

NEWS OF THE WEEK

A Weekly Resume of the Really Vital News by the Editor

The worthlessness of the daily papers as sources of accurate information was demonstrated again during the week. The dispatches concerning Russia and Japan have been of all sorts and kinds. It has been cabled from St. Petersburg that the novelist Gorky was released, that he was sentenced to be hanged, that he was confined in the underground dungeons of the St. Peter's and St. Paul's fortress, that he was given the best rooms in the upper stories in that place and that he was to be sent to Siberia for life. It was cabled in the most positive manner that the czar had signed a great Magna Charta, that he had done nothing of the kind, that the liberals were at last in control and that the bureaucrats had a firmer hold on the government than ever before. All that kind of stuff has been served up to the people every day in the week and it keeps coming in large doses. One thing connected with that sort of action is very evident. Something must be done to attract the attention of the people away from the work of the corporations in congress, and that serves the purpose very well.

The only thing that appears to be true about the whole business is that the Russian government has completely suppressed the disorders everywhere except in Poland, where things seem to be growing worse all the time. In every city of Poland there are strikes, riots and bloodshed, and while the news from Finland is scarce there can be no doubt that there is great disorder there. There are no evidences of a general revolutionary movement in Russia.

There has been considerable fighting in Manchuria without distinct advantage to either side, although the Japanese seem to have repulsed every advance movement made by the Russians. A report is sent that Kuropatkin has tendered his resignation and wants to give up his job. It is said that there is a quarrel on between him and General Grippenberg, who led the last advance against the Japs. But

like all the rest of the rot printed in the daily papers no one knows whether there is any truth in the report or not.

The Japanese medical staff have printed their official reports and that part which applies to the army of General Oku has reached this country. This report is the astonishment of the medical fraternity everywhere. It fully confirms the report of the American surgeon, Dr. Seaman, who was detailed to attend the Japanese army, and which was printed sometime ago.

The figures show that up to December 1 there were treated 24,642 cases of diseases. Of these forty resulted fatally, 188,578 patients recovered, 5,609 were sent to Japan, and the remainder were undergoing treatment when the figures were compiled. It is believed that these figures are unequalled in the history of warfare. There were only 193 cases of typhoid and 342 of dysentery, while of beriberi there were 5,070. The other cases of disease were not serious. The casualties in General Oku's army from May 6 to December 19 were as follows: Killed, officers 210, men 4,917; wounded, officers 743, men 20,307; missing, officers 4, men 402. The percentages of the other Japanese armies are believed to be about the same.

Secretary Morton says that it will cost only \$77,000,000 a year to maintain the navy after it is finished. But the naval experts say the life of a warship is only twelve years and so the navy will have to be built over again every twelve years. That will cost as much as we have had to pay yearly in building it, and it will take fully twelve years to rebuild it.

A lot of farmers over in Iowa burned Congressman Hepburn in effigy and denounced him as a tool of the Burlington railroad. If these farmers don't like Hepburn and Burlington rule why have they kept him in congress for twenty years? Very likely this same gang of farmers will line up and vote 'er straight for Hepburn two years from now just as they have for the last two decades.

The enormity of the Standard Oil robberies have never been fully appreciated. One Lockhardt, a minor stockholder in the trust, died the other day in Pittsburg and left a fortune of \$150,000,000. His income for some time has been \$18,000,000 a year. He was unknown and never did anything for the benefit of the country but was drawing a salary taxed out of the people by the trust, 360 times as large as is paid to the president of the United States. Any man who believes that a system that creates such a state of affairs as that can long endure is not capable of much sound thinking.

Dennis Donohoe, the great financial writer of New York started with the promise that he was going to make great revelations that would be a complete offset to Lawson's attacks on Wall street villainy. Donohoe has now had three whacks at it and all he has done is to tell of some more Wall street villainy in which Lawson was the chief figure. Donohoe's articles are an editorial evidence of the workings of the system. They are simply a backing up of all that Lawson has said. Those transactions down there are worse than Highway robbery or piracy on the high sea. Lawson has been in them as deep as any one. If he had not been black-balled by Rogers when he built a racing yacht and tried to join the yacht club, we would probably never have heard of Lawson. Nevertheless Lawson's articles are going a long way toward educating the

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American people.

The Colorado papers say that there is enough coal in Route county of that state to supply the whole world for a hundred years. Here in Nebraska we have no coal and the railroads put such a tax on the Colorado coal that it has to be used with the greatest economy by the farmers of this state while in the cities many suffer from cold because they can not buy enough to keep their houses warm. It is the fear of the farmer that he be unjust to the railroads that makes that situation possible, or because he is such a slave to "regularity" and party bosses that he dare not vote for his own interests.

The whole of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains and north of 35 degrees north latitude, is covered with snow, a condition which the "oldest inhabitant" says never occurred before.

It seems that the nobility of St. Petersburg well understand the danger that threatens autocracy. They assembled to the number of 178 in St. Petersburg and made an address to the emperor containing the following words: "Order now that elected representatives of the country may raise their voice to the throne and participate, in accordance with your sovereign direction, in legislation and direction of governmental measures. The nobles of St. Petersburg sincerely believe that, provided union of the throne and nation is supported by confidence on the part of the emperor, internal troubles will vanish and all Russia will rise and serve the sovereign faithfully for the salvation and glory of the country and the confusion of its enemies."

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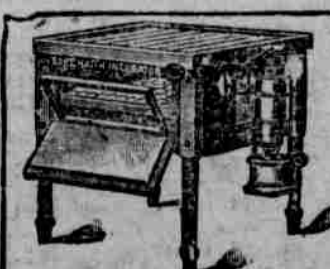
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