

The Santiam News

REGIO.....OREGON

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK

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

Admiral Dewey is now the senior officer of the American navy, having reached that position without congressional action through the retirement of Admiral Henshaw.

The American Newspaper Publishers' Association has presented to the Anglo-American joint high commission a carefully prepared argument in favor of free paper and free press.

Senator McBride has offered an amendment to the naval bill, which provides for the construction of a stone drydock on the Columbia river and appropriate \$200,000 for immediate use in beginning the work.

One-half the largest foreign order for finished steel ever sent to this country has been offered the Illinois Steel Company, of Chicago. The order amounts to \$2,000,000, and is for water pipes to be used by the Australian government.

Senator McBride has introduced a bill appropriating \$4,000 for the purchase or construction of a launch for the use of the customs officials at Astoria. A craft capable of giving a good speed and one that will stand knocking about is badly needed in the customs service at Astoria, and Senator McBride's bill is intended to supply the deficiency.

The German ambassador, Dr. Von Holleben, has returned to Washington after an extended absence, during which he held several important conferences with the authorities at Berlin relative to American affairs. It is expected that his return will soon bring about exchanges with the state department, and perhaps directly with the president, relative to a number of current questions in which both countries are interested.

William F. Moore, convicted of robbing Martin Mahon, a hotel-keeper of New York, by the "bulger game," was sentenced to 19 years in the state prison. The charge against Moore was that he conspired with Payne Moore, to rob Mahon, and that Mahon was enticed by the woman to apartments occupied by the Moores and there compelled by the husband to pay blackmail. Moore was convicted on his second trial, the jury in the first instance having disagreed. Payne Moore formerly resided in Portland, Ore.

Admiral Sampson's daughter is to wed a Californian.

"Hab," the well-known syndicate writer is critically ill at her home in New York.

The O. R. & N. C.'s steamship Colombia on her last trip made the run from San Francisco to Portland in 47 hours and 58 minutes.

The American National bank of Lima, O., was robbed of \$18,162. The money was taken from the big vault. The robbery was perpetrated in a skilful manner, no damage being done to the vault.

An express train and freight train met on the same track near Vincennes, Ind., and three trainmen were seriously hurt and a score or more passengers bruised and scratched.

Captain R. D. Evans' name is prominently mentioned as Rear-Admiral Henshaw's successor in the Brooklyn navy-yard, now that it seems to be decided that Rear-Admiral Sampson will remain commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic station, and Rear-Admiral Schley will be assigned to sea duty in compliance with his request.

The conference based upon the disarmament proposal of Emperor Nicholas has been fixed for St. Petersburg about the beginning of May next, to which the Russian government will submit officially to the powers a definite plan of disarmament in order to enable them to formulate modifications or counter-suggestions.

A special from Dawson dated November 19 says: Reports from all creeks in the vicinity of Dawson indicate that the winter's product of gold will exceed that of last year by more than 100 per cent. Several persons are reported to have been frozen to death. One of these was found in a kneeling posture beside his sled and dogs, between Hunker and Dominion, at the summit.

The navy department is going to be prepared for any emergency that may hereafter arise in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans by carrying on hand the enormous stock of nearly half a million tons of the best steaming coal for warships that can be procured. This supply of the most important of all stores of modern war is to be systematically distributed in American ports most conveniently located for the coaling of ships for any operations the navy may conceivably be called upon to undertake.

Minor News Items.

Prof. Kirtledge, of Harvard, is said to be the only man living who can read Eliot's Indian Bible.

The French vintage of 1898 is officially estimated at 32,287,000 hectoliters, which is 68,000 hectoliters below the vintage of last year.

James H. Southall, convicted of dealings in fraudulent government time checks, was sentenced in St. Paul to state's prison for 10 years at hard labor.

The mystery surrounding the gift of \$50,000 to the university of New York, has been cleared up by the discovery that Helen Gould was the donor.

Benjamin S. Lear is first sergeant of company C, First Colorado infantry, now stationed at Manila. His father, Benjamin S. Lear, is a private in the same company.

President W. H. Newman, of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad Company, has placed an order with the Brooks locomotive works, of Dunkirk, N. Y., for 45 locomotives. The total cost will be about \$600,000.

LATER NEWS.

Secretary Hay has disapproved the Strymer Hawaiian cable convention. The British government favors the canal being built by the United States with guarantee of its neutrality in case of war.

Orders have been issued for the dispatch of additional troops to Cuba to assist in the maintenance of good government there.

A crisis is imminent at Berlin. The emperor and chancellor cannot agree, and a new cabinet is looked for. The principal trouble is over the wholesale expulsions of Danes and Austrians.

Representative Nelson Dingley, of Maine, is critically ill at his apartment at the Hamilton house, in Washington, with an attack of pneumonia. Because of his age, much concern is felt over his condition.

The new year brings Ireland the greatest experiment since Catholic emancipation, namely, the initiation of the local government act, which really, in many of its features, is an extension of the emancipation acts and policy.

The war department has come to the conclusion that it will be necessary to send General Brooke, military governor of Cuba, the assistance of a special cabinet approaching in functions the late autonomist cabinet of Cuban administration of the civil affairs of the island.

The situation at Iloilo is grave. Fifteen hundred natives, fully armed, are at Iloilo, a suburb of Iloilo. Seventeen thousand more, it is reported, are awaiting orders to embark at several points on the island of Negros, 15 hours' sail from Iloilo. All the women have withdrawn, and many families have taken refuge with the Americans.

Unless congress should pass a law authorizing him to remain on the active list, Rear-Admiral Dewey will be placed on the retired list on December 26, 1899. Only one other retirement will occur this year, that of Commodore H. L. Howison, now commandant of the Boston navy-yard. There is a strong sentiment in naval circles in favor of the passage of a law which will permit the retention of Admiral Dewey upon the active list for 10 years, as was done in the case of heroes of the civil war.

The American line steamship Paris, which has arrived in New York from Southampton, after a tempestuous passage, reports that Tuesday, December 27, in latitude 49-29 north, and longitude 13-29 west, at 8:30 in the morning, she sighted a steamer flying signals of distress. She proved to be the British tank steamer Vindobala, Captain Clark, from Rome, France, December 15, for Philadelphia, in ballast. She showed the signal letters, "Must abandon vessel." The Paris rescued her crew, and no lives were lost.

William K. Vanderbilt, jr., is to wed Miss Virginia Fair, of San Francisco.

Only about \$400 worth of property was recovered from the wreck of the Maria Teresa.

Gold shipments from Australia for the year 1898 amounted \$12,420,000. Shipments to America increased by \$2,000,000.

A deficit in the German beet sugar crop of at least 250,000 tons is figured upon by United States Consul Dietrich, at Magdeburg. He says that the backward season resulted in a deficiency.

Negotiations are progressing in the matter of the payment of the Cuban troops, so that on laying down their arms they may be enabled to enter upon civil pursuits and earn their living. Probably no further appropriation by congress will be necessary to enable the president to carry out the plan, if it should be decided, as the money will eventually come out of the revenues of the island.

Immediately upon the ratification of the peace treaty by the senate, the president will recommend to congress the enactment of legislation looking to the settlement of the claims of American citizens for damages sustained in Cuba, Porto Rico and other Spanish possessions which formed the seat of war. Claims to the amount of \$20,000,000 on this score have already been lodged with the state department.

Near Austin, Tex., a passenger train escaped a serious wreck through the intervention of a bird. Some one had tied a rail securely across the track. A few miles before reaching the spot a bird, blinded by the headlights, flew against the glass, breaking and extinguishing the light, which necessitated running slowly to the next station. The train, at reduced speed, struck the obstruction, tearing up the track and damaging the front of the engine, but no one was injured.

Part of Red Rock mountain, according to reports from Aloha, a village of Switzerland, canton of Ticino, has fallen into Airolo, destroying a hotel and several houses. The scene of the disaster presents a terrible spectacle, the debris of the avalanche covering a square mile. The hotel, with eight houses and 12 other buildings, were swept into a great heap of wreckage. A new terror was added by the outbreak of fire amid the ruins. Three dead bodies have been recovered. It is estimated that the damage will reach \$40,000.

The will of the late Charles P. Wilder, of Wellesley Hills, Mass., bequeaths \$102,000 to Mount Holyoke college.

The shortage in the California wine crop of 1898 and the fairly good demand that has existed during the past year have resulted in advancing prices.

M. Constantin, a young Frenchman of 19, who lives in Paris, is eight feet tall and probably bigger than other man who has ever lived. He is perfectly proportioned.

A ukase has been issued by the Russian minister of education, Mr. Bogolov, forbidding the wearing of corsets in any educational institution.

The government of Nicaragua, as a result of the collapse of the republic of Central America, has established a decree declaring Nicaragua to be an independent sovereign state.

Howard Gould will not be called upon to sacrifice any part of his fortune as a result of his recent marriage to Miss Katherine Clemons. The other Gould heirs decline to profit by his disregard of his father's wish.

STIRRING DAY IN HAVANA

Changing of Flags in Cuba Passes Without Disorder.

THE GOLD AND CRIMSON DOWN

Foremost of Castellanos-General Cuban Generals Took Part in the Ceremonial-General Brooke's Reception.

Havana, Jan. 2.—The sovereignty of Cuba passed from Spain to the United States at noon Sunday. The form of the transfer was simple, consisting of only an exchange of speeches in the salon of the palace, the hoisting down of the Spanish flag and the raising in its stead of the flag of the United States on the flagstaffs on the palace roof. Salutes were fired from the heavy guns of the forts and the warships before and after the change of flags. The raising of the Stars and Stripes was greeted with cheers by the people, who covered the roofs of the buildings around the palace and plaza.

No crowd was permitted to gather in the streets in the vicinity of the palace to witness the epoch-making function. At 9 o'clock, a guard, composed of the Second Battalion of the Tenth Infantry, marched into the Plaza de Armas, under command of Captain Van Vleet, and formed around the square. Captain-General Castellanos watched them with interest from the balcony of his apartments as they entered the square. At 9 o'clock, a guard, composed of the Second Battalion of the Tenth Infantry, marched into the Plaza de Armas, under command of Captain Van Vleet, and formed around the square. Captain-General Castellanos watched them with interest from the balcony of his apartments as they entered the square. At 9 o'clock, a guard, composed of the Second Battalion of the Tenth Infantry, marched into the Plaza de Armas, under command of Captain Van Vleet, and formed around the square. Captain-General Castellanos watched them with interest from the balcony of his apartments as they entered the square.

With the guard was the band of the Second Infantry regiment, which had been selected for the occasion as the best band in the Seventh army corps. With the band were the buglers of the Eighth and Tenth infantry.

The weather was warm, the sun shining at intervals through the light clouds, and the soldiers in blue, who were forced to stand in the sun, found the heat oppressive. The troops were formed in extended order around the square, three paces apart, and the band was massed in front of the palace entrance across the street at the edge of the park.

At 11:55, Major-General Lee, military governor of the province of Havana, with his staff, joined General Brooke. The latter then crossed the street to the palace, General Lee on one side of him, and General Chaffee on the other, followed by the other American generals and the Cuban officials. The Cuban officials, in blue uniforms, wore felt hats and gray gloves, and they carried maces.

A flourish of trumpets greeted the procession and the Spanish troops presented arms as the Americans entered the palace. The Cubans remained outside until escorted in by members of General Brooke's staff, who then they remained all the while at "present arms."

As soon as all were in, the Spanish troops formed a column of fours and marched around the right side of the plaza to the docks, while the band of the Second Illinois volunteers played the Spanish national march.

As Captain-General Castellanos was escorted to the wharf to take his departure the band played the Spanish royal march. General Castellanos thanked the generals accompanying him and as he stepped into the launch he wept. Crowds of Spaniards all dressed in black, gathered upon the sea wall and silently watched the fleet pass out. Men and women wept together.

TRANSFERRED TO DENVER.

General Merriam Will Command Department of the Colorado.

San Francisco, Jan. 2.—Major-General Henry C. Merriam, who is now in San Francisco in command of the department of California and the Colorado, is to be transferred to the department of the Colorado. His headquarters will be at Denver. He received official instructions to this effect from Washington today. He will go to Denver on or about January 10 next, at which time General Shafter is expected to return to his command in the department of California. General Merriam says he has not the least idea who will be placed in charge of his old headquarters of the Colorado, the headquarters of which are at Vancouver, Wash.

Fell Five Hundred Feet.

Ishepping, Mich., Jan. 2.—A cage accident in the lake Saginaw mine dropped on the cage, forcing one side of the frame work down, so as to let the men slide off into the shaft. One of the wounded men said he thought a rope had broken. Another heard something strike the cage.

Red Key, Ind., Jan. 2.—An explosion of gas, followed by fire, at the Ohio & Indiana Pipe Line Company's compressing station near here caused a loss estimated at \$100,000. Engineer W. F. Robinson was badly burned. Thirty or more tons are supposed of natural gas by the destruction of the station.

When a young woman goes in a new hat she is not satisfied until the man she loves most and the girl she hates most have both seen it.

Reminding Us of the Frontier.

London, Jan. 2.—The revenues of the United Kingdom for the quarter ending December 31 amounted to \$28,622,324, an increase of \$663,662 over 1897, making for the nine months a total of \$278,340,488, an increase of \$274,348.

Commissioners have been sent from Porto Rico to Washington in an effort to put an end to the administrative, financial and educational conditions that exist in the island of Porto Rico today. They will also ask that Porto Rico be admitted as a territory.

PROSPEROUS TO THE END.

The Old Year Goes Out With Business Booming.

New York, Jan. 2.—Bradstreet's report, compiled by the reports received as to the year's business in all sections of the country point to an unprecedented volume of domestic and export trade, which is reflected in bank clearances that break the high record of 1897. The general level of prices of staple securities at the close of the year is at the highest point reached in five years past. Railroad earnings exceed all previous years, and finally there was a small number of failures, and lower liabilities than reported in any year for at least five years past. These general results in the country at large have been achieved, too, notwithstanding the outbreak and conclusion of a foreign war, and in spite, also, of unfavorable conditions in some industries, notably textile manufactures, which, combined with unfavorable weather early in the year, and the lowest price for cotton on record, exercised an unfavorable influence.

But the close of the year finds an improvement even in these directions, and returns as to retail trade and particularly holiday business, are strikingly good in all sections. Best reports as to distributive trade naturally come from the grain-growing sections of the country, which were the first to meet an improvement resulting from free foreign demand for our cereals, but indications are not wanting that this improvement is gradually permeating throughout the entire business community, and coupled with the unprecedented export trade in manufactured goods, and the fact that we are selling \$2 worth abroad for every dollar's worth we buy, renders possible the gains reported in distributive trade of 1898 over 1897, ranging from 10 to 40 per cent, with likewise good exports from the manufacturing centers, excepting the textile industries already mentioned.

The export trade of the country for the year, as above intimated, is the heaviest ever known, and will probably exceed \$1,250,000 in value, thus being nearly double the imports. Our export trade in manufactured goods, it must be observed, is the heaviest ever known, and for the first time in our country's history exceeded the value of imports of similar goods. The United States in 1898, involving liabilities of \$141,137,117, a decrease from 1897 in number of 11.2 per cent, and in liabilities of 9.5 per cent. Compared with 1896 and 1895, the proportion of decrease shown is even larger, as compared with 1896, failures were 10 per cent, and in 1895, failures were 64 per cent. Decreases are also shown when compared with 1891, a year of large trade, but of numerous and costly failures; but compared with 1892 there is an increase shown of 13 per cent in number, and 20 per cent in liabilities.

TEN THOUSAND DROWNED

Another Awful Calamity Occurred at Hankow.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 2.—The steamers Victoria and Yamaguchi Maru have arrived with news from the Orient up to December 15.

Another serious calamity, writes the Hankow correspondent of the North China Daily News, has befallen the people of Hankow; about 10,000 of the inhabitants have met death by drowning. About noon December 2 half the storehouses extending along the edge of the river Han suddenly broke away and tumbled into the water on top of all the boats there. The houses and boats, with all the people in them, disappeared in a moment. About 100 buildings and the same number of boats are gone.

News comes of more murders of missionaries. The Japanese Herald says an English missionary has been murdered by natives and soldiers at a place called Swatow, and a German missionary has been mortally injured in Shan Tung. The murder of an American missionary, Mr. Butterfield, of Central China, is reported.

Advices state that since the attack on the Russian troops at Andijan some time back, dissatisfaction has been increasing in the province. This feeling has assumed such proportions that the Russian authorities have already strengthened their garrisons. They have, moreover, occupied the larger villages in force, and superseded the civil by a military administration. Not more than 200 or 300 families were engaged in the attack on the Russians, yet more than 1,200 men were arrested on suspicion and flogged in order to extort information. Not only were the actual malefactors punished, but their relatives of all degrees were also imprisoned. In addition to this, a fine of 300,000 roubles has been inflicted on the district.

A Prosperous Year.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The published statement of the government receipts and expenditures shows that during the half year ending December 31, the receipts aggregated \$248,961,890, against \$207,760,574, for the same period last year. According to the treasury these receipts are the largest since 1866, when they reached \$258,022,620, for the entire fiscal year, and 1897, when they amounted to \$490,634,010.

Disastrous San Francisco Fire.

San Francisco, Jan. 2.—Fire which started early tonight in the business building at 917 Stevenson street caused a loss of \$50,000 before it was extinguished. Of this amount about \$40,000 falls on the Krough Manufacturing Company, makers of pumps and hydraulic machinery. The San Francisco artistic metal works, which occupied part of the structure, were totally destroyed, the loss being placed at \$10,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Great Britain's Revenues.

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THREE KILLED, ONE INJURED

Result of a Desperate Fight at Seaside.

TRAGEDY CAUSED BY A FIRE

Charles Willard Murdered Sheriff Williams and Deputy Lamer, and Was Shot by Deputy Miller.

Seaside, Or., Jan. 2.—The burning of the Fulton cottage, at this place, last Wednesday morning, culminated this afternoon in the bloodiest tragedy in the history of this county, as a result of which three men are cold in death and one other is badly wounded. The dead are: Sheriff J. W. Williams, Deputy Sheriff James Lamer and Charles Willard. Deputy Sheriff A. E. Miller was shot in the leg.

It was considered certain by every one that the burning of the cottage was for the purpose of concealing a robbery, and suspicion pointed to Charles Willard as the guilty person, particularly as he was seen a short time after the fire coming from the locality with a wheelbarrow load of goods.

Acting on the suspicion then aroused Sheriff Williams this morning secured a search warrant, and in company with Senator C. W. Fulton and others, went to Seaside to search Willard's premises, and also the cottages of which he had charge during the winter season. About 2 o'clock this afternoon, Sheriff Williams, Senator Fulton and Deputy A. E. Miller and James Lamer, the two latter being residents of Seaside, went to the cottage of Mrs. Susie Lewiston, where Willard was living, to search it.

On rapping at the door they were answered immediately by Willard, who told them to wait until he dressed, but from subsequent events it is certain he wanted time to get his guns ready for action. After a few moments he opened the door, and on being told what was wanted, told the sheriff, in a polite manner, that he was welcome to search any of the residences in his charge.

Leaving Fulton, Lamer and the sheriff in the house, he picked up his rifle, and telling Miller to follow him, he started for John L. Carlson's cottage which he had in charge, and which he said some one had endeavored to break into. There they were soon afterwards joined by Williams and Miller. The latter asked Willard to come back to the Lewiston cottage. He made no objection.

On being nearing the cottage the second time that the tragedy occurred, Senator Fulton had identified some shotgun cartridges in the house as belonging to him, and began questioning Willard as to where he got possession of them. This nettled Willard, although he answered that a friend had given them to him, and he began to get ugly.

Fulton and Miller went inside the cottage, leaving Willard, Sheriff Williams and Lamer standing outside. They had just proceeded to the rear room when two shots were heard in quick succession, and on running to the door, Sheriff Williams was seen to throw up his hands and fall backward over the bank. In front of the house were Willard and Lamer, in a desperate hand-to-hand struggle, although the latter had been shot through the right groin and was fast growing faint, and his assailant was fighting with the desperation of a demon. Fulton sprang at Willard's head, and pulling him to the ground jumped on his face. Miller wrenched the rifle from his hand, threw it on the ground, and taking out his revolver beat the desperado over the head.

Senator Fulton, in the meantime, picked up the rifle and told Willard to remain quiet, or he would kill him. The latter, however, watched his opportunity, and jumping to his feet started to run away, when Fulton fired, missing him the first time, but striking him in the face the second time, carrying away the greater portion of his mouth and nose. Willard fell, apparently dead, and Fulton started to obtain help to care for the injured man, leaving Miller on guard with the rifle in hand. Miller stepped back to aid Lamer, who was lying on the ground, and the second bullet hitting him in the left side, near the groin, killing him instantly.

By this time help had arrived, and an examination was made of the injured men. Sheriff Williams was found to have been shot through the right breast, and although his pulse was beating feebly when examined, he showed no further signs of life. Lamer was shot in the right groin, and he lived about 30 minutes after being removed to Grimes' hotel. Miller, the other deputy, was wounded in the leg, but his wound is not of a serious nature.

Discarded Woman's Dead.

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 2.—George P. King, chief deputy in the office of City Engineer Dockweiler, was shot and probably fatally wounded this evening by Theresa Kerr, whom he had cast off.

Extradition Treaty With Brazil.

New York, Jan. 2.—A dispatch to the Herald from Rio de Janeiro states that the Brazilian congress has approved a treaty of extradition with the United States.

Discouraging Outlook.

Madrid, Jan. 2.—The cabinet has agreed to send additional funds to Cuba for repatriation of the Spanish troops remaining there. The government considers the prospects for release of Spanish prisoners in the Philippines very discouraging.

New York, Jan. 2.—Ninety men were taken from the receiving ship Vermont at the navy-yard by steamer to Norfolk, Va., from which place they will go overland to San Francisco, where they will embark for Manila as reinforcements for Admiral Dewey.

WANTS NO NICARAGUA CANAL.

Russia Launches a Campaign Against the American Scheme.

New York, Jan. 2.—A dispatch from Paris says The Herald's European edition prints the following: Russia is evidently beginning a campaign against the Nicaragua canal. The Novoye Vremya publishes an article not only warmly advocating the Panama scheme, but filled with bitter dislike of the United States.

The writer says the preeminence of the United States would have been desirable for Russia a few years ago, but all this has changed since the last war. He goes on to say that, having expelled poor Spain, the United States has become a colonial party and an Asiatic power.

"Forgetting the Monroe doctrine of America for Americans, which implies the other doctrine that American dominion must be confined to America, the Yankees," he says, "are now entering into open competition with us in China and Korea. They have no scruples over an alliance with their traditional enemy, England, and with Japan for this purpose.

"For this reason Russian financiers and diplomats ought to give their support to the French undertaking when it comes to seriously discussing the neutralization of the Panama canal and placing it under the general control of guarantee of the European powers."

The writer declares the Panama route would be more beneficial to Russia than the Nicaragua route.

"This latter canal," he adds, "even supposing its completion possible, would be a purely American undertaking, whereas the Panama canal remains in the hands of our allies, the French, or it may become an international enterprise with the addition of a strong American element to its shareholders."

WILL NOT RETURN.

General Merritt's Official Connection With the Philippines Has Ceased.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Major-General Wesley A. Merritt and bride are in Chicago. They will spend the holidays here and then go to New York, where the general will assume his position as commander of the department of the East.

The general says that his official connection with the Philippines has ceased. He thinks this government should ignore Aguinaldo, the Filipino representative. According to the general's belief Aguinaldo is trying to hold up the United States.

General Merritt smiled when the question of "embalmed" beef was brought up.

"What fresh beef was furnished us at Manila came from Australia," General Merritt says, "but most of the meat furnished the army was canned, and a good share of it was taken with us. We did not experience the least trouble with it. Myself and my staff lived on canned meat part of the time, and we were in the best of health."

MRS. BOTKIN GUILTY.

Convicted of Murder in First Degree—Life Imprisonment the Penalty.

San Francisco, Jan. 2.—Ratner to the general surprise of those who have followed the Botkin trial, and to the entire dismay of the defendant and her attorneys, Mrs. Coriella Botkin was tonight found guilty of murder in the first degree for causing the death of Mrs. John P. Dunning, by sending a box of poisoned candy to her in Dover, Del. The condemned murderess will be spared an ignominious death on the gallows, however, the jury that found her guilty imposing also the penalty of life imprisonment. The verdict was unexpected. An acquittal was confidently awaited by the defense, while the prosecution feared a disagreement.

Big Gold Strike.

El Paso, Tex., Jan. 2.—Considerable excitement was caused in mining and smelting circles here today by the arrival of authentic information of one of the biggest gold strikes yet made in Northern Mexico. E. U. Beauchamp, who arrived today from Huerfano, reports by way of Chihuahua, the discovery of an immense fissure vein of free milling gold ore 20 miles south of Huerfano. The ore is reported to contain 18 ounces of gold to the ton, and the vein has been traced for several miles. American prospectors in Casas Grandes and surrounding districts are arriving on the scene in large numbers.

Passes Train in the World.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 1.—As a result of a meeting of division superintendents of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad, just held here to rearrange time-tables, it is announced that the new last mail, which is to be started next Sunday between New York and San Francisco, will be the fastest regular train in the world. That is to say, there is no other train which goes so great a distance in as short a time every day in the year. The total reduction in time between New York and San Francisco over the present schedule is a little over 13 hours.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 2.—The memorable sentiment regarding the nation's care of Confederate dead expressed in President McKinley's new famous fraternalizing speech before the Georgia legislature has crystallized into an order to ascertain the location of all the Confederate burying grounds in the South, and this work has already begun.

Georgia has been called on for a list of these places, the adjutant-general of the state having received an official letter from Washington requesting a full list of the Confederate cemeteries.

Benham, Tex., Jan. 2.—A wholesale poisoning is reported by telegraph from Shelby, Austin county. Frank LeShelly, his wife and five children, were the victims. Two are dead, and it is thought that none of the others can recover. Arsenic was placed in their coffee by unknown persons.

Manila, Jan. 2.—The schooner Albi reports the massacre of the Spanish garrison by the combined natives forces at Panopi, Caroline Islands. Henry Naot, an educated chief, has been elected to be the ruler. He is said to be favorable to the Americans.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS

Items of General Interest Gleaned From the Thriving Pacific States.

Wheat Grade.

Regarding the grading of Washington wheat by the Portland Chamber of Commerce at 39 pounds per bushel, a dealer in Walla Walla says in the Union of that town: "Oregon ought to have a rate board to grade wheat, instead of throwing the responsibility onto the Portland Chamber of Commerce. It now costs 75 cents for an Eastern Washington wheat raiser to have a car of wheat inspected at Tacoma. In Portland it costs nothing—a slight premium for having wheat shipped to Portland. As a matter of fact, the law of Washington in regard to the inspection of wheat is unconstitutional. I would like \$1,500,000 and knock the law out. That is the opinion of some of the best legal talent of Tacoma. I have to pay a tax on warehouses and a second one for inspection. That makes it a double tax, and unjust. Just because wheat weighs 38 pounds to the bushel doesn't cause it to bring the highest price. We have to pay more for the heavier wheat, that, for instance, which goes 30 1/2 pounds to the bushel, classed as choice milling. Even after wheat has been inspected at Tacoma and found to go 35 pounds to the bushel, heavier wheat has to be mixed with it in order that it may pass as No. 1 in foreign markets. That makes more trouble for the wholesale wheatbuyer."

The Shingle Market.

In commenting on the present condition of the shingle market, the Tacoma Lumberman says the good effects of the closing-down proposition are already being felt. The price is firmer and there are practically no shingles on the market. Eastern buyers are in the field trying to contract for round lots. They are using argument to induce the mill men to let them contract now, "because shingles may be weak in the spring." If he really thought so he would not try to buy now. The mill man is getting a little wiser each year. He knows more about the shingle business than he did a few years ago. He knows that the Pacific Coast lumber, a role, less for him and lumbermen of the East—who is not in any sense a jobber—has out of season, always when the market is off. If the mill men will remain closed down until February 1