

## The News of the Week.

Slight earthquake shocks extending over the state of Utah have been reported since November 17, in some portions of the state it is said that not a day passes that shocks are not felt.

A cablegram from Berlin, dated December 6, says: The admiralty secretary, Von Tirpitz, has voluntarily informed a member of the United States embassy that the German cruisers *Amazone*, *Aridne* and *Niobe* are positively not going to the West Indies, and semi-official statements in Kiel and Wilhelmshaven papers have explained that the cruisers are not going across the Atlantic because the naval law of 1900 requires that six small cruisers shall remain attached to the first squadron of battleships. Therefore, these three cannot be sent on foreign service until the completion of several cruisers, which are now building.

After many difficulties a new cabinet for Spain has been formed and sworn in, according to a Madrid cablegram of December 6. It is also said that the new cabinet seems to be more popular with the people than the late one, and it is hoped that these crises are now over.

It was reported from Paris on December 6 that there was an unprecedented scene in the chamber of Deputies this afternoon over the Humbert case. Members of the right party engaged in a free fight with center party members. The premier, M. Combes, was forcibly ejected from the rostrum and the sitting was suspended amid intense excitement. The disturbance arose when M. Vallee, progressive republican, described Frederick Humbert as a "Boulangist deputy."

A mass meeting in honor of Michael Davitt, Edwin Blake, and John Dillon, the Irish envoys now in this country, was held on December 7 in Washington, D. C. The meeting was well attended, many prominent men being present to listen to the addresses on the subject of the Irish question.

A dispatch from San Francisco under date of December 2 reports that a movement toward the municipal ownership of street railways was defeated at a special election held here today. A proposition to issue bonds to the amount of \$700,000 for the purpose of equipping and operating the Geary street railroad was beaten by a vote of 15,120 for, to 11,334 against. A two-thirds majority was necessary to carry the measure.

It is regarded as probable that the anthracite coal strike commission will be unable to conclude its work during the present year, as a great deal of testimony on both sides yet remains to be taken.

Under an act of congress in 1901 the secretary of the interior was ordered to establish the 100th meridian which forms the eastern boundary of Texas from Red river to Childress county, and in consequence of this action it is reported that Texas will lose 72,000 acres to the Indian territory.

Consul General Thomas Nast died on December 7 at Guayaquil, Ecuador. Mr. Nast was appointed to this post July 1 of this year. He was born in 1840 and was famous as a caricaturist and cartoonist.

A dispatch from Pittsburg, Pa., dated December 7, says: The new

Union Steel company is to be financed as a \$75,000,000 concern, thereby entering its reorganized existence about the first of the year as the strongest and most aggressive independent concern of the kind in the world. An authorized bond issue of \$25,000,000 is to be provided in addition to the authorized stock issue of \$50,000,000. Of the bonds about \$18,000,000 will be issued at once and about \$33,000,000 of the stock. The Union Steel company bonds will be 5 per cent, due in forty years, and redeemable after ten years.

Severely cold weather is prevailing in many sections of Europe as well as in this country. From Vienna comes a report under date of December 7 that the Danube is frozen over for a considerable distance and there is much suffering among the poor caused by the rigid cold.

Advices from Santiago, Cuba, under date of December 8, report that two thousand persons, among them the American representatives of the Cuba company, witnessed the departure this morning of the first regular train to Havana with 150 through passengers. The crowd gave the train an enthusiastic send off. It is expected that the opening of the railroad will lead to the rapid development of the interior of the island.

The first annual meeting of the industrial department of the national civic federation met at New York on December 8. Senator Hanna called the session to order and made an address of welcome. Prominent men from all sections of the country were present including a delegation of British workmen under the leadership of Alfred Moseley.

An interesting dispatch from New York, dated December 8, is as follows: Henry L. Gatchitt, who, as a lad, was the first newsboy in New York to cry his papers aloud, has just died at his home in Brooklyn, a rich man. He was born in East Side and sold newspapers in the streets when the site of Cooper Union was a cornfield. Acting on an inspiration one day, he took up his stand in Park Row and began calling out the names of his papers and an inkling of their contents to passers-by. The present "extra" yell of the newsboys dates from that time.

A London cablegram of December 8 conveys the information that Premier Balfour announced today that an ultimatum had been sent to Venezuela and that in the event of a satisfactory reply not being received the British and German governments would take measures to enforce their claims against that country.

Recent advices from the Samoan islands via San Francisco, Cal., tell of severe earthquake shocks in those islands, some of the shocks being severe enough to throw down a concrete church and wreck several other buildings. Several volcanoes that have for many years been regarded as extinct, burst into flame and the people fled for safety. The volcanic disturbances are mostly confined to the western part of the Samoan group of islands.

The recent boundary dispute between the states of Nebraska and Missouri caused by the change of current of the Missouri river has been discussed by a commission at Kansas City, Mo. It is reported that the commission which was appointed by the

United States supreme court found that a line drawn through the territory of the old river bed equally distant from each side represented the main channel of the Missouri river prior to 1866, and that all land lying on the Missouri side of the line belonged to the state of Missouri and all land lying on the Nebraska side of said line belonged to that side. The river shortened its course fourteen miles by cutting through the neck of land.

On December 8 it was announced from Mexico City that notwithstanding the fall of silver, American capitalists interested in large smelters here continue buying silver mines. This, it is argued, implies their faith in the future of the white metal.

Another dispatch from the same city on December 9 says that a company organized in the United States with \$12,000,000 gold capital has applied to the federal government for a concession to utilize certain great water falls in the state of Puebla for generating electric power. It is proposed to transmit this power to various points.

On December 9 it was reported from Marseilles, France, that at an exciting meeting today which was attended by 5,000 strikers, it was resolved to enter on no further negotiations with either the companies or the government, but to continue the strike to the end.

It was announced on December 9 that all German and British subjects in Caracas, Venezuela, were arrested with the exception of the ministers and members of the legations, most of whom have already left the city. This is looked upon as a retaliation on the part of President Castro for the recent ultimatum sent to him by these powers.

As a result of the recent strike disturbances in the city of Havana, the mayor of the city has been suspended charged with usurpation of power during the strike. It is said that the laboring classes of the city are opposed to this action on the ground that the Cuban veterans promised that if the strike was called off there would be no further apprehensions.

The naval maneuvers off the coast of Porto Rico resulted in the complete victory of the white squadron under Admiral Sumner over the so-called blue squadron under command of Admiral Higginson. It is reported that these maneuvers have demonstrated the need of more exercise in scouting and a greater navy.

It was reported from Rome on December 9 that thirteen anarchists were arrested near Spezzia last night after a desperate struggle. The police surprised them at a meeting while they were in the act of taking an oath, with raised poniards, to assassinate King Victor Emanuel. One of the anarchists and one of the police were severely wounded.

Recently the report of the select committee of the house of commons in England on the subject of steamship subsidies was issued. In its general tenor it is decidedly against the principle of granting subsidies.

One of the interesting discussions in connection with the meeting of the industrial department of the national federation of labor which closed its session in New York on December 10 was that regarding the incorporation

of labor unions. President Gompers opposed this plan as did also Senator Hanna and the latter was also against compulsory arbitration.

The sessions of the anthracite coal strike commission are marked by interesting developments made as regards the treatment of the miners by the companies, and so far public sympathy has been mostly expressed in favor of the miners. It was reported on December 10 that an attempt at bribery had been made by the mine operators, two local presidents being offered \$2,500 each to get miners to go back to work, regardless of the orders of the union.

Affairs in Venezuela were apparently brought to a crisis on December 9 when ten German and four British vessels captured the Venezuelan fleet towed them outside of Guayra harbor and sunk them, only one vessel being spared and that on the urgent protest made by the French legation. The German and English consuls and their families and other foreign citizens have been taken on board the warships. The situation is being watched with a great deal of interest.

The annual meeting of the Red Cross society was held in Washington on December 9 and Miss Clara Barton was elected president for life, and Mrs. John A. Logan, vice president. Other officers elected were: Ex-secretary of State Richard Olney, counselor; William J. Flaherty, treasurer, and Samuel W. Briggs, secretary.

A banquet in recognition of Justice Harlan's twenty-five years of service on the bench of the supreme court was given in Washington on December 9. Those at the banquet included the president, members of the cabinet, several senators and representatives, members of the supreme court of the United States, of the court of claims and of the local courts and quite a number of eminent lawyers from outside the city.

A cablegram from Aden, Arabia, dated December 11, says: A rumor has reached here of the assassination of the Mad Mullah in Somaliland. The report was brought to the coast by a native runner from Garraro, via Berbera. The mullah is said to have been killed by a spear thrust in the stomach inflicted while he was praying.

On December 12 thousands of people assembled on the ocean beach at San Francisco, Cal., to witness the beginning of the laying of the cable that is to connect Hawaii with the United States and from that point to be extended to the Philippine islands.

Later developments in the trouble between Venezuela and the united forces of Great Britain and Germany tend to show that had Venezuela only been given a little more time, she would have paid the claims for whose settlement her fleet was destroyed by the allied powers. On December 12 it was reported that Venezuela has proposed through United States Minister Bowen at Caracas that the difficulties be arbitrated and it is to be hoped that this course will be followed.

According to a dispatch from San Francisco, Cal., under date of December 12, two of the craters from which volcanic disturbances devastated a large section of Guatemala on October 24 are still smoking. From one of the craters, beneath the cloud of smoke, white lava exudes in a sluggish stream and from the other cold mud is thrown in spasmodic fashion. This information has been brought here by people arriving on a steamer.

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