

Condensed News of the Week

Isaac Noyes, a former state senator from Douglas county, Nebraska, and prominent in Nebraska politics, died at his home near Elk City, on December 19, at the age of 65 years. Before coming to Nebraska, Mr. Noyes was prominent in the legislature of New York state.

It was reported from Lima, Peru, under date of December 19, that the Peruvian government had recognized the republic of Panama by a decree dated the day preceding.

Several prominent officials of the mining district of Montana, including F. Augustus Heinze, head of the Amalgamated Copper combine, have been found guilty of contempt of court by United States Judge Knowles. An order issued by the court was disregarded by these officials, and it is decreed that the defendants must submit to the order as issued by the court or pay fines.

The troops that have been stationed in the Cripple Creek and Telluride mining districts are being gradually withdrawn, under the order of General Bell. It is maintained that the strike is practically over as many of the miners have returned to work.

At Chicago, Ill., on December 19, 4,000 men employed by the Illinois Steel company were laid off for an indefinite period, beginning with December 24.

The czar's name day, December 19, was celebrated throughout the empire of Russia, the larger cities of the empire being decorated and illuminated.

It was reported on December 20 that one thousand miners employed in the mines of Tunnelton and Atlantic, Preston county, W. Va., are on a strike, because of the operators' proposition to reduce the rate of wages 10 cents a ton for mining coal.

It was announced from Ottawa, Can., on December 20, that the government has under consideration the question of uniting Newfoundland with Canada and the purchase of Greenland from Denmark. This is the result of the Alaska boundary decision, which was so unsatisfactory to Canada. While Canada and Newfoundland can enter upon negotiations, it will be necessary for the Dominion to negotiate through the imperial authorities with Denmark for the purchase of Greenland.

Exercises in honor of the centennial celebration of the Louisiana transfer to the United States were held at New Orleans, La., on a large scale on December 20, which exercises marked the conclusion of the celebration of this centennial.

Mayor McMullens of the city of Butte, Mont., is about to be impeached for "gross malfeasance and misconduct in office and flagrant violations of his oath of office," according to the result of an investigation of the affairs of the city administration of Butte, which investigation was made by a committee appointed by the city council two months ago.

The first legal proceeding to test the right of trades unions to discipline members in arrears for dues was had before Judge Hosea of the superior court at Cincinnati, O., on December 21. An injunction has been applied for to restrain the unions from ordering a disciplinary strike and much interest was manifested in the court proceedings.

The situation in the far east with respect to the attitude of Russia and Japan is still securing much attention, although it is admitted that for some weeks yet at least there is little danger of open hostilities. It is regarded as certain that Russia will not let go of any of the territory she has secured in the east and that if aggressive measures are to be taken they must begin with Japan.

In the recent trials of the Kishineff, Russia, murderers, twenty-four persons in all have been convicted of being involved in the massacres of the Jews at that place and have been sentenced to imprisonment.

The cases against State Auditor Weston of Nebraska, in connection with his dealings in a recent bank failure at Casper, Wyo., have been dismissed by the depositing of \$10,000 by Mr. Wes-

ton, which will enable the wrecked bank to pay a 50 per cent dividend.

According to a cablegram from Paris carried by the Associated press, it is made known that the report of the Dreyfus commission will be soon heard and that a revision of the case of Captain Dreyfus will be recommended. It is also announced that the alleged treason was not committed by Captain Dreyfus, but by Colonel Henry, who was at the time chief of the intelligence department of the ministry of war.

A dispatch, under date of Baton Rouge, La., December 21, and carried by the Associated press, said: Both houses of the legislature today adopted a resolution requesting the United States senators from this state to vote in favor of the ratification of the treaty providing for the building of the Panama canal.

A large coal company at Altoona, Pa., on December 21 announced a wage reduction at its Helvetia operations amounting to 10 per cent, to go into effect January 1. This cut with others contemplated will affect the wages of about 16,200 men. On the same day it was also announced that a general reduction in wages in all the non-union iron and steel plants of the country will be made at the time of the new year, and that the number of men affected by this reduction will be at least 80,000.

A wreck near Godfrey, fifteen miles south of Fort Scott, Kas., on December 21 caused the death of eight persons and over thirty-two were injured. The train ran into a switch and the cars were derailed.

The strike recently inaugurated among the livery drivers of Chicago has seriously interfered with the burial of the dead in that city. The strikers have gone to the length of picketing houses from which funerals were to start, but this action has been promptly taken up by the chief of police and will no longer be tolerated. In the meantime arbitration measures are being discussed and it is hoped that the matter will soon be amicably settled.

Seven hundred of the employes of the American Bridge company at Pencoyd, Pa., were notified on December 22 of a 10 per cent reduction in their wages.

At the forty-ninth convocation of the University of Chicago, held on December 22, it was announced that donations amounting to \$1,850,000 have been received from John D. Rockefeller, founder of the university.

According to the Railway Age, the total railway mileage of the United States on January 1, 1904, will be 209,855 miles, of which 5,723 miles have been laid during the past year.

It appears because of a law recently enacted in Canada that after January 1 next every Chinaman landing on British soil must pay a head tax of \$500, there is an unusual influx of Chinese in Canada these days. Under the present law the head tax is only \$5.

It was reported from Shanghai, China, on December 23 that a battle had occurred between four battalions of Chinese troops from Hung Chun and 1,500 Koreans in northeast Korea some time ago, but the battle was indecisive.

The entire plant of the Illinois Steel company at South Chicago was closed down on December 23 and as a result 6,500 men are thrown out of employment for an indefinite period.

On December 23 the through passenger train on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, near Dawson, Pa., crushed into a pile of lumber and was wrecked. Sixty-three lives were lost and about thirty people injured.

The Cuban congress is deliberating a method of offsetting the loss of revenue under the operation of the reciprocity treaty between Cuba and the United States, and it is believed that a bill will be passed providing for a straight increase in duties sufficient to cover the loss.

Alonzo Cruzen, customs collector of Porto Rico, has sent his resignation to Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, and it has been accepted. It is expected that W. H. Elliott, of Indiana, commis-

sioner of the interior for Porto Rico, will succeed Mr. Cruzen, and that Mr. Elliott will be succeeded by R. H. Post of New York, present auditor of Porto Rico. The resignation of Mr. Cruzen is the result of the recent investigations into the charges of smuggling made against certain officers of the United States navy and Porto Rican officials.

At Paris on December 25 the treaty of arbitration between France and Italy was signed by the French foreign minister and the Italian ambassador. This treaty is identical with that between France and England.

On December 24 the grand jury at Chicago made scathing criticisms of persons who have disturbed funeral processions in the city recently, in connection with the strike of livery drivers. According to the finding of the grand jury, a reign of lawlessness exists in Chicago at this time and it is suggested that this state of affairs be made the subject of a special inquiry by the grand jury of next month.

A Berlin newspaper is the authority for the statement that an international petroleum pool has been arranged between the United States, Austrian and Russian interests, and that under this arrangement it is proposed to export Gallician oil to Germany.

Advices from Russia by way of London seem to indicate that the revolutionary movement in Russia has reached a critical stage and that an uprising is expected at any moment. It is believed that this condition is causing Russia's hesitation to force a war with Japan. The movement is socialistic in character, and seems to be spreading all through Russia.

Ruth Miller Hoar, wife of Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, died at her home in Washington on December 24.

Mayor-elect George B. McClellan of New York city took the oath of office on December 24. On the same day he announced that John T. Oakley had been appointed commissioner of the department of water supply, gas and electricity, and George E. Best commissioner of bridges.

It was officially announced on December 24 that the Cuban government had recognized the republic of Panama. The same action was also taken by Great Britain and this course has awakened much enthusiasm throughout Panama.

Distinct earthquake shocks were felt in various sections of the country on December 25, in Los Angeles, Cal., the shock being very severe although not much damage was reported. The disturbance was also felt in parts of New York state.

Very cold weather, accompanied in some sections by a severe snowstorm, was reported on December 25 from Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, and some parts of Iowa.

W. I. Buchanan, United States minister to Panama, presented his credentials to the provisional government there on December 25, and received a cordial reception.

The lime manufacturers of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan are forming an organization. The capital stock has been placed at \$12,000,000 and the company will control practically the entire lime output of the country.

Club-owners of the American baseball association met at Chicago on December 28 and elected J. E. Grillo of Cincinnati president, vice T. J. Hickey, resigned.

The trial of Senator Dietrich of Nebraska, which is set for January 4, will be heard in the federal circuit court instead of federal district court. Judge Munger announces that Judge Vandeverter will probably sit with him in the trial of the case.

Judge Cornish of the Lancaster, Neb., district court has made a decision that will have a far-reaching effect if sustained by the supreme court. The decision is that a county officer is responsible not only for fees collected, but for fees that were earned by his office and not collected.