

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.

The Japanese are sending large forces against Vladivostok.

Edwin H. Morgan, of Aurora, N. Y., has been appointed United States minister to Corea.

Admiral Sigsbee, commanding the Carribean squadron, reports all quiet in Santo Domingo.

Two miners were killed and a number seriously injured in a strike riot at Hibbing, Minnesota.

The houses of two nonunion miners at Blossburg, Alabama, were blown up by dynamite and a child killed.

The Chicago teamsters' strike continues without any material change. Riots are of frequent occurrence.

The Franklin county, Kentucky, grand jury has returned about 400 indictments against the Standard Oil company for failure to take out peddlars' license.

The question of the government accepting railroad rebates on material used in connection with the irrigation reclamation service has been referred to the attorney general for an opinion.

Dutch warships have reported to their government the commencement of a naval battle between the Japanese and Russian squadrons near the Anambas islands, east of the Malay peninsula.

Japanese cruisers have been seen headed for Singapore.

The Japanese have complete plans of the Vladivostok fortifications.

Commissioner Garfield has started his investigation into the doings of the Standard Oil in Kansas.

A Little Rock, Ark., lodge of Knights of Pythias accidentally killed a man who was being initiated.

The third trial of Nan Patterson for the murder of Caesar Young has been postponed a week in order to get new witnesses.

Russian school boys placed a quantity of explosive behind a picture of the czar, blowing it into fragments and injuring four pupils.

The Russian fleet can't get into Saigon and may seize a Dutch island. The Dutch East Indies squadron has gone north to preserve neutrality.

The teamsters strike in Chicago is the cause of many riots. Streets are barricaded and serious conflicts have occurred between police and strikers.

The controller of the treasury has issued a decision in which he condemns the Interior department for accepting railroad rebates on irrigation material, in violation of the very law the government is trying to enforce.

Senator Platt is much improved in health.

The battleship Minnesota has been successfully launched.

Hundreds of persons were killed by the collapse of a reservoir at Madrid, Spain.

The Japanese government has ordered 500,000 gunstocks from a Cedar Rapids, Iowa, manufacturer.

The St. Petersburg war office claims that the Baltic fleet has eluded Togo's ships and will reach Vladivostok in safety.

Experiments at Illinois insane asylums show that women are more capable of handling the patients than men attendants.

The Federal grand jury at Portland has finished its work and has been dismissed. Seven more indictments were returned. State Senator Booth and his brother are among those implicated in the latest disclosures of land frauds.

The government is after the Klamath Irrigation company, in Southern Oregon, for diverting water from the Klamath river without permission of congress.

Eight men were killed at Allisonia, Virginia, by the premature explosion of a charge of powder.

Three hundred American marines have been sent to Santo Domingo.

Two prominent Mexican scientists declare that the tapeworm will kill consumption germs.

The fight against the Standard Oil company has been carried into North Dakota by the independent dealers.

Reports from the interior of India show that hundreds of soldiers were killed by the recent earthquake.

Paris is in a ferment over the supposed plot against the French republic. More prominent men have been arrested.

All Chicago teamsters are out and the strike threatens to spread to other branches. Trouble between the Garmentmakers' union and Montgomery, Ward & Co. was the start of the strike.

Oregon has secured perfect title for The Dalles-Celilo canal and the work will soon be taken up by the government.

NO HOPE OF TARIFF REVISION.

Hansbrough Says Next Session Will Be Devoted to Rate Question.

Washington, April 11. — Senator Hansbrough, of North Dakota, a strong advocate of a readjustment of the tariff, believes that the chance of tariff revision has passed and that nothing will be done in the immediate future looking to the readjustment of the Dingley rates to meet changing conditions. While Mr. Hansbrough is a strong protectionist, he believes the existing tariff should be readjusted, but he has come to the conclusion that the stand-patters have convinced the president that no revision is necessary.

He thinks the postponement of the extra session until October 15 put an end to all chance of tariff revision. It is his opinion, and the view is shared by many other men in Washington, that a session called to meet October 15 for the purpose of passing a railroad rate bill will not find opportunity to consider another such weighty topic as the tariff. He declares that congress will consume the time from October 15 to December 1 in organizing committees and getting ready for actual work. He furthermore believes that the two or three weeks preceding the holiday recess will be wasted on some pretext or other, and that congress will not get down to business before the second week in January. In his opinion it will be easy enough to drag out the discussion of the railroad rate bill through the entire long session, leaving no time for a consideration of a tariff bill. This being the situation, as he sees it, Mr. Hansbrough has abandoned all hope of having the tariff revised.

PUT NO TRUST IN MINES

Fortification Experts Favor Submarines for Coast Defense.

Newport, R. I., April 11.—The third committee of the fortification board, of which Admiral Charles N. Thomas, U. S. N., is chairman, is devoting special attention to the dangers incident to the use of submarine mines, and it is learned that emphasis will be placed on the advantage of substituting submarine boats for mines for harbor defense. Discussing this subject, a member of the committee said today:

"Mines cannot be relied on in times of war. Trials given submarines in Narragansett bay resulted unsuccessfully, due chiefly to the strong currents which sweep through the harbor and entrances to the bay and make these defenses extremely dangerous. This is one of the important subjects that the fortification board has already taken up and will thoroughly examine during the inspection of fortifications and the land and floating defenses.

"The established fact that a number of the Russian warships were blown up by their own submarine mines, and the present practice in England of discarding submarine mine defenses to a great extent in harbors where there are wide channels to defend and where the tides are strong, and placing these submarine boats, has added to the sentiment in favor of replacing mines with boats."

JAPANESE EQUALLY CONFIDENT

Believe Russian Fleet Has Secret Base in Pacific Ocean.

Tokio, April 11.—Vice Admiral Rojstvensky's second Pacific squadron has not been reported since it passed Singapore. Its whereabouts and the plans of Rojstvensky are subjects of the keenest speculation.

It is quite generally assumed that Rojstvensky does not desire an immediate battle and that he will attempt to reach Vladivostok, where there are docks and shops, or seize a base. The latter course is deemed unsatisfactory, on account of poor facilities and the danger of political complications.

Many believe that the Russian naval commander has a second rendezvous in the Pacific ocean, and that he will speedily quit the China sea and go eastward of the Philippines. If Vladivostok is his objective, the Pacific is considered to be more favorable for the accomplishment of his purpose, although it largely depends on Rojstvensky himself.

The Japanese newspapers and public express relief and pleasure over the approach of the Russian squadron, and confidence that Togo will win.

Put Togo Between Two Fires.

St. Petersburg, April 11.—There is reason to believe that Vice Admiral Rojstvensky's entrance into the China sea has been followed by orders for the cruisers which have been ready for some time at Vladivostok to put to sea. Their appearance outside the roadstead of Vladivostok will constitute a potential threat against Admiral Togo's rear which will compel the retention in or dispatch of a number of fighting ships to Japanese waters. Thus Admiral Togo seems to be actually placed between two fires.

New Mexican Steamer Lines.

Mexico City, April 11.—Considerable progress has been made toward the inauguration of a steamship line between Mexican gulf ports and Canada and it is probable that steamers of the new line will begin their trips next month. The question has arisen as to whether steamers shall call at Cuban ports, as first intended and afterward changed. The government objects to making stops at Cuban ports, but it is hoped to secure its consent to this.

Designs for Mexico's New Coins.

Mexico City, April 11.—President Diaz has issued a decree regulating the designs for the new coins of the republic. Provision is made for the new gold coins of \$10 and \$5 each, and for new silver dollars differing but slightly from the present coins.

SEA FIGHT AT HAND

Hostile Fleets are Fast Approaching Each Other.

BOTH SEEN NEAR SINGAPORE

Russians Going in Direction of South China Sea, Most Probable Scene of Battle.

Singapore, April 8.—The "bell" is general here that a desperate engagement for the control of the seas is imminent off here between the Japanese defensive fleet, under command of Admiral Togo, and the Russian fleet commanded by Vice Admiral Rojstvensky. The two fleets are rapidly approaching each other, and naval experts here believe that a battle which will decide whether or not Japan is to retain supremacy on the ocean as well as on land will be fought within a fortnight.

The captain of a coasting steamer which has put into Penang reports having passed a fleet of 27 armorclads 70 miles to the southeast. The fleet was flying no colors, and when he altered his course to inspect the warships a destroyer sailed up and admonished him to turn back. The warning was promptly heeded.

Several Chinese junks that have arrived here bring the news that the converted fast merchantmen, formerly in the Yokohama-San Francisco trade, are patrolling every avenue through which the Russian fleet might pass in their rush toward Vladivostok, and the bulk of Admiral Togo's big fleet is kept in position where it can be hurled against the Russians as soon as sighted.

Accompanying the main body of the fleet are two floating furnaces that were built at Sasebo, and which are designed to repair all damage that may result to the fleet in its cruising operations. On these ships are mounted huge floating cranes, with which disabled guns can be lifted and which are expected to prove of great service, should the Japanese suffer at the hands of the Russians.

It is the general opinion that the battle will take place in the China sea, and there is a diversity of opinion as to the outcome. While it is admitted that the Japanese fleet has the advantage of seasoned men and experienced commanders, it is also sure that the Russian admiral will enjoy the advantage in weight of metal, and that he has improved the marksmanship of his gunners in the long voyage across is also sure. The battle is sure to be one of the most desperately contested in the history of naval warfare and the element of luck may play a large part in its outcome.

INSTALLING BLOCK SIGNALS.

Northern Pacific Making Extensive Improvements for Safety of Traffic.

St. Paul, April 8.—President Howard Elliott has authorized important improvements tending to increase public safety which will place the Northern Pacific system second on the list of American railways in the installation of the block system for the current year.

The new improvements will afford continuous signal protection over all the principal districts of heavy traffic from the eastern terminus at St. Paul through to the Pacific coast. Construction has already commenced and will be rushed forward to completion. The districts over which new block signal protection will be afforded will add 613.5 miles to that already in use and are as follows:

Minneapolis to Staples, Minn.; Livingston, Mont., to Logan, Mont.; Garrison to Dixon, Mont.; Spokane, Wash., to Pasco, Wash.; Pasco to Ellensburg, Wash.; and Seattle to Tacoma.

The block system being installed is the "telegraph block," a system found satisfactory on all lines now using it over long stretches.

Buy Out Colville Indians.

Washington, April 8.—Representative Jones today requested the secretary of the interior to send an inspector to Washington to negotiate an agreement with the Colville Indians under which they will consent to the opening of the unallotted lands of the south half of their reservation. He urged that such an agreement be made in time for submission to congress next winter. It is probable that Inspector McLaughlin will be sent to negotiate with the Colvilles this summer. The north half may also be purchased.

Plot Against the Republic.

Paris, April 8.—Much mystery surrounds the arrest of an ex-captain of the army on the charge of conspiracy against the public security, and the seizure in the same connection of a large number of cartridges and uniforms. The parties concerned seek to explain that it was intended to use the arms in a mission to the Ivory coast, but the activity of the secret police leads to reports of plots against the security of the government.

Should Agree on Life-Saving.

Washington, April 8.—The British ambassador, Sir Mortimer Durand, called upon Acting Secretary of State Loomis today to urge a reciprocal arrangement between America and Great Britain respecting the equipment of ocean going steam vessels with life saving devices. The proposition was referred to the department of Commerce and Labor.

WEST TO DIG CANAL.

Chairman Shonts Says It Will Furnish the Right Men.

Chicago, April 10.—Western men are to have a long leeway allowance in the selection of capable engineers and contractors for the work of the Panama canal. Not that there is going to be a sectional discrimination in selecting the subordinates who serve under the new canal commission, but, as Chairman T. P. Shonts said today:

"We wish to employ the men who have practical knowledge of direct construction work, who can do the best and most effective work for the government in the shortest reasonable time and for the best legitimate price—and I love western men."

"I had intended to make certain appointments before my departure for the East, but for purely business reasons I have decided to hold them off. I leave for New York tomorrow, and from there go to Washington, to be with the commission until such time in the near future as I can leave for Panama."

"In selecting superintendents, foremen, engineers and the other skilled labor to be employed on the canal, we will dig up the man that can think, act and do honestly in the best way for the best interests of the United States government. We want the practical man who has had construction experience. And Western men in railway work have had this."

DEAD BY THOUSANDS.

Whole Towns Destroyed by Recent Indian Earthquake.

Calcutta, April 10.—Telegraphic communication with Dharmasala has been restored. The latest accounts show that the earthquake was even more disastrous than at first believed. Of a total population of nearly 5,000 in the town of Kangra, it is believed that only 600 are left alive. Many of these have fled.

Of the police only a deputy inspector and four sergeants are alive. Many people are still imprisoned in the ruins. Dharmasala, Kangra, Palampur, Dhanwan and all of the neighboring villages were completely wrecked. Scarcely a building remains standing. Not much damage was done at Haripur, Deragopur, Nadampur or Hamirpur.

Suyanpur, having a population of about 6,000 souls, is reported to be in ruins. The shocks still continue. There is no news from Kulu valley. According to native rumors, a great amount of damage has been done. An official dispatch from Dharmasala says the place is a scene of desolation. Owing to the scarcity of labor, great difficulty is experienced in excavating the ruins, but the Gorkhas are doing excellent work.

CAVALRY IS RAIDING.

Russian Bands Roam Around Enemy's Flanks and Rear.

Harbin, April 10.—Detachments of Russian cavalry are actively reconnoitering the Japanese flanks and even the rear. One detachment of them has even penetrated to Erdakizlie, where it was brought to a stop by Japanese entrenchments. Before retiring, however, it is said they succeeded in cutting the railroad and burning the depot and stores.

The detachment brought back news that a fortnight ago a mixed Japanese division of 10,000 men with artillery left the Japanese rear and disappeared into Mongolia and was followed a few days ago by another detachment of 5,000 men. These troops are expected to appear in the region of Bodum, which, unfortunately, is connected with the base by only poor roads. Kirin is in the same plight, and the loss of the narrow gauge rolling stock abandoned at Mukden is especially felt.

Chinese report that the Japanese are energetically transporting siege guns toward Kirin.

A heavy snow fell again Friday, but it is melting and swelling the rivers. As an indication of the popularity of the old veteran, General Linievitch, he is receiving hundreds of telegrams of congratulation on his appointment as commander in chief.

Extradition Treaty with Panama.

Panama, April 10.—Ratifications of the extradition treaty between the United States and Panama signed here May 25, 1904, were exchanged today. This treaty was one of the first conventions between the two countries and was prepared in some haste to meet conditions on the isthmus growing out of the influx there from the United States of a number of adventurers attracted by the prospects of active operations on the canal. This convention is in the latest form, and covers crimes of a serious character.

Colton Will Work for Morales.

Washington, April 10.—Colonel G. R. Colton, who is to be supervising collector of the Dominican revenues, was at the War department today previous to his departure to Santo Domingo. He received final instructions from Secretary Taft regarding his duty. He was especially instructed that in all he was doing or should do in Santo Domingo he was not the agent of the United States, but the agent of President Morales.

Health Good on Canal Zone.

Washington, April 10.—The report of Colonel Gorgas, chief sanitary officer in the Panama canal zone, for the month of February, as to the health conditions existing among the canal employes, shows only 1.95 per cent of sickness, which is regarded as highly commendable.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

CANAL DEED IS CLEAR NOW

No Further Obstacles to Construction of Cut by Government.

Salem—The Celilo canal commission, composed of the governor, secretary of state and state treasurer, has signed the deed conveying to the United States the right of way for the construction of a government canal between The Dalles and Celilo.

At the request of the government officials, the state has several times made corrections in conveyances in order to remove defects from the chain of title, and now the commission feels confident that the title is perfect and that there is nothing, so far as the right of way is concerned, to prevent the government from proceeding with the construction of the canal.

The canal right of way cost the state \$74,000.

The Portage Railway commission, which is composed of these same officers, held a meeting and received the report of the engineer in charge of the work on the portage road. The report shows satisfactory progress, though it is stated that a "walking delegate" appeared on the scene last week and induced the workmen on the pledgework to strike for a nine-hour day at the same pay received for a ten-hour day. As a consequence the bridgework was retarded.

The greater part of the grading and bridgework has been completed, and one and three-quarters miles of track have been laid. Four cars of steel rails have been received and the track-laying will proceed rapidly. To all appearances, the road will be completed by the appointed time, May 15. There are now at work 29 teams and 136 men.

Reseeding Done in Wasco.

The Dalles—Farmers whose crops were damaged by the severe weather of February have about finished reseeded, and the new-sown grain is coming up nicely. It is estimated that about ten per cent of the fall-sown grain in the county froze out, and had to be reseeded. This has been a heavy expense on those whose grain was frozen, and as spring sowing never yields as good crops as fall sowing, unless the season is unusually favorable, the wheat crop this year will be somewhat shorter than that of 1904, although, so far, the weather has been most favorable, and crops are making an excellent growth. The season is at least a month earlier than last year, which will enable the gardeners and orchardists to market their crops early, and thereby get the advantages of high prices that always prevail early in the season.

Assessment Soon to Begin.

Pendleton—The deputies appointed by Assessor Strain to take the assessments and the state census will commence their work immediately. The work will be continued, but the values of the property will not be placed by Mr. Strain until late in the season, when he learns what stand the assessors of counties having railroads will take regarding values. Mr. Strain is in favor of placing the values of all property at their true worth. Unatilla county would thus show a property statement of nearly \$30,000,000.

Oregon Fruit Crop is Assured.

Weston—The snow on the foothills has been a boon to the fruit and strawberries on the Weston and Basket mountains, near here having kept the blooms from maturing and being caught by the night frosts. With the continuance of the cool weather until the proper time for the trees to bloom the fruit and berry crop is assured. Wheat in the Weston district generally is in good condition, and will probably yield well if the weather continues good.

Halsey Ships Lots of Eggs.

Halsey—During March the three mercantile houses of Halsey exported 10,590 dozen of eggs. These eggs were all secured from farmers of the country adjacent to this city. The farmers received an average of 17 cents per dozen for the eggs, making a total of \$1,800 distributed among the farmers of this vicinity in exchange for eggs in one month. This is a record which cannot be equaled by any farming district of the same size in the state.

Clear Track for Grand Jury.

Salem—Judge Burnett has dismissed all trial jurors until May 22, the evident purpose being to give the grand jury time to complete its work of investigating the land fraud cases. The grand jury has thus far given most of its time to the investigation of numerous local cases and to the men who are supposed to have provided the rifles which Tracey and Merrill used in effecting their escape from the state prison in 1902.

Exhibit Independence Fruit.

Independence—At a meeting of the Lewis and Clark club the ladies decided to place an order with a Portland firm for 150 dozen of one-half pint jars. They will fill the jars with various kinds of fruit, which will bear the label of the Independence Lewis and Clark club. They will be given away to Eastern visitors to Oregon this summer.

Polk Pioneers to Meet June 10.

Dallas—The executive committee of the Polk County Pioneer association met in Dallas and set June 10 for the annual reunion of the pioneers of Polk county, the meeting to be in Dallas. J. D. Smith, of Dallas, was elected secretary to fill the vacancy caused by the death of J. W. Lewis.

SPEND \$15,000 ON ITS ROADS

Marion County Plans for Better Highways with Farmers' Aid.

Salem—"The people of Marion county will contribute \$10,000, \$15,000 or perhaps as much as \$20,000 in labor for the improvement of the public roads this summer," said County Judge Scott, as he finished preparing a number of blank agreements for use in road districts where the property owners are circulating subscription papers.

"The county court has decided to spend its surplus road funds in those districts where the people contribute work, and it is very evident that this year will see more progress in road building than in any previous year in the history of Marion county. Our plan is to use what money is necessary in the building of bridges, and in the repair of roads in a few places where county work is of immediate necessity, and the balance of the fund will be divided among the districts. We do not know yet what rate of distribution will be adopted, but the amount distributed will be enough to encourage the enterprise of the people in road building by contributed work."

In the immediate vicinity of Salem work to the amount of at least \$7,000 will be done, and it will probably much exceed this amount. The business men of Salem have subscribed \$2,000, and the county court \$800 more, and to this the farmers will add \$4,200 or more in contributed work. In nearly every part of the county agreements are in circulation for the purpose of ascertaining what donated work can be secured. The initiative has been taken by the farmers, and the county court is giving whatever help and encouragement it can to the movement.

Mount Hood Road Rates.

Oregon City—The Clackamas county court has fixed the charges that shall be made over the Mount Hood toll road. In arranging the schedule of charges, provision is made for automobiles, for which a charge of \$2 each will be made. In addition to automobiles the schedule includes the following items: Four wheeled vehicle, drawn by one span or yoke, \$2, with 40 cents for each additional yoke; vehicle drawn by one horse, \$1.25; saddle horse, 75 cents; pack horse, 40 cents; horse or mule, loose, 15 cents; cattle, loose, 10 cents per head; sheep, goats and hogs, 2 cents.

Lumbering Picking Up.

Sumpter—The lumbering business in this section is picking up. The Oregon Lumber company has started its logging camps up along the line of the Whitney and Tipton branch of the Sumpter Valley railway, and all are running full blast. Service's sawmill, located on Deer creek, six miles below Sumpter, has started sawing on 2,000,000 feet of logs. This mill is expected to run five months on present orders. The Sumpter Lumber company is operating its planing mills, but has not yet made arrangements for cutting its logs at the mill south of town.

Sheep Conditions in Baker.

Baker City—Miles Lee, representing Koshland Bros., has bought 100,000 pounds of wool at 16 cents. This cleans up the advance purchases of clips to be made. It is expected that shearing will commence in this county about May 20. Lee is paying 50 cents a fleece cash to bind his contract. Lambing in Baker county is just beginning, and it is estimated there will be about 105 per cent increase. Sheep are in good condition, the winter has been mild, and there is now plenty of green grass for the flocks.

Blue River Exhibit Ready.

Eugene—The exhibit of ores from the Blue river mines for the Oregon display at the Lewis and Clark exposition, will be shipped from the mines to Eugene at once, and transported immediately to Portland. With what has already been shipped from there, the exhibit of the Blue river mines will amount to a carload. D. H. Weyant, who is the official ore collector for the state mining exhibit, has been here to see to the shipping of Blue river exhibit.

Lorane Fair May Be Revived.

Cottage Grove—The farmers in the Siuslaw country, near Lorane, are considering the advisability of reviving the fall fair, which they were accustomed to hold until 1903. With increased population this fair would undoubtedly be a success now, if managed properly. The Lorane district is a good farming settlement, 10 miles west of here, and the farmers find ready help from the people of this town in anything they undertake.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 87c per bushel; bluestem, 95c, valley, 88c.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$28@29 per ton; gray, \$27@28 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$14@16 per ton; clover, \$11@12; grain, \$11@12; cheat, \$11@12.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 17 1/2 @ 18c per dozen.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 22 1/2 @ 24c. Potatoes—Oregon fancy, \$1; common, 75@90.
Apples—Fancy, \$1.75@2.50 per box; choice, \$1@1.25.
Hops—Choice 1904, 23 1/2 @ 25c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 20@22c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 16@18c per pound; mohair, choice, 31@32c per pound.