

BRIEF REPORT OF THE DAILY WORK OF NATION'S LAWMAKERS

Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Declaring "calendar Wednesday" was "peculiarly sacred," Speaker Cannon today refused to permit the immediate consideration of a special message sent to congress by President Taft. Less than eighty members were present, in spite of the fact that it was "calendar Wednesday."

Most of the session was taken up with a discussion of the Moon bill for a revision of laws relating to the judiciary.

Taft's special message recommended the adoption of a law authorizing President Taft and officials of the state of Texas to mark the boundary between Texas and New Mexico. The message was read and its consideration suggested but the speaker objected.

The senate today adjourned at 2 o'clock. It will reconvene January 5.

The senate this afternoon adopted the recommendation of the president authorizing him to settle the Texas-New Mexico boundary question.

The physical valuation of railroads is demanded in the report of the interstate commerce commission submitted today to congress. The report refers to "the well known fact that no court, commission, accountant or financial writer would for a moment consider that the present balance sheet in the statement purporting to give 'cost of property' suggests even remotely or in a reliable measure either the money invested or the present value of the railroads."

Tuesday, December 20.

Washington.—The spectacle of a congressman desiring to withdraw from committee a bill for a government appropriation of \$5,000,000 for his constituency and of another congressman opposing the motion was presented in the house of representatives when Julius Kahn, of California, moved that a house committee be discharged from considering a resolution introduced last December asking federal aid for the Panama canal exposition to be held in San Francisco in 1915. In making the motion, Kahn declared that California no longer needed a federal appropriation, having raised \$17,500,000 for the project.

Washington.—In order to conform with the pure food laws, all packages of foods will have to bear a statement of the exact measure of the contents on the label, if a substitute bill to be submitted to the house by Representative Mann, of Illinois, becomes a law. The substitute bill is intended to take the place of Mann's original amendment to the pure food law. Mann decided to change his bill after a conference with Chicago and New York business men.

The death knell of "suspension of the rules" was sounded, so far as the present session is concerned, through the instrumentality of Speaker Cannon, who thereby got a unique revenge. The house had finished the unanimous consent calendar, and Speaker Cannon called up the first bill on the calendar of motions to discharge committees. The measure was a provision for revision and codification of the postal laws. The document contains hundreds of pages, and probably would occupy all the time of a "suspension day" that would last through the remainder of the session. Cannon's ruling will probably cut off all further attempts to suspend the rules.

The appointment of Martin A. Knapp to be a judge of the United States commerce court was confirmed by the senate. Knapp has been chairman of the interstate commerce commission for several years.

Monday, December 19.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The Indian appropriation bill, carrying items aggregating \$9,215,430, was reported to the senate today. The total represents a net increase of \$987,995 over the amount of the bill as it was passed by the house. Of this increase \$600,000 is to carry out the awards to the loyal Lost Creeks, in accordance with an agreement made with that tribe in 1901.

A bill to promote commerce between the United States and foreign countries in wood pulp and the printing paper industry was introduced today by Representative Ferris, of Oklahoma. It provides that wood pulp and printing paper shall be admitted to the United States free of duty, on condition that the government where it is produced and from which it is imported restricts the exportation or imposes an export charge.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The majority and minority reports of the special Ballinger-Pinchot investigating committee will be reported out of the house committee on agriculture without comment. The reports were referred to that committee and members of the committee have been loath to take the question, figuring that the reports having come from a committee should have been left on the speaker's table instead of going to another committee. The committee on agriculture considered the matter briefly, and the plan is to send the reports back to the house.

This will put the matter before the house in the shape that the minority members wish and the motion to adopt the majority report will be followed by a minority proposition to substitute the minority report. Considerable speechmaking on the whole issue is probable before the controversy is out of the way. The question will not come up until after the holiday recess. The government could have saved \$1,500,000 if it could have the battleship New York built in a private yard

instead of at the New York navy yard, according to the testimony of Chief Constructor Watt, of the navy, before the house committee on naval affairs today.

He said there would be material saving to the government if it could build all the vessels by contract.

SATISFY BOTH FAIR CITIES.

Let San Francisco Have Panama Deepwater for New Orleans.

Washington.—A compromise on the Panama exposition question may be considered when congress reconvenes after the holiday recess. It is proposed by congressmen not pledged to either San Francisco or New Orleans that San Francisco shall have the exposition in 1915 to commemorate the opening of the Panama canal, while New Orleans shall hold an exposition in 1918 to commemorate, say, the beginning of work on the lakes-to-the-gulf deep waterway.

It is said this plan has been suggested at the White house and that it has met with the approval of the president. Taft and those who have openly espoused the compromise proposition are said to feel that in no event could New Orleans have a deeper interest than in the completion of, or at least the undertaking of actual work on the deepening of the Mississippi river and the digging of the necessary canals to make it an outlet from the Great Lakes. An exposition to celebrate the event would be in order, it is urged, and New Orleans would be the proper city in which to hold it. With such a compromise, the Crescent city should be urged to withdraw its claim for the Panama canal exposition and permit San Francisco to hold this celebration without further opposition.

An effort will be made to obtain the consent of New Orleans to this plan.

LAND SALES \$12,198,460.

Reclamation Fund Secures More Than Half of Sum.

Washington.—Twenty-three states participated in the division of the money received from public lands during last year, according to figures given out at the general land office. The total amount received from the public land sales totaled approximately \$12,198,460, of which \$5,257,695 was placed in the United States treasury as the net proceeds of the sales, \$6,678,854 went to the credit of the reclamation fund; and \$261,991 was turned over to the United States as its share of the proceeds. Only 15 states participated in the divisions of the reclamation funds. Those states receiving no funds on this account have no reclamation projects within their borders. North Dakota leads with the largest amount turned into the treasury, \$788,974; ranks first in the amount received by the states, \$39,448, but takes third place in the amount given to the credit of the reclamation fund, \$882,714.

South Dakota is second in all the divisions. The net proceeds converted into the treasury from the sale of lands in that state amounted to \$701,395; the amount accredited to the state is \$35,069, and the amount for the reclamation fund is \$948,514.

The third state in the matter of net proceeds turned into the treasury and the amount accredited the state, top those receiving money for the reclamation fund. Montana takes this position. The net proceeds in that state amounted to \$633,175. The amount to the state is \$31,658, and the amount to the reclamation fund is given as \$983,721.

DRY DOCK BIDS OPENED.

Meyer Will Not Raise Eight-Hour Question on Work.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Bids for the construction of the caissons for the dry docks now in process of building at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, naval station, the Puget Sound, Washington, navy yard, and the New York navy yard were opened at the navy department today.

The caissons are built in the shape of vessels, and constitute the gates to the dry docks.

The labor problem raised in connection with the work, involving application of the eight-hour law to the construction of the caissons, was not decided by the attorney general, who said the question was beyond his jurisdiction. The attorney general said the question was one for the courts to decide in case the issue were raised.

The navy department informed bidders that the point would not be brought up by the government, but the department, of course, was unable to speak for the labor interests. In the event the unions raised the question, it would be a subject for judicial determination. The lowest bidder for the New York caisson was the Sear & Triest Company, of New York, whose price was \$122,980. The Moran Company, of Seattle, was the lowest bidder for the other two caissons, their proposal for the Pearl Harbor caissons being \$110,000, and for the Puget Sound structure \$125,000.

UNPREPARED FOR WAR.

Secretary of War Declares United States Could Not Repel Invasion.

Washington.—The full text of the confidential report to congress, prepared by the secretary of war, which declares that the United States is unprepared to repel invasion, has been secured by the press. It is the report which the house refused to receive in secret, and which was withdrawn by order of the President when this refusal was made known.

The report declares that the regular army is deficient in number and defective in other enumerated respects. It says that the organized militia also is deficient in number, lacking in equipment, too widely scattered, and otherwise below the mark. The coast defenses are deficient in equipment and ammunition, the report goes on.

The total authorized strength of the army, including the Philippine and Indian scouts, the Porto Rico regiment and the hospital corps, is 90,790 officers and men. Deductions of non-combatants and men not available leaves approximately 64,000 American combatant officers and men, of whom 47,000 are organized into 15 regiments of cavalry, 6 regiments of field artillery, 30 regiments of infantry, 3 battalions of engineers, and 4 companies of signal troops, and 17,000 are organized into 170 companies of coast artillery.

The total strength of the organized militia is 119,660 officers and men. Deducting the number of men who could not respond to a call, leaves approximately 86,200 combatant officers and men, of whom 82,000 are organized into troops of artillery, cavalry and infantry, and 4,200 are organized for coast defense.

POSTAL BANKS JANUARY 5.

Western Postmasters Confer with Hitchcock About System.

Washington.—Postmaster General Hitchcock says that everything will be in readiness for the Postal Savings Banks to receive deposits on January 5, the first working day of the new year. The task of drawing up regulations, forms and instructions has progressed so far as to assure the beginning of operations.

One experimental office will be opened in each state and territory to make the first test of the service as thorough as possible under the limited appropriation. The offices designated are all of the second class and in localities where conditions are exceptionally favorable for the development of a postal savings business. Several of the offices selected are in communities inhabited by foreign-born Americans, who are remitting annually considerable sums of money to their native countries by postal money orders.

In the last few days, the postmasters at the twelve offices in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast states have been in Washington at the request of the postmaster general for a conference. Among the postmasters taking part were: Bebe, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Harper, Anaconda, Mont.; Emmitt, Klamath Falls, Ore.; and Cavanaugh, Olympia, Wash.

They were instructed how to put the new system into operation, and how the business should be conducted.

EMPLOYEES SHARE PROFITS.

Steel Corporation Distributes Bonus of \$2,700,000.

New York.—The United States Steel Corporation announced its plan for distributing a bonus to the officers and employees of the corporation and subsidiary corporations in accordance with its annual practice.

The sum to be distributed for 1910 amounts to approximately \$2,700,000. The amount is determined by the annual earnings.

The bonus will be paid 60 per cent in common stock at \$70 a share and 40 per cent in cash. Last year the bonus was paid 60 per cent in cash and 40 per cent in preferred stock at \$124 a share, or common stock at \$90 a share.

This year the usual opportunity will be given to subscribe for shares of the corporation on a basis of \$114 a share for preferred and \$70 a share for the common stock.

How Cudahy Settled Estate.

Chicago.—Michael Cudahy left an estate valued at \$11,000,000, only \$2,000,000 of which is in real estate. Except for \$25,000 bequeathed to various charitable institutions, the estate will be held in trust by Joseph M. Cudahy. The widow will receive \$30,000 annually. Mrs. William Cudahy, a sister-in-law, will receive \$6,000 annually for five years, and then \$5,000 annually. At the close of five years six children of the packer will divide the estate, after the widow shall have received \$500,000 in cash.

Island Sinks Into Sea.

Port Limon, Costa Rica.—At least seventy families, variously estimated at from 150 to 170 men, women and children, were drowned through the sinking into the sea of their island home.

The island, in the center of the Ilo Pango lagoon in Salvador, disappeared after a series of earthquake shocks and slid into the depths of the lagoon, carrying with it nearly all the inhabitants.

Ballinger Inquiry \$13,844.

Washington.—The Ballinger-Pinchot congressional investigation cost the country exactly \$13,844, according to a report filed by the secretary of the senate. The expense for stenographers was \$5,701. The costliest witness was Henry K. Love, who came from Fairbanks, Alaska. His fees and mileage cost the country \$531.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

WILSON GROUP BONDED.

Engineers' Visit Expected to Result in Mining Activity.

Wallawa.—An offer to bond the Wilson Basin mines at \$40,000 has been made to the Wilson Basin Mining company, which has run development shafts into two claims on the Wilson Basin ledge 20 miles south of Wallawa. This offer is the result of an investigation into the mining possibilities of this county by H. Stanley Hoskin, a mining engineer from Tucson, Ariz., who has made a careful survey. Hoskin also examined several other ledges and informed the Wilson Brothers that they were throwing tale and carbonates on the dump that carried from \$500 to \$600 a ton. Hoskin's visit to this county is looked upon by mining men as a forerunner of great mining activity.

It has been known for some time that good values existed in the ores of this county, but capital for development is lacking. The offer to bond the Wilson Basin mines for \$40,000 insures the necessary capital, and the owners of the mine will accept it. Assays from this mine show values in gold, silver, copper, tungsten and tin, besides traces of silvinit. An assay of ore taken out at a depth of 20 feet showed 3 per cent tin.

Bean Crop \$150 An Acre.

Medford.—Amos McKee, a farmer in the Applegate valley, has disposed of his crop of brown beans to Medford merchants at a price of 5½ cents a pound. His harvest from six acres amounted to 14,000 pounds. Each acre produced gross returns of \$150. Three years ago Mr. McKee paid \$41 an acre for his land, and each year it has produced three times its original cost.

Beyond the labor expended, beans, according to Mr. McKee, are clear profit, except for a few bushels of seed. The land on which he grows his beans is of a black gravel nature and is under irrigation. After planting, Mr. McKee harrows his land three times and irrigates as often. The beans, when ripe, are pulled up by the roots and allowed to dry on the ground.

When dry, they are thrown into a wagon box and threshed with a fanning mill. The hulls are the finest of stock feed.

Poultry Show Heads Chosen.

Pendleton.—D. C. Gurdane, of Heppner, the man of Barred Plymouth Rock chicken fame, is to head the Umatilla-Morrow county Poultry association for another year. He was selected for the third time at the annual meeting held in the armory at the close of the show. James W. Brown, undertaker at the Baker furniture store and a chicken fancier of the first water, was chosen secretary after E. F. Averill had positively refused to take a third term. The date of the next show was left with the executive committee, but it is almost assured that it will be held in January, 1912, during either the second or fourth week.

New Land Company at Eugene.

Eugene.—The Eugene & Great Western Land company has filed articles of incorporation with the county clerk here and the secretary of state at Salem with a capital stock of \$100,000. The incorporators are O. H. Skotheim and John Baird of Eugene and P. August Peterson, of Albert Lea, Minn. The object of the company is to buy large tracts of land, set them to apples, pears and walnuts, and sell them in smaller tracts to people from the East and Middle West. Sixty or seventy agencies will be established in that part of the country.

Springfield Wakes Up.

Springfield.—That Springfield will soon be an important railroad center was forecast by a statement of H. A. Brandon, of the Southern Pacific, who has spent several days here with surveyors, staking out the 63 acres of depot yards that the road owns here. He said: "Your people will soon be on the main line of the Southern Pacific, and it is only a question of a short time until you will need much greater hotel accommodations." He had reference to the proposed running of trains to California over the Natron cutoff.

Wood Scarce at Hood.

Hood River.—The large sawmill operated at Dec by the Oregon Lumber company is expected to close down next Saturday. The mill has supplied thousands of cords of slab wood for the city, and cutting off of this wood supply will make a material difference in the wood market here. Wood is exceedingly scarce at Hood River this year.

Litter of Pigs Brings Good Price

Wallawa.—Thoroughbred hogs are coming into their own in Wallawa county and several sales of thoroughbreds have been reported within the past few weeks. A litter of pigs from registered Duroc Jersey stock sold recently at \$10 each for the males at weaning time.

MODEL ORCHARD.

Twelve Thousand Apple Trees on Project in Irrigated District.

Freewater.—A model orchard of 160 acres is being established near this place. J. H. Hall, of Freewater, and C. M. Hall, of Walla Walla, are financing the project.

A large force of men has been engaged for several weeks planting the tract to Jonathan, Winesap and Rome Beauty apple trees. This section can now boast of a single tract containing over 12,000 trees. Water for the land will be taken from a large well with ample water to supply the entire tract. The water will be forced all over the project by a pumping plant run by electric power, arrangements for which have been completed.

This tract is planted on the triangular or California system, 76 trees to the acre. There will be three roads graded across the tract. One thousand Carolina poplars have already been planted along these roads. This land has been laid out and planned very systematically from beginning to end. There is room left for a house on each 10 acres, and everything will be uniform throughout.

Growers Hold Hops.

Portland.—With only a handful of hops remaining in control of the growers, and with the visible supply in all hands in this state extremely limited, growers are asking 20c a pound for their hops, and some have entirely withdrawn them from sale.

"The market is entirely blocked at this time," says Herman Klaber. "Growers will not let go. Some are asking 20c a pound, while others will not sell just now at any price."

Short interests are very much alarmed, and therefore trying to dislodge the growers from their hold on the market. Even were growers willing to sell every bale they now possess, there would not be nearly enough hops to fill the orders already taken by shorts. Shorts are said to have sold fully 10,000 bales of Oregon hops for late delivery, but as there are only a couple of thousand bales in the hands of all growers, and less than 10,000 bales in all hands, including dealers, the outlook from a short seller's point of view is extremely gloomy.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat.—Track prices: Bluestem, 73c; club, 81c; red Russian, 80c; valley, 82c; 40 fold, 82c.

Barley.—Feed, \$22.50 per ton; brewing, \$23.50@24 per ton.

Hay.—Track prices: Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$19@20 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$21@22; alfalfa, \$14; grain hay, \$14.50@15.50; clover, \$13@14.

Corn.—Whole, \$29; cracked, \$30 ton.

Oats.—No. 1 white, \$28@28.50 ton.

Poultry.—Hens, 14½@15c; springs, 14@14½; ducks, white, 18@20c; geese, 13@14c; turkeys, alive, 22@25c; dressed, choice, 23@25c; squabs, \$2 per dozen.

Eggs.—Oregon ranch, candled, 42½c; Eastern, April, 30@33c per dozen; Eastern, fresh, 37½c per dozen.

Butter.—City creamery, extra, 1 and 2 pound prints, in boxes, 37c per pound; less than boxes, cartons and delivery extra.

Pork.—Fancy, 11c per pound.

Veal.—Fancy, 85 to 125 pounds, 13@14c per pound.

Apples.—King, 40@75c per box; Wolf River, 75c@81; Waxen, 75c@81; Baldwin, 75c@81.25; Northern Spy, 75c@81.25; Snow Banana, \$1.75@4.50; Red Cheek Pippin, 75c@81.25.

Sack Vegetables.—Carrots, \$1@1.25 hundred; parsnips, \$1@1.25; turnips, \$1; beets, \$1.25@1.50.

Potatoes.—Oregon, \$1.25@1.35 per hundred; sweet potatoes, \$3.50 per hundred.

Onions.—Buying price, \$1.25 per hundred.

Green Fruits.—Pears, \$1.25@2 per box; grapes, \$1.75@2; cranberries, \$12@12.50 per barrel.

Vegetables.—Beans, 12½c per pound; cabbage, \$1@1.25 per hundred; cauliflower, \$2@2.25 per crate; celery, California, \$3 per crate; bothouse lettuce, \$1@1.25 per box; peppers, 10c per lb.; pumpkins, 1@1½c per lb.; sprouts, 7@8c; squash, 1@1½c per lb.

Hops.—1910 crop, 14@16; 1909 crop, 10c; contracts, 12@12½c.

Wool.—Eastern Oregon, 13@17c lb.; valley, 17@19c per lb.

Mohair.—Choice, 30@33c per pound.

Cattle.—Prime steers, \$6.50@7; good to choice steers, \$6@6.50; fair to good steers, \$4.75@5.25; common steers, \$4@4.50; choice to prime cows, \$4.75@5.75; good to choice beef cows, \$4.25@4.75; fair to good beef cows, \$3.75@4.25; common to fair beef cows, \$2@3.50; good to choice heifers, \$4.75@5; fair to good heifers, \$4.50@4.75; common to fair heifers, \$4@4.25; choice to good fat bulls, \$4@4.25; fair to good fat bulls, \$3.50@4; common bulls, \$2.50@3.25; good to choice light calves, \$7@7.50; fair to good light calves, \$6.50@7; good to choice heavy calves, \$5.25@6; fair to good heavy calves, \$4.75@5.25; common calves, \$3.75@4.75; good to choice stags, \$4.50@5; fair to good stags, \$4@4.50.

Hogs.—Choice hogs, \$8@8.75; good to choice hogs, \$7.50@7.75.

Sheep.—Yearling wethers, grain fed, \$4.75@5; old wethers, grain fed, \$4.25@4.50; choice ewes, grain fed, \$3.75@4; good to choice ewes, grain fed, \$3.25@3.75; feeders, \$2.25@3; choice lambs, grain fed, \$6@7; good to choice, grain fed, \$5.50@5.75; poor lambs, \$4.95@5. Hay fed sheep and lambs, 50c lower than grain fed.