

WEEK'S DOINGS

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Condensed Form.

Bristow urges that the postage rate on packages be reduced along rural routes.

Denver ballot boxes have been opened and fewer votes found than were given in the returns.

The merchant marine commission will urge a bill to give Panama business to American shipowners.

The Russian press urges that the Black sea and Baltic fleets be combined. Great Britain would object.

General Rennenskampf is vigorously pursuing the Japanese in Manchuria, who are retreating. St. Petersburg is fearful lest he fall into a trap.

St. Petersburg has almost given up hope for Port Arthur. The Russians have made several unsuccessful attempts to retake 203-Meter hill.

Fire which is believed to have been of incendiary origin, destroyed three of the St. Louis fair buildings and many valuable paintings. The loss is placed at \$75,000.

There has been tremendous rains throughout Chile, such as have seldom been equalled at this season of the year. The crops have been damaged fully 50 per cent.

Taft's mission to Panama will be a success.

The Japanese expect the fall of Port Arthur December 12.

Queen Alexandra, of England, has just celebrated her 80th birthday.

Reports have reached the state department of a very unsettled state of affairs in Venezuela.

The Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads are considering a plan to electrify the roads through the Cascade mountain district.

The last monthly report of the chief of surgeons of the Philippines shows that the health of the troops in the islands is exceptionally good.

James R. Young, of Philadelphia, has been appointed superintendent of the dead letter department of the postal service, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of D. P. Mibhart.

The annual report of the general superintendent of the life saving service shows that during the year assistance was rendered to 1,061 vessels, involving the lives of more than 3,400 persons and property to the value of \$7,000,000.

Admiral Dewey has declined to become a member of the North sea commission.

Roosevelt is likely to visit the South and make it a point to meet the masses.

Governor Pardee is working for a California state building at the Lewis and Clark fair.

Whites in German Southwest Africa are reported to be in great danger of being massacred.

All exhibitors from foreign countries may now send their wares to Portland for the 1905 fair without paying any duty.

David M. Parry, president of the Citizens' Industrial association, says the "open shop" movement is gaining, as is also his organization.

The 31st national convention of the W. C. T. U. is in session in Philadelphia. Five hundred delegates, representing every state and territory, are in attendance.

The New York state court of appeals has declared unconstitutional the labor law which prohibits a contractor from employing his men more than eight hours a day on city, county or state work.

Japanese are making progress in the assault on Port Arthur.

Russia has accepted the invitation of America to negotiate for an arbitration treaty.

Paul Morton, now secretary of the navy, may succeed Secretary Shaw, of the treasury department, if the latter does not remain in the cabinet.

Russia and Britain both want an American officer of high rank on the North sea commission.

Ten American fishing craft have been seized by Canadian officers and fined for fishing in Canadian waters.

General Kuropatkin has an automobile in which to travel from one part to another of his line. He wants 20 more in which to carry ammunition.

The trouble caused by Paraguay firing upon an Argentine cruiser has been settled by the former apologizing.

CZAR FOR PEACE.

Is Ready to Receive Such Proposal From Japan.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 3.—A report which comes from an unimpeachable source has reached the Publishers' Press correspondent that Russia is not only ready to receive any peace proposals Japan may have to make, but that with the fall of Port Arthur she will be ready to sue for peace. That is the situation today, notwithstanding the swashbuckling attitude of those who profess to frame the empire's policy, and will be the situation right along, even if this and subsequent statements to this effect were officially denied. Before the world at large Russia cannot afford just now to appear tired of the struggle and skeptical as to its outcome, but diplomatic circles are permitted to know the truth, and Russia's representatives all the civilized world over have received strong intimations that sincere and authoritative offers of mediation must not be treated lightly in the future.

It is therefore to be assumed that the conflict is entirely hopeless. There are sure to be some Russian victories in Manchuria and the general belief is that they will come soon, owing to the fact that Field Marshal the Marquis Oyama has been compelled to part with large bodies of his men in order to hasten the fall of Port Arthur. But Russia has far Eastern interests of much greater importance than even the possession of Port Arthur, and as these interests have been attacked in the past by Great Britain and China alike, she is in dire need of an ally. That ally will be Japan, if the plans of today do not miscarry. The battles of today are to be followed by close ties of commercial and political union tomorrow.

RECEIPTS ABOUT \$10,000,000.

Concessionaries Believed to Have Taken in Equal Amount.

St. Louis, Dec. 3.—While it will be impossible to obtain the actual receipts and expenditures of the Louisiana Purchase exposition company before the middle of December, Secretary Walter B. Stevens, of the World's fair, made the following statement to the Associated Press tonight:

"From reports that have been submitted of the admissions to the grounds we estimate that the attendance on 'Francis day' will be a few thousand in excess of 200,000, and that the attendance for the Exposition period will be in the neighborhood of 18,800,000. "In round numbers the Exposition company has expended \$22,000,000 since the inception of the World's fair project, and the expenditures of the several states and territories have reached a total of \$9,000,000. The receipts since the opening day, April 30, have amounted to about \$10,000,000, consisting of admissions and concession royalties. In addition to these receipts were the funds, amounting to about \$12,000,000, raised by subscription and appropriations to build the exposition."

INTERNAL REVENUE RECEIPTS.

Commissioner Yerkes Reports an Increase of \$2,163,079 per Year.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The annual report of Commissioner Yerkes, of the Internal Revenue bureau, shows that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, the receipts of the bureau were \$232,904,004, an increase of \$2,163,079 over the collections for the next year preceding. The cost of collections was 1.98 per cent, as against 2.07 for the year 1903, and 2.83 per cent, the average cost of collection since the formation of the bureau.

The estimated receipts from all sources of internal revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, are \$230,000,000. In 1903 the total production of distilled spirits was 148,206,875 gallons; in 1904, 139,505,214 gallons. In 1903, in round numbers, 114,000,000 gallons of tax-paid spirits were withdrawn; in 1904, 117,000,000. There has been a decrease in the amount of tobacco manufactured and an increase in snuff. There was an increase in the production of beer.

President Did Not Say It.

Washington, Dec. 3.—It was authoritatively stated at the White house today that the president had no recollection of a visit from John Beattie, the representative of the Master Painters' and Decorators' association, who, at the convention of the Citizens' Industrial association in New York today declared that the president had endorsed a proposition to put upon labor unions the responsibility for paralyzing business by lockouts. It was also announced that the president did not make the remark.

Fearful Conditions in Mexico.

Mazatlan, Mexico, Dec. 3.—Late reports from the northern part of this state say that fearful conditions exist there. Deaths range from 20 to 40 per day, owing to starvation and marlaria. In many instances the dead are not given burial, it is said, but are thrown into open ditches and canals. The authorities are unable to cope with the situation.

PLENTY TO DO

Congress Will Have a Very Busy Session.

FEW NEW LAWS ARE PROBABLE

Appropriation Measures Will Take Up Much of the Time—Rivers and Harbors are Safe.

Washington, Dec. 5.—On the stroke of 12 today the second session of the 58th congress will be called to order by President Pro Tem Frye in the senate, and by Speaker Cannon in the house. When the gavel of the presiding officers summon the senators and representatives to duty nearly every member will be in his seat, but only routine business will be transacted.

The president's message generally is received and read the first day, but the senate is punctilious in certain matters, and is almost sure to adjourn as a tribute of respect to the late Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, and the late Senator Quay, of Pennsylvania. The message, therefore, probably will not be read until Tuesday.

After the opening day, when the message of the president is read, the regular business of the session will begin and the legislative wheels will grind steadily until March, 1905. There is plenty to do. The calendars of both houses are loaded with bills of all kinds; hundreds of new bills will be introduced, and committees are ready to report enough to keep congress busy for 12 months, but in the three months congress probably will do little more than pass the regular annual appropriation bills.

There has been some talk of a possible extra session. The only reason why such a session should be called is because there is a demand in certain quarters for a revision of the tariff, but many of the incoming congressmen during the past two weeks have made it plain they do not want tariff revision and further say that they do not want an extra session.

There is one feature of the tariff revision talk that has some substance. More revenue must be had, or there must be a curtailment of expenditures. With the increasing annual appropriations, a river and harbor bill, increase of the navy, the Panama canal and other features of extraordinary disbursement, there will be need of more money than present customs and internal revenue provide. An intimation has been made that curtailment will satisfy many congressional leaders, but the majority may determine otherwise, in which event some revenue legislation may be necessary, and an extra session for that purpose may be called. But this is said to be a remote contingency, and the probabilities, according to the leaders who are here, are that there will be neither tariff legislation nor an extra session.

WILL WORK FOR SIUSLAW RIVER.

Hermann Will Co-operate With San Francisco Delegation.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Representative Hermann appeared today before the rivers and harbors committee with the expectation of having a hearing, so that he might present the needs of various river and harbor improvements along the Oregon coast, but was informed that the committee is giving no hearings. An arrangement has been made, however, for a hearing before the subcommittee, at which time Mr. Hermann will appear with the delegation from San Francisco, now en route to Washington to urge a liberal appropriation for the improvement of the Siuslaw river. Mr. Wendling, a large shipowner of San Francisco, who is deeply interested in the Siuslaw trade, will head the committee. If permitted to do so, Mr. Hermann will also urge the subcommittee to make liberal appropriations for other rivers and harbors along the Oregon coast.

Taft's Mission a Success.

Panama, Dec. 5.—Negotiations are still in progress between Secretary of War Taft, representing the United States, and the Panama government, looking to the settlement of points in dispute regarding the government of the canal zone, and an agreement may be said to be in sight. In order that possible complications may be avoided the conferences are being conducted in secret and nothing will be given out until both sides are agreed. President Amador tonight gave a banquet in honor of Secretary Taft.

New Russian Loan Soon.

Paris, Dec. 5.—The bankers here expect that the new Russian loan of \$20,000,000 will be issued this or next month. A syndicate of French banks will take approximately \$160,000,000, and the German banks \$100,000,000. It is believed that the new loan will be readily taken up at nearly par, or above 98½.

AT AWFUL COST.

Japanese Continue Their Attack on Port Arthur.

London, Dec. 1.—According to a Tokio dispatch to the Standard, there is an official rumor that the Japanese have hauled large caliber guns to the top of 203-Meter hill, whence their fire has a sweep of the whole harbor. This report doubtless goes beyond the facts; but various dispatches indicate the progress the Japanese are making in the reduction of Port Arthur. Japanese here explain the great importance of the capture of 203-Meter hill, which, besides giving command of the harbor, will serve as a wide breach made by the wedge the Japanese had previously driven in between the Ets group and the Russians' last retreat in the ravines of Laotie mountain. They declare that retreat to Laotie will be effectually cut off, and it is not unlikely that Laotie will be simultaneously attacked in the final assault.

Bennett Burleigh wires to the Daily Telegraph from Chefoo that in the last attack the Japanese lost 400 men in one hour's fighting. They claim to have captured two more of the north-eastern forts and a third, which is part of the West Kekwap fort. They assert, Mr. Burleigh adds, to have effected a lodgment at Pigeon bay, thus turning the fort on 203-Meter hill, and that they are now tunneling from the gorge below Laotie hill, which they hope first to damage and then rush. The dispatch continues:

"Desperate fighting is proceeding daily, and the losses are admitted to be excessive, but the Japanese insist that Port Arthur must fall within 21 days." The Morning Post's correspondent at Shanghai telegraphs that wireless communication has been re-established between the Russian consulate at Chefoo and the Port Arthur garrison.

PLANS GREAT BRITISH ARMY.

Kitchener's Reorganization Scheme Greatly Enlarged.

London, Dec. 1.—The war office is in possession of the full details of Lord Kitchener's army reorganization scheme. No secret is made of the fact that particular mention has been paid to points which would offer convenient centers of Russian invasion in the event of hostilities and in view of the recent imbroglio the original plan was considerably extended.

The keynote of the reorganization, which will entail expenditures to the amount of \$50,000,000, is to secure through war training a great army in times of peace, and to place the troops not only where they can obtain such instructions, but where their presence will be of permanent strategic value.

With this object in view Northern India has been divided by parallel lines into a number of areas with their upper points converging on the frontier, and their respective bases well down in India. Were the order to mobilize given seven or eight field forces, each from 15,000 to 20,000 strong, could, in a few hours, be concentrated on the borderland from east to west.

FIRE ON TOWN.

Strikers at Zeigler, Illinois, Send in 500 Shots.

Benton, Ill., Dec. 1.—Zeigler was fired upon last night from sundown to daylight. It is intimated that no less than 500 shots were fired at the town. The town was completely surrounded, and the firing came from every quarter. Response to this fusillade was made by four Gatling guns placed at various points about the mine buildings. Assistant Adjutant General Reece and the Carbondale militia company arrived at Zeigler today, and General Reece will remain several days to investigate the situation. It is thought that still more troops will be brought.

Joseph Leiter reached Zeigler today with more miners from Chicago. Examination of the ground this morning showed that the men who were firing had powerful guns. They were stationed from one-half to three-quarters of a mile from the town. Almost a bushel of empty shells of every size were found in the woods.

A trail of blood was found on a rail fence, and from this it is supposed at least one person was wounded. Further trouble is anticipated.

Russia Fears Crisis is At Hand.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 1.—Foreign reports of the fighting at Port Arthur are accepted here very seriously. If the Japanese have taken 203-Meter hill, as reported, commanding the whole harbor, it is believed that the situation is critical. Experts on Port Arthur topography assert, however, that it is more likely that the Japanese have occupied some positions at the base of the hill, and believe that owing to the concentrated fire of the covered forts the Japanese will find the top of the hill untenable, if taken.

Calls Witnesses in Smoot Case.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Senator Burrows chairman of the committee on privileges and elections, has issued subpoenas for 20 witnesses in the Smoot investigation and fixed Monday, December 12, as the date for their appearance before the committee. Nearly all these witnesses are in Utah.

GETS INTO LINE

Russia Decides to Participate in 1905 Exposition.

WILL HAVE A LARGE EXHIBIT

Believed She Has Come to Time Because the Wily Jap Prepared Magnificent Display.

Portland, Dec. 2.—Russia stepped suddenly and unexpectedly into line for participation in the Lewis and Clark Centennial exposition yesterday. After stating at one time that it would be impossible for Russia to participate, the czar's ministry of commerce suddenly reconsidered the matter and in order to be sure of a space allotment rushed a cablegram to exposition headquarters. The cablegram was dispatched from St. Petersburg and was signed by Edward Grunwaldt, councillor of commerce. The message was as follows:

"St. Petersburg—To Lewis and Clark centennial exposition, Portland, Or. Invitation accepted finance ministry. Wire space allotted for Russia. Cable address Edgrun."

The cable message was telegraphed immediately to Director of Exhibits Henry Doeck, at St. Louis, in order that it may be acted upon.

With Russia's participation the powers of the world, as well as a majority of the minor nations, will be represented at the exposition.

Just what caused Russia's change of heart regarding the fair can only be surmised, but it is quite probable that the Oriental aspect of the exposition is what caught the eye of the Russian bear.

The same thing, though, caught the eye of the wily Jap some months since, and Japan has arranged participation on a big scale. It is surmised that Russia cannot afford to make a lesser showing than does Japan, and there is, therefore, reason to look for an attractive and valuable exhibit from the land of the czar.

JAPAN AROUSED TO DANGER.

Togo will be Unable Strongly to Oppose the Baltic Fleet.

Chicago, Dec. 2.—The Daily News has the following from a staff correspondent:

"Shanghai—Japan is now thoroughly aroused to the danger which threatens her in the approach of the Baltic squadron. Admiral Togo has only four battleships to oppose the seven the Russians will bring against him. The long service the navy has seen since February 8 has seriously deteriorated the large naval guns on board the fleet. All this constitutes a grave menace to Japanese sea supremacy. In view of the possibility that the transport service may be stopped, the authorities are accumulating vast stores in Manchuria. The Baltic fleet is expected to reach belligerent waters about February 1, and it is feared that it may at once seize the island of Formosa as a naval base. Formosa belongs to Japan, and is only poorly prepared to prevent such action on the part of Admiral Rojstvensky."

BEEF FOR ARMY.

Big Russian Shipment to Go From Portland.

Omaha, Dec. 2.—One of the largest orders of beef ever sent out of the country is now being filled by the Cudahy Packing company, of South Omaha, who tonight shipped to Portland, Or., the first consignment of an order from the Russian government, consisting of 17 cars. The entire order will fill 135 cars of meat, and will be shipped as rapidly as it can be loaded.

The meat is consigned to the Russian government. It was sold through brokers. The shipment is packed in barrels weighing, when filled, about 350 pounds each. A car will carry about 129 barrels, or 42,000 pounds. The entire train of 135 cars will contain 5,670,000 pounds of meat. The meat will ration an army of 100,000 men for six weeks.

Cavalry to Preserve Order.

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 2.—In view of the fact that a general strike will be inaugurated tomorrow, President Quintana had long conferences today with the ministers of the interior, war and marine and the chief of police, for the purpose of adopting measures for the suppression of possible disturbances. An official statement was given out tonight that the police are fully prepared to prevent any interruption of necessary public services and to protect purveyors of foodstuffs and those who are willing to work.

Coin for the Philippine Islands.

San Francisco, Dec. 2.—The local mint will turn over to the war department today a large consignment of Philippine money. The coin will go to the islands on the transport Logan, which sails tomorrow. There will be 800,000 pesos in 50-centavo pieces; 60,000 pesos in 20-centavo pieces, and 150,000 pesos in 10 centavos.