

# Condensed News of the Week

The M. S. Phelps Case Manufacturing Co. at Brockport, N. Y., was destroyed February 24. Loss estimated at \$150,000.

Receiver of the Houston Oil company makes report showing total liabilities \$41,185,061 and placing the assets at the same figure. It is said that the company owns 850,000 acres of land.

Forty wheat millers from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Kansas met at Toledo, O., February 23, and took steps to organize an association, the chief object of which is to secure better freight rates. A committee was instructed to prepare by-laws and to present the same at a meeting to be held at Columbus, O., during the latter part of March.

Representative populists met at St. Louis February 22 in conjunction with the populist national committee. The national convention was called for Springfield, Ill., July 4, and newspaper dispatches indicate that the "middle of the road populists" won a decisive victory.

The bubonic plague has reappeared at Lima, Peru.

Paris newspapers say that a treaty of arbitration will soon be signed between France and the United States.

John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, denies the report that he intends to retire from his position.

At a special election held in the Twelfth congressional district in New York, W. Bourke Cockran was elected to fill the place made vacant by the resignation of George D. McClellan.

The New York court of appeals has decided that the state comptroller in imposing a 1 per cent tax on the surplus and undivided profits of savings banks under the so-called Odell law of 1901 must assess at the market value of the securities constituting the surplus when the same is quoted on the market below their par value.

Berlin dispatches say that it seems certain that war between Bulgaria and Turkey will ensue.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of New Orleans, February 23, says: In the case of M. E. Jumper against the sovereign camp, Woodmen of the World, the United States court of appeals today decided that no relationship of principal and agent existed between the sovereign camp and the individual camps of the order, and that, therefore, it was not responsible in damages for acts committed by the different camps. Jumper was hit by "the goat" during his initiation into the Water Valley, Miss., camp, and wanted \$5,000 for alleged injuries sustained thereby.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of New York, February 23, says: While bankers here do not generally believe that the United States supreme court will render its decision in the Northern Securities case immediately upon the reconvening after its brief vacation, the near approach of that event is causing much discussion in financial circles. J. J. Hill, president of the Securities company, has been actively engaged of late in conferring with the bankers interested, and it is now said a tentative plan has been agreed on for use in case the supreme court decides adversely to the company. Mr. Hill has refused to discuss the subject in any way, but one of the bankers associated in the enterprise is quoted by the Herald: "I do not have the slightest fear of the fate of the Northern Securities company, no matter what the findings of the supreme court."

The Citizens' Industrial association in session at Indianapolis adopted resolutions declaring war on labor unions. President Farry, addressing the convention, denounced arbitration.

In an effort to rescue the crew of a schooner off New York, two men lost their lives.

The arbitration commission at The Hague has awarded to England, Germany and Italy the right to a preference of 30 per cent of the customs duties at Lagaira and Puerto Cabello in the settlement of the obligations incurred in the Venezuela affair. It is decreed that the United

States shall supervise the details of this settlement.

George W. Peterson, for twenty years superintendent of the stables of the United States Express company in New York, died February 19. Peterson acquired fame several years ago by rescuing from death by fire Senator Platt.

The late Senator Hanna's will was filed for probate at Cleveland, February 23. One-third of the estate was given to Mrs. Hanna, the remaining two-thirds going to the three children. The estate is valued at \$3,000,000. Nothing was left to charity.

The attorney general of Nebraska delivered an opinion to the effect that the Nebraska law making gambling a felony is invalid because of certain defects in the passage measure.

An Associated press dispatch, under date of Berlin, February 23, says: Colonel Leutwein, governor of German Southwest Africa, cables that a number of Ovambos under Captain Nechale attacked the police post at Amatoi on February 2 and were repulsed with a loss of sixty men killed. A division under Lieutenant Schultze had a fight with the Herreros at South Tsumana on February 8, in which the enemy lost ten men killed. The Germans sustained no casualties and Lieutenant Schultze captured large herds of cattle. The principal German forces are gathered at Okahanuja, where they will await the arrival of reinforcements before undertaking a general movement against the Herreros, but in the meantime the enemy will be engaged as opportunity offers. The Herreros are apparently centered about Otjosongati and Waterburg. Captain Estoff, Colonel Leutwein says in conclusion, has established communication with the Outjo column under Glase-napp, which is marching via Gobabis against the chief Tjotjo.

An Associated press cablegram under date of Manila, February 20, says: Corporal Ayala, ringleader of the members of the constabulary force, who recently revolted at Vigan, Luzon, was captured last Monday. He has since been tried, convicted and sentenced by the court at Vigan to be hanged. Very few of the men who deserted their posts remain uncaptured and most of the arms and ammunition taken with them have been recovered. A reward of \$2,500 has been offered for the capture of Ricarte, the revolutionist leader.

February 20 Dr. Amador was inaugurated President of Panama.

On Washington's birthday the University of Pennsylvania conferred upon James Whitcomb Riley the degree of doctor of literature.

Fourteen employes of the Celluloid Comb factory at Paris lost their lives in a fire which was started by an explosion of gas.

The independent cracker and biscuit manufacturers of the country have entered into an agreement to prevent price-cutting.

A Chicago grand jury investigating the Iroquois theatre fire has returned indictments against Will J. Davis, one of the proprietors of the theatre; Thomas Noonan, business manager, and James E. Cummings, stage carpenter. These three men are charged with manslaughter. Indictments were also returned against George Williams, city building commissioner, and Edward Laughlin, city building inspector. These officials are charged with culpable omission of official duty.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean of February 23 says: Mme. Elenora Petrelli, once a world-renowned opera singer and widow of Prince von Petroff of Russia, died in an obscure hotel in Chicago, alone and in want, save for the charity of strangers. The daughter and heiress of one of the wealthiest counts of Scandinavia, this wonderful woman lived to see two great fortunes melt away and to have her title of royalty taken from her. Driven by necessity to sing for a living in the royal opera companies of the continent, she won her way upward until at the Russian court in St. Petersburg, she became the wife of Prince von Petroff, a royal nobleman. Then began the series of misfortunes which eventually left her adrift as a poor teacher of music in Chicago, at the

age of 87 years. The singer had won fame under the name of Mme. Petrelli in three royal opera companies. The name was assumed for stage purposes. Her father was the Count Weigant of Sweden. Her mother was the Countess von Schwerin. Mme. Petrelli's name when a child was Eleanore Weigant. She was descended in a direct line from the grand duke of Mecklenberg, and Rev. Dr. Count von Schwerin, at one time the most noted man in Scandinavia.

February 22 a Pennsylvania railroad locomotive exploded near Johnstown, Pa. Three railroad employes were killed, while a number of others were seriously injured.

An Associated press cablegram under date of Tokio, February 25, says: The Japanese government today passed the famous White whisky claim by handing to United States Minister Griscom the draft for \$115,000 in favor of the American Trading company. The claim arose from a customs decision rendered in 1900, holding an importation of 8,000 barrels of whisky to be alcohol and increasing the duty from 40 to 250 per cent. Japan at first rejected the claim for repayment of the amount alleged to have been overcharged by the customs department, but Mr. Griscom on arriving at Tokio renewed it and pressed the case with firmness. His success in securing payment is very gratifying to American commercial men, and a settlement of the matter is regarded as another mark of the friendliness of Japan for America.

The grand jury at St. Louis has voted indictments charging Thomas McLespy of St. Louis, Frank C. Gettings of East St. Louis and Michael Ryan of Chicago, with assaulting a carriage driver. The chief of police had the prisoners brought to his office, and received admissions that they had been connected with the Chicago and East St. Louis strike troubles.

The pool room riots at Madison, Ill., prompted the mayor of that city to suspend Patrick McCambridge, chief of police, and Patrolman Street, a member of the force. Mayor Coyle appointed Sergeant John Meehan acting chief of police. The three officers named were among those indicted and arrested for participation in the riots.

A San Francisco, Cal., dispatch under date of February 24 says: Paymaster Harry Biscoe of the battleship Oregon has been ordered under arrest by Admiral Evans, for an alleged irregularity in his accounts.

Edward Trevett of Utica, N. Y., founder of the Commercial Travelers' Accident association, died at Westfield, N. Y., February 24.

It was announced at New York February 24 that the steamship lines in the Mediterranean service have at last come to an agreement to end the steerage rate war that has been on for two months, the new agreement providing for a division of the steerage business among lines, and restoring the old agreement as to differentials in rates, with some slight concessions.

Charles Mayer, former president of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, died at Baltimore February 24, aged 70 years.

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