

HISTORY MADE DURING THE YEAR OF GRACE 1908

Record Is of Change and Death, but Also of Peace and Prosperity.

NATIONS HAVE NEW RULERS.

Many Persons Known in Statecraft, Politics, Music and Letters Pass Away.

The year 1908, like most of those preceding it, has brought about many changes in all parts of the world. Death has taken rulers and governments have been changed, men and women of prominence and achievement in many lines have passed into the silent hereafter, fire and flood have levied their toll upon human life and property, greed and hate have incited to grave crime in numerous instances. But the record is not all dark. Man's activities along peaceful ways have gone steadily forward, achievement has made decided headway, the quiet lives of the majority of earth's people have moved on untroubled by war, pestilence or famine, and a grateful material prosperity seems to be the portion of most of the civilized nations.

Early in February the king and crown prince of Portugal were assassinated in a street of Lisbon and the crown passed to a young son and brother, the present King Manuel. The deaths, in November, of the Emperor and the Dowager Empress of China caused a change in the ruling head of the Celestial empire. A new president has more recently taken hold of affairs in Hayti, Bulgaria has declared itself independent of Turkey, and the last-named country itself has made radical innovations tending toward a constitutional government.

The necrology of the year is memorable for the number of notable men and women of prominence in the world of art, letters and music who have passed away. Among those to succumb during 1908 were ex-President Grover Cleveland, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, ex-premier of England; Tomas Estrada Palma, Cuba's first president; Bishop Henry C. Potter and Rev. Morgan Dix of New York, Ira D. Sankey, Pablo de Sarasate, August Wilhelmj, Edmund Clarence Steadman, "Ouida," Joel Chandler Harris, Murat Halstead, Bronson Howard, Victorien Sardou, Louise Chandler Moulton, Harriet Hosmer, Chas. Emory Smith and Wm. B. Allison.

A destructive theater fire and panic in Boyertown, Pa., the burning of a school house in a Cleveland suburb, mine explosions, forest fires in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and storms and floods in various parts of the country caused the loss of many lives.

The year witnessed the starting of Admiral Evans' fleet of warships on its triumphal tour of the Pacific.

The horrible developments upon the murder farm of Mrs. Belle Guinness, near LaPorte, Ind., the unlawful activities of the night riders in Tennessee and Kentucky, and the race riots in Springfield, Ill., are dark spots upon the record of the year.

The principal events of 1908 may be thus epitomized:

JANUARY.
4—Jury disagrees in trial of Caleb Powers for murder of Geo. Goebel of Kentucky. Jury acquits Geo. A. Pettibone of Steubensburg murder in Idaho.
13—Theater fire and panic in Boyertown, Pa., causes 167 deaths and injury of 75 persons. Union station annex in Kansas City burns.
18—Death of Edmund Clarence Steadman, poet. Three miners rescued after being buried for 46 days in mine at Ely, Mo.
19—Death of Chas. Emory Smith of Philadelphia, former Postmaster General.
24—\$1,000,000 fire in Portland, Me. Death of August Wilhelmj, noted violinist.
25—Death of "Ouida," English novelist.
28—\$1,700,000 fire in Chicago.
30—Death of Burr Robbins, well-known circus man.

FEBRUARY.
1—King Carlos and Crown Prince Luiz Felipe of Portugal assassinated in streets of Lisbon. Harry Thaw acquitted of Stanford White murder. Gov. Toole of Montana resigns.
2—Manuel II. proclaimed King of Portugal.
3—Death of Col. Thos. G. Lawlor of Rockford, Ill.
10—Burial of King Carlos and Crown Prince Luiz Felipe of Portugal.
11—Anthracite centennial celebrated in Wilkesbarre, Pa.
12—\$28,000 bank robbery in Rich Hill, Mo.
15—Marriage of Miss Theodora Shonts and Duc de Chaulnes.
18-19—Severe blizzard sweeps middle and western States.
20—Death of Senator Latimer of South Carolina.
21—Death of Harriet Hosmer, American sculptress.
27—Mine explosion near San Juan de Sabanas, Mexico, kills 76 miners.
28—Unsuccessful attempt made to kill Shah of Persia with bomb. W. O. Bradley, Republican, chosen Senator from Kentucky.

MARCH.
1—Great fire in Tampa, Fla.
2—Attempted assassination of Chief of Police Geo. M. Shippy of Chicago.
4—178 Children lose lives in burning of public school in North Collinwood, a

Cleveland suburb. Death of Senator Redfield Proctor of Vermont.
10—Attempt made on life of King Haakon of Norway.
12-20—Floods do damage along rivers of middle west.
12—Admiral Evans' fleet arrives at Magdalena Bay, Lower California.
17—Death of Senator William Pinckney Whyte of Maryland.
22—Death of Senator William J. Bryan of Florida.
23—200 persons drowned in collision of Japanese ships off Todohokke, Japan.
25—Earthquake and fire destroy Chi-lapa, Mexico.
28—Bomb thrown in Union Square, New York, by Selig Silverstein.

APRIL.
2-3—Populist national convention in St. Louis.
4—Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, premier of England, resigns.
6—Election riots in Lisbon, Portugal.
7—Death of Congressman A. L. Brick of Indiana.
12—Chelsea, Mass., devastated by \$10,000,000 fire. Death of Gen. B. M. Cutcheon of Michigan.
15—Hauser Lake dam, north of Helena, Mont., bursts and causes great havoc.
22—Death of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, ex-premier of England.
23—Death of Gen. Linevitch, Russian commander. Duc de Chaulnes dies suddenly in Paris.
24—Destructive tornado sweeps 13 States, from North Dakota to Georgia.
25—American liner St. Paul sinks British cruiser Gladiator.
26—Notre Dame de Salette buried by landslide.
29—Death of Rev. Morgan Dix.
30—228 lives lost by sinking of Japanese cruiser, Matsushima.

MAY.
3—Burning of Aveline hotel in Fort Wayne, Ind. Marriage of Prince Wilhelm of Sweden and Grand Duchess Marie Paulovna of Russia.
4—120 persons drowned in River Dnieper, Russia, by capsizing of ferry boat.
5-6—Nine corpses unearthed on farm of late Mrs. Belle Guinness, north of LaPorte, Ind.
6—Combined Atlantic and Pacific fleets enter San Francisco harbor. Manuel proclaimed King of Portugal.
8—Big fire in Atlanta, Ga.
10—Violent storm sweeps Southwestern States.
11—Destructive tornado in northern Nebraska.
13—Governors of all States meet in convention in White House in Washington.
21—Great railway disaster near Antwerp, Belgium.
23—Death of Comedian Peter F. Daley.
30—Sixtieth Congress adjourns sine die.

JUNE.
1—Death of ex-Senator James K. Jones of Arkansas. Oregon votes against single tax and equal suffrage.
2—Death of Sir Redvers Buller, English general.
4—Paris assassin shoots Capt. Alfred Dreyfus.
13—Caleb Powers and James Howard pardoned by Governor of Kentucky.
14—Death of Blind Tom, negro pianist.
16—Republican national convention in Chicago.
18—William H. Taft of Ohio nominated for President by Republican convention.
19—James S. Sherman of New York nominated for Vice President by Republicans.
24—Death of ex-President Grover Cleveland.
26—\$1,000,000 fire in Duluth.

JULY.
2—Death of Murat Halstead.
4—Death of Joel Chandler Harris.
5—Port au Prince, Hayti, swept by fire.
6—Commander Peary starts for far north.
7—Democratic national convention opens in Denver.
10—Wm. J. Bryan nominated for President by Democrats.
21—Death of Bishop Henry C. Potter of New York.
22—United States Court of Appeals reverses Judge Landis' decision fining Standard Oil Company \$20,240,000.
24—Sultan of Turkey grants constitutional government.
28—Independence party nominates His-gen and Graves.

AUGUST.
2—Great fire destroys cities and many lives in British Columbia.
3—\$1,500,000 elevator fire in Chicago.
4—Death of Senator Wm. B. Allison of Iowa. Death of Bronson Howard, American playwright.
8—First general primary election in Illinois.
10—Death of Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton.
12—Death of A. R. Spofford, librarian of Congress.
14—Fatal race riots in Springfield, Ill. Death of Ira D. Sankey, gospel singer.
23—Great fire in Constantinople.
26-30—Miners suffocated in coal mine at Halleyville, Okla.
27—Death of Col. Wm. F. Vilas of Madison, Wis.
30—\$2,000,000 fire in New Orleans.

SEPTEMBER.
1—Vermont election.
3—Death of Lord Lionel Sackville-West, former British minister to Washington.
4—Death of Frank P. Sargent, commissioner of immigration. Rawhide (Nev.) destroyed by fire.
6-16—Forest fires in northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Michigan and across border in Canada.
14—Republicans carry Maine election.
21—Death of Pablo de Sarasate, Spanish violinist.
28—International tuberculosis congress meets in Washington.

OCTOBER.
5—Bulgaria declares itself independent of Turkey.
6—Philadelphia celebrates 225th anniversary.
7—Elevator explosion at Richford, Vt., kills 13 persons.
16—Forest fires rage in Michigan and Wisconsin. Relief train burns near Alpena, Mich., with 20 persons aboard.
19-21—Land lottery of Rosebud lands in South Dakota.

22—Marriage of Prince August Wilhelm of Germany and Princess Alexandra Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein.
23—Canadian elections carried by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Liberal party.

NOVEMBER.
1—Death of Mrs. Julia A. Carney, poetess, at Galesburg, Ill.
3—National election. W. H. Taft and James S. Sherman, Republicans, chosen President and Vice President.
4—Death of Tomas Estrada Palma, first president of Cuba Libre. Chas. W. Eliot resigns as head of Harvard university.
8—Death of Victorien Sardou, French playwright.
9—Trial of Ray Lamphere begins in LaPorte, Ind. Former U. S. Senator Edward W. Carmack shot dead in Nashville (Tenn.) street. Postmaster Edward M. Morgan of New York shot in street.
10—Warship North Dakota launched at Quincy, Mass.
12—Explosion and fire in mine in Westphalia, Germany, kills 333 men.
13—Death of Emperor of China. Secretary of the Navy Metcalf resigns.
14—Death of Dowager Empress of China. Gen. Jose Miguel Gomez chosen president at Cuban election.
15—South Bend (Ind.) postoffice robbery.
24—Gov. A. B. Cummins chosen U. S. Senator from Iowa. Lieut. Gov. Garst becomes Governor of Iowa.
25—Ray Lamphere convicted of arson at LaPorte, Ind.
27—Treaty between United States and Japan is announced.
28-128 miners killed by explosion in Marianna, Pa.
29—Flood at Guthrie, Okla.

DECEMBER.
2—President Nord Alexis of Hayti deposed. Pu Yi ascends throne of China.
3—Hole blown in levee, saving town of Pine Bluff, Ark.
8—Fatal battles between religious fanatics and police in streets of Kansas City.
10—Abraham Ruef, San Francisco political boss, convicted of bribery.
12—Dutch cruiser Gelderland captures Venezuelan guardship Alix.
15—Death of Donald G. Mitchell.
17—Constitutional government inaugurated in Constantinople.
20—Gen. Antoine Simon sworn in as president of Hayti.
21—Graft arrests cause sensation in Pittsburgh.
22—Burning of Herald Square theater in New York.

Operation Removes Drunkard.
By a simple operation on the head, removing pressure on the brain, caused by an injury, Dr. Herbert L. Northrop of Philadelphia has changed a man from a drunkard and a thief to an honest, industrious man, respected by his employers. The patient declares that his desire for drink and theft has entirely disappeared and during twenty-two months he has lived an upright life and been twice promoted by his employers. He was a man of good habits when at the age of 48 a timber struck him on the head, causing contusion of the scalp and a hematoma in the upper frontal region close to the middle line on the right side. He was unconscious for sixty seconds. During the twelve years following he developed drinking and stealing habits, neglected his family and was finally discharged from a good position for drunkenness and for misusing the company's funds. The operation was then performed, and after twenty-two months of well doing with no relapses, Dr. Northrop announces a complete cure.

A Wonderful Fossil Bed.
An expedition directed by Prof. H. F. Osborn of the American Museum of Natural History has recently returned from the Fayoum desert in Egypt laden with new skeletons of prehistoric animals. The Fayoum district is the bed of an ancient river, and in the sands are found the bones of all kinds of animals mixed indiscriminately. They are so soft that they can be removed only by pouring shellac over them. One of the most important finds is the skull of the giant aurochs. The dominating feature is a long pair of sharp-pointed horns protruding upward and outward from the snout for nearly two feet. This animal was the brute king of its time. The body combined the shape of the elephant and the rhinoceros. The monster was named after the Egyptian queen Arsinoe, famed for her beauty. The animal stood six feet high and nearly ten feet long. The feet were adapted to walking on sandy or sinking ground.

Readers Want Facts First.
Prof. W. D. Scott of Northwestern university, in his new book on the "Psychology of Advertising," gives the results of a set of questions sent to 4,000 readers of the modern daily newspaper. From the answers sent by 3,000 men he has reached the conclusion that readers do not care to have a paper serve as interpreter of the news or as advocate of the truth. All that they want is a brief but comprehensive publication of the news. In his opinion that editor will be most appreciated who selects news most wisely and presents the unvarnished truth in all matters in which the constituency are interested. He adds: "The ideal paper would have to do only with facts. The news would have to be well written, but the interest would be mainly in the news itself and not in the reporter's or the publisher's views concerning it." The answers showed that local news leads all other features in interest. Then came in order named, political, sporting and financial.

Russell on the Firing Line.
In the November Everybody's, Charles E. Russell, known in two continents as one of the greatest of muckrakers, and who has been criticized for not doing something constructive, comes to the front with three specific proposals for civic betterment. They are: To establish a new standard of public service by discontinuing the practice of paying our public officials salaries, to abolish the political boss by establishing everywhere the system of direct nominations and "to clear our minds of the singular superstition that so long obsessed us concerning the public utility franchise" by adopting the simple plan of the annual lease. His belief is that "the best way to abolish the muckraker is to abolish muck." The origin of the Great Banks of New England is said to have been in the boulders carried down by icebergs. The bank is 600 miles long and 120 broad.

UNCLE SAM'S PRODIGAL GIFTS FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

Government Has Given to Settlers 112,000,000 Acres, and Has More than Enough Left to Make Four States as Large as Texas—Vast Projects of Irrigation.

No wonder the world calls us rich. What other country could make the prodigal gifts to its people which Uncle Sam has made from the public domain. This government has already given to settlers 112,000,000 acres of land.

But what the government has given away is only a small garden in comparison with what it has to give. The public domain, taking into consideration land of all sorts, good and bad, amounts to the colossal sum of 754,805,286 acres—more than enough to make four states as large as Texas. It is true that almost half of this vast area is in Alaska, where farms will always be about as valuable as they are at the north pole. But it is also true that there 293,000,000 acres of public land in the United States proper that, sooner or later, will be devoted to agricultural purposes. In the arid West it is all a matter of getting water on the land. In the cut-over timber regions of the lumbering states all that is needed is to keep off the forest fires and give the soil an opportunity to recuperate.

Water Did It All.
The United States government owns, in Utah, for instance, more than enough land to make another state as large as Michigan. Nobody who has ever climbed the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains and seen what Brigham Young and his followers did for

"This land needs only water and good society to make the country a paradise," said one of these gentry, according to an old joke.

"That's all the infernal regions need," retorted the traveler from the East, who had Kentucky relatives.

Busy with Irrigation.
But things have changed since then. The government has become very busy in the irrigation business. It is pouring out money like water for the purpose of getting water. At this very moment the government has under way twenty-eight tremendous irrigation projects, as the result of which water will be turned on to more than half a million acres of land this year. At Roosevelt, Ariz., for instance, public funds are being expended to throw across Salt River a dam 284 feet high that will hold back enough water to put a slice two feet thick over the whole state of Rhode Island. The dam will not be finished until 1910, but when it is completed it will convert into gardens 210,000 acres around Phoenix that are now good only for the buzzards to fly over. The agricultural department has analyzed the soil and found that it is remarkably fertile; the climate cannot be excelled, and, as soon as the water comes, no region will be more productive.

Then there is California. Anyone who has ever entered the Golden State at the little southern town called "The



DRAWING NAMES FOR LAND ALLOTMENTS.

Salt Lake Valley need be told what the rest of Utah will some time look like. When the Mormons went to Utah the country around Salt Lake was as desolate as the mind could picture. Now the River Jordan winds through as beautiful a country as lies outdoors. Water did it all—water from the river and water from the mountains that was sluiced over the land. And in that state the United States government owns more than 36,000,000 of other thirsty acres.

The national government also has large holdings in twenty-four other states and territories. Uncle Sam owns enough land in New Mexico, for instance, to make two states almost as large as New York and Indiana; enough in Montana to make another commonwealth far exceeding in area the great State of Illinois; and enough in Nevada to make twelve states as large as New Jersey. He could carve out five states as large as Massachusetts from what he owns in Idaho, and seven Vermonts from his unused lands in Arizona. And that is saying nothing about his 2,000,000 acres in North Dakota, his 17,000,000 acres in Oregon, his 5,000,000 acres in Washington, and his 7,000,000 acres in California and his 21,000,000 acres in Colorado.

Some of this land has nothing but gold and silver in it. The rest of it is heavily freighted with the latest possibilities of potatoes, alfalfa, wheat, oats, corn and fruit. All that this latter class of soil needs to make it productive is water. In the old days this seemed to be an insurmountable difficulty. Arid land boomers talked to their prospective customers in vain.

Needles' doubtless remembers his amazement that the state should be called the "land of sunshine, fruit and flowers." The sunshine is there, all right, but the fruit and flowers can be found only in the dining car. Outside there is only sand, sand, sand—millions of acres of it, as far as the eye can reach—and cactus bushes. It's the lower end of the Mojave Desert. Further to the north is Death Valley, and as one looks out the car window he occasionally sees a mirage that may be anything from a green-fielded farmhouse to a ship sailing in the clouds bottom side up.

Government's Great Projects.
However, all this is to be changed. At Yuma the government has made a start toward supplying water to the desert, and while the task may not be completed for years, part of the arid land will be reclaimed within the next two years. The undertaking now under way consists of damming the Colorado River at Yuma and diverting its waters into two channels by means of which the adjacent country on both sides of the stream will be watered. About 84,000 acres of land will be made productive by this work alone. By similar means 12,000 acres will be reclaimed in northern California.

The government has also done something and is doing more to bring back to life some of Nevada's 61,000,000 dead acres. At Truckee the melting mountain snow is diverted to the parched tracts far below in the valley. The work has already progressed so far that water has been turned on to 50,000 acres, and within a few months irrigation ditches will be ready to sup-

ply 1,000 more eighty-acre farms. This is only a start, of course, and does not amount to much. But when the fact is considered that the government has enough arid land in Nevada to make two states as large as New York it is evident that the small start that has been made is but the forerunner of a great finish.

Conduit Through Mountain.

Out in what is known as the "Gunnison country" in Colorado, another gigantic undertaking is under way. At the bottom of Gunnison canyon is a picturesque little stream called the Gunnison River, that up to this time has served no other useful purpose than to increase the beauty of the scenery and hold speckled trout to lure shermen hundreds of miles. But the Gunnison River will soon be known no more to the fishermen. Within a year, probably, it will be shunted off into a tunnel. This tunnel will take the turbulent little stream through the heart of a mountain and dump it over 140,000 acres of land. The conduit through the mountain will be almost six miles long. Work has been going on for four years, and five miles of the tunnel are already completed. Forty-five miles of canals will also irrigate 60,000 acres of land in Grand Valley, in the western part of Colorado.

Then look at Idaho. When the census of 1900 was taken, the government enumerators found in that state only 1.9 persons to the square mile. In Idaho the United States owns almost 27,000,000 acres of land. Think what will happen to the population of that state when the work now under way is completed and water is turned on to 372,000 acres of land. The Payette, Boise and Snake rivers, in the southwestern part of the state, are simply being turned out of their beds. The work is so far advanced that settlers are already beginning to file on some of the land that is to be benefited. At Minidoka, another point on the Snake River, a huge dam will divert water to supply 130,000 acres. The work is already practically complete and water will be turned on next spring.

Others of Importance.

An extensive system of irrigation devices that extend along the North Platte for nearly 500 miles will, when completed, supply water to 200,000 acres of land in Wyoming and an equal area in Nebraska. In fact, water was turned on to 40,000 acres this year. Settlers are taking up land rapidly.

Besides all this, work is under way to put water on to 200,000 acres in Montana, 40,000 acres in North Dakota, 30,000 acres in New Mexico, 10,000 acres in Kansas, 220,000 acres in northern California and southern Oregon, 270,000 acres in Washington, 40,000 acres in Utah, and 100,000 acres in South Dakota. And, as a people, we are just beginning to realize that it is good public policy to spend money for the irrigation of arid lands.

Those who are best able to judge believe that, in this way, we shall reclaim from 50,000,000 to 150,000,000 acres of land. In fact, the experts incline toward the larger figure. And what does this mean? It means that we shall put under cultivation 234,375 square miles. Flaring the population at the same density as that of Kansas—eighteen to the square mile—it will mean that the government land will provide homes for more than 4,000,000 persons. And, using the same multiplier, more than 3,000,000 persons are now living on land that the government originally gave to settlers.

For Intensive Tillage.

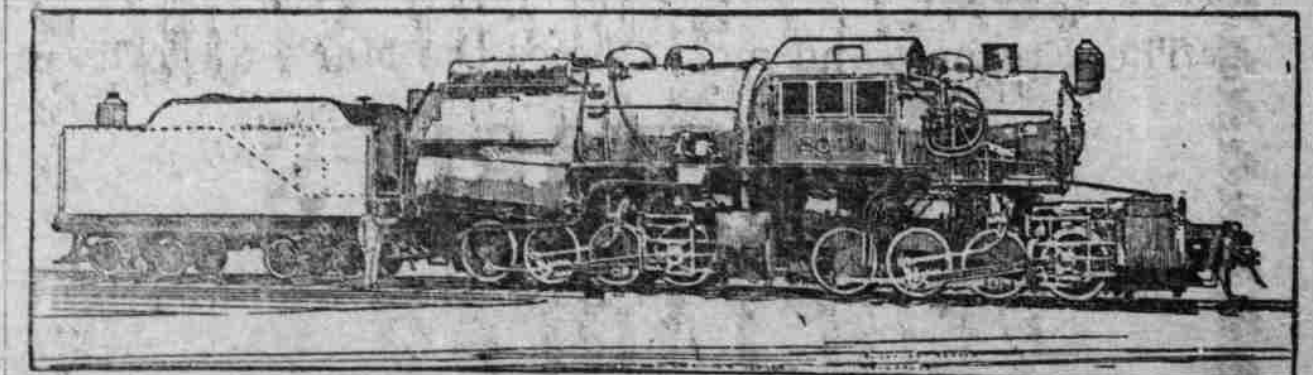
But the possibilities of what might be called the near present are dwarfed by the probabilities of the remote future. Some day stern necessity will compel us to be economical in the use of our land, as we are just beginning to learn that we should conserve what remains of our coal, timber and iron. Some day we shall learn that no one can really till 200 or 300 acres of land, or even 40 acres. We shall become masters of intensive agriculture and produce more from a few well-tilled acres than we do now from the great tracts that we cultivate with little or no realization of the great opportunities that we overlook. We shall learn a lesson, perhaps, from the French peasants, who let not a foot of ground escape untilled and make the fences hold up the grapes for the sun to ripen them.

And when that time comes the land that the government yet has to give to settlers may support a population of hundreds of millions. Scientific agriculturists say that Texas alone has enough land to support five times the present population of the United States.

When the members of a standing committee meet they usually sit down

A man who has fished much can readily detect a lie in a fish story.

LARGEST AND MOST POWERFUL LOCOMOTIVE IN THE WORLD.



The engine and tender combined are eighty feet long and weigh 230 tons. The engine alone weighs 205 tons. It was built for the purpose of assisting trains over the grades of the Erie Railroad near Susquehanna, and can haul a freight train of 250 cars, two miles long, carrying 10,000 tons of freight, at a speed of eight miles an hour. If this freight consisted of grain it would represent the harvest from twenty-six square miles of farm land.