

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.

Taft's enemies admit he is practically sure of the nomination.

A great fire swept the port of Bahia, Brazil, causing a loss of \$1,000,000.

The town of Big Timber, Mont., was three-fourths destroyed by fire. Loss about \$400,000.

Japan is not on the list of visiting points for the battleship fleet, but may be included later.

Four of the men indicted for frauds in the Pennsylvania state capital scandal have been convicted.

The American battleship fleet has been ordered to leave San Francisco July 6 next and complete its voyage around the world.

Sacks containing \$3,800 in gold were stolen from the paymaster's safe on the cruiser Milwaukee, and thus far all efforts to discover the thief have failed.

The president of the Butte, Mont., Miners' union says 5,000 men are out of work, notwithstanding circulars which have been sent out by the mine-owners advertising for more help.

The Roxbury Carpet works, of Boston, employing 900 hands, have closed indefinitely.

Prince Luitpold, of Bavaria, celebrated his 87th birthday. He is in perfect health.

Massachusetts cotton mills have made a 10 per cent reduction in the wages of 25,000 employes.

The first service has authorized 17,000 cattle and 182,500 sheep to graze on the Blue Mountain reserve this season.

The American auto in the New York to Paris race reached Granger, Wyo., March 12. The second car, the Italian, was at Cheyenne.

Union Pacific stockholders have turned on Harriman and sued him for the \$40,000,000 he made dealing in the stocks of other roads with Union Pacific capital.

A conference was held between President Roosevelt and prominent men looking to legalizing railroad pools, exempting labor unions and making all corporation deals public.

General d'Amade, commanding the French forces in Morocco, has received a letter from Mual Hafid, the so-called sultan of the South, and leaders of his army, asking that hostilities be suspended pending peace negotiations.

An insane man tried to kill King Haakon, of Norway.

King Alfonso was received with much enthusiasm at Barcelona.

Four negroes have been lynched in Mississippi for incendiarism.

Spanish anarchists are said to be after the premier, and not the king.

The Mothers' congress is in session at the White House, Washington, D. C.

The United Railways company of San Francisco is about to go into the hands of a receiver.

Japan ridicules the idea that naval preparations are being made for an attack on China.

Great Britain has sent a note to Japan advising arbitration of the China-Japan difficulties.

The president has sent to the senate the nomination of John McCourt to be district attorney for Oregon.

Portland has been assured that a number of cruisers and torpedo boats will be sent there during the rose carnival.

Schmitz has been released from jail and he and Ruef have patched up their differences. In the remainder of the trials they will stand together.

King Alfonso will visit Barcelona in defiance of bomb throwers.

Mayor Busse, of Chicago, has taken steps to keep all anarchists out of the city.

District Attorney Jerome, of New York, says the charges against him are false.

In the New York to Paris automobile race the American car is far ahead of the others.

The janitor of the Collinwood school declares he fastened the doors open at the first alarm of fire.

John F. Stevens, ex-engineer of the Panama canal, says the big canal will be of little value after it is finished.

The incident of the seizure of the Japanese steamer Tatsu Maru by China has not yet been settled.

BLOODY FIGHT AT PEN.

Three Montana Lifers Make a Mad Dash for Liberty

Deer Lodge, Mont., March 10.—Warden Frank Conley, of the Montana state penitentiary, was fearfully wounded Sunday morning and his first assistant warden, John Robinson, was killed, when three life convicts, George Rock, W. H. Hayes and another whose name is not given out, made a dash for liberty in the penitentiary office at 8 o'clock. It is thought the warden will live.

Robinson's throat was cut from ear to ear and the jugular vein was severed. Conley's throat was gashed and he was stabbed several times in the shoulder and groin before he was able to draw his revolver and shoot two of the assailants down. Convicts Hayes and Rock were both shot down by Conley after the latter had been wounded.

The attack on the prison authorities and a subsequent effort to escape has, according to the prison authorities this afternoon, been long planned by Rock and Hayes, who were cellmates. Both were armed with penknives, the blades of which were sharpened like razors. The three convicts were brought to the office of the penitentiary Sunday morning by Deputy Warden Robinson, to be tried for some trivial infraction of the prison rules, and Conley was waiting to sit in judgment.

The moment the men entered the office door Rock turned swiftly upon Robinson, who was closing the door behind the men, and quickly drawing a knife, he began slashing at the deputy warden's throat. Robinson was unable to retreat or move before his throat was cut wide open and he sank to the floor dying.

At the same moment that Rock attacked Robinson, Hayes also pulled out a knife similar to that of Rock and started for Conley. The latter retreated to the rear of the office before the oncoming desperado. Before Conley could draw his revolver, however, Hayes had slashed his throat, cutting him from the left ear to a point under the chin. The convict, seeing his intended victim getting away, grappled with him and stabbed him several times in the shoulder and groin.

Although bleeding terribly, Conley managed to draw his gun from his pocket and fired four times with the weapon pressed against Hayes' abdomen.

As Hayes sank to the floor, Rock rushed at Conley, who emptied the two remaining cartridges in his gun into Rock and he latter also went down. The third convict who had been called to the "carpet," took to his heels at the first of the battle, but was quickly captured and placed in his cell. The authorities refused to give out his name until they had investigated whether he was concerned in the plot or whether he had merely been called to the office at the same time as the other two.

ARE FIRE TRAPS.

Too Many Flimsy Buildings Are Constructed in America

Washington, March 10.—In a statement made public last night, Richard L. Humphrey, engineer in charge of the structural material laboratories of the government, discusses recent fire horrors and asserts that fire traps as bad or worse than that which cost the lives of so many school children at Collinwood, O., exist in nearly every village and town and in many of the large cities.

He urges the passage of laws to prohibit the occupation of anything except a structure of the highest fire resisting type, especially when it is used as a school, theater or other structure in which people assemble in large numbers.

"It is a matter of record," he said, "borne out by statistics, that this country spends enormous sums of money in providing equipments in fighting fires, while foreign countries spend their money in building structures which offer the greatest resistance to fire. The per capita loss in this country yearly exceeds \$5, against an annual loss in 21 of the principal cities of Europe of 33 cents per capita. Estimating the population of the country at 80,000,000 the loss from fires here is \$740,000,000. If we had the same conditions that prevail in European cities our loss would be but \$28 4/10,000 a year."

Japan's Naval Strength.

Tokio, March 10.—Some reliable figures are now to hand showing the present strength of the Japanese navy compared with its strength when the war broke out. Details are appended, but the totals may be briefly stated, viz: One hundred and fifty seven vessels of all descriptions, representing a tonnage of 283,242 tons, before the war, and 204 vessels and 515,092 tons at the present day. Further scrutiny of the figures shows that Japan today possesses more than twice the number of battleships she had before the war.

Portugal Not Involved.

Lisbon, March 10.—Investigation instituted by the Portuguese government regarding the Tatsu Maru incident have elicited from the Pekin government the emphatic assertion that the seizure occurred on the high seas, and that, therefore, there was no violation of the law governing Portugal waters.

DOINGS OF THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

Friday, March 13

Washington, March 13.—Senator Fulton today introduced a resolution discharging the interstate commerce committee from further consideration of his bill regarding increased railroad rates, having become satisfied that Chairman Elkins is deliberately trying to smother the measure by refusing to bring it to a vote. Elkins, in retaliation, had read in the senate a letter from Commissioner Knapp, which he contended was hostile to Fulton's bill, but he soon's report, which was inclosed, and which was favorable to the bill as amended.

Further debate was cut off when 2 o'clock arrived, as that hour had been fixed for a set speech on the currency bill, but Fulton will present the commission's report and continue his fight.

Elkins is not playing fair. His unfairness will help Fulton, who is determined to fight to the last ditch to get his bill before the senate. He had an assurance tonight, however, that the subcommittee will report his bill tomorrow.

Washington, March 13.—The fortification appropriation bill, which will soon be reported to the house, will make adequate provision for increasing the efficiency of the coast defenses along the Pacific coast. It is stated that the entire appropriation, save what is necessary for maintenance of defenses on the Atlantic coast, will be devoted to the enlargement and improvement of the Pacific coast and insular defenses, several million dollars in all. It is the intention of congress to make the fortifications on the Pacific coast in every way equal to the defenses of the harbors on the Atlantic.

Thursday, March 12

Washington, March 12.—The Lilley submarine boat inquiry was begun in earnest today by a special house committee. Beginning at 10 o'clock the committee continued its work during the greater part of the day. Representative Lilley was heard at length. He began his testimony by reading a long typewritten statement, a part of which was in the nature of an affidavit in which he outlined his charges in detail. When he had completed this formal presentation he was questioned at length by Representative Olmstead of the committee, who was designated by Chairman Boutell to perform that service.

During the afternoon session, Representative Richmond P. Hobson testified that he had been approached by a man representing the Electric Boat Co., who told him that, if he would support the claims of that company before congress, the company could bring influence to bear upon Speaker Cannon to have him (Hobson) appointed on the committee on naval affairs.

Washington, March 12.—By a tie vote, a motion was lost today in the house committee on military affairs to report favorably the Dawes bill creating a roll to be known as the volunteer retired list and placing thereon, with retired pay, the surviving volunteer officers of the army, navy and marine corps of the civil war. Estimates indicated that the first year's operation of such a law would cost the government \$11,000,000.

Washington, March 12.—The senate committee on military affairs today reported favorably a bill authorizing extra officers for the army.

The bill reported would add 651 officers to the army distributed as follows among the grades: Thirty-six colonels, 54 lieutenant-colonels, 90 majors, 162 captains, 144 lieutenants and 126 second lieutenants.

Wednesday, March 11

Washington, March 11.—President Roosevelt today, in a special message to the senate, calls attention to the fact that the senate committee has found that the charges of participation in the Brownsville riot, which caused him to dismiss companies B, C and D of the Twenty-fifth infantry, were substantiated, and asks the senate to pass a special law extending for one year the time within which those who establish their innocence may be reinstated. Such a bill will be introduced.

Senator Heyburn today secured the passage through the senate of his bill providing for the survey of all public land, reserved and unreserved, in Idaho, Oregon, Montana and California. Under the present system, the government only surveys land upon request of actual settlers. Mr. Heyburn says this system tends to retard development, and also retards surveys, as settlers don't like to go on unsurveyed land.

Washington, March 11.—Determined and persistent assaults on the postoffice appropriation bill in the house today resulted in amplification of that measure in many important parts, despite the protests of Chairman Overstreet and the committee.

The letter carriers finally won their long fight for \$1,200 salaries, when an amendment by Goebel, of Ohio, granting the same was adopted. The house also allowed an additional \$25,000 for clerks in third-class offices, where the salaries of the postmaster range from \$1,200, and \$15,000 additional for contract stations.

Altogether the appropriations carried by the bill were increased to the extent of \$1,355,000.

Tuesday, March 10

Washington, March 10.—The senate today ratified and made public six of the 13 treaties negotiated at the international conference at The Hague. The conventions adopted are those to which no opposition had been made.

The final reports of the committee on military affairs, in relation to the Brownsville affair, will be made to the senate tomorrow. Senator Warner will present the report of the majority of the committee sustaining the action of the president in discharging without honor a battalion of the Twenty-fifth infantry on the ground that the negro soldiers had done the shooting.

Washington, March 10.—Consideration of the postoffice appropriation bill was resumed by the house of representatives today. Although amendments were in order, the bill, when it was laid aside for the day, with 11 pages disposed of, had undergone no material change.

A noteworthy speech by Hamilton, of Michigan, upholding the right of the Federal government to control corporations and sustaining the president in his attitude toward them, was the feature of the day's proceedings.

Other addresses were made by Small, of North Carolina, and Finley, of South Carolina, each of whom attacked the proposition to increase the pay for ocean mail service on the ground that it was but a subterfuge for a ship subsidy.

Monday, March 9

Washington, March 9.—The senate discussed at length Senator Frye's joint resolution providing for the carrying of materials for the Panama canal in American bottoms only. Frye advocated the adoption of the resolution, saying that at least 5,000,000 barrels of cement would be required in the work, and that so long as foreign vessels were permitted to compete, it would be impossible for the domestic ships to participate in the transportation because of the difference both in construction and operation. He said that in both these respects British built ships had an advantage of at least one-third.

An amendment by Foster, of Virginia, providing that the restriction should not apply to the Gulf ports or any part of the United States from which vessels of the United States could not be secured for the trade was accepted by Frye.

Fulton, of Oregon, and Bacon, of Georgia, sought to have the amendment extended to the North Pacific and South Atlantic coasts respectively, but were unsuccessful.

Resolutions of sorrow upon the announcement of the death of Representative Adolph Meyer, of Louisiana, were adopted, and at 4:20 p. m. the senate adjourned as a further mark of respect to his memory.

The house was in session but a few minutes, adjourning at 12:12 o'clock upon announcement of Mr. Meyer's death.

Saturday, March 7

Washington, March 7.—Bills to establish savings banks, introduced by Senators Carter, Knox and Burkett, today were considered by a subcommittee of the senate committee on postoffices and post roads consisting of Senators Carter, Burrows, Bankhead and Clay.

Postmaster General Meyer was before the subcommittee and outlined his views on the subject.

Mr. Meyer stated that, while the Knox bill was drawn in his department, he was not wedded to that measure and was very ready to approve amendments or provision to be taken from both the Burkett and Carter bills. The committee and postmaster general were agreed upon the plan for placing the funds to be secured by the postal savings banks in the various national banks of the country at a rate of interest large enough to pay depositors 2 per cent and to defray all attendant expenses.

Washington, March 7.—A part of the session today of the house was devoted to the consideration of private claim bills. The remainder of the day was given over to eulogies of the late Representative Slempp, of Virginia.

Only Seven Japs Came In

Washington, March 10.—The Pacific coast members of congress have been informed that only seven Japanese, and these not laborers, have entered the United States this year, which is regarded as showing the effectiveness of the new emigration regulation which Japan has formulated and undertaken to enforce.

There is an apprehension that some Japanese laborers have entered the country through Mexico, but it is learned that Mexico is negotiating with Japan for practically the same regulations that have been applied to the United States.

REVISION ASSURED.

Extra Session to Be Called to Go Over Tariff.

Washington, March 9.—Plans for the revision of the tariff have been agreed upon by the Republican leaders, including Roosevelt, Speaker Cannon, Senator Beveridge and Representatives Payne, Daisell and Sherman. The three latter being members of the house ways and means committee, who will frame the new law.

An extra session of congress will be called immediately after the expiration of the present congress next spring and a bill will be drafted reducing some of the high schedules on steel and iron and equalizing others. If the Democrats are successful in the national election next fall, President Roosevelt will call congress immediately after the result is known, so that the tariff can be revised by the Republicans.

Senator Beveridge, who presented a measure providing for a tariff commission, had a conference with the president today. Later he conferred with Speaker Cannon and Representative Payne, Daisell and Sherman. It developed that the commission plan is not acceptable, and it was agreed that a resolution shall be adopted by the present congress directing the secretaries of state, treasury, agriculture, commerce and labor and director of the census to gather such data as will be useful to congress in revising the tariff.

Representative Sherman, with the approval of Speaker Cannon, is circulating a petition among members of the house which requests the ways and means committee to sit during the summer recess for the purpose of gathering data to aid the members in framing a new tariff law. Many signatures have already been procured and the committee will sit.

DEMANDS ARE MADE.

Japan's Minister Presents Ultimatum to China

Peking, March 9.—Japan's ultimatum in the case of the Japanese steamship Tatsu Maru was presented to the head of the Chinese Foreign board today, and the board has the matter under consideration.

The Tatsu Maru was seized off Macao on February 7 by Chinese custom's cruisers on the charge that her cargo of arms and ammunition was intended for Chinese revolutionists, although consigned to a merchant of that place. The steamer is now being held at Whampoa, on the Canton river.

The irreducible minimum of the Japanese claims is the restoration of the steamer, as well as of her cargo, and the payment of a full indemnity. Action is demanded within a "reasonable time." In case of default or postponement, Japan, according to the terms of her ultimatum, will "take immediate action."

Japan expects a reply by tomorrow. She will not tolerate China's offer to investigate the case. She insists upon an apology for the hauling down of the Japanese flag on the Tatsu Maru and she will not accept mediation, affirming that China is in error and that the facts are incontrovertible.

Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to China, in delivering the ultimatum, made reference to Japan's sympathy for China in the matter of contraband traffic in arms and explained that China could not expect mediation so long as she did not admit the participation of the Portuguese.

INFECTED RATS ARE FOUND.

Citizens' Committee Authorizes Additional Expenditures.

San Francisco, March 9.—The bacteriological reports of the Federal health officers state that infected rats were found in nearly every district of the city last week, only the Sunset and Richmond districts being immune. The greatest percentage of infection is reported from the North Beach district and in the Western addition. In all buildings where infected rats were found, walls and floors were opened, and the places thoroughly fumigated. The citizens' health committee has authorized the Federal health officers to employ additional men, no limit being placed on the number. New gangs will be organized and an effort made to exterminate all the rats in the city within the next 30 days.

Bonus for Each Child.

Sydney, N. S. W., March 9.—The increase of population in the commonwealth is notoriously slow, and the legislators of Western Australia, where the inhabitants number only two to the square mile, have determined to take a leaf out of the book of the French. With a view to encouraging bigger families, an amendment has been inserted in the income tax bill by the state legislative assembly giving an exemption of \$50 for every child up to the number of five in the family of a taxpayer. Five children is evidently the limit.

Furnace Got Overheated.

Columbus, O., March 9.—That the fire in the Collinwood schoolhouse which cost the lives of more than 170 children was due to an overheated furnace is the substance of a partial report made to State Fire Marshal Creamer tonight by the three deputies who have been investigating the causes of the fire.

SCHMITZ WINS OUT

Supreme Court Finds Fatal Defects in Indictment.

RUEF'S PLEA ALSO NULLIFIED

Seven Judges Unanimous in Holding That Facts Stated Do Not Constitute Crime.

San Francisco, March 10.—The Supreme court yesterday handed down a decision denying the application of the prosecution in the San Francisco bribery-graft cases for a rehearing after a decision by the District court of Appeals in the case of ex-Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz, convicted of extortion in the French restaurant case. Without a dissenting vote among the seven justices, the court sustained the appellate court in its decision that the indictment upon which Schmitz was convicted was defective in that it did not aver that Schmitz was mayor; that Ruef, his co-defendant, was a political boss practically in control of the city; that as such they were in a position to exercise power and undue influence over the police commissioners, and that it did not show that Schmitz resorted to unlawful means in threatening to have liquor licenses withheld.

"The decision demonstrates," said ex-Mayor Schmitz, "that the highest court in the state believes what I have always claimed, that I was removed from office and railroaded to prison."

"The contention of the respondent that the appeal was prematurely taken," says the Supreme court, "has no merit. The court is unanimous in the opinion that the District court of Appeals was correct in its conclusion that the indictment was insufficient in that it did not show that the injury to the property threatened by the defendant was an 'unlawful injury.'"

This decision practically nullifies Ruef's plea of guilty to the same charge, invalidates the remaining four extortion indictments against the ex-mayor and Ruef, and will enable Schmitz to gain his liberty on bail after eight months' confinement in the county jail.

GREAT FEAT OF WIRELESS.

Message From Fleet in Pacific Is Received at Pensacola.

Washington, March 10.—About the last place that the Navy department expected to hear from the Atlantic battleship flotilla for at least six months was on the Atlantic coast, yet this is what happened. The Navy department today received a telegraphic message from its wireless station at Pensacola, which had been in direct communication with the battleship fleet, a most remarkable performance, considering that the wireless impulses were obliged to traverse the Gulf of Mexico, then cross overland the state of Texas, part of Mexico, and again cross several hundred miles of ocean.

An additional dispatch received at Pensacola from Admiral Thomas, dated on board the Minnesota at 8 o'clock last night, is as follows:

"The position of the fleet at this moment is latitude 14.27 north, longitude 102.01 west."

FLEET TAKES TO MARE ISLAND.

Wireless Communication at Distance of 2 600 Miles.

San Francisco, March 10.—The battleship fleet came into direct communication with Mare Island yesterday, the message being the first this coast has received from the warships. Communication was had by wireless for a distance of 2,600 miles, the message being from the battleship Maine of Evans' fleet. Yesterday morning the operator at the wireless station at Mare Island, in responding to the call of his instrument, was surprised to discover he was in direct communication with the Maine. Though 2,600 miles away, the message was clear. Communication was soon cut off on account of other stations interrupting.

Rebuild the Cliff House.

San Francisco, March 10.—Dr. Emma Merritt, executrix of the estate of Adolph Sutro, was given permission today by Judge Coffey to apply the \$47,000 insurance money received after the destruction of the Cliff house toward the erection of a new building. The position was opposed by Attorneys J. F. Bowie and Joseph Mayer, who represented four of the heirs. Bowie said the heirs he represented had no objection to rebuilding the Cliff house, but thought the heirs should have the direction of expending the money.

Mutiny in Caracas Falls.

Caracas, March 4, via Port of Spain, March 10.—An uprising occurred here last night in a barracks, the soldiers killing their commander, General Moss. The mutiny was quelled only after a number of soldiers had been shot.