims, so that the contractors awarded the contracts for work on the irrigation canals could proceed at once after the bids were let, places all who heretofore had wondered if the government would proceed with actual ditch work in much clearer position regarding the future of the project.

Mitchell Estate Small.

Portland.—David M. Dunne has been appointed administrator of the estate of Senator John H. Mitchell, Jr., in the County court. The petitioner stated that the estate is valued at \$2,000, and the heirs are Mattie E. Mitchell, wife of deceased, and Mattie E. de Rochefoucauld, a daughter, residing in Paris; John H. Mitchell, Jr., and Hiram E. Mitchell, sons, and Alice and Mildred Chapman and Mitchell and Robert Handy, grandchildren.

Want Trees Destroyed.

Oregon City.—Fruit Inspector James H. Reid will appeal to the courts of Clackamas county to compel E. J. Riley, an attorney of Portland, to submit to the destruction of his fruit trees. Inspector Reid says Mr. Riley's orchard, which is located in Minthorn addition, near Milwaukie, is infested with the San Jose scale, and that the only way in which the pest can be eradicated is to destroy the trees. Mr. Reid says he is determined to make a test case.

Say Agents are Frauds.

Salem.—Agents are traveling over this state soliciting orders for books for traveling libraries. In some instances they represent themselves as being authorized by the State Library commission to solicit orders for books. The commission has no traveling book agents, nor has it authorized any one to solicit orders for traveling libraries, or books to be included in traveling libraries. Wherever such cases have been reported to the Library commission steps have been taken to advise people not to patronize these agents.

Newcomers From Minnesota.

Albany.—The vanguard of immigrants from Eastern and Middle Western states to Linn county has arrived. If the population increases at a comparatively rapid rate during the more favorable season in the spring, the county will experience a rapid and substantial growth before another fall season has rolled around. This latest addition is in the form of three families from Sheburn, Minnesota, aggregating twenty-four people.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 71@72c; bluestem, 73@74c; red, 67@68c; valley, 72c per bushel.

Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$27; gray \$26.50 per ton.

Barley—Feed, \$23.00 per ton; brewing, \$24; rolled, \$24.

Rye—\$1.50 per cental.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$14.50@15.50 per ton; valley timothy, \$11@12; clover, \$8@9; cheat, \$8.50@9.50; grain hay, \$8@9.

Fruits—Apples, \$1@2.50 per box; pears, \$1.25@1.50 per box.

Vegetables—Beans, wax, 10@12 1/2c per pound; cabbage, 1@2c per pound; cauliflower, \$1.25 per dozen; celery, 45@75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50@60c per dozen; peppers, 6c per pound; pumpkins, 3/4@1c per pound; sprouts, 7c per pound; squash, 3/4@1c per pound; turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, 65@75c per sack; beets, 85c@1 per sack.

Onions—Oregon, \$1@1.25 per sack.

Potatoes—Fancy graded Burbanks, 65@75c per sack; ordinary, 55@60c per sack; Merced sweets, sacks, \$1.00; crates, \$2.15.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 27 1/2@30c per pound.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 30c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 10@11c per pound; young roosters, 10c; springs, 10@11 1/2c; broilers, 12@13c; dressed chickens, 12@12 1/2c; turkeys, live, 17@18c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18@22 1/2c; geese, live, 9@10c; ducks, 15c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, choice, 10@11 1/2c; prime, 8 1/2@9 1/2c; medium, 8c; old, 5@7c.

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

Sheep—Dressed, 15@20c per pound; cows, 3@4c; country steers, 4@4 1/2c.

Veal—Dressed, 3@5c per pound.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 6@6 1/2c per pound; ordinary, 4@5c; lambs, 7@7 1/2c.

Pork—Dressed, 6@7c per pound.