

CONDENSED NEWS OF THE WEEK

An Associated press dispatch under date of Houston, Tex., December 3, says: The Texas chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy today adopted the following resolution: "Whereas, the president of the United States by his recent course toward the republic of Panama, has shown to the world his indorsement of the principle of the right of secession; and, Whereas, the people of the northern states by the acceptance and approval of his course, have shown that they have been led by him out of the fog of ignorance to the bright realms of truth attained by the southern statesmen so many years ago; be it, Resolved, that we extend to the president the hearty thanks of the Daughters of the Confederacy of the state of Texas, in convention assembled, for his indorsement of the principles and his vindication of the cause for which the southern people fought so gloriously, but so disastrously, in the war between the states."

On December 7 it was reported by the Associated press from Baltimore that in the United States district court, in the case of Columbus Ellsworth Upton and Thomas W. McGregor, on trial for conspiracy to defraud the government on mail pouch contracts, Judge Morris overruled the prayer of attorneys for the defense to take the case from the jury on the ground that the government had failed to prove a prima facie case against the accused. Judge Morris also refused the motion of the defense to make the government elect upon which of the counts in the indictment it relies for a conviction.

In the circuit court at Brooksville, Ky., on December 5 Judge James P. Harbeson rendered a decision in a case wherein the school trustees of that city were enjoined from allowing the Bible to be read in the public schools on the ground that it was a violation of the constitution. Judge Harbeson dismissed the injunction asked for and declared in unqualified terms that the Bible is the foundation of all Christian governments and that the use of it in the public schools is not sectarian.

The special session of the legislature of Montana which convened for the primary purpose of enacting a "fair trial" law, adjourned on December 11. The "fair trial" bill, which allows changes of venue in civil cases, and provides for the review by the supreme court of matters of fact, as well as of law, and other legislation were passed. An "initiative and referendum," which was referred to by the governor in his message, was ignored by the assembly.

Some interesting statistics in regard to the growth of the population of Germany in 1902 were recently given out from Berlin. These statistics show that the increase in 1902 was the greatest ever known, amounting to 15.1 per 1,000. The gain is said to be due to the diminished death rate in Germany which was 20.56 in 1902, as compared with 22.68 for the previous decade.

The first two convictions in the postal frauds cases were brought about at Baltimore, Md., on December 8 when former Postal Clerks T. W. McGregor and C. E. Upton were convicted in the United States district court of conspiracy to defraud the government. Appeals for a new trial were made immediately upon their conviction.

In a conflict between the striking miners and the mine guards at Trinidad, Colo., on December 8 four miners were shot, of whom one was killed and two others fatally wounded. This affair has aroused the miners at Trinidad to a high pitch and serious trouble is looked for.

The receivership appointed over the affairs at Zion City, Chicago, some time ago because of the financial troubles of its founder, John Alexander Dowie, was dissolved on December 8 and Dowie is again in control of the city and all its industries.

News from Vienna on December 10 conveyed the information that Austria-Hungary has formally recognized the independence of Panama. The same action has also been taken by the government of Denmark and also of Belgium.

On December 9 the Ohio commission on uniform laws filed its report with the governor. The commission recommends an act to establish a law uniform with the law of other states relative to divorce proceedings.

It was made known on December 8 that trouble has sprung up in Beirut in consequence of some diplomatic incident in which the consul at that place, Mr. Davis, was involved. It seems that an American at Alexandretta had been arrested and had been liberated through the efforts of the American consul on condition that the offender immediately leave the country. Some trouble arose, however, and the police interfered and rearrested the offender and the consul formally broke off relations with the Turkish authorities by leaving the consulate. It is not thought, however, that any serious consequences will ensue, but that friendly relations will be maintained between this country and Turkey.

A dispatch dated Havana, December 7, and carried by the Associated press, says that that day was observed as a national holiday in Cuba, it being the seventh anniversary of the death of General Maceo, who was killed while daringly attempting to raise an army in Havana province, with which to attack Matanzas, and also the anniversary of the death of General Gomez' eldest son, who was Maceo's aid-de-camp, and who was shot while trying to rescue Maceo's body. The ceremonies at Cascajual, where Maceo was buried, were attended by a throng of people from Havana, including government officials and clergy.

The federal grand jury in session at Omaha, Neb., on December 10 indicted Elliott Lowe of Huntley, Alma county, Neb., on the charge of conspiracy in the trafficking in postoffices. Senator Dietrich and Postmaster Jacob Fisher of Hastings are the first two who were indicted by the same jury some time ago. In addition to these indictments, true bills have been returned against twenty-one cases under investigation, of which cases the most important are against cattlemen for illegal fencing of public lands.

Mr. Bryan's European Letters.

Next week's issue of The Commoner will contain the first of a series of European letters by Mr. Bryan. These letters will deal with social and business conditions in Great Britain, France, Germany and other countries visited by Mr. Bryan, and will be of unusual interest to American readers.

According to a statement recently issued by the American board of commissioners for foreign missions at New York, no less than 68,000 people have fled from the ravages of a strange epidemic, known as the "sleeping sickness," 10,000 of these within the last five months. The sickness rages mostly in the Congo regions of Africa and a commission sent from England to investigate the disease has decided that it is scattered by a fly called kivu. No antidote for this strange sickness has yet been discovered.

The anti-slavery law passed in October last by the legislative council of the Moro province, was recently proclaimed in Moroland by Major General Wood. A proposition is also on foot to establish the native Moros on lands which will be assigned to them by the sultan and dattos at a rate of valuation sufficient to provide a moderate income to the owners.

According to advices from Peking, under date of December 7, it appears that Russia is concluding an agreement with China whereby the government of Manchuria is to be confided to the Russians. Although nominally Chinese authority will be confirmed in the province, Russia will be given an advisory share in its government.

An associated press cablegram from Christiania, under date of December 10, says: The Norwegian parliament has awarded the annual Nobel peace prize, \$39,150, to William R. Cremer, M. P., publisher of the Arbitrator of London, for his work in behalf of the international arbitration.

It was made known recently that the government of Colombia would make an effort to march troops upon Panama in the hope of conquering the isthmus and restoring it again to Colombia. Later it was announced, however, that all hope in that direction had been given up in Colombia as it seems to be the intention of the United States government to protect Panama. It is said that General Reyes has advised his countrymen to do no violence and that this advice will be followed and the isthmus of Panama will be left unmolested.

Measures are being taken in England looking to restriction of alien emigration. It is reported that one of the leading bills in parliament next session will be a bill looking to this purpose, which bill is to be based somewhat upon the laws now in force in the United States. Educational tests and also property requirements will be imposed on all aliens coming to English shores.

The opposition on the part of Russia to the proposed opening of the port of Yongampho, Korea, to the commerce of the world was supported by the arrival recently of eight Russian warships at the port of Seoul. It is announced that a force of 3,000 men will be marched to the Korean capital if the conditions imposed are resisted.

The convention of the Interstate Independent Telephone association was recently held at Chicago, Ill. As a result of arrangements made it is announced that more than 4,000 independent telephone companies comprising those of eleven states will be merged into one company with property interests amounting to more than \$200,000,000.

The wages of about 15,000 mill operatives were reduced 10 per cent on December 7 in the mills at New Bedford, Fitchburg, Baltic, Conn., Fisherville, Mass., and Pawtucket, R. I. This makes a total of about 80,000 mill hands who have had their wages lowered recently, throughout the industrial centers of New England alone.

The Missouri supreme court on December 9 reversed the decision of the lower court and released Edward Butler of St. Louis, under sentence of attempted bribery. It will be remembered that the case against Butler aroused much interest in the prosecutions against the bootleggers at St. Louis instituted by Attorney Folk.

The United States flag was hoisted on December 11 over the Cuban port of Guantanamo, where a naval station has been established. It is said that the Cubans do not look with pleasure on this move on the part of the United States, but are inclined to regard it as an act unjustly imposed on them by a stronger power.

Halt T. Lewis, prominent as a politician in the state of Georgia and formerly associate justice of the supreme court of that state, died at Greensboro, Ga., on December 10 at the age of 56 years. He was a prominent delegate to the democratic convention held in Chicago in 1896.

It was announced from Paris in cablegrams on December 10 that the czar of Russia had signified his approval of the general conditions preliminary to a Russo-Japanese agreement.

Mr. Bryan on Bimetallism

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This ruling of the treasury department was followed by the presentation of treasury notes and a demand for gold, and the drain upon gold which followed was used as an argument in favor of the repeal of the purchase clause of the law. The treasury note was declared to be an endless chain, although it only became an endless chain when the department surrendered the option which the law expressly conferred upon it. It may be added that the same endless chain argument has been made against the greenback, and can be made against the silver dollar if it is ever made specifically redeemable in gold.

(Concluded Next Week.)