

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

PREPARED FOR THE BUSY READER

Less Important but Not Less Interesting Happenings from Points Outside the State.

J. J. Hill says his roads are preparing to handle a heavy immigration to the coast next year.

La Follette, in his weekly magazine, sharply criticizes President Taft and his recent message.

Prince Albert of Flanders, a nephew of the late King Leopold of Belgium, will occupy the throne.

An exposition company has been incorporated in San Francisco to celebrate the completion of the Panama canal.

The United States Steel corporation is preparing to abandon Pittsburg and establish itself at Gary, Indiana, on account of labor troubles.

The Monarch Oil company of California owned by J. D. and A. B. Spreckels will establish a northwest refinery and distributing station at Portland.

Striking switchmen in Spokane say every union railroad man in that city will be called out if the roads do not agree to arbitration before Christmas.

Baron Shibusawa, who has recently returned to Tokio from a visit to America, says Americans are Japan's best friends and at the same time her deadliest enemies.

A boiler explosion at the Royal Clay works, at New Philadelphia, Ohio, killed two men and wrecked the entire plant. A third man is missing. One body was blown 200 yards.

A sensational attack upon Secretary Ballinger on the floor of the house makes it practically certain that a thorough investigation of the general land office will be made soon after Christmas.

Carnegie will give \$100,000 for a public library building in Honolulu.

J. J. Hill declares the strike of the switchmen is over, so far as the Hill roads are concerned.

More oats are raised than any other kind of grain, the world's crop for 1908 being 3,500,000,000 bushels.

The state supreme court of Indiana has declared the county local option law of that state to be constitutional.

Three daring robbers smashed the combination of the vault in the Exeter bank in Tulare county, Cal., and got away with \$7,000 in gold.

Representative Hitchcock started a fight for an investigation into the efforts of Ballinger and the Guggenheims to control the entire mineral field of Alaska.

The house committee on expositions says San Francisco and San Diego must select which one is to hold a fair in 1915, or neither one will get any public money.

The O. R. & N. road will spend \$600,000 improving its line between The Dalles and Des Chutes, and will eventually double-track the entire line to Portland.

Mrs. Caroline W. Martin, 64 years of age, and a resident of New York, has been arrested charged with murdering her daughter, who carried insurance of \$24,700.

The bodies of two men, mangled by an explosion of nitro-glycerine, were found in Oklahoma, with a complete set of cracksmen's tools. It is thought they were bank robbers.

Henry will lecture through the southwestern states.

One boy was killed and 14 seriously injured in a coasting accident in Indiana.

King Leopold survived a severe operation, but has taken a turn for the worse.

The secretary of war has chosen General Wood chief of staff to succeed General Bell.

A North Carolina passenger train plunged over a trestle, killing 12 and injuring about 40.

Bill will begin immediately the construction of a railroad from Vancouver to Kootenay, B. C.

Striking switchmen in Butte are returning to work and one mining company employing 3,000 men has started up.

Zelaya offers to resign in favor of Madriz, his chief supporter.

It is believed that both Arizona and New Mexico will be admitted as states if their constitutions are found satisfactory.

A portrait of C. H. McCormick, inventor of the reaping machine, has been unveiled at the University of Illinois.

Arbuckle Bros., the largest competitors of the American Sugar Refining company, have paid into the United States treasury \$995,573 as back duties on sugar.

INTERVENTION IS CONSIDERED

Mexico May Join United States in Ruling Nicaragua.

Washington, Dec. 15.—One of the projects for the solution of the Nicaraguan situation that has been strongly urged upon the state department is the establishment of a protectorate, either singly by the United States, or jointly with Mexico.

This may be regarded as necessary in the event that the insurgents fail to displace Zelaya by their own efforts, and it may follow an insurgent triumph that would leave the country without responsible leaders.

It is said precedent for such action could be found in the cases of Santo Domingo and Cuba. In the first instance large sums of money, due to American citizens, could not be collected from the Dominican government (then in a state of chaos) by diplomatic means.

In the case of Nicaragua the government has defaulted in payment in agreed allotments on the Emory claim. In the case of Cuba state of disorder that threatened lives and property of Americans and other foreigners was the warrant for intervention.

There is reason to believe that a forward movement will be adopted by the government perhaps as soon as a sufficient number of marines have been gathered off the Nicaraguan coast. Today's news from Managua, indicating the imminence of rioting beyond the ability of the local government forces to suppress, might serve as a basis for landing the marines and their dispatch to Managua if necessary to maintain order, just as was done on the Isthmus of Panama a few years ago. It is not part of the plan to maintain such a force in Nicaragua permanently, but only long enough to permit of a fair and free general election and the establishment of a president pledged to observe constitutional obligations.

WAR DECLARED ON STEEL TRUST

American Federation of Labor Opens Fight to a Finish.

Pittsburg, Dec. 15.—War was formally declared upon the United States Steel corporation by leaders of organized labor throughout the United States and Canada at the close of a two days' conference today. The decision to battle against the stand taken by the steel corporation in its policy of "open shop" was reached after hours of debate.

At the conference Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, presided, and through him the measure was put upon the record books of the executive council of the federation.

The grievances of organized labor against the steel corporation, as set forth in the resolution, have been forwarded to President Taft, to the United States senate and to the house of representatives. Governors of the states in which the United States Steel corporation owns plants or has interests also will receive copies.

Aeroplane for Three.

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 14.—A remarkable assertion of the practicability of aviation is embodied in the announcement today of Wallace E. Tillinghast, vice-president of a Worcester manufacturing company, who asserts that he has invented, built and tested secretly an aeroplane capable of carrying three passengers and in which he says he has flown from Worcester to New York, thence to Boston and back. A speed of 120 miles an hour was made at times, he declares.

Mr. Tillinghast says the machine is a monoplane, weighing 1550 pounds, equipped with a 120-horsepower gasoline engine. He refuses to tell where the machine is, but says he will bring it to Worcester for a public demonstration.

Big Four Strike Favored.

Cincinnati, Dec. 15.—Railway telegraphers employed by the Baltimore & Ohio Northwestern railroad, in demanding a new wage scale and a change in working conditions, are meeting with the same opposition from the company as are the Big Four telegraphers in their demands, it was announced today. It is understood the Baltimore & Ohio men ask for a 15 per cent increase. C. C. Bent, general manager of the Baltimore & Ohio Northwestern, declares the demands are unreasonable. The Big Four telegraphers have not yet completed their referendum vote on a strike, but 90 per cent of the votes that are now in favor of a strike and two-thirds of the total have voted.

Roosevelt Sends Slave Skulls.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The Smithsonian African expedition, headed by ex-President Roosevelt, had taken 6,663 skulls up to December 10. Fewer than one-half have been received at the institution. The collection consists of 243 large mammals, 1,500 small mammals and 1,356 birds. The collection has a series of human skulls picked up along the line of ancient slave trails. This statement of the work of the expedition was made today by Secretary Walcott at the annual meeting of the board of regents of the Smithsonian institution.

Russians Meet Chinese.

Harbin, Manchuria, Dec. 15.—A conference was opened here today between representatives of the railroad management of the Russian consulate and of China for the purpose of working out the details of the Russo-Chinese agreement for the government of the Manchurian railroad zone.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRIEF

Friday, December 17.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Denunciation of officials of the executive departments of the government who criticize without just cause was made in a speech by Representative Mann of Illinois, and also another speech of similar tenor by Representative Fitzgerald of New York, who said "a certain distinguished official" was responsible, therefore, because of his subordinate. This silenced an otherwise dull session of the house today.

It was understood generally that Mr. Fitzgerald had ex-President Roosevelt in mind.

The District of Columbia appropriation bill was read, but was not put upon its passage, and will be taken up Monday again. Some saving was effected by reducing appropriations for increases in salaries for district officers by eliminating altogether paragraphs making provisions for new offices.

Representative Mason, Arkansas, again assumed the role of the "watch dog of the treasury" and made points of order against several sections of the bill, and not wholly without success.

Rather unexpectedly the house agreed to insert in the bill an amendment appropriating \$17,000 for playgrounds for children of the district.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Senatorial friends of Secretary Ballinger are preparing to introduce and pass a resolution authorizing sweeping congressional investigation into conduct of the interior department, general land office and forest service. Secretary Ballinger is in hearty accord with this purpose and said today he would welcome such an investigation in his department, for he is satisfied that a fair and impartial investigation will bring forth satisfactory answer to every accusation that has been made against him and against other officials of his department.

Army engineers, in a report sent to congress today, recommend an appropriation of \$9,600 for dredging a channel 40 feet wide and two and a half feet deep in the Cowlitz river, from Castle Rock to Toledo, and the annual appropriation of \$2,000 to maintain the channel.

Thursday, December 16.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Performing the functions of a municipal legislative body the house today devoted nearly five hours to consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill. The measure carries \$10,156,473 for the expenses of the district for 1911.

Representative McCredie today introduced bills authorizing the erection of public buildings at Vancouver, Hoquiam and Aberdeen, Wash., to cost \$150,000 each. The same bills were introduced in the senate by Senator Jones.

Washington, Dec. 16.—In a brief session of the senate today a resolution by Cullom was adopted calling on the secretary of the interior for information respecting mining disasters and facilities of the federal government for rendering aid in such cases.

Senator Foster today introduced a joint resolution authorizing the war department to return to the state of Louisiana the original ordinance of secession adopted by the people of that state.

If favorable action is taken upon the subject of Louisiana, it is expected that other states which seceded prior to the civil war will request similar returns.

Senator Piles today introduced the following bills: Increasing the limit of the cost of Bellingham public building from \$120,000 to \$420,000; increasing the cost of the Everett building from \$130,000 to \$400,000; appropriating \$30,000 for the Eliza Island light-house; appropriating \$10,000 for launch for Puget Sound customs service.

Senator Jones today introduced bills authorizing the purchase of sites and the erection of public buildings at Waukegan, Waterville and Ellensburg, Wash.

The senate today confirmed the following Idaho postmasters: John E. Jones, of Kellogg; Henry B. Curtis, of Blackfoot; Lemn Wynan, of Mullan, and also Presley F. Horne as register of the Hailey land office.

Wednesday, December 15.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Sitting until after midnight, the house buckled down to business today, passed the Esch bill, requiring railroads to make full monthly reports to the interstate commerce commission of all accidents, and a measure giving the commission power to compel railroads to provide uniform equipment for their cars, and then took up for consideration the Mann Panama canal bill, on which general debate was concluded.

Vigorous opposition to the proposed plan to abolish the Isthmian canal commission and to vest building of the Panama canal and of governing the canal zone in one director-general, appointed by the president, cropped out in the house today in general debate on the Mann bill, reported by the committee on interstate and foreign commerce.

Seriously less intense was the protest aroused when it was learned that the committee had recommended that the judicial power of the canal zone be vested in one circuit court and such inferior courts as the president may constitute.

This would require the abolition of the existing supreme court on the zone. An appeal direct to the supreme court of the United States is authorized, however, in questions arising out

AMERICAN MEAT SHUT OUT.

German Conservatives Strongly Oppose Tariff Concessions.

Berlin, Dec. 13.—In the conservative party convention today at Berlin, Count Schwerin-Leewitz, one of the most prominent agrarian members of the reichstag, took strong ground against Germany's making concessions on American meats in order to secure better tariff rates.

"The higher duties in the new tariff," he said, "are especially unfavorable to Germany, but German agriculture is practically concerned about the question whether the German conventional tariff will be accepted again by Americans without something equivalent in the way of concessions, because of the fear in agricultural circles that the federal government might make the provisions for the American meat imports—adopted for the protection of the health of our people and today more necessary than ever—the subject of commercial treaty negotiations. This fear I regard as unfounded, in view of the certain information which has been conveyed to me.

"Such a thing I would expect even less from the present chanceller than from his predecessor. He values too highly the interests of our public health and it too just toward our German livestock growers to do such a thing. Moreover, the chanceller knows too well the sentiments of the country and the great majority of the reichstag."

Tuesday, December 14.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Taking up the president's annual message to congress, the house of representatives today went through the formality of referring it and distributing it among the various committees.

Mr. Payne, who brought in the resolution for reference, offered an amendment providing that those paragraphs relating to appropriations be referred to what he designated as the "sleeping" committees on departmental expenditures, of which there is one for each department.

Washington, Dec. 14.—A bill providing for a central bank of America to be established at Washington with branches throughout the country was introduced today by Representative Fornes, of New York.

The bank is to have a capital of \$100,000,000, three-fifths of which is to be subscribed by the United States treasury through an issue of 50-year gold bonds. The remaining two-fifths is to be offered to national banks of the country.

Branches are provided for in New York, Chicago, New Orleans, Boston, Denver, St. Louis, Atlanta, San Francisco and Portland, Ore.

Representative McDermott of Illinois spoke briefly in favor of free wood pulp.

The District of Columbia appropriation bill, carrying an appropriation of more than \$10,000,000 for expenses of the district in the fiscal year of 1911, was reported, as were also several invalid pension bills. The latter were read and passed.

The house today agreed to take recess Tuesday over the holidays, voting to reconvene on Tuesday, January 4.

At 2:47 p. m. the house adjourned until tomorrow.

STANDARD OIL UNDER BAN.

Secretary Dickinson Shuts Octopus From Government Contracts.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The Standard Oil and certain subsidiary companies were placed under the ban today by Secretary Dickinson. Orders were issued to all branches of the war department directing that no contracts were to be made with them.

This action was taken by the secretary on the ground that if a corporation had been adjudged an illegal combination or trust by a court of law, it was not proper for the government to enter into contracts with the offenders. Similar action was taken some time ago by him with regard to the tobacco trust.

The present order includes not only supplies for the various branches of the department, but for the Panama canal as well.

SLAVE BILL IN COMMITTEE.

Foreign and Interstate Transportation to Act as Bar.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The white slave traffic bill, introduced by Chairman Mann, of the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce, will be taken up by that committee today. The intention is to press the measure, and its advocates expect its passage by both houses of congress.

The only stumbling block sighted is the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce law over such a matter, but those urging the bill believe members of both houses will have no differences as to the merits of the proposed legislation.

The Mann bill is designed to regulate and prevent the transportation in interstate and foreign commerce of alien women and girls for immoral purposes.

Would Help Anti-Trust Law.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Without expressing any personal opinion as to the probability for or against the passage of such a measure, Representative Mann, chairman of the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce, today gave as his "legislative opinion" that if a bill should be passed by the house amending the anti-trust law, that law would be strengthened rather than weakened.

Mann Bill Sent to House.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The sweeping change in the administrative workings of the Panama canal proposed by the Mann bill to provide for the government of the canal zone and the construction of the Panama canal, was discussed by the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce today.

It was ordered favorably reported to the house.

Heyburn to View Canal.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Senator Heyburn will leave Wednesday with the senate naval committee on the cruiser Dolphin for a trip to Panama. The party will inspect the canal and return to Washington about January 4.

BELGIAN KING DYING

Mind Remains Clear, Condition Is Practically Hopeless.

MAY OPERATE AS LAST RESORT

Dying Monarch Calmly Makes Will, Receives Sacrament and Bids Farewell to All.

Brussels, Dec. 14.—At 5 o'clock this morning the condition of King Leopold was unchanged.

Brussels, Dec. 13.—Leopold II, king of the Belgians, tonight is making a desperate effort for his life, and the odds are strongly against the aged monarch.

As a last resort, the surgeon's knife will be tried tomorrow. If the operation is successful, King Leopold may live. If it fails, the end is inevitable. All will depend on the king's strength and vitality, which are ebbing fast.

Rheumatism has already conquered the aged and wasted frame. Dropsy has developed, and an obstruction of the intestines, which must be removed, has greatly aggravated his condition.

The general opinion is that the king will not survive the operation. Indeed he may die at any moment. The monarch is rather optimistic, and today exclaimed to his physician:

"Operate, and the sooner the better." But he added with a wan, wistful smile:

"Perhaps, doctor, the long, long journey is at hand."

King Leopold is still as lucid of intellect as ever. This masterful mind, which conceived and carried out the gigantic Congo project and roused the whole world into bitter indictment and discussion, calmly directed what seems to be the final chapter in his spectacular career.

The picture was pathetic enough. Separated from his two eldest daughters by a tragic skein of events, with scandal of his own personal life whispered by every tongue, Leopold lay tonight in "The Palms," a little pavilion of six rooms, close to the great Laeken attended by his faithful daughter Princess Clementine, Crown Prince Albert and the royal household.

The day was a mixture of anxiety, hope and despair. As his strength failed the king, his chaplain, an aged priest with tears wetting his cheeks, approached the bed to hear the king's confession and administer communion and extreme unction. In the morning the king, assisted by a notary and solicitors, settled his private affairs.

To Count Outremont, marshal of the court, his majesty said:

"You have served me well for more than 20 years. I am grateful. Before I die, I want to tell you so and give you my thanks."

The king then summoned Princess Clementine, whom he kissed several times, telling her not to cry. She was led fainting from the room. Other relatives followed.

Subsequently he received the papal nuncio, who brought the benediction of the holy father, and the Spanish minister. The mayor of Brussels came to the castle as the bearer of the good wishes of the people of Brussels, and to express the popular hope that his majesty would recover, but the king was too tired to receive him.

SEVEN DIE IN FIRE.

Cincinnati Tenement House Scene of Fatal Panic.

Cincinnati, Dec. 14.—Two women, two men and three children lost their lives and seven other persons were seriously injured in a tenement fire at Third and Sycamore streets, which broke out at midnight. Three of the dead were burned to cinders.

The frantically gathered in the windows and climbed to the roof whence they jumped into blankets.

Six men fled to the roof, where firemen had to use force to prevent them from virtually committing suicide by jumping to the street.

A woman, clasping her 8-year-old son in her arms, jumped from a third-floor window. Both were instantly killed.

Dwellers in the tenement were so overwhelmed by panic that some rushed headlong into the flames. The fire was extinguished with slight trouble with a total loss of about \$25,000.

Ruin as Governor Snaps.

Chicago, Wash., Dec. 14.—The governor on one of the high-speed engines used for running a dynamo at the Crown-Columbia paper mill broke about noon today, causing the engine to tear itself to pieces. One large piece of the flywheel went up through the second floor, tearing out heavy timbers and seriously injuring Sam McKeever, who was working on a paper machine on the second floor. One paper machine was also badly wrecked. Several men were near the engine when the accident happened, but were not injured. Part of the mill is shut down for repairs.

Scientific Data Burned.

Los Angeles, Dec. 14.—The "Monastery," the home of the scientists and attaches of the Mount Wilson observatory, was destroyed by fire today. All the valuable records and papers of the observatory, together with the scientific library of Professor Hale, were burned.