

Brief Telegrams

Indiana does not permit consump-tives to teach school.

The Jews as a people are the poorest race on the earth.

The typewriter is more largely used in Mexico than in France.

The first electrical railway was that of Siemens, at Berlin, in 1879.

Wars of the last 3,000 years are supposed to have cost \$600,000,000,000.

The population of London has increased 10 per cent in fourteen years.

In Sweden bricks are laid in zero weather by heating the sand for the mortar.

The population of Ireland is 4,432,274, and the decrease for the past year has been 16,003.

The density of relative population of Cuba is nearly the same as that of the United States.

Over five hundred miles of railway, mostly single line, are owned and worked by the Natal government.

Edwin Warfield, governor-elect of Maryland, has been everything from a farmer's hired man to banker. He is rich.

Dorothea Beale, LL. D., has completed forty-five years as the head of Cheltenham college for girls in England.

Bishop Henry Clay Morrison of the Methodist Episcopal church South, will make his home in New Orleans hereafter.

Isadore Newman of New Orleans recently gave \$50,000 to charity to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his arrival in America.

John Dwight, a chemist, who died recently in New York, founded the Dwight school at Edwin, Tenn., for mountain whites of that state.

Day laborers to the number of 1,250,000 belong to the national labor unions, 1,000,000 to other labor unions, and 2,250,000 are unorganized.

Prof. Henry Appy, violinist, who died a few days ago, aged 78, was the son of the leader of the orchestra in the chapel of William of Orange.

Paris is mourning the loss of its oldest tree, an elm planted by order of Sully in 1600, in the Rue St. Jacques. It is leafless this year.

Rudolf von Gottschall, German playwright and novelist, recently celebrated his 80th birthday at Leipzig. He has been an author for sixty years.

Former President of the Transvaal Republic Paul Kruger, who had been suffering from an attack of "grippe," has almost entirely recovered his health.

The University of Wales has conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science upon Lord Kelvin, in consideration of his eminent services to science.

A day or two after Bliss Carman's "Pipes of Pan" came out, Mrs. Crale copyrighted her latest play, "The Flute of Pan." It is regarded as quite a coincidence.

Forty-three letters written by the Empress Marie Theresa of Austria have been discovered. They bristle with news of war and courts and are to be sold at auction.

Princess Nanzeta Montezuma, who claims to be the only lineal descendant of the great Montezuma, is an exile from Mexico, and is supposed to be somewhere in the west.

The longest canal in the world is that which extends from the frontier of China to St. Petersburg, 4,472 miles. In India there are 14,000 miles of canal, irrigating 8,000,000 acres of land.

Kuno Fischer, the eminent historian of philosophy, has at last been obliged to give up his professorship in Heidelberg. He is in his eightieth year and has been at Heidelberg since 1872.

The Metropolitan Art Museum of New York has just purchased an old chariot for \$50,000. It was unearthed near Rome some time ago, and is 2,600 year old and splendidly preserved.

Lady Durand, wife of the British ambassador at Washington, Miss Durand and Henry White, secretary of the American embassy in London, arrived on the steamship Lucania from Liverpool.

William Darrach, who graduated from Yale in 1897, and who has been appointed one of the lecturing physicians at the P. and S. hospital in New York City, is the youngest man who ever held the position.

The German government will introduce in the Reichstag a bill requiring saloon keepers to sell non-intoxicating hot and cold drinks and cold foods. Credit will be forbidden and the number of barmaids limited.

The late Lieutenant Goldschmidt was the oldest musical conductor in the German army. For fifty years he had been leader of the band of the vonigs grenadiers. His band played at Sedan. In 1898 he was pensioned.

Recently experiments with a view to preserving the calorific properties of hard coal by immersion in salt water were made and it was demonstrated that a loss of but 1 per cent occurred. Stored in the ordinary way coal loses about 50 per cent of its calorific power.

At Huntingdon, W. Va., because his father refused to lend him a penknife, Jame Capely brained him with an ax, and then attacked his mother and sister, cutting horrible gashes. Capely is a resident of Hart's Creek, Lincoln county. Cigarettes are alleged to have affected his mind.

A SECRET TREATY

RUSSIA SAID TO HAVE SECURED A VANTAGE POSITION.

ARMY AT CALL OF THE BEAR

This is Secured by Having it Drilled and Commanded by Russians—Greatly Increases Tension in East—Japan Also Gains a Foothold.

NEW YORK.—A dispatch from London says the Tien Tsin correspondent of the Standard revives the report which was started a few days ago, to the effect that a secret treaty has been signed between Russia and Korea, whereby Russia obtains the control of the Korean army through Russian instructors. The correspondent declares this will greatly increase the tension in the far east.

TOKIO.—At an extraordinary meeting of the cabinet it is learned that it was decided to issue an emergency ordinance authorizing the guarantee of the principal and interest of an issue of 10,000,000 yen debentures on the Seoul-Fusan railway which is expected to be finished before the end of next year.

At a dinner given by the Oriental association, former Minister Kato, who presided, said he deeply regretted that the people had not been taken into the confidence of the government regarding the position of affairs between Japan and Russia. Nevertheless, he said, should the emperor declare war, the nation would be found ready to give him unanimous support.

Count Okuma, the former premier, said he agreed with the view expressed by Mr. Kato and he thought it was now high time to let the people know the actual position occupied by the government. He also declared that not only a feeling of chivalry, but a desire for self-preservation required that Japan should buttress the integrity of China. Both speakers thought that the situation had reached an extremely critical stage.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The Russian government is still considering the reply of the Japanese government to its note, which was sent in answer to Japan's demands relating to the situation in the far east. A reconsideration of the proposals made in the Russian note is considered as a matter of course here. Russia has never been disposed to take any step which would lead to an abrupt termination of the negotiations with Japan.

In answer to many inquiries made by the Associated Press the Russian foreign office has always insisted that the Russian proposals were so liberal that it would be scarcely probable to conceive any further concessions. While the foreign office is unwilling to admit that Russia is preparing to offer more than the concessions outlined in the last note, it is considered possible that the government may suggest changes by which the Russian requirements may be met and satisfaction given to Japan.

READY FOR ANY EMERGENCY.

Gets Troops in Shape to Take Troops to Panama.

WASHINGTON.—War department officials admit that the transports Sherman, Buford and Crook, now at San Francisco, are being made ready for sea. Primarily these vessels are intended for the Manila service, but officials make no concealment of the fact that they want to be ready for any emergency which may arise, and should the government desire to use any of them for the transportation of troops to Panama, the ships will be ready for that purpose. Still the positive assertion is made that no orders have been received at the quartermaster's office with this end in view. It is simply, they say, a question of being prepared.

The Sherman recently has returned from Manila. She is in need of some repairs, and the present intention of the quartermaster's office is to send her back to the Philippines on February 1. The Buford has been laid up at San Francisco for two years, and just now she is being overhauled and some coal-saving appliances installed. The Crook is in need of a thorough overhauling and renovating, which is being given her.

Christmas Dinners for the Poor.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Christmas cheer was dispensed to thousands of poor at the Coliseum, where tables covering the entire floor of the vast building were set with turkey and its accompaniments. In addition baskets containing materials for Christmas dinners were sent to the homes of as many more destitute families. The day was observed generally in all municipal, corrective and charitable institutions, as well as those of a private nature, by special dinners.

Find of Gold in Wisconsin.

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—A special from Menominee, Wis., says: Gold ore has been discovered on a farm near the town of Lucas, Dunn county, near this city. Assays \$145 to the ton.

Governor Makes Apology.

ALEXANDRETTA, Syria — Attarlan, the naturalized American citizen, whose arrest by the Turkish authorities caused United States Consul Davis to leave Alexandretta, has been liberated. The governor of Alexandretta Tuesday made an official call upon United States Consul Davis and formally apologized for the indignities suffered by the consul. Admiral Cotton left here Tuesday night on the United States cruiser San Francisco for Beyroot.

CHINA FACES PERIL.

Feeling that Flowery Kingdom Has Much to Lose in Case of War.

PEKING.—The optimistic feeling in some quarters concerning war between Japan and Russia are not shared by diplomats at Peking, whose knowledge of the present situation entitles their opinion to the highest consideration. It is positively known that the Japanese government has drawn the line for a settlement, beyond which it will not make any material concession and it is determined to fight before yielding what it considers to be its vital interests. It is believed that unless Russia concedes vital points another exchange of notes will precipitate matters.

It is also believed that Japan will refuse any arrangement holding in abeyance the question of the evacuation of Manchuria, which was one of the terms of the proposition recently made at St. Petersburg, and which is supposed was intended by the Russian government as a feeler. This would be a violation of pledges given to Japan by China.

Minister Ueoda is believed to have said he would resign his post in the event of such an arrangement. The most dangerous factors in the situation is the confidence of the Russian officials in the far east that a war would mean an easy victory for Russia, and the challenging tone of Russian officials.

REPRESENTATIVES' NEW HOME.

Will Be Started Soon and to Cost Several Million Dollars.

WASHINGTON.—Speaker Cannon and Representatives Hepburn and Richardson of Tennessee, comprising the commission having in charge the construction of an office building for the house of representatives, were informed by Attorney General Knox that the jury of condemnation had fixed the price to be paid for the site at \$741,000, and that his department was now engaged in reviewing title to the various pieces of property preliminary to the government taking title. The ground will then be cleared and the erection of the building begun at once. The structure is to cost between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 and its construction will take several years.

Steel Mills Close Down.

CHICAGO, ILL.—The entire plant of the Illinois Steel company at South Chicago, was closed down Wednesday night for an indefinite period, throwing 6,500 men out of employment. No notice was posted of when work would be resumed in the great mills, but at the offices of the company it was said that the shutdown would last for at least three weeks. When the mills are reopened it is reported a wage cut from 10 to 15 per cent will be put into force.

Wyoming Bank Failure.

GARLAND, WYO.—The Garland bank was forced to close its doors by the failure of the State Bank of Newcastle last week. The assets of the local institution are ample, however, to meet all demands. A report was circulated that the Garland bank was connected with the defunct Newcastle concern and a heavy run was made by the depositors, with the result that all valuable cash was checked out. C. A. Sarver has been appointed receiver of the bank.

Is Assigned to Nebraska.

WASHINGTON.—At the request of governors of the states indicated and in conformity with the provisions of the act known as the Dick militia bill, the secretary of war has detailed the following officers of the army for duty with the organized militia for a period of four years, unless sooner relieved: Brigadier General Aaron S. Daggett, retired, Nebraska, and Major Robert W. Dowdy, Arkansas. While serving on these details the officers named will receive the full pay and allowance of their grades.

President Takes Recess, Too.

WASHINGTON.—No cabinet meetings will be held in the holiday recess. Such callers as the president may receive in the holidays will have to make their engagements for the afternoon, as he will spend no time in his office in the mornings. President Roosevelt left the White House early Tuesday for a long ride. He was unaccompanied when he left the mansion, but later was joined by a friend.

Cut Tendons of His Heels.

MANILA.—Ladrones recently looted the municipal treasury at Bosoboso, in Luzon. They captured the president and cut the tendons of his heels. The constabulary pursued the band and succeeded in recovering part of the stolen funds.

How Alliance is Delayed.

LONDON.—The Daily Mail's Peking correspondent declares that a few Manchuria nobles, who are under Russian influences, are delaying the conclusion of an alliance between China and Japan.

Brings Amur's Passengers.

SEATTLE, Wash.—The steamship Farralton reached Seattle Monday, having on board the passengers of the overdue Canadian Pacific steamship Amur. The Amur left Skagway on Sunday, December 13, and on Monday, the 14th, ran into Harbor reef at the entrance to Port Simpson. At high tide it pulled off, but in doing so broke its 'all shaft. It succeeded in reaching the wharf at Port Simpson and on Friday the Farralton went in and took it to dock.

AWFUL ACCIDENT

OCCURS ON THE BALTIMORE & OHIO.

GREAT MANY LIVES ARE LOST

Fast Train Strikes an Obstruction With Fearful Results—Engine Leaves Track, Carrying all Coaches to Brink of Precipice.

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa.—With a terrible crash and a grinding noise, the Duquesne Limited, the fastest through passenger train from Pittsburgh to New York on the Baltimore & Ohio plowed into a pile of lumber at Laurel Run, two miles west of Dawson at 7:45 Wednesday evening. Sixty-three lives were lost and thirty persons were injured.

The train left Pittsburgh in the evening running a few minutes late, in charge of William Thornley, engineer, of Conneltsville. When approaching Laurel Run, which is a particularly fine piece of road bed, the train was running at a high rate of speed. Suddenly the passengers were thrown from their seats by the lightning-like application of the air brakes and a moment later there was a terrible crash.

The train was made up of two baggage, two day coaches, one sleeper and one dining car, and at the time was carrying, at the lowest estimate, 150 passengers. The train ploughed along for a considerable distance and the cars were torn to pieces, passengers jumping, screaming, falling from the wreck as it tore along. Suddenly the engine swerved to the left and the coaches plunged down over the embankment to the edge of the Younghiogheny river.

The minute the cars stopped rolling there was a wild scene. Many were pinned beneath the wreckage and the screams and cries that rent the air were beyond description. Many were insane in their made excitement and plunged into the river. Others, pinned beneath the heavy timbers, pleaded in agonized tones for release.

So terrific was the force of the wreck that nearly every passenger suffered a moment's unconsciousness and many of the able bodied men were unable to assist in helping the injured from the wreck on account of having fainted.

The official statement of Superintendent W. C. Lorce follows:

"No. 12 was derailed by running into some switch timbers, or timbers of about that size, derailing the engine and cars. All the cars are badly damaged. Don't think any of the equipment will be able to go away from the accident on its own wheels except possibly the Pullman cars and the diner. The engine lies across both tracks. The baggage car is over the bank. The first coach is partly over the bank. The balance of the train is badly twisted. I judge thirty-five people killed. All the killed were in the smoker. Escaping steam from the engine went into the first coach, scalding the people. Very few of the other passengers were injured. Injured have been taken from the wreck and are lying on the bank. Engineer and fireman cannot be found. The killed were mostly foreigners, who were in the smoker just back of the baggage car. They were literally roasted to death, the baggage and smoker telescoping the engine and immediately catching fire. Many of their bodies are lying burned to a crisp in the baggage room of the Baltimore & Ohio depot to be removed later to the different undertaking shops of the city."

Dutch Vote to Buy Guns.

THE HAGUE.—The second chamber of the Dutch parliament voted \$1,500,000 to purchase new Krupp quick-firing guns. The measure was quickly carried by 50 to 38 votes, and after a heated debate, the socialists and progressists contesting the necessity for a large army expenditure, especially in view of the outlay required in connection with new social legislation.

Story of Landing Confirmed.

WASHINGTON.—Official confirmation has reached Washington of the landing of Colombian troops on the island of Los Pinos, which lies close to the coast of Panama. These troops number eighty and they have taken up a position on the high island.

Will Terminate Amicably.

LONDON.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Tien Tsin says the correspondent has been informed on the highest official authority that the negotiations between Russia and Japan will terminate amicably.

Want Canal Treaty Ratified.

BATON ROUGE, La.—Both houses of the legislature 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.

Merriam Incident Closed.

WASHINGTON.—In reference to the alleged interview attributed to Major General H. C. Merriam to the effect that the proposed promotion of General Wood would be harmful to the army, Secretary Root has received a telegram from Secretary Merriam, dated Denver, in which he declares that he has not authorized any publications on any subject. It is understood that the general's statement will be regarded as satisfactory at the war department.

IT IS NOT PROOF.

Fraudulent Pension Money Must Be Returned.

TOKIO.—It is asserted in official circles here that the Japanese reply to Russia rejects the fundamental points at issue, which are understood to include mutual guaranties for the preservation of Chinese and Korean sovereignty while securing their individual interests.

The situation is graver than since the commencement of the negotiations, but is still susceptible to a pacific solution if Russia will quickly reconsider its reply.

The fact that Minister Komura called on Baron de Rosen, the Russian minister, instead of Baron de Rosen calling on Komura, is explained by the fact that the baron is suffering from an ear affection. But the explanation has an obvious diplomatic significance and is interpreted that Japan is determined not to allow Russia possible ground for claiming Japanese impetuosity as an excuse. The visit is not believed to be necessarily tantamount to an ultimatum as rumored. War preparations continue apace. The transports and the warships can sail at five minutes' notice.

The Japanese government proposes immediately to undertake the completion of the Seoul-Fusan railroad under the direct supervision of Japanese. The press is eagerly urging the government to set a limit to the "Russian tactics of aggression and insolent negligence."

NEW YORK.—A report is current here, says a Times dispatch from Peking, that Japan's request for the reconsideration by Russia of its reply to the Japanese demands was accompanied by the specification of a time limit. It is the expectation in St. Petersburg, the Times adds, that the question of war will be decided in fourteen days.

PARIS.—Confirmation was obtained from official sources of the reports that Foreign Secretary Lansdowne and Foreign Minister Delcasse have within the last few days made strong representations at Tokio, with a view to averting a crisis between Russia and Japan.

ONE IN THREE GETS PLACE.

Civil Service Report Shows What is Done for Winners.

WASHINGTON.—Frank M. Kiggins, chief examiner of the civil service commission, in his annual report says that during the last fiscal year there were 112,624 persons examined for the classified service of the government and 40,423 appointments in all branches of the service. Of the appointments 24 per cent were to purely clerical positions, 3 per cent to professional, technical or scientific positions, 38 per cent to mechanical positions requiring no educational examination, and 7 per cent to skilled labor positions, not exactly mechanical in their character, but requiring no educational examination. Of all those examined nearly 80 per cent passed, and 36 per cent of all examined were successful in securing appointments. Mr. Kiggins says the commission has reduced its examinations to essential tests of fitness and urges the consolidation of a large number of local boards of examiners throughout the country, to secure closer supervision and more effective administration.

The report states that conditions of employment in the Philippines are improving and the salaries for technical men have been increased, with the result that within the last five months more applicants have taken examinations for that service than for the preceding year.

The number of Americans in that service now constitutes more than 50 per cent of the entire force, there being 2,777 Americans and 2,697 Filipinos in public employment. As the Filipinos acquire a knowledge of English and become more familiar with American methods, they are expected to take the places of Americans.

Chinamen Have to Hurry Now.

SAN FRANCISCO.—Chinese laborers are rushing into Canada by the hundreds and on every steamer from the Orient they are arriving here en route to British Columbia. The cause for the sudden influx into Canada lies in the fact that the Canadian government recently enacted a law by which every Chinaman landing on British soil after January 1 will be compelled to pay a head tax of \$500. Under the present law the Chinese are required to pay only \$5.

Coghlan Asks for Collier.

WASHINGTON.—Rear Admiral Coghlan has cabled the navy department requesting that an additional collier be assigned to his squadron. His request will be granted, but a vessel has not yet been selected.

Congressman McClellan Resigns.

WASHINGTON.—Speaker Cannon received a letter from Representative George B. McClellan stating that he had forwarded his resignation as a member of the house to Governor Odell. The resignation becomes effective upon its receipt by the governor.

Miles of Railway, 209,855.

CHICAGO.—According to the Railway Age, the total railway mileage of the United States on January 1, 1904, will be 209,855 miles, the present year having added 5,723 miles. This mileage takes into account all the new track laid up to the last day of the year. Compared with 1902, the present year is about on a parity in matter of railway construction. The construction reported was done on 388 lines and in thirty-nine states and territories, including Alaska.

IT IS NOT PROOF

FRAUDULENT PENSION MONEY MUST BE RETURNED.

DEMANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT

A Pension Case From Georgia Under Consideration—Where Woman Impersonated Deceased Brother's Wife, Causes Promulgation of New Order by Treasury.

WASHINGTON.—It is stated at the treasury department that where a pension certificate has been issued to a woman who impersonated the widow of a deceased pensioner, and pension agent's checks have been drawn payable to her and delivered to her upon vouchers executed by her, and the bank cashed such checks, which were in due course paid at the sub-treasury upon which drawn, the government will make reclamation of the amount. In other words, bankers and other persons who cash pension checks are charged with the responsibility of establishing the identity of the payees of such checks to the same extent that they are charged with the responsibility of establishing the identity of the payees and of the checks issued in ordinary commercial transactions. The exhibition of a pension certificate is not identification of the person named therein. This ruling was held in a case arising in Georgia, wherein one Clarissa Owens, whose real name was Molly Melton, obtained a pension, it is said, by impersonating the deceased wife of a soldier, and received payment at the rate of \$8 per month from April 8, 1901, to May 4, 1903.

It developed in the examination of this claim that the soldier left a widow, who is supposed to have died in Florida. Molly Melton, a sister of the soldier, impersonated her deceased sister-in-law, obtained the pension, forged endorsements of her deceased sister-in-law to the checks and obtained the money. For this offense she was tried in the United States district court at Savannah, Ga., and was sentenced to one year and one day's confinement in the penitentiary.

The officials of the Northern Pacific railroad deny the statement attributed to Frank Waterhouse, manager of the Boston Steamship company of Seattle, in his recent testimony before the interstate commission, that his company had a contract with the Northern Pacific which prohibited that railway company from accepting freight brought in by tramp steamships. They assert that while the company has no exclusive contract and no agreement beyond a division of rates on business from the Orient, it is the general practice of railroad companies in the transaction of their business to make a concession to establish and maintain permanent lines with a fixed and regular schedule of sailings and arrivals, and with advertised routes, with dockage facilities, etc., over transient steamships, mostly foreign, which have happened to pick up a cargo and have no regular business.

WHITELAW REID ON EXPANSION.

Seems to Fear Result of Extending American Possessions.

NEW YORK.—Responding to the toast "Forefathers' Day" at the annual dinner of the New England society, Whitelaw Reid said in part: "Shall we find a safe course by roaming the oceans to drag in semi-tropical and revolutionary communities to be made states in the American union, equal from the start to ourselves, with sometimes, perhaps, a balance of power that may enable them to govern us and the land of our fathers? Such questions have burst upon us too suddenly out of our expansion to justify at the outset harsh criticism of any rash or ill-considered proposals that may rise to the surface in the first froth of public discussion. But I venture to predict that the time will come when the man who shall propose the incorporation into a state of this government of the United States of America, of any island of the sea, the Philippines, the Sandwich islands, or Porto Rico, will be hunted from public life as a national enemy, whether he be animated merely by lingering reminiscence of the filibusters and slavery propaganda, or whether he represent a sugar trust in Wall street or a sage brush trust in the United States senate."

Bryan Buys Old Homestead.

CENTRALIA, ILL.—The real estate transfers show the sale by Senator Charles E. Hall to William Jennings Bryan of the old Bryan homestead on Broadway in Salem. This is the house in which William Jennings Bryan was born. The consideration named in the deed is \$2,000 and Colonel Bryan traded an eighty-acre farm in this county for it.

Violate Their Agreement.

ALTOONA, Pa.—The Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal and Coke company announced a wage reduction at its Helvetia operations amounting to 10 per cent, to go into effect January 1. While the Helvetia miners are a comparatively insignificant part of the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh company's workings, the reduction is considered prophetic of a more sweeping move by the company shortly, which will cut the wages of 16,000 men.