

LXINGTON WHEATFIELD

S. A. THOMAS, Publisher

LXINGTON..... OREGON

NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

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

There is little hope of King Oscar's recovery.

The Mexican government has assumed control of its principal railroads.

The president will endorse ship subsidy in a special message to congress after the holidays.

Two lake steamers collided off Duluth and it is feared one of the vessels is lost together with 31 men.

The Northern Pacific announces an increase in its capital stock from \$155,000,000 to \$250,000,000.

All copper properties in the United States and Mexico are now controlled by Standard Oil interests.

An amendment to the rate law has been introduced allowing newspaper publishers and railroad companies to exchange tickets and advertising.

The kaiser is in conflict with the Clericals and Socialists, and a more bitter church war is promised in Germany than that now on in France.

North Dakota and Minnesota are without fuel and a severe blizzard is raging. There is much suffering and death is expected as a result of the cold.

The mother of Dr. Osler, who advocates death for persons on reaching 60, hats just celebrated her 100th birthday and does not appear to be in the way even at that advanced age.

King Oscar, of Sweden, is seriously ill.

Andrew Carnegie favors an inheritance tax.

Church affairs in France are assuming a serious aspect.

A blizzard has tied up railroad traffic in North Dakota.

Roosevelt has yielded to congress and will drop the spelling reform.

The Pittsburg chamber of commerce proposes suppression of divorce news.

Poachers are slaughtering elk in the Yellowstone park preserves to secure their teeth.

Roosevelt will send a sensational message to congress in a few days on the Japanese question.

In the trial of the new battleship Kansas every test was successful. Her speed exceeds 18 knots.

Harriman claims the car shortage is due to the car builders. He says over a year ago he ordered 16,000 freight cars, and they are just being delivered.

The Interstate Commerce commission says there is not a single large railway system but what can go into its big terminal yards any day and gather 500 empty freight cars.

Senator Brown is at the point of death.

Democrats in the house oppose Moody's confirmation as supreme judge.

Mexico had a net surplus of \$20,000,000 for the year ending June 30, 1906.

Three women are implicated in the Nebraska land frauds now on trial at Omaha.

Representative Kahn, of California, is very bitter against Japanese immigration.

France has expelled the pope's agents and is otherwise pushing the war on the church.

Rockefeller has offered \$100,000 toward missionary work in Egypt and the Soudan.

The Spanish government is considering the question of placing an import duty on wheat.

Ice blocks the "Soo" canal and there is a great fleet of vessels at each end waiting to get through.

Roosevelt will drop Bristol if the senate refuses to confirm him as United States attorney for Oregon.

The Russian minister of foreign affairs declares it will not be necessary to borrow money again in the near future.

Commissioner Garfield says Federal license is the method which will control the trusts and corporations in the future and is the only solution.

Religious strife is assured in France. Mayor Schmitz wants the time of his trial extended.

Canada is also having trouble with Japanese coolies.

The pope declares nothing will stop the struggle in France except victory for the church.

RAISE OFFICIAL SALARIES.

Party Leaders in House Agree to Discuss the Question.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The house is seemingly inclined to raise the salaries of the members as well as those of the vice president, speaker, senators and cabinet officers. Before resuming consideration of the legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill yesterday, Littauer, of New York, endeavored to have a resolution adopted providing for taking up the question in the committee of the whole, but Underwood, of Alabama, objected to its consideration in committee. He said, however, he would make no objection to its discussion in the house after the bill was reported by the committee of the whole.

He added that he was opposed to the increase, but said he would not block the way of serious consideration. His suggestion formed the basis of an agreement that, when the bill shall be reported, the question of a general advance in salaries will be taken up and voted upon as an amendment before the legislative bill is finally acted upon.

The resolution increases the salaries of senators and representatives to \$7,500 and makes other increases in official salaries. The resolution also fixes the salaries of the vice president and speaker at \$15,000 and of cabinet officers at \$12,000.

SHOULD BUILD OWN WARSHIPS

Admiral Capps Says Government Has Proved Ability.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The ability of the government navy yard to turn out warships equal in all respects to those built under contract, in the opinion of Rear Admiral Capps, of the bureau of construction of the Navy, in his annual report, has been fully demonstrated. He urges that at least one yard on the Pacific coast and one on the Atlantic coast, when practicable, should be given a reasonable proportion of new construction work in order that such yards may always be available for any work the government may desire to undertake therein.

Admiral Capps admits that it costs less to build a warship by contract by reason of the shorter hours of labor, paid holidays, vacations, etc., granted to navy yard employes, but he believes nevertheless that the government should be always prepared to turn out its own ships in times of emergency. The lack of suitable docking facilities at Norfolk and Mare Island is commented upon as being especially embarrassing to the bureau, as no battleships of any class can be docked at either of those yards.

GREATEST MARINE MONSTER

Plans for American Dreadnaught Provide for Fighting Wonder.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Congress yesterday received from the secretary of the Navy the plans which the department has had drawn up for the big battleship provided for in the last session. Four plans were submitted by the bureau of construction and six by private firms and individuals. The plan recommended provides a ship in many respects superior to any other built or building. It was prepared by the construction bureau.

According to the specifications the broadside fire will be greater than that of any other battleship, the elevation of the guns will be greater, with consequent increase of range; the defensive qualities improved over present standards and the total weight of the hull and armor will exceed by over 3,000 tons any other similar vessel. The ship is to be 510 feet long, 85 feet 2½ inches beam, 27 feet draft, 20,000 tons displacement, 2,300 tons coal capacity and 21 knots speed. The design submitted by G. W. Dickie, late of the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, provided for a ship 490 feet long.

Jews to be Brought West.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—Realizing the congested conditions of the Jewish quarters of Chicago, New York and other large cities, leading New York Jews are planning to divert Jewish immigration to the West. Jacob Schiff, the New York banker, discussed the subject yesterday with Judge Julian W. Mack. The plan contemplates the organizing of an association financed by Mr. Schiff and other leading American Jews, which will undertake to send Jewish immigration to the South and to the extreme western part of the country.

Dangerous Counterfeit Issued.

New York, Dec. 14.—One of the best counterfeits that has recently come to the notice of the government authorities found its way to the sub-treasury yesterday. It is a \$10 silver certificate bearing the Buffalo imprint. The back of the bill is even a closer counterfeit than the face, but both are good enough to deceive any but experts.

IN THE NATIONAL HALLS OF CONGRESS

Friday, Dec. 14.

Washington, Dec. 14.—But for the cowardice of 100 members of congress, the house today would have adopted the amendment to the legislative appropriation bill increasing the salaries of senators and representatives from \$5,000 to \$7,500 per annum. Practically every man who voted against the increase did so from fear that his vote would react and result in his defeat two years hence, and nearly every man who voted negatively saw a grab in the legislation proposed. The legislation was entirely meritorious.

The three congressmen from Washington voted for the increase. Binger Hermann voted against it, but he would not be a beneficiary. French, of Idaho, was not present.

Representative Jones, of Washington, today introduced a bill proposing to increase by 20 per cent the salaries of all civil service employes of the government on July 1 next.

The first salary amendment to the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill today was moved by Littauer, of New York, and was as follows:

"On and after March 4, 1907, the compensation of the speaker of the house of representatives and vice president of the United States shall be at the rate of \$12,000 each."

By a vote of 214 to 51 the amendment was adopted. Littauer also introduced an amendment increasing the salaries of the members of the president's cabinet to \$12,000 each, effective on and after March 4, 1907.

On division, the amendment was adopted 204 to 60. Littauer also offered an amendment increasing the salaries of senators, representatives in congress and delegates from territories to \$7,500 per annum. On a rising vote after considerable debate, the amendment was defeated by a vote of 135 to 161.

After disposing of the salary question the house passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill.

Thursday, December 13.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The senate today listened to the second speech which has been made this session against the continuance of Reed Smoot as senator from Utah. It was delivered by Dubois, of Idaho, who, after reviewing in detail the workings of the Mormon hierarchy and Smoot's prominent connection therewith, concluded with the charge that President Roosevelt used the weight of his administration to assist the Republican Mormon vote in the last election.

A bill was passed providing regulations for fishing vessels to prevent collisions at sea. Adjournment was taken at 4 p. m. until Monday.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The house today, on the request of Representative Pollard, of Nebraska, adopted a resolution directing the judiciary committee to investigate the legal questions involved in the much-criticized payment of a sum of money to Mr. Pollard for the period between March 4, 1905, and July 18, 1905, at which time Mr. Pollard was elected to the 59th congress, to succeed Hon. E. J. Burkett, who was elected to the senate.

A resolution was adopted calling upon the secretary of the Interior for a complete description of all public lands which have been withdrawn or reserved from entry since July, 1906, together with the reason for such action. The report is desired that congress may pass upon the president's recommendations for the withdrawal of coal lands.

Representative Lacey, of Iowa, introduced a bill making \$12 the minimum monthly pension to be paid veterans of the war of 1861.

Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The house of representatives today went on record in opposition to the new spelling as recommended by the president. By a vote of 142 to 25 the following was adopted as a substitute for the item reported by the appropriations committee in the executive, legislative and judicial appropriation bill:

"No money appropriated in this act shall be used in connection with printing documents authorized by law or ordered by congress or any branch thereof, unless the same shall conform to the orthography recognized and used by dictionaries of the English language."

Washington, Dec. 12.—The senate

Investigate Hill Lines in January. Washington, Dec. 12.—Chairman Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce commission, said today that it had not been decided where or when the investigation of the Hill lines will take place. It is known, however, that inquiries will be made at St. Paul and Chicago, and it is probable that Commissioners Prouty and Lane will conduct them. It is not believed that the work will start much before January 15, after the Harriman investigations, in which the inquiries will be made probably December 26 or 27.

today confirmed the nominations of William H. Moody, of Massachusetts, to be an associate justice of the Supreme court of the United States; Charles J. Bonaparte, of Maryland, to be attorney general; Victor H. Metcalf, of California, to be secretary of the navy, and Oscar S. Straus, of New York, to be secretary of commerce and labor.

The feature today was a speech by Senator Rayner upholding the states' rights doctrines as involved in the present Japanese question on the Pacific coast.

Resolutions were agreed to calling upon the president for information regarding the seizure by Mexico of the fishing schooner Silas Stearns, and directing the secretary of war to furnish information regarding alleged experiments with cholera virus at Manila resulting in 10 or more deaths.

The senate in executive session ratified the general act by the delegates of the powers represented at the conference which met at Algiers, Spain, in April last, to draft a treaty concerning Moroccan affairs. Opposition by the Democrats compelled the adoption of a resolution disclaiming responsibility for the participation of the United States in the program arranged by the conference as to the future of Morocco.

Tuesday, Dec. 11.

Washington, Dec. 11.—The question of Senator Reed Smoot's right to a seat as United States senator from Utah was discussed by Senator Burrows in the senate today for more than three hours. The senator had carefully prepared his speech, which received the closest attention throughout by a large attendance of senators and crowded galleries. Smoot occupied his place in the chamber. No interruptions were made during the entire speech, which was an arraignment of Mormonism and the responsibility which attached to Smoot for Mormon principles as a member of the apostolic body in the church.

Washington, Dec. 11.—This was a field day for oratory in the house. The executive, legislative and judicial appropriation bill afforded an opportunity for general debate covering a wide range of subjects, from a dissertation on Alfred Nobel, the founder of the Nobel prize, to the raising of salaries of members of congress and including a discussion of simplified spelling.

Boutell, of Illinois, in speaking of the bestowal of the Nobel prize upon President Roosevelt, praised the president's decision to use this money in establishing a fund for bringing about a friendly understanding between capitalists and laborers as "noble, humanitarian and characteristic."

Gaines, of Tennessee, urged increases of salaries for members of congress beginning with the Sixty-first congress. Murdock, of Kansas, spoke on railway mail pay.

The house at 5:05 adjourned until noon tomorrow, no action looking to the close of general debate on the bill having been taken.

Monday, Dec. 10.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The senate committee on judiciary today authorized a favorable report on the nomination of William H. Moody, the present attorney general, to be an associate justice of the Supreme court of the United States.

A favorable report was ordered also on the nomination of Charles J. Bonaparte, the present secretary of the Navy, to be attorney general, and Alfred W. Cooley to be assistant attorney general. Many other nominations were reported favorably.

The nomination of Leffeus R. Wilfley to be judge of the United States Circuit court for China was referred to a committee of Senators Spooner and Bacon, who are members of the foreign relations committee.

The nomination of George B. Cortelyou to be secretary of the Treasury and James R. Garfield to be secretary of the Interior, will be taken up tomorrow at a special meeting of the senate committee on finance.

The senate committee on commerce has been polled and will report favorably the nomination of Oscar Straus to be secretary of Commerce and Labor.

More Evidence for Negro Troops.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Gilchrist S. Stewart, representing the Constitutional league, has filed with the president a mass of additional evidence regarding the Brownsville affair which resulted in the discharge without honor of a battalion of colored infantry.

Sell Indian Minors' Land.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Representative Jones today introduced a bill authorizing the sale of the land of Indian minors on petition of parents or guardians on of the Indian agent in charge, subject to the approval of the secretary of the interior. At present large areas of land under government irrigation projects and in rich agricultural districts are tied up because minors are unable to utilize the land and unable to dispose of it. The bill is intended particularly to dispose of the land of Indian children on the Yakima reservation.

SHOULD BE CITIZENS.

President Makes a Strong Plea for Porto Rican People.

Washington, Dec. 12.—In a special message sent to congress yesterday, President Roosevelt strongly advocates granting citizenship to the people of Porto Rico, and recommends other reforms. He begins by reviewing his recent tour of the island and declares we have cause to be proud of our representatives there, adding:

"It would be impossible to wish a more faithful, a more efficient and a more disinterested public service than that now being rendered in the island of Porto Rico by those in control of the insular government."

He speaks in terms of high praise of the schools and the devotion of the teachers, both native and American. He compliments the insular police and the Porto Rico regiment of infantry, recommending that the latter be made permanent. He comments on the rapid growth of sugar and tobacco culture, and says the imports and exports last year were \$45,000,000, against \$18,000,000 in 1901, and \$23,000,000 in 1896, the best year prior to American annexation. In conclusion he says:

"All the insular governments should be placed in one bureau, either in the department of War or the department of State. It is a mistake not so to arrange our handling of these islands at Washington as to be able to take advantage of the experience gained in one, when dealing with the problems that from time to time arise in another."

"In conclusion, let me express my admiration for the work done by the congress when it enacted the law under which the island is now being administered. After seeing the island personally, and after five years' experience in connection with the administration, it is but fair to those who devised this law to say that it would be well nigh impossible to have devised any other which in the actual working would have accomplished better results."

NEW PLAN TO BUY SUPPLIES.

Keep Commission Proposes to Put it on Business Basis.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The committee on department methods, popularly known as the Keep commission, has submitted to the president its report on the standardization and method of purchase of department supplies. The report reviews at some length the present unbusinesslike and needlessly expensive method of purchasing supplies, by which each of the several departments in Washington has its own standards of quality and makes its own purchases entirely independent of others.

Briefly, the report is as follows: Provision is made by which the preparation of the schedules, advertising for proposals and making the contracts for the purchase of department supplies are placed in the hands of a board to be known as the general supply committee, such board to be under the supervision and control of the secretary of commerce and labor. The head of each department or independent bureau to serve as a member. The board thus constituted is hereafter to purchase the department supplies heretofore acted upon by the board of award. The committee, however, makes exceptions in the case of the military and scientific departments of the government.

TWO EMPIRES STARVING.

Claims of Chinese and Russian Famine Sufferers Conflict.

Washington, Dec. 12.—For the present at least no governmental appeal will be made to the people of the United States for aid for the famine sufferers of China. This decision was reached after the State department had communicated with Louis Klopsch, of the Christian Herald, who raised \$200,000 for the Japanese sufferers, and who regards the Russian famine as infinitely worse, 30,000,000 people or twice the number suffering in China being affected.

According to letters received by Mr. Klopsch, 40,000 square miles in China, supporting a population of 15,000,000, have been flooded and so great is the destitution that many parents are drowning their children rather than see them starve, and are themselves committing suicide.

Japanese Veterans Coming.

Honolulu, Dec. 12.—Many Japanese laborers wearing war medals arrived here today, on the steamer Nippon Maru, from Yokohama. Labor Commissioner Sargent, who came here from Washington recently, in connection with labor matters, said today that the plantations should pay better wages, and that he disapproved of Filipino immigration. General Harrison Gray Otis, of Los Angeles, was a passenger on the Nippon Maru. He expressed himself as being opposed to Japanese naturalization and immigration.

King of Cigarette Fiends.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—Julius Persky, of Hammond, Ind., died last night from excessive smoking of cigarettes. He said that he had smoked 500,000 cigarettes during his lifetime. His only sustenance for three months had been diluted alcohol and cigarettes.