



The demands of the conductors and brakemen of fifty-two railroads west of Chicago for an increase in their wages was made last December and the first peaceful settlement of this demand was made by the Union Pacific railroad when it acceded to these requests. The increase on this line will effect about 1,500 men.

On March 7 Graeme Stewart of Chicago was nominated for mayor by the republican city convention. He was opposed by James M. Harlan and the latter has pledged Stewart his support.

The cruiser Chattanooga was launched at Elizabeth, N. J., on March 7. This vessel has an armament of twenty-two guns and is to be equipped with two powerful searchlights and a wireless telegraphy outfit.

A movement is on foot to erect a memorial in honor of the late Henry Ward Beecher, the founder of Plymouth church in Brooklyn, N. Y., and for forty years its pastor. A great mass meeting was held in Brooklyn on March 7 for the purpose of raising funds for the purpose.

It has been officially decided that the launching of the United States cruiser Colorado will take place in Philadelphia, Pa., on April 9. The Colorado is much larger and more powerful than any of the cruisers heretofore constructed and may be taken as an example of an entirely new class of war vessels.

Major General William B. Franklin died on March 8 at his home in Hartford, Conn., at the age of eighty years. General Franklin graduated from West Point in 1843 and was a classmate of General U. S. Grant. He served through the Mexican and civil wars and retired from the army in 1866 with the title of brevet major general of the United States army.

The Wisconsin state senate recently proposed that a convention be held at Atlanta, Ga., for the purpose of discussing the race question. This proposition does not seem to be meeting with much favor in the south, the governors of several states there expressing the opinion that such a convention could accomplish no possible good.

The eastern portion of the state of Nebraska has been subjected recently to great damage and loss to property by the overflowing of rivers in that part of the state. The floods are recorded as the worst that have visited Nebraska in its history. The breaking up of the ice occasioned by the recent mild weather is said to be the cause of the floods.

A freight train near Olean, N. Y., loaded principally with oil tanks filled with oil, broke in two on March 9 and an explosion of the oil followed. Fire broke out and the explosions that occurred caused the death of eighteen spectators and scores were seriously burned.

On March 9 a resolution was introduced in the state senate in session at Topeka, Kas., recommending that when the new battleship Kansas is launched the christening shall be made with water instead of wine.

The British navy estimates for 1903-4 were issued on March 9 and

provide for an expenditure of \$179,184,205, which is an increase of \$16,010,000. 4,600 officers and men is the number of the increase provided for in that direction, and a great increase is made in the number of new ships and war vessels to be constructed.

On March 10 it was reported that General James Winning McMillan, a member of the board of review of the pension bureau and a veteran of both the civil and Mexican wars, died at his home in Washington yesterday, aged 77. He was a grandson of Colonel James McMillan, a member of George Washington's staff.

Under the provisions of the Elkins bill recently passed by congress and signed by the president, half rates or even free passes on railroads will not be issued hereafter, nor will the giving of any favors to persons or organizations for the purpose of influencing business, be permitted.

It was reported from Dublin by the Associated press on March 9 that C. V. Devlin, Irish nationalist, formerly Canadian commissioner in Ireland, has been elected without opposition to represent Galway in the house of commons in place of Colonel Lynch, who is undergoing a sentence of life imprisonment for high treason. Captain Shaw Taylor decided not to contest the seat while the question of the Irish land purchase bill was unsettled.

The Associated press reported on March 9 from Constantinople that it was expected that permission would be given the American archaeologist, Mr. Banks, to undertake excavations at Tel-Abraham, Mesopotamia, the supposed site of the tomb of Abraham. It is said that Mr. Banks has been waiting for this permission for three years.

It was recently announced that the United States government would take the initiative in the development of the international railroad projects and Charles M. Pepper had been appointed special representative for this purpose. It was recently shown that of the 10,000 miles of railway required already 6,500 miles had been built.

The answer to the injunction recently issued by Judge Adams in the United States district court at St. Louis against the attempt of the employes of the Wabash railroad to unite in a strike on that road was made public on March 9. In this answer the claim set up in the injunction was denied, but the right of the workmen to voluntarily withdraw from their labor was strongly contended for.

The coal conspiracy case came up for trial in the Chicago court on March 10. The opening argument was made by Assistant State's Attorney Barnes and the existence of an agreement as to prices was established. The penalty for an illegal act injurious to trade is five years in the penitentiary or a fine of not less than \$2,000.

A combination of oyster growers and dealers, representing invested capital of about \$3,000,000, has been formed at Providence, R. I. The announced purpose of the new concern is to lessen expenses, it being asserted that prices will not be advanced.

On March 10 it was reported in an Associated press cablegram from Bris-

bane, Australia, that a terrific cyclone has passed over that section of the country and many persons had been killed or injured. In the town of Townsville, North Queensland, schools, churches and residences were destroyed and many of the inhabitants have been made homeless.

An interesting phase of the situation in Korea where Russia and Japan are quietly but incessantly seeking to obtain control, was revealed on March 9 by a cablegram from Peking containing the announcement of the resignation of W. H. Sands as adviser to the Korean government. Mr. Sands was appointed to this post during Mr. McKinley's first administration and has held it with success until he was practically displaced by an adviser sent by the Japanese government. Russia has also sent a skilled diplomat to Korea recently and it is anticipated that interesting complications will develop in that country.

According to a Vienna cablegram, preparations for a revolt on the part of the Macedonians are being pushed rapidly, it being asserted that the commander, Sarafoff, has already raised an army of 20,000. The sultan of Turkey has given orders to have the garrisons increased, particularly along the Bulgarian frontier.

A remarkable decree was issued by the czar of Russia on March 12 in which he announces his intention to grant freedom of religion to all his subjects who profess non-orthodox creeds, also to improve the conditions of village life and the peasantry. It is said that the decree, which was is-

sued on the birthday of Alexander III., is considered to be the most significant act of state since the emancipation of the serfs. The public hails it as the proclamation of a new era, opening up bright prospects of the early improvement of Russian internal administration.

According to an Associated press cablegram from Berlin under date of March 13 the long legal fight over the attempt to compel the municipality of Berlin to contribute toward building churches was ended with a decision of the civil court in favor of Berlin. The case grew out of Emperor William's great church building campaign in the early years of his reign, for which he wanted the Berlin councilmen to make appropriations. They refused, which caused strained relations, between the emperor and the municipal government.

The jury in the case of the coal operators of Chicago, recently on trial on the charge of conspiracy to raise the price of the commodity, was instructed by the judge to return a verdict of "not guilty." The judge held that if any law had been violated it was the interstate law, and the offense should come before a federal jury.

George Sawter, recently appointed to succeed the late Thomas Nast as United States consul at Guayaquil, has refused the post on account of the bad health conditions of that city and has been recommended by President Roosevelt to the appointment as assistant appraiser of merchandise at the port of New York.

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