

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.

The Sovereign bank of Canada has failed. Four Scranton, Pa., girls were burned in a factory fire. The United States torpedo flotilla has arrived at Rio Janeiro. The Japanese premier considers the emigration problem settled. Montana mineowners have united to build a smelter and fight the trust. Haytian rebels have captured two towns and the president threatens bombardment. Pope Pius has the gout, but the alarming rumors about his health are not justified. An effort is being made to keep Evelyn Thaw from telling her story at the second trial of Thaw. Colonel Goethals thinks about \$32,403,863 will be needed to carry on the canal work this year.

The president has decided to let the Federal troops remain at Goldfield until some action has been taken by the Nevada legislature. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road intends to have its line finished into the Northwest in time to handle a part of the 1908 crop. The largest savings bank in Dallas, Texas, has suspended. The temperature has reached 6 degrees below zero at St. Paul. Japan denies that there is any secret about the location of her fleet. A majority of the house committee is opposed to the Seattle fair appropriation. The National Woolgrowers' association is opposed to Roosevelt's land policy. The Kentucky legislature remains deadlocked on the senatorial election. Governor Beckham still leads. The New York Federal court is inquiring into Harriman's stock deals and has ordered him to answer questions. The enormous expenses of the Japanese army and navy has created a deficit which will have to be met by increased taxes.

The British Columbia legislature will try to impeach Lieutenant Governor Dunsmuir, for having disallowed Japanese legislation. United States secret service men have discovered a plot in Mexico where Japanese intended to print passports allowing them to come into this country. Taft says he will not resign from the cabinet. Much evidence of Thaw's insanity is being given at his second trial. Officers and men of the battleship fleet are being royally entertained at Rio de Janeiro. Taft says the fleet is being sent to the Pacific to show our naval strength to Oriental eyes.

The California Safe Deposit & Trust company, of San Francisco, is in the hands of a receiver. Samuel V. Froidfoot, of Iowa, has been appointed assistant commissioner of the general land office. A train was held up in Asiatic Russia by 20 brigands, but the guards beat them off. A large amount of gold was on the train. There is a deadlock in the Kentucky legislature on the election of a United States senator. Governor Beckham is in the lead at present.

Colonel Goethals places an estimate of \$250,000,000 as the cost of the Panama canal. This does not include the \$40,000,000 paid for the work already done nor the \$10,000,000 afterward paid to the government of Panama. Taft urges the government to withdraw from Cuba in the spring of 1909. The Roman Catholic church will soon announce new laws calculated to prevent hasty marriage. Trial of Oregon's land thieves has commenced at Portland with Judge Hunt, of Montana, presiding. Ten persons were injured in New York by the explosion of three dynamite bombs, which partially wrecked a tenement house. Mayor Taylor, of San Francisco, has a huge tank before him. One of the first things ins to provide a water system for fire fighting.

TO RECALL TROOPS.

Nevada Must Not Shirk Responsibility, Says President.

Washington, Jan. 14.—President Roosevelt has determined to withdraw the Federal troops from Goldfield, Nev., shortly after the legislature begins its special session today. This intention was made known at the White House today, when the report of the special investigation commission was made public, together with a letter from the president to Governor Sparks, dated January 4. The president says he shall be governed by the recommendations in the report unless the governor can show that the statements of the report are not in accordance with the facts. The report says: "The conditions did not support the general allegations in the governor's request for troops, nor were his specific statements established to any such extent as to justify his use of these statements for the purpose of getting Federal troops."

"But we must firmly believe that upon the assembling of the legislature, or within a few days thereafter, the troops should be removed, regardless of any request for their retention that may be made by either the legislature or the governor of Nevada, it being essential that the state of Nevada shall understand this situation completely—shall recognize the fact that there will, at that date be thrown upon it, and it alone, the primary responsibility of keeping order, and that, recognizing this responsibility, it may take such action as is the duty of the state and as will be sufficient in the premises."

LAND OFFICE FORCE SHORT.

Commissioner Says Department is Handicapped in Efficiency.

Washington, Jan. 14.—Commissioner Ballinger, of the general land office, has completed his annual report for submission to congress. He asks an appropriation of \$500,000 to carry on the field work of his bureau in the protection of the public lands, an increase of \$250,000 over the current appropriation. During the fiscal years of 1895-7 there was recorded for investigation 24,459 cases of all kinds; of these the agents investigated and disposed of 12,104 cases, and 12,355 cases remained for examination July 1, 1907.

There were 2,243 land entries relinquished after the case was in the hands of special agents for investigation, 353 entries were cancelled after hearings had upon special agents' charges; 367 unlawful enclosures of public lands were removed restoring 940,120 acres to the open range. There were 27 convictions connected with these cases. The total of moneys recovered by the government in all special agents' cases was \$386,251 and 2,372,224 acres of land was either freed from fraudulent claims to title or released from unlawful enclosures and occupancy.

MOROCCO FACES CRISIS.

Sultan Abd El Aziz is Forced From Throne by Reports.

Tangier, Jan. 14.—There is consternation among Moroccan officials at the sensational news from Fes announcing the proclaiming of Mulai Hafid as sultan and the dangerous conditions now prevailing in the city. Couriers who have arrived here announce also that the people of Mequinez have proclaimed Mulai Hafid sultan. According to the latest information from Fes, the Ulemas or wise men, were forced to decree the overthrow of Abd El Aziz, the sultan of record, and proclaim Mulai Hafid sultan in his place, by the attitude of the people, who were greatly excited over reports that Abd El Aziz had sailed the country to France.

The announcement by the public criers was received with frantic joy. Mulai Hafid was proclaimed sultan under certain conditions, which he must accept together with the title. Among these are the following: That he reject the Algeiras act, except the French troops from Morocco, prohibit access to the interior for Europeans, who with the Jews, it is set forth, should be allowed to occupy quarters in the ports reserved for them; prohibit Moorish subjects from placing themselves under the protection of foreign consulates, secure Morocco's rights in the frontier question with Algeria, and suppress taxation.

Storm in East.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—Chicago and its environs were cut off for several hours yesterday from wire communications from other points by a snow and wind storm which began before dawn and raged without a break all day. Snow continues to fall. A northwest gale drove blinding masses of wet snow before it. The warmth of the atmosphere caused the heavy flakes partly to melt and stick to whatever they touched. As a consequence overburdened wires and poles were put out of commission in all directions for hours.

Japanese Sends in Bid.

Honolulu, Jan. 14.—The award of bids for material for the construction of improvements for Pearl harbor has been held up, because the lowest bidder is a dummy for some Japanese contractor. It is probable that all bids will be rejected.

DOINGS OF THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

Thursday, January 16.

Washington, Jan. 16.—A complete change of front was exhibited by the majority in the house of representatives today in the consideration of the bill to codify and revise the penal laws of the United States. The pacific spirit displayed by the committee on revision of laws toward the close of yesterday's session, when it appeared as though the several amendments strengthening certain provisions of the bill regarding corruption in the appointment of persons to public offices would be adopted, had vanished today and instead every inch of ground was fought over to keep amendments out of the bill. When adjournment was taken, only six additional pages had been disposed of and but one or two verbal amendments by the committee had been inserted.

A resolution was adopted that the house convene at 9 a. m. instead of 12, and remain in session until 6 p. m. Lunch hour to be from 1 to 2.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Senator Fulton has introduced a bill appropriating \$250,000 for a revenue cutter for the Portland station. The bill has the approval of the Treasury department.

A resolution was passed declaring that no communication from heads of departments would be received unless sent in compliance of law or transmitted by the president.

Carter, of Montana, opposes giving public land to the states for various purposes.

A bill has been introduced creating a bureau of mining.

The senate calendar was cleared of nearly every bill upon it today and the bill to revise the criminal laws of the United States was taken up and discussed until adjournment, which was taken at 4:30 until Monday.

Wednesday, January 15.

Washington, Jan. 15.—Bacon today introduced a currency bill and explained its chief features to the senate. Bacon said that his bill was an amendment to the Aldrich bill and embodied many of its provisions, as it did of the provisions of the bill introduced by Knox. He said it omitted railroad bonds from the classes of securities that could be used as a basis of circulation.

The senate did not receive a reply today from the secretary of the treasury to its resolution calling for information concerning the financial situation, as had been promised, and in its absence Aldrich assented to the passage of Culbertson's resolution on the same subject. Without further comment, the resolution was adopted.

The resolution providing for the remission of more than half the Chinese Boxer indemnity was passed.

Washington, Jan. 15.—So persistent have been the efforts made in the house of representatives to amend the bill codifying the penal laws of the United States that the committee on the revision of the laws today consented to let down the bars, and as a result the measure was changed in some important particulars. The pacific attitude of the committee in this regard served to modify the opposition to the measure, and in consequence the proceedings today were devoid of the heated arguments which have characterized the previous debates. When the house adjourned there were pending a number of other important amendments, which seemed to meet with no particular opposition by the committee, but which were passed over until tomorrow.

The portions of the bill which attracted the most attention were those covering the giving and accepting of bribes by senators and representatives, and the sale of endorsements or support for appointive public offices. It is to the amendments touching these questions that the house will devote itself tomorrow upon resuming consideration of the bill.

Tuesday, January 14.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The recent bond issue by the Treasury department was again the subject of discussion in the senate today, being brought forward by a resolution offered by Culbertson, calling upon the secretary for additional information concerning the reasons that induced him to award bonds to National banks instead of individuals who, he declared, offered a higher price than was bid by the banks. The resolution went over under the rules. Tillman offered a resolution embodying a new series of inquiries concerning the financial situation.

The senate refused to confirm four Ohio postoffice appointments at the instance of Foraker and Dick.

The bill granting leaves of absence to homestead entrmen during December, January, February and March was passed.

Washington, Jan. 4.—The amount of the fine and the length of the term of imprisonment to be meted out to officers and directors of corporations for violating the law with respect to money contributions for political purposes furnished material for a lengthy debate in the house today, in connection with the consideration of the penal code bill. All amendments to increase the penalty or enlarge the scope of the law, however, were voted down. These amendments, without exception, emanated from the Democratic side, but the one that brought forth the most discussion was by Cockran, New York, who wanted the fine fixed at \$10,000 instead of not more than \$1,000, and the imprisonment at 10 years instead of not more than one year. When adjournment was taken at 5 o'clock 86 sections of the 342 had been disposed of.

Monday, January 13.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The recent issue of bonds by the secretary of the treasury for the purpose of relieving the financial stringency was the subject of an animated debate in the senate today. The discussion was precipitated by an inquiry by Culbertson and was participated in by Aldrich, Tillman and Bailey. It resulted in an agreement to postpone further controversy until a statement can be received from Secretary Cortelyou, which Aldrich promised to present on Thursday. While the subject was under discussion, Tillman's resolution directing the finance committee to inquire into the operations of the Treasury department was referred, with his consent, to that committee.

The senate passed Tillman's resolution calling on the Interstate Commerce commission for information concerning purchases by railroad companies of stocks of competing roads.

The unfinished business in the form of the bill to codify the criminal laws of the United States was placed before the senate and the reading of the bill was begun.

Washington, Jan. 13.—Vigorous defense of state's rights in dealing with violations of civil rights or with special state elections, where troops have been called into service, served to enliven the debate in the house of representatives today in connection with the consideration of the bill to codify the penal laws of the United States. A number of Democrats, mostly from the Southern states, strenuously sought, by amendment, to reserve to the states themselves discretion as to the qualifications of voters or of persons to serve on juries, and to limit the powers of Federal judges in certain cases, but every attempt failed. Republicans presented a solid front, and the votes were all on party lines.

Saturday, January 11.

Washington, Jan. 11.—A vigorous fight was waged in the house of representatives today over the bill to codify and revise the penal laws of the United States with particular reference to section 19, affecting conspiracies against the civil rights of citizens. Smith, of Missouri, and Hughes, of New Jersey, offered amendments having for their object the exemption of labor unions from the operation of the section whenever such unions declare strikes or boycotts. A motion to strike out the whole section was made by Bartlett, of Georgia. The brunt of the debate was borne by Sherley, of Kentucky, a member of the committee on revision, but he was supported by a number of Republicans.

The amendments were all lost, as was one by De Armond to strike out section 20, because it conferred on Federal courts in punishing felonies and misdemeanors committed under section 19 the authority given to the courts of the state in which the acts are committed.

New Liability Law Projected.

Washington, Jan. 4.—There is a strong probability that before the present congress adjourns another employers' liability law will be enacted to take the place of the one that has just been declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme court. However, this is the prediction of the labor leaders in congress. The features in the La Follette law that was held faulty will be eliminated in the next act.

Ballinger Out of Land Office.

Washington, Jan. 14.—R. A. Ballinger, commissioner of the general land office, will resign and be succeeded March 1 by Assistant Commissioner Fred Bennett. Colonel Medmore Crawford, of Salem, Oregon, was nominated by the president today to be a brigadier general.

Indiana Got Decision.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The United States Supreme court today upheld the right of the Indiana of Fort Belknap reservation in Montana to the waters of the Milk river, claiming it is theirs by treaty. Henry Waters and others sought to divert the water for commercial purposes.

Revenues Show Decrease.

Washington, Jan. 14.—The monthly statement of collections of internal revenue shows that for the month of November, 1907, the receipts fell off \$5,628,000, as compared with November, 1906.

HARLAN SEES WAR.

White and Yellow Races Must Fight for Supremacy.

Washington, Jan. 13.—Justice John M. Harlan, of the Supreme court of the United States, peered into the distant future at the annual dinner of the Navy league of the United States and told of a day when the white and yellow races will meet in a conflict that will shake the earth. The distinguished jurist was speaking in the interest of a mighty American navy. He said: "If I had the opportunity I would vote for an appropriation of \$50,000,000 a year for a period of ten years for a larger navy. The great importance of a navy is shown in the constitution, which restricts the appropriations for the army, but sets no limit to those for the navy. There is no such thing as friendship between nations as between men. Nations make no sacrifices to preserve friendship and do not forbear to do certain things because it does not meet with the approval of another nation. Do you think England cares a cent for what we think of her navy, or Germany cares a cent for what we think of hers?"

"The trend of the immigration of the white people in the past has been from east to west. There has been none from the west. Just across the water there is a country with an immense population whose commerce we are seeking. We refer to the people of Asia as the yellow race. There are 400,000,000 Chinese, as strong physically and mentally as we are. There is over there another nation whose people are progressive and ambitious. We may some day see a skilled army in Japan of 5,000,000 to 10,000,000. They will say: "You claim Europe as your country. This is ours. Get out." "I don't think they have any such idea now, and we have no hostility toward them. But there will be a conflict between the yellow race and the white race that will shake the earth. When it comes I want to see this country with a navy on both oceans that will be strong enough."

GREAT ACTIVITY EVIDENT.

Government is Rushing Work on Our Coast Defenses.

Washington, Jan. 13.—New coast defenses are being installed and old ones re-enforced at Pacific coast points, Guam, Hawaii and Manila. This work of fortification is being carried forward swiftly and upon a gigantic scale. Coal depots are being replenished, huge searchlights installed, harbors mined, big guns placed and ammunition magazines filled to overflowing.

So quietly has this work been going on that few outside of the officials handling the work have realized the enormous undertaking under way. This work was started last May, and it is expected that a year will see the completion of the outlined program.

It is acknowledged that the fortifications at Manila, Guam, Puget sound and Honolulu are inefficient and it is at those points that the greatest work is being done. San Francisco and other coast points are declared to be perfectly equipped to repel attacks.

While not acknowledging any apprehension, the administration is rushing the work with real vigor. It was learned from an authoritative source today that one of the potent factors in determining the dispatch of the fleet to the Pacific was a realization of the weakness at certain points. The presence of the fleet in the Pacific remedies all defects and structural weakness in coast defense points. As long as it remains there it will make up for any short coming in coast fortifications.

By the time the fleet leaves the waters of the Pacific it is believed all the weak points will have been reinforced and the defenses will be of a modern and approved type.

Twelve million rounds now enroute to the Far East furnishes enough ammunition for a possible army of 50,000 men. The normal need of the army in the Philippines is about 2,000,000 rounds annually. Aside from this there is an exceptionally heavy draft of shells and torpedoes.

Tightens Grip on Peninsula.

Tokio, Jan. 13.—An imperial ordinance has been gazetted which provides for the reorganization of the government of Kwang Tung peninsula in Manchuria. Directors general of foreign police affairs have also been created. Japanese consuls at Mukden, Kin Chow, Chang Chun and Antung have been appointed commissioners of police for South Manchuria. The purpose of the ordinance, it is believed, means the organization of an active reform administration for the entire district.

Vesuvius Still Spits Ashes.

Naples, Jan. 13.—Mount Vesuvius continues to throw out ashes and incandescent matter from its chief crater, the cone of which, formed by the last eruption, collapsed recently, the earth tremblings being felt long distances.

FATAL THEATER FIRE

Hundred Die in Horrible Disaster at Boyertown, Pa.

COAL OIL SPILLED ON AUDIENCE

Flames Leap Through Hall and People All Rush Out—Many Are Trampled to Pulp.

Boyertown, Pa., Jan. 14.—Nearly 100 persons of this borough were killed in a theater fire and panic last night and nearly three score injured, many of them fatally. A majority of the killed were members of the leading families of the town.

While the "Scottish Reformation" was being reproduced in Rhodes opera house by Mrs. Monroe, of Washington, a tank used in a moving picture scene exploded. Immediately there was a wild rush for the exits of the building. Men of mature years endeavored to still the panic, but their voices could not be heard above the shrieks and screams of the terrified women and children who composed the greater part of the audience.

It seemed as though nearly the entire audience made a mad rush for the exits the moment the explosion occurred.

In their attempts to quiet the great crowd, those persons who were on the stage accidentally upset the coal oil lamps used at the footlights. The burning oil scattered in all directions, and the lamps which were used to light the opera house exploded, throwing the blazing oil over the terror stricken people, who were fighting frantically to gain the exits. In the mad rush a section of the floor gave way, precipitating scores of persons to the basement.

It was scarcely five minutes from the time of the explosion of the tanks until the entire heart of the structure seemed a roaring furnace. There was a mad scramble to the stairway, and scores of women and children were knocked down and trampled upon, many of them doubtless being crushed to death. At least 50 persons, realising that exit by the stairway meant almost certain death, risked their lives by jumping from the windows. Limbs were broken and skulls were crushed by this daring method of escape.

In the meantime a relief corps was at work at the entrance to the theater, endeavoring to release those who were edged in the doorway and unable to extricate themselves. Many persons who otherwise might have made good their escape from the furnace were held in check by the awful jam at the doors.

As the flames cut their way toward the front of the building, women could be seen to clasp their hands and fall back into the flames. Once the doorways were clear, the rescuers dragged many women and children from the stairways leading to the balcony. Some of them were so badly injured that they died before reaching the temporary hospital.

Skulls were crushed and the faces of some of the victims were so horribly mutilated that they were barely recognizable. In one instance, the skull of a child, apparently about 10 years of age, was crushed almost into a jelly.

To add to the terrible disaster, the fire apparatus became disabled and the structure was left entirely to the mercy of the flames. It is almost certain not a vestige of the bodies of the unfortunate who were overcome by the smoke and perished will ever be found.

Had the women and children heeded the warning of the cooler heads in the audience, the horrible loss of life might have been avoided, but there was the usual panic and stampede which invariably follows such a catastrophe. The flames spread rapidly and communicated to the other parts of the building. Men, women and children rushed for the many exits of the building, and the weaker sex and the children were trampled and maimed in the mad rush to gain the streets.

Cut Pullman Charges.

Washington, Jan. 14.—George S. Loftus, of St. Paul, accompanied by Senator LaFollette, filed with the Interstate Commerce commission today a petition asking for a reduction of 25 per cent in the lower berth rates of the Pullman company, and the fixing of rates for upper berths at one-half the lower berth rate. The reduction is asked on all interstate business throughout the United States. Mr. Loftus represents the Minnesota Shippers' association, which started the private car investigation two years ago.

Mining Camp Burns.

Mexico City, Jan. 14.—According to a telegram just received in this city, the great gold mining camp of El Oro, one of the largest in the republic, is being destroyed by fire. When the dispatch was filed the principal hotels and the more important business buildings of the camp had been reduced to ashes.