

UNCLE SAM'S HELP

Congress Responds to the Appeal for Dawson.

BOTH HOUSES VOTE FOR RELIEF

The Secretary of War to Have Full Control of the Matter—Immediate Preparations.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Congress has passed the bill relating to pelagic sealing which has just passed both branches of congress, and is before the president, contains a provision of far-reaching character which has thus far escaped attention. This is an absolute prohibition of the bringing of seal-skins into the United States. As the United States is the largest market in the world for seal-skins this complete stoppage of the trade in this country will be a severe measure against the British and Canadian industries which take and cure the skins and then dispose of them largely in the United States.

When the bill was proposed it was generally supposed that its only purpose was to prohibit American citizens from carrying on pelagic sealing. This feature was the only one to attract attention during the discussions. At the adoption of the bill, however, a section was discovered which was not restricted to Americans, but applies to seal-skins in general, "taken in the waters mentioned in this act," which include the whole Pacific ocean. The provisions is as follows:

Section 9. That the importation into the United States by any person whatsoever of fur seal-skins, taken in waters mentioned in this act, whether raw, dressed, dyed or manufactured, is hereby prohibited, and all such articles imported after this act shall take effect shall not be permitted to be exported, but shall be seized and destroyed by the proper officers of the United States.

Those who are thoroughly familiar with the bill say this provision is of far more importance in its effect than the prohibition against pelagic sealing by Americans.

NO MORE SEALSKINS.

Important Clause in the Bill That Has Just Passed Congress.

Washington, Dec. 21.—It has been developed that the bill relating to pelagic sealing which has just passed both branches of congress, and is before the president, contains a provision of far-reaching character which has thus far escaped attention. This is an absolute prohibition of the bringing of seal-skins into the United States. As the United States is the largest market in the world for seal-skins this complete stoppage of the trade in this country will be a severe measure against the British and Canadian industries which take and cure the skins and then dispose of them largely in the United States.

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RELIEF BILL SIGNED.

Two Hundred Thousand Dollars to Aid Starving Yukoners.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Both houses of congress today passed the joint resolution for the relief of miners in the Yukon valley, Alaska, and in a short time it had received the signature of the president.

The bill appropriates \$200,000, to be expended under direction of the secretary of war in the purchase of supplies for the relief of the people in the Yukon country or other mining regions of Alaska, and for the transportation and distribution of such supplies, provided that, if the consent of the Canadian government be obtained, the secretary of war may extend the relief into Canadian territory. The resolution further provides that the supplies may be sold in that region at such prices as may be fixed by the secretary of war, or donated to those unable to pay for them. The secretary of war is authorized to use the United States army in carrying into effect the provisions of the act, to import reindeer and drivers for the transportation of supplies, and to adopt such other provisions as are practicable. The secretary is directed, when the work shall have been completed, to sell the reindeer or turn them over to the secretary of the interior, in his discretion, and to make a detailed report to congress at the beginning of the next session of such disbursements made and results accomplished under the act.

A Northwestern Wreck.

Vail, Ia., Dec. 21.—The overland limited on the Chicago & Northwestern, which left Chicago last night, ran into an open switch near here at 6 o'clock this morning. The mail-coach, it seems, flew out of the mail-coach, which was next to the engine. The catch struck the switch lever, broke it off and opened the switch. The train was going at the rate of 60 miles an hour. The engine and mail car remained on the track, but the buffet car, two sleepers and two coaches were completely overturned on the prairie. Everybody on board was knocked about considerably, and many were scratched and bruised, but no person was killed or apparently seriously injured. A wrecking train was sent to the wreck, and within a short time the passengers were on their way to Omaha.

Report Blames Indians.

Denver, Dec. 21.—D. C. Beaman, Josiah Walbridge and Charles E. Noble, the commission appointed by Governor Adams to investigate the recent Indian troubles in the vicinity of Lily Park, filed their report with the governor this afternoon. The report is an almost complete vindication of the game warden, and shows that the Indians were alone responsible for the bloody conflict in Routt county last month, in which several of their number were killed.

A Boston Rumor.

Boston, Dec. 21.—A prominent German-American merchant of this city has received a private cipher cable from German capitalists advising him to sell out all his holdings in Boston immediately. It is rumored that the cable disclosed a startling coup planned by Germany, and exposed the secret destination of the mysterious German fleet. According to the dispatch, the fleet is really being sent to threaten the United States, and secure absolute supremacy of the Pacific by seizure of Hawaii and Samoa.

Earthquake in Italy.

Rome, Dec. 21.—Strong earthquake shocks lasting twelve seconds were felt this morning. In central Italy the walls of houses split, many chimneys fell, bells rang and a panic prevailed among the inhabitants.

New York, Dec. 21.—While Mrs. Margaret Spencer was cooking on an oil stove tonight, her pet dog upset the stove. An explosion followed, and the woman was so badly burned that she died.

PENSIONS FOR ALL.

And at the Same Time Save the Government Millions.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The passage of the pension appropriation bill does not by any means end the agitation upon that subject in this session of congress. Representative Howe, of New York, has thrown down the gauntlet with a bill only ten lines long that repeals all present pension laws and substitutes a provision that all honorably discharged Union soldiers who are dependent upon their own labor for support and who are incapacitated because of disability to fully earn a support and who shall make affidavit to that effect shall receive a pension of \$12 a month. All other Union soldiers who hold an honorable discharge shall receive \$8 a month. No provision is made for widows or children. The pension roll under this law, although it would embrace all of the soldiers who served in the federal army, would only require an expenditure of about one-half the present cost of pensions. This bill will be vigorously pushed, and it will have the support of a large number of soldiers who are not entitled to pension under the present law. It will not be fought by the very large number of pensioners who would receive as much as they do now, and if those who receive more make too prominent a fight they will arouse very energetic opposition to themselves and active support of the bill from those soldiers who are not injuriously affected. It has long been a matter of opinion of a great number of these men that the government should be just as grateful to one valiant soldier as to another and that the man who bore arms should stand upon terms of equality, so far as the material evidence of their country's gratitude is concerned. The bill also disposes of the business of all pension attorneys. It likewise does away with the necessity for the millions of dollars expended yearly in making examinations, investigations, and passing upon the claims, the difference between the two rates resting entirely upon the affidavit of the applicant. The saving to the government would amount to more than the deficit has ever been in one year and four-fifths of the present pensioners among the old soldiers themselves would not be injuriously affected, while about 200,000 veterans who do not receive a pension now would be entitled to one under the provision of the bill.

NOT THE END OF IT.

Rejection of Hawaiian Treaty Will Not Settle the Question.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Ex-Secretary of State John W. Foster, who while a member of the Harrison cabinet negotiated the first treaty for annexing Hawaii to the United States, and who has since visited the islands and taken much interest in their acquisition, when asked as to the status of the annexation question, said:

"The opponents in congress of Hawaiian annexation will not have disposed of the question by voting against and defeating this measure. They must decide what shall be the policy and conduct of the United States toward the islands for the future. Having refused the application of the island government for incorporation into our Union, such an act necessarily carries with it the right of the former to determine its own political destiny, uninfluenced by considerations affecting the United States.

"But such a course would present embarrassments to congress of no small moment. During the last administration of President Cleveland the house of representatives resolved that 'foreign intervention in the political affairs of the islands will not be regarded with indifference by the government of the United States.' During that session the senate went a step further and declared that 'any intervention in the political affairs of the islands by any government would be regarded as an act unfriendly to the United States.'

"These utterances were in line with the policy of our government for half a century, but it is possible and competent for congress to change the policy of the government at any time. Its rejection of annexation would in effect nullify the declarations cited, but there would still be another serious embarrassment to be disposed of, to-wit, the reciprocity treaty. It would be easy to annul the commercial clauses of that convention, which would be in harmony with the views long cherished by many of our public men, but the political clauses of that treaty present a different question. They are two in number:

"First, a stipulation on the part of Hawaii not to lease, dispose or create any lien upon any port, harbor, or other territory to any other government, and, second, to grant to the United States the exclusive right to Pearl harbor as a coaling and naval station.

"The first of these political clauses might terminate with the treaty, and after the rejection of annexation it would be inconsistent on our part to insist upon its maintenance. The second clause, however, is held by the senators who ratified the treaty to be a permanent grant. The renunciation of the reciprocity treaty would still leave us with the grant of Pearl harbor. It is the only place suitable for a naval station in those islands or anywhere within a radius of 2,000 miles.

"Whatever may be the sentiment of the American people as to annexation, I doubt whether any considerable body of them would approve of the surrender of this very valuable station for our growing navy, and for which we have paid so dear a price in our reciprocity arrangements. And yet, with the rejection of annexation we must look forward to the certainty of its eventual surrender, as its occupation by us would be impossible with the islands under the domination of another powerful government.

"Even if the treaty is rejected by the United States, it will not be difficult for the present Hawaiian government to maintain itself against local opposition. The property interests, which are almost exclusively held by the white residents and foreigners, will control the government so long as it maintains its independence. But it is plain that the islands cannot long maintain their autonomy. The present most threatening danger is from Japan. That country may be perfectly sincere in its declaration that it does not seek the annexation of the islands, but the current events, if not checked, will lead inevitably to that result.

"But I do not think the islands will pass under the dominion of Japan. If the people of American origin now in control of the government are rejected by congress, they will, in my opinion, turn to their kinsmen, the English and Canadians. They have learned from the colonial history of Great Britain that wherever the British flag goes there follows low taxation, just laws and honest government.

"While I have no information as to the purpose of the present Hawaiian rulers, I feel sure that when it is finally determined that they are not to be annexed to the United States, they will lose no time in opening negotiations with Great Britain, and the result of those negotiations will be neither slow nor uncertain.

"Mr. Seward, one of the most far-sighted of our statesmen, declared in the senate a quarter of a century ago: 'The Pacific ocean, its shores, its islands and the vast regions beyond will become the chief theater of events in the world's history.'

Still Watching Rivers.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec. 20.—When General Rivera, the Cuban insurgent leader, who was recently released from Cabanas fortress by royal pardon, arrived here bound for Cadiz, he was not allowed to land. A tailor was sent for and went aboard, taking clothing for General Rivera.

Los Angeles, Dec. 20.—The relatives of Ira F. Hodson, the Mankato, Kan., man who has disappeared in Southern California, went to Riverside yesterday to settle the question of identification of the man found murdered there. They failed to identify the remains as those of Hodson, although several persons, who saw a photograph of the murdered man were positive it was Hodson.

INDIANS IN OREGON.

Reports From Klamath, Siletz and Grand Ronde Agents.

Joseph Emery, United States Indian agent at Klamath agency, in his annual report to the commissioner of Indian affairs, speaks of the great improvement that has been made in the matter of agriculture. There was also a good crop of rye and oats, and more land had been fenced and more buildings erected than in any former year. There have been also other improvements and more would have been made if there had been a sufficient supply of lumber. The Indians on the reservation show a disposition to live in better houses than heretofore. More attention is being given to stockraising than usual, and a marked increase has been observed in the herds. Some purchases of thoroughbred cattle have been made, and the Indians show a disposition to take care of them.

The agent also reports the gratifying results of the two schools of that agency. One hundred and fifty-two children were in attendance at the Klamath school, and 103 at the Yainax school. The Klamath Indians are thrown upon their resources, as all allowances ceased 12 years ago. Three-fourths of them are industrious and law-abiding, and are making their way very well. They are engaged in hauling freight and other work, besides agriculture. The total number of Indians on the reservation is 1,020, an increase of 59 over last year. A better system of waterworks and heating apparatus is recommended for the Klamath school.

Bailey Gaither, agent at Siletz, reports that the population at that agency is 486, a decrease of 12. He also reports that the Indians have been working, and were employed in picking hops and packing fish at the cannery which has been constructed near the mouth of the Siletz river. The Indians received during the year \$15,562 from various sources, including \$5,858 annuity from the government.

He reports a great deal of confusion among the Indians who claim to own land of dead allottees, as 116 have died since the allotment was completed, making about 9,000 acres of land for the Indians to quarrel over. In some cases there is no question as to who are the legal heirs; but in the majority there are a number of claimants, and it is very difficult to determine the relationship of any of the claimants. The agent says it is a means of considerable annoyance, and will grow more so unless some simpler and less expensive method of adjustment is devised. At present, application is made to the state courts to determine who are the heirs, and it is usually so expensive that it excludes the Indian from any means of determining his rights.

Mr. Gaither reports gratifying work from the schools, and says that there is not sufficient room in the buildings at the present time.

Andrew Kershaw, the superintendent in charge of the Grande Ronde agency, says there has been steady progress in the school work there, and he also speaks very highly of the industrial work of the pupils. He shows that there has been a decrease in the population during the year, but the reservation is in general good order.

Oregon Notes.

During November, 312 earload lots of freight were shipped over the Elgin branch of the O. R. & N.

The stockyards at the Linnton cannery have become a great resort for seagulls and crows. Hundreds of these birds haunt the yards in search of food.

The authorities of Lakeview, in Lake county, are improving the streets of that town with gravel. It is estimated that the cost of the improvements will be \$600.

The Lane county rock crusher is at work near Goshen, where rock is being crushed to repair the road near Camas sward. About 800 feet of new road will be built.

An Ashland man is over among the Klamath Indians, endeavoring to gather 100 dogs to be sent to Alaska in the spring. The dogs of the Indians being accustomed to hardships and food of dried fish are thought to be hardy enough for the northern climate.

Residents of Wallowa county report a run of salmon which began within the past week. A run of salmon this late in the season is very unusual in that county. The fish are large and have deep red sides, and have other unusual characteristics. They are headed for Wallowa lake and are very plentiful.

The Santiam News gives the following account of the courageous efforts of Mrs. Mack, who resides near that place, in trying to save her little son, Frank, from drowning. The lad was dragging a plank on a footlog, crossing a deep but narrow stream, between their house and the residence of Mr. A. Biggs, who lives near, and in some way fell in the stream. The youngest boy, Wallace, screamed for his mother, who came running to their assistance, and jumped into the stream to save the now drowning boy. She missed him as he floated past, got in deep water herself, and but for the timely assistance of Mr. Biggs would have drowned. She was rescued with difficulty, just as she was sinking the last time. The boy floated down stream till in coming in contact with some overhanging willows, he managed to pull himself ashore.

There was not exactly a tidal wave at Seaside, Clatsop county, Thursday, but during the high tide the wind blew the waves high upon the beach, and one unusually large one broke over the knoll near the bathhouses and sent tons of water into the camping grove. The water ran back as far as the Estes, Allen and Kopp cottages. A number of people were watching the surf at the time, and many of them received a ducking, but none were injured, and the damage to property was comparatively slight.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Office of Downing, Hopkins & Co., Chicago Board of Trade Brokers, 711-714 Chamber of Commerce Building, Portland, Oregon.

The Chicago wheat market is in an unusual condition. During last week December wheat sold at premium of from 3 to 12c, over cash wheat at New York, Baltimore, St. Louis, Toledo, Duluth and other points. At one time the premium at Duluth was 15c. With such premiums it is a wonder that men like Armour and Wear should take the risk of selling December and buying the cash wheat in the Northwest when the cost of getting it here from Minneapolis by rail is not over 7c to 8c? They not only get the profit in the difference, but also run the risk of the bulls changing their minds and leaving the wheat here, or at least a good part of the 5,000,000 bushels that will be here by the end of the month. They know that there is a good prospect of a large milling demand before another crop is harvested. This will give them a chance to secure fancy premiums for all the good milling wheat they may have on hand the same as last spring. In addition they get the storage. They believe in merchandising wheat the same as any other article, and when a profit presents itself they are not slow to get into the territory tributary to other markets and take the wheat away from them. There never has been such a chance in years, and they have taken advantage of it and run the risk of the wheat grading. Not only has the bulge brought in free offerings from the Northwest, where over 1,000,000 bushels have been bought within a week, but it has stimulated holders in the winter wheat country to send their wheat where here. The howling about the grading made them timid about risking December sales, and last week brought out offers of more wheat than was supposed to be in the country.

This will place a larger quantity in the visible supply and give the bulls a chance to see what there actually is and enable them to make better plans for the future.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 74@75c; Valley and Bluestem, 77@78c per bushel.

Four—Best grades, \$4.25; Graham, \$3.40; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel.

Oats—Choice white, 35@36c; choice gray, 33@34c per bushel.

Barley—Feed barley, \$19@20; brewing, \$20 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$18.

Hay—Timothy, \$12.50@13; clover, \$10@11; California wheat, \$10; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton.

Eggs—18@25c per dozen.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 55@60c; fair to good, 45@50c; dairy, 40@50c per roll.

Cheese—Oregon, 11½c; Young America, 12½c; California, 9@10c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$1.75@2.25 per dozen; broilers, \$2.00@2.50; geese, \$5.50@6.50; ducks, \$4.00@5.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10@11c per pound.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 35@45c per sack; sweets, \$1.40 per cental.

Onions—Oregon, new, red, 90c; yellow, 80c per cental.

Hops—5@14c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4@6c.

Wool—Valley, 14@16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@12c; mohair, 20@22c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, \$3.50; dressed mutton, 50; spring lambs, 5½c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.00; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$4.50@5.00 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.75@3.00; cows, \$2.25; dressed beef, 4@5½c per pound.

Veal—Large, 4½@6c; small, 5½@6c per pound.

Seattle Market.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 28c; ranch, 16@18c.

Cheese—Native Washington, 12½c; California, 9½c.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, 28c.

Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 10c; spring chickens, \$2.50@3.00; ducks, \$3.50@3.75.

Wheat—Feed wheat, \$22 per ton.

Oats—Choice, per ton, \$19@20.

Corn—Whole, \$22; cracked, per ton, \$22; feed meal, \$23 per ton.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$22; whole, \$22.

Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5½c; mutton sheep, 7c; pork, 7c; veal, small, 7c.

Fresh Fish—Halibut, 5@6c; salmon, 3c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4c; ling cod, 4@5c; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2½@4c.

Fresh Fruit—Apples, 50c@\$.1.25 per box; peaches, 75@80c; prunes, 35@40c; pears, 75c@\$.1 per box.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Nevada 11@13c; Oregon, 12@14c; Northern 7@8c per pound.

Hops—10@14c per pound.

Millstuffs—Middlings, \$20@23; California bran, \$17.00@18.00 per ton.

Onions—New red, 70@80c; do new silverskin, \$1.90@2.00 per cental.

Eggs—Store, 22@23c; ranch, 27@30c; Eastern, 14@19c; duck, 20@25c per dozen.

Citrus Fruit—Oranges, Valencia, \$1.50@2.00; Mexican limes, \$2.00@3.00; California lemons, choice, \$1.75@2.25; do common, 50c@\$.1 per box.

Cheese—Fancy mild, new, 12½c; fair to good, 7@8c per pound.

Hay—Wheat, 12@14c; river barley, \$11@14; oat, \$10@12; alfalfa, \$8.50@10; clover, \$8.50@10.

Fresh Fruit—Apples, 25c@\$.1.25 per large box; grapes, 25@50c; Isabella, 50@75c; peaches, 50c@\$.1; pears, 75c@\$.1 per box; plums, 20@35c.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 30c; do seconds, 24@25c; fancy dairy, 26@27c; good to choice, 22@24c per pound.

Potatoes—New, in boxes, 35@38c.