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WEEK'S NEWS
BRIEFLY OUTLINED

Some of the Most Important
Events at Home and Abroad
of the Past Week.

CONGRESS' WORK IN NUTSHELL

Developments in the Russo-Japanese War, Together With
Other Important Happenings All Over
the World.

CONGRESS.

Senator John H. Mitchell, of Oregon, the floor of the United States senate denounced his accusers and branded them as "malicious and malicious liars."

The question of expense of congressional political campaigns is receiving attention in both houses in the form of bills to discover who pays for the money.

Both houses of congress have agreed Wednesday, February 8, and are canvassing the electoral votes of the states for president and vice-president of the United States and delegating the result.

House adopted the twelve articles of impeachment against United States District Judge Swaine, of the district of Florida, and authorized the speaker to appoint a committee of seven to present the case to senate and conduct the impeachment proceedings.

President Pro Tem. Fry of the senate appointed Messrs. Foraker and Cannon as tellers on the part of the senate to count the electoral vote on Monday.

Senator Stone, of Missouri, delivered a speech of two hours' length in the senate in opposition to the statehood bill.

Assistant Commissioner Degetau, of the rice, in his first speech in the senate, praised the United States for its attitude toward his island home.

WAR IN THE FAR EAST.

Considerable increase is said to be possible the last few days in the number of the Japanese artillery ground force. This fact affords ground for the belief that part of the heavy guns of the siege of Port Arthur have been sent north.

British steamer Boscely, which was captured by the Japanese cruiser Kikyo, in the Sea of Japan, January 12, has been condemned by the court at Sasebo.

Third division of the Russian Pacific squadron, commanded by Admiral Botrovsky, which left Vladivostok, has arrived at Jibuti, French Somaliland.

Gen. Stoessel and his staff, about 500 other paroled Russian soldiers, many of them with their families, have sailed from Nagasaki, Japan, for Odessa.

Blatzenko's raiding force in Manchuria, learning that five Japanese gunboats had appeared near Tashiro, returned northward, and succeeded in regaining the Russian lines. Losses were about 300 killed or wounded.

Russia and Russia are about to arrange a cartel for the exchange of prisoners.

Parapatkin reports to St. Petersburg that the Japanese suffered serious losses in men and stores during the recent cavalry raids.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

Dr. George in the case of Dr. George, arrested at New Orleans, for the murder of a rival dentist, was discharged and was discharged.

St. Louis. The St. Louis office of the United States attorney, in a writ of habeas corpus against John H. Mitchell, secured the release of the senator from the custody of the St. Louis police.

McDonald, arrested in Chicago, confessed to passing gold pieces in St. Louis and in Philadelphia. George Turner, arrested in St. Louis.

Pleasant and Henry Lundberg, nearly United States inspectors of the vessels, are on trial in the St. Louis circuit court in the case charged with manslaughter in the death of the "Sanrise" express car on the St. Louis and Matas railroad near St. H.

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LOUISIANA STATE NEWS

Interesting Statistics.

Some interesting statistics in regard to the agricultural and industrial conditions of Louisiana have been prepared by the Louisiana State Board of Agriculture and Immigration under the direction of State Immigration Agent Charles K. Fuqua. The statistics are for the year 1904, and have been gathered with great care by Mr. Fuqua from every parish in the State. The showing made is a splendid one for Louisiana, and will appeal strongly to immigrants who are thinking of settling in the South.

According to the figures collected by the State Board, the total acreage of cotton planted in Louisiana during 1904 was 1,954,831; the total number of bales of cotton raised in the State during the last season was 946,071; the per cent of bales per acre was 48.

The total number of acres of corn planted in Louisiana for 1904 was 1,689,870; the total number of bushels of corn raised in the State during the last year was 27,125,479; the number of bushels raised per acre was 16.

Last year there were planted in rice in Louisiana 298,561 acres; the total pounds of rice cleared on these 298,561 acres was 247,304,500; and the number of pounds of rice raised per acre was 803.

There was put under cultivation in 1904, 370,952 acres of sugar cane, and there was made from the sugar cane raised on this land 605,117 barrels of molasses, each barrel containing fifty gallons.

The number of acres of sweet potatoes planted last year was 45,933, and there was gathered 2,211,760 bushels from this acreage, making each acre produce 48 bushels.

There were 25,511 acres of Irish potatoes put under cultivation; and there were gathered in the State 957,225 bushels of this great product, making 37 bushels raised to the acre.

The total number of acres of oats cultivated last year was 56,710, and 14,028 acres grew vegetables.

There are 27,055,656 acres of land in Louisiana, and of this number 4,820,452 acres are being cultivated, 15,958,900 are in timber lands and 4,759,538 are in pasture, marsh and meadow lands.

The total number of manufacturing and industrial plants in Louisiana is given at 3,199, and the total amount of capital invested in these industries amounts to \$134,546,195.

There are 154 irrigating plants in the State, valued at \$2,656,300. The total number of miles of irrigation canals in Louisiana is given at 1,017, and the estimated cost of these canals is \$2,358,000.

The total value of the live stock is \$22,822,012; the total of cotton gins is 2,198, valued at \$3,414,240. The total number of rice mills is 53, valued at \$3,740,550; the total number of cotton seed oil mills is 55, valued at \$4,749,000.

Expropriation Proceedings.

The St. Louis, Watkins & Gulf railway has brought suit against Johanna Fleischman and others, of New York, to expropriate four city lots in Lake Charles for railroad purposes. The railroad has succeeded in making amicable settlement for all the ground needed for its new terminals in that city except the Fleischman holdings.

Fighting for Another Big Crop.

Though it is rather early to talk of the next cane crop, it will not be long before the work of cultivating the fields for the crop of 1905 will have to begin. With a good spring and favorable growing season there will certainly be another large crop, as planters are certainly devoting sufficient acreage to cane to secure that result.

Institute Programs Ready.

Programs are out for the Fruit and Truck Growers' Institutes, to be held at different points in the State during February. Experimental work in southeast Louisiana is to follow these.

Thieves at Crowley.

Thieves at Crowley a few nights ago looted a mercantile establishment and succeeded in securing several hundred dollars worth of goods.

Increased Sugar Acreage Indicated.

There is every reason to believe that the sugar cane acreage will be increased to the full limit. All seasonal work of the growing season is well advanced, and it is expected that the yield will be a record.

The State Teachers' Meeting.

State Superintendent of Education J. B. Aswell and Assistant Superintendent Kenny report that every indication points to the largest gathering of the teachers of Louisiana ever held in the history of the association.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 6, 7 and 8, were selected as the dates for the meeting of the association, so that the teachers who attend will only have to be absent from their schools two days. The meeting will be called to order Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Prof. E. F. Gayle, of Lafayette, president of the State Teachers' Association.

The complete program of the meeting was not decided upon at the conference held a few days ago, but the outlines of the subjects to be discussed by the gathering were selected, and the speakers on the various topics will be announced about February 1 by the Executive Committee. The subjects to be discussed during the three days' session of the pedagogues will be the work of the rural schools and the betterment of these schools; the work of the city schools and the work of the normal schools.

Superintendent Aswell stated that the reports which reached him from the different teachers were to the effect that the meeting of the teachers at Alexandria will be attended by fully four hundred instructors, thus surpassing by a hundred the attendance of any previous delegates.

Alexandria is the geographical center of the State, with splendid railroad facilities, and is easily accessible from any part of Louisiana. This, it is expected, will tend to increase the number of delegates.

The meeting this year, for the first time, is to be held in the spring, during the past sessions of the association having been held during the Christmas holidays, and the change in the time of the meeting, it is anticipated, will bring many teachers out who have not in the past participated in the sessions.

Abandoned the Prosecution.

A verdict of not guilty was entered at Conshatta a few days ago in the case of Ross Johnson and Hundley Williams, charged with the murder of J. P. Watkins. After hearing the evidence of a number of negroes, which was conflicting, the district attorney abandoned the prosecution.

Want Better Depot Facilities.

Some complaint is made of the lack of proper depot facilities at Ferriday, on the line of the Memphis, Helena & Louisiana railroad, and at the junction of that line with the New Orleans & Northwestern.

Lumber Takes a Jump.

Pursuant to recommendations of the Price Committee on Values, of the Southern Lumber Manufacturers' Association, an advance of \$1 per 1,000 on all dressed lumber has been announced by all mills in the southeast Louisiana territory, effective at once.

To Hang February 17.

Gov. Blanchard has signed death warrants for the following convicted murderers and fixed February 17 as the day of execution for each: Louis Henry Sejourns, at New Orleans; Tom Underwood, at Alexandria; and Ed Richardson, at Benton.

Louisiana Levee Building.

During the year 1904 there were over 221 miles of levees built in the different levee districts of Louisiana.

Meets Next at Alexandria.

The Louisiana Teachers' Association will hold its next convention at Alexandria April 6, 7 and 8.

Will Reduce the Acreage.

At a mass meeting of farmers held at Robeline last week, it was agreed to reduce the cotton acreage in that territory 25 per cent during the coming year.

Cold Weather Experienced.

Louisiana got her share of the recent cold wave, the temperature at some points being as low as 13 degrees, and freezing weather extending even to the gulf line.

Merchant Found Dead.

T. O. Theriot, a well known merchant, was found dead from what seemed an accidental pistol shot wound at Franklin a few days ago.

THE STATEHOOD PROBLEM.



Uncle Sam—"What Am I to Do with These Kids? They Won't Ride Together and I Don't See My Way Clear to Get Another Carriage."

NINE ARE KNOWN TO BE DEAD

Results of the Fire in the Decatur, Ill., Coal Mine Shaft.

Those Who Escaped Said It Was Impossible to Live Beyond a Few Minutes in the Smoke.

Decatur, Ill., Jan. 18.—Nine persons are known to be dead and entombed as the result of a fire in a 600-foot coal mine shaft near here.

Rescuing parties went into the mine, but were unable to do anything, owing to the smoke.

All night hysterical women and men stood about the entrance to the shaft awaiting the abatement of the fire to begin a search for the bodies of the dead. The known dead are: August Jagusch, aged 51; Charles Laschinski, Emil Knorr, aged 20; Henry Gollan and son, Will Fagan, John Fride, August Rex, John Dunn, Martin Cullen.

Those who escaped said it was impossible to live more than a few minutes in the choking clouds of smoke and miners were seen to fall and die in their efforts to break through the cord of flames.

Fred Knorr, an aged man, escaped half suffocated. He was frantic with grief because he had seen his son, Emil, perish.

"I was near the mule stable when the fire started," said one survivor. "I started back toward the end of the shaft, shouting to the other workmen that the mine was on fire. I met two of them and one continued toward the back of the shaft crying the warning."

"The other man and I returned to the fire, thinking we might check it, but we found it smoldering, emitting gases in which it was impossible to live."

"We lowered our heads and burst through it, choking and gasping. The draft carried the smoke back into the shaft, so that we were able to get fresh air."

"Men came running up to the line of dark red fire, heavy with smoke, but could not break through it. They would fall shrieking or would turn back and suffocate in the fumes that were pouring back in the shaft."

MADE THRILLING ESCAPES.

Forty Students Imperilled in the Burning of the School for Stammerers at Brighton, Ill.

St. Louis, Jan. 19.—Forty students had thrilling escapes from death in a fire, discovered at 2 a. m., which completely destroyed the Dodge & Clark school for stammerers, at Brighton, Ill., 30 miles north of St. Louis.

Most of them saved their lives by coming down lightning rods from the windows of their rooms or by leaping to the branches of a tree which stood near one end of the building.

One student was severely burned, but no lives were lost.

The building was a large three-story brick, the largest and finest in the town.

ROSSEAU CONFESSES.

Admits Having Tried to Blow Up Frederick the Great Statue on Steamer Umbria.

Philadelphia, Jan. 17.—Gessler Rosseau has confessed to being the man who attempted to dynamite the statue of Frederick the Great in Washington, and also to having placed the infernal machine on the steamer Umbria on July 9, 1903. This was after New York and Philadelphia detectives, with their various witnesses, had identified the dynamiter in both capacities.

Secretary Hay Still Suffering.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Though still suffering from effects of a severe cold, Secretary Hay, who has been confined to his home for several days, was able to attend the cabinet meeting Tuesday, and he also transacted considerable business at the state department.

UNITED STATES SENATORS.

Formal Election of United States Senators by Joint Ballot in Several States.

Chicago, Jan. 19.—Dispatches from the capitals of the states named show the election of United States senators by the legislatures, assembled in joint session, Wednesday, as follows:

New York—Chauncey M. Depew, republican, re-elected.

Indiana—Albert J. Beveridge, republican, re-elected; Representative James A. Hemenway to succeed Vice-President-elect Charles W. Fairbanks.

Pennsylvania—Philander C. Knox, republican, to fill the unexpired term of the late M. S. Quay. Mr. Knox was appointed to fill the vacancy by Gov. Pennypacker.

Nebraska—Elmer J. Burkett, republican, to succeed Charles H. Dietrich.

Michigan—Julius Caesar Burrows republican, re-elected by a unanimous vote, there being no democrats in the legislature.

Minnesota—Moses E. Clapp, republican, re-elected.

Rhode Island—Nelson W. Aldrich, republican, elected for the fifth time.

Massachusetts—Henry Cabot Lodge, republican, re-elected. W. Murray Crane, elected for the unexpired term of Senator George F. Hoar, which he now fills by appointment.

Maine—Eugene Hale, republican, re-elected for a fifth term.

North Dakota—O. P. J. McCumber, republican, re-elected.

Utah—George Sutherland, republican.

WAS DUE TO A BLUNDER.

Consternation Caused at St. Petersburg by a Charge of Grape Instead of a Blank.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 20.—The official account of Thursday's shooting affair is as follows:

"During the ceremony of the blessing of the waters of the Neva, in the presence of the emperor, as the usual salute was being fired an accident happened. A charge of grape instead of a saluting charge was fired from a gun belonging to one of the batteries stationed near the bourse esplanade.

Some bullets struck the face of the winter palace, near the quay gardens, breaking four windows. A policeman belonging to the St. Petersburg force was wounded.

"It is now stated in official circles that the grape was fired from one of the guns of the seventeenth battery of the first horse artillery of the guard, the most aristocratic corps in the Russian army. It seems that at gun practice on Tuesday a loaded shell was inadvertently left in the gun."

LOST CONTROL OF ENGINE.

Two Men Killed and a Third Fatally Injured in a Wreck in West Virginia.

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 20.—In a wreck on the Powellton & Pocahontas railroad, two men were killed and another fatally injured.

The dead: James Keesey, engineer; body crushed beneath engine. Harry Jones, fireman; crushed and scalded to death beneath engine. Unknown boy, aged 14; both legs broken and internal injuries; will die.

The victims of the wreck had been engaged in dropping coal cars down the steep grade from Powellton to Mount Carbon, a distance of eight miles.

Engineer Keesey lost control of the engine, which, after a wild run of three miles, left the rails on a sharp curve and plunged down a 20-foot embankment.

He Will be Hanged.

Muskogee, I. T., Jan. 19.—A jury in the United States court has returned a verdict of guilty against Joe Vickers, a negro, charged with committing a criminal assault upon Mrs. Beattie Durbar (white) near Waggoner, last May, and he will be hanged.

Lawson Hanged for It.

New York, Jan. 18.—Charles that his life is ruined and his fortune lost by the action of Lawson on Wall Street, Frank D. Smith, head of the law firm of Smith, Peck & Mitchell, has secured a writ of habeas corpus to free him from the state prison.

THE DOWNFALL OF LANGTON

Assistant Librarian of the St. Louis Public Library a Defaulter.

He Has Confessed That He Took the Money to Help Meet the Demands of a Big Family.

St. Louis, Jan. 20.—Public Librarian Frederick M. Crunden and Frederick W. Lehmann, president of the public library board, met in the rooms of the public library to discuss startling disclosures made with relation to the board's funds by J. F. Langton, assistant librarian, whose books show a discrepancy of \$4,429.

This amount is said to have been obtained from public library moneys by means of dual bank books kept by Langton.

Knowledge of the discrepancy came to Librarian Crunden first in a confession made by Mr. Langton at Mr. Crunden's residence, 3347 Washington boulevard, last Sunday.

"Anticipating a general overhauling of his books, which was to have begun this week," said Mr. Lehmann, "and which was not prompted by any suspicion of wrong-doing on the part of Mr. Langton, but purely as a business precaution, Mr. Langton went to the residence of Mr. Crunden last Sunday and confessed that he had used \$4,429 of the library's funds."

"His salary during the last few years has been \$200 a month, but was much smaller than that when he was compelled to assume the burdens of his big family, and he is now only 40 years old. He said that when his growing family made extraordinary demands upon him which his salary could not satisfy he began to speculate."

"As the family increased and the demands grew larger and larger, he took more, hoping that he could return the money and square his accounts. But the time never came, and when he learned that his books were to receive a thorough overhauling, he confessed."

In his confession Mr. Langton said that he had been heavily weighed down by his family expenses. He has a wife and six children, and has for years had to support an invalid father and sister.

FOR SARAH SHAFER'S MURDER

Two Arrests Made For the Murder of Sarah Shafer, a Year Ago, at Bedford, Ind.

Bedford, Ind., Jan. 19.—Frank Evans and William Elmer Browning have been arrested on warrants sworn out by John H. Underwood, an attorney, charging them with the murder of Miss Sarah D. Shafer on the night of January 21, 1904.

The arrest is due to a story told by Mrs. Cox, the divorced wife of Browning. According to her story, her husband, from whom she was at the time separated, told her that he and Evans had killed Miss Shafer. In his confession she says he made to her he said that he and Evans planned to assault Miss Shafer. The two men met at the alley, and as the girl passed, Browning struck her on the head with a slungshot, stunning her. Evans caught her and carried her into the cab shed where, with a rock he struck her a blow on the forehead with resulted in her death.

IN SCUFFLE FOR A REVOLVER.

A Missourian Kills His Man After He Had Been Wounded Several Times.

Farmington, Mo., Jan. 20.—Jim Harris, of Harris-Dooley fame, and Dan Sparks, a barber, had a battle royal at Elvins, which started in a scuffle for a revolver, and in which Sparks was instantly killed, after he had shot Harris two or three times, inflicting slight wounds.

Harris was arrested and taken to jail at Farmington. He was one of the participants in the famous Harris-Dooley feud battle at Doe Run on August 4, 1900, at which W. E. S. Harris and old Mr. Dooley were killed and himself and several other participants were seriously wounded.

To the Civil Service List.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The civil service commissioners have expressed opinion to Representative Bartholdt that the 200 customs clerks in St. Louis who have been engaged in World's fair work under Judge Gallenkamp might be transferred to the civil service list.

Death Found Her at Vespera.

Wilmington, Del., Jan. 21.—Kneeling in prayer at the evening services in St. Thomas Roman Catholic church, Mrs. Patrick Smith was stricken with paralysis of the heart. She was removed to the parish house, but died soon after a physician arrived.

Booker T. Washington in Kansas.

Topeka, Kas., Jan. 20.—Booker T. Washington, after addressing a joint meeting of the legislature, entering the assembly hall on the arm of Gov. Hoch, was refused accommodations at the hotels.

Sudden Death.

Colorado Springs, Col., Jan. 20.—Charles M. Williams, a pioneer, is dead here of heart failure, superinduced by an attack of grip. Williams was a banker in western Colorado for 15 years prior to coming to Colorado Springs.

May Be Sent to Portland.

Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 20.—It is reported that Minnesota's consular agent, which was the grand prize at the St. Louis exposition, is to be sent to Portland, Me., by the Post-Office department.

LITTLE KATIE EDWARDS.

Her Mother is Under Sentence to Hang in Pennsylvania for Killing Her Husband.

Reading, Pa., Jan. 21.—Mrs. Kate Edwards is preparing for death in the county jail here. Her baby is with her. The woman will be hanged on Thursday, February 16, for the murder of her husband, John Edwards, 3½ years ago. The gallows is stored in the basement of the prison and Mrs. Edwards and her associate in crime, Samuel Greason, will be hanged together.

While under a terrible mental strain, Mrs. Edwards bears up well. She was greatly disappointed when the Pennsylvania Federation of Women's clubs refused to make an appeal in her behalf. Her greatest concern is for her child, Alma, 3½ years old, born in her cell, who has never been out of prison, and has never seen the outside world.

This makes it a most pathetic case. Alma will be taken from her mother in two weeks and sent to a southern state where she will be placed in a good home. Mrs. Edwards' five other children have been sent to the west. When a correspondent visited the prison, the little prison child had taken a seat on a stool in the cell. She looked at her weeping mother in wonder, her dark eyes mutely asking: "Why does mamma cry so much?" She got up from her seat and going to her mother tried to comfort her. She stroked one of her hands and leaned lovingly against her. Then the mother clasped the child in her arms.

When Alma is taken away from Mrs. Edwards forever it is feared the mother will collapse. From then on will come the most miserable period of her existence.

BARELY ESCAPED LYNCHING.

Negro Suspected of Attempted Murder of a Woman at Reno, Nev., Narrowly Escapes Mob Law.

Reno, Nev., Jan. 21.—An attempt to lynch an unknown negro was made here Friday; the negro being suspected of having tried to kill Mrs. James E. Harper, a prominent woman of this place, who is so seriously injured that she can not recover. Mrs. Harper's assailant broke into her house and, with an ax, struck her as she lay in bed with her two children. He then dragged her body into a woodshed and was preparing to sever her head from the body when he was frightened away by the children's cry for help. A strange negro was arrested by a citizen, and the sight of the man taking his prisoner to the county jail at the point of a shotgun caused the formation of a mob of a thousand people. The negro barely escaped lynching. He partially answers the description given by the Harper children.

BY SPECIAL COMMISSION.

Thursday's Incident at St. Petersburg Long to be Thoroughly Investigated—Unfounded Story.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 21.—A special commission, under the presidency of Lieut.-Gen. Khiforo, commander of the artillery corps of the guards, has been appointed to investigate the origin of the firing of Thursday. The commission will work under the supervision of the inspector general of the artillery and of Grand Duke Nicholas.

The report published in the United States by a news agency of the suicide of Capt. Davidson, commander of the battery from which the shot is supposed to have been fired, is unfounded.

UNFOUNDED RUMORS.

Rumors of Conspiracy and Arrests Unfounded.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 21.—Reports of a widespread conspiracy, a wholesale disaffection in the army, and a plot to overthrow the Duke Sergius Nikolaevich, in the preliminary report, show that the battery contained a large quantity of grape in readiness for a possible emergency, such as to raise the case of rioting, and a shooting was introduced into a gun at the saluting charge.

Assemblymen Punished.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 21.—Attention has been focused on the members of the assembly who have been engaged in demonstrations in the city, and who were disposed of by the police and individuals to avoid punishment. Authorities are determined to maintain public safety.

Bachelor Brothers Murdered.

Rapid City, S. D., Jan. 21.—Arrived of the murder of two bachelor brothers, backslaps, who lived on a ranch nine, 15 miles west of Rapid City. The murder is a mystery. It is thought that the brothers had a neighbor. The bodies have been placed in a vault in the city. The men owned valuable property.

The Victim.

New Orleans. Hester's statement of the supply of cotton visible at 4,000,000 bales last week. American cotton 2,507,250 bales.

Prophet