

The Sanfram News.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

The British cabinet stands firm for greater Irish liberty.

The church crisis in the French cabinet has been staved off.

The trouble which caused a suspension of all Butte papers is far from an end.

Hermann has lost another point in his trial for destroying letter press books.

Four separate investigations are being made of the Brewster, New York, railroad wreck. The death list has now reached 21.

An explosion in a coal mine near Monterey, Mexico, caused 30 deaths.

Register Nolan, of The Dalles land office, has been removed.

A forest fire is raging in the 800,000-acre forest reserve in the Wichita mountains, Oklahoma. The entire tract is threatened with devastation.

Street railway employees of Helena went on strike for an increase of 50 cents a day. Four hours later they were at work with the advance granted.

An ice gorg in the Missouri river, near Vermillion, S. D., has caused the river to leave its banks. One hundred families are homeless and farmers are greatly alarmed.

There has been an anti-British outbreak in India.

A French cabinet crisis is threatened on the church question.

A Chicago grand jury may indict Mayor Dunne for not enforcing the law.

Brownsville citizens testified at the senate investigation that many families left the city because they feared negro soldiers.

The investigation of Senator Bailey, of Texas, has proven that the senator received money from the Waters-Pierce Oil Company.

In a head-on collision between two Northern Pacific trains near Helena, two firemen were killed and nine passengers injured.

The Western Retail Lumbermen's Association, in convention at Salt Lake, adopted resolutions against prevailing high lumber prices.

The Japanese-Corean Exclusion League, of San Francisco, says Mayor Schmitt and the school board surrendered to President Roosevelt.

Hayti and Germany are quarreling.

The floods in Nebraska are receding.

A bill for woman suffrage has been introduced in the house of commons.

The house land committee has yielded to Roosevelt's plan for the leasing of coal land.

Discharged negro soldiers declare there was a plot to kill them at Brownsville.

The house pension committee has announced that it has completed its work for this session.

The president has reached a final agreement with the Californians on the school question.

Senator Hopkins of Illinois, threatens to talk the river and harbor bill to death. He would have a three weeks' task.

The Postal Telegraph company has announced an increase in pay for its employees following the action of the Western Union in advancing wages.

Railroads of the United States need \$500,000,000 for improvements, but since the Interstate Commerce commission inquiries they cannot obtain the money on watered stock and the railway magnates don't know where to look for relief.

Floods in Nebraska have blocked railway traffic.

Castro has caused the wholesale arrest of suspected enemies.

Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, defends Smoot's right to a seat in the senate.

The British cabinet has announced the first step towards Irish home rule.

The Massachusetts legislature has petitioned congress to revise the present tariff laws.

The Thaw trial has been postponed on account of the death of the wife of one of the jurors.

Hermann's original letters have been admitted as evidence in his letter book trial. Postponement has also been granted to give further time for the defense to prepare for the admission of these letters.

FRISCO BUILDING UP.

Music of Saw and Hammer Continues Night and Day.

San Francisco, Feb. 19.—San Francisco, after all, is not going to allow the opportunities for civic betterment brought about by the earthquake and fire to go entirely neglected. A beginning, feeble enough though it be, has been made. Several of the downtown streets are to be widened. The heavy teaming and the congestion brought about where building is progressing have moved the board of supervisors to decree that portions of the sidewalks must be sacrificed to the thoroughfares. While this is itself of importance for the future San Francisco, its greatest significance lies in the fact that it has met with general approval and represents the first signs of a willingness to make sacrifices for the city that is to be.

The magnificent programme of widened streets, parks and squares outlined for the city while the embers still glowed is a gradually passing vision, but those who unselfishly love San Francisco still have hope that part of the great plan at least will be realized. The street widening is the first ray of hope. A walk about the burned section shows that a wonderful amount of rebuilding has been accomplished. Since the first of May new buildings to the value of \$45,000,000 have been begun. Plans are being drawn for a like amount. In every case the structures are erected under rush orders. In several instances work has continued night and day. The streets resound with the sound of the pile-driver, the saw and the hammer by night as well as by day. The last traces of gloom have given way to an abiding faith.

The promotion committee has issued a bulletin bearing on the population of San Francisco at the present time. The committee, after figuring by various methods, comes to the conclusion that the city now contains 424,000 persons. Before the fire the committee figured that the population of the city was 500,000. The figures of the Southern Pacific agree almost exactly with those of the promotion committee. Due allowance, however, must be made for the zeal of both bodies, and a fair and conservative estimate of the city's population would place it at about 400,000.

STATEHOOD STRIKES SNAG.

Farmers Are Wary of Oklahoma Constitutional Convention.

Guthrie, Okla., Feb. 19.—Anxious to get busy with their plowing and fearing they will not receive pay for a long time, if ever, for their attendance on the constitutional convention, many of the farmer delegates have scattered to their homes, intimating that they will not return unless it is to vote for the document as a whole when it is completed by the few men in control of the convention.

The expense of the convention to date above the \$100,000 appropriation made by congress is nearly \$150,000. Pay of the delegates has stopped, and if congress does no come to the rescue with an additional appropriation, some of the delegates will be in a bad way, as they cannot afford to stay longer at their own expense. Advice are coming in from the state that citizens here and there are subscribing to funds to send the delegates back to their jobs. Neighboring farmers who do not wish to see the convention entirely in the hands of the lawyers, the politicians and the urban element, have promised to take care of the farm work of the rural statesmen. The daily attendance at the session is now less than 75 percent of the 122 delegates, and many of those still here sit sullenly in their seats and let the leaders run things to suit themselves.

Prominent delegates from Indian Territory and some from Oklahoma are openly charged with a plot to defeat statehood entirely by drawing up a constitution that will be rejected by the people at the election next August. Those involved in the alleged plot have been against making one state out of the two territories for political reasons. Disaffection has now begun to pervade the democratic members as well as those on the republican side, and charges of bossism have become so persistent that there is apprehension the convention may break up.

Snow Assures Heavy Crops.

Ellensburg, Wash., Feb. 19.—If the heavy snow goes off gradually crops this year will be the largest in the history of Kittitas valley. Baled hay is now selling at \$22 a ton. Loose hay, alfalfa, is worth from \$12 to \$16 a ton in the field. Potatoes are worth \$30 a ton. The Northern Pacific, owing to shortage of cars and equipment, is unable to handle freight inward or outward bound, causing thousands of dollars loss to the railroad company and to the people.

Kansas May Give \$75,000.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 19.—A bill appropriating \$75,000 for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition was introduced in the senate this morning by the committee on ways and means. The exposition is to be held in Seattle in 1909, and the appropriation is to cover the cost of a building and making an exhibit for Kansas.

REACH AGREEMENT

Japanese Coolies to be Excluded From America.

GIVEN EQUAL SCHOOL PRIVILEGE

San Francisco School Board Will Admit All Alien Children to Her White Schools Now.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Japanese children are to be admitted to the white schools of San Francisco under certain restrictions; skilled and unskilled laborers coming from Japan are barred from the mainland of the United States, and American laborers, skilled and unskilled, are to be excluded from Japan.

This is the basis of the agreement between President Roosevelt and Secretary Root on the one hand, and Mayor Schmitt and the San Francisco school board on the other, as an adjustment of the anti-Japanese agitation brought about by the segregation of Japanese children in the San Francisco schools. The agreement means that the schools of San Francisco will be conducted in the same manner as they were before the board of education adopted the resolution last October, providing for the segregation of the Japanese, except that adult Japanese who are in primary grades must continue to attend the Oriental schools, and that Japanese children under 16 will be admitted to classes with white children of their own ages.

The state department since the passage of the immigration bill, is prepared to take up again the negotiations that were already in progress with the Japanese government looking to the regulation of Japanese immigration into the United States. It is expected the negotiations will result in agreement between Japan and the United States for the withholding by the former of passports to Japanese of the laboring classes seeking to enter the United States. For several years past the Japanese government has declined to issue any such passports, but the intention is to make this matter of formal agreement, if possible.

In the short time remaining of the present session of congress it is not possible, it is said, to frame anything in the nature of a treaty, which would require the action of the senate.

In fact it is by no means certain that a formal convention is necessary to insure the continuance of the present Japanese policy of refusing passports to the United States to coolies, so it may be decided to give this agreement another form than a treaty.

HERMANN TRIAL.

Letters Do Not Show He Was Connected With Land Fraud.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Two facts were brought out in the Criminal court yesterday while arguments were being presented in the case of Hermann on the motion of the district attorney that he be allowed to amend his bill of particulars. The most important fact was the admission by the prosecution that there is nothing whatsoever in the letters written by Hermann and now in the possession of the government which in any way implicates him in the land frauds. The second disclosure was the fact that the government had many of these letters in its possession prior to Hermann's indictment and subsequently, while the case was being prepared, notwithstanding which fact, the prosecution in its original bill of particulars declared that the contents of Hermann's so-called private letterbooks were "unknown."

The progress of the case was delayed by unavailing efforts of the defense to prevent the amending of the bill of particulars so that the letters of Hermann to various parties in Oregon and other Western states secured by the prosecution might be placed in evidence.

Let People Vote on Question.

Sacramento, Feb. 19.—In the state senate yesterday Senator Caminetti introduced an anti-Japanese bill, which not only embodies the provisions of Senator Keane's measure giving the school authorities the power to segregate children, but goes further and declares that where separate schools have been or will be established hereafter they shall not be discontinued until the matter of such discontinuance has first been submitted to the vote of the qualified electors of any district or city affected by the change.

Filter Water for Canal Cities.

Panama, Feb. 19.—A filtration plant is to be installed in connection with the water supply of Panama and Colon. An American expert, who examined the water system, said the water supply would be better than that enjoyed by most of the cities of the United States, and that filtration is not necessary, but it was decided to install the plant nevertheless.

TWENTY KILLED.

Heavily Loaded Electric Train Leaves the Track.

New York, Feb. 18.—Sixteen passengers were killed outright, four others have died of their injuries, and at least 50 more were more or less seriously injured in the wreck of the White Plains and Brewster express on the Harlem division of the New York Central & Hudson River railroad, near Woodlawn road in the Bronx borough of Greater New York Saturday evening.

The train left the Grand Central station at 6:13 o'clock, drawn by two heavy electric motors, and loaded with a motley crowd and commuters on their way home from business in the city. It consisted of a combination baggage and smoking car, and five coaches. After stopping at One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street, the train was scheduled to run express to White Plains. At Woodlawn road the four tracks pass through a rough, rocky cut and take a sharp curve. When the train reached the curve it was running at a speed estimated at 60 miles an hour. Both motors and the smoking car swung safely around the curve, but the other cars left the rails and plunged over the sides with a terrific crash, tearing up the tracks for a hundred yards before they collapsed.

The cause of the wreck has not been officially determined. At Grand Central station there was inclination to blame the accident to spreading rails, but later it was said that it was believed that the axle of the first passenger coach broke.

AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN NEXT

Follow Passage of Immigration Bill—California's Case Weak.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The state department is awaiting the disposition by congress of the pending immigration bill before proceeding further with the consideration of the Japanese exclusion question. If the bill is enacted, an immediate effort will be made to come to a formal agreement with the Japanese government that will insure the continuance of the present policy of that government withholding passports to Americans to Japanese laborers.

So far as the pending legislation is concerned, it is stated that there is every reason to believe that it will be acceptable to the Japanese government; at any rate, there has not yet been the slightest sign of disapproval in that quarter.

An interesting fact that has developed in the discussion of the respective rights of state and nation where treaties are involved is that, in at least one case, the California courts have taken the most advanced grounds in favor of the supremacy of the treaties, in one instance holding that the treaty rights of alien to possess real estate could not be destroyed by a state law.

LOSSES MADE KNOWN.

Fire Insurance Companies Suffered to Extent of \$180,000,000.

New York, Feb. 18.—The committee of the five of the thirty-five insurance companies which acted in union in settling their San Francisco losses by fire and earthquake, today made public in this city the list of their net losses by the disaster. The estimated net value of the destroyed or damaged property insured by the 233 companies in San Francisco was \$315,000,000, and there was a net insurance loss of \$180,000,000, covered by 102,000 policies. The gross loss of all kinds by the disaster is estimated by the committee at \$1,600,000,000. The 35 companies, in their settlements, handled \$2,077 claims.

The eight largest settlements on individual buildings were: San Francisco Hotel, \$992,200; Fairmount Hotel, \$200,000; Merchants' Exchange, \$582,000; Shreve building, \$384,497; Spreckels (Call) building, \$515,000; Chronicle building, \$480,000; Palace Hotel, \$1,265,000.

Milk Poisoned With Formaldehyde.

Chicago, Feb. 18.—That thousands of infants in Illinois as well as many larger children, are being sent to premature graves, is indicated by the special report by State Food Commissioner H. A. Jaynes. Commissioner Schuchman points out that 35 cities visited not one escaped having sold within its limits milk from unclean and unsanitary cans and vessels or milk not properly strained, showing a deposit of filth, and in 32 of the cities skimmed milk was sold as standard, and was adulterated with formaldehyde, which authorities pronounce a poison.

Signal Honor for Mulkey.

Washington, Feb. 18.—For half an hour Saturday Senator Mulkey, of Oregon, presided over the senate, while the Japanese question was under discussion.

WATER NEXT SPRING

Minidoka Irrigation Work Is Now Nearly Finished.

GREAT DAM ALREADY COMPLETE

Desert to be Made Fertile—Work Is Now Well Advanced on Boise-Payette Project.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Progress on the Boise-Payette and Minidoka irrigation projects in Idaho during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1906, is extensively reviewed in the fifth annual report of the Reclamation service, now in the hands of the public printer. It is evident from the report that many difficulties have been encountered on both projects, due to the scarcity of labor and the high cost of materials, which made it difficult to award contracts on a favorable basis and made it difficult for contractors to fulfill their agreements. In spite of delays, however, the Minidoka project will be ready for water next spring and the Boise-Payette project will follow along a year later.

From the report it is seen that the total expenditures on the Minidoka project up to June 30, 1906, amounted to \$961,806. The main items are \$280,352 for the main canal, \$339,253 for the Minidoka dam, spillway and diversion channel, and \$178,000 for the distributing system. This project, upon completion, will irrigate from 130,000 to 150,000 acres of land in Central Snake river valley, and ultimately from 50,000 to 70,000 acres additional will be added when the secretary of the interior authorizes the construction of a pumping system on the south side of Snake river.

The Minidoka dam was completed last fall under contract by Bates & Rogers and has proven a complete success. Very satisfactory progress has been made by Orman & Crook and by Hubbard & Carlson, contractors on the main canal, but progress by Monarch & Porter, who hold a part of this same contract, has been very slow. Only 28 per cent of the work under Monarch & Porter's contract was completed March 1, 1906, but their bondsmen then assumed charge, increased the force and completed 50 per cent by the close of the fiscal year. The canal will be ready for distribution of water this season.

RAILROADS CRUEL TO CATTLE.

Government Will Prosecute for Violation of 28-Hour Law.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The department of Justice is about to proceed against a number of railroads for violations of the law relating to the shipment of cattle. This law provides that cattle shipped in interstate commerce shall not be confined in cars longer than 28 hours consecutively without their being unloaded for rest and water, except that in cases where a request is previously made the time may be extended to 36 hours.

In many cases, it is alleged, cattle have been confined in cars without rest, food or water for 50 hours, and in some cases 60 hours. It is the purpose of the government to insist upon the maximum penalty of \$500.

PLOT TO WRECK CRUISER.

Many Rivets Removed From Boilers of Yorktown.

Vallejo, Cal., Feb. 16.—It became known today that a secret inquiry is being held at the Mare Island navy yard in connection with the condition of the boilers of the cruiser Yorktown. The Yorktown had been ordered to Magdalena bay to protect American interests in troubled Central America, but just before starting it was found that her boilers were leaking badly and examination showed that 11 rivets had been removed, apparently deliberately.

Had the Yorktown been allowed to proceed, it is stated that the Bennington horror would have been duplicated.

Cold Water Demonstration.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Temperance advocates, 1,000 strong, marched through the national capital today in support of the bill introduced by Representative Weber, of Ohio, to rid the District of Columbia of the liquor traffic. Men, women and children, representing a score of total abstinence organizations, formed the procession, which moved through the capital for more than two hours, while Mr. Weber and other prohibition advocates were speaking before the house committee on the District of Columbia.

Money for Bay City Fair.

Sacramento, Feb. 16.—The senate today passed the bill appropriating \$300,000 for an international exhibition at San Francisco in 1913 in honor of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the Pacific ocean by Balboa.

MOST LIBERAL IN HISTORY.

River and Harbor Bill Gives Almost All Northwest Asked.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Never before in the history of rivers and harbors legislation has any congress dealt so liberally with the Pacific Northwest as the present congress will do in the pending river and harbor bill. Not only is the aggregate appropriation larger than ever before, but the appropriations more nearly approximate the estimates of the engineers. This is in a very large measure due to the remarkably efficient work of Representative Jones, of Washington, who is on the river and harbor committee as representative of his own and neighboring states. Mr. Jones was in a position to do things, and his accomplishments speak for themselves. Indeed the house has been so very liberal that the senate has nothing left to do, unless it be to raise a few appropriations that fall below the house figures, and it is doubtful if many such increases can be secured, for in every instance where the house cut the estimates on Oregon and Washington projects it was for some specific and very good reason.

In his work in committee Mr. Jones had the active support of Senator Fulton, and the Oregon senator did everything that a man not a member of the committee could do to aid in getting liberal recognition for Oregon and Columbia river projects. There was absolute harmony throughout, and the two men worked together to a common end.

The effectiveness of Mr. Jones' work is found in the figures themselves. The total amount recommended by the engineers for Oregon and Washington projects was \$5,110,244; the total appropriation carried by the house bill is \$4,670,244, a difference of \$440,000. The reductions were on the Cello canal, \$180,000 being taken from the amount recommended and given to the upper river, for which a new project was recommended late in December; on the Willamette and Columbia rivers below Portland, where \$150,000 was deducted, because Portland business men had assured the committee that a new taxation district was to be formed to raise money to aid in this improvement; and the Cascade locks on the Columbia river, where \$105,000 was recommended for grading and filling in behind the completed locks. The committee felt that this work was not urgent, as the canal lock is itself completed.

With these exceptions, the house bill provides the amounts recommended by the engineers, and in the case of Coquille river the committee appropriated \$60,000 when only \$40,000 was asked by the War department. The \$60,000 will complete this project, as shown by the figures of the local engineers, so the committee decided to clear up the whole matter at one time.

The following table gives the various projects and the amounts appropriated by the house bill:

Mouth of Columbia river, \$2,450,244; Dalles-Cello canal, \$600,000; rivers, Portland to sea, \$300,000; Columbia between Cello and mouth of Snake river, \$120,000; Upper Columbia, between Wenatchee and Bridgeport, \$42,000; Upper Columbia and Snake, \$10,000; Coquille river, \$60,000; Coos river, \$3,000; dredge, Oregon and Washington coast harbors, \$100,000; Tillamook bay, \$10,000; improvement of Upper Willamette, \$60,000; Clatskanie, \$500; Cowi's and Lewis rivers, \$50,000; Willapa harbor, \$25,000; Gray's harbor, \$600,000; Gray's inner harbor, \$177,000; Gray's river, \$2,500; Puget sound and tributaries (dredging), \$75,000; Lake Washington canal, \$10,000; Swinomish slough, \$75,000; Okanogan and Pend d'Oreille, \$20,000.

Two Dead, 1,000 Homeless.

Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Feb. 15.—Notwithstanding the rumors in regard to the loss of life as a result of a fire which last night destroyed 90 cottages and residences, three hotels, the Carr memorial church and fully 200 barns and outhouses, entailing a loss of \$200,000, so far as can be learned only two persons lost their lives. They were John Springer, a foreman in the Cotton Belt railroad yard, and a man named Reed, who is said to have gone into a burning building while intoxicated. Nearly 1,000 people are homeless.

Finds Huge Spot on Sun.

Pittsburg, Feb. 15.—Professor John M. Brashers, of the Allegheny observatory, announces the discovery of one of the greatest sunspots ever brought to the attention of astronomers. He says as a result electrical disturbances will be experienced throughout the country tomorrow night. The spot can be seen through smoked glass, but the scientist adds that it is one of the most active of solar spots. Its approximate length is said to be 150,000 miles and 30,000 miles wide, covering an area of about 3,500,000 square miles.

Treaty for Prohibition in Africa.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The senate committee on foreign relations today authorized a favorable report on a general treaty with the powers looking to the suppression of the liquor traffic in Africa by enforcing a prohibitive tariff.