

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.

Railroad officials and switchmen hold conference in St. Paul.

Value of the Harriman estate is questioned by gossips in the east.

Bryan is suffering from pneumonia and is too ill to make a speech.

Albert I is crowned king of Belgium and promises reforms in Congo.

Achley demands that Peary also submit his records to the Danish university.

The Northern Pacific has bought 14 blocks for terminal grounds in North Portland.

Ex-President Zelaya has fled from Nicaragua and taken refuge on a Mexican gunboat.

Eight are killed and hundreds have narrow escape from explosion in Illinois coal mine.

A fierce storm swept the Korean coast, destroying fishing fleets and drowning 2,000.

Secretary Knox has notified President Madris, Zelaya's successor, that he will be held responsible for the safety of Americans in his country.

Explorers find that the treasures of the island of Tiburon, in the Gulf of California, are mythical, but the island is alive with deer and wild pigeons.

Mark Twain has returned home without benefit to his health from his ocean trip.

It is definitely known that 18 persons perished in a department store fire in London.

A monetary benefit was given in New York city to help the cause of home rule for Ireland.

Cook's first prize was \$25,000 from two leading newspapers for his "exclusive" story of his trip to the Pole.

Abdication of the king of Greece is considered inevitable and the crown prince's son has been chosen by the Military party.

Leopold's legal wife will not attempt to put her son on the Belgian throne, but will fight for his fortune of many millions.

The successful uprising of the Young Turk party in Turkey has made Palestine free for the first time since the Christian era began.

The committee from the University of Copenhagen reports that Cook's records are wholly insufficient to establish his claim that he was at the Pole.

John B. Bradley, who fitted out the Cook expedition to the Pole, says he is thoroughly disgusted with the whole business.

Oregon conservationists declare that two or three varieties of insects do more harm to the forests of the northwest than forest fires do.

The supreme court of Oregon has ordered that the Portland Railway company must reduce fares to Milwaukee to 5 cents, and Oak Grove to 10 cents.

Twenty-seven persons were drowned by the collapse of a wooden bridge in Russia.

Two negroes and one white man were killed and six negroes wounded in a race war in Louisiana.

The probation officer of the night court in New York says the white slave trade is on the increase.

Provisional President Estrada, of Nicaragua, has requested official recognition from the state department.

Miss Anna Morgan, daughter of J. P. Morgan, and Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont have taken up the cause of the striking shirtwaist workers of New York City.

A final appeal in the case of John E. Walsh, convicted banker, has been made to the United States supreme court.

Leaders of the American Federation of Labor urge Secretary Nagel to make a thorough investigation into the various phases of industrial education.

Dr. Brashear, a noted astronomer of the university of Pittsburgh, says he does not believe either Cook or Peary can furnish any good proof of having reached the pole.

Servants of the Danish university are deeply embarrassed by their former championship of Dr. Cook, as they are unable to find any acceptable proof that he reached the pole.

A party of American explorers reported to have been devoured by cannibals on the island of Tiburon, in the Gulf of California, have arrived safe at a small town on the Mexican coast.

Grand Duke Michael, of Russia, is dead.

The L. W. W. of Spokane has given up the fight for free speech.

A silver loving cup has been presented to Peary by New York friends.

MONEY TRUST IN SIGHT.

Could Cripple Government by Refusing to Buy Bonds.

New York, Dec. 21.—So close have become the alliance and amalgamations of leading financial interests in Wall street during the last three months that almost the absolute control of the country's financial affairs is now centralized in the hands of a few men, who are acting in concert. A money trust has come into existence, with J. P. Morgan at its head, the most gigantic combination of capital in the world.

There is no concerted definite organization to this latest trust; no legal incorporation, no elected directors, no list of stockholders. To use the descriptive phrase of the financial world, it is simply a "community of interest."

Representative members of this community of interest, men who would be directors of an incorporated company are: J. Pierpont Morgan, private banker, its unquestioned leader; George F. Baker, chairman of the board of directors of the First National bank; James Stillman, chairman of the board of directors of the National City bank; William Rockefeller, vice-president of the Standard Oil company; Henry C. Frick, capitalist; William K. Vanderbilt, as representative of his family interest.

It would be impossible to figure the total of direct and indirect capital now centralized in this money trust. To begin with, the banking firm of J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., being a private partnership, makes no public reports, yet report places its deposits at \$160,000,000, which its directors can utilize to advantage in financial operations. The assets of the three insurance companies controlled by the group, invested largely in bonds of railroad and industrial companies, aggregate considerably more than \$1,000,000,000.

Here are some of the things the trust could do:

It could call \$200,000,000 of loans over night and ruin any adversary.

It could reduce credits to such a degree as to cause extreme money stringency and great commercial distress.

It could tie up the cash holdings of New York banks by demanding certification of checks for enormous amounts.

It could deplete bank reserves in New York by causing shipments of cash to any part of the country.

It could make money rate of interest almost as it chose, from 2 per cent to 100 per cent on call loans.

It could cripple the financial operations of the government by refusing to purchase any bond issue.

It could dictate the financial operations of the great railway systems and expanding industrial concerns.

RAILROADERS DEMAND INCREASE

From 5 to 40 Per Cent Raise Asked by 75,000 Men.

Pittsburg, Dec. 21.—The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen Monday will serve notice on 75 railroad companies east of the Mississippi river that an increase in wages will be demanded of from 5 to 40 per cent. W. G. Lee, national president of the brotherhood, tonight refused to intimate what action would be taken in case the demand is refused. It is said the recent referendum vote of the trainmen regarding the demand for an increase resulted in a practically unanimous vote in its favor. About 75,000 members of the brotherhood are employed on the railroads affected.

New York, Dec. 21.—The action of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, as announced in Pittsburg today, was not unexpected in New York.

Knowing that the referendum vote was being taken, railroad heads are preparing to meet the situation, and several conferences have been held within the last two weeks, looking to a settlement of the difficulties.

Cincinnati, Dec. 21.—With a referendum vote of telegraphers in the employ of the Big Four railway completed tonight, J. J. Dermody, fourth vice president of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, announced that 80 per cent of the members had voted for a strike.

Dermody said that while the vote was practically unanimous, the result did not necessarily mean there would be a strike. He admitted that there was little probability of future conferences with officials of the Big Four, who have definitely rejected all demands, but said the question of a strike was now up to the committee of seven, which, with the national body of the union, would settle the matter. About 1000 men are involved.

Elks' Club Called Bar.

Reno, Nev., Dec. 21.—There is much comment concerning the trial of the Elks, which will occur tomorrow afternoon. Every lawyer in this city who is an Elk has tendered his services to the Elks' lodge. More than 25 lawyers will appear to defend the Elks, who have been arrested on the charge of conducting a bar without license. One lawyer said today that the dispensing of liquors in the Elks' club does not amount to a sale, as all the Elks own the liquor, and what they pay for the liquor served to them is used to replenish stock.

Liners Swept by Gales.

London, Dec. 21.—Incoming trans-Atlantic liners report terrific weather. The Carmania, New York and America, arriving at Queenstown and Plymouth respectively, today, were all greatly delayed. Four days out they met hurricanes from the eastward, with mountainous seas, which continued until Saturday night.

Assistant Weigher Indicted.

New York, Dec. 21.—Another Federal grand jury indictment in connection with the sugar underweighing frauds was found today against Thomas Doyle, assistant superintendent of the Arbuckle Sugar Refinery in Brooklyn.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRIEF

Tuesday, December 21.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Representatives Hamer, Mondell and Martin today held a conference and agreed to unite in pressing for consideration of the bill relieving homesteaders in the northwest from the necessity of residing on their lands through the winter.

Reports indicate that the weather is unusually severe and many requests for this relief are being received.

It is asserted that new settlers are finding it impossible to remain on their lands.

The senate today confirmed the nomination of Robert Bacon at New York to be ambassador to France.

President Taft sent to the senate the nominations of General George Stone of California to be naval officer of customs at San Francisco, and Howard C. Shober of South Dakota to be auditor for the interior department in this city.

The Maun "white slave traffic" bill was favorably reported to the house today by Chairman Maun of that committee. The report accompanying the presentation of the measure distinctly disclaims any purpose to usurp in any way the police powers of the states.

Recommendations for changes in the present law regulating transportation companies are contained in the twenty-third annual report of the interstate commerce commission transmitted today to congress.

The report, however, is notable rather for recommendations it does not contain.

Five of the suggestions made by the special committee selected by President Taft to draft changes in the existing interstate commerce act are offered in the report.

Congress adjourned early this afternoon to Thursday, January 4.

Monday, December 20.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Both senate and house concluded their labors by 2 o'clock today. Tomorrow a holiday adjournment for two weeks will be taken.

Aside from the confirmation of the nomination of Horace H. Lurton, of Tennessee, to be an associate justice of the supreme court, the principal feature of the senate proceedings was a speech laden with optimism and good cheer for the Christmas season by Senator Dewey. The address of the New Yorker was called forth by what he characterized as the pessimistic predictions in Senator La Follette's magazine and in many newspapers as to the effect of the tariff upon prices and as to the waste of natural resources.

Washington, Dec. 20.—"We will report a general river and harbor bill about February 1," said Chairman Alexander of the house committee on rivers and harbors, today. Mr. Alexander said his bill would carry much more than \$20,000,000.

Think Frauds Reach Pacific

New York, Dec. 21.—Collector of the Port Loeb has declared the arrests here in the "sleeper trunk" smuggling cases were but the beginning of a series of arrests that would extend to the Pacific Ocean. "It has been discovered that the importation of costly goods through this port without payment of duty," Mr. Loeb said, "was the result of a far-reaching plot, the head of which was a former United States customs official, who made his headquarters in Paris, and who has since died." Several dressmakers have been arrested here.

Senate Confirms Many Diplomats.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The senate confirmed the nomination of Robert Bacon, of New York, as ambassador to France, as submitted by President Taft. Twenty-six other diplomatic nominations, including those of Richard C. Kerens, of Missouri, ambassador to Austria-Hungary; Henry Lane Wilson, of Washington, ambassador to Mexico; William James Calhoun, of Illinois, minister to China; and Henry T. Gage, of California, minister to Portugal, were also confirmed by the senate.

Labor Leaders Confer With Nagel.

Washington, Dec. 21.—A committee representing the American Federation of Labor called upon Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel and urged upon him the advisability of his department making a thorough investigation into the various phases of industrial education. The committee, which was appointed for the purpose by the recent Toronto convention of the federation, consisted of President Samuel Gompers, James O'Connell, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison.

Appeal's Advance is Asked

Washington, Dec. 21.—Application is to be made to the Supreme court early in January by the department of justice to advance for hearing the appeal of the government from the decision of Judge Holt at New York, practically exempting from prosecution certain officials of the sugar trust because their acts are barred by the statutes of limitations.

Loeb Waits for Automatics.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Collector William Loeb, Jr., of New York, said here today he was looking for the arrival of the first automatic scales which it is proposed to place on the docks in New York for sugar weighing purposes. If found satisfactory 20 of the scales will be installed.

Bootleggers Stand Convicted.

Washington, Dec. 24.—The United States supreme court yesterday reversed the decision of the circuit court of Washington in the cases of Harvey Sutton and Robert Miller, charged with taking liquor to the Yakima Indian reservation. The contention of the government was upheld.

CONGRESS HAS BEEN ACTIVE.

Prophecies of Lazy Session Not Fulfilled By House.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Far better progress is being made with legislation in the house than was anticipated. Before congress convened, little or no activity prior to the holiday adjournment was expected and that the disposition to do but a small amount of business would probably characterize the entire session was asserted openly.

Since the house convened, December 6, many very important bills and resolutions have been introduced; two important measures have passed, while others have been reported and many are under consideration in the house.

In all a total of 1,606 house bills, 188 house resolutions, 95 house joint resolutions and 26 concurrent resolutions have been introduced. Two measures for railroad regulation bearing the name of Representative Eech, of Wisconsin, have passed the house. Two omnibus pension bills, carrying a total of 467 claims, also have passed.

Two important pieces of legislation are now pending, the District of Columbia appropriation bill and the Panama government reorganization measure. The army appropriation, carrying upwards of one hundred million dollars is out of the military committee, while the immigration committee is preparing to report its bill regulating the white slave traffic.

FOOD LAW MORE DRASTIC

Department to Add Laboratories for Stricter Enforcement

Washington, Dec. 21.—A comprehensive enlargement of the activities of the department of agriculture in administering the pure food act is contemplated in orders issued today. The object is to inaugurate for ports where the department has no chemical laboratory a systematic inspection of foods, as is done at ports where such facilities exist.

A complete chain of laboratory districts has been established, with headquarters at the principal ports, to which will be sent samples of imported goods when found necessary. All imports, regarding the right to enter which under the pure food law any doubt may exist in the minds of the customs inspectors at the smaller places will be referred to these chemists.

Officials say that the method will tend to do away with any tendency to import goods in violation of law at the smaller ports, where there are no laboratories, instead of at the larger ports, although their ultimate destination is the same. Headquarters are to be located, among other places, at Galveston, Denver, San Francisco and Seattle.

Harmony Between Mexico and U. S.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Temporarily, at least, the relations between Mexico and the United States growing out of the former's friendly offer of her friendly offices in the affairs with Nicaragua have been forced to the front. Whatever the purpose of Mexico may have been at the beginning, however, she may have desired to rescue Zelaya, give him a safe conduct and assist the United States in restoring peace, it is quite evident from a statement issued this afternoon by Senator Creel, special envoy of President Diaz, that Mexico is prepared now to give at least a passive acquiescence to all the plans of the administration with regard to Zelaya and his fallen government.

M'Veagh Favors Postoffice.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The secretary of the treasury has reported favorably upon Bourne's bill for a new postoffice building in Portland. The report recites that an adequate postoffice building will require an expenditure of \$1,500,000. The report has gone to the senate public buildings committee and Bourne will try to secure an early report from the committee, and the passage of his bill through the senate, making it eligible for inclusion in the omnibus public building bill, if one is passed this season.

ROADS BERT BY TROUBLE.

Worst Winter in Years Causes Many Wrecks and Delays.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Railroads in the West, northwest, and in the central states are experiencing the greatest difficulty of years in operating their trains. Conditions which exist now have not been equalled during any winter for the past decade.

The troubles of the operating men seem prevalent everywhere. In Chicago passenger trains from all directions arrive from five hours to one-half day late, and in a few instances trains became so late they were abandoned before reaching the terminal.

To make matters worse, the difficult operating conditions which have arisen have been accompanied by a long series of wrecks on the various railroads, which have resulted in arousing apprehension everywhere. For most of these wrecks the sudden cold snap is being held responsible by the railroad men, as the marked drop in temperature causes the rails to become brittle.

Within the territory limits of Chicago the operation of trains is made exceedingly difficult by reason of the cold and the smoke. Early in the morning suburban trains are compelled to crawl into the stations, the engine crews unable to see the signals at times on account of the low-hanging smoke.

Throughout the west freight traffic is more or less paralyzed. In an effort to get passenger trains over the road the operating men have been compelled to sidetrack freight everywhere for a long period. The result is that all the sidings are full of delayed freight and the terminal yards are congested to an equal degree.

In many sections the sudden extreme cold has been followed by a heavy fall of snow, which has drifted and thus blocked traffic in many places for hours. In Chicago the operating men on the various roads have been working day and night in the hope of clearing up the lines and getting traffic moving normally.

Passenger trains cannot get out of Chicago on time, because of the non-arrival of Pullman equipment, which is in use on delayed trains.

Railroad men say one of the greatest causes of delay is the difficulty of steaming engines during severe cold. Another cause is the difficulty of operating coal chutes, trains often being delayed from 20 minutes to one-half hour in securing coal or water.

STATISTICS IN GRAIN YIELD.

Oregon, Washington and Idaho Have Wheat Crops of Enormous Size.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The department of agriculture today made public its statistics of the winter and spring wheat crop of various states for the past year. This report shows that 11,235,000 bushels of winter wheat were produced in Oregon, an average of 21 bushels to the acre. The total farm value of the crop of December 1 was \$10,440,000, or 93 cents per bushel. The spring wheat crop of Oregon is given as 5,142,000 bushels, or 18.7 bushels to the acre. Its value December 1 was \$4,782,000, or 93 cents per bushel.

The winter wheat crop of Washington was reported as 20,124,000 bushels, worth \$18,715,000. This is a production of 25.8 bushels per acre, valued at 93 cents per bushel. Washington's spring wheat crop is 15,656,000 bushels, valued at \$14,560,000, being 20.6 bushels per acre, and the same value as winter wheat.

The Idaho winter wheat crop was 9,135,000 bushels, valued at \$7,947,000. The yield was 29 bushels per acre, and the value as below that of other states, being only 85 cents per bushel. Spring wheat in Idaho was reported at 5,330,000 bushels, which, at 87 cents per bushel, represents a farm value of \$4,637,000. The yield per acre is 26 bushels.

Wreck of Maine Guarded.

Havana, Dec. 24.—Port Captain Aguirre said tonight that the report that the anchor chain of the old battleship Maine was included in the cargo of scrap iron in the hold of the Cairnloch, which arrived a few days ago at Philadelphia, was absurd. The wreck of the Maine, Captain Aguirre said, was carefully guarded to prevent depredations by relic-seekers.

Wrights Voted Medals.

Paris, Dec. 21.—The Academy of Science announced today that gold medals for aeronautic achievements would be awarded to Wilbur and Orville Wright, Elmer A. Farnham, Count de Lambert, Latham, Santos Dumont, De la Vaulx, Volain and Count Zeppelin.

TO GET FULL INQUIRY

Taft Grants Demand of Secretary for Investigation.

ACCUSED OFFICIAL'S ULTIMATUM

Joint Committee to Be Appointed Immediately After Holidays—Party Leaders Give Consent

Washington, Dec. 21.—President Taft today yielded to the demands of both Secretary Ballinger and his critics for a public investigation of the whole subject matter underlying the so-called Ballinger-Pinchot controversy.

Mr. Ballinger this afternoon served upon the president virtually an ultimatum to the effect that such an investigation was indeed the price of his remaining in the cabinet. He made it clear that he was no longer willing to sit silent and wait for the thing "to blow over."

Mr. Taft, it is said, reluctantly admitted the disappointment of his hope that the country at large would accept as final his own vindication of Mr. Ballinger in his dismissal of charges brought against the secretary of the interior by L. R. Glavis, ex-special agent of the land office, and his conclusion that the investigation demanded by both sides was inevitable.

Mr. Ballinger's attitude has the support of the leading Republicans in congress—senators and representatives—who feel that, entirely apart from the merits of the controversy itself, a festering sore of this character must poison the whole system of the party in power, and that it is high time to resort to the lance.

These leaders, determined that a cleansing of this wound is necessary, have not hesitated to go to the White House and impress their views upon Mr. Taft. Conferences of a confidential character, in which members of the cabinet, party leaders in both houses of congress and the president himself have participated, have been held in the last few days. They culminated today, when Mr. Ballinger, Attorney General Wickersham and Postmaster General Hitchcock met in Mr. Wickersham's office and proceeded thence to the White House, where the matter was laid before the president.

The president was given to understand that Mr. Ballinger's demand carried with it the indorsement of both Mr. Wickersham and Mr. Hitchcock. It is known tonight that he has the sympathy also of other members of the cabinet.

Mr. Ballinger told the president, it is said, that the situation had become intolerable to him, and that, though the constant charges against him had come from irresponsible persons, he would not longer sit apinely by, and, in justice to himself, he felt compelled to insist upon an investigation.

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Flax Reaches Record Price.

Minneapolis, Dec. 20.—Flax went to \$2 a bushel on the grain market here today, a record price. According to the government's estimate, Minnesota and the Dakotas raised 25,000,000 bushels of this grain this year.