

The Aurora Borealis

VOL. I.

AURORA, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1908.

NO. 36.

BRIEF NEWS OF THE PAST WEEK

Condensed Dispatches from All Parts of the Two Hemispheres.

Interesting Events from Outside the State Presented in a Manner to Catch the Eye of the Busy Reader—Matters of National, Historical and Commercial Importance.

Many political exiles of Venezuela are returning to their homes.

Roosevelt says the only thing about his African trip he fears is the fever.

It is believed American Ambassador Grieson will resign his post at Rome.

Henry W. Poor, a leading Wall street broker, has assigned. His liabilities will reach \$5,000,000.

Castro has witnessed what to him is a unique spectacle—a snowstorm and skating on natural ice.

Governor Hughes has appointed a commission to investigate the New York produce and cotton exchanges.

Chicago contractors who have been in the habit of giving presents to city officials at Christmas time this year had their gifts returned.

Gomez' power as ruler of Venezuela is finally established. Many suits have been commenced against Castro and he will lose \$2,000,000 by the turn of affairs.

Plans are all complete for the arrest of about 40 more Pittsburgh grafters. The railroads are siding the movement, as it is cheaper to oust them than to pay their price.

The bank at Monrovia, Cal., has lost \$29,000, which mysteriously disappeared.

One man was killed and three persons injured in an automobile wreck in California.

Christmas was celebrated all over the United States by lavish gifts and feasts to poor.

The bribery of Pittsburg councilmen by bankers has been taken up by the government.

A crazy French Royalist tried to pull President Fallieres' beard, and was promptly arrested.

An appeal may be made to Taft to pardon Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison in case their appeal fails.

Claus Spreckels, the sugar king, is critically ill at his home in San Francisco, and it is feared he cannot survive.

The Chicago saloon question may be put to a referendum vote next April. The anti-saloon element is gaining in strength.

Oklahoma prisoners, who are confined in the Kansas penitentiary, complain of cruel treatment and an investigation is to be made.

A boy of 15 is under arrest at Mount Clemens, Mich., charged with stealing at least \$30,000 from postoffice boxes. He was caught while cashing a check.

Express companies were swamped with Christmas business.

Cosgrove has so far recovered that he is able to walk a little.

Count Boni de Castellane lost his suit for possession of his children.

Harriman has been reported ill, but his physician says it was only a slight bilious attack.

The monitor Wyoming, now at Mare Island navy yard, will be changed to the Cheyenne.

Fire in Brooklyn drove hundreds into the streets, destroying an entire block of property, valued at \$1,000,000.

The steamer Stork sank in Hudson bay, taking down a cargo of fur valued at \$1,500,000. The crew all escaped.

The receiver of the old Panama Canal company declares the story of graft in the purchase of the property by the government a fable.

Ex-Senator Clark, of Montana, remembered his employees at Christmas by giving them turkeys. Between 10,000 and 12,000 birds were necessary.

Fire destroyed a great tenement building on West 127th street, New York. A number of people were injured and it is feared some were killed.

Secretary Root has signed an arbitration treaty with San Salvador.

A shortage of over \$7,000,000 in the city's money has been unearthed at Lisbon, Portugal.

The Japanese diet is in session. A member of the Constitutional party was elected speaker.

The supreme court has decided that Los Angeles has the right to regulate liquor establishments.

The cruiser Buffalo will leave San Francisco early in January with a battalion of marines, officers and men for Honolulu.

Two hundred thousand Chinook salmon eggs have been shipped from the government hatchery at Redding, Cal., to the Argentine Republic.

NEW LIGHT ON HISTORY.

Stanford Professor Finds Key to Ancient Writings.

Stanford University, Cal., Dec. 28.—The key which bares the secrets so long hidden behind the Etruscan and old Italian inscriptions has at last been discovered by Professor George Hempl, the holder of the philological chair at Stanford university, and the manners, customs and history of a people today practically unknown may be read in the future as in a book.

Experienced in his investigations of old German inscriptions and rules, Professor Hempl was able to accomplish in a single night the feat undertaken by science ages ago and never before pushed to a successful conclusion. Members of the faculty who were present at the lecture of Dr. Hempl before the Stanford Philological association today declared that the discovery is a veritable triumph and will have far-reaching results. It will necessitate a re-stating of ancient Roman history and it will throw a flood of light on many disputed facts of Latin grammar and etymology.

It has been the generally accepted view among historians that the Etruscans were an element entirely foreign to their neighbors, the Romans. This theory is entirely and conclusively overturned by Professor Hempl, whose investigations prove a great similarity between the Roman and Etruscan languages and make possible only one conclusion, that the Etruscans and Romans sprang from one race, which, following the old legend, wandered to Italy from Troy after the fall of that great city. Thus Virgil's *Æneid* is substantiated by scientific proof. Dr. Hempl's discovery is yet in its infancy. Out of 8,000 inscriptions he has read but 50, yet the little work he has done has been sufficient to convince him that the old idea of distinct races is entirely erroneous.

QUICKSAND IN FOUNDATION.

Unstable Soil Adds \$500,000 to Cost of Northwestern Depot.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—A stratum of treacherous quicksand underlying the site of the new \$20,000,000 station of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, now under construction, will add about \$500,000 to the cost of the structure, owing to the increased difficulty of sinking the foundation pillars. This information has been given to the railroad company by the George A. Fuller company, which has in turn been told to go ahead with the construction of the building at any cost.

Interesting pneumatic processes are now being used to overcome the difficulties presented by the unstable soil. Engineers say that Chicago soil is alive with quicksand in the territory about the river banks. Two engineering experts who handled the situation in New York at the laying of two big river tunnels of the subway, when quicksand then furnished the gravest engineering problem of the kind in the history of America, were called by telegraph and are at work solving the problem presented.

Russia Approves Deal.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 28.—Foreign Minister Iswolsky met with a favorable reception in the duma today when he presented the annual statement of Russia's foreign policy. He referred with warm approval to the Japanese-American agreement, which he said guaranteed the open door in the Far East and the integrity of China, and the terms of which were communicated to Russia before it was signed. The rest of M. Iswolsky's speech shed no light on mooted questions, nor gave any substance to the Russian proposals regarding the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria.

New Geyser May Result.

Virginia City, Mont., Dec. 28.—Thirty earthquakes have been felt in this section since last Sunday afternoon, the last tremor being recorded at 4:10 yesterday morning. The ground has trembled very perceptibly, with the earthquake apparently coming from the south, which has lent color to the theory that a big new geyser is about to burst forth in the Yellowstone park, which lies 75 miles southeast of Virginia City. No damage has resulted other than considerable plaster having been thrown down.

Congressman Daved Dead.

New Orleans, Dec. 28.—Representative Robert C. Davey, of the second congressional district of Louisiana, died Saturday of apoplexy. He had served continuously at Washington since the fifty-third congress, with the exception of one term, when he declined the nomination. Davey was born in New Orleans in 1853, served several years in the state senate of Louisiana, was elected a judge in 1880 and in 1888 was defeated for mayor of New Orleans. He was re-elected to the sixty-first congress.

Pearl Harbor Drydock.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Specifications have been issued by the navy department for the drydock at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The structure will be 1195 feet long, divided by a caisson so that two battleships can be docked simultaneously. The drydock will be 35 feet deep and 130 feet wide. Bids will be opened on February 13, 1909.

NEWS NOTES GATHERED FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF OREGON

REDUCE BAG DUTY.

Gilliam County Farmers Think Rate Is Too High.

Condon.—The executive committee of the Gilliam County Improvement association has named January 6 as the day for the big booster meeting to be held in this city in behalf of the experimental farm and the advertising in general of the resources of Gilliam county. The meeting is to be held during the sessions of the circuit and county court, when a number of prominent speakers will be here to present their views on securing the location of the experimental dry farm station in this county. At the meeting of the executive committee were present D. B. Thomas, president, Condon; Charles H. Horner, secretary, Condon; George B. Dukek, treasurer, Mayville; J. L. Blalock, Arlington; Oscar Maley, Ferry Canyon; Ed Palmer, Ajax.

It was decided to circulate a petition among the taxpayers of the county to secure the names of all those who were in favor of a 14-mill tax to cover the expenses of buying land and buildings for the experiment station. Mr. Blalock suggested that those signing the petition should set opposite their names the amount of property on which they were paying taxes, which would show how many were interested in the movement.

Another important question discussed was the rebate on grain bags. It was decided to circulate a petition among the ranchers, to be sent to the congressman of this district, asking him to work for the reduction of duty on sacks. It is estimated that the past year the farmers of this county paid out \$20,000 more than necessary on grain bags, on account of the high tariff.

Free Courses of Lectures.

Winter short courses of study will begin at Agricultural college, Corvallis, Or., on January 5. Men and women, young and old, interested in the farm, the shop, or the home, are cordially invited to attend. By writing at once to the Agricultural college a circular will be sent telling in detail what is proposed to be accomplished by these courses. A week of lectures on general agricultural topics begins January 5. A special course for creamery operators and managers runs from January 5 to 15; a course in dairying from January 18 to March 27; a course in horticulture, January 11 to February 20; a course in mechanic arts from January 11 to February 20; a course in road construction from January 11 to February 6; a course in household science and art from January 11 to February 20. Special lectures on business methods on the farm will be given.

Irrigators Use Too Much Water.

Freewater.—That water is wasted in irrigating orchards and crops in this vicinity, and that it is made to take the place of proper cultivation, is charged in the trial of the case of the Peacock Mill company against 300 citizens residing along the Walla Walla and Tumalum rivers, which is before Judge Bean, of the district court, and will likely take up several days. Witnesses have been introduced to show that farmers are using too much water, placing it too frequently on their crops, and keeping the soil in such muddy condition that proper cultivation cannot be given the land.

Richland Land Price Soaring.

Richland.—Foothill land under ditch skirting the north side of Eagle valley is attracting the attention of home-seekers and speculators. Several buyers were in the valley last week, looking over this land. Some of these fields along the foothills have never been cultivated, but owing to their elevation above the valley they are warmer and better adapted for raising fruit than the valley itself. The price of this land is \$75 an acre. Last year it could be bought for \$50, and it is daily rising in value.

Bold Robbery at Freewater.

Freewater.—A bold robbery was committed here when the residence of Mrs. A. A. Brady was broken into and \$120 in valuable old coins taken. Trunks were forced open, their contents strewn on the floor and a drawer containing jewelry of Mrs. Brady was pilfered, valuable rings being included. Footsteps were discernible in the soft soil surrounding the house and bloodhounds from the Walla Walla penitentiary are being engaged. It is expected arrests will follow in a few days.

Ontario Is Next.

Ontario.—At the Oregon state irrigation convention held at Baker City, Judge Stephen A. Lowell, of Pendleton, was elected president, and Walter Griffith director in charge of the Malheur Water Users' association, was chosen secretary. Ontario was named as the next meeting place of the congress. The meeting will take place in September, 1909.

Site for La Grande Postoffice.

La Grande.—The site of the new \$65,000 federal building promised La Grande has been selected, according to information received. The site cost over \$8000, and is located on the main street, where the J. M. Berry residence now stands.

TO HAVE COOLING PLANT.

Across Continent Shipments Can Be Made From Salem.

Salem.—Fruitgrowers are jubilant over the announcement that a cooling plant will be erected to handle the cherry and berry crops of 1909. F. G. Deckebach, of the Salem ice works, announced at a meeting of the fruit-growers that his company will erect a plant with about a seven carload capacity, and have it ready for operation this year. It will be constructed in such a manner that it can be enlarged to meet future needs. The establishment of a cooling plant will enable growers to ship fresh fruit across the continent safely.

The meeting of fruitgrowers was held under the auspices of the Marion County Horticultural society. Horticultural Commissioner W. K. Newell was the principal speaker. His address dealt almost entirely with marketing problems.

H. M. Williamson of the state board of horticulture, delivered an address upon the future of the apple industry. In a very exhaustive discussion Mr. Williamson declared that though large additions are being made to the apple producing area, there is no danger of overproduction.

HARNESS DESCHUTES.

Proposed Project Will Benefit Farming in Wasco and Sherman.

The Dalles.—The construction of a large power plant on the Deschutes river, near Sherar's bridge, has been commenced by the Interior Development company. If present plans are carried out, it will mean a great deal toward the development of Wasco and Sherman counties. Notices of appropriation of water have been filed in the county clerk's office. A force of about 13 or 20 men is at work on the proposed canal.

A dam 60 feet high will be built 1600 feet above the falls of the Deschutes, and from this a canal 85 feet wide and 25 feet deep will convey the water for two-thirds of the distance to the site of the proposed plant. The water will be conveyed the remainder of the distance in eight parallel pipes, each 11 feet in diameter. A fall of 105 feet can be secured. With the immense volume of water an enormous horse power can be developed.

It is estimated by engineers that sufficient water can be thrown into Sherman county to irrigate the entire county. At the end of the pipe line a power house will be built and hydro electric machinery installed.

M. A. Moody and other prominent capitalists are back of the proposition. The force of men is soon to be doubled, and when the winter is over hundreds of men will be put to work.

Part of General Scheme.

The winter course is a part of a general scheme of agricultural extension which the agricultural college faculty is working for. Traveling agricultural and domestic science schools, farmers' institutes, demonstration trains, free circulating libraries, home reading courses, winter courses, and free bulletins are all features of a comprehensive system of extension work that the Agricultural college faculty has recommended to President Roosevelt's uplift commission.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Barley—Feed, \$27 per ton; brewing, \$28.
Wheat—Bluestem, 96¢@97¢; club, 91¢; life, 91¢; red Russian, 88¢; 40-fold, 93¢; valley, 91¢.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$11¢@12¢ per ton.
Hay—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$14 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$16.50@17; clover, \$12; alfalfa, \$12@13; grain hay, \$12@13.
Fruits—Apples, 75¢@82.75 per box; pears, \$16@17.50 per box; grapes, 65¢@1.50 per crate; quinces, \$16@17.50 per box; cranberries, \$14@15 per barrel; persimmons, \$16@17.50.
Potatoes—\$6@90¢ per cwt; sweet potatoes, 30¢@1¢ per pound.
Onions—\$1@1.25 per 100 pounds.
Vegetables—Turnips, \$1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1; parsnips, \$1.25; beets, \$1.50; horseradish, 80¢@10¢ per pound; artichokes, 90¢@81 dozen; beans, 15¢@17¢ per dozen; cabbage, 13¢@14¢ per pound; cauliflower, 75¢@81 per dozen; celery, \$4.50@4.75 per crate; cucumbers, \$2@2.50 per box; egg plant, 11¢ per pound; lettuce, 75¢@1 per box; parsley, 30¢ per dozen; peas, 12¢ per pound; peppers, 15¢@20¢ per pound; pumpkins, 10¢@11¢ per pound; radishes, 30¢ per dozen; spinach, 20¢ per pound; sprouts, 9¢@10¢ per pound; squash, 10¢@12¢ per pound; tomatoes, \$1.75.
Butter—City creamery, extras, 36¢@37¢; fancy outside creamery, 32¢@35¢ per pound; store, 18¢@20¢.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 40¢@42¢; Eastern, 30¢@35¢ per dozen.
Poultry—Hens, 10¢@11¢ per pound; spring, large, 10¢@11¢; small, 13¢@15¢; mixed, 10¢; ducks, 15¢@16¢; geese, 10¢@10½¢; turkeys, 17¢@18¢ dressed turkeys, 20¢@25¢.
Veal—Extra, 85¢@10¢ per pound; ordinary, 70¢@8¢; heavy, 5¢.
Pork—Fancy, 7½¢ per pound; large, 6½¢.
Mutton—5½¢ per pound.

ASKS FOR FRIENDSHIP.

Eight Months' Rupture With Venezuela Draws to Close.

Washington, Dec. 25.—After eight months, the United States has resumed friendly relations with Venezuela, and William I. Buchanan has left on the cruiser North Carolina to visit that country, look into the situation and make a report to the state department. This will decide whether the United States will accord formal recognition to the government.

It has not yet been fully established that the Gomez government will retain its power without trouble, as there are many adherents of President Castro in the country. Indeed, the possibility that disorder may arise is indicated in a request for an American ship at La Guayra, to which this government has promptly responded.

The general opinion is that the new order of things will open the way for the pacific settlement of Venezuela's disagreement with this country, Holland and France.

The refusal in March last of the Castro administration to consider separately the issues with the United States made it plain that diplomacy could accomplish nothing further toward their settlement.

In 1903 the Venezuelan government, having failed to satisfy claims against it by various powers, Great Britain, Germany and Italy, blockaded the ports of that country with the view to the forceful collection of the debts.

Venezuela appointed Herbert W. Bowen, then American minister to Venezuela, as a commissioner to take up the question with the various governments, and he signed protocols with them which reserved a certain percentage of the customs receipts, to be set aside to satisfy the claims. The blockading powers were made preferred creditors.

LABOR LEADERS SENTENCED

Prison for Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison, Who Appeal.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Twelve months in jail for Samuel Gompers, president; nine months for John Mitchell, one of the vice-presidents, and six months for Frank Morrison, secretary, all of the American Federation of Labor, was the sentence imposed by Judge Wright, of the supreme court of the District of Columbia yesterday for contempt of court in violating an order enjoining them from placing on the unfair or "We don't patronize" list the Buck Stove & Range company, of St. Louis. All of the defendants were in court when sentence was pronounced and notice of an appeal to the District of Columbia appellate court was filed. Gompers being released on \$5,000 bond, Mitchell on \$4,000 and Morrison on \$3,000.

Judge Wright's decision, which consumed two hours and twenty minutes in reading, was a scathing arraignment. "Everywhere," the court said, "all over, within the court and out, rampant, insolent defiance is heralded and proclaimed; unrefined insult, affront, vulgar indignity, measures the litigants' conception of the tribunal's duty wherein his cause still persists."

OUSTS OIL TRUST.

Missouri Supreme Court Lands Body Blow to Rockefeller.

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 25.—The state supreme court yesterday handed down a decision which ousts the Standard Oil company of Indiana, and the Republic Oil company, perpetually from the state.

The decision also dissolves the Waters-Pierce Oil company of St. Louis. In addition to the other features of the decision, each company is fined \$50,000.

The fight on the Standard in this state has been waged for a number of years. Attorney General Hadley, the governor-elect, was the prime mover in the fight on the Rockefeller interests. He caused a big sensation several years ago by going to New York to take testimony and putting the high financiers of the Standard through one of the most trying examinations they ever withstood.

The Waters-Pierce Oil company for many years was the representative of the Standard in Missouri. Its connection with the Standard was denied steadfastly for years, but proof that it is a subsidiary has been developed in both the state case and the federal suits. The Republic Oil company is a similar concern.

The order to dissolve the water company is effective January 15. Today's decision was the result of a suit started in 1905. Seven judges concurred. Judge Lamm in his individual decision declares the trust ought to be fined \$1,000,000. Judge Graves in his opinion says the evidence shows that the water company was taken over by the trust over the protest of the minority stockholders.

Bank Clerk Gets Five Years.

Pittsburg, Dec. 25.—Herbert W. Tiers, formerly a bank clerk in the First National bank, was sentenced to serve five years in the penitentiary yesterday. Early in 1905 Tiers embezzled \$51,000.

GOMEZ SUPREME; ENEMIES CRUSHED

Puts an End to Castro's Dictatorship in Venezuela.

Nips Plot to Assassinate Him by Daring Act—Seeks Peace With Powers and Suspends Decree Against Holland—No More Cash Will Go to Castro.

Caracas, Dec. 24.—The end of the rule in Venezuela of Ciprano Castro has come. The dictator who has governed the republic with a rod of iron ever since he took forcible possession of the Yellow House in Caracas in 1899, is now openly charged with conspiracy to encompass the assassination of the man whom he left at the head of the republic when he sailed away on November 23 from La Guayra, nominally to secure skilled medical aid in Berlin for a malady of long standing, and is today thoroughly discredited.

The Bank of Venezuela has cabled its correspondents at Berlin and Paris cancelling the unlimited letter of credit given to Senor Castro when he left Venezuela for Europe, and no one in Caracas believes he will ever dare return to the capital. The Castro cabinet has been forced to resign, and a new and progressive ministry has been appointed by Juan Vicente Gomez, the acting president.

The attempt on the life of Senor Gomez was frustrated by the coolness and courage and the daring act of the president himself. Alone and unsupported, he arrested the ringleaders of the conspiracy with his own hands in the presence of their armed adherents, and after this action he issued a proclamation saying that not only had he saved his own life, but he had maintained the highest ideals of the republic.

Already the new administration shows signs of a desire and intention to settle the disputes between Venezuela and foreign powers that have kept the republic in a light of unenviable notoriety for several years past.

At a conference held yesterday between Senor Gomez and Baron von Seckendorff, the German minister in charge of the interests of Holland since the departure of the Dutch minister, M. de Reus, last summer, it was agreed to suspend the operation of the decree issued by President Castro prohibiting the trans-shipment of goods destined for Venezuela. Pending the signing of a treaty between Holland and a duly empowered Venezuelan commissioner, the Dutch warships that have been patrolling the Venezuelan coast for nearly three weeks will be withdrawn.

CASTRO KEPT IN IGNORANCE

Would Refuse to Believe His Downfall if He Were Informed.

Berlin, Dec. 24.—Castro apparently is unaware of his downfall or the gravity of the occurrences in Venezuela. Members of his party say he receives no dispatches of any kind. The opinion is steadily gaining ground here that Castro's power is completely broken.

One of the most prominent members of his suite, who did not wish his name made public, said:

"No one has informed President Castro concerning the reports of what is going on, as the president would refuse to believe the dispatches. I cannot ask the president's opinion on these things, because he is on a sick bed. I am perfectly sure that he has not received a dispatch since Sunday, and am certain that there has been no exchange of cipher dispatches, because the president does not possess a secret code."

The same personage ridiculed the idea of Castro's complicity in a plot to assassinate the acting president, Senor Gomez.

RECORD WORK ON CANAL.

Thirty-seven Million Yards Taken Out This Year.

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—The Panama canal will be opened January 1, 1915, according to an official communication received yesterday by the California Promotion committee from Joseph Bucklin Bishop, secretary of the canal commission. The statement in brief is as follows:

"There has been excavated from the line of the canal since the Americans took control about 56,000,000 cubic yards. This is as near as can be calculated at the present time, and is about one-third of the entire excavation necessary to complete the work. Of this 56,000,000 cubic yards, about 55,000,000 has been removed during the last three years. In 1908, down to November 1, nearly 31,000,000 cubic yards were removed, and the total for this year will not be far from 37,000,000 cubic yards. This will bring the grand total of American excavation to about 60,000,000 cubic yards."

Bullet for Aerial War.

Berlin, Dec. 24.—A Gottingen gunsmith named Schraeder has invented and patented an expanding bullet adapted for the destruction of dirigible balloons. The bullet can be fired from the regular infantry rifle.