

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

Nine miners were smothered in a coal mine at Garfield, Pa.

Many Japanese soldiers commit suicide when defeat seems at hand.

Chinese have reported to Kuropatkin that the Japanese have lost 203-Meter hill, but the latter claim not.

It is officially reported in Paris that the attorney general has recommended a retrial of the Dreyfus case.

The Japanese are reported to have captured another fort at Port Arthur, with heavy loss to the Russians.

A gang of bell boys, organized to steal the property of guests has been discovered in the Chicago downtown hotels by the police.

Four Denver men have been found guilty of repeating at the November election and sentenced to six months in jail and to pay a \$100 fine.

Robert S. McCormick, American ambassador to Russia, who has been on a two months' vacation in the United States, has returned to his post.

Two of the largest plants of the Illinois Steel company in South Chicago are to resume operations the first of the year. Their reopening will mean employment to at least 3,000 men.

The sultan of Morocco has issued an order expelling all foreign missions, delegates and employes at present attached to his court at Fez. He is afraid his brother will be made sultan.

It is probable that a part of the new Russian loan will be placed in New York.

The present war in the Far East has proved interesting relative to the value of the balloon in time of war.

Ab erak in the Pacific coast sugar pool is looked for. Six large firms of San Francisco have withdrawn.

The cotton manufacturers of Fall River, Mass., have refused the offer of the union to arbitrate the differences between the two organizations.

The postmaster general has removed two rural mail carriers charged with efforts to influence legislation. One was from Colorado and the other Ohio.

But one bid on the government contract for more than 2,000,000 feet of lumber to be used at Manila, was found when the bids were opened at Tacoma. It was from a Tacoma firm.

The 1905 fair will contain 2,500 individual exhibits. There will be 25 exhibit buildings. The fair site covers 182 acres of land and 220 acres of water. The project of the exposition will involve an outlay of about \$3,000,000.

Dispatches from Western Pennsylvania are to the effect that industrial activity in many centers is threatened on account of the protracted drought. Unless conditions change soon it is possible thousands of men may be thrown out of employment in the mills, mines and coke fields.

Claims against the Russian government on account of the North sea affair aggregate \$600,000.

The Minnesota state board of pardons has released the brother of ex-Mayor Ames of Minneapolis.

Governor Bates, of Massachusetts, has tendered his good offices and urges a termination of the Fall River strike.

One of those accused of illegal voting at the recent election in Denver was a girl who is said not to have been of age.

Mukden has recovered from its panic caused by the retreat of the Russian army and the Manchurian town has resumed its wonted aspect.

Many witnesses wanted in the Smoot investigation have fled to Canada and cannot be reached. Those who have testified say that polygamy is openly practiced by the Mormons and many plural marriages have occurred since the manifesto was issued.

The Chicago university has just received gift amounting to \$437,370.

Eight persons were killed in the wreck of the Crocker hotel in Minneapolis.

The sultan of Morocco has removed foreigners and will take charge of his own army.

There has been a great increase in the number of accidents on railroads during the past year.

The Federal grand jury is now in session at Portland behind closed doors, investigating various land frauds.

BLUFF IS CALLED.

England Can Have War Quickly, Says Kaiser Wilhelm.

Berlin, Dec. 24.—Sensational correspondence has passed between the German and British governments during the last four weeks with reference to the warlike and provocative attitude adopted toward Germany by the semi-official British press, especially the Army and Navy Gazette. The Kaiser took a hand in the negotiations and made his vigorous personality felt in a positive way. He instructed that the British cabinet should be informed in effect that if England wanted war it could have it immediately, if it was not desirous of such an event the talk which Germany considered an affront must stop.

Both Count Wolff-Metternich, German ambassador in London, and Sir F. C. Lascelles, British ambassador at Berlin, were called home by their respective governments to discuss the situation.

The publications which induced the German government to assume its strong attitude were a series of articles in the Army and Navy Gazette, culminating in the declaration that the Kaiser's navy was so rapidly becoming a menace to Great Britain that war would better be declared now in order that the German fleet might be destroyed before it should become a still greater danger.

Both Premier Balfour and Lord Lansdowne have been told that Germany is impatient of this distrust of its naval policy, which it accuses the National Review, the Army and Navy Gazette and other papers of generating among the British people. The Fatherland wishes Britain to understand once for all that it has not the slightest intention of abandoning the development of its navy and its merchant marine at British behest, no matter how much of a bogey they constitute.

LONDON IN A BLACK FOG.

Traffic Almost at Standstill Throughout the Metropolis.

London, Dec. 24.—London was enveloped today in a black fog, more dense than anything witnessed during the last two years. In many places the traffic was almost completely stopped, and the greatest care was necessary to avoid accidents, a number of which have already been reported.

As night closed down and the density increased, vehicle traffic in the most crowded sections of the center of London was completely suspended. Some of the scenes witnessed were pitiful, some were ridiculous, and the whole was extremely weird. There were instances in which women became hysterical, and even the police lost their sense of direction, and omnibus drivers became confused and drove on the sidewalks, until finally all traffic was held up.

At the main crossings and on the streets leading thereto, long shadowy lines of omnibuses, cabs and wagons loaded with Christmas packages stood motionless. The most brilliant electric lights only served to make the darkness visible. Torchboys were very busy.

BRITISH DOCKING CHEAPER.

Attention of President Called to Conditions at Bremerton.

Washington, Dec. 24.—President Roosevelt's attention was invited today by Representative Humphrey, of Washington, to a telegram received by Mr. Humphrey from some of his constituents, protesting against what is declared to be exorbitant tonnage rates charged at the Bremerton naval station for the docking and repair of vessels. The telegram calls attention to a charge of 10 cents a ton for the docking of the steamer Shawmut, the owners declaring that they could have the work done at the British dock at Esquimaux for 3 cents a ton. The charges at the American station result, Mr. Humphrey says, in a large amount of such work going to the British station, to the detriment of the Americans. This matter will be considered by the officials of the Navy department.

Examination of the Nigretta.

Tokio, Dec. 24.—The examination of the cargo, passengers and crew of the British steamer Nigretta, which was seized by the Japanese cruiser Tushima is progressing at Sasebo. Scarcely it is undetermined whether parole-breaking Russian officers, are on board the Nigretta. The Japanese are investigating this feature of the case because of the question of the ability of the Chinese officials properly to conduct the internment of Russians who seek refuge at ports in China. It is considered vitally important.

Philippine Tariff Bill Ready.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Secretary Taft and Colonel Edwards, chief of the insular bureau of the War department, today practically completed the work of putting the proposed revision of the Philippine tariff in shape for presentation to congress in the form of a prepared draft of a bill.

ENVELOPED IN A FOG

Business Is Very Generally Suspended in England.

THAMES IS JAMMED WITH SHIPS

Link Boys With Torches Furnish the Only Useful Lights in London—No Sign of Pall Lifting.

London, Dec. 26.—There is as yet no sign of the lifting of the fog which envelops the kingdom. The absence of wind throughout Great Britain is almost unprecedented, and meteorologists do not expect any change in the conditions for another 24 hours. Considering the almost insuperable difficulties attending locomotion of any form, the number of fatal accidents has been remarkably small.

The congestion and suspension of business are very general. So far as London is concerned, the tube railways are the only concerns benefitted, and their daily traffic is reaching record figures.

A condition resembling chaos prevails in the postal service. All railway trains are many hours late and many trains between London and the suburbs occupy a couple of hours in making the distance of eight miles.

Mail boats in all directions are similarly disorganized. Only two vessels entered the port of London yesterday, a condition of affairs such as has not occurred for 60 years. The mouth of the river is jammed with vessels loaded with perishable foodstuffs of all descriptions.

The streets of London present remarkable scenes. Nothing is visible except link boys' torches and the occasional flare of big crescent lights which the authorities are beginning to employ to assist traffic.

HEADS OFF LANDGRABBERS.

President Hays Has Cold Water for Rush to Port Simpson.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 26.—With the idea of preventing any rush to Port Simpson or Kaien island, C. M. Hays, president of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, has publicly announced that the mere filing of plans with the railway department at Ottawa does not signify that either of those places will be selected as the terminus of the line. Said he: "It simply supplies the government with information regarding what the company may ultimately require." Mr. Hays has again declared that it may be some time before definite announcement can be made as to where the British Columbia end of the new transcontinental line will be situated. He said in an interview: "We have not definitely determined the Western terminus. We always say Port Simpson, but when we make use of that expression we mean any point within 50 miles of the place. There are three or four inlets, all of about equal merit, that we might use, but before we reach a decision quite a number of hydrographic surveys must first be made. Nothing has been done along that line on the Pacific coast for a number of years."

As for the prairie section of the line, preparations are well under way for commencing construction at Winnipeg, both east and west, as soon as the snow goes in the spring. Mr. Hays has stated that the financial arrangements necessary to the successful flotation of the scheme have all been made, and the outlook for the satisfactory inauguration of the big work is very bright.

Weakened and May Be Dissolved.

San Francisco, Dec. 26.—Purchases of the four sugar jobbing firms which have seceded from the Pacific Traffic and Commercial association, aggregated approximately 40 per cent of the sugar bought by the association from the refineries, and the dissolution of that organization seems presaged. The four firms are Haas Bros., Tillman & Bendel, Sussman, Wormser & Co. and the Lewin-Meyer company. Whether or not the association is able to carry on, it will be considerably weakened by the loss of these firms.

Torpedo Boat Sighted.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 26.—According to a local paper a number of English fishermen have appeared before the Russian consul in London and have deposed to have seen foreign torpedo boats among the Hull fishing fleet. Their depositions, it is added, will be submitted to the international commission, now in Paris, the circumstances under which they were obtained being explained.

MOROS AT PEACE.

Slave Trade in Philippines Put Down by General Wood.

Washington, Dec. 22.—General Wood, commanding the department of Mindanao, Philippine division, in his annual report to the War department, said that the troops of the department have been in the field a greater portion of the year, quelling armed uprisings and preventing slave trade and kindred abuses. He says that in almost every instance actual fighting was initiated by the Moros.

"Conditions among the Moros throughout the department are generally peaceful," says General Wood, who adds:

"The establishment of civil government and the extension over them of certain laws and regulations has caused some excitement and at times serious resistance, especially the law prohibiting slavery. In some sections active hostility has been engendered by our presence, especially in the Lake Lanao region, where almost constant murderous attacks on workmen and soldiers were the rule until the effects of the recent expeditions to the Tarca side of the lake, combined with expeditions to other sections of the Lanao, were felt by the Moros."

The power of the Moros of that section, he says, has been completely broken. Continuing, the report says: "In Jolo affairs are quiet. The prompt crushing of the Hassana uprising has made a deep impression on the people, and the abrogation of the Bates agreement has done much to bring to an end the unfortunate conditions which existed under it."

Dato Alis' party, the report adds, is the only band of Moros now openly hostile, and it is small and is being followed by troops and scouts. General Wood says it is believed there will not be any very serious resistance of authority by the Moros in the future, but there will be constant police work.

FAVOR MUNICIPAL CONTROL.

New York Citizens' Union Committee Adopts Resolutions.

Shanghai, Dec. 22.—A report has reached here that the captain of the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Grozovoi, which was dismantled at Shanghai, August 26, last, has been discovered on board the British steamer Nigretta, which was seized by the Japanese protected cruiser Tushima off Ulsan, Corea. Charts and documents which would have been of incalculable value to the Russians are said to have been found on the captain's person.

The report, which is generally credited here, somewhat conflicts with that contained in an earlier dispatch, in which it was stated that Captain Reitzenstein, of the cruiser Askold, also disarmed in August at Shanghai, was the officer who had attempted to reach Vladivostok on the Nigretta. In either case it is believed the Japanese will hold the Chinese authorities strictly responsible for the escape of the officer from Shanghai.

Great Britain is also likely to be required to clear herself in the matter unless the rumor circulated here is correct that the captain disguised himself as a French officer and in that manner secured passage on the Nigretta.

CAPTURED AT SEA.

Russian Officer was Carrying Valuable Papers to Vladivostok.

New York, Dec. 22.—The city committee of the Citizens' union has adopted resolutions favoring an extension of municipal control of public utilities, a municipal lighting plant, purchase of electrical conduits and the grant of power by the legislature to the city to build and operate lighting plants, gas and electric.

The committee adopted the report of the committee on franchises, which favors presenting to the legislature the constitutional amendment proposed by the "Tilden commission" of 1875, which was that the legislature shall have no power to pass any law "for the opening, making, paving, lighting or otherwise improving or maintaining streets, avenues, parks or places, docks, wharves, or for any other local work or improvements in or for such purposes shall be, by law, conferred on the city government."

Potatoes for the Starving.

Greeley, Colo., Dec. 22.—Mayor H. C. Watson issued a call today for a mass meeting Saturday next to consider a proposition to donate a large quantity of potatoes to the starving poor of Ireland. Similar meetings will be held at Fort Collins. It is believed the farmers of northern Colorado will contribute several hundred carloads of potatoes if the transportation were arranged for. The government will be asked to furnish a transport to carry the potatoes from Galveston to Ireland.

To Meet Baltic Fleet.

London, Dec. 22.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Hong Kong says he has learned on trustworthy authority that a powerful Japanese squadron of battleships and armored cruisers is proceeding south, accompanied by 15 colliers and transports, to attack the Russian Baltic squadron.

INDICT F. P. MAYS

Federal Grand Jury Charges Him With Fraud.

HELD TO BELONG TO LAND RING

McKinley, Puter, Ware and Others Indicted with Him—State Senator Denies Any Guilt.

Portland, Dec. 23.—The grand jury of the United States has said that Franklin Pierce Mays, state senator and attorney, of Portland, is guilty of conspiracy to defraud the government out of a portion of its public lands situated in township 24 south, range 1 east, and has linked with him as fellow-conspirators the names of Horace G. McKinley, S. A. D. Puter, Marie L. Ware, Emma L. Watson, D. W. Tarpley, Robert Simpson, John Doe and Robert Roe.

Judge Bellinger, at the request of Deputy District Attorney Honey, fixed the bond of Mr. Mays at \$4,000, the same in amount as has been asked of the other defendants. The bonds in the previous cases were allowed to stand against the new indictment in the case of the rest of the defendants.

Mr. Mays is very indignant at the unfair treatment which, he says, has been shown him by the government attorneys. He asked that he be allowed to go before the jury, declaring that he would be able to explain any testimony brought against him, and to show that he was not criminally connected with the Puter-Watson ring, but that he had aroused their displeasure and was being forced to pay for it. He will maintain his innocence in the courtroom and is confident that he will be able to show that there was a mistake made in his case when the indictment was returned against him.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Monday, December 19.

No business of importance was transacted in either house today, the entire time they were in session being taken up by discussion of minor measures. Many senators and representatives were absent. Adjournment was taken until Wednesday.

Wednesday, December 21.

After a session of four minutes duration the senate adjourned today until January 4 next. The proceedings consisted of a prayer by the chaplain, the reading of the journal of Monday's brief session and the receipt of a number of nominations from the president.

In the house a bill was introduced to "secure the full use of the United States rural mail equipment and to place the rural service on a paying basis." Two bills were introduced providing for a place to care for lepers. The house then adjourned until January 4.

CHINESE ARE IMPLICATED.

Japanese Accuse Enemy of Enlisting Coolies in War.

General Oku's Headquarters, Dec. 23, via Fusan.—It is believed by the Japanese that the Russians are employing Chinese to damage the Japanese lines of communication, and they have no doubt that Chinese were employed by the Russians to burn the magazines at Liao Yang. The Japanese say that if they arrest any Chinese engaged in so fulfilling their obligations to their employers they will execute them, as a warning to other Chinese against a repetition of the offense.

The Japanese believe that these measures are required to wipe out the Russian system of employing Chinese for such work. They say they know that the Russians are spending enormous sums for this purpose.

Squeezing the Poor Chinese.

London, Dec. 23.—The correspondent at Peking in the Times, telegraphs as follows: "China having consented to pay the indemnity (growing out of the Boxer troubles) in gold, the ministers of Russia, Germany and France are now disputing among themselves as to what fresh terms they can extort from the Chinese and seeking to force an arrangement whereby certain banks will make further profit out of the indemnity. Great Britain supports China, who counts upon America and Japan to secure a just settlement."

Work Given to Widows.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Secretary Taft today issued an order directing the quartermaster general to award the making of some 55,000 pairs of trousers for the enlisted men from the army at the Schuykill arsenal, Philadelphia, to seamstresses in that city, mainly the widows and orphans of soldiers, thus settling a question raised some time ago, so far as the present lot is concerned.