

# THE WASCO NEWS

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## RESUME OF THE WEEK'S DOINGS

Newsy Items Gathered From All Parts of the World.

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Comprehensive Manner for Busy Readers—National, Political, Historical and Commercial.

Taft urges the government to withdraw from Cuba in the spring of 1909.

The Roman Catholic church will soon announce new laws calculated to prevent hasty marriage.

Trial of Oregon's land thieves has commenced at Portland with Judge Hunt, of Montana, presiding.

A French aeronaut has devised an airship heavier than air capable of making a speed of 24 miles an hour.

Ten persons were injured in New York by the explosion of three dynamite bombs, which partially wrecked a tenement house.

Mayor Taylor, of San Francisco, has a huge task before him. One of the first things is to provide a water system for fire fighting.

The forty-fourth annual convention of the National Woolgrowers' association, at Helena, was the most successful ever held. The attendance was also unusually large.

At a meeting of 700 New York landlords it was decided to have introduced in the legislature a bill making it a felony for any political agitator to incite tenants to refuse to pay rental which has been agreed upon. At present it is a misdemeanor.

More mines are being opened at Goldfield.

Council Bluffs, Ia., has started a war on gambling.

Great Britain is alarmed for her naval supremacy.

The Kaiser advocates the study of English in Germany.

The fire in the big New York skyscraper showed an insufficient water supply.

Mulai Hafid has been proclaimed sultan of Morocco and he has started a holy war.

The new Japanese ambassador to the United States declares that all trouble will soon be over.

In a mad rush to get seats at a theater in Barnsley, Eng., 16 children were trampled to death.

The colors of the American man-of-war Chesapeake, captured by England in 1813, have been offered for sale in London.

General Manager Mohler, of the Union Pacific, declares the prohibition wave now sweeping the country will stop expansive railroad work.

A strike of 200 newsmen in Boston created quite a disturbance. Three police officers were assaulted, stripped of their badges and one officer and a bystander seriously injured.

The jury in the Thaw case has been completed.

The battleship fleet has arrived at Rio Janeiro.

Warsaw, Russia, terrorists are busy again and the city is in a turmoil.

T. C. Becker, of New York, is to assist Heney in the Oregon land frauds.

France may insist on arbitration between the United States and Japan to prevent war.

Alton B. Parker attributes the recent financial panic to Roosevelt's "attacks on property."

The steamship Aki Maru, from the Orient, has just arrived in Seattle with 1,200 tons of fireworks to be used by Coast Chinese in celebrating their New Years.

Heney has been stirred up by the decision of the Appellate court in the Schmitz case and says he will push the other indictments against Ruef and send him to prison for life.

Four policemen were killed and fire nearly 30 injured in the burning of a New York skyscraper. The fire started on the fifth floor of a 12-story building and the structure is a total loss. The monetary loss is placed at \$5,000,000.

## TO RECALL TROOPS.

Nevada Must Not Shirk Responsibility, Says President.

Washington, Jan. 14.—President Roosevelt has determined to withdraw the Federal troops from Goldfield, Nev., shortly after the legislature begins its special session today. This intention was made known at the White House today, when the report of the special investigation commission was made public, together with a letter from the president to Governor Sparks, dated January 4. The president says he shall be governed by the recommendations in the report unless the governor can show that the statements of the report are not in accordance with the facts. The report says:

"The conditions did not support the general allegations in the governor's request for troops, nor were his specific statements established to any such extent as to justify his use of these statements for the purpose of getting Federal troops."

"But we must firmly believe that upon the assembling of the legislature, or within a few days thereafter, the troops should be removed, regardless of any request for their retention that may be made by either the legislature or the governor of Nevada, it being essential that the state of Nevada shall understand this situation completely—shall recognize the fact that there will, at that date be thrown upon it, and it alone, the primary responsibility of keeping order, and that, recognizing this responsibility, it may take such action as is the duty of the state and as will be sufficient in the premises."

## LAND OFFICE FORCE SHORT.

Commissioner Says Department is Handicapped in Efficiency.

Washington, Jan. 14.—Commissioner Ballinger, of the general land office, has completed his annual report for submission to congress. He asks an appropriation of \$500,000 to carry on the field work of his bureau in the protection of the public lands, an increase of \$250,000 over the current appropriation. During the fiscal years of 1895-7 there was recorded for investigation 24,459 cases of all kinds; of these the agents investigated and disposed of 12,104 cases, and 12,355 cases remained for examination July 1, 1907.

There were 2,243 land entries relinquished after the case was in the hands of special agents for investigation, 353 entries were cancelled after hearings had upon special agents' charges; 367 unlawful enclosures of public lands were removed restoring 1,940,120 acres to the open range. There were 27 convictions connected with these cases.

The total of moneys recovered by the government in all special agents' cases was \$386,251 and 2,372,224 acres of land was either freed from fraudulent claims to title or released from unlawful enclosure and occupancy.

## MOROCCO FACES CRISIS.

Sultan Abd El Aziz is Forced From Throne by Reports.

Tangier, Jan. 14.—There is consternation among Moroccan officials at the sensational news from Fez announcing the proclaiming of Mulai Hafid as sultan and the dangerous conditions now prevailing in the city. Couriers who have arrived here announce also that the people of Mequinez have proclaimed Mulai Hafid sultan. According to the latest information from Fez, the Ulama or wise men, were forced to decree the overthrow of Abd El Aziz, the sultan of record, and proclaim Mulai Hafid sultan in his place, by the attitude of the people, who were greatly excited over reports that Abd El Aziz had sold the country to France.

The announcement by the public criers was received with frantic joy. Mulai Hafid was proclaimed sultan under certain conditions, which he must accept together with the title. Among these are the following:

That he reject the Algeiras act, expel the French troops from Morocco, prohibit access to the interior for Europeans, who with the Jews, it is set forth, should be allowed to occupy only quarters in the ports reserved for them; prohibit Moorish subjects from placing themselves under the protection of foreign consulates, secure Morocco's rights in the frontier question with Algeria, and suppress taxation.

## Japanese Sends in a Bid.

Honolulu, Jan. 14.—The award of bids for material for the construction of improvements for Pearl harbor has been held up, because the lowest bidder is a dummy for some Japanese contractor. It is probable that all bids will be rejected.

## CRISIS NEAR IN JAPANESE AFFAIRS

Secretary Root Sends Fair Warning Which Stirs Tokio.

Exclusion Law May Be Passed by Congress Unless Japan Stops the Flood of Immigrant Coolies—Count Hayashi Adroitly Evades the Issue.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Negotiations between the United States and Japan have reached a serious stage. While war as an eventuality is not seriously apprehended, largely because of Japan's unpreparedness, it is known that the historic friendly relations are strained almost to the point of breaking.

The official denial given at the State department of cabled reports of demands having been made upon Japan are literally true in a diplomatic sense, but the denial, in a measure, is an evasion. The "oral representations" and the exchange of "memoranda," reduced to plain English, mean just this:

Ambassador O'Brien, acting under instructions, has, since reaching his post last October, been attempting to secure from the Japanese government satisfactory assurances that under the pledge given at the time of the passage of the immigration law last February the Japanese government would assist in restricting the emigration to this country of objectionable Japanese labor. Twice has he communicated to Secretary Root replies obtained from Count Hayashi, in which the Japanese government attempts adroitly to dodge the issue.

Mr. Root has submitted to the Japanese government, through Mr. O'Brien, statistics prepared by the department of commerce and labor, showing that the immigration of the undesirable class of Japanese since the Japanese government gave its promise has been monthly at least twice as large as before the promise was given, and during some months four times as large.

The presentation of cold statistics showing laxity, coupled with the intimation that congress may adopt more stringent measures, possibly an exclusion law, brought from the Japanese government the second reply, which reached Mr. Root a few days ago in the form of a cablegram which cost several thousand dollars.

Mr. Root is now preparing an answer, with the assistance of several experts in Oriental affairs. The Japanese government will be informed that assurances cannot be given that an exclusion act will not be passed, but that the administration will exercise its influence to prevent such legislation, if possible, pending negotiations.

The issue in official circles in Japan has caused acute agitation, and because of the strained condition of affairs, Mr. Root will not unnecessarily precipitate matters, with the battleship fleet so far from its base in the Pacific.

## Estimates Too Low.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Because of changed conditions from those existing in 1905, when the minority of the board of consulting engineers of the Panama canal submitted its report, it is now admitted in responsible quarters that the estimate made by that report for building the canal was far too low and that the cost may approximate \$200,000,000. This includes various incidental items, such as administration, sanitation and improvements aggregating several millions of dollars in Panama and Colon, which, however, will be refunded by the Panama government, and the expenses of the zone government and various expenses incidental to the relocation and acquisition of the Panama railroad.

The estimate of the board in 1905 was that the cost would be \$139,765,200, but this estimate did not include expenses on account of interest during construction, sanitation and zone government.

Withdrawing Troops From Muncie. Muncie, Ind., Jan. 11.—Major General McKee issued orders this afternoon for the return to their homes of three companies of militia now in Muncie. Street cars are now running on normal schedule.

## HARLAN SEES WAR.

White and Yellow Races Must Fight for Supremacy.

Washington, Jan. 13.—Justice John M. Harlan, of the Supreme court of the United States, peered into the distant future at the annual dinner of the Navy League of the United States and told of a day when the white and yellow races will meet in a conflict that will shake the earth. The distinguished jurist was speaking in the interest of a mighty American navy. He said:

"If I had the opportunity I would vote for an appropriation of \$50,000,000 a year for a period of ten years for a larger navy. The great importance of a navy is shown in the constitution, which restricts the appropriations for the army, but sets no limit to those for the navy. There is no such thing as friendship between nations as between men. Nations make no sacrifices to preserve friendship and do not forbear to do certain things because it does not meet with the approval of another nation. Do you think England cares a cent for what we think of her navy, or Germany cares a cent for what we think of hers?"

"The trend of the immigration of the white people in the past has been from east to west. There has been none from the west. Just across the water there is a country with an immense population whose commerce we are seeking. We refer to the people of Asia as the yellow race. There are 400,000,000 Chinese, as strong physically and mentally as we are. There is over there another nation whose people are progressive and ambitious. We may some day see a skilled army in Japan of 5,000,000 to 10,000,000. They will say:

"You claim Europe as your country. This is ours. Get out."

"I don't think they have any such idea now, and we have no hostility toward them. But there will be a conflict between the yellow race and the white race that will shake the earth. When it comes I want to see this country with a navy on both oceans that will be strong enough."

## GREAT ACTIVITY EVIDENT.

Government is Rushing Work on Our Coast Defenses.

Washington, Jan. 13.—New coast defenses are being installed and old ones re-enforced at Pacific coast points, Guam, Hawaii and Manila. This work of fortification is being carried forward swiftly and upon a gigantic scale. Coal depots are being replenished, huge searchlights installed, harbors mined, big guns placed and ammunition magazines filled to overflowing.

So quietly has this work been going on that few outside of the officials handling the work have realized the enormous undertaking under way. This work was started last May, and it is expected that a year will see the completion of the outlined program.

It is acknowledged that the fortifications at Manila, Guam, Puget sound and Honolulu are inefficient and it is at those points that the greatest work is being done. San Francisco and other coast points are declared to be perfectly equipped to repel attacks.

While not acknowledging any apprehension, the administration is rushing the work with real vigor. It was learned from an authoritative source today that one of the potent factors in determining the dispatch of the fleet to the Pacific was a realization of the weakness at certain points. The presence of the fleet in the Pacific remedies all defects and structural weakness in coast defense points. As long as it remains there it will make up for any short coming in coast fortifications.

By the time the fleet leaves the waters of the Pacific it is believed all the weak points will have been reinforced and the defenses will be of a modern and approved type.

Twelve million rounds now enroute to the Far East furnishes enough ammunition for a possible army of 50,000 men. The normal need of the army in the Philippines is about 2,000,000 rounds annually. Aside from this there is an exceptionally heavy draft of shells and torpedoes.

## Vesuvius Still Spits Ashes.

Naples, Jan. 13.—Mount Vesuvius continues to throw out ashes and incandescent matter from its chief crater, the cone of which, formed by the last eruption, collapsed recently, the earth tremblings being felt long distances.

## CURRENCY BILL FOR THE HOUSE

Entirely New System of Regulating Bank Circulation.

Will Be Secured by Bank's Assets—Banks to Deposit Money With Government to Guarantee Both Notes and Deposits—Framed and Managed by Fowler.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The sub-committee of the house committee on banking and currency, to which was entrusted the framing of a bill to increase the elasticity of the currency, reached a conclusion yesterday and will report favorably to the full committee a bill drawn in the main by Chairman Fowler, of the committee. The bill will be introduced by Fowler and referred to his committee, where it will form the working basis for the framing of a bill of possibly the same scope and tenor.

The bill provides for the complete retirement of all outstanding national bank bond secured currency and authorizes in lieu thereof a currency based upon general assets of the banks, to be worked out in this way:

The controller of the currency will designate throughout the country certain redemption cities, so that there shall be a redemption city within at least 24 hours' reach of every national bank. The national banks will indicate to the controller of the currency to what redemption city they wish to be joined. The controller will then select a time and place within each redemption district for the organizing of that district in the following manner:

Each national bank in that district, regardless of its capital stock, will be entitled to one vote. Representatives of the banks will meet at a time and place designated and elect a board of managers to consist of seven members. The seven will elect a chairman, who will become a deputy controller of currency and assume control of his redemption district, except that he shall not have charge of the enforcement of the criminal statutes.

Each national bank is authorized to present to the secretary of the treasury national bank notes and lawful money in lieu of other national bank bond secured outstanding notes. Then, if the bank's application therefor is indorsed by the board of managers of the redemption district to which it belongs, the bank will receive guaranteed credit notes to the amount of its capital stock. These notes will be subject to a tax of 2 per cent per annum. Each bank will be required to deposit as a guarantee fund with the treasurer of the United States 5 per cent of its average deposits for the preceding 12 months and 5 per cent of the credit notes which it takes out. The revenue thus obtained is to create and support a national guarantee fund of \$500,000,000 for the guarantee of both the deposits and the outstanding banknotes of every national bank. Eighty per cent of this fund is to be invested in United States bonds drawing 2 per cent interest, while the remaining 20 per cent is to be deposited in banks of the various redemption cities for the purpose of redeeming the guaranteed credit notes of the banks of the various redemption districts.

When the national guarantee fund reaches \$25,000,000, which would be almost simultaneous with the birth of the new law, the government is required to return to the banks the United States bonds now held as security for Federal deposits, the object being to enable the banks to get control of the bonds, so that the government can invest the 80 per cent of the guaranteed fund in 2 per cent bonds and regain control. In buying these bonds the banks holding them shall be paid their original purchase price, providing their exact purchase price can be proven.

It is Fowler's idea, as embodied in the bill, to have the new credit notes printed on a green background in differentiation from the yellow background of the gold notes and white background of the silver certificates.

## Battleships Off Brazil.

Pernambuco, Brazil, Jan. 9.—The American battleship fleet under command of Rear Admiral Evans, was sighted passing this port yesterday at noon on its way to Rio Janeiro.