

# The San Juan Islander.

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FRIDAY HARBOR, SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1901.

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## NEWS OF THE DAY

### FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

**Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week Presented in a Condensed Form Which is Most Likely to Prove of Interest to Our Many Readers**

A son was born to General and Mrs. Frederick Funston, Wednesday, at Oakland, Cal.

Representative Wood, of California, has introduced a bill to establish a department of mines and mining.

Senator Hale has introduced a bill authorizing the enrollment and organization of a United States naval reserve.

The transport Thomas has arrived at San Francisco from Manila, via Nagasaki, with 91 cabin passengers on board and 184 soldiers.

John J. Valentine, president of the Wells-Fargo Co., is very ill at his home at Oakland, California, and may pass away at any time.

Count von Eulenburg, grand court marshal of Prussia and commander of the First division of infantry, has resigned from the army.

Senator Lodge has introduced a bill prohibiting the sale of firearms, opium and intoxicating liquors to the natives of the islands in the Pacific ocean.

A Paris morning paper asserts that Commander Gen. Botha has reported to Mr. Kruger that he has 24,000 armed men, 10,000 being Cape Colony recruits.

Alexander Kirk, while delirious with smallpox, escaped from his home in Arbutus, Wis., wandered about in the snowstorm and was frozen to death.

### TO TALK COW.

State Dairymen's Association Meets at Everett December 26.

Seattle, Dec. 18.—Everett is to be the Mecca of the Washington State Dairymen's Association this year, and from the extensive arrangements which have been made for the ninth annual meeting of that organization it is confidently expected that all who join in the pilgrimage will receive much beneficial knowledge regarding the details of their occupation.

The association is the strongest farmers' organization in the state and has a large number of members in almost every county. The attendance, however, will be limited to Washington, as delegates will present from Oregon, British Columbia and other parts of the Northwest. A special rate of one and one-third fare for the round trip has been secured, and it is believed that fully 1,000 persons will be in attendance. The convention opens December 26.

### PAYNE FOR P. M. G.

Charles Emory Smith Has Resigned From the Cabinet.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Charles Emory Smith, of Philadelphia, has tendered to the president his formal resignation as postmaster general, to take effect early next month, and Henry C. Payne, of Wisconsin, vice chairman of the Republican national committee, has accepted the tender of the office to which he will be nominated after the holiday recess. Mr. Smith has agreed to remain until December 15, if necessary, but will return immediately thereafter to Philadelphia, to resume the editorship of the Philadelphia Press.

### HE MUST COME BACK.

Bow Street Police Court Grants Demand for Extradition of E. St. John Dix.

London, Dec. 18.—The demand for the extradition of E. St. John Dix, charged with larceny committed in the United States, and who is accused of wrecking the Scandinavian bank at Whittom, Wash., was granted at the Bow Street police court yesterday. The prisoner was allowed fifteen days in which to appeal.

### Flower Guilty of Contempt.

New York, Dec. 18.—The United States Circuit Court of Appeals has handed down a decision reversing the order of Judge Lacombe holding Anson R. Flower guilty of contempt of court for failing to appear before a commission appointed by the Montana courts in the case of the Boston & Montana Copper and Silver Mining Company.

### Will Not Interfere.

Berne, Dec. 18.—The Bundesrath has declined to approach Great Britain on the subject of the concentration camps in South Africa, taking the ground that it might be interpreted as unwarranted interference in the affairs of a foreign country.

### Seattle Markets.

The following prices are being offered to the producer by the local dealers for delivery in round lots on the dock and in the car at Seattle:

Grain—Oats, \$30.21; barley, \$17; wheat, chicken feed, \$19.50; bran, \$15; shorts, \$17.

Hay—Puget Sound, new, \$9; Eastern Washington timothy, new, \$13; alfalfa, \$10 per ton.

### Eggs—Strictly fresh ranch, \$4.25.

Better—Fresh ranch, \$3.16; creamery, 25c.

Poultry—Live hens, 10@10.50; old roosters, 7 1/2c; live turkeys, 15@18c; ducks, 10@11c; spring chickens, large, 15c; small, 16c; geese, 8@10c.

Stock—Choice beef outside, cows, 3 1/2c; steers, 4 1/2c; calves, 4@6c; 3 1/2c; hogs, live, 6 1/2c; hams, 4@5c.

Hides, Pelts and Wool—Heavy and salted steers, over 60 lbs., 3 1/2c; medium, round, per lb., 8c; light, round, under 60 pounds, 7 1/2c; cows, round, all weights, 7 1/2c; stage, bulls and oxen, 5c; mutton, 7 1/2c; calves, per lb., 5c; gross hides, 1c less than salted; dry hides, per lb., 12c; dry cattle, one-third less; summer deer, per lb., 20@25c; winter deer, 14@20c; papery deer, 15@18c; dry elk, 10@12c; green elk, 4@5c; sheepskins, 25@31c; shearings, 15@20c.

Washington wool, 7@8; Western Washington wool, 12c; dirty or greasy stains, 10@11c; talow, 3 1/2c; grease, 1 1/2c.

### WASHINGTON NEWS.

What is Being Done by the People of Our Growing and Prosperous State.

Mrs. Elizabeth Paulson, a Waitsburg pioneer, has just celebrated her ninety-seventh birthday.

A number of Walla Walla sportsmen will attend the rabbit drive to be held over the line in Oregon, December 29.

James Robinson, the oldest man in the state penitentiary at Walla Walla, has been released on a pardon, having been confined sixteen years for murder in the second degree.

Herman Nelson, who is charged with the wholesale theft of beef cattle in Whitman county, has been arrested at Lewiston, Idaho, where he is in jail awaiting extradition.

Samuel Childs, a veteran Seattle hack man and a cousin of George W. Childs, died at Seattle Tuesday.

Black Diamond citizens are talking about taking some drastic measures to put a stop to the very numerous robberies there.

The Seattle-Tacoma Interurban Railway Company has accepted the donation of property offered by citizens of Kent, the conditions being that the company locate the shops and general offices there.

Orlando Lane of Wilbur, fell from his wagon while driving and was seriously hurt. One arm was broken in two places and his back was injured, the latter injury inducing paralysis and rendering the unfortunate man helpless.

Thomas Kent, of Hood River, Ore., was crushed by a falling pile at Starbuck, Wash., Tuesday.

Steamer E. D. Smith, freighter for the La Comer Trading and Transportation Company, is a partial wreck in the Skeg River. She ran on a snag Tuesday night and sank in eight feet of water.

The Walla Walla Commercial Club has taken up the question of assisting in the agitation of improvement of the Columbia and Snake rivers, and has passed resolutions touching the matter.

Anacortes is enjoying a building boom. The Scotchmen of Everett held a meeting and have decided to hold a Robert Burns celebration January 25. The exercises will be held in the Everett theater.

The war department has issued an order assigning Col. Tully McCreas, of the artillery corps, to command of the artillery district of Puget Sound. He will have his headquarters at Port Townsend.

Spokane police have served notice on all saloonkeepers to remove within 48 hours all signs reading "Family Entrance" or "Ladies Entrance," and put up signs that minors are not allowed on the premises.

### REBELLION IN VENEZUELA.

Serious Revolt Against the Authority of President Castro.

Willemstad, Island of Curacao, Dec. 22.—Gen. Lurlano Mendosa, president-elect of the state of Curacao; Senor Antonio Fernandez, minister under President Andrado, and Senor Lutovsky, war minister in former President Crespo's cabinet, rebelled Thursday against Castro, near La Victoria. The revolutionists reached Curacao, on the way to Villa de Cura, where they planned to meet congress delegates from all of the surrounding districts.

The movement, it is asserted, had long been premeditated, and it is in accord with that of Gen. Matos, who is expected at Martinique today. It is considered a terrible uprising. It is reported, that Gen. Matos had ordered Castro, who immediately upon learning of the uprising, dispatched troops from Maracaibo by rail, but found the line destroyed at Cagua. Traffic on the German railway is interrupted, and telephone and telegraph wires have been cut.

Another uprising, it is reported, has taken place near Valencia, and it is said that the entire country is ready to take up arms against the administration of Gen. Castro. The government censorship is strictly enforced.

Official circles in Caracas consider the Mendosa movement an extremely serious one, and fear that other uprisings will occur.

### MIGHT END WAR.

Said the Way is Being Paved for a Conference Between Kruger and Roosevelt.

Amsterdam, Dec. 19.—The Boers are moderating their demands. A prominent adviser of President Kruger, when asked if Kruger would agree to meet Roosevelt according to the latter's suggestion in his Chesterfield speech, replied: "Yes, if we were amicably approached." Later, after a long consultation with Kruger and some local Boers, Kruger's adviser officially announced that Kruger was willing to discuss terms of peace.

It is thought, in view of the extremely liberal views of Lord Rosebery, his unquestioned influence and popularity and his strong desire for an end of the South African trouble, that there is a possibility of the war being ended through a conference. In the event of Lord Rosebery's approaching Kruger in the amicable attitude which the latter suggests, a meeting will probably be arranged within the next few days which would be of great moment in the question.

### SAYS HE ISN'T DEAD.

Pope Leo XIII Protests Against False Reports as to His Death.

New York, Dec. 18.—A dispatch from Rome to the Paris Temps, quoted by the correspondent of the New York Times, describes an interview with the pope in which his holiness complained against which the false reports in regard to his health. "You see," the pope said, "that it is not all over with me. I work six or eight hours a day, and my work is not done for it. I am the whole church, as you say for it, and my work is not done for it. I am the whole church, as you say for it, and my work is not done for it."

### Seven Tourist Cars Burned.

Sherman, Wyo., Dec. 19.—A snow plow driven by two engineers crashed into a train of empty tourist cars yesterday on the Union Pacific track. The fire started at a dead end. One of the engines was injured. The tourist cars caught fire and seven of them were burned. Traffic on this division has been suspended all day by the snow, which has been reported to be heavy.

### TO SUCCEED GAGE

WINTHROP MURRAY CRANE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Has Been Offered the Treasury Portfolio by President Roosevelt, and Has Decided to Accept Provided He Can Do So Without Too Much Political Friction at Home—Gage Wants to Go as Soon as Possible.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The office of secretary of the treasury, to succeed Mr. Gage, has been offered to Mr. Winthrop Murray Crane, governor of Massachusetts, and he will probably accept the portfolio. Mr. Crane, by a coincidence, arrived in Washington on the same train yesterday that brought Secretary Gage back from New York. He went to the White House at 7:45 o'clock a. m. and breakfasted with the president, his visit here being made upon the invitation of Mr. Roosevelt.

Several days ago the president began to make inquiries among the two or three senators who had been apprised of Mr. Gage's intention to resign, as to a suitable New England man for the treasury portfolio. Among the names suggested to him was that of Governor Crane, and he immediately sent an invitation to him to come to Washington.

Mr. Crane has taken the offer of the secretaryship under consideration. He told the president that he should be pleased to accept if he could arrange his political and business affairs to that end. He is to be inaugurated for his second term as governor January 1, and he will probably resign soon afterward, allowing the lieutenant governor to succeed to the executive chair. Unless this course is resisted by the governor's political advisers in Massachusetts, he will be the next secretary of the treasury.

### GAGE WOULD QUIT.

Secretary of Treasury Informs President of His Desire to Resign.

Washington, Dec. 21.—It is Secretary Gage's intention to relinquish the treasury portfolio as soon as President Roosevelt can find a suitable successor, and he has so informed the president. Mr. Gage would like to be relieved before spring. The president has done all he could to dissuade Secretary Gage from retiring.

After the cabinet meeting Secretary Gage declined to say anything about the rumors of his resignation beyond the simple statement that he had not "formally resigned."

It is rumored here that the treasury portfolio has been offered to Governor Crane of Massachusetts.

### ROGERS VERY ILL.

Washington's Governor Has a Serious Attack of Pneumonia.

Olympia, Dec. 22.—Governor Rogers is seriously ill with pneumonia. Dr. G. W. Ingham, his physician, stated that the governor's condition had not yet reached a point to cause great alarm, but that he was seriously sick. He may throw off the disease in a few days, but indications point to a protracted illness.

The governor was at his office Friday, but that evening had a chill, and Saturday he was confined to his home. He slept little Saturday night, and is suffering a great deal of pain. Dr. Ingham asked the family to name a consulting physician, and Dr. P. B. M. Miller of Seattle, was summoned by wire.

Olympia, Dec. 22.—At 8:20 p. m. Dr. Ingham, who has just come from the governor's residence, says Gov. Rogers is resting as easily as could be expected. There has been no perceptible change in his condition.

### VALDES RAILWAY.

Contract for Its Construction Has Been Made—Bonanza Claims Sold.

Seattle, Dec. 21.—L. C. Dillman, who has just returned from New York, states that there is absolutely no doubt of the early construction of a railroad 140 miles into the Copper River districts from Valdes. Mr. Dillman displayed a contract, calling for the construction of the road, the sale of twenty-eight claims of the famous Bonanza group for \$1,200,000 and the erection of a smelter. The approximate cost of the latter will be \$300,000.

Mr. Dillman has been in New York and the East for the past several months effecting the deal, involving millions of dollars. He represented the owning interests and made the sale to Charles G. Weir, a New York mining expert. The latter is said to represent an English syndicate, reputed to be the richest in the world.

### FREDERICK A. ALLEN.

Another Well Known Washington Railroad Man Dies Suddenly.

Seattle, Dec. 21.—Frederick A. Allen, one of the best known railroad men in Western Washington, and assistant freight agent of the Northern Pacific, died yesterday afternoon at his residence, 1718 Fourteenth avenue, after an illness of less than two hours.

Mr. Allen was seen upon the streets by his acquaintances as late as 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. He went home shortly afterward, complaining of a pain in the region of his heart, and a physician was hastily summoned to his residence. He sank rapidly, and at 4 o'clock expired. The cause of his death was heart disease. Mr. Allen was 45 years of age, and leaves a widow and daughter, the latter aged 9 years.

### Agreement Reached.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—It was announced at the White House yesterday that the president has removed Appellate Judge Joseph Shippen to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, where he will continue to exercise the duties of his office. The removal was made for reasons stated in the president's order. The removal was made by George Whitehead, of New York.

### SAYS IT IS NOT VALID.

Judge Denny, of Everett, Overrules the 10-Hour Day Law.

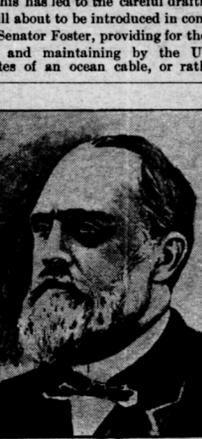
Everett, Dec. 18.—Judge Denny has held that the law providing for a 10-hour day in laundries and similar establishments where women are employed is invalid. He is of the opinion that this law creates a discrimination against these employers, affects the right of labor to contract for itself and that the title of the law is defective. It is likely that the matter will be appealed to the supreme court.

### TO ASIA VIA ALASKA.

Seattle Chamber of Commerce Takes Up the Pacific Cable Matter.

Seattle, Dec. 14.—The matter of telegraphic communication with Alaska and the Orient has been recently presented by Attorney Joseph Shippen to the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, which unanimously resolved "that the governmental and commercial interests of the United States require submarine electric communication from Puget sound to Alaska, Manila and the centers of Asiatic commerce."

This has led to the careful drafting of a bill about to be introduced in congress by Senator Foster, providing for the laying and maintaining by the United States of an ocean cable, or rather a



JOSEPH SHIPPEN

series of connecting cables, to Alaska and the Orient by the northern route. It is earnestly hoped that despite the pressure of manifold business, this measure may be adopted and speedily carried into execution.

The subject of a Pacific cable has received more or less public consideration through past years, but though the Atlantic is underlaid with a score of cables in active use, none as yet underlie the broad Pacific. Commercial bodies have talked about the matter, officers of our army and navy have discussed it, and divers bills have been introduced in congress about it, yet it is only recently that the enterprise has commanded attention, with the appreciation of the need, and the knowledge of facts and the earnest purpose required for its accomplishment.

A cable by a southern route from San Francisco to Honolulu, and thence via Guam to Manila, is advocated and pressed on the public attention. And already the Commercial Pacific Cable Company, with a capital stock of \$100,000 (a mere bagatelle of the cost), has been incorporated at Albany, N. Y., by John W. Mackay and other active in the interest of the Postal Telegraph Cable Company, for the purpose of laying a cable about 8,500 miles long on such southern route. Governmental licenses and concessions are being sought therefor. That the commerce of the Hawaiian islands demands telegraphic communication admits no doubt, and a cable will surely be laid at no distant day from San Francisco to Honolulu. But the surveys and soundings made, and the facts already ascertained demonstrate the vast superiority of the northern route for such cable via Alaska, the Aleutian islands and Japan to the Philippines. Thereby connecting branches can be laid to the Asiatic ports. This superiority is based on shortness of distance, shallowness of waters, economy of cost of construction and maintenance and efficiency in operation.

The very interesting and instructive literature on this subject, conceding and emphasizing its governmental, commercial and social importance, has put the mind of the writer in contrast with a comparison of facts and figures that show conclusively the greatly superior advantages of the northern route. Space forbids our entering into details from reports of our army and navy officers and electrical experts, but an examination of a globe reveals what maps conceal, and the fact that the links of a cable by the southern route would necessarily be three or four times as long as those of the northern route, taken in connection with the accepted rule of electricians that the efficiency of a cable in transmission of intelligence is inversely in proportion to the square of its length, settles the question. A cable 1,000 miles long can do approximately nine times the business of one 3,000 miles long. It is stated by high authority that the links between Puget sound and Manila would be only about 800 miles long. Such cable would give us direct and independent communication with Alaska, a matter of transcendent importance, both for governmental and commercial purposes. Proposed by proper stations along the coast to the Philippines, with unlimited capacity of connecting branches to Siberia, Korea, China, Siam and India.

If our national legislators rise to the full measure of their duty and opportunity this subject will be fully investigated with speedy results of cables both from California to the Hawaiian Islands, and from Puget Sound to Alaska, the Philippines and the Orient. Then will our expanding commerce of the Pacific in America ships, with the "open door" maintained in Asia, exemplify the noble saying of Thomas H. Benton, pointing westward. "There lies the East."

### PROTEST IS FILED

ADMIRAL SCHLEY'S EXCEPTIONS TO THE VERDICT

Found by the Majority of the Court of Inquiry are Filed With Secretary Long—Asserted That the Majority of the Court Ignored Testimony of Schley and of Witnesses Favorable to Him.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Late in the afternoon Admiral Schley through his counsel, filed with the secretary of the navy his bill of exceptions to the majority findings of the court of inquiry, and also a letter asking to be allowed to be heard in connection with the objections to be filed by attorneys for Admiral Sampson to the individual opinion of Admiral Dewey. This action was taken after Mr. Raynor, Mr. Tesague, and Capt. Parker, of counsel, had held a consultation throughout the day with their client.

Secretary Long almost immediately after the receipt of the communication called Judge Advocate Lemly and the solicitor for the department, Mr. Hanna, into conference. At its conclusion the secretary said that he had no statement to make regarding any action that he might take in the premises. He, however, indicated that Mr. Tesague, through the judge advocate, that he would not hear an oral argument by Mr. Raynor regarding Admiral Sampson's protest, but that he would receive a written statement.

It was expected that counsel for Admiral Sampson would file the objections to the findings of Admiral Dewey in the case today, but it is now stated that such objections may not be offered before Friday.

The bill of exceptions declares that the applicant objects to the approval of the findings of the court upon the ground that the opinion rendered and the report of facts made by the majority of the court are in conflict with the overwhelming weight of evidence; and that the majority of the court in their said opinion have introduced the testimony of the applicant, and of the whole of the applicant's witnesses, and all portions of the evidence given by witnesses for the government which was favorable to the applicant, and have thus deprived him of rights guaranteed to him by the laws of the land and the constitution of the United States.

### FOR GALLANTRY IN SERVICE.

Bill to Make Sampson, Schley and Clark Vice Admirals.

Washington, Dec. 20.—A bill providing for the revival of the grade of vice admiral, and for the appointment of Sampson, Schley and Clark to that rank for special gallantry in service, was introduced in the senate by Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania yesterday.

The bill provides that the active service of the men mentioned shall be extended ten years. The bill is regarded as a sort of compromise in the Schley controversy, as it would not only vindicate his actions during the Santiago campaign, but would also in a measure prove gratifying to the adherents of Sampson, in that it gives him promotion. It is creating considerable discussion.

### ADVERSE TO SCHLEY.

Report of Judge Advocate and Solicitor to Secretary Long.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Judge Advocate Lemly and Solicitor Hanna have submitted to Secretary Long their report of the bill of objections filed by Admiral Schley, through his counsel, to the finding of the Schley court of inquiry. In substance this report is an argument supplementary to the argument made by the writers before the court of inquiry. The principal points are an insistence upon their contention that the first report is the unanimous report of the court of inquiry; that the court was justified in finding Admiral Schley's evidence by the number of witnesses who took issue with him and that there is no sufficient reason for a reopening of the case as requested by Admiral Schley.

### CANAL BILL JANUARY 7.

Made a Special Order in the House After the Holidays.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Before the house adjourned over the holiday recess, a special order was made for the consideration of the Nicaragua canal bill, beginning on Tuesday, January 7, and to continue until the bill is disposed of, the order not, however, to interfere with revenue or appropriation bills. The session of the house was brief, the major portion of the time being occupied by Mr. De Armond, of Missouri, in making a personal explanation regarding reports circulated in his district concerning his course in the matter of the extension of the rural free delivery.

The senate transacted a small amount of routine business and adjourned for the holidays.

### May Will Remain.

Washington, Dec. 21.—In view of the repeated publication of late of the general rumor that Secretary May is about to retire from the cabinet, a statement is given with full authority touching this subject, substantially to the effect that Secretary May does not now contemplate retirement from the cabinet.

### Says May Not Be Retired.

London, Dec. 20.—Both the Times and the Post publish dispatches from Copenhagen this morning which describe the growing agitation there against the sale of the Danish West Indies before a plebiscite has been taken. The correspondents say it is very doubtful whether the Danish parliament will approve the sale of the islands.

### Calculated Rates Agreed to.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—At a meeting of the general manager agents of the roads west of Chicago colonial rates for the rest of the winter were agreed to. They will be 93c from Chicago to California, one way, and 93c to Montana points. The tickets will be held on certain dates.

### FOR BETTER WHEAT.

Prof. Spillman Has Great Hopes of Success in His Experiments.

Fullman, Dec. 20.—W. J. Spillman, who, for the past seven years has been at the head of the department of agriculture in the Washington agricultural college, but leaves January 1 to accept the position of head of the department of experiments in grasses and forage plants in Washington, D. C., has been experimenting for the past four years on hybridizing different varieties of wheat, with a view to obtaining a better quality of wheat for the Inland Empire. He has met with success to such an extent that he has decided to give to the public the result of his efforts before leaving for his new post of duty, and he asks that the press give it a wide circulation, for he believes that his experiments, if carried out, will result in vast benefits to the wheat-growers of the Northwest. In an interview Prof. Spillman said:

"We have endeavored to secure, by crossing the different varieties, a wheat that will stand the winters, will not shatter, and will yield as well as the Little Club, and as good flour as the Blue Stem. By continued work we have crossed the breeds, or varieties most likely to produce this kind of wheat, and find that the work can be done. We hope in a few years to produce a variety of wheat that will yield better and make better flour than any variety now known. The importance of this cannot be overestimated, when the future is considered.

"One of 149 plants of hybrid wheat, of 14 different varieties, in 141 cases we found that we had all possible combinations of the varieties used in making the crosses. This leads us to believe that if a variety is a winter wheat, but shatters its grain, we can, by crossing with Little Club, get all the following kinds of wheat: First, spring wheat, nonshattering; second, spring wheat, shattering; third, winter wheat, nonshattering; fourth, winter wheat, shattering. Then by taking the nonshattering winter wheat and giving it for five or six years, selecting for seed each year those plants most like what we want, we can get a permanent variety of the type desired."

"Several of the hybrids already produced are very promising, and we shall proceed to grow them with a view to fixing the types so that we can send them out to the farmers in as short a time as possible. This will take four more years, probably. Meanwhile we have selected 16 varieties which we hope to combine into a single variety of winter wheat that will not fall down, will not shatter, and will not be subject to either smut or rust, will sell as well as Blue Stem and yield as well as Red Chaff or Little Club. It will take years to do this, but the results will justify the expenditure of a large amount of time, energy and money."

### MELLEN TO RESIGN.

General Counselor Charles W. Bunn to Succeed to Presidency of Northern Pacific.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 20.—It can be stated authoritatively that President Charles S. Mellen, of the Northern Pacific system, will resign in a short time, and General Counselor Charles W. Bunn, of the same company, will be selected to take his place.

Mr. Mellen is simply remaining in his present position until the adjustments made necessary by the organization of the Northern Securities Company have been completed. As soon as the details of the proposed re-organization plan have been worked out, it is understood that Mr. Mellen will retire. He has received a flattering offer, which he is now considering.

The election of Mr. Bunn has been considered for some time, and he and Mr. Hill are warm personal friends, and the latter frequently consults the former on his own counsel. The plan is to continue the traffic and operating departments under competent heads, with Mr. Bunn who is thoroughly familiar with all branches of the business, as eminent in executive as in legal ability, as president of the system.

### DELEGATE FOR ALASKA.

Representative Lloyd Introduces a Bill to That Effect—Another Extends Land Laws.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Representative Lloyd has introduced a bill to provide for a delegate from the district of Alaska. The bill appoints August 2, 1902, as election day, and provides that the delegate shall take his seat next session.

Senator Foster proposes to introduce a bill to extend the land laws of the United States to Alaska, and failing the passage of this act, he will present a bill to allow the interior department to lease grazing lands in Alaska under the same laws as in the United States. Growing interest is taken in this subject as the value of the grazing lands in Alaska becomes recognized.

Many protests are being received by members of the Washington delegation from publishers of that state against the action of Postmaster General Smith in excluding from second-class mail privileges a number of publications. The protesters claim to regard the action of the postmaster general as an encroachment on the rights of congress, which they maintain has exclusive jurisdiction over this subject.

### FRIGHTFUL DEATH.

Fourteen Men in a Shower of Molten Metal—Nine Dead.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 20.—In a horrible manner nine men were killed and fourteen injured in a gas explosion at the Jones & Laughlin steel plant, yesterday morning. Of the injured it is probable that the greater number will die.

The explosion took place in the Soho furnace, just as the morning shift of workmen were preparing to leave. They were at the top of the structure, which was 120 feet high. Gas had accumulated in the furnace and when the explosion came tons of molten metal, slag and cinders poured over the top in a perfect overflowing fountain of fire.

### Oregon School Board.

Salem, Ore., Dec. 18.—The industrial building of the state reform school was destroyed by fire early yesterday morning. The loss is about \$25,000, fully covered by insurance. The other buildings were saved by the prompt action of the fire department.

## GOOD MAY RESULT

CONFERENCE BETWEEN LABOR AND CAPITAL CLOSES

With the Appointment of a Committee Composed Equally of Representatives of Labor, Capital and the Public, Who Will Consider How Best to Promote the Interests of All Parties Concerned.