

CURRENT EVENTS OF THE DAY

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Collected From the Telegraphic Columns.

Crocker is to be advanced in price because of the new tariff.

Mrs. Houghton, aged 75, was burned to death in her home near Burlington, Skagit county, Wash.

The July run of salmon, although late, is promising well and the fishermen on the lower Columbia are reporting large catches.

The flax grown for fiber on the Corvallis college farm has been pulled. A portion of it attained the length of 55 inches, while the average length is about 40 inches.

The first mail for the Yukon valley under the new contract left June 13th in charge of F. W. Hoyt, carrier. It consisted of 1,633 letters, being an accumulation from last April.

The treasury officials have discovered a number of inconsistencies in the new tariff law, some of them, it is feared, incapable of reconciliation. It is pointed out that section 262 places the duty on plums at 25 cents per bushel, and section 264 fixes the rate at 2 cents per pound. An error in the paragraph referring to currants was corrected in conference.

The desire of Germany to institute an European control of Greek finances will hamper the settlement of the indemnity question. It is understood that the Volo-Lavasa railway will be transferred to the Greek administration, with the stipulation that the same facilities shall be granted to Turkey for the transportation of troops as are granted to Greece.

A dispatch from Ottawa announces that the Canadian government has decided to impose a royalty on all placer diggings on the Yukon in addition to \$15 registration fee and \$100 annual assessment. The royalty will be 10 per cent on all claims on which there is an output of \$500 or less monthly, and 20 per cent on every claim producing above that amount yearly. Besides this royalty, it has been decided in regard to all future claims staked out on other streams or rivers, that every alternate claim should be the property of the government, and should be reserved for public purposes and sold or worked by government for the benefit of the revenue of the Dominion.

The steamer Hovey, after calling at Campbellton, C. B., sailed for the Arctic regions with Lieutenant Peary and party on board.

A. A. Fischer, a German, aged 64, because of ill-health sought gas and died in San Francisco. He left a note asking that the gas be consumed by his family.

Thomas Remberg, a welder, and William Butler, a veterinarian, well known in Walla Walla, were drowned in the Mississippi river near their white fishing.

Captain J. T. C. Nash has bonded the Golden Standard quartz mine owned by the Kahlis and Judge Wataon, near Gold Hill in Jackson county, Or. The price is \$125,000.

The fund for the Omaha World's fair now amounts to \$100,198, paid in private subscription. The state gives another \$100,000. There will be no trouble in swelling the stock to \$500,000.

That Japan will continue to oppose the Hawaiian annexation treaty is shown by the latest news from the Japanese government, under date of July 10, which is now made public for the first time. While couched in polite and diplomatic language, the protest is sufficiently firm in tone to show that Japan will continue to wage a diplomatic war, and possibly go further to prevent the consummation of the annexation policy.

Recent advices from Peru, which have been confirmed by C. de Miranda, a petroleum magnate now in San Francisco, state that the wonderfully rich strikes reported from the Clondyke region have been totally eclipsed by fabulous discoveries of gold in that South American republic. In an interview Mr. Miranda said that there no longer seemed to be any doubt that the famous Inca gold fields, which have been considered as myths among the intelligent people of Peru, have at last been discovered.

The schooner Norma arrived at Honolulu from the South seas on the 15th. While the vessel was cruising on the long voyage Captain Rosshill secured sufficient evidence to warrant the belief that England has been taking formal possession of a number of small, fertile islands in that portion of the globe, without stopping to inquire who the owners might be. There are many lagoon islands that are very fertile, but uninhabited. These are now being brought under cultivation for English companies, who are planting coconut groves and other tropical fruits for the export trade.

The recent appointment of T. V. Powderly as commissioner-general of immigration has been signed by the president. Mr. Powderly's nomination to the office failed of confirmation in the senate because of the opposition of labor organizations.

After having accomplished one of the most remarkable and perilous trips ever recorded in the marine history of the Pacific coast, the little stern-wheeled steamer H. C. Grady, Captain Denny, steamed through the Golden Gate and docked at San Francisco.

The big battleship Indiana is to be sent to Halifax to be docked and cleaned. No dock in this country is available for the purpose.

When Collector of Customs Birdwell of New York made the formal announcement that duties in the Dingley rates would be collected on goods entered on the day the tariff bill passed, many protests were at once filed by importers of goods entering on that day. The duties under the new tariff on the goods on these vessels amounted to about \$900,000. Under the Wilson tariff the duties would have amounted to about \$600,000.

WORK FOR THE RAILROADS.

Big Grain and Fruit Crops East of the Cascades.

Portland, Or., Aug. 2.—General Agent R. P. Davis of the Northern Pacific refrigerator-car system, was in the city yesterday. He has just made an extended tour of the fruit and grain districts of the country tributary to the Northern Pacific, and had this to say in the subject:

"There will be an enormous fruit crop in the Snake river valley, in the Yakima district, and in the Walla Walla district. In fact, there will be a heavy crop wherever there is an orchard in the Northwest. The sound itself will ship a large quantity. The prices are uniformly good, growers being content to get one to one and a half cents net per pound in the Eastern markets."

"In this connection I observed a very noteworthy fact, that is, the immense shipment of green fruit and vegetables to Alaska. One Tacoma firm has a standing order to ship every-thing in this line that will, in their opinion, stand the trip. That's a pretty good order. Most Alaska boats have cold-storage facilities, and could use more, for the demand is surprising. It is a fact that two cents a pound is netted to the grower on fresh fruit sent to Alaska, and, now that this mining excitement is rushing such numbers of people into that region, it is easy to force a great and growing market for the green and dried fruit and vegetable products of the Northwest."

"The grain crop is everywhere most promising. With the advancing price for wheat, this will be a banner year for the annals of the grain industry. I was surprised to find that over in the Sprague and Blitzen region the wheat crop was even better than in the Palouse."

Traveling Freight Agent Savage, of the Omaha line, who just returned from the Washington fruit and grain country, also says that no description of the crop outlook this year can be too glowing.

RETURNED YUKONER ROBBED.

Started Out to Do New York and Was Done Up by Thugs.

New York, Aug. 2.—The World says: Henry Gaudier, 35 years of age, was found in the city unconscious and bleeding from a wound in his head. Citizens picked him up and carried him to a saloon. His skull is probably fractured. He telegraphed for his brother Phillip, of Laconia, N. H., asking him to join him at once.

Gaudier said he was direct from the Clondyke, having left Dawson, City June 15. He came on the steamer Portland, the first steamer down. When he arrived in New York he went to the Manhattan hotel. He had a receipt for \$800 deposited with the clerk of the hotel.

With \$200 he started out to do the town. He is not quite clear as to how he reached Harlem, or how he got to where he was found, but he had been robbed of the greater part of his money. When made comfortable in the hospital he said:

"I wish I had had 'Old Betsy' with me when those ruffians attacked me. I went to the Clondyke a year ago. He stopped at Jones and went thence to Dominion creek. He located several valuable claims. The stories told me, he said, of the finds in that section do not begin to tell the truth. He refused to say how much money he had brought back, but said it was not un- common to find a fortune in a few weeks."

"I only left at this time because a newcomer told me of my father's death. I ran away from home and have not seen my people in 20 years. Knowing that I had a rich find and wishing to share it with my people, I came back to get my brother to go with me. He showed by the latest news from the Japanese government, under date of July 10, which is now made public for the first time. While couched in polite and diplomatic language, the protest is sufficiently firm in tone to show that Japan will continue to wage a diplomatic war, and possibly go further to prevent the consummation of the annexation policy."

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THREE THOUSAND KILLED.

For Miles Around Canada Dead and Dying Are Stewards.

New York, July 30.—A special to the Herald from Rio de Janeiro says information has reached that city that more than 3,000 soldiers have been killed in a big battle near the site of Canada. The fatalities, numbering more than 10,000 men, all well armed, attacked the government troops. Whole brigades of the soldiers were swept down and destroyed, trampled under foot as the victorious fanatics with wild, hoarse shouts of triumph passed over them.

The full extent of the loss of life cannot be told. There is no reasonable doubt, however, that the loss in killed on both sides is more than 3,000. For miles the ground around Canada is strewn with the dead and dying. The government troops were compelled to leave their dead on the field and flee to save themselves from complete destruction by the avalanche of fanatics.

When the report of the awful battle reached Rio de Janeiro, it was considered by the president and ministry, and it was decided to send the minister of war to the scene next week with 500 men, who are now gathering. They will carry with them a great amount of ammunition, and will endeavor to dislodge the fanatics from the positions they now hold.

Fighting has been in progress at Canada for several weeks. In the meantime, while the fanatics fought apparently with little hope, they have been gathering their forces from all directions. The result was the final attack on the government troops which led to such awful results.

THE COAL OPERATORS.

Have Concluded Their Conference After Two Days Work.

Pittsburg, July 30.—The "true uniformity" conference of coal operators of the Pittsburg district concluded its work tonight at 9:15, after a two days' session at close and persistent work. The 21 sections of the uniformity agreement were thoroughly discussed and adopted section by section. The best of feeling prevailed throughout the meeting.

The agreement, as adopted, provides for cash payment of wages, 2,000 pounds to the ton, check weight men in the tipple, miners to be credited with the full quantity of coal contained in the mine car, abolition of company stores, semi-monthly paydays, uniform price of picketing in the thin and thick vein districts, and screens not exceeding one and one-half inches. It also provides that in case of the violation of the terms of the agreement, a penalty of 10 cents per ton on the total output of coal mined by the violator will be charged, which penalty is to be paid to a commission, subject to the right of either arbitration or appeal.

Said penalty, when collected, is to be distributed among the signers of the agreement pro rata in proportion to the total amount of output made by them during the year.

NOT A NEW ISSUE.

Great Britain Has Claimed Palmyra for the Past Nine Years.

Washington, July 30.—State department officials say that no new issue is presented by the seizure of Palmyra island by the British, reported some days ago by an incoming vessel, for Great Britain had maintained a claim to the island for the past nine years. The island is said to be in the Polynesian group, and although Hawaii has asserted a claim to its possession, our government has not been strongly impressed with the validity of the claim.

Meanwhile the British, it is said, not only have asserted a claim to it, but have actually occupied the island for some years past. In view of the probable annexation of Hawaii by the United States, the matter will doubtless receive close attention in the future at the hands of the state department, but it is not expected that the subject will prove to be of great importance, particularly in view of the fact, as stated by naval officers, that Palmyra island is nothing more than a barren rock in the Pacific, distant 1,000 miles from Hawaii.

A Bad Train Wreck.

Reno, July 30.—One of the worst wrecks in the history of the road occurred this morning six miles west of Reno. The road is strewn with debris of baggage, express and mail-cars, reduced to kindling wood. There are no fatalities, except that of six Indians, who were riding in good hands with gold ready to be picked up.

Gaudier's story seems to be verified by papers found in his pockets, including a number on the banks of the Yukon, a receipt for a berth on the steamer Portland and the hat mark of a tradesman in Seattle. If his skull is not fractured he may be able to leave the hospital soon.

Pirates Are Feared.

Washington, Aug. 2.—The steamer Portland, which is expected to leave St. Michaels about September 15, will, it is said, have on board gold from the Alaskan gold fields valued at \$2,000,000. P. B. Wear, of Chicago, president of the North American Transportation & Trading Company, has advised the treasury department that he fears an attempt will be made by pirates to capture the cargo and has asked that the government detail a revenue cutter to convoy the Portland out of Behring sea. This request has been granted. The revenue cutter Bear and possibly one or two others will convoy the Portland.

A Canadian Mystery.

Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 2.—Last Sunday a resident named Smith, while fishing with his son on Howe sound found on Bird's island the headless body of what appeared to be an Indian woman. Though the flesh was nearly all gone, the body which was lying in a canoe, cannot have been there long, as a shirt and other clothing was in a good state of preservation. The police are now investigating.

More Mines Closed Down.

Columbus, O., July 30.—Fred Ditches, of the national executive committee, wired the national headquarters of the miners' union that the Sugar Creek, McDonald, Turkey Knob and Dunlop mines have closed down by a vote of the miners at a mass meeting in the new river district.

Weyer to Take the Field.

Havana, July 30.—Captain-General Weyer, it is announced, will take the field in a few days to personally direct military operations in the Havana province against several bands of insurgents from 50 to 100 strong. This step is due to an attempt on the part of these bands to unite.

A Hill (N. H.) man has eaten nothing but milk, graham rolls and wheat biscuit for 20 years.

Civil Service Rules.

Washington, July 30.—President McKinley has promulgated the following important amendments in civil service rule No. 2: "No removal shall be made from any position subject to competitive examination, except for just cause and upon written charges filed with the head of the department or other appointing officer, and of which the accused shall have full notice and an opportunity to make defense."

Chicago has a penny savings bank for school children, inaugurated by the Civic Federation.

DISPUTED PALMYRA ISLAND

United States Has Valid Claim by Right of Discovery.

AN AMERICAN LANDED IN 1802

But the British So-Called Occupation and Annexation Did Not Occur Until 1899, 87 Years Later.

New York, Aug. 2.—A Herald special from Washington says: In support of their claim to Palmyra island, which has been taken possession of by the British government, the London authorities refer to the fact that the British flag was hoisted over this territory in 1899. Even if the official records of the Hawaiian government fail to show the title of the Duke regime to the island, the United States is in a position to raise the claim that the island belongs to the government by virtue of discovery by an American citizen. This fact is recognized by the authorities in an official publication which contains a reference to its discovery and the action of the British in placing their flag over it. The publication is the official directions of the hydrographic office of Great Britain issued by the admiralty. It is titled "Palmyra Island, the volcanic island in the Pacific, discovered by Captain Saule, of the American ship Palmyra, in 1802, and was formally annexed to Great Britain by Commander Nicholas, of H. M. S. Commodore, May 18, 1899. There were no inhabitants on the island at the time of its annexation, although Messrs. Henderson and McFarlane, of New Zealand, contemplated cultivating it."

A high official of the state department said last night that an investigation regarding the rights of Hawaii and Great Britain to Palmyra island is now being made.

Senator Morgan, of Alabama, said he had not examined into the question of the validity of the Hawaiian title to Palmyra island, and was not prepared to express a definite opinion on the subject, though he was inclined to think it a matter of comparatively small importance to the United States whether Great Britain had the island or not, on account of its distance from the United States and Hawaii.

The action of Great Britain in taking possession of Palmyra at this time is generally regarded here as a step in her jubilee year policy of strengthening her military lines. Another step in that policy has been brought to the attention of the state department in a report of Consul Miller, at Port San Felipe, Falkland isles, who report that surveys are in progress at that point under the direction of Colonel Lewis, of the royal engineers, for the establishment of a naval station and hospital. Such a station at this point, with repair shops and fortifications would be of the utmost importance to a British fleet operating in the Southern Pacific.

By far the most important piece of new legislation in the bill, however, was that limiting the cost of armor plate for the new battle-ships to \$200 a ton, and in case of the secretary of the navy finding it impossible to make contracts for armor within the price fixed, he was authorized by this provision to take steps to establish a government armor-plate factory of sufficient capacity to make the armor. In executing this authority, he must prepare a description and plans and specifications of the land, buildings and machinery suitable for the factory; advertise for proposals and report to congress at the next session.

In the Indian bill, after a severe struggle in both houses, the question of sectarian schools was settled by the following declaration of the policy of the government:

"That the secretary of the interior may make contracts with sectarian schools, apportioning as near as may be, the amounts contracted for among schools of various denominations for the education of Indian pupils during the fiscal year 1899, but shall only make such contracts at such places as are forest reservations. The law also includes a general scheme of legislation for the government and protection for the forest reservations of the country."

The Republican leaders of the house decided at the opening of the session to pursue a policy of inaction in order to throw the responsibility for delay on the tariff bill upon the senate, and therefore the committees were not announced until the close of the session, and only urgent matters were considered. Fifty thousand dollars were appropriated for the relief of American citizens in Cuba at the solicitation of the president; \$200,000 was appropriated for the relief of the Mississippi flood sufferers.

A resolution was passed authorizing the secretary of the navy to employ supplies contributed for the relief of the starving in India, and \$50,000 was appropriated for the entertainment and expenses of the delegates to the universal postal congress.

The only pieces of general legislation enacted by this congress, except the tariff bill, are the laws to prevent collisions at sea, and to place in force regulations to prevent collisions in certain harbors, rivers and inland waters of the United States, and the bill authorizing the president to suspend discriminating duties on foreign vessels and commerce. The senate not being confined as to the scope of its legislation dwelt upon a number of important subjects, both in and out of executive session. One of these which attracted world-wide attention, was the British arbitration treaty; rejected.

Decree Passed On in Omaha.

Omaha, Aug. 2.—Judge Sanborn passed on the decree of sale in the Union Pacific foreclosure case this morning. He accepted the Ames decree but with few corrections. There was sharp debate over the government's decree, the attorneys for the reorganization committee objecting. The upset price was placed at \$50,000,000. Judge Cornish was appointed special master to conduct the sale. He will fix the date later.

American Locomotives for Japan.

Philadelphia, Aug. 2.—The Baldwin locomotive works yesterday booked an order for 20 locomotives for Japan. This, with other orders makes a total of 50 for that empire. Thirty have just been shipped. The order just received is for the Japanese government.

Captain Hatfield at Large.

Huntington, W. Va., Aug. 2.—A report has reached here that Captain Hatfield, the notorious outlaw, held for a year, escaped from the Migs jail this morning, by cutting his way out. A large reward is offered for him.

THE SESSION'S WORK.

A Review of the Legislation That Was Attended To.

The extraordinary session of congress which has just closed was called by President McKinley two days after he took the oath of office on the steps of the capitol. It met in pursuance to his proclamation, at noon, March 15. The special message transmitted by him to both houses on the opening day was brief. It explained the deficiency in the revenue, reviewed the bond issues of the last administration and urged congress promptly to correct the then existing conditions by passing a tariff bill that would supply ample revenue, support the government, and the liquidation of the public debt.

No other subject of legislation was mentioned in the message, and the tariff has been the absorbing feature of the session. The Republican members of the ways and means committee of the preceding house had been at work throughout the short session, which ended March 4, giving hearings and preparing the bill which was to be submitted to the extra session. Three days after the session opened the tariff bill was reported to the house by the ways and means committee and 13 days later, March 31, it passed the house. It went to the senate, was referred to the committee on finance, and the Republican members of that committee spent a month, and three days in its consideration, in preparing the amendments which were submitted to the senate May 7, and exactly two months later, July 5, it passed the senate with 872 yeas.

The bill then went to conference, where after a 10 days' struggle, on July 17, a complete agreement was reached, by which the senate receded from 18 amendments and the house from 511. The other 243 were compromised. The conference report was adopted by the house on July 19, at the conclusion of 12 hours' continuous debate. The report was taken up in the senate July 20, and adopted July 24. The tariff bill was signed by the president the same day.

Congress did not devote its session entirely to the tariff, although it did subordinate everything else to this one measure. The four appropriation bills which failed on March 4 last, would, in themselves, have compelled President McKinley to call congress in extra session, even if the necessity for a revision of the tariff had not existed. These appropriation bills were the sundry civil, the agricultural, the Indian, and the general deficiency. Those bills were introduced and passed by the house in the initial form in which they existed at the time they failed of enactment into law at the preceding congress, but they were amended in some important particulars by the senate, and when they finally became laws, contained more or less new legislation of interest and importance. The general deficiency bill carried a provision accepting the invitation to take part in the Paris exposition in 1900, and appropriated \$25,000 to defray preliminary expenses, and appropriated \$150,000 for a new immigration station at New York to replace the one destroyed by fire.

By far the most important piece of new legislation in the bill, however, was that limiting the cost of armor plate for the new battle-ships to \$200 a ton, and in case of the secretary of the navy finding it impossible to make contracts for armor within the price fixed, he was authorized by this provision to take steps to establish a government armor-plate factory of sufficient capacity to make the armor. In executing this authority, he must prepare a description and plans and specifications of the land, buildings and machinery suitable for the factory; advertise for proposals and report to congress at the next session.

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The Hawaiian treaty of annexation negotiated by President McKinley was still unacted upon when congress adjourned.

In open session, after much debate, the senate passed the Cuban belligerency resolution, a bankruptcy bill, including both voluntary and involuntary features, the "free homes" bill. But none of these important questions received consideration in the house.

The following minor and joint resolutions became laws, managing to escape objection from any member: Authorizing the secretary of war to receive for instruction the military academy at West Point Carlos Gutierrez, of Salvador.

To amend an act entitled, "An act to provide for the entry of land in Greer county, Oklahoma, to give preference rights to settlers and for other purposes," approved January 18, 1897.

Appropriating \$10,000 not expended for the relief of the Mississippi river flood sufferers, for the flood sufferers at El Paso, Texas.

Authorizing foreign exhibitors at the trans-Mississippi and international exposition to be held in Omaha during 1898, to bring to the United States foreign laborers from their countries respectively, for the purpose of preparing for and making exhibits.

To provide for the immediate repair of dry dock No. 3, at the New York navy yard.

Making appropriations for the improvement of the Mississippi river.

To supply deficiencies in appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897.

Three bills authorizing the construction of bridges across the Pearl river, in Mississippi, the St. Louis river, between Minnesota and Wisconsin, and across the Clieh river in Tennessee.

HOUSE COMMITTEES.

The Names of the Men Given the Most Important Places.

Speaker Reed has announced the following house committees. The committees on ways and means, account and mileage were announced at the beginning of the session. The following are the chairmen and the far Western congressmen given places on the more important committees, the names of the chairmen being given first:

Foreign affairs—Robert Hitt, of Illinois; Francis Newlands, Nevada.

Appropriations—Joseph G. Cannon, Illinois.

Judiciary—David B. Anderson, Iowa.

Banking and currency—Joseph H. Wallack, Massachusetts; F. G. Newlands, Nevada.

Coinage, weights and measures—Charles Stone, Pennsylvania.

Intrastate and foreign commerce—W. P. Hepburn, Iowa; A. J. Barham, California.

Rivers and harbors—W. B. Hooker, New York.

Agriculture—J. S. Wadsworth, New York; T. H. Tongue, Oregon.

Military affairs—J. A. Hull, Iowa; Marcus Smith, Arizona.

Naval affairs—U. A. Boutelle, Maine; S. G. Hillborn, California.

Postoffices and postroads—Eugene J. Loud, California; H. B. Ferguson, New Mexico.

Public lands—J. F. Lacey, Iowa; W. R. Ellis, Oregon; J. H. Lewis, Washington; Marcus Devries, California; Marcus A. Smith, Arizona.

Indian affairs—J. A. Sherman, New York; M. A. Smith, Arizona.

Territories—W. S. Knox, Massachusetts; M. A. Smith, Arizona.

Public buildings and grounds—D. S. Merce, Nebraska; Hillborn, California.

Pacific railroads—Powers, Vermont.

Invalid pensions—Ray, New York; Castle, California.

Immigration and naturalization—Lorenzo Samford, Ohio.

Labor—J. J. Gardner, New Jersey; Millitt—B. F. Marsh, Illinois.

Minor committee chairmen—Elections No. 1, R. Taylor, Ohio; No. 2, Henry Johnson, Indiana; No. 3, James A. Walker, Virginia.

Levee and improvement of Mississippi river—Richard Bartjold, Missouri.

Education—G. A. Grow, Pennsylvania.

Merchant marine and fisheries—S. E. Payne, New York.

Railways and canals—Charles A. Chickering, New York.

Manufactures—George W. Garish, Indiana.

Mines and mining—Charles H. Grosvenor, Ohio.

Patents—J. N. Dicks, Pennsylvania.

BRIEF PACIFIC COAST NEWS

A Resume of Events in the Northwest.

EVIDENCE OF STEADY GROWTH

News Gathered in All the Towns of Our Neighboring States—Improvement Noted in All Industries.

The Washington county court is debating the question of building a county jail.

A new wheat warehouse has been built at Mission to take the place of the one that burned recently.

The estimated sum of