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EVENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES.

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting to Our Many Readers.

The Far Eastern situation is very threatening.

Britain will aid Japan if she goes to war with Russia.

The Colombian force which landed on the Island of Pines will have to go.

A lone masked man robbed a gambling room at The Dalles of about \$1,000.

Chicago liverymen have decided to fight the union hearse drivers to a finish.

The bakers of Paris have gone on a strike and the situation has assumed a serious aspect.

General Reyes has warned Colombia that war on Panama means war on the United States.

The Yosemite national park cannot be used as a storage reservoir for San Francisco water supply.

Governor Taft has left Manila for the United States. He was given an enthusiastic farewell on leaving.

Rear Admiral Walker believes force of marines now at Panama is sufficient, but two more battalions will probably be sent.

Rockefeller has just given Chicago university \$1,580,000.

Colombians at Bogota are holding nightly warlike demonstrations.

The contract has been let for the Alaska building at the St. Louis fair. It is to cost \$13,897.

European powers will endorse America if she refuses to allow Panama matter to be submitted to The Hague tribunal.

Senator Hanna will retire as chairman of the national Republican committee and Roosevelt wants Root to succeed him.

Scenes at Washington resemble those preceding the Spanish-American war.

The strike of Chicago hearse drivers continues to seriously interfere with funerals.

Revision of the Dreyfus case and his restoration to grade in the army seems assured.

Britain and France have redoubled efforts to prevent war between Japan and Russia.

It has been practically admitted that the war department will abandon Fort Walla Walla.

Enough constituents of Democratic senators will demand the passage of the canal treaty to make it safe.

The powers will try to dissuade Colombia from going to war. They have notified her that she must expect no help.

Martin C. O'Leary, a noted New York fire fighter, and another fireman perished in flames which caused a loss of \$250,000.

Reports from Hayti and Santo Domingo show great unrest.

The United States will allow Colombia to take the initiative for war.

Secretary Root says that General Wood's promotion is in the regular order of seniority.

A Portland firm has received the contract to install water systems at Forts Worden and Casey.

The strike of hearse drivers in Chicago has compelled the people to use cars and wagons at funerals.

An assassin fired at Max Nordeau, the noted Zionist and litterateur, in a Paris ballroom, but a friend saved him. Chief Newell has given irrigation committees to understand that Oregon will not get any money for a year at least.

A vigilance committee has been named at Chicago to clear the city of thugs, who have become bolder since the first declaration of war.

Chicago hearse drivers have gone on a strike and many funerals have been postponed.

The senate has ratified the treaty with China. Russia is not at all pleased by it.

WANTS NO ISLANDS AS STATES.

Whitelaw Reid Makes Notable Speech on Expansion at Banquet.

New York, Dec. 26.—The annual dinner of the New England society of the city of New York held tonight in the Waldorf-Astoria was a more notable affair than any held during the 98 years since the incorporation of the society. There were 554 diners.

After a toast had been drunk to the "President of the United States," Whitelaw Reid spoke on "Forefathers' Day." Passing to a consideration of national expansion, he said:

"Shall we find that safe course by roaming the oceans to drag in semi-tropical and revolutionary communities, to be made states in the American union, equal from the start to ourselves, with sometimes, perhaps, a balance of power that may enable them to govern us and the land of our fathers?"

"Such questions have burst upon us too suddenly out of our recent expansion to justify at the outset harsh criticisms of any rash or ill-considered proposals that may rise to the surface in the first froth of public discussion. But I venture to predict that the time will come within the lives of many who now hear me when the man who shall propose the incorporation as a state into this government of the United States of America of any island of the sea, the Philippines, the Sandwich Islands, or Porto Rico, or Cuba, will be hunted from political life as a political enemy, whether he be animated merely by lingering reminiscences of the filibusters and the slavery propaganda, or whether he represent a sugar trust in Wall street or a sage brush state in the United States senate."

COLOMBIAN TROOPS SIGHTED.

Cruiser Mayflower Returns From a Cruise to Gulf of Darien.

Colon, Dec. 26.—Everything is quiet along the Atlantic coast. The cruiser Mayflower came in today from the gulf of Darien, to which place she went after stopping at the Isle of Pines. The Mayflower was sent out hurriedly on receipt of the news brought by a native coasting schooner that Colombian troops had been landed on the island. Arriving at the island, which is inhabited by San Blas Indians, the Mayflower made a thorough examination and found the report to be untrue. The Mayflower then continued to cruise along the coast toward the gulf of Darien examining the coast, and in the afternoon reached Titumati, where the cruiser Atlanta saw the Colombian troops a week ago.

The Mayflower ran in close to the Titumati shore and clearly saw a number of Colombian soldiers on the beach. No landing was made by the Mayflower, which did not attempt to communicate with the Colombians, and shortly afterward departed.

While steaming out of the gulf, the Mayflower sighted and soon passed close to the Colombian cruiser General Pizon, which was steaming at the rate of six knots toward Titumati. It was seen that the General Pizon had about 350 Colombian soldiers aboard.

SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC IN UTAH.

Great Number of Persons Were Exposed at a Public Ball.

Salt Lake, Dec. 26.—An epidemic of smallpox is raging in Cache and Box Elder counties in the northern portion of this state and the medical authorities in the affected districts have appealed to the state board of health to establish a quarantine. The rapid spread of the disease is said to be the result of numerous dances held recently, which were attended by persons suffering from the contagion.

In Box Elder county 77 cases have already been reported, the little town of Mantau alone having 49 cases within its borders.

In Cache county the scourge, while widespread, has not as yet assumed such a serious aspect as in the adjoining county. The disease is of a comparatively mild form, and no deaths from it have yet been reported.

Bid on Irrigation Project.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Bids were opened at the interior department today for constructing the 500 feet of tunnel preliminary to the work of building the Salt River irrigation project in Arizona. About \$10,000 is involved in this part of the project, and Wilton & Ross, of Riverside, Cal., who bid \$38.50 a lineal foot, were the lowest of the four bidders.

SIXTY-THREE DEAD

FAST THROUGH PASSENGER TRAIN WRECKED IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Timber Which Had Fallen on Tracks From Freight Train the Cause—Number of Injured Is at Least Thirty—Many Wild Scenes, and Some Even Leap Into River.

Connellsville, Pa., Dec. 28.—With a terrible crash the Duquesne Limited, the fastest through passenger train from Pittsburgh to New York, on the Baltimore & Ohio, plowed into a pile of lumber at Laurel Run, two miles west of Dawson, at 7:45 o'clock tonight, and it is estimated that 63 lives were lost, and 30 persons were injured.

The train left Pittsburgh this evening, running a few minutes late, in charge of Engineer William Thornley, of Connellsville. When approaching Laurel Run, which is a particularly good piece of road, the train was running at a high rate of speed. Suddenly the passengers were thrown from their seats by the lightninglike application of the brakes, and a moment later there was a terrific crash.

The train was made up of two baggage cars, two day coaches, one sleeper, and one dining car, and at the time was carrying at the lowest estimate 150 passengers. The train plowed along for a considerable distance, and the cars were torn to pieces, passengers jumping, screaming and falling from the wreck as it tore along. Suddenly the engine swerved to the left and the coaches plunged down over the embankment to the edge of the Youghiougheny river.

The moment the cars stopped rolling there was a wild scene. Many persons were pinioned beneath the wreckage, and the screams and cries that rent the air were beyond description. Many were injured in their mad excitement and plunged into the river. Others, pinioned beneath the heavy timbers, pleaded in agonized tones for release. So terrific was the force of the wreck that nearly every passenger suffered a moment's unconsciousness, and many of the able-bodied men were unable to assist in helping the injured from the wreck on account of having fainted.

The wreck was caused by the breaking of castings on a carload of bridge timbers on a west bound freight train which had passed Laurel Run not more than 15 minutes before the ill-fated passenger train. The wreck occurred on a curve, and it was impossible for Engineer Thornley to see far enough ahead to detect the obstruction on the tracks.

LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS.

Three Days' Session Sufficient to Enact Needed Legislation.

Salem, Dec. 24.—The special session of the Oregon legislature ended last night at 11:15 o'clock. In a three day session the legislature accomplished all that had been desired, an achievement made possible by perfect harmony among the members.

Yesterday both houses passed the bill appropriating \$100,000 for securing a right of way for the Celilo canal, and also a number of bills of minor importance.

Killing of Chinese pheasants has been prohibited until 1906.

Ten per cent has been fixed as the maximum rate of interest to be charged upon property sold for taxes.

No person, except the person paying the same, will be permitted to maintain a suit to recover fees paid to county recorders under the invalid fee law.

A law has been passed permitting owners of water rights to condemn and appropriate the property and water rights of others for a public use.

The total cost of the session has been about \$7,500, for the payment of which an appropriation was made.

The new barracks at the soldiers' home at Roseburg will be furnished at a cost of \$2,500.

The legislature memorialized congress in favor of the Brownlow road bill which, if passed, will bring an appropriation of \$250,000 to Oregon, and also in favor of increasing salaries of rural mail carriers from \$600 to \$800 per year.

Authorized to Sign Treaty With Cuba.

Rome, Dec. 28.—Signor Savina, the Italian minister to Cuba, has been authorized to sign a treaty of commerce and navigation between Italy and Cuba similar to that of 1890 between Italy and Mexico and including provisions for arbitration in the case of disputes.

QUICK TO GET TO WORK.

Both Houses Transact Business With Dispatch.

Salem, Dec. 22.—Both houses of the Oregon legislature organized at 10 o'clock yesterday morning by electing all the officers who served at the regular session of 1903. This organization does not include the election of committee clerks, and unless the session should be prolonged more than three days no clerks other than a few stenographers will be employed.

There was nearly a full attendance in each branch of the legislature. In the house Representative Davey, of Marion, is the only absentee. In the senate, Daly of Benton, and McGinn of Multnomah, are absent and excused. No one was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the election of Senator Williamson to congress and that seat is vacant. Though the session yesterday was short the legislature accomplished more than was expected. It had been anticipated that the two houses would organize and then as a token of respect to the late Representative Murphy adjourn until today, when the governor's message would be received.

Both houses were called to order promptly, rushed the organization proceedings, and at 11 o'clock met in joint convention to hear the message. This communication was short and was read by the governor in 15 minutes. The senate took the lead in the transaction of business by adopting a joint memorial introduced by President Brownell urging the claim of Oregon upon the federal government for aid to the Lewis and Clark fair and asking congress to enact the appropriation bill for that purpose. The memorial was passed without a dissenting vote.

The chief event of interest on the opening day of the legislature was the introduction of two resolutions by Democratic members of the house, the purpose of which was to precipitate the short session issue. Billyeu, of Linn, presented a resolution declaring that legislation at the special session should be confined to tax legislation. Burleigh, of Union and Wallowa, presented a resolution declaring for adjournment on Wednesday evening. After a sharp debate both resolutions were referred to the committee on resolutions. At 11:30 both houses adjourned out of respect to the late Representative Murphy, formal resolutions on the death of his colleague being offered in the house by Representative Burleigh and adopted by that body.

Ex-Congressman M. A. Moody, of The Dalles, is here conferring with members from his section of the state regarding legislation on the portage railway and government canal.

FAILS TO FLAG TRAIN.

Brakeman Is Responsible for a Bad Wreck on Kansas Road.

Kansas City, Dec. 24.—In a wreck today at Godfrey, Kan., of the "Meteor," the St. Louis & San Francisco railway fast train from the south, nine persons were killed and 32 others injured. Of the injured, five probably will die and 14 were seriously hurt.

The responsibility for the wreck is laid at the door of a brakeman of the freight crew, who failed to flag the train. He has disappeared. The engine on the freight had become dead, and the crew was ordered to remain on the main track and turn the switch for the passenger, then about due, the brakeman being ordered to flag the "Meteor." This he neglected to do.

In the crash the baggage car telescoped the engine landed in a cornfield, while the smoker and the two chair cars were piled in a mass on top of the engine. Most of the injured were in the chair cars, which took fire soon after the wreck occurred.

Navy Will Control Matters.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Under the impression that war is surely to occur between the United States and Colombia, the quartermaster-general of the army has been besieged by railroad and shipping men desirous of transporting troops. It was pointed out today that while the landing of marines on foreign soil occasioned but little comment and is only an evidence of a disturbed condition of affairs, the embarking of troops puts a different aspect on the situation. For this reason the navy will be permitted to control affairs in isthmian waters.

Cattle Allowed on Reserves.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock today authorized the grazing of 97,000 sheep and 4,250 cattle and horses on the northern division of the Cascade forest reserve from June 10 to October next; also 20,000 sheep in the eastern division of the Washington forest reserve.

CHINA WITH JAPAN

MILITARY WILL CO-OPERATE IF WAR WITH RUSSIA COMES.

Chinese Officials Realize Manchuria Is Lost If Russia Wins and Will Do All They Can—Japan Continues Preparations—The Situation Is More Serious Than Ever Before.

London, Dec. 25.—The Daily Mail's Tien Tsin correspondent learns upon what he says is good authority that in the event of war between Russia and Japan the Chinese military authorities will co-operate with the Japanese.

According to the correspondent, it is said at Tien Tsin, that a number of Japanese warships are concentrating in the vicinity of Port Arthur.

The Daily Mail's Kobe correspondent says that it is reported that the Japanese government is chartering numerous steamers as transports, including three belonging to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, a Japanese steamship company.

At the London offices of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, in response to inquiries, it was declared that nothing was known there of such action on the part of Japan.

Japan Now Ready for War.

Tokio, Dec. 25.—The fact that Foreign Minister Komura called on Baron De Rosen, the Russian minister, yesterday, instead of Baron De Rosen calling on Komura, is explained by the fact that the baron is suffering from an ear affection. But the explanation has obvious diplomatic significance, and is interpreted that Japan is determined not to afford Russia possible ground for claiming Japanese impetuosity as an excuse. Komura's communication is not believed officially to necessarily be tantamount to an ultimatum, as rumored.

War preparations continue apace. The troops and warships can sail in five minutes after notice is given. The Japanese government proposes immediately to undertake the completion of the Seoul-Fusan railroad, under the direct supervision of Japan.

Realize Peril of China.

Pekin, Dec. 25.—The Chinese officials are awakening to the peril confronting China in the event of a Russo-Japanese war, and they are greatly distressed. Wu Ting Fang has been urging the United States legation, on his own responsibility to seek a special audience with the dowager empress, and impress on her China's perilous position and the need of a strong army minister, well acquainted with foreign affairs.

China will attempt to remain neutral, though doubtless she will be subjected to strong Japanese pressure to participate in a conflict for the preservation of her integrity. The officials here recognize that the remnant of China's sovereignty in Manchuria is lost, if Russia succeeds.

RUSH THE WORK.

Oregon Legislators Rapidly Finishing Volume of Business.

Salem, Or., Dec. 23.—Good progress was made in the transaction of business in the Oregon legislature yesterday and the outlook is favorable for adjournment Wednesday or Thursday.

The defective tax law has been corrected, the \$300 tax exemption has been revived, the law relating to executions at the penitentiary has been amended so that it is thought Pleas Armstrong can be hanged, and a law has been enacted fixing fees to be charged by recorders of conveyances.

Three important matters remain for consideration: The Celilo canal right of way, the shortage of railway cars, and flat salaries for state officers. A bill fixing the time and manner in which suits may be brought to recover fees illegally collected by recorders will probably also be passed.

The business now in sight will apparently occupy the legislature all day today, but leading members express the opinion that all necessary legislation can be attended to before midnight. Bills of minor importance will take some attention, but will probably consume little time.

Washington Is Informed.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Official confirmation has reached Washington of the landing of the Colombian troops on the Island of Pines, which lies close to the coast of Panama. These troops number 80, and they have taken up a position on this high island with the intention of making paths through the uncles.