## **HUNDREDS ARE DEAD**

End Comes Suddenly to Miners in West Virginia.

## ONLY FIVE ESCAPE WITH LIVES

Explosion of the Deadly Black Damp Slays 400 Men and Wrecks Two Coal Mines.

Monongah, W. Va., Dec. 7 .- That not less than 400 miners were killed by not less than 400 miners were killed by In defense of the recent increase, an explosion of black damp in mines they allege that the old lumber rate Coal company, of Baltimore, at this place yesterday, is now conceded by those who take the most hopeful and those who take the most hopeful and most conservative view of the disaster. Five badly injured men made their way Five badly injured men made their way to the surface.

Of the victims six dead bodies had night and 65 more were piled up in roads to get a higher rate for handling the entry awaiting completion of facil . lumber. ties for bringing them to the surface. From mine No. 8 at the same hour, 14 hodies had been removed and a number of others are ready to be brought out as soon as arrangements can be completed.

There is much speculation as to the a miner attempted to set off a blast, day and presented to each a memorial which blew out and ignited an accum-Virginia mines. However, all explanations of the cause up to this time are necessarily epeculative. Only a thor-ough investigation after the mine is re-opened will disclose the cause, if it is ever ascertained. The explosion affected both mines, and so far as now known appears to have done about as much and in referring it to the proper com-damage in one as in the other. It has mittee at the earliest possible moment. not been established in which mine it originated.

Three of the living men, while unable to give any detailed report of the disaster, state that immediately back of them, when they began their frantic workings there was a larger number of whom they know nothing. It is the opinion of the mine officials and others familiar with mining that these men had not penetrated the mine as far as had the majority of the day shift, when the explosion occurred, and that" they headed for and reached the main entrance before the heavy cave-in that now blockades the entrance not more than a few hundred feet from the entrance.

#### HELD IN PEONAGE.

#### Grave Charge Brought Against Civil Service Commissioner.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 7 .- That raised. John Avery Mclibenny, member of the Inited Sta

## RAILROADS REPLY.

Say New Lumber Rate is Not Excessive as is Charged

Washington, Dec. 6 .- The Interstate Commerce commission today received the answers of the Harriman roads, the Astoria & Columbia River and the Bellingham Bay & British Columbia roads to the complaint recently filed by the lumbermen of Oregon and Washington against the new rates on

lumber from the Pacific coast to interior points. The answers are along similar lines. Each road denies that there was any unlawful agreement in fixing the new rates, and as specifically denies that

there is any agreement between the Hill and Harriman systems under which the Northwest is parceled out, Mr. Hill to control Washington and

Mr. Harriman Oregon. No, 6 and No. 8 of the Consolidated was extremely low and non-compensatory, made at a time when the Pacific Northwest was undeveloped and lumbermen needed a low rate in order to tions, yielding a handsome income to those engaged in it, and the cost of transportation has correspondingly inbeen taken from mine No. 6 at mid- creased, rendering it necessary for rall-

### PETITION CONGRESS.

#### **Rivers and Harbors Convention Wants Canals** Constructed

Washington, Dec. 6 .- A committee of 50 of the delegates to the recent con-

vention at Memphis of the Lakes-tocause of the explosion, but the most generally accepted theory is that it re-sulted from black damp, scientifically known as methane. It is believed that adopted by the convention praying the ulation of this desdly gas, and that this in turn ignited the coal dust, a highly inflammable substance found in greater or less quantities in all West mending an annual appropriation of \$50,000 000 for harbors and waterways improvements, as proposed by the Rivers and Harbors congress.

In receiving the memorial, the vice president mid he would take great pleasure in presenting it to the senate Mr. Cannon greeted the committee

cordially and at once went to the point by asking whether the memorial re-commended a bond issue for the proposed expense. Mr. Malone of the committee replied that, while some of struggle for liberty, there was a large the delegates to the convention expectnumber of men engaged in a similar ed each a recommendation to be made, struggle, while still further back in the it had been omitted.

#### UNITING AGAINST JAPAN.

#### European Bankers Anxious to Secure Lion's Share of Loan.

Pekin, Dec. 6 .- Several foreign banking firms are in active competition for the Chinese loan which it was planned to make to secure money to meet the expenses of the Chinese administration of Manchuria. This money was to be spent, among other things, for the construction of modern government buildings and to raise the nucleus of a modern army in Manchuria, to consist ulti-

AIDS COL Manchuria, namely, that she must he taker to accompany each carload of a partner in anything that is done, has apples crossing the mountains, and if tality and crueltry are practiced to force resulted in a coalition of the European money lenders syainst her. These firms make special objection to the fact that Japan should be both a borrower from and a lender to China.

# **OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST**

PREHISTORIC MONEY.

Confederate Bills and Old State Bank Southern Pacific Anxious to Reach Paper in Circulation.

Pendleton-The flood of counterfeit oney in the shape of Confederate bills, old bank bills and paper money issued before the war, which is now being circulated in Eastern Oregon is causing the officials to begin a deter- since the financial flurry made its apmined war upon this form of fraud.

Every Eastern Oregon town is being imposed upon by this form of money. Many new, crisp clean Confederate government bills of all the small dethe contractors indicate that the work nominations are being largely circulated in Pendleton, La Grande and Baker City, and lawyers differ as to the possibility of conviction, as the money is not really counterfeit in a strict construction of the law.

District Attorney Ivanhoe, of La Grande, has filed three informations against a man caught in the act of pasother large dredge en route to be used on the work. sing Confederate money, to-wit: For passing counterfeit money, for obtaining goods under false pretenses, and of the Southern Pacific and the engin-for gross frand. He believes that he cers in charge of the California Northwill be able to convict under one of the three charges.

A concerted effort will be made by Eastern Oregon district attorneys to sible time. convict those passing this form of

## LARGER THAN LAST YEAR.

money.

**Oregon's Prune Shipments Will Reach** 24,00,000 Pounds.

Albany-According to figures com-piled by C. A. Malboeuf, district Ireight agent of the Southern Pacific, Oregon's total prune shipment for 1907 will exceed that of last year by 7,000,-000 pounds. or 175 cars. The total shipment of dried prunes from this state this year will aggregate 600 car-loads, a total of 24,000,000 pounds.

Last year the total shipment consisted of 425 carloads, consisting of 17,-000,000 pounds. This year's ship-ment, it is estimated, will bring \$1,-680,000 into the state. Laselle Broth-680,000 into the state. Laselle Broth-ars, of this city, are the chief prune shippets of Oregon, and they alone will ship 7,000 000 pounds of prunes from this city. Of this coloseal ship-ment, which is the largest ever sent and they alone by all in the Badfed N ath out from one city in the Pacific Northwest, 6,000,000 pounds have already been sent.

### Apples Bring Good Money.

Medford-J. A. Perry, president of the Rogue River Fruitgrowers' union, states that financial conditions have had little bearing upon the fruit shipping industry of the union. He says: " W. have shipped to date all varieties of apples which we have handled at a date corresponding to this in previous years. We have received good prices for all fruit shipped, and we now have in transit to London and other markets, for which we shall also receive good prices, as I think the English market will not be subjected to financial condi-tions as in the United States."

#### Save Fruit from Frost

Portland-At the suggestion of J. P. O'Brien, general manager of the O. R & N. company, a rule has been promulmately of one army corps. The viceroy & N. company, a rule has been promul-proposed recently that this loan be gated by which apple shippers can ablp their products in car lots whether in The attitude taken by Japan in the refrigerator cars or in ordinary freight ars. The railroad will permit a car

ESTABLISH NEW RECORD.

#### Coast Dufense Gunners Show a Remarkable bcore.

Washington, Dec. 3 .- Army officers believe a world's record for larget practice with big guns was made November 16 at Fort Mouroe. The official report of the practice has not been received yet at the office of the chief of artillery but it is known that with the 12-inch rifles the gunners hit the target at the

Klamath Falls-The Southern Pacific rate of 1.74 hits per gun per minute, sompany seems bent on extending the Heretofore it has been thought exceed California Northeastern railway into the ingly good work when there was only Klamath basin at an early date, as seconds between shots. there has been no cessation of work

Artillery officers are exceedingly happy over this record, because it was at pearance. There have, of course, been Fort Monroe that the shocting was done rumors that work is to be discontinon which Lieutenant Commander Sims aed, but the methods being pursued by of the navy based his report to the president, criticising army shooting. is to be rushed rather than delayed. At that time the shooting was under the direction of officers who had been Ericks n & Peterson, the contractors, who are now building readbed near Mount Hebron, in the south end of transferred from the infantry and it was held they did not have the experi-Butte creek valley, are increasing their forces, and Archie Masse, who has the contract for building the dike across Klamath marsh, just below this city, has also increased his force and has anence necessary to get the best results. The army now feels that the disgrace of that record has been wiped out.

FORD IS ACQUITTED.

#### Jury Says He is Not Guilty of Bribing Supervisors

San Francisco, Dec. 4 -- Tirey eastern extension make no further statement than that they have orders Ford, general counce) of the United Mailroads, was late last night acquitted to construct the road in the least posof the charge of having bribed ex-Supervisor Jennings Phillips to vote for

The distance from Bray, the present terminus, to Klamath Falls is about 37 miles. Nineteen miles of this, the and the verdict was reached at 10:40, distance acrors Butte creek valley, is a the jury reporting to the court at 11:05. level sagebrush plain and construction On the first ballot the jury stood nine of a road across it will require but a for acquittal and three for conviction. Several more ballots changed it to eleven for acquittal and one for conviction. The sixth ballot was unanimous for acquittal.

This was Ford's second trial. In the first trial the jury was unable to agree The present trial was adopted by a party vote. on a verdict. begun about seven weeks ago, but was interrupted a month by a series of special holidays called to protect the banks during the financial stringency. Durling all the holidays the jurors were kept together under the custody of deputy sheriffs.

#### Naval Records of Civil War.

Washington, Dec. 3.-According to the annual report of Charles Stewart. superintendent of the library of naval was records, the latter publication has now reached the most interesting point ing in slowly, and it will be some time before all the plants are heard from. Advices thus far are that the pack is compiled and include the operations of short of that of last year. The Kiye the naval forces in the Misslesippi river cannery and cold storage plant on the and tributaries. Mr. Stewart suggests put up 12,000 cases of canned that the records of the American navy in colonial times, during the Revolutionary war, the actions at sea against ning company pot up 9,000 cases and the French navy, the war with Tripoli, Cross Timmons packed 5,000 cases. the war of 1812, operations sgainst pithe war of 1812, operations sgainst pi-

rates in the West Indies, the Mexican war and other United States naval operations should be collected and ar-

#### **Cordemns Proposed Scheme**

Washington, Dec. 7 .- The secretary of war has sent to congress the report of the army engineers, which will prevent the construction by the govern-ment of a ship canal connecting Grays harbor and Puget sound. Euch a canal would cost \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000; would necessitate the construction of fourteen locks and involve the clear excavation of 40 miles of canal in addition to much dredging of natural waterwave In the opinion of the or

CONGRESSCONVENES

Brilliant Scene Marks Opening of Sixtleth Session.

DEMOCRATS DENOUNCE RULES

Give Speaker of the House Too Much Power-Point is Lost and Gannon Chosen.

Washington, Dec. 3 .- A brilliant cene characterized the meeting of the Sixtleth congress yesterday. In the senate and house of representatives there were notable gatherings in the galleries of representatives of the offiial society of the capital.

The striking scenes of the day were in the bouse of representatives, where the formal selection of Joreph G. Cannon again to be speaker and the designation by the Democrats of John Sharp. Williams as their leader, were occasions for ovations for those gentlemen. The speaker was given as warm a reception from the minority as from his own party. The appearance of William J. Bryan on the floor of the house also was the occasion for enthusiastic cheering.

When the adoption of the rules for the government of the house during the Sixtleth congress came up, the rules of the last congress were opposed by Williams and he was joined in the opposition by Denscerats and by a single Republican, Cooper of Wisconzin. The ald raise were declared to be too autocratic, placing too much power in the hands of the speaker, but after a somewhat acrimonions di cassion they were

Committees were appointed by both houses to inform the president that. congress had met and was ready to receive any message he might wish to communicate. New senators and all the representatives were sworn in and both houses adjourned out of respect to. the memory of members who have died. during recess of congress.

Promptly at 12 o'clock Cierk Mc-Dowell entered the chamber of representatives accompanied by the veterau azzistant sergeant-at-arms, Colonel E. S. Pierce, bearing the mace, the emblem of order in executive bodics.

The hum of conversation suddenly ceased and Mr. McDowell declared the body duly in session.

Chaplain Couden immediately offered erayer, after which the roll was called. The roll call occupied 24 minutes, and showed 365 members present.

The senate convened promptly at noon. After Vicy Pr eldent Fairbanks sounded the gavel the proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. Ed-ward Everett Hale, chaptain.

La Follette was the first cenator recognized, and presented the credentials of Isaac Stevenson, of Wisconsin.

The vice president ordered that the roll of senators-sleet be called alphabetically, and they were sworn in and emorted to their decks. All of the senators-elect were present except Bankhead, of Alabama, who is ill. Under the form observed by the sen-

ate neither Bankhead nor Johnson will be sworn in until the deaths of Morgan and Pettus have been acknowledged.

Robert L. Owen and Thomas P. Gore. of Oklahoma, not having been elected to the senate by their legislature. not received by the senate and their credential will not be accepted until after their election December 10. The roll call showed 85 senators present. Allison and Teller were designated a committee to inform the president that congress had assembled and is ready to receive any communications. Teller offered resolutions of respect to the memory of Morgan, and Pettus, of Alabama, and they were adopted and the senate adjourned at 12:39 p. m.

torney, persimmons, figs, almonds, filberts and walnuts are growing beside all common varieties of Oregon fruit. The persimmon tree, which is probably the greatest rarity, was planted six years ago, and began bearing the third

year. This year it is loaded with fruit,

Persimmons Grow in Oregon.

Albany-The versatility of produc-

ion of Willamette valley soll is again

illustrated by the fact that in the or-

chard of George W. Wright, a local at-

RUSH RAILROAD WORK.

Klamath Fails

Little can be learned as to the plans

which will be a delicacy when it attains full flavor. The tree is of the variety native to Missouri.

short time.

#### Pack Short of Last Year.

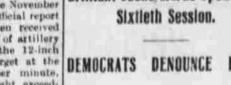
Astoria-Reports from the canneries on the Oregon coast streams for the season ending on November 20 are com-Sinelaw fish and 180 tierces of pickled salmon. On the Coquille river the Prosper Can-

#### Pilot Rock Getting Ready. Pendleton-It is announced that train

rervice over the Pilot Bock branch of ranged for publication. the O. R. & N. will be inaugurated December 15. Argangements for a dem-onstration in Pilot Rock that day are being made and it is expected that nevetal hundred people will go out over the new line from this city on the first train. The regular service on this line will consist of a combination train one way each day, leaving Pendleton in the morning and returning in the afternoon.

#### PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat-Club, 83c; bluestem, 85c;



holds more than 1,000 ignorant foreigners in a state of peonage, and that bruthese people to remain on Avery island. where the McIlhenny interests operate vast oyster canning and tobacco manufacturing properties, is the charge brought by Stephen Jozca, special com-missioner of the Austro-Hungarian government, to which nationality most of the alleged peons belong.

The stories of peonge in certain see tions of the South recently were called to the stiention of the Austro-Hungarian ers shead of them. board of immigration was sent to Av-Hungarian consul in New Orleans folimmigrants who escaped the McIlhenny guards.

#### Plague Nearly Beaten.

San Francisco, Dec. 6 .- The manitary campaign that is being prosecuted by

the Federal authorities in co-operation with the local health board for the eradication of the plague in San Frangovernment, and official warning was cisco is proving effective. There has given intending emigrants of the dang- been a most decided improvement in Mr. Jozca who is the situation. Only one death from assistant secretary of the Louisiana state plague has occurred in the past eight days, while the average number of ery Island by Emile Hoehn the Austro- cases reported weekly has decreased over 75 per cent as a result of the camlowing complaints made by one of the paign of sanitation inaugurated by the United States marine hospital corps.

#### Co-operate More Closely.

cial bodies of this country, a conference Besides Secretary Root mus. tary Straus. were present delegates from the cham- cubic yards in November, 1906. bers of commerce, boards of trade and other organizations of New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, Galveston, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco and other cities.

cruises Washington and Tennessee, which have arrived, will remain a week, taking on coal. The health con-ditions aboard the abine are excluded

#### Canal Diggers Beat Record.

Washington, Dec. 6 .- Colonel Goe Washington, Dec. 7 .- To effect a thals, chief engineer of the Panama closer tie between the department of canal, cabled the canal officers in this commerce and labor and the commer- city today that all records were again broken for the month of November in was held today in the office of Secre- the matter of excavation on the isth-The total amount of earth reand Mr. Straus, who initiated the moved during that month was 1,839, movement for the conference, there 486 cubic yards as against 389,407

#### **Two States Exclude Provident**,

New York, Dec. 6 .- It was officially announced last night that word had been sent by E. E. Rittenhouse, commissioner of invarance for the state of Colorado, and Otto Kelsey, New York state superintendent of insurance, to

necessary, to the Eastern markets. The caretaker will be furnished with return transportation. He will keep sufficient fore hurning in the car to prevent dam-age to the fruit by frost. Hay--Valley timothy, No. 1, \$17(6) 18 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$23; clover, \$15; cheat, \$15; grain

#### Klamath Conditions Better,

Klamath Falls-It is hoped here that the present cost of labor will reduce the estimated cost of water on the Klamath project. The original estimate of pounds, 5666 %c. \$18 per scre was made at a time when labor was cheap and plentiful, but labor conditions changed and the estimate was made higher. Now that conlitions have again changed it is thought 1134c; spring chickens, 1036 @11c; the original estimates will be approximated.

#### Astoria Plants Cut Wages.

Astoria-On account of the disturbed ondition of the lumber market and in order to guard against a shutdown of their plants, the Clatsop Mill company and the Astoria Box company have made a cut in the wages of their employer of 25 cents per day on each man. The new scale became effective December 2. The Tongue Point Lumber company is also said to have made a cut in wages amounting to about 15 per cent.

#### Mulkey Not a Candidate

Salem-While in Salem President B. F. Mulkey, of Ashland normal, said per box. that under no circumstances will be be a candidate for Superintendent of publie instruction, with which aspirations he is credited.

Cash for Government Checks.

Astoria - Arrangements have been

Oats-No. 1 white, \$29; gray, \$29. Barley-Feed, \$28.50 per ton; brewng, \$30; rolled, \$306031. Corn-Cracked, \$33; whole, \$32.

hay, \$15(a)16; alfalfs, \$14; vetch, \$14. Butter-Fancy creamery, 30(632)gc per pound.

Pork-Block, 75 to 150 pounds, 65gc; packers, 6 %c.

Poultry-Average old hens, 11 %@ 12c per pound; mixed chickens, 11@ roosters, Sc; dressed chickens, 12@13c; 10e; ducks, 12601256e; pigeons, \$168 company. 1.50; squabs, \$3683.

Eggs-Fresh ranch, candled, .. 37 1/6 @ 40o per dozen

Fruits-Apples, 75cfa\$2 per box; peaches, 75c@\$1 per crate; pears, \$1 25 @ 1.75 per box; quinces, 50@60c per box; eranberries, \$9.50@12 per barrel. Vegetables-Turnips, \$1.25 per sack : carrots, \$1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25 per sack; beans, 76 93 per pound; cabbage, le per pound; cauliflower, 60x690c dos; paraley, 20c dox; peppers, 8at17c per pound; radiabes, 20c dox; spinach, 6c ound; sprouts, Se per pound; squash

1691 ac pound; tomatoes, \$1.25601.35

Onions-\$1.50@2 per sack. Potatoes-Delivered Portland, 50@ 75c per hundred; sweet pointoes, 214c per pound.

Hops-1907, 5@7%c per pound olds. 234@336c per pound. Wool-Eastern Oregon, average best,

made through the local banks by which all government checks will be paid in cash in the future, as money has been received by the banks for that purpose.

such a canal would be of no particular strategic advantage in time of war and, because of the numerous locks, would save no time to vessels entering and leaving Paget sound.

#### Oil Trust Controls Rates.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 4 .- Ned Cham-berlain, of Cleveland, O., secretary of the National Petroleum association, Veal-75 to 125 pounds 8@816c; this morning made a spirited attack on 125 to 150 pounds, 7c; 150 to 200 the Standard Oil company in a speech before the state railway commission He asserted that Nebraska, like other states, was in the relentless gr p of the alleged oil combine in the matter of railroad rates. He referred to county sent points, equalized so that the independent companies would be placed on turkeys, live, 14(e)15c; geese, live, 9(e) an equal footing with the Standard Oil

#### Prepare New Currency Bill.

Washington, Dec. 7. - Chairman Fowler, of the house committee on banking and currency, has announced the subcommittee of five, which will frame and submit to the main committee a currency bill. The subcommittee is as follows: Fowler, New Jersey; Prince, Illinois; Calderhead, Kansas; Lewis, Georgia, and Gillespie, Texas. The last two are Democrats.

#### Snow Storm in Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 4 .--- A blinding snow storm swept Chicago yesterday and last night and was responsible for many street accidents. Street traffic was hampered and surface and elevated electric cars were delayed.

Statter Returns to Ankeny.

Washington, Dec. 7 .- A. F. Statter, of Walla Walla, has resumed service as private secretary to Senator Ankeny, after a season spent in Nevada.

### No Right to Buy Car Line.

San Francisco, Dec. 3.-Judge Sturteeant, of the Superior court, yesterday decided that the board of supervisors had no right to appropriate \$750,000 from the tax fund for the purchase of the Genry street railway. The board of supervisors instituted suit to have the ordinance declared invalid on the ground that the city's charter provides for municipal operation of public utilities only by direct vote of the people. or when the city's unexpended revenues will permit of such investments, and neither provision prevails.

#### Insurance Company Falls.

Lincoin, Neb., Dec. 3 .- Attorney General Thompson yesterday prepared a petition asking for a receiver for the National Mutnal Fire Insurance company, of Omaha. The astorney general alleges that the liabilities of the company are \$253,653 and the assets \$116,-779. T. M. Coffin is president of the company and J. L. Abbie secretary.

Japan Recalls Her Envoy. Washington, Dec. 3 .- It was reported here early this morning that Vis-count Aoki, the Japanese ambassador, called on the president and Secretary of State Root yesterday and presented his letters of recall.