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the test well and acquitted himself with dignity.

In connection with the meeting of this commission a dispatch from Pottsville, Pa., on November 17, says: Statistics gathered by the united mine workers from the Schuylkill region for presentation to the arbitration committee shows that only 4 per cent of the graduates of the local high schools are sons of miners. The wage rate shows an average of \$385 per year for the mine workers, wages of laborers being included with the miners in the calculation.

A Washington dispatch, under date of November 17, has this to offer: Edwin C. Madden, third assistant postmaster general, recommends a new rate of 4 cents a pound for all publications now admitted to the second-class mail except daily, tri-weekly, semi-weekly and weekly newspapers in the generally understood sense of the word "newspaper." This rate is to be paid on the bulk weight without regard to the number of pieces, the same as is now the case under the pound

rate. The consolidation of the third and fourth classes of mail matter, and that the postage thereon be at the rate of 1 cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof, to be prepared by stamps affixed. It was also reported that nearly \$4,000,000 were expended during the year on account of experimental rural free delivery.

An Associated press dispatch from Havana, dated November 17, says: As a result of a combination with the radical element, the members of the nationalist party now control the house of representatives and are proceeding to elect national officers. Speaker Pelayo and his associate republicans on the executive committee have resigned in view of their being now in a minority. The controlling element is not considered antagonistic to President Palma, but there is reason to believe that a strong campaign against the Platt amendment will be begun, and that an attempt will be made to rescind all the military orders.

On November 17 it was announced from San Francisco that the Japanese empire will maintain a permanent fleet in the American waters of the Pacific. Fleet Surgeon C. Aoki of the Japanese navy said today: "Next year Japan will send abroad its first fleet as a permanent unit. It will be stationed on the Pacific coast of America. Its headquarters will be at Esquimalt, in British Columbia, the naval station of Great Britain, our ally, and it will visit along the Pacific coast as far south as Valparaiso. The fleet will consist of three, or possibly more, of our best ships and the usual number of smaller vessels to accompany them. It is expected that we will have a fleet stationed in Europe also, with headquarters in one of the big British naval stations.

A cablegram from St. Petersburg, under date of November 17, says: An American firm today was awarded a \$1,000,000 contract to construct a system of telephone conduits in this city. The contract provides for the laying of twenty miles of underground tubes in 1903. The city of St. Petersburg is preparing to install a model telephone system. A Chicago firm has secured the contract for the switchboard.

An interesting report comes from San Francisco, dated November 17, as follows: The Southern Pacific, Santa Fe and their connections are in receipt of a petition from a number of Buddhist and Mohammedan priests, asking that they be given the courtesy of half rates for overland trips. Christian ministers and Jewish rabbis get that courtesy, also Christian missionaries and sisters of charity. The petition urges that no discrimination should be made against these oriental priests.

An Associated press cablegram from Honolulu is authority for the statement that it has been decided to open 3,000 or 4,000 acres of public lands in Hawaii under homestead titles, and it is reported that a number of Dakota families are considering emigration to Hawaii.

A Washington report of November 17 says: The navy department has received the following cablegram from Admiral Casey, dated Panama, November 16: "Colombian government has today about 5,000 men on line of railroad. More are expected daily. General Perdomo expressed to me his ability to maintain a free transit. I have ordered withdrawal from Isthmus of Panama and embarkation of marines Tuesday next."

A blunder that may perhaps have serious consequences was made in

Brussels on November 17 when the police arrested an Englishman named James Hardie on suspicion of his having been connected with the attempt on the life of King Leopold. The man turns out to be James Keir Hardie, M. P., the former chairman of the independent labor party and well-known labor leader. He was subsequently released, and he then lodged a complaint at the British legation.

A dispatch from Charleston, S. C., of November 17 says: The report of Comptroller General Derham, just published, gives the total paid out this year in confederate pensions as \$200,227. The total number of pensions is 7,750. Eighty-seven veterans collectively received \$7,799 in lieu of arthritic limbs. The increase in the number of pensions grows yearly and if this condition continues the appropriation will furnish a pittance much smaller than that now received.

An Associated press cablegram from Honolulu, via San Francisco, under date of November 17, reports: A wireless message received here this morning from the island of Hawaii states that the volcano Kilauea has broken out in the most violent eruption for the past twenty years. Kilauea has shown mild intermittent activity since the outbreak of St. Pierre.

A London cablegram, under date of November 18, says: Royal assent was given today to all the bills relating to Charles T. Yerkes' "tube" railway plans for London. The bills providing for the construction of the roads cover an aggregate of 100 miles of underground and surface tracks.

A new Swiss minister to the United States has been appointed in the person of Fernand Dumartheray who is now secretary of the legation at Rome.

A formal order has been issued by Secretary Moody directing Admiral Dewey to assume command of the Caribbean sea division in the coming maneuvers and that Rear Admiral Taylor, chief of the bureau of navigation, shall accompany him as his chief of staff.

On November 18 it was announced from Brussels that Generals Delarey and Botha have decided to abandon their proposed tour to the United States. General Delarey in an interview published here says they intend to return to South Africa to meet Colonial Secretary Chamberlain at Pretoria.

Under date of November 18 it was reported that State Senator C. C. Binkley of Richmond, Ind., died Tuesday. He was grand master of the Indiana Odd Fellows and was a trustee of Depauw university. He was a delegate to the national convention when General Grant was nominated the second time for president.

A dispatch from San Francisco, dated November 18, reports that Major John A. Hull, judge advocate of the department of California since December, 1900, has been relieved by Lieutenant Colonel Jasper Morrison, recently the judge advocate of the Philippines, and will report for duty as judge advocate of the department of the Missouri at Omaha.

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