

NEWSNOTES CONDENSED

A Boiling Down of the More Important Events Here and There

Foreign.

The Observatore Romano at Rome prints a dispatch from Harrar, a town of southeastern Abyssinia, saying it is reported that King Menelik died December 23, and that the news was concealed in order to avoid internal troubles.

The new Turkish cabinet, of which Hakkia Bey is grand vizier, has been completed with the exception of the ministries of public instruction and of pious foundations. Changes have been made only in the ministries of war, marine and mines and forests.

The proposed Austrian cabinet of Dr. Ladislaus Von Lukacs having failed to meet the approval of Emperor Francis Joseph, the latter in an audience entrusted Count Klueen Von Hedervary with the responsibility of forming a new ministry.

The Russian foreign office has taken no action on the memorandum presented by the United States government relative to the neutralization of the Manchurian railroad, which has been submitted for a careful examination conjointly by the ministers of finance and war. The ultimate attitude of Russia will depend largely upon the reception of the proposals by the other powers, and the developments in this matter will necessarily consume a great deal of time.

Dr. Frederick A. Cook's original note books have arrived at Copenhagen and will be examined by the committee immediately. Hector Salmonson says, however, that the investigation will not alter the committee's judgment. He has seen the notebooks and is still convinced that the explorer's claim to the discovery of the Pole is not bonafide.

General.

Another tragedy of the sea has been written into the record of marine disasters on the north Pacific coast through the loss of the iron steamer Czarina.

Five unidentified wrecks were burned to death in a track on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad ten miles east of Wister, Okla.

Prof. Henry S. Graves of Yale, newly appointed national forester, expressed himself in favor of the policy pursued by Mr. Pinchot.

Fifty thousand elk in the Jackson Hole country in Uintah county, Utah, are starving because they are unable to get food through the deepest and most crusted snow in years.

Lieutenant Daniel Shean of the Sixteenth infantry, who disappeared from his command at Fort Leavenworth, Kas., three months ago, was dropped from the rolls of the army.

Eight Rockford, Ill., factories, employing upward of 1,000 men, closed on account of scarcity of coal.

The bill against "white slave" traffic was passed by the house.

J. C. Mabray and other alleged members of the "big store" swindling syndicate will have to stand trial under the indictment returned against them last September by the federal grand jury in Council Bluffs on the charge of conspiracy to use the mails fraudulently.

John R. Mulvane, in a paper before the Kansas agricultural board, advocated the establishment of a central bank.

President Taft appointed Henry S. Graves to succeed Gifford Pinchot as forester.

Many governmental reforms are demanded in resolutions presented to the National Live Stock association for adoption.

Public men at Washington are waiting for the next move in the Pinchot-Ballinger controversy.

Bleaching of flour does no good says Dr. Wiley, but is employed simply to please the eye.

In ten years the United States has exported nine billion dollars' worth of agricultural products.

A ruling by the supreme court grants the interstate commerce commission greater power.

Japan can see no good in the proposed neutralization of the Manchurian railroad property.

Nebraska millers lock horns with Dr. Wiley on the subject of bleached flour.

Census Director Durand says cooperation of the people is necessary to make the enumeration a success.

Former Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii, accompanied by a party of relatives and friends, has arrived in Washington.

Honoring the memory of Albert Pike, the great exponent of Scottish Rite masonry, exercises celebrating the hundredth anniversary of his birth were held in Washington.

President Taft is accredited at the capitol with a desire to put an end to the internecine war which threatens his administration.

A statue of General Lew Wallace was placed in the capitol at Washington.

Treasurer Lindsay of the Nebraska republican state committee favors republican primaries to settle the senatorial contest next fall.

Representative James M. Griggs of the second Georgia district died suddenly at his home.

No recount of the vote for mayor of Boston will be asked for on the part of the principal defeated candidate, James J. Storrow, if the revised official returns show 1,145 plurality.

The names of ten successful architects who have submitted comparative designs for a \$2,500,000 monument in New York to Robert Fulton, were made public by the jury of the Robert Fulton Memorial association.

After thirty-five years in the government service Mrs. Anna Elizabeth Philpott, within six years of being a centenarian, is dead at her home in Washington.

The house discussed the army bill and refused to economize.

Iowa will send fifty-two delegates to the world's Sunday school convention which will be held in Washington, D. C., on the dates of May 19-24.

The opinion at Washington is that the president will soon break with Speaker Cannon over legislation.

Five war vessels of the United States will take part in the celebration of the first centennial of the independence of the Argentine republic at Buenos Ayres about May next.

Walter Lonsdale, Dr. Frederiek A. Cook's secretary, announced that he had received a letter from Dr. Cook, but he declined to give the explorer's address.

The Scott expedition in search of the south pole is now assured, the English government having promised \$100,000 towards the \$200,000 which is the estimated expense.

Senators Burkett and Brown recommended the reappointment of William F. Warner to be United States marshal and Frank S. Howell to be United States district attorney for Nebraska.

The Russian foreign office has issued a statement embodying the memorandum of the United States government bearing on the neutralization of the Manchurian railways.

Omaha's persistence and determined effort to establish a wool market has again won recognition in the resolutions of the Natural Wool Growers association adopted in Salt Lake.

The house adopted a resolution providing for an investigation of the interior and forestry departments.

An investigation into the alleged domination of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad company by the Pennsylvania system so far as it affects freight shippers in West Virginia is to be made.

Economists agree generally that high prices are due to increase in gold supply.

Washington.

Fortifications for the United States and insular possessions for the year 1911 will cost \$5,617,000, over two and a half millions less than for 1910, if the house adopts the recommendations of the appropriations committee.

John C. Calhoun is about to return to his former haunts in the national capital in the form of a marble statue. It will be erected as one of the South Carolina contributions to Statuary hall, which was occupied by the house of representatives at the time Calhoun was a member. The statue will be formally accepted March 13, next.

Three West Point cadets have been found guilty of hazing and their dismissal will follow the approval of the sentence by the secretary of war who is allowed no discretion in the matter.

Terming the avowed policy of economy of the Taft administration as a "political exigency," which would not prove to be an economy in the long run, Representative Hay of Virginia made an earnest plea against curtailing the \$1,350,000 appropriation for national guard encampments while the army appropriation bill was before the house.

A pension of \$5,000 a year is due Mrs. Grover Cleveland according to precedent, and Senator Root presented to the senate a bill making the grant. The amount is the same as was allowed the widowed wives of former presidents.

A spirited trade contest between Omaha and Lincoln, Neb., was brought to the attention of the interstate commerce commission by the filing of a complaint against the Union Pacific railroad and ten other railway companies. It is alleged that the defendant railroads discriminate in their lumber rates against Omaha and in favor of Lincoln, to the great commercial disadvantage of Omaha.

Personal.

Nathaniel F. Moore, son of the Rock Island magnate, was found dead at a Chicago resort.

Congressman Hinshaw says he is pleased with the present status of insurgency in the house.

Senator Charles Dick is now officially a candidate to succeed himself in the senate from Ohio.

At Liberal, Mo., Henry Dorman celebrated his 110th birthday. He was born in Steuben county, N. Y.

George Harris, president of the Burlington railroad, has presented his resignation to the board of directors, and it will be accepted.

Finkelstein, the would-be robber of New York, was found dead in a tunnel leading to the vaults.

Representative Norris has an article in La Follette's magazine on the rule of Speaker Cannon.

Under the Nebraska law the assignment of wages is not legal and can not be collected.

President Gompers has accepted an invitation to speak in Kansas City in February.

WASHINGTON ACTIVE

LIVELY WEEK IN LEGISLATION IS ANTICIPATED.

INSURGENTS WILL BE ACTIVE

Disensions Have Spread to the Senate but Lull Expected When Inquiry Committee is Appointed.

Washington.—No matter how satisfactory an arrangement is made for the selection of the joint committee to investigate the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, the insurgent fight promises to occupy a prominent place in the congressional situation this week.

Disensions between the insurgents and regulars in the house have occupied the center of the stage for a fortnight, although some measures have been passed. The bickerings have even spread to the senate, and legislation there has been at a standstill.

That there will be a lull in hostilities in the house as soon as the Ballinger-Pinchot committee is appointed is conceded, but those who are anxious that legislation may proceed without delay are not oversanguine of their efforts to keep the insurgent row in check. They look for renewed outbreaks whenever any question affecting the Cannon rules is interjected into the proceedings.

Second in interest to the discussion of the battle between the republican organization and the insurgents in the house is the gossip in both branches of congress as to what will be the fate of the several administration bills to put into force what are now known as Taft policies, as differentiated from Roosevelt policies. These embrace the program for the amendment of the interstate commerce law, the Sherman anti-trust law, and carrying into effect measures for the conservation of natural resources.

Little opposition has been heard to the administration measure for the strengthening of the interstate commerce act. On all sides it seems to be conceded that some such measure as is proposed by Mr. Taft will be enacted.

The insurgents of the senate expect to hold a conference at an early day to consider what is to be their attitude on the administration bills. In the meantime the senate committee on interstate commerce will take up the subject of amending the interstate commerce act at a meeting to be held Friday, while the Taft measure will have to run the gauntlet of opposition in the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce.

The message of the president bearing upon the question of enacting a voluntary federal incorporation law to offset the interpretation placed upon the Sherman anti-trust law by the Standard Oil company dissolution case, and a possible affirmation by the supreme court of that decision, has attracted little attention in the house. Members of the senate judiciary committee have read the bill which President Taft and Attorney General Wickersham have drafted, and will present to the senate through Senator Clark of Wyoming.

Nine Deaths Due to Storm.

New York—Nine lives were lost and six persons injured in one of the worst storms that ever visited New York City. The total snowfall when the skies cleared, was 14 1/2 inches, second only to the blizzard of 1899, when 15 1/2 inches fell.

Crisis Created by Army.

Madrid.—Premier Moret announced his conviction that a crisis had been created by the military agitation against the government. The A. B. C. declares the number of discontented officers exceeds 2,300.

ZELAYA SECURE IN MEXICO.

Extradition by United States impossible, Says High Authority.

Alken, S. C.—In an interview former Senator George F. Edmunds of Vermont, one of the highest authorities on international law in America, declared that in his opinion the United States could scarcely demand the extradition from Mexico of former President Zelaya of Nicaragua, as Zelaya was guilty of no crime. Even had Zelaya personally executed Groce and Cannon he suggested there would be no reasonable legal ground on which to demand his extradition from Mexico. Diaz's asylum to Zelaya is not an act unfriendly to the United States, he declared.

Indiana Banks Fail.

Evansville, Ind.—The Citizens National bank of this city will not open for business Monday morning. After a meeting of its directors, a notice was posted on the front doors that the bank was closed, but it was believed its depositors would be paid in full.

President Taft's Bills.

Washington.—President Taft's bills on various branches of conservation, as prepared by Secretary Ballinger, were discussed in a meeting of the house committee on public lands, in which Chairman Mondell explained upon the reasons for his declination to introduce the measures in the house. Mr. Mondell objects to the Ballinger bill for classification of public lands as entirely unfeasible. Some of the others he regards as impracticable. There are half a dozen of the conservation bills in the batch.

At the National Capital

Gossip of People and Events Gathered in Washington

Ex-Senator Wilson's Joke on New York



WASHINGTON, D. C.—Former Senator John L. Wilson of the state of Washington was one of the most peppery members of congress that ever sat in either house. Mr. Wilson's reputation extends over both sides of the capitol, he having served in the Fifty-first congress in the house as the first representative from the then new state of Washington, and in 1895 he was elected to the senate, where he served one term. Mr. Wilson is now the owner of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, and at the same time is heavily interested in Washington state industries and real estate.

resources of the state of Washington and the general attitude of its people toward the question of conservation. "The issue of conservation with us is merely the question of the removal of friction between the national government and the state," said Mr. Wilson.

"When Gov. Hughes of New York came out to see our fair at Seattle he made a speech in which he said that we of the west would probably be surprised to know that the state of New York had set aside 1,000,000 acres of land for a forest reserve. It fell to me to reply to the speech of the governor and I told him that we were indeed surprised that anybody in the state of New York would let that much get away from him. Then I told the governor that if the forest reserves of the state of Washington were placed side by side in one contingent body of land the entire Empire state of New York could not only be put down in the middle of it, but a man could walk around the boundaries of the forest reserve and still be unable to see the boundary of the state of New York."

Threat to Blow Up the U. S. Senate



MEMBERS of the United States senate showed more than ordinary interest in the report from Chicago that a newspaper in that city had received a letter from a man signing himself "C. Hodges," declaring he intends to blow up the upper branch of congress with nitro-glycerin.

Some of the insurgents are hoping that "C. Hodges" will put off the painful operation until they have had an opportunity of "surgin." Senator Tillman says he hopes to be in South Carolina when the blow off comes.

"C. Hodges" wrote that physicians had given him but six months to live, and that at first he had intended taking morphine to end his existence quickly. He changed his plans, he said, when he read an article charging that corruption existed in the senate, and he determined to blow up the body with nitro-glycerin and kill himself at the same time.

The letter follows: "To the Editor in Chief: I am going to blow up the congress with nitro-glycerin. My only reason for giving you this

information is that I do not wish to injure or kill innocent people.

"Don't think my opening remarks are a joke or threats emanating from a diseased brain. I mean business, as you will find out later.

"This dishonorable body called the United States senate has plundered the public long enough, and it's time something was done to learn them a lesson—one they will remember for some time to come.

"The physicians inform me that I can only live about six months as I am suffering with incurable internal trouble and nothing will save me.

"I intended taking morphine and ending my existence until reading an article giving the history of the senate and its corruption.

"It determined me to change my plans on self-destruction for the time being and plot how I will wipe out the gang of grafters and also end my miserable life also.

"I have secured enough nitroglycerin to blow up h—l, and God help the so-called detectives who try to stop me.

"I know the people won't appreciate my sacrifice in their behalf, but later on they will say that my act was a just punishment.

"There is no use of going into details; I leave this to your judgment, use it as you see fit.

"I will not write you again, but wait for results that are going to happen.

"Yours,

"C. HODGES."

Peary and Family Dug Out of a Drift



WASHINGTON.—Commander Robert E. Peary, U. S. A. N., who sledged to the north pole and back about a year after Dr. Cook of Brooklyn made the trip on the Imagination Limited, had an arctic experience a few nights ago within seven miles of Washington that was almost as bad in some respects as anything he experienced in latitude 90 or thereabouts.

As a result of the unique adventure the explorer was inconvenienced for several days.

"I am not sure," he told a friend, "but I think I rook gold. By dose I'd all dubbed up. Aid Id stiddy?"

Bound for Dinner Party.

Commander Peary, Mrs. Peary and Mrs. Peary's sister were on their way to keep an eight o'clock dinner engagement at the country home of Ralph P. Barnard, son of Justice Job Barnard of the supreme court of the District of Columbia. The taxicab in which they were riding skidded,

lucked a couple of times, and hopped off the road into a six-foot snowdrift. The chauffeur managed to keep his seat, but the Pearys involuntary assembled in one corner of the vehicle.

"Heavens!" thundered the explorer. He also made further comments that escaped reprint during the excitement.

"This seems quite natural and home-like," he added, without noticeable enthusiasm. "I observe that we are in latitude 7.50, longitude 8:15 p. m. You folks sit here while I conduct a relief expedition of one."

Whereupon the commander, although in evening garb and wearing low-cut patent leathers, started off across country in the direction of the nearest light.

The next day he intimated in nasal tones that it was one of the meanest trips he ever made. He plowed and wallowed through drifts of snow that sometimes reached his knees, sometimes his vest, and, on one memorable occasion, his shoulders.

The explorer knocked at several doors before he arrived at the hospitable home of Mr. Barnard, where the work of digging out the taxicab took more than an hour, and the Pearys and the other guests sat down to a dried up eight o'clock dinner at half past ten o'clock.

Servian King Wants an American Heiress



WHERE is Count Pablo Mysky Trezkoff? He is supposed by his friends in Washington to be in Chicago in the interest of the Karageorgevitch family, which now sits on the Servian throne, and is planning to marry into money. A rich Chicago bride for future queen of Servia would be just about what King Peter would like.

Both sons of King Peter are preparing to travel early in the new year, and the itinerary includes a two months' stay in the United States, unless the agent's report makes it inadvisable. One of them will succeed to the throne. Count Trezkoff is a mysterious stranger, about whom

Washington's ultra-exclusive set has been talking. Upon his appearance here he was believed to be a secret agent for some Balkan nation.

Now it turns out that King Peter commissioned him to come to this country and report what opportunity his two sons might have toward making an alliance with American girls.

Servia does not maintain a diplomatic representative in Washington, and this may have made the count's business difficult to transact. He is well supplied with funds by the house of Morgan, Harjes & Co., the Paris branch of J. P. Morgan & Co.

A report that the Servian princes want to marry American girls reached Washington last spring. Czar Nicholas, Emperor Francis Joseph and King George of Greece tried to plan an alliance for the sons of King Peter, but none of these would consider an alliance with any princes to whom they were individually related.

This is why the prince will seek to marry merely money.

FIRES IN NEBRASKA

SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY OCCURRED IN SIX MONTHS.

REPORT OF THE STATE WARDEN

State Auditor Stands Pat On Order Promulgated Relative to Insurance Agents.

The report of A. V. Johnson, state fire warden, for the period between July 2 and the first of the year, shows there has been 656 fires during that time. Of that number 202 were in Omaha, 44 in South Omaha and 103 in Lincoln. Thirteen were reported as of incendiary origin and twenty-one suspicious. The careless use of matches was reported to have been the cause of 75 per cent of the fires.

The following shows the value of property involved, insurance and loss caused by fires during the last six months:

Value of buildings.....	\$5,940,234
Value of contents.....	2,631,074
Insurance on buildings.....	1,428,048
Insurance on contents.....	1,578,308
Loss to buildings.....	251,860
Loss to contents.....	508,506

Insurance companies who are required to pay tax to support the fire warden's department paid in a total of \$7,896.55. The department expended \$4,021.49, of which \$3,099.96 was for salaries.

State Auditor Stands Pat.

State Auditor Barton is receiving numerous protests on his ruling that before licenses will be issued insurance agents it will be necessary for the agents to fill out a blank card showing how much business they have written during the preceding year, the amount of experience they have had and other information by which the auditor will be able to determine whether the applicant is a bona fide insurance agent or is simply taking out a license in order to secure a rebate from the insurance company assuming his risks.

The auditor informed one company that it brought about the order itself by reason of the fact that it gave to certain persons with a lot of property to insure a commission as agent, which permitted the person to secure a rebate without violating the law. At the same time the person getting such commission would write no other insurance. The auditor has refused to change his ruling.

Births in Nebraska.

During the year 1909 the number of births in Nebraska was 23,651, against 22,943, and the deaths last year were 10,365, against 9,591 for 1908. The increase in the number of deaths is due to the large number who died of spinal meningitis.

Cookery for School Girls.

State Superintendent E. C. Bishop has issued a bulletin for the Nebraska school girls interested in domestic science. It contains an elaborate course in the art of cookery. The outline of lessons was originated and first used by the York High School Girls' Domestic Science club. The work was done at the home of the pupils. The results were such that the following year the board of education fitted up a domestic science laboratory, engaged a special teacher and established a regular domestic science course of study.

Wants Depot at Union.

Charles Graves of Union has filed a complaint against the Missouri Pacific railroad with the State Railway Commission asking for a new depot at that place. Mr. Graves said the depot there would seat twelve persons and usually the room was so full of foul air that it was hardly possible for persons to remain in it.

Liquor Case Docketed.

The supreme court granted permission to the attorney general to docket the case involving the right of the Burlington and Union Pacific roads to sell liquor on their dining cars in Nebraska.

Chance for Prisoners to Study.

At the annual meeting of the Nebraska Prison association the reports of the officers, Judge M. B. Reese, president; Dr. M. A. Bullock and Captain W. M. Gifford, superintendents, and A. E. Davison, secretary-treasurer, were read and approved. Tributes were paid to Dr. G. W. Martin, who died July 6, 1909, by Judge Reese and Judge A. S. Tibbets. A memorial to Dr. Martin was ordered made a part of the annual report. A committee was appointed, consisting of Governor A. C. Shallenberger, Warden T. W. Smith and the members of the committee on visitation and discharges, for the purpose of investigating the feasibility of extending to the prisoners in the penitentiary a chance to take work in correspondence schools so that upon their release they may have means of livelihood that will enable them to rejoin the ranks of good citizens.

Arranging for the Teachers.

Some of the work of arranging the program for the annual State Teachers' association, to be held next November, is already being arranged. President N. M. Graham of the association will be in the city soon, where he will meet the presidents of the various sections of the teachers' association in a conference looking toward the arrangement of the various programs. Mr. Graham has already made arrangements to have Rev. Frank Crane of Chicago present to deliver a series of lectures to the association at the various sessions next fall.