

# 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.

Owing to the crisis in Morocco, the French navy yards show great activity.

England is again enveloped in a heavy fog and all ships are detained at the mouth of the Thames, unable to proceed.

Admiral Kazankoff has been recalled as Russian commissioner in the North sea inquiry and will be replaced by Vice Admiral Doubasoff. Sickness is given as the reason.

The Montana agricultural exhibits at St. Louis are being packed for shipment to Portland. The mineral exhibit will leave Butte for the Lewis and Clark fair shortly.

Kuropatkin is absolutely certain that he will ultimately win over the Japanese, while the vice governor of Japan's national bank says Japan must win; that no sacrifice is too great.

The Japanese attempts to raise the Russian cruiser Varyag have been discontinued. It will be impossible to recommence work before spring, by which time the steel plates forming the hull will be useless.

The Colorado canvassing board has given certificates of election to two Republican senators, whose places were contested by Democrats. Democrats regard it as highly probable that Governor Peabody will be reelected by this action.

Prince Yildaroff has been reported as among the killed in a recent list sent to St. Petersburg.

The recent retirement of Rear Admiral Silas Terry has resulted in the promotion of Captain Joseph E. Craig to be admiral.

An officer from an English steamer just out from Vladivostok says no Russian torpedo boats have arrived there from Port Arthur.

Reports from points along the shore of Lake Michigan indicate that the damage resulting from the storm will aggregate \$500,000.

An unknown steamer has been stranded in Hell's Hole, off Cape Hatteras, as a result of the storm raging along the Atlantic coast.

M. A. Meyerdorff, a special land agent, on the way to Portland to help in the land fraud cases, attempted to commit suicide at Denver.

Chinese warships are keeping a close watch on the Russian war vessels at Shanghai to prevent their escape or of the officers and men on them.

Two Japanese cruisers have been sighted off Hong Kong. It is believed they are scouting vessels from the fleet sent after the Russian Baltic squadron.

Governor Pardee desires to have the Mission type of architecture exemplified in the construction of the California state building at the Lewis and Clark fair. The work will start soon.

Several lives have been lost in Chicago as a result of the severe storm.

Congress will have to buy \$1,000,000 of silver bullion to make much needed small coins.

The president is presenting his ideas on railroad freight rates to congressmen personally.

Vice Admiral Lord Charles Beresford will assume command of the British Mediterranean squadron May 1.

Many Russians believe a brighter day is in store for their country when the announced reforms are put in practice.

Great Britain has assumed control of the legal and financial administration of the Tonga islands, the native chiefs consenting.

T. C. Powell, of Portland, is to be appointed United States marshal at Nome, Alaska, to succeed Frank Richards, recently removed.

The government of Holland announces that the same neutrality will be observed in her colonies as at home in regard to the Far Eastern war.

A British tramp steamer is ashore on the Atlantic coast on Fire island bar. Owing to the storm the vessel will be a total wreck. The entire crew was lost.

Free press, freedom of conscience and compulsory elementary education have been promised in Russia.

The Dawes commission says the rights of aborigines have been well protected in Indian Territory.

Seven people were killed and eight others injured in a wreck on the Southern railroad near Louisville, Ky.

## BILL BY ELKINS.

Its Object Is Regulation of Railroad Freight Rates.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Senator S. B. Elkins, of West Virginia, chairman of the senate committee on interstate commerce, is busily engaged in framing a bill for the purpose of carrying out the views of the president in relation to the abolition of freight rebates. The senator, in discussing the subject today, said among other things:

"There should be some power in this country to declare what rates should be on the railroads. The United States supreme court has decided that the fixing of a railroad rate is a legislative and not a judicial power. So we cannot depend upon the interstate commerce commission to fix these rates, and, in fact, no commission or other court can be depended on for that important function. What we can do is to empower a court to declare when a rate is excessive and in that way send the rate back to the railroad to be lowered.

"I do not think we need fear that the roads will attempt to evade the execution of such instruction in good faith, by attempting to come back again with another rate, slightly lowered, so as to result in no benefit. We can depend upon public opinion as a power to force them to accept this method of regulating the rates in good faith. If the lower rate they fix is not low enough, it can again be declared to be too high and would go back to them.

"For several reasons I think the interstate commerce commission is not the proper tribunal for the fixing of rates by this method. It should be done in a circuit court of the United States, and that court should be presided over by a justice of high character, who ought to receive a salary of \$10,000, \$12,000 or \$15,000 a year. Such a judge would, of course, be appointed for life, and would be in a position to fix these rates. He could devote his entire thought to the questions that would come to his attention.

"Just think what might happen if these powers were placed in the hands of a commission, the members subject to reappointment by the president, with limited terms. Such a proposal would not meet the approval of the conservative men."

## CHOATE COMING HOME.

To Resign as Ambassador to England After the Inauguration.

London, Dec. 31.—While numerous statements have been published here that Ambassador Choate is about to retire from diplomatic circles, it can be stated that Mr. Choate has not sent in his resignation or any communication on the subject to President Roosevelt or the State department, nor has he received any inquiry either from the president or Secretary Hay concerning his future plans. It can be safely asserted, however, that it is Mr. Choate's intention to tender his resignation soon after the inauguration of President Roosevelt.

"Six years is a long time slice out of the life of a man of my age," said Mr. Choate, recently, to friends here, "and while I have enjoyed the life and people I have met in England, I have determined to go home and devote the remainder of my time to looking after my own affairs."

## Dredges Stop Work.

Portland, Dec. 31.—All but two of the river dredges operated by the United States engineers in the Columbia river and its tributaries are laid up for lack of funds with which to carry on operations. The W. S. Ladd, on the lower river, will probably continue in operation for a month yet and then will quit for the same reason. The dredge Willows, on the Snake, is also still in operation, but the Columbia dipper dredges, No. 1 and No. 2, and the snag boat are all out of commission, as the engineers have not sufficient funds with which to operate.

## Mail Service in Bad Shape.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—As a result of storm conditions, trains on nearly every railroad entering Chicago were one to four hours behind schedule today. Great difficulty was experienced by railroad officials on securing telegraphic reports of the movements of trains. Wires were down in many places. Points in the northwestern states could be reached only by circuitous routes. The mail service of the entire middle west is in bad condition. Transfer connections with a number of outbound trains were missed.

## Snow Is Ten Feet Deep.

La Crosse, Wis., Dec. 31.—A drop in the temperature of 40 degrees followed the blizzard which ceased at midnight. Snow is drifted to the height of eight and ten feet in the streets, and a large gang of men are engaged in shoveling snow from the street railway tracks, so traffic can be resumed.

# ATTEMPT A BREAK

Seven Convicts at Folsom Make Dash for Liberty.

## THREE ARE KILLED BY GUARDS

Four Are Fatally Wounded and One Slightly—Two Guards Hurt by Bullets of Comrades.

Folsom, Cal., Dec. 31.—A break that was clever in plan and bold in execution took place at the penitentiary here this afternoon. The guards obeyed the standing orders of the warden to shoot regardless of the danger to free men, and as a result seven of nine convicts, who had planned to get away, were almost riddled with bullets, three being now dead and three in a critical condition.

The break was similar in general plan to that of last July, but the fact that it was made within the range of the guns of seven reliable guards, all dead shots, and one of those within 50 feet, makes it more bold and desperate.

The convicts who engaged in the break were all employed on the rock crusher, where 325 of the most desperate prisoners were at work. Captain Murphy was acting as general overseer about the rock crusher, and four other attaches, L. Daley, M. Hogan, Charles Taylor and Charles Jolly, were employed as "pushers" to keep the men at work.

A large sledge hammer was thrown into the crusher, causing the ponderous machinery to come to a standstill. This attracted Captain Murphy, Charles Jolly and Taylor to the place immediately. Thereupon the desperate convicts rushed to seize Murphy, Jolly and Taylor. They succeeded only in catching the two first mentioned. During this time the scene of trouble was under cover, and the guards on the outside could not see the struggling men, although they soon had an intimation that something was wrong. Five of the gang surrounded Captain Murphy and two others had Jolly. The convicts had knives in position for immediate execution, should the guards attempt to free themselves. The convicts were very bold as they approached Guard Harris, who stood ready to act according to the standing orders to shoot regardless of consequences.

When within 40 feet of the outside guards, one of the convicts gave the command: "Hand out your gun, or we will stab Murphy to the heart." Instead of handing out his rifle, Harris sent a bullet into the fellow's body, and he fell to the ground. In quick succession Harris fired at each of the remaining convicts, who were trying to shield themselves behind Murphy and Jolly. In the meantime bullets from other posts were flying thickly about, many of them striking the convicts. Captain Murphy was struck by one of them, a slight wound being inflicted in the leg, and Jolly was struck in the neck, the bullet coming out through the cheek and inflicting a very serious wound, though probably not a critical one. Two of the convicts, named Campbell and Ford, intended joining the others, but their courage failed them when the shooting began.

## Moors Commit Outrage.

New York, Jan. 2.—In a garden of a British subject, only one mile from Tangier, a bold murder has been committed by Moorish robbers, according to the Herald correspondent of Tangier. The Moors entered the garden and carried away four cows belonging to the British owner, after murdering a Spaniard working on the place. One of the robbers was severely wounded by the wife of the Spaniard. It is rumored from Tetuan that the garrison there has deserted and fled from the town. Two months' pay was due them.

## Santa Claus to World.

New York, Jan. 2.—The United States played Santa Claus to the world, according to reports secured from the money order division of the New York postoffice. From December 1 to December 24, the night before Christmas, no less than 334,084 international money orders were forwarded to other lands from this city, and these orders called for \$4,667,692. The remittances were the largest in the history of the postoffice. The figures show an unusual distribution, too.

## Tried to Reach Vladivostok.

Shanghai, Jan. 2.—According to private advices from Sasebo received here today Commander Pelem, of the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Rastoropy and another officer of that vessel have been identified among those on board the captured British steamer Nigretia.

## VESSELS IN VERY BAD SHAPE

Russ Says They Would Not Be Able to Reach the East.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—In an outspoken article, in reply to a recent letter of Admiral Bierleff, which appealed to Russians not to criticize the condition of the navy openly, the Russ today declares the time is past for silence, in view of the fact that the "old system of concealing facts is responsible for the loss of 150,000,000 roubles' worth of warships and has covered us with shame and grief. It would be absurd to hide the defects that can still be repaired in the ships which remain at Cronstadt and Libau. We have already criminally wasted enough time." The Russ enumerates the defects in the ships still in Russian waters, averring that the "peculiarities of structure of several of the vessels destined for the Far East make the voyage dangerous, and the torpedo boats are in such shocking condition that it is a matter of surprise that the authorities accepted their delivery. Torpedo boats intended to reinforce Vice Admiral Rojestvensky must clearly not be dispatched with the numerous defects which have been proved to exist in them.

"Even if Admiral Rojestvensky is a clever leader and his 12,000 comrades are heroic sailors, everyone knows that we have imposed upon them an almost superhuman task in consequence of our not being furnished with a true account of the gravity of the events which have occurred since the fatal night of February 8."

## WILL TRY SEVEN.

Federal Grand Jury Files New Indictments in Land Case.

Portland, Dec. 29.—The Federal grand jury made its second public appearance yesterday afternoon, at which time it returned indictments against Salmon B. Ormsby, of Salem; William H. Davis, of Albany; Clark E. Loomis, of Eugene; Henry A. Young, George Sorenson, of Portland; John Doe and Richard Roe. The charge is that the indicted men entered into a conspiracy on December 29, 1901, having as their object the defrauding of the government of the United States out of a portion of its public lands in township 11 south, of range 7 east, and that by means of false and forged affidavits and proofs of homestead entry and settlement, some in the names of real and some in the names of fictitious persons, the government was induced to issue patents to the lands.

It is charged that in furtherance of the conspiracy William H. Davis swore to an affidavit before S. B. Ormsby in which he said that he had resided upon the claim taken by him as by law required, and it is also alleged that the conspiracy was a part of the one entered into by S. A. D. Pater, Horace G. McKinley, D. W. Tarpley and Emma L. Watson.

## IN FOG AND ICE.

Great Storm Rages from Rocky Mountains to Atlantic.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—One of the severest storms of recent years has raged throughout the territory lying between the Rocky mountains and the Great lakes since early this morning, and has caused much trouble to street car companies, railroads and telegraph companies. The latter were the greatest sufferers from the blizzard, which swept through the West and Northwest during the last 24 hours, and which was preceded by a heavy fog and drizzling rain, which made the wires almost unworkable.

The intense cold and terrific gale that followed close upon the fog coated the wires with ice, and later in the day threw poles to the ground, crippling the companies badly. Railroad trains were badly delayed all through the west, some of them being 24 hours late. Street-car traffic in all the cities of the West and Northwest was practically at a standstill at some time during the day.

In its extent the storm was the most widespread of any during the last 15 years. Counting the fog as a component part of the storm, it stretched from the Rocky mountains to New York, and from Winnipeg to New Orleans.

## Will Make Lots of Money.

Portland, Dec. 29.—It was decided yesterday that the offer from the government to install two coin machines in the government building at the fair will be accepted, though the cost of operation will fall on the management of the exposition. The machines will be run by electricity and an expert will be sent from Washington to take charge. All the workings of a large mint will be shown in this exhibit, and the methods of making coins displayed. It is expected to be one of the chief attractions of the government building.

## Hurry Work on Black Sea Fleet

Sevastopol, Dec. 29.—The dockyard laborers have been released from their obligation as members of the reserves in order that they may continue the work on the vessels of the Black sea fleet, which is being pushed with great energy.

# BEFORE GRAND JURY

Senator Mitchell and Representative Hermann Appear.

## WERE CALLED BY GOVERNMENT

Congressmen Were Not Informed Before They Entered Jury Room of Testimony Against Them.

Portland, Dec. 29.—The Federal grand jury listened to the testimony of Senator Mitchell all of yesterday morning and for a part of the afternoon. The rest of the time was taken up by Representative Hermann, who was in the jury room when the session was adjourned for the day. He will resume his examination this morning and will in all probability finish by noon. In spite of the fact that both Senator Mitchell and Mr. Hermann had announced that they would not appear before the jury unless the names of the government witnesses and the charges to be made against them were shown prior to their entrance to the jury room, both congressmen were ready to answer the call of the government attorneys when it came.

Senator Mitchell went into the room at 10 o'clock in the morning and remained until noon. The senator is much chagrined at the notoriety he is receiving as the result of the land fraud investigations and does not take kindly to any of those who are conducting the case. Before entering the room in the morning he was silent and distant. He emerged at noon tired and showing the strain which the ordeal had apparently been to him. Upon the conclusion of his testimony in the afternoon he left the building for his hotel.

The afternoon with the jurors might have been a session of congress, however, for all the effect it had upon Mr. Hermann. He appeared shortly after 2 o'clock in the afternoon and went into seclusion in the inner office of the district attorney, after he had greeted a few acquaintances in the outer office and the hall. When called to the jury room shortly before 3 o'clock he shook hands with those whom he knew in the corridor and patted Mr. Heney heartily on the back as he entered the door. When the session had closed for the afternoon, Mr. Hermann remained in the jury room for some time conversing with Mr. Heney and the jurors, among whom he found several whom he had known in various parts of the state. These he gave cordial handshakes.

## PRESIDENT TO GIVE HIS VIEW

No Railroad Administration Measure To Be Sent to Congress.

Washington, Dec. 30.—President Roosevelt embraced the opportunity to day to take up with the members of the cabinet many questions of detail in departmental administration, the semi-weekly meeting of the cabinet being longer than usual. At the conclusion of the meeting the members of the cabinet said in response to inquiries that little business of serious importance was considered.

After other members of the cabinet had left the executive offices, Attorney General Moody discussed with the president some phases of the railroad freight questions. Both the president and the attorney general recently have devoted much time to that problem. The latter is giving particular attention to the legal side of the question, so that he may be prepared to advise with the president on the subject and with such members of congress as may wish to consult him. It is understood not to be the intention of the president and attorney general to prepare and press the consideration in congress of an "administration measure," dealing with the railroad freight problem. Such a bill, it is thought, (to quote a member of the cabinet), would be destined to defeat.

## Burning Their Cotton.

Fort Gaines, Ga., Dec. 30.—The farmers and merchants of this county met today at Fort Gaines and decided to burn their share of 2,000,000 bales of surplus cotton. A starter was made today when a bonfire was made on the streets. It is not yet determined where it will stop. The farmers have decided to set the pace, and are moving determinedly. A large crowd paraded with much spectacular ceremony. The object is to show that the farmers are ready to sacrifice a few bales for the benefit of the masses.

## Big Dock for the Navy.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The bureau of yards and docks, Navy department, today awarded the contract for the completion of the drydock at the Mare island navy yard to the Schofield company, of Philadelphia. The amount of the contract is \$1,385,000, and the drydock is to be completed in 33 months. This drydock will be the largest in the United States navy.