

Interesting Collection of Current Events In Condensed Form From Both Continents.

Thomas Thompson, ex-minister to Brazil, ex-representative, ex-secretary of state, and one of the most prominent Democrats in California, cut his throat while temporarily insane at San Jose.

The British Atlas Company, of Panama, has offered to purchase railroads from ocean to ocean and steamers owned by the government for \$1,500,000 silver. The government demands \$2,500,000.

Word has been received in Spokane from Washington that the committee on agriculture has reported favorably Senator Warren's amendments for the establishment of a division of irrigation in the agricultural department.

The monthly statement of the public debt just issued shows that at the close of business January 31, the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$1,011,701,589, an increase for the month of \$12,589,771. This increase is accounted for by the decrease in the amount of cash on hand.

The most violent storm known since 1851 swept the shores of Cape Ann Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning, causing heavy loss of life and about \$200,000 damage. More than a dozen vessels are ashore near Gloucester, at least four more are lost and many others are damaged.

A Washington special says: Representative Ellis, of Oregon, is very anxious to have the land south of Hood River and Mount Hood excluded from the Cascade forest reserve, and opened up to settlement. He holds that this land, being very fertile and well located, should be given up to farm and school purposes, and opened to those wishing to avail themselves of its many advantages.

Chief of Police Jansen, of Milwaukee, has decided to put a stop to all boxing contests in that city in the future.

Mrs. Julia Dorr, the well-known authoress and poet, is reported to be critically ill at her home in Rutland, Vt.

Mrs. Hearst, widow of Senator Hearst, is visiting the City of Mexico, and has been received with public honors.

Bishop, the man who assassinated the Brazilian minister of war last November, has committed suicide in prison.

There is much excitement in Bolivia and the press is urging the government to prepare for an impending war with Peru.

Over half a million pounds of naphtha were burned and several persons lost their lives during a conflagration at Bakou, Russia.

Rear Admiral McNair, who has been succeeded in command of the Asiatic squadron by Commodore Dewey, has arrived in San Francisco.

Three men were killed and four injured in a head-on collision between two freight trains on the Louisville & Nashville, near Upton, Ky.

A ledge of free milling quartz ten feet wide and assaying as high as \$500 a ton was struck in the Roanoke mine near Mokelumne hill, Cal., at a depth of 400 feet.

The Central Labor Union, of New York, has passed a resolution opposing the bill pending in the New York legislature for the opening of the theaters in that city on Sunday.

George S. Yantio and A. M. Hyde, of Sheboygan, have started on a journey to the Holy Land, where they go to carry assistance to a colony of Dan-kards, who went to Palestine in November, 1895.

George C. Howard, superintendent of schools of West Bridgewater, Mass., moderator at the last town meeting, and ex-state representative, is a self-confessed forger to the extent of \$600, and is under arrest.

Ross W. Latschaw, of Kansas City, ex-justice of the peace, was acquitted by a jury in the criminal court of the charge of attempting to bribe a juror in the recent trial of Dr. Goddard for the murder of Fred J. Jackson.

Mrs. Lucille Blackburn Lane, daughter of ex-Senator Blackburn, of Kentucky, who accidentally shot herself with a revolver two weeks ago, is again in a serious condition, after a period of improvement, and her relatives and physicians are apprehensive lest the wound, with new complications which have set in, may result fatally.

While the steamship Coptic, which arrived in San Francisco recently, was lying in Shanghai, she narrowly escaped being sent to the bottom by the falling of a large weight of bullion from her deck to her hold.

Six tons of four sacks, piled in the hold, was all that prevented the precious metal from going through the vessel's bottom. As it was, the falling mass penetrated five of the tiers. Third Mate Athens and Storekeeper Murphy were injured in the accident, and the mate was left at Shanghai for surgical treatment.

The latest story of railroad consolidation which is going the rounds of Wall street concerns a consolidation of some of the Gould lines with the Rockefeller lines, in the Southwest. The proposed amalgamation includes the Missouri, Kansas & Texas, Great & Pacific and International & Great Northern. Under the management of the Rockefellers, the net earnings of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas increased \$1,100,000 during the year. The Texas & Pacific has also profited by the better business conditions in the Southwest.

JAPANESE MAY VOTE.

Thus Their Opposition to Annexation of Hawaii Is Removed.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Japan has been removed as an element in the opposition to the consummation of the annexation of the Hawaiian islands by the United States by conclusion of an agreement with Japan. This document, which has not been generally taken into account in the consideration of means for adjusting three questions that have arisen over the status of Japanese in Hawaii, goes into effect in July, next year, and among other things, it confers upon Japanese within the territory of the United States all the rights accorded to the citizens of the most favored nation, which, of course, carries with it rights of naturalization and the rights of franchises. Presuming that annexation is effected, the Japanese in Hawaii will, in 1899, have the same rights as those in the present limits of the United States. All that remains to be fixed is the status of the Japanese during the time that must elapse between the adoption of the annexation treaty and the beginning of the operation of the Japanese treaty in 1899. As the pending annexation treaty provides for the appointment of a commission to visit the islands and prepare such legislation as may be necessary to consummate the amalgamation of the territories, this last question can easily be adjusted, along with other details in the bill to be reported to congress.

A MURDEROUS FIT.

Terrible Deed of a Farmer Who Suddenly Became Insane.

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 7.—Saul E. Autrey, a farmer, accompanied by his family, went early yesterday morning to visit his aged father and mother, living near Mulberry. Shortly after his arrival Autrey became engaged in a religious argument with the old folks. Suddenly he grasped an iron bar, killed his aged father, mother and his 10-year-old son, and seriously wounded his wife and three remaining children, two of whom are not expected to live. His wife and eldest daughter, although badly hurt, managed to notify the neighbors. When they reached the house they found Autrey a raving maniac, with his clothing on fire. He was overpowered after a hard struggle. The three victims of the crazy man lay on the floor, beaten and mangled almost beyond recognition. He has been chained all day, talking incoherently and swearing that the witches were the cause of the trouble.

Stole Charly Passes.

Cincinnati, Feb. 7.—The railways here have discovered that they have been swindled out of thousands of dollars by bogus orders of the mayor for pauper passes. These orders were printed and bound in pads with the name of the mayor and his secretary printed on them. Instead of signing them, the city sealer stamp had been used, but through carelessness, the orders were finally given out without signing. Recently, many pads got into the hands of scoundrels and have been sold for months by ticket brokers. The discoveries date back as far as last October. One railway tracked over \$1,000 worth of them today on its line and other lines are proceeding with investigations. Joseph and Lyman Hess were arrested on the charge of purloining charity passes from the mayor's office. Their brother, Harry, has been employed in that office. Samuel Phillips was arrested charged with selling them, on which tickets were issued at the ticket office. Other arrests will follow.

Great Cracker Combine.

Chicago, Feb. 5.—All the biscuit and cracker companies between Salt Lake on the west, Portland, Me., on the east, St. Paul on the north, and New Orleans on the south, will tomorrow morning be under one management. The name of the new corporation, which was incorporated in New Jersey, with a capital of \$25,000,000 of preferred and \$50,000,000 of common stock, is the National Biscuit Company. The actual transfer of the deeds of the various plants controlled by three companies merged into the present company took place today. The company has purchased all the assets, bills receivable and operating plants of all the bakeries which were controlled by the American Biscuit Company, United States Baking Company, and the New York Biscuit Company. It also assumes all the indebtedness of these companies.

Tribesmen Routed.

Calcutta, Feb. 7.—A telegram from Parsani says that General Mayne sighted the enemy, numbering 1,500, at 8 o'clock Monday morning, holding the entrance of the western pass leading to Turbat. He attacked them, and tried to turn their left, sending a body of infantry and dismounted cavalry to turn the flank. The action lasted two hours, and the enemy were completely routed, losing about 100 killed. The British losses were three Baluchis killed and eight wounded.

Perished on an Ice Floe.

St. John's, N. F., Feb. 5.—Eight of the 16 men who went adrift yesterday on an ice floe in Trinity bay reached land tonight, badly frostbitten. It is believed that the others perished.

Allied Against England.

Berlin, Feb. 7.—An article in the Novoe Vremya, of St. Petersburg, which has attracted the attention of Europe, declares that France and Germany supported Russia's determination to oppose England with reference to Tientsin. Lord Salisbury, it is claimed, is obliged to consult with his colleagues before the meeting of parliament as to the best way to beat a retreat if England wishes to avoid an open conflict with Russia.

Reprieve for Worden.

Sacramento, Feb. 7.—Governor Budd today granted Salter D. Worden, awaiting execution at Folsom prison for participating in the wrecking of the overland train in Yolo county in 1894, another reprieve until June 17 of this year.

Victims of Earthquake in Asia Minor.

Constantinople, Feb. 7.—Details received today from Baliseasar, Asia Minor, show that 20 persons were killed and 30 injured by the recent earthquake at that place and Bursa.

DESIRE FOR HAWAII.

Senator White Says Is Based on Sentimentality and Sugar.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Senator White continued his speech in opposition to the Hawaiian annexation treaty in the executive session of the senate, amid many interruptions, and much crossfire. In the main his speech was a continuation of the argument on constitutional lines, which was begun yesterday, but he also took up questions of practical purposes in today's speech, and undertook to show that, for reasons of commerce and defense, the acquisition of the islands would be unwise.

Previous to White's speech the senate spent about three-quarters of an hour in executive session, trying to decide whether Pettigrew's resolution, concerning the acquisition of territory where it would require a navy to defend it, should be debated in open session. When the vote was taken the majority was found to be against the proposition for open sessions.

Senator White continued his citation of authorities to show that the policy of this country in the past had been against annexation of the Hawaiian islands. The whole scheme for the annexation of Hawaii, he said, is based upon sentimentality and sugar, and containing this line of presentation, he said that the sugar people, who were netting \$8,000,000 to \$9,000,000 a year under the reciprocity treaty, were back of the annexation project, with the hope of making the benefits now derived from reciprocity perpetual. If it were not, he said, for the condition of affairs, the treaty would never have been heard of, and hence he charged that "the patriotism of senators was being imposed upon to consummate a most disgraceful proposition."

In the House.

Washington, Feb. 4.—At the opening of the house today Crow asked unanimous consent for consideration of a resolution directing the secretary of war to issue medals to 630 Pennsylvania soldiers who belonged to the command which passed through the mob at Baltimore, April 13, 1861, and who received the thanks of congress July 22, 1861. Hull, chairman of the committee on military affairs, objected. Several other requests for unanimous consent met a similar fate. The army appropriation bill was sent to conference, Hull, Marsh and Cox being appointed conferees. The house then went into committee of the whole and resumed consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill. The bill was passed shortly after 3 o'clock.

MET FATE OF RUIZ.

Another Spanish Embassy Executed by Insurgents.

Havana, Feb. 4.—Spanish military operations continue almost paralyzed, the season most favorable for movement against the insurgents thus being lost. Friday the insurgents entered the town of Artemisa, province of Pinar del Rio, and plundered several stores. The governor of Pinar del Rio sent Jose Mendez Diaz as an emissary to the insurgent leader Perico Diaz, with proposals of peace and surrender. The insurgents hanged him near a railway opening, with the governor's letter on his body. Monday night they renewed the attack on Artemisa, but were repulsed, leaving two killed.

Private advices from Gibara confirm the report that General Luque's losses at Megia were more serious than was officially given out. He lost, not 20, but 140 killed and wounded.

La Discussion prints the following: "The scenes witnessed at the residence of Dr. Castro Jesus del Monte, previous to the distribution of food to the reconcentrados, are too pathetic to be described. As soon as the doors were opened a mass of beggars, living skeletons of all races, all ages, of both sexes, invaded the places where food was to be distributed with outstretched hands, almost fleshless, and imploring and almost frightful spectral faces, at the sight of food. Many were not strong enough to endure the food, and fell in the streets as they passed away; a few others, more fortunate, seemed to gain some vitality."

THE DRYDOCK QUESTION.

House Committee Is Getting Expert Information.

Washington, Feb. 4.—As a preliminary to determining upon the reconstruction of the large dock at the Brooklyn navy-yard, which is practically out of service, as a result of defects discovered, members of the house committee on naval affairs have asked Secretary Long to secure testimony from civil experts as to the character of the ground underlying the structure, with a view of learning whether the existence of quicksand or an unstable foundation makes it advisable to carry out the plan of rebuilding.

There appears to be little disposition on the part of members of the committee to carry out the proposed enlargement of the dock at League Island navy yard, Philadelphia, although the indications are that the provision will be made for carrying on the work of improving the bayry so as to afford a suitable fresh-water anchorage for battle-ships when out of service.

Fatal Glove Contest.

West Bend, Wis., Feb. 4.—During a glove contest between Carl Lindbach and Willie Glantz, high school boys' Lindbach fell dead in the fourth round. The young man had been unfeelingly, and decided to settle their differences with gloves. Shortly after the beginning of the fourth round Lindbach received a stinging blow, which felled him to the floor face downward. His friends ran to his assistance, and were horrified to find him dead.

Astoria and Eugene.

Portland, Or., Feb. 4.—The next state convention will be held at Astoria on Thursday, April 14. This was the decision reached yesterday morning, at a meeting of the Republican state central committee. There were four candidates in the field—Portland, Astoria, Salem and The Dalles—and on the third ballot Astoria won the prize, with one vote to spare.

The Republican central committee of the First congressional district decided to hold the next convention at Eugene, on April 11.

TO STOP CUBAN WAR

Spain to Be Offered a Heavy Financial Bonus.

UNITED STATES TO GO SECURITY

Secret Negotiations Said to Be in Progress Between the State Department and Insurgents.

Chicago, Feb. 7.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: Secret negotiations are now actually in progress between the state department and the insurgents in Cuba looking to a stoppage of the war on some financial basis to be agreed upon hereafter. President McKinley has not recognized the insurgents as belligerents, and he cannot therefore treat with them openly, as he would do with a diplomatic representative of an independent nation. Direct communication has, however, been had within the last few weeks between the insurgent government and the administration here.

The insurgents have expressed perfect willingness to assume a reasonable share of the Spanish bonds issued against the Cuban revenues. The proposition has been considered with care, and the president and his cabinet have discussed several plans for guaranteeing the Cuban debt on the sole basis of independence.

These negotiations have gone side by side with the gradual massing of the ships of the North Atlantic squadron within striking distance of Cuba. Orders to the cruiser Montgomery to sail at once for the harbor of Matanzas have been issued, and the ship is expected to be received there quite as cordially as the Maine was in Havana.

The orders to her commander contemplate a call on Consul Brice at Matanzas. Should everything be found peaceable the ship will proceed to Santiago de Cuba, but should affairs look threatening in Matanzas, another ship will quietly be slipped to the latter port, and before Captain-General Blanco knows what is happening to him American ships will be in the harbor of every important port in Cuba.

The gradual occupation of the island by a naval force is understood to be part and parcel of the negotiations with the insurgents. When they are concluded, if everything goes well, the United States will be in a position to offer Spain a heavy financial bonus for giving up the island, while at the same time the insurgents will find themselves in a position to make a junction with the United States naval forces at any one of the half dozen ports.

A cablegram has been sent by the state department to Consul Brice at Matanzas notifying him that the Montgomery is en route to that port, and directing him to make the necessary arrangements for its reception. All the lights have been strung over the pier, and a large force will continue the search all night. The two traveling men reported missing were accounted for late tonight, leaving six victims. Dr. Davis, of Westfield, N. Y., jumped from the third story, and was thrown to the ground, and was not seriously hurt. J. H. Barry, of Troy, jumped from the third story, and was only slightly injured. Elwood Delong, a fireman, was seriously frozen, and Andrew Watson, of Toronto, Ont., jumped from the fourth floor to a shed and was slightly hurt.

The fire started on the ground floor, about 7 o'clock and shot up through the broad stairs and hallways, which acted as flues to the stories above with lightning-like speed. Almost immediately after the flames were discovered the alarm was sounded through the house, and the big hotel was soon the scene of the wildest confusion. There was a wild scramble on the part of the guests to escape with their personal property, but many were forced to flee without saving anything. A few of the guests made their escape by the stairways, but the smoke soon cut off this retreat.

The next resort of the imprisoned people was the windows. As their terror-stricken faces appeared, the little crowd below watched breathlessly, hoping against hope that all would be saved. The guests who were thus entrapped did not long hesitate to take the risk of jumping, though some were rescued from their perilous positions by the firemen. Others leaped from the windows, several being more or less injured.

Head Struck a Post.

Rosalia, Wash., Feb. 3.—The 4-year-old son of Judge Schurra was killed this morning while skating. At a sharp turn his sled hit a post and pitched down the hill. Its progress was stopped at a fence, a road of which the boy struck with his head. His skull was fractured and the barbed wire penetrated his scalp. He lived about 20 minutes.

Wages Increased Ten Per Cent.

Ashland, Wis., Feb. 3.—The Carnegie-Oliver Mining Company, operating one of the largest iron mines on the Gogebic range, and employing 1,500 men, today announced an increase of 10 per cent in the wages of all 10 per cent.

The Lake States.

Chicago, Feb. 3.—Reports from various towns in Michigan, Wisconsin and Indiana tell of severe blizzards. The wind is blowing a gale and huge snow drifts are being piled on the highways. All trains are more or less delayed. A report from Marquette, Mich., states the storm on the lake is fearful.

In the number of murders Italy leads Europe. In the number of suicides Russia is ahead.

Licensing of Mates.

Washington, Feb. 7.—The house committee on commerce today authorized the reporting of a bill in accordance with the recommendation of the treasury department, establishing a steamboat inspectors' district in Alaska.

Cowboys and Cattle Thieves Fight.

Great Falls, Mont., Feb. 7.—Word reached here this evening of a pitched battle between cowboys and cattle thieves west of Glasgow, near the Dakota line. One of the thieves is reported dead and the cowboys are in pursuit of the other members of the gang, who have crossed into Dakota.

SWEEP OF THE STORM.

A Fearful Blizzard Raging in the Atlantic States.

New York, Feb. 3.—The storm which began Sunday night swept over New York state with great fury, and today was central in the New England states. Northern New York is snowbound, and the extent of damage in New England cannot be approximated. Reports from Boston, with which place communication was established tonight under great difficulties, after that city had been shut off from New York for many hours, indicate some loss of life, and an immense amount of damage to property. Business has been at a standstill in many of the smaller towns; wires all over the country are down; roads are blocked, and railway traffic greatly impeded. The "up-state" residents have suffered with cold, which ranged as low as 20 degrees and below zero. At Albany, Troy, Saratoga and many other places in the state, as much as two and three feet of snow has fallen, and reports tonight are that the blizzard is still blowing, the worst storm since the memorable one of 1888.

Residents of this city have had to battle their way to business against a gale of wind that at times swept along at 40 miles an hour and carried sheets of snow with it.

Much delay was caused to the railroad mail service, so that the northern part of the state has been practically cut off, and trains on the New York Central were down for three hours late. From 10,000 to 20,000 men have been at work with thousands of teams on the streets clearing away the snow, yet there has been no appreciable decrease in the amount piled up in every direction.

Portions of Long Island suffered almost as much from the storm as the towns far up the state. The east end of the island has been blockaded by the drifting snow. The Long Island railroad was completely closed today.

Snow plows, driven by five of the most powerful engines of the road, are now battling with the drifts on the eastern section of the road, which may be clear by tomorrow.

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CAUSED BY BRUTALITY.

Sailor Taken Off the Stetson a Raving Maniac.

Portland, Or., Feb. 2.—If the story of John Burke, who came around the Horn on the American ship Geo. Stetson in the capacity of sailor, can be believed, the officers of this ship are guilty of the most barbaric cruelties that have been reported at this port in Astoria with a cargo of coal Thursday, being 74 days out from Baltimore, where she took on cargo. Captain Murphy is in command, and George Harvey is first officer.

The victim of the brutality of the officers, and especially that of First Mate Harvey, is a seaman named Amos Stone, son of a wealthy jewelry merchant of Boston. Stone is said to have been taken off the Stetson at Astoria, a raving maniac, having arrived at this condition as a result of the treatment he received on the voyage.

Stone was singled out as the special object of Harvey's brutality soon after we left Baltimore," said Burke in narrating his story. "Harvey, for some reason, knocked him insensible with an iron top maul, and as the rest of us feared we would be treated likewise we were at the point of turning back four hours after we left port. As soon as we saw what had happened, we scampered up the masts to turn to. The mate, however, informed the captain, who bullied us into remaining with the ship."

Stone, as a result of the injury he received, was laid up for some days, during which time he was given but little to eat. As soon as he had recovered sufficiently to venture out and report for duty, Harvey kicked him off the forecastle. From that time on Stone was unable to leave his cabin. He was starved and beaten almost daily and by the time we reached Astoria he was skin and bones and a raving maniac. As we were rounding the Horn, where the seas were very bad, Harvey would open the door of Stone's cabin so as to let the water in to soak his clothes and bedding. I have also seen Harvey open the door to Stone's cabin and with a heavy leather strap beat him until his belts stood out on his legs and back. Stone, who was already losing his reason, would not wince under this scourging and stood like a statue, without saying a word in remonstrance. An effort was made to obliterate the marks on Stone's body before the ship reached Astoria, but without success, and he will carry the marks with him to the grave. During much of the time that Stone was cooped up in his cabin he had nothing but refuse to eat and the place was the most foul smelling I was ever in. He was abused like a dog even during the time he was in irons. It made me sick to look at him, even as accustomed as I am to see displays of brutality on the high seas."

Burke's story is corroborated in every detail by Ernest Weyl, Ira Dierks and Charles Russell, three others of the crew.

BYING BY HUNDREDS.

A Harrowing Tale Comes From the Newfoundland Coast.

New York, Feb. 2.—The Red Cross line steamship Portia arrived today four days overdue from St. John's, N. F., and Halifax, after a desperate encounter with a pack of ice off the Newfoundland coast, and with a harrowing tale of blizzards and destitution in the coast section of that country. Hundreds of men, women, and children dead or dying from exposure and starvation with abundance close by and hundreds more threatened with a like fate are the conditions reported by the Portia.

The Portia was penned in by huge Arctic floes in plain sight of St. John's unable to move. She managed to escape by the merest accident.

Many other craft, several of them relief vessels sent by the Canadian government to succor destitute fishermen, had to abandon their errands of mercy and return to St. John's, where they were still in the ice when the Portia struggled into clear water.

Among the detained fleet at St. John's were a dozen or more sailing vessels loaded with codfish for England and Brazil.

The city of St. John's was in a terrible condition on account of the blizzard, the streets being rendered impassable. Railroads had suspended work and the poor were suffering through hunger and cold. The price of food advanced until beyond the reach of the poor.

Several miles off shore the Portia passed the steamer Grandland, fast in the ice, and in a perilous condition.

TO GO TO SAMOA.

Warship Will Be Sent There to Protect Our Interests.

New York, Feb. 2.—The American flag will soon be displayed in Samoan waters by a man-of-war says a Herald correspondent. The vessel will be the Mohican