

COMBINE FORMED.

Four Alaska Transportation Companies Now in Two.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 12.—The details of the combination of a number of Alaska commercial and transportation companies, which has been pending for several weeks, have been completed. The Alaskan Commercial Company, the Alaska Exploration Company, the Seattle-Yukon Transportation Company and the Empire Transportation Company have been merged into two corporations—the Northern Navigation Company, with a capital of \$3,250,000, and the Northern Commercial Company, with a capital of \$7,000,000.

The following official announcement has been made:

"For some weeks past the representatives of the principal transportation and trading companies doing business on the Yukon have been in conference, the original purpose being to arrive at some understanding whereby reasonable transportation rates might be maintained and a remedy found for the evils resulting from conflicts caused by divided interests. As this discussion progressed, the scheme enlarged upon itself so that it was finally found that the best results could be obtained only by a unity of their interests in the Yukon, St. Michael, Behring sea and Port Clarence districts. As a result of this decision, two new companies have been incorporated under the laws of the state of New Jersey, and the assets and business of the following companies have been transferred to the new incorporations: Alaska Commercial Company, Alaska Exploration Company, Seattle-Yukon Transportation Company, Empire Transportation Company.

"The Northern Navigation Company will take over all the assets of the above companies which are connected with the transportation in that country, and will be handled as a separate corporation doing a purely transportation business. It is capitalized at \$3,250,000.

"The Northern Commercial Company, capitalized at \$7,000,000, will take over all the plants and stocks of merchandise now under the control of the above-mentioned companies in the territory described.

"The new companies expect to reduce the price of supplies; to avoid in future any possible shortage of necessities in the North, and to make its legitimate profit in the reduction of expenses, which the conditions of late years have made abnormally large.

"The principal offices of the new companies will be at San Francisco, Seattle, Victoria and Vancouver.

"The officers of the companies have not been selected as yet, but will be chosen at the first meeting of the board of directors."

PROTECTION OF SEALS.

United States Will Have Cutters in Behring Sea.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The Behring sea seal grounds will be patrolled by revenue cutters this summer, as in past seasons, in co-operation with British warships, which have taken a hand in this special duty for the past two seasons. The treasury department, which has direct supervision in such cases, flatters itself that in the course of the last five years there has been less illegal seal fishing in Alaskan waters than before, especially during that period when the question of jurisdiction was in dispute between the United States and Canada.

Since an agreement has been reached, the two governments have entered into a hearty co-operation, and established a sufficient patrol to stamp out the unlawful practice. This season the United States will have five revenue cutters in Behring sea, which will be aided by several of the smaller British gunboats. The cutters to be assigned to this duty are the Bear, Thetis, Manning, Grant and Rush. It is to be understood, of course, that their entire time will not be devoted to the protection of seals, but while on other duty in Alaskan waters, will look out for seal protection. The Bear will go to the Point Barrow region, where she will remain throughout the open season, and the Rush will be stationed at Sitka, for duty particularly in the Southern Alaskan waters. The several cutters are expected to start for Alaska between the 1st and 20th of May, next.

NEW PROCESS DISCOVERED.

Armor Plate May Now be Furnished Cheap.

NEW YORK, April 12.—A special to the Herald says: Armor plate for naval vessels may be sold to the government for only \$150 a ton and the manufacturers may make a fair profit at that price. An experimental plate, manufactured by an entirely new process, has recently been shipped from Pittsburg to the naval ordnance proving ground at Indian Head to be subjected to the regulation ballistic test. Upon the result of this test will depend further experiments which may result in the adoption by the government of this new armor instead of that for which the navy department is now paying at the rate of \$455 a ton.

If the new armor is a success and can be sold for \$150 a ton it will mean a saving to the government of \$305 on each ton of armor. On a battleship of the Alabama class, carrying 2,600 tons of armor, this would mean a clear saving to the government of \$793,000.

BOTHA WANTS PEACE

Has Reopened Negotiations With the British.

DEWET HAS NOT BEEN CONSULTED

The Boer General, Learning That the Free State's Intellect Had Weakened, Assumed Full Responsibility.

CAPETOWN, April 12.—General Botha has reopened negotiations with the British for peace. It is understood here that although General Dewet, in his recent interview with General Botha, refused to surrender, General Botha regarding him as irresponsible, undertakes to negotiate in behalf of the entire Boer forces. The British authorities here consider that if General Botha surrenders, Dewet's following can be easily taken.

As explained here, this action was determined in part by General Botha's discovery at a recent meeting that General Dewet's intellect had weakened, that his influence with his followers was diminishing and that continuance of the campaign, in view of General Dewet's irresponsibility, rested with General Botha alone.

FRENCH ARE HAPPY.

Russia Gives Another Proof of Her Friendship.

PARIS, April 12.—The important festivities attending President Loubet's visit to the Riviera were brought to a climax today in the double naval demonstration at Villefranche and Toulon. Both proved splendid spectacles. The profuse decorations at Toulon, the flotillas of pleasure boats fitting about the harbor, the gaily dressed warships lying in the roadstead and the animation of the immense crowds of strangers jostling one another in the streets and along the wharves imparted a color and picturesqueness to the scene which outdid the situation at Villefranche. The French people, however, derive as much pleasure from the incidents at Villefranche as from the meeting of M. Loubet and the Duke of Genoa at Toulon.

"The Russian squadron," says Le Journal des Debats, "saluted the president on his departure for Toulon so that Russia will be associated as completely as could be desired with the fetes on the Riviera. Those who have spoken about the coolness of two friendly and allied countries are now compelled to admit that they took the desire for the reality. Those who contended that Russia wished to manifest hostility toward the Franco-Italian rapprochement now have proof to the contrary in the fact that the Russians came to salute the president at Toulon, sealing this rapprochement, were about to take place."

VETERAN IS INSANE.

Brigadier-General John B. Turchin Must Go to Asylum.

CHICAGO, April 12.—A special to the Tribune from Nashville Ill., says: Brigadier-General John B. Turchin, soldier, scholar and author, is insane, and confined in the county jail in this city, whence he will be transferred to the Anna asylum tomorrow.

General Turchin was born in Russia, and received a military training. He was commissioned colonel of the Nineteenth Illinois Infantry by Governor Yates, in 1861. He organized his regiment at Chicago, and left for Tennessee, where General Buell placed him at the head of a brigade. Here Turchin offered a plan to his superior officers for capturing Huntsville, which was accepted and proved successful. In recognition of this service, he was appointed brigadier-general. In 1863 Turchin organized the Chicago Board of Trade Battery into a battery of horse artillery. He commanded this division throughout the Tullahoma campaign.

During the Chickamauga campaign, with his command he distinguished himself upon several occasions. During the Atlanta campaign in 1864 Turchin participated in the engagements of Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain and others. Here he was forced to leave the army, and later resigned.

MOVE TO NEW CAPITOL.

Governor Rogers Says It Will Probably Be Made in Summer.

OLYMPIA, Wash., April 12.—Regarding when the state will take possession of its new capitol building, Governor Rogers today said:

"There was a tacit understanding between the capitol commission and the board of county commissioners that, inasmuch as the county will probably rent part of the present state building for a time, at least, the two boards would work in harmony, so far as possible, in making the exchange of offices, without discommoding either party to the transaction. In the summer months, during which the supreme court is not in session, will, no doubt, be the best time at which this exchange could be made with the least possible inconvenience. As the county will only have need of two floors of the present state building, the exchange can be made without serious difficulties."

FIELD GUN TESTS.

Will Be Made at Sandy Hook Next Month.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—Preparations are making for quite an extensive and important test of field guns at Sandy Hook some time in May. At present the army is not well equipped with field guns, compared with other nations, and the war department wishes to obtain the very best guns possible for the equipment of this important branch of the service. The tests will be under the direction of the board of ordnance and fortifications. The board not only will test such guns as may be presented by manufacturers and inventors, but it is expected that the new gun modeled on the plan of the French field guns and constructed under the direction of the board of ordnance and fortifications will be tested. The plans for this gun were obtained by an army officer who was sent abroad last summer, and who claimed to have secured complete details of this gun, which artillery experts have asserted is the best in the world. The mechanism of this gun has been concealed and its secret carefully guarded by the French government. The report that the United States army had obtained the plans of the French gun caused considerable comment at the time it was made public, and since then the procedure of the department with reference to the gun has been watched with interest by ordnance experts. The French government has not guarded more carefully the mechanism of its gun than the board of ordnance has the making of the new field gun which is to be tested in May.

POSTAL SERVICE IN PHILIPPINES.

Auditor Lawshee Found a Poor System of Bookkeeping.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—A letter from A. L. Lawshee, auditor of the Philippines, has been received at the war department, and certain portions of it have been sent to the postmaster general for his information. The letter relates largely to the methods of keeping accounts, which are not approved by Mr. Lawshee, and which have not been in accordance with the forms prescribed. Mr. Lawshee took four expert clerks when he went to the Philippines, and these are going over the accounts. It is said at the department that there is no intimation of any fraud, but a system of bookkeeping is in vogue which lacks the business methods necessary to secure the best results.

"The accounts as filed here," said Postmaster General Smith, "are certainly ample. They account satisfactorily for everything. As to irregularities, there is absolutely no word of foundation for such a story. Not long ago one of the most experienced inspectors in the postal service was sent to the Philippines, and he made a thorough inspection of every detail of the work there. His report paid a high tribute to the condition of affairs. The surplus from there show a handsome surplus, a showing that I only wish the service in the United States could make."

THE STOLEN GOLD BARS.

Steamer Officials Say They Were Taken in New York.

BREMEN, April 13.—In support of their belief that the gold bars reported missing from the specie room of the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse in transit between New York and Cherbourg were stolen at New York, the officials of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company point out that the specie room on the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse is situated behind the baggage room, and that the trunks of hundreds of passengers are piled up against the doors of the specie room. The officials of the company are satisfied that the gold was abstracted between the afternoon when the barrels containing the 2,000,000 marks were placed in the strong room and the following morning, when the passengers' baggage was stowed away. The officials are of the belief that the thief allowed himself to be locked up in the baggage room after the gold was deposited in the strong room, and managed to take the booty ashore during the confusion of arriving passengers and the stowing away of the baggage.

TRANSPORT GOES DOWN.

Rawlins Catches Fire at her Dock in New York and Sinks.

NEW YORK, April 12.—Fire was discovered in the second hold of the transport Rawlins early today. The Rawlins was at the government pier, Brooklyn, and was to have sailed for Cuba today.

The fire was under control after about two hours' work by firemen, but the Rawlins listed to port from the immense quantity of water pumped through the port holes by the fireboats. She finally sank in the mud at her pier.

The cargo, a large portion of which consisted of horse feed for army use, will prove a total loss. The damage to the transport is estimated at \$30,000, and the cargo at \$80,000.

Suicide of a New York Broker.

New York, April 12.—Benjamin Forst, a broker and member of the consolidated exchange, committed suicide today in the Hoffman House. After a night of meditation, spent no one seems to know where, he went to the hotel at 5 o'clock this morning. A bottle which had contained carbolic acid was found in the room. Mr. Forst had outstanding debts at the close of business on the exchange yesterday, and this is believed to have been the cause of his suicide. Forst had lost more than \$320,000 in his stock dealings. In some quarters there was an impression that Mr. Forst was worth at least \$1,000,000.

BETTER THAN MONEY

England Wants China Opened to Commerce.

WOULD GREATLY BENEFIT BOTH NATIONS

Better Than Demanding a Cash Indemnity for Boxer Outrages—Japan Satisfied with Russia's Backdown.

LONDON, April 15.—Great Britain has not yet definitely estimated the money indemnity she desires China to pay. The government adheres to the belief that little can be gained by insisting upon cash payment from China, and though the government regrets this will possibly be a cause for delay, it continues to instruct Sir Ernest Satow to try to induce the powers to agree to a demand for greater trading privileges instead of money. The government is of the opinion that the opening of those rich provinces hitherto closed to foreign commerce would result in much greater benefit to the nations concerned and to China herself than the extraction of lump sums of money.

Regarding Japan's attitude toward Russia, opinion in Downing street inclines to the belief that Japan, in common with the other powers, is satisfied with what is termed as Russia's backdown, but that Japan will continue to keep a sharp eye on Corea and have no hesitation in threatening hostilities should Russia menace that country.

China's Resources.

Pekin, April 15.—The committee of ministers which is considering China's financial resources has reported the conclusion, based on what information is thus far obtainable, that \$300,000,000 in gold can be raised without injuring China's resources. The examination by the committee into the subject is thus far incomplete, and it will probably subsequently learn that other Chinese resources for indemnities are available.

The discussion of politics has this week given place to amusement, commencing with the German races at the Hunting Park, Monday last. The remainder of the week was devoted to international races, an assault at arms and tent pegging at the Temple of Heaven. The Russians particularly are celebrating the Easter holidays.

The ministers openly express their desire that the foreign troops leave Peking. They are seemingly as anxious for the departure as were the besieged ministers anxious for the arrival of the troops.

THE FLOW REDUCED.

Current in the Chicago River Is Too Strong.

CHICAGO, April 15.—The Post today says:

"Federal authorities have ordered the flow in the Chicago river reduced from 300,000 to 200,000 cubic feet a minute. Word to this effect came from Washington to the sanitary board today. The board will act immediately upon receipt of the official order, and the current will not be increased, as the channel has been widened and deepened and existing obstructions to navigation have been removed. Action on the part of the war department was brought about by the protest of local river interests and the Lake Carriers' Association, which, since the opening of the big canal, have complained that 300,000 cubic feet provided by law was dangerous to navigation under present conditions. Local authorities are apprehensive of the effect it may have upon the St. Louis litigation. With the full flow to dilute the sewage carried down the canal from the Chicago river, the board had no fear of the charge that Chicago was polluting the water supply of St. Louis. In view of the action of the war department, the outcome of the St. Louis appeal to the courts is doubtful. If the legislature passes the bill authorizing the commission to collect one-half of 1 per cent tax to be used for the improvement of the river, it is believed the current can be increased gradually after September, as the work of widening and deepening the channel progresses. Otherwise it will be four or five years before relief can be obtained."

A Mystery Cleared.

Sedalia, Mo., April 13.—The mystery surrounding the theft of \$10,000 in greenbacks from the Bank of Commerce, of this city, August 1, 1898, has been cleared by a convict named Freeman, now in the Michigan City, Ind., penitentiary. According to Freeman, the theft was committed by Irwin Gamble, who entered the vault of the Bank of Commerce at the noon hour, and got away with the money while he watched outside.

Radicals on Top.

Havana, April 15.—The Cuban constitutional convention placed itself upon record today against the Platt amendment by a vote of 18 to 10 on a resolution that the convention should declare itself opposed to the amendment "on account of the terms of some of its clauses and the way in which they are drawn, and also on the contents of the others, especially clauses 3, 6 and 7." The conservatives assert that this action is embarrassing, inasmuch as it practically ties the hands of any commission that might be sent to Washington.

M'KINLEY ON WHEELS.

Tour to Be Made by President and His Cabinet.

Washington Correspondence.

President McKinley's tour to the Pacific coast and thence eastward to Buffalo, whence the return to Washington will be made, will be one of splendor. The train upon which he will travel will be most gorgeous and costly.

President McKinley will travel across the continent surrounded by his cabinet, with the exception of Secretary Gage, who remains in Washington. It is proposed to transact important business while en route. The cabinet officers will keep in close touch with the heads of bureaus of the respective departments. The president will transact all of the vast routine which the chief executive must look after while in Washington. A corps of expert telegraph operators, representing the two big telegraph companies, will accompany the train to handle official messages, and every telegraph station along the lines of the railroads which are to be traversed will be subject to their orders to the exclusion of all commercial and newspaper business. Cabinet meetings are to be held on Tuesdays and Fridays, just as they are now held in Washington. The questions pertaining to domestic and foreign policies will be discussed. Cipher dispatches from all over the world will be laid before the president, experts from the state department being in attendance to reduce them to English. The conclusions reached upon all public questions will be conveyed to the acting heads of the departments in this city, and will by them be disseminated to all those concerned.

Trip for Recreation.

As this is to be a trip for recreation and pleasure, the president wants it understood that he will avoid formal receptions wherever possible and make speeches only where he cannot escape doing so. They want to see everything that will serve to give them an idea of the progress and advancement of the country, and its commercial growth and mercantile stability. They will pay a special visit to the great cotton wharves of New Orleans to witness the loading of steamers of all nations with the staple product of the fields of the South. The party is due in San Francisco, May 8, and will participate in the launching of the battleship Ohio, and will remain five days. The coast is to be followed north to Salem, Portland, Seattle and Spokane, and thence the party will move eastward into Montana, where, after an inspection of the vast copper mines, they will pay a flying visit to the Yellowstone. Thence they will go to Ogden and Salt Lake and then eastward through Colorado, stopping at Denver for a protracted visit. From Denver the train goes to Topeka, Leavenworth and Kansas City. St. Louis will be honored by a visit of two days. The Mississippi valley will be traversed from that city to St. Paul, with stops at Keokuk, Burlington and Dubuque.

From Train to Steamer.

From St. Paul the party goes to Minneapolis and then to Duluth, where a steamer of the Great Northern line will be waiting to convey them through Lake Superior, the famous Sault canal, with its wonderful locks, the Straits of Mackinaw, Lake Huron, the St. Clair and Detroit rivers, and Lake Erie to Buffalo. The trip down the lakes will possess novelty and interest for every member of the party, even for those who have already made it, and at the same time will constitute a recreation after nearly five weeks of travel by rail through plain and prairie, desert and mountain and valley.

The president will visit the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo. Then he is to go to Niagara Falls and make a trip down the American rapids. After he has done that he and his party will embark on a new special train for Washington, arriving there June 15.

President McKinley will travel about 13,000 miles on the fastest, safest, most comfortable and best-equipped train America can produce. He will visit 25 states and territories, and touch the southern, western and northern boundaries of the country.

Mr. McKinley and the members of his cabinet are to be accompanied by their wives and several other ladies, well known in Washington society, will accompany the party.

ASK FOR RECEIVER.

Depositors Will Wait on Bank Which Failed No Longer.

NEW WHATCOM, Wash., April 15.—After waiting 45 days at the request of the bank officers to enable them to raise funds with which to reopen the Scandinavian-American bank in this city, which failed February 27, the depositors today unanimously requested the court to appoint Robert Muir permanent receiver, and he was requested, if appointed, to take immediate steps to punish those responsible for the failure of the institution. President H. St. John, of the institution, is said to be in London to secure funds from his family with which to pay depositors. His legal adviser is in New York trying to dispose of some pictures belonging to the St. John family, with the same object in view.

St. John was also president of the Bank of Blaine, of Blaine, Wash., which failed the same time as the Scandinavian-American. The liabilities of the two institutions are said to be about \$50,000. It is believed the assets are practically valueless.

The London Times was first printed by steam power on the morning of November 29, 1814.