

The Independent.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO

POLITICS, AGRICULTURE AND HOME LIFE

Vol. 19. No. 967.

Lincoln, Nebraska, December 20, 1906

Subscription \$1.00

COAL FROM AUSTRALIA

Prevents Fuel Famine in Nevada—Fuel Supply Short—Causing Much Suffering in Other States

Carson, Nev.—Nevada is passing through one of the worst fuel famines in its history. Relief is now in sight, as carloads of Australian coal are now arriving, but in spite of this suffering is still very great in many places. The famine is felt worst in the gold camps of the southern counties. There wood has been brought \$70 per cord.

Fuel Famine Serious Affair

Minneapolis, Minn.—The northwest faces the most serious fuel famine since 1903, when several deaths occurred. The situation cannot be averted unless the railroads furnish more power to move the coal piles in Duluth and West Superior. The railroads are making excuses saying there is a shortage of cars because of the bumper crops. Meanwhile farmers find themselves unable to get their wheat to the market. The coal companies say since October only a third of the usual supply of coal has been shipped.

North Dakota Also Short

Glenburn, N. D.—The scarcity of cars makes it impossible for dealers to ship coal and delayed traffic is causing a fuel shortage. The coal supply in northwestern Dakota is limited. Fuel dealers place the entire blame on the railroads for not supplying cars. There is no real suffering yet.

Dealers Come in for Criticism

Sioux Falls, S. D.—The authorities agree that the coal famine in South Dakota is due to the fact that, in order to avail themselves of the 20 per cent reduction in freight rates upon coal, which became effective October 27, the coal dealers declined to order early, with the result the supply in the west is short. There is no great suffering so far because the temperature has not yet reached much below zero. The railroads are doing their best to rush in coal.

Idaho Also Runs Short

Boise, Idaho—For the second season in succession, Boise and southern Idaho are suffering from a shortage of coal, which, for the last six weeks, has amounted to a fuel famine. The

mine owners lay the blame on the management of the Oregon Short Line the only railroad in southern Idaho. Much distress is reported, but there is little actual suffering. Two hundred tons of coal arrived this week and were distributed over the city. A hundred more is promised.

CHRISTMAS FOR WORKERS

New England Employers Give Notice of Advance in Wages

Boston—The week before Christmas was ushered in happily today for nearly 20,000 operatives employed in the cotton mills at Lowell and Chicopee, when an advanced wage went into effect.

In Lowell the manufacturers granted to about 17,000 operatives last Friday a 5 per cent increase in wages. The textile council, however, had been considering a request for a 10 per cent increase and at a meeting held it was decided to postpone action upon the 10 per cent demand.

In Chicopee the Dwight Manufacturing company posted notices in all departments in its mills Saturday that an advanced scale of wages would go into effect Monday. The amount of the increase was not stated. The company employs 1,900 hands. The action was voluntary on the part of the corporation.

At the Chicopee Manufacturing company's plants the union operatives are engaged in a discussion with the mill officials over a 10 per cent increase which the company has said it could not grant.

By New Year's 175,000 cotton mill operatives all over New England are expected to be participating in an advance in wages amounting to from 5 to 10 per cent.

HEAVY SNOW IN THE SOUTH

General Over Southwestern Missouri and Kansas

Kansas City, Mo.—The heaviest snowstorm of the winter is general over southwestern Missouri, southeastern Kansas and parts of Oklahoma and Indian Territory. The snow ranges in depth from two to six inches. Much suffering will result from the storm in certain parts of Oklahoma where a fuel famine prevails. The mayor of Mangum made such an urgent appeal to the Rock Island railroad officials that a trainload of coal was dispatched to Mangum at once by that com-

pany. The train was given the right of way over all other traffic. In some places the snow has changed to rain and sleet and unprotected live stock will suffer severely.

PROTEST AGAINST A JUDGE

In Bannock County Objections Are Raised on Ground of Polygamy

Boise, Idaho—A protest against the election of Alfred Budge, republican, as judge of the Fifth district, has been filed in the district court of Bannock county. Budge's election is contested on the ground that he is a Mormon and therefore a believer in polygamy, although he is not charged with having excess of wives. The complaint is based upon a clause of the state constitution which forbids any officer to vote who encourages or practices polygamy, patriarchal or celestial marriages.

ROBBERS CLEAN UP \$2,500

Cedar Hill, Texas, Bank Was Neatly Looted of This Sum

Dallas, Texas—The Citizens Bank at Cedar Hill, fifteen miles south of here, on the Santa Fe was robbed of \$2,500. The burglars used nitroglycerine in forcing the safe and made a clean haul. A hand car was used in approaching the small station and in carting away the booty.

OVERCOMING RESULTS OF KISS

E. W. Bemis at Cleveland Shows Slight Change for Better

Cleveland—A slight change for the better was noted this evening in the condition of E. W. Bemis, superintendent of the water works department, who was stricken with diphtheria some days ago shortly after kissing his little son, who was suffering from the disease. Mr. Bemis' case is still considered serious, however, and a consultation of physicians took place at his residence this afternoon.

SHAH IS GETTING NO BETTER

Teheran—The condition of the shah is unchanged. Ali Mirza, heir apparent to the throne, arrived in Teheran at 5 o'clock this afternoon. He was met outside the city by the Persian war minister, Naib Es Saltanoh, a brother of the Shah, who warmly welcomed him and together they drove to the palace, where they now are with the shah.

FOREIGN FIRMS BARRED

Contracts for Work on Panama Canal Will Not Be Given to Foreign Firms

Washington, D. C.—Foreign contractors are to be barred from competition of the Panama canal. Chairman Shonts of the isthmian canal commission, made this announcement this week. Many changes have been agreed to in the form of contract to be entered into for the construction of the canal, but the most important is the limiting of proposals to American firms.

The right will be reserved by the commission to reject all the bids submitted, in case none of them is satisfactory, and the commission will then either throw the competition open to foreign bidders or proceed with the work without contract. January 12 is the date set for the opening of proposals.

A substantial reduction in the bond of the successful bidder was also made by the commission, in compliance with the request of prospective bidders. The bond will be only \$2,000,000 and the total liability of the contractor is to be limited to the loss of percentage and premiums otherwise payable to the contractor and \$3,000,000 in addition.

Shaw Favors Credit Currency

Secretary Shaw appeared before the house committee on banking and currency in advocacy of a high-taxed credit currency, suggesting 5 per cent as a desirable rate. He emphasized the need for greater elasticity in currency, but expressed the opinion that the plan framed by the American Bankers association will not bring about sufficient elasticity to be very useful. Granting that the bankers' plan results in the issuance of \$200,000,000 additional in national bank notes, Mr. Shaw said that in his opinion not more than \$20,000,000 worth of these will be redeemed.

Mr. Shaw thought the bankers' plan was wholly inadequate to meet the requirements of the commercial world, and said it was incumbered with too much machinery for the limited good results he feels it capable of accomplishing. He said he did not want to be regarded as an opponent of the measure suggested by the bankers, be-

two years ago by making an attempt on a bill to make a close season for the killing of squirrels. Yesterday

gan work on the cause of the disaster today. The cause of the explosion is as much a mystery as ever.