

NEWS OF THE WEEK

A Weekly Resume of the Really Vital News by the Editor

Dun and Bradstreet keep their danger signals displayed. The railroads, those great employers of labor, are laying off men. The mills and factories of the north are giving work to a smaller number of hands. It is probable that the southern cotton mills will be forced to curtail production before long because the demand falls to keep up with the supply. The Pennsylvania railroad has decided to reduce running expenses for the current year about \$10,000,000. As a result, in the neighborhood of 5,000 men will be laid off. It is reported that the Vanderbilt lines will drop 2,000 employes. No doubt other roads will do likewise for the same reason—a conviction that the volume of traffic during the year will not be so great as was hoped for.

The business men in Lincoln say that collections are slow and small. The experience of this office is that collections were never so hard to make, not even in the years of drouth and panic, as they have been for the last month or six weeks. Great houses, whose names are household words, are behind in their payments. The same old process is under way that has cursed this country ever, ten or fifteen years for the last century, and as long as the government will bestow special privileges upon the rich, the process will continue.

We were told that "trade follows the flag" and that imperialism would make the country rich. But that Philippine business does not seem to work out that way. American capital cannot be induced to go there even with a government guarantee of 4 per cent interest on railroad bonds. The Philippines are simply a costly appurtenance, maintained for the benefit of a few carpet-bag officeholders. When times get bad and taxes press hard on the people, there will be a cry to get rid of them.

The railroads' hired men continue to appear before the board of equalization, but they are singing a different song from the one they piped before the federal court when the populists tried to lower freight rates. Then they declared that the construction of a railroad cost millions on millions and that the lowering of freight rates would be confiscation. The federal court and mullet heads replied: "Yep, that's so," and the rates were not lowered. Now these same authorities declare that one of the principal roads cost only \$12,000 a mile and should not be assessed for more. The mullet head will answer: "Yep, that's so," and if the matter gets into the federal courts they will make the same reply.

Rosewater was beaten at the republican primaries and is not even a delegate to the state convention, not to mention the national convention. He wrote one editorial about the defeat in which he said: "The recently closed Diamond pool room was charged simply with being a resort for betting on horse races, and while betting on horses is doubtless a violation of the anti-gambling law, it is no more so than gambling on the board of trade, or gambling in the bucket shop, or gambling in stocks on Wall street, and it is infinitely better and more honorable than selling fraudulent mining stock and fraudulent oil stocks and other schemes of confidence with which some reform factionists have been identified." After some musings he added: "Let it be distinctly understood that the Bee is no apologist for vice and crime." The closing of the Diamond pool room by edict of the supreme court after the Rosewater officials at Omaha refused to do it, was a severe blow to the machine and doubtless was the cause of the defeat.

The Russians, according to the dispatches, scored two successes during the week, one of which was a notable affair and disclosed as much skill and bravery as anything that the Japs have done. A young Russian navy officer took an ordinary launch, put aboard one small rapid fire gun and two torpedoes. He got out of Port Arthur, stole through the line of torpedo boat guards and torpedoed a Japanese cruiser. The ship was not sunk, but was taken in tow by a sister ship and disappeared below the horizon. The brave Russian navy officer fought his way back in his launch to shore. He was not able to get back into the harbor, but beached the boat and he and the three sailors who were with him got away. Another Japanese torpedo boat was sunk by running on a mine in the harbor of Dalney while it was engaged in clearing the place of mines preparatory to landing troops there.

The Japanese seem to be rapidly advancing through Manchuria, the Russians having been outflanked on both of their flanks and obliged to keep constantly retreating. New Chwang on the west coast of the Port Arthur peninsula and on the railroad has been evacuated and the costly fortifications dismantled. Dalney, a little northeast of Port Arthur, where the Russians had spent many millions in building docks and forts, has been abandoned. Fifty miles of the railroad has been torn up and Port Arthur is being almost constantly bombarded.

The rapid retreat and constant losses of the Russian army can be accounted for by no other theory than that the czar had very few troops in Manchuria. The dispatches say the Russian general will even evacuate Mukden and retreat still further into the interior. The papers say that the czar is going to Moscow to pray in the great church there for the success of his armies, and General Miles remarks that battles are not won by prayers, but by good generalship and brave fighting. General Miles should remember that the Greek church is the greatest power in Russia and if the czar was not mindful of its liturgy and forms he would soon have more trouble at home than he has with the Japs.

The Methodist general conference, now in session at Los Angeles, Cal., retired on half pay (\$2,500 a year) five bishops, namely, Andrews, Vincent, Mallalieu, Foss and Walden. It has also resolved to elect eight new ones. There was considerable opposition to the retirement of Bishop Foss, who

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is still active and energetic, but he had to go with the others. Heretofore the bishops, who are elected for life, were allowed to retain their positions as long as they lived. Now there is a great cry for younger men for bishops.

The Independent never had any faith in Webster Davis, who left the republican party on account of the position of the government in regard to the Boer war. There is now a great row on. General Pierson, who served in the Boer war, and C. W. Vanderhooft of Baltimore, charge that Webster Davis got hold of \$200,000 of Boer war funds for which he never accounted and Davis has had them arrested for libel. A man who was close enough to the money power to obtain as high an office as Davis held under the auspices of the republican party, never had the liberty and welfare of the common people at heart.

Anarchy still reigns triumphant in Colorado. The thieves and thugs in Denver carried the election by a majority of thousands. It is asserted that over 2,000 registered voters were disfranchised through having had their names purposely omitted from the lists and that thousands of votes

were cast by repeaters. The supreme court has the election under its jurisdiction and will receive a report regarding the conduct of the election commission and those under it. The action of that tribunal will determine the first steps to be taken in the courts regarding the election. Over a million dollars of bonds were also ordered issued.

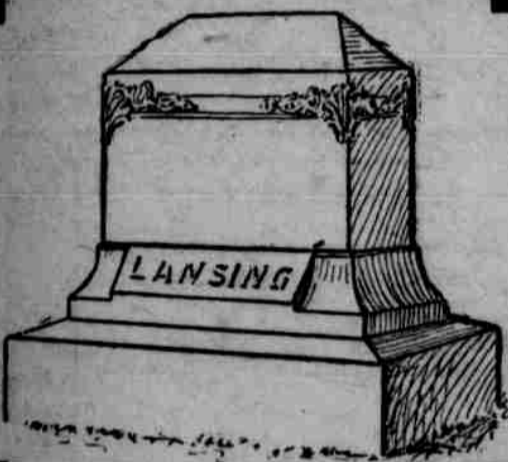
A strange story comes from Liao Yang by way of St. Petersburg. It is said that the Japanese officers who were shot here as spies, bequeathed \$500 to the Russian Red Cross in consideration of their kind treatment.

The Japanese have abandoned their lines through Korea and have made Antung their base of supplies. Some correspondents visited the Russian wounded there. The Russians said they were well treated and had no complaints to make except that they received no bread, the Japanese army supplies not containing that article of diet.

The report of the approach of a Japanese army to the northeast of Mukden astonishes the military critics the world over. They cannot conceive

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