

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.

Smallpox has broken out near Pe Ell, Wash.

An assay office has been established at Albany, Oregon.

James Hamilton Lewis is a candidate for governor of Illinois.

Goldfield mineowners say efforts at compromise come too late.

Legal holidays are over in California. December 21 was the last.

The battleship fleet is well off the Florida coast and all is well on board.

Japanese are anxious for Admiral Evans to visit them with his battleship fleet.

Representative Scott, of Kansas, would prohibit dealing in futures on grain.

The first train has passed under the Hudson river at New York through the McAdoo tunnel.

The total loss to vessel property on the great lakes amounted to \$743,000 for the season of 1907.

The Illinois Sumpree court has declared unconstitutional the law forbidding speculation in theater tickets.

The Searchlight Bank & Trust company, of Searchlight, Nevada, has been looted by the president of the corporation.

Friction between Cortelyou and Roosevelt may result in the resignation of the former.

Michigan electric road managers say they cannot operate at a profit for less than 2 cents a mile.

An Atlantic liner arrived at New York a few days ago with only seven first class passengers.

George Rex Clarke, blind since birth, has just graduated from the University of Chicago with an A. B. degree.

A New York man has had his name changed from Crooke to Croche, because his sweetheart would not accept such a name.

The Supreme court of Illinois holds that the a-t-cigarette law does not prohibit the sale of cigarettes made from pure tobacco.

More than 100 all steel passenger cars will be in use on the Pennsylvania railroad between Pittsburg and New York shortly after January 1.

The liner Oceanic, which has just sailed for Europe from New York, carried 85,107 money orders, worth \$1,192,422.25, which is a record cargo.

The regulation requiring soldiers to stand at salute while the "Star Spangled Banner" is being played is modified so as to permit the men to stand erect and to salute only at the last note of the music.

The car and the donna will clash on the rebuilding of the Russian navy.

Cortelyou denies that he is a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination.

Wireless messages from the fleet show that it is making good progress in its journey south.

Battle mobs have defied the Federal court's orders and deported nonunion telephone linemen.

Electric power has been cut off at Goldfield and the mines have had to suspend temporarily.

Justice Gould has enjoined the American Federation of Labor from boycotting the Buck Stove & Range company.

The state does not seem to be making much progress in the Pettibone trial. Judge Wood will not permit Colorado labor troubles to be brought into the case.

Johan Poulsen, of the Inman-Poulsen company, of Portland, told the Interstate Commerce commission his company could make money even with the increased lumber rate on railroads.

An attempt was made to hold up a Northern Pacific west bound train 10 miles east of Spokane. Later one man was caught and another wounded. Dynamite and other explosives were also found.

A Montana forest ranger has been killed for a deer.

French troops have repulsed an attack of tribesmen near Ain Sfa, Algeria.

The Japanese ambassador to France denies that his country is after another foreign loan.

Carnegie would have repulsed an issue of paper money on the gold reserve instead of government bonds.

ROOSEVELT AS A SAINT.

Russian Peasants Worship Picture of President

San Francisco, Dec. 17.—Americans think a great deal of President Theodore Roosevelt, but it has been reserved for the Russian peasants settled in Eastern Siberia to reverence the well known picture, which shows the gleam of teeth, as that of a saint. That they do so is asserted to be a fact by Alexander G. Denbigh, who arrived on the steamer Siberia, and is now staying at the St. Francis hotel.

"The people there are of the lowest class of Russian peasants, and know nothing about the outside world," said Denbigh. "In every house, no matter how poor it may be, there is sure to be an icon of some kind, and if it is possible for the owner of the place, he also has a picture of a saint."

"The picture of our president has gone over the world, and can be found in many queer places. I remember asking one of my men from the Ural mountain district, who had never heard of Roosevelt, what picture he had in his tent. He at once told me that it was one of St. Peter—without the beard and with spectacles. Curious to see such a picture, I went to the hut and found that it was a chromo of the president of the United States. The man assured me that he had the best of good fortune since he had obtained the picture of the 'holy saint.'"

MEXICO'S ANNUAL EXPENSE

What It Costs to Conduct Affairs of Southern Republic.

Mexico City, Dec. 17.—In congress yesterday the report of the minister of finance was read and the budget for the coming year was made public. The estimated receipts for the coming year total \$103,385,000, while the expenditures will reach \$103,203,842, leaving an estimated surplus of \$181,158. The total increase of this year's budget is \$6,595,275, the largest item in the increase being for \$1,367,589 for maintenance of the department of war.

The revenues for the fiscal year just ended total \$114,062,000, the expenditures \$100,208,132, leaving a surplus of \$13,853,868. The surplus of the previous year, \$29,049,081, and the falling off of the past year, was due to large sums spent in public works—\$17,208,608. Minister Limantour maintained that the recent crisis in the United States would make itself felt in the coming year in Mexico, in that investments would be curtailed. Interest rates are higher, but this would only affect mining industries. He believed that in the end it would work for good rather than evil.

RELIEF FOR VICTIMS.

Committee Making Contributions to Be Sent to Monongah.

Fairmont, W. Va., Dec. 17.—The permanent relief committee, headed by Governor Dawson, to provide for the widows and orphans in distress through the recent explosion at the mines of the Fairmont Coal company at Monongah, today prepared an appeal for funds that is being sent to chambers of commerce and kindred organizations all over the country. Contributions of clothing, toys for the orphans at Christmas time and similar donations are to be sent to W. H. Moore, mayor of Monongah, and chairman of the committee, looking after the temporary wants of the victims.

The appeal says that fully 250 widows and 1,000 children are left without any means of support. As near as can be determined, \$50,000 from all sources has been subscribed. The committee feels that a total of \$200,000 will be required to carry on the relief work. All checks should be made payable to the Monongah Mines Relief committee, J. E. Sands, treasurer, Fairmont, W. Va.

Rich Oil Strives

Santa Barbara, Cal., Dec. 17.—A telephone message from Santa Maria, 50 miles north of here, brought the information this afternoon that the Union Oil company had struck a wonderful gusher which threw a vast stream of petroleum over the derrick and continued to flow at the rate of 7,000 barrels a day. At the present price of oil this means \$7,500 a day from this one well. This is the second largest gusher ever struck in California. The largest was a 10,000-barrel well, but it has since declined considerably.

Fiat Money Saves Life

San Rafael, Cal., Dec. 17.—Stewart Dunbar, a prominent insurance broker of Honolulu, while on his way to meet a party of friends last night, fell through a cattle guard on the narrow gauge tracks of the Northwestern Pacific railroad and caught his foot so that he would have been crushed to death beneath an approaching handcar had he not ignited a clearing house certificate and used it for a danger signal.

Forty Lives Lost

London, Dec. 17.—The gale along the British coast on Friday and Saturday, which was described by Captain Jameson, of the steamship St. Louis, as the worst in his experience, subsided yesterday. It was responsible for the loss of some 40 lives.

DOINGS OF THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

Thursday, December 19

Washington, Dec. 19.—The spirit of rivalry that for five years has alternately smoldered and blazed between John Sharp Williams, of Missouri, leader of the minority, and David A. De Armond, of Missouri, culminated in a flat fight today on the floor of the house of representatives. The blows of De Armond caused blood to flow down the face of Williams and only the forcible intervention of friends cut the combat short. De Armond bore away a scuffed nose.

Speaker Cannon today announced the committee assignments for the Sixtieth congress. Many changes from the last congress are made, but in the main the members who had heretofore held important offices were retained in them.

In the assignments Northwest members have been placed as follows: Oregon—Ellis, on naval affairs, irrigation and lands; Hawley on agriculture and mines.

Washington—Jones, on rivers and harbors; Cushman, on interstate commerce and private land claims; Humphrey, on elections, education, merchant marine and fisheries.

Idaho—French, on immigration, public lands and mines.

During its two hours and twenty minutes' session the house got down to actual work and transacted considerable business. All that had remained to make this possible was the announcement of the committee appointment which was made today by the speaker. The several chairmen became alert with regard to their rights, and forced the reference to committees of several propositions on which immediate action was desired. This was not accomplished, however, without more or less debate, which at times grew warm.

The first money appropriated by the present congress was awarded today. The amount was \$50,000, and it is to be used in supply of the seed deficiency caused by the destruction by fire of the government seed warehouse in this city.

The house will meet again on Saturday, on which day adjournment for Christmas holidays will be taken.

Wednesday, December 18.

Washington, Dec. 18.—In the senate today resolutions were introduced by Tillman, asking the Interstate Commerce commission to report whether any corporation engaged in interstate commerce is the owner of the stock of any other corporation carrying passengers and freight, and calling on the Interstate Commerce commission to define the Federal law and the laws of the states in respect to control of the liquor traffic under the interstate commerce law.

These resolutions provoked considerable debate and were finally referred to committee, though one of them was transformed into a bill.

Culberson spoke on his resolution calling on the committee on finance to investigate and report upon the cause of the present financial stringency and to recommend measures for the prevention of a recurrence. The resolution was referred to the committee on finance.

The senate, on motion of Allison, agreed to adjourn until Saturday and after routine business on Saturday to adjourn until January 6.

Tuesday, December 17

Washington, Dec. 17.—Aside from the appointment of committees, which took place at the beginning of today's session of the senate, the need of improvement of the inland waterways was the chief subject in that body today. Newlands, of Nevada, spoke for two hours on his bill providing an inland waterway commission and for the development of inland waterways of the country.

The senate adopted the resolution of Dick, extending the time allowed the militia of the several states, territories and the District of Columbia to conform to the provisions of the act of June 21, 1903, which was necessary in order that the militia of several states might take advantage of appropriations that have been made.

In the senate committee assignments Fulton gets his old chairmanship of claims, is transferred from military affairs to judiciary and goes off the irrigation and public health committees.

Bourne is chairman of the fisheries committee and is a member of the coast defenses, postoffices and post roads, public health railroads and expenditures of the department of justice.

Senator Ankeny is chairman of irrigation and Piles of the coast and insular affairs.

Hawley Presents Memorials.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Representative Hawley has presented to the house the following memorials: of the Oregon State Legislature: House joint memorial No. 54, favoring legislation for the relief of settlers on unsurveyed lands; senate joint resolution favoring the pensioning of veterans of the Banook war; senate concurrent resolution No. 20, favoring the promotion of Colonel James Jackson to the grade of brigadier general on the retired list, and senate joint resolution favoring an increase in pensions of Indian war veterans.

lar survey. Otherwise both are unchanged. Heyburn is unchanged. Borah is chairman of the standards and weights committee.

Monday, December 16

Washington, Dec. 16.—A speech by Senator Tillman, filled with denunciation of the president, the secretary of the treasury, and the department of justice, of financiers and "captains of industry," was the chief subject of interest in the senate today. His remarks were based on his resolutions directing an investigation by the committee on finance of the recent bond issue by the Treasury department and of the issuance of clearing house certificates throughout the country.

The two senators from Oklahoma were sworn into office today. Senator Money presented the credentials of Robert L. Owen and Senator Culberson those of Thomas P. Gore, the blind senator.

The terms of the two senators then were drawn by lot. Senator Owen secured the six-year term and Senator Gore the two-year term.

Senator William P. Frye was today sworn in as president pro tem of the senate.

Senator Culberson introduced a resolution directing a congressional investigation of the cause of the present financial stringency and calling on the committee on finance to recommend measures for the immediate relief of the country. He desired to have this resolution considered at once, but in the absence of Senator Aldrich chairman of the committee on finance, it was allowed to go over. A number of other bills were introduced. The senate adjourned at 3:15 p. m.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Representative John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, today introduced the old Blaine bill to admit into all ports of the United States free of duty all products of the American hemisphere upon which no export duties are imposed whatever and so long as such nation shall admit to its port free of all taxes certain United States products.

The house session was limited to 25 minutes and little business beyond the introduction of bills was transacted. The speaker announced the appointment of the committee on appropriations. Both houses agreed to adjourn on Saturday for the Christmas holidays, the recess to continue until January 6. The house then adjourned until Thursday.

Bills for the Northwest

Washington, Dec. 20.—Congressman Humphrey, of Washington, has introduced a bill providing that any passenger vessel engaged in tri-weekly trade between the United States and foreign ports shall be exempt from entrance and clearance fees and tonnage taxes while such service is maintained. Ellis, of Oregon, introduced a bill authorizing payment to officers and enlisted men of the Second regiment, Oregon Volunteer Infantry, for special service in the Philippines the difference between travel pay allowed them on their discharge from service and the rate provided by law at the time of their muster into service.

Letters Will Reach Fleet.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The Navy department today sent a wireless message to Captain J. B. Morlock, of the battleship Rhode Island, with the Atlantic fleet en route to Trinidad, informing him that his wife, who has been seriously ill, is better. For the benefit of friends and relatives of the sailors on the battleships, the Navy department wishes it made known that mail matter destined for the 15,000 men afloat in the big ships can be sent at the regular rates for domestic postage.

Meat is the Only Food.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The peanut diet, the man who upholds sauerkraut as the panacea of all stomachic ills, the exponents of herbaceous living of all kinds, receive a body blow in a bulletin just issued by the United States department of agriculture. The bulletin was prepared by Dr. H. S. Grindley, professor of general chemistry at the university of Illinois, and shows that all kinds of meat are more easily digested and more completely assimilated than any other class of food.

Hears "scavens" Objections

Washington, Dec. 17.—The proposed new beef inspection regulation of the department of agriculture was the subject of a hearing given by Secretary Wilson today to a committee representing the American Beef Packers' association and other packers throughout the country. The packers were requested to submit their objections in writing, with the assurance that they would be carefully considered.

New Northwest Postmasters

Washington, Dec. 20.—Postmasters appointed: Oregon—Dale, Barney V. Shultz, vice Craig Thom, resigned. Washington—Salkum, Mack Hiday, vice Klass Besemer, resigned.

BARE SUMMER FALLOW.

Agricultural College Makes Interesting Experiment.

By A. L. Katsely, Oregon Agricultural College

In taking a walk over the farm at the Oregon Agricultural college, looking for interesting and instructive object lessons, there may be seen north of the old barn and just to the south of the path leading to the orchard, an enclosure containing some very interesting experiments. This enclosure contains an oblong box probably ten feet long, three feet wide and three feet deep. In this box are installed four galvanized iron tanks or pots, each holding approximately 500 pounds of soil. Each pot is provided with a drainage spout so that all water leaching through the soil in these pots may be collected and measured and analyzed.

Many farmers practice bare summer fallow and the question often arises as to the go-d or bad effects arising from this practice.

Should the practice of bare summer fallow be discouraged? It was for the purpose of answering this question that these experiments in the galvanized iron pots were started.

In 1900 all pots were filled with the same soil thoroughly mixed so that each pot was identical with the others. Since that time part of the pots have been bare summer fallowed, whilst others have been growing crops, usually of grain. The leachings from each pot during the rainy season have been carefully saved and analyzed with the result that invariably the leaching from the bare summer fallow pots carried from two to six times as much nitrogen as did the leachings from the pots that had not been bare summer fallowed. The first few weeks of leachings in the fall carry most of the soluble nitrate nitrogen. The amount of nitrogen leached out of the soil in one month in the fall was equivalent to approximately 6 pounds per acre in soil not summer fallowed and over 40 pounds per acre where the soil had been thoroughly summer fallowed.

From the plant food point of view bare summer fallow cannot be recommended.

Summer fallow aerates the soil, conserves moisture and oxidizes the organic matter of the soil, converting much of the organic nitrogen first into ammonia compounds and then into nitrate nitrogen; that is into a form which easily leaches from the soil and is lost to the farmer, whilst organic nitrogen does not readily leach out of the soil. At times bare summer fallow may be desirable but usually it is to be condemned.

BROOM GRASS.

Director of Experiment Station Says It Has Been Overdone.

By H. T. French, Director Experiment Station Moscow, Idaho.

In response to numerous inquiries regarding our experiences with Bromus inermis, I take occasion to present the following brief account of the results thus far attained on the experiment station farm.

Broom grass has been growing on the farm in small plots, and in pasture fields, for six or seven years. Where it has been allowed to stand unmolested it has produced a dense sod, and comparatively little growth after the second or third year.

Where it has been re-seeded, or the ground disturbed by harrowing, it has made a much better growth. Around the borders of fields where the land is cultivated the growth is rank and coarse.

My opinion of broom grass is, that it has been somewhat overestimated for general use; but that it has a place as a grass to be used in out-of-the-way places, where it can not, on account of the nature of the soil, form a dense sod. Such a place would be found on stony land, or rocky hill sides.

It will produce one or two good crops on farm lands, then it should be either plowed up and a crop of grain taken off, or else given a good disking to prevent its forming such a dense sod. This grass, like most of the others, will do best on rich moist land; but at the same time will withstand severe drought, if the sod does not become too dense.

All kinds of stock seem to relish either the grass or hay made from it if it is cut early.

Publications on Farming.

The following publications of interest to farmers and others have been issued by the Agricultural department of the Federal government and will be furnished free, so long as they are available, except where otherwise noted, upon application to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.:

Farmers' Bulletin No. 46.—Irrigation in Humid Climates. By F. H. King, professor of agricultural physics, college of agriculture, University of Wisconsin, and physicist of the Wisconsin agricultural experiment station. Pp. 27, figs. 4. Treats of the necessity, advantages, and methods of supplemental irrigation in humid regions.

Circular No. 65.—Irrigation From Upper Snake River, Idaho. By H. G. Raschbacher. Pp. 16, figs. 1.

Circular No. 67.—Investigations of Irrigation Practice in Oregon. By A. P. Stover, Irrigation Engineer, irrigation investigations, office of experiment stations. Pp. 30, figs. 4.

BIG FLEET IS OFF

Sixteen Battleships Start Out for Pacific Ocean.

ARE REVIEWED BY PRESIDENT

Sight is One That Brings Forth Admiration of Every Spectator, Many Being Foreigners.

Old Point Comfort, Va., Dec. 17.—Sixteen hard hitting, steel belted American battleships, guns bristling and burly of girth, but sparkling white in their immaculate dressings of peace, started away yesterday under the dazzling sun of a cloudless winter sky, on their famous twin sea expedition of 14,000 miles along foreign shores and in changing climes to the west coast of the United States. President Roosevelt, on the bridge of his cruiser-yacht, the Mayflower, personally led the magnificent four-mile line of fighting vessels during first stage of the voyage. From the anchorage grounds in Hampton Roads to the Horeshoe bend of Chesapeake bay his eagle-crested flag of blue pointed the way to the fleet's new home at the Golden Gate. Then, when the wide reaches of the sea were visible through the wide-swung capes of Virginia, he turned aside and, coming to anchor again, reviewed the passing pageant.

The blue of the sky, the stretch of green sea miles, the glistening of spotless hulls, the curl of foam-crested bow waves, the cheering of sailors aloft and friends ashore, the breeze-blown strains of "Auld Lang Syne," floating across the waters, the blast of trumpets, the rattle of drums, the flash of signals and the boom of saluting cannon marked the departure of the fleet, presenting to the people who watched it a spectacle they will never forget and to the world at large the reality of the trimmest, most homogeneous, most thoroughly equipped, most mobile and self-reliant assemblage of first class battleships ever gathered in one command.

There will not be a ship in the line old enough to have smelled powder or to have taken the shot of Manila or Santiago—stories written scarcely 10 years ago in the history of nations. All were modern of design, examples of the aggressive seagoing navy which the president has declared to be so essential to the peace of the country.

Attaches of foreign legations and embassies at Washington and many correspondents who have seen war service on foreign journals freely declared that yesterday's naval display was the most impressive they had ever seen. The facility with which the big vessels were handled, the manner in which they were maneuvered into single column formation, and the perfect alignment which was maintained to the southward turn from the cape called out the warmest admiration. The thrill of the beautiful marine picture was felt until the last wind blown spiral of smoke was lost on the horizon.

The first part of the fleet's journey will bring it to Trinidad on Christmas eve, and there, amid the heat of the tropics, the Christmas celebrations will be held. Hundreds of good-by telegrams were flashed to the ships by wireless telegraph as they left the roadstead and had turned down the southern coast.

These vessels made up the fleet which sailed yesterday under command of Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans:

Connecticut, 16,000 tons; Louisiana, 16,000 tons; Kansas, 16,000 tons; Vermont, 16,000 tons; Georgia, 14,948 tons; Virginia, 14,948 tons; New Jersey, 14,948 tons; Rhode Island, 14,948 tons; Minnesota, 16,000 tons; Ohio, 12,500 tons; Maine, 12,500 tons; Missouri, 12,500 tons; Alabama, 11,525 tons; Illinois, 11,525 tons; Keavarsge, 11,525 tons; Kentucky, 11,525 tons; Culgoa, supply ship, 5,725 tons; Glacier, supply ship, 7,000 tons; Panther, repair ship, 3,380 tons; Yankton, tender, 975 tons.

All Quiet in Japan.

Tokio, Dec. 17.—The announcement of the sailing of the Atlantic fleet of the United States navy has not been received by the newspapers of Tokio or by the government officials. All public men who have been interviewed by the Associated Press representative accept the sailing of the fleet as a foregone conclusion and it is not likely that the actual start will cause the slightest ripple of excitement. Everyone accepts the assurances of friendship offered by America conceding the right of that nation to send its warships to the Pacific.

Gold Movement \$105,350,000.

New York, Dec. 17.—The Guarantees Trust company today announced the engagement of \$600,000 in gold for import. Lazard Freres have engaged an additional \$1,600,000 in gold for import. This makes the total movement \$1,05,350,000.