

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 rush of aliens to Europe has subsided.

The De Beers company will reduce the output of diamonds.

Quiet has again been restored in Teheran, the Persian capital.

The premier of Hungary has challenged a man to a duel because he was accused of being dishonest.

The Kansas City grand jury is very busy returning indictments, principally for violation of the Sunday closing law.

The mint at Philadelphia has been ordered to cease coining silver and coin only double eagles.

The explosion at the Darr mine, Jacobs Creek, Pa., killed every miner at work in the tunnel.

Immigrants afflicted with contagious diseases are coming into New York faster than the local authorities can care for them.

The surveyor general's office at Portland cost in salaries, \$8,750; at Seattle, \$9,750.

Crater lake cost the government \$2,999.

Oregon's five per cent of the public land sales amounted to \$22,589.

Pacific Northwest Indians cost, for support: Umatillas, Cayuses and Walla Wallas, \$2,718; Yakimas, \$3,891; Nez Percés, \$987; Warm Springs, Oregon, \$3,297; Klamath Indians, \$5,203.

To maintain the Columbia river light vessel, \$74,496 was the expense.

The summary of the nation's expenses shows the cost of the war department for the year was \$123,290,500; navy department, \$85,306,694; treasury department, \$72,174,950; state department, \$2,046,394; executive department, \$36,407; interior department, \$165,048,667; postoffice department, \$10,097,771; agricultural department, \$9,551,714; commerce and labor, \$9,928,831; judicial department, \$7,517,396.

It is an interesting fact that although the department of commerce and labor has been organized only a few years, its expenses equal those of the department of agriculture.

The grand total of the governmental department expense was \$762,448,765, which did not include many millions of appropriations and some items which bring the actual outlay close to \$1,600,000,000.

Lumber Case Ended. Washington, Dec. 23.—Taking of testimony in the lumbermen's case before the Interstate Commerce commission has been concluded.

Final arguments will be made before the commission on March 4 and a decision is anticipated shortly thereafter.

In the meantime lumbermen of the Pacific Northwest named as complainants in the case will be entitled to ship under the protection of the injunction issued by the Federal courts at Portland and Seattle.

Tries to Steal Treasure. Philadelphia, Dec. 23.—Charged with attempting to break into an express car on the Buffalo express which contained \$60,000 worth of bullion which was being shipped by the government to Philadelphia, William A. Hewitt is under arrest.

Heat and Light for Agency. Pendleton—Supervising Engineer Pringle of the Indian department, who has been at the Umatilla agency examining the facilities for heating and lighting the buildings of the agency, will recommend, it is understood, the erection of a one-story brick structure, 40x70 feet, in which a complete electric lighting and heating plant will be installed.

Fruit Meeting in Eugene. Eugene—Plans are under way for an important meeting of the Lane County Horticultural society with the officers of the State Horticultural society, in Eugene, the first week in January.

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RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES.

Secretary Cortelyou Makes Report to Congress.

Washington, Dec. 23.—Secretary Cortelyou has reported to congress the receipts from customs from Oregon during the past fiscal year to be \$1,140,612, of which there was collected in Portland \$1,123,291; Astoria, \$17,519 and Yaquina, \$1,305.

The total for Washington, all ports, was \$1,622,033. From internal revenue the collections were in Oregon, \$378,428; Washington, \$1,046,238; and California, \$5,536,796.

The immense lead of New York state in both items is shown: Customs receipts, \$223,127,065; internal revenue, \$32,363,797.

The reports of receipts from sales of public lands gives Oregon \$1,621,287, of which there was collected at Portland, \$163,796; The Dalles, \$344,276; Roseburg, \$415,004; La Grande, \$435,208; Burns, \$91,952; Lakeview, \$171,048; In Washington the receipts were \$660,714; California, \$367,270. Total receipts from land sales in the country were \$7,878,811.

The territorial government of Alaska cost \$51,472 in salaries, and \$4,919 in expenses.

The fine custom house at Portland cost in improvements only \$770.42, and the Baker City postoffice only \$50, and the Salem public building \$5,628.

During the year the government expended \$2,201 on its exhibit which was at the Lewis and Clark exposition, and \$1,382 on the exposition government buildings.

On harbor improvements the disbursements were: Entrance to Coos bay, Oregon, \$2,600; dredge for Oregon and Washington harbors, \$1,000; Grays harbor, Washington, \$10,000; Grays harbor and Chehalis river, \$3,990.

River improvements cost: Columbia and lower Willamette, below Portland, \$72,668; Columbia, at Cascades, \$270; Columbia, between Wenatchee and Bridgeport, \$1,000; Columbia, Washington, \$12,500; gauging waters of the Columbia, \$773,636; upper Columbia and Snake rivers, \$18,000; Coos river, \$500; Coquille river, \$4,400; Tillamook, \$3,980; Willamette and Yamhill, \$23,000.

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Pacific Northwest Indians cost, for support: Umatillas, Cayuses and Walla Wallas, \$2,718; Yakimas, \$3,891; Nez Percés, \$987; Warm Springs, Oregon, \$3,297; Klamath Indians, \$5,203, besides administration expenses at all reservations.

To maintain the Columbia river light vessel, \$74,496 was the expense.

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OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

HELP FOR STUDENTS.

University Establishes Loan Fund Instead of Making Gifts.

University of Oregon, Eugene.—The University of Oregon is planning a loan fund of at least \$5,000, based on the belief that a loan is better than an outright gift in the form of a scholarship. Some subscriptions have already been made to the fund, and a number of prominent men of the state have agreed to guarantee amounts up to \$500. President Campbell is using his best efforts to raise the entire \$5,000 this year if possible.

In almost every high school graduating class there are some who do not have the means for a college education, but who would take advantage of any fair opportunity offered them to secure one.

The treasurer of the loan fund, who is to be the high school inspector and will thus have an opportunity to know personally the members of the classes, will work in conjunction with the city superintendents and high school principals.

He will make loans to such students as need them each year at a low rate of interest, with the agreement that they are to repay the principal as soon as they are able after leaving college.

A small amount of life insurance will be taken out on each at the expense of the fund. It is the plan to have ten men guarantee the fund against loss to the amount of \$500 each.

The university has had a small loan fund of about \$300 for the past four years. During this time, 25 students have been enabled to complete their college course who otherwise could not have done so. Only one loan has been lost.

WANT BRAND ON ALL SHODDY Woolgrowers Working for Protection of the Industry.

Pendleton.—In accordance with one of the resolutions passed at the recent convention of the Oregon Woolgrowers' association, the secretary has sent to the Oregon congressional delegation a request for an act compelling the branding of manufactured goods and clothing, the object being to protect the public from shoddy and cotton counterfeits of woolen goods.

The pure food law is cited as an example that it is right for the government to protect the people from frauds, counterfeits and adulterations of all kinds.

Another resolution passed at the same time calls for the retention of the import duty on wool, woollen fabrics, hides, meat and meat animals, with the object of continuing the present prosperous condition of the wool and livestock industry.

New Road is Under Way. Grants Pass.—The government is making good progress under the direct supervision of the local forestry service, in extending a road down Rogue river into Curry county.

This particular stretch of road will open up a wide latitude of country rich in mineral and prolific of the best marketable pine.

When this work has been completed, 10 per cent of the proceeds will be directed to the school fund, thus increasing the permanent means of keeping up schools. About \$5,000 has been appropriated to be used in developing the highway, and it is expected that congress will set aside \$5,000 more to be used on this project.

Another Mill for Albany. Albany.—Albany is to have another flourmill. In the next few weeks a plant with a capacity of 50 barrels a day will be established by E. A. Johnson, who now operates a saw mill at Deain, and P. B. Marshall, who for years has been secretary of the Albany Farmers' company.

The two men have consummated the purchase of the three warehouses of the Albany Farmers' company, situated at Albany. Tallman and Tangent, and in addition to carrying on a warehouse business, will operate a flourmill in one of the local buildings of the old company.

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SPECIAL SHORT COURSES.

Oregon Agricultural College Plans to Aid Farmer With Little Time.

The Oregon Agricultural college will give winter short courses, beginning January 7, 1908, as follows:

- 1. General Agriculture; two weeks. 2. Dairying; six weeks. 3. Horticulture; six weeks. 4. Mechanic Arts; six weeks. 5. Household Science; six weeks.

Many young men as well as many mature farmers who are so situated that they cannot take a four years' course of study desire to acquaint themselves more fully with the most recent developments in agriculture.

There are others who feel the need of a more practical knowledge of farm mechanics and the use of tools. It is to meet the needs of these classes that these courses will be given.

The course in Household Science will be of value to the women of the home who desire to more thoroughly acquaint themselves with the principles of good cooking and of general home management.

The subjects to be discussed will be of interest and importance to every farmer and homemaker and it is hoped that a large number will take advantage of this opportunity.

A circular containing further information will be sent on application to the Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon.

BOND BID IS IGNORED.

Secretary Cortelyou Cited to Court on Canal Issue.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Justice Gould, of the District Supreme court, yesterday cited George B. Cortelyou, secretary of the treasury, to appear in court January 3, to show cause why he should not be enjoined from turning over or delivering the balance of the \$21,450,000 of the Panama canal bonds to certain banks and persons to whom he has announced allotments.

The citation issued by Justice Gould is based on a petition filed by George W. Austin, of New York, who describes himself as a taxpayer and property owner in the United States and who declares he made a proposal to purchase bonds of the advertised issue of face value of \$3,000,000. He avers he agreed to pay at the rate of \$103.375 and accrued interest per \$100, and on notice of the acceptance of his subscription stands ready to deposit the amount with the assistant treasurer at New York.

Mr. Austin informs the court that he has been advised through the public press that in direct violation of the statutes and in absolute disregard of the Treasury department's circular, of the \$25,000,000 of the bonds allotted only \$1,000,000 were allotted to persons who were individual bidders, and who, in accordance with the statutes and said circular, were given equal opportunity to subscribe therefor; the remaining \$24,000,000 were allotted to divers national banks and only \$3,550,000 of which were allotted to banks which had offered a higher price than that bid by him.

ISLANDERS CHANGE FRONT. Filipinos Want Power to Make Commercial Treaties.

Manila, Dec. 20.—The assembly has received a favorable report from the committee to which was referred a resolution asking congress to give the insular government power to make commercial treaties with other countries in the event of failure of tariff reform.

This subject has been much discussed by the native politicians and press and as a result the Filipino attitude on free trade with the United States has undergone a complete change.

Heretofore the politicians and the press regarded tariff agitation as an effort to bind the Philippines closely to the mainland and it was opposed by the independent factions. Now all parties unite in demanding the abolition of the Dingley rates.

The commercial treaty project was presented to the assembly by a Nationalist member, who declared that, although his first effort would be toward free trade, he would in the case of failure urge the commercial treaty plan as an alternative.

Does Immense Business. New York, Dec. 21.—That one jobbing firm affiliated with the American Tobacco company does a business of \$13,000,000 a year in New York City and Yonkers was brought out today in the hearing of the government's action against the company before United States Commissioner Fields. Adolph B. Bendheim, president of the Metropolitan Tobacco company, testified with reference to this concern. Over 75 per cent of the jobbing business of New York City was controlled by the Metropolitan, Mr. Bendheim stated.

New Grand Jury at Work. San Francisco, Dec. 21.—The new county grand jury held its first session yesterday and after quickly perfecting the details of organization took up the case of the missing Colton securities and the connection of former officials of the California Safe Deposit & Trust company with the disappearance of valuable stocks and bonds.

A number of witnesses were examined, and the taking of testimony had not been concluded when the meeting adjourned until today.

New Drydock Projected. San Francisco, Dec. 21.—The Bulletin says that within a few months the Union Iron works will let a contract for a floating drydock large enough to accommodate all vessels that come to this port, with the possible exception of the Pacific Mail liners Mongolia and Manchuria.

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Galagher Returns to Testify. San Francisco, Dec. 20.—Ex-Superior James L. Gallagher, who will be the principal witness for the prosecution in the trial of Patrick Calhoun, accused of bribery, has returned from the East.

MORE ON LUMBER RATE.

Elliott, of Northern Pacific, Gives His Reasons for Increase.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Howard Elliott, president of the Northern Pacific railway, was the principal witness yesterday at the hearing of the Pacific Northwest Lumber companies before the Interstate Commerce commission. Mr. Elliott asserted, as James J. Hill asserted two or three days ago, that the advance in rates on lumber made by the railroads was necessary in order that they should be compensatory on the various lines. He said that it had become evident to the railway managers that it was necessary to raise the rates on lumber in order to prevent an absolute loss to the roads on the traffic.

He explained that the prosperity of the West and Northwest had so increased the traffic on the lines of all railways in that section that the companies were physically unable to handle the traffic promptly and efficiently. This was particularly true of lines in the Northwest, the traffic of which was interfered with in the winter season very considerably by adverse weather. He explained that the cost of handling traffic had increased materially in the past year or two on account of higher wages, increased prices of materials and similar conditions. He believed that the rates as fixed by the railway lines in the advanced tariffs promulgated were fair among shippers generally, although he was not so certain that they would enable the carriers to make very much profit.

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MORE MINERS DEAD

Third Explosion in Pennsylvania in Nineteen Days.

RAISES TOTAL DEATHS TO 550

Between 200 and 250 Men Entombed and Hope of Escape for Any Is Very Slight.

Jacobs Creek, Pa., Dec. 20.—An explosion of gas in the Darr mine of the Pittsburgh Coal company, located here, yesterday entombed between 200 and 250 miners, and there is scarcely a ray of hope that a single one of them will be taken from the mine alive.

Partially wrecked buildings in the vicinity of the mine and the condition of the few bodies found early in the rescue work indicate an explosion of such terrific force that it seems impossible that any one could have survived it. All of the 13 bodies taken out up to this time are terribly mutilated, and three of them are headless.

This is the third mine disaster since the first of the month in the veins of bituminous coal underlying Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, for the Naomi mine, near Fayette City, and the two mines at Monongah, W. Va., in which the earlier explosions happened, are in the same belt as the local workings.

Yesterday's catastrophe swells the number of victims of deadly mine gas for the 19 days to between 550 and 600.

That this disaster does not equal or even surpass in loss of life and attendant horrors the one in West Virginia is due to the devotion to church duties of a considerable number of the miners. In observance of the church festival, many of the 400 or more men regularly employed at the mine did not go to work. Those who escaped through this reason are members of the Greek Catholic church and they suspended work to celebrate St. Nicholas' day.

As was the case at Monongah, the explosion followed a brief shut down, The Darr mine having been closed Tuesday and Wednesday. It was just 11:30 o'clock when the tenth trip of loaded cars had been brought out to the tippie that there came an awful rumbling sound, followed immediately by a loud report and a concussion that shook nearby buildings and was felt within a radius of several miles.

At the same time there came out of the mouth of the mine an immense cloud of dense smoke and dust that floated across the Youghiogheny river.

Intuitively everyone in the vicinity knew what had happened and all started for the one place—the mouth of the mine.

As far as known only one man who went to work escaped. Joseph Mapleton, a pumper, emerged from one of the side entrances shortly after the explosion. He had left the part of the mine where most of the men were working and was on the way to the engine room for oil.

A considerable number of the miners were Americans, some of the officers estimating that probably more than half of the victims are Americans, as the majority of the foreigners did not work.

The Darr mine is located on the west side of the Youghiogheny river, in Westmoreland county, along the line of the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie railroad, 40 miles southeast of Pittsburgh and 18 miles northwest of Conneville. It is one of the largest of the Pittsburgh Coal company.

There was much drunkenness here tonight, some of the men who got a good start on account of the holiday continuing their carousal after the explosion in celebration of their escape.

A new air shaft for the mine is being constructed, work having been started on it several months ago. Had this been completed, it is said, the loss of life today would have been much less serious.

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