

## Weekly News Summary

Lazare Weillier and Baron Lagotelleire have sailed for the United States, bearing a commission from the French government to study the state and federal financial methods in the United States. They are especially instructed to investigate the tax system, civil service, and those trusts which are likely to effect French trade in steel, petroleum and sugar. It is also reported that they will have some suggestion to make on the isthmian canal, having yet a lingering hope that something may be done to save the Panama canal.

France has a purpose to construct a railway across the desert of Sahara, and the scheme has obtained impetus by the discovery of large beds of nitrate of phosphate beyond the Tonhat oasis. It is claimed that these beds are extensive enough to supply fertilizers for the world.

A committee of senators and representatives, chosen for the purpose of advancing irrigation measures, has effected a compromise between the Shaffrath bill and the Newlands bill. The compromise bill provides that money received from the sale of public lands shall constitute a reclamation fund for the work of irrigation. Provision is also made for examination of surveys, for reservoir sites, together with sites for divisions of water and irrigation canals connected therewith. The secretary of the interior is authorized to withdraw for public entry all lands required for irrigation work and all public lands irrigated.

Contracts for construction are to be let whenever it is agreed that the project in the certain vicinity is a practical one, but the cost of the enterprise must not exceed \$10 per acre. When every project has been completed, lands irrigated shall be subject to homestead entry, upon the condition of reclamation and the payment, at the time of making final proof of settlement, of \$5 an acre, the same to be converted into a reclamation fund. Every entry is limited to eighty acres. Whenever the stored waters are found to be more than sufficient for the public lands, or if it is determined that the public lands is better suited to the utilization of water, or if it is sufficient for both, then the perpetual water rights may be sold for private rights, at price not less than \$5 an acre. It is also provided that all property may be condemned for the construction of irrigation

works. This act is not to effect the laws of any state or territory relating to the rights to appropriate the water or its distribution, but the state or territorial laws shall govern or control the appropriation and distribution of the water rendered available by the act.

The American "Friends" peace conference at Philadelphia adopted resolutions in favor of a permanent international court of arbitration, which resolution also deplores the fact "that nations making high professions of Christian civilization are at present engaged in war with less civilized and enlightened people." It is stated that in the opinion of this conference, that the time has already come when the voice of enlightened humanity should make itself heard calling for arbitration of matters at issue.

Major Flood-Page of the Marconi Telegraph company, in an interview with a representative of the Associated press, confirms the report that Mr. Marconi at St. Johns, N. F., had received signals from the experimental station at Poldhu Penzanze. Major Flood-Page said that the severe weather made continuous tests difficult. No doubt the wireless signals had been successfully transmitted across the Atlantic. General congratulations have been communicated to Mr. Marconi. Many electricians, however, say that many years will elapse before the wireless system may be put into practical use.

Although the senate committee held back the confirmation of the nomination of P. C. Knox to be attorney general of the United States because of the protest made by the anti-trust league, the nomination was confirmed December 16.

The Hay-Pauncefote treaty, involving the construction of the Nicaragua canal, was ratified by the senate December 16. All proposed amendments were rejected.

The followers of Maso, one of the candidates for president of the Cuban republic, have requested a postponement of the Cuban election, but Secretary of War Root has replied declining to grant the postponement.

Representative Smith of Michigan has introduced a bill to make the birthday of William McKinley, January 29, a national holiday.

Secretary Root has sent to congress estimates of \$100,000,000 for barracks and quarters in the Philippines outside of Manila.

Nineteen independent distilleries are planning to make organized war on the whisky trust.

A Washington dispatch to the Chicago Tribune says: "Mrs. McKinley's

friends, who were closest to her during her happy years spent in the White house, and chief among them the women of the cabinet, have each sent Christmas tokens to Mrs. Barber, to be given to Mrs. McKinley Christmas morning. Her solicitude for Secretary Cortelyou, Mrs. Cortelyou, and the ladies of the cabinet, for whom she knitted slippers as Christmas presents, gave them each a strong desire to add if possible some bright token to the dreary day. Her friends have also kept every bit of literature in reference to the McKinley memorial, and this is sent to her regularly. One of her chief pleasures is to have read to her this last proof of the nation's regard for her husband, and she has it all stored carefully away and re-read to her from time to time."

The senate has adopted a resolution proposed by Senator Vest directing the judiciary committee to inquire and report to the senate the powers of congress on the question of anarchy. A Chicago Tribune dispatch describes this resolution as follows: "This resolution directs the judiciary committee to ascertain whether or not congress has the power to legislate for the punishment of anarchists who attempt assassination of the president, and if it has not the power, whether it is expedient to amend the constitution so as to enable congress to legislate. The committee is instructed to learn whether or not congress has the power to punish those who teach the doctrine that all government should be destroyed, even if the chief rulers must be assassinated to do so. It also directs the committee to learn whether congress has the power to send anarchists to some island under the jurisdiction of the United States; to find ways and means for punishing persons belonging to anarchical associations, and whether such persons can be imprisoned for life or deported. The committee is directed to recommend to the senate such amendments to the constitution and legislation as may be necessary to stamp out anarchy."

William Gregory, governor of Rhode Island, died at his home at Wickford, R. I., December 15. He was fifty-two years old.

The people at Oregon intend to hold an exposition at Portland in 1905, in commemoration of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The management has issued an address in which it says: "This expedition was the great factor in the extension of the dominion of the United States to the Pacific, for it confirmed by exploration and by actual possession the claim founded on the discovery of the Columbia river in May, 1792, eleven years before the Louisiana purchase was made." The proposed exposition is to be held under the auspices of the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Utah; Commissioners representing these states have been appointed, and congress will be urged to make a

generous appropriation to assist in the enterprise. Urging the importance of the exposition the address says: "We are approaching the completion of the first centennial period of this expansion of the United States. The historical significance should be fittingly celebrated. It belongs to the class of greatest and most important movements in our national history. It was a beginning of a movement which has given us a Pacific coast line longer than the Atlantic. And it faces us toward the west, over the Pacific, as hitherto we had faced only toward the east, over the Atlantic. It has given the Pacific northwest a position whence we shall take a leading place in the commerce of the Orient, now on the eve of great development."

General Nelson A. Miles, speaking of the results of the Schley court of inquiry, said in a public interview: "I am willing to take the judgment of Admiral Dewey in the matter. He has been a commander of a fleet, and as such has known the anxieties and responsibilities which rest on men under these circumstances. He was instrumental in the destruction of one Spanish fleet and knows and realizes the feelings that encompass an officer under such conditions. I think Dewey has summed up the matter in a clear and concise manner, and I believe his conclusions will be indorsed by the patriotic people of the United States. I have no sympathy with the efforts which have been made to destroy the honor of an officer under such circumstances."

The United States delegates to the pan-American congress have notified the state department that the congress was a failure. The disagreement arose over the question of arbitration, the United States delegates taking the ground that compulsory arbitration between nations was absurd. A Chicago Tribune dispatch says: Bolivia, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and the Argentine were determined to have compulsory arbitration. The weaker states of Ecuador, Colombia and Chili were opposed to the plan, because they believed it would be used sooner or later to wipe them off the map. The delegates of the United States to the council refused to take sides because their instructions were to develop the sentiment among the other nations first, so as to keep the United States free from the charge of dictation. The Argentina delegates insisted upon knowing the attitude of this country, and Senor Garcia Merou,

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