

News in Brief

United States Consul Baldwin at Nuremberg, Germany, is exonerated after inquiry into a postal charge.

The death roll in the Baltimore & Ohio wreck in Pennsylvania reaches sixty-eight. It is expected to grow.

The state department announces the appointment of Prof. John Todd Till to be consul general at Greytown, Nicaragua.

A marble statue of the war governor of West Virginia, Francis H. Pierpont, was placed in statuary hall at the national capital.

United States Senator Mark Hanna has declined an invitation to attend the annual banquet of the Denver chamber of commerce.

One of the walls of the old Thirtieth regiment armory building in Brooklyn fell. Two workmen were killed and seven others were badly hurt.

A terrific explosion of gas occurred in the Nottingham mine of the Lehigh & Wilkesbarre Coal company at Plymouth, Pa. Three men were seriously burned, two fatally.

In a dispute over the services of a negro tenant, A. D. Fisher, a young planter of Claiborne county, Mississippi, was shot and killed by Walter Brown. Brown surrendered.

Alden D. Swift of Chicago broke the amateur golf championship record of the west at the Country club golf links of Santa Barbara, Cal., scoring thirty-three over a nine-hole course.

Part of the business portion of Sapulpa, I. T., was destroyed by fire. The principal loss was sustained by P. C. Hall & Co., general merchandise, whose stock was valued at \$50,000.

James M. Edge, the bank teller who embezzled about \$110,000 of the funds of the First National bank of Paterson, N. J., was sentenced to seven years imprisonment in the penitentiary.

R. R. Nelson, former United States judge for the district of Minnesota, is at the hospital in St. Paul critically ill, and but little hope is entertained for his recovery. Judge Nelson retired from the bench in 1896.

The treaty of arbitration between France and Italy was signed by Foreign Minister Delcasse and Signor Tornielli, Italian ambassador at Paris. The treaty is identical with that between France and Great Britain.

After a harrowing experience in which thirteen men nearly lost their lives, the bodies of the two Petersons and of Gregorovich, who were suffocated in the Isle Royale (Mich.) mine fire, were brought to the surface.

A petition in voluntary bankruptcy was filed in the United States district court by A. H. Fuchs, president of the A. H. Fuchs Millinery company of St. Louis. The petition estimates his liabilities at \$55,682 and his assets at \$10,660.

Walter Wellman says friends have sent a cablegram to General Wood assuring him that the senate committee will report in his favor, virtually unanimously, and that he will be confirmed by an overwhelming vote in the senate.

The board of directors of the Union Trust company of Baltimore, which was placed in the hands of a receiver about two months ago, decided to resume business. The capital stock of the company is \$1,000,000 and resources about \$3,000,000.

The appointment of Postoffice Inspector Walter S. Mayer to be inspector in charge of the New York division of inspection work has been announced at the postoffice department. Mr. Mayer took an active part in the investigation of the postoffice frauds.

At an extraordinary meeting of the Japanese 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.

Commissioner Richards of the general land office has announced his awards under the sealed bids received for timber on the ceded Chippewa Indian lands in the state of Minnesota, in the vicinity of Cass lake, the sale for which was held December 1, 1902. The total amount covered by the accepted bids is \$1,432,772.

Secretary Shaw has rendered a decision sustaining the board of general appraisers in its decision that certain silk ribbons involved in cases brought before the board were dutiable as trimmings and not as articles of manufactured silk. The effect of the board's decision was to increase the duty on the ribbons from 50 to 60 per cent ad valorem.

The navy department has been advised that the torpedo boat destroyer Lawrence was disabled in a storm off Hatteras while on her recent run with the second torpedo flotilla from Hampton Roads to Key West. Repairs, which will consume a month, will be made at Key West.

Labor demonstrations at Paris resulted in disturbances which made it necessary for the cavalry to clear the streets. A few of the demonstrators were injured and several arrests were made. The affair, however, was not serious.

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 Transports 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.

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.

Favor Panama Treaty.

PENSACOLA, Fla.—Resolutions have been adopted by the chamber of commerce of Pensacola urging representatives of Florida in congress to vote for the ratification of the Panama treaty.

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.

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.

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."

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.

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.

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.

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 230 lines and in thirty-nine states and territories, including Alaska.

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 Younghighy 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 immedately 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."

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.

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 only 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.

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 15,000 men.

NEBRASKA STATE NEWS

THE STATE AT LARGE. BANKS ARE IN GOOD SHAPE.

Report Indicates There is No Monetary Stringency in Nebraska.

LINCOLN.—Secretary Roysse of the State Banking board has completed his report of the condition of the banks of the state, based on the November call. Compared with the statement of November 25, 1902, this report shows:

Deposits, increase \$2,586,262.95
Loans, increase 1,863,567.48
Capital, increase 183,100.00
Bills payable and rediscounts, decrease 22
Compared with the statement of September 5, 1903 (the last preceding report) the report shows:

Deposits, decrease \$1,327,596.24
Loans, increase 2,308,671.91
Capital, increase 17,100.64
Number of banks, increase 4
Number of depositors, 116,484
Reserve, decrease, per cent, 7
Banks now hold a reserve of 29 1/2 per cent, the legal requirement being 15 per cent.

Of the report, Mr. Roysse says:

Considering the brisk demand for money and the tendency to the withdrawal of deposits at this, the liquidating season of the year, and the number of cattle being fed in the state on account of the low prices prevailing at this time, the condition of the banks under state supervision, as shown by this report, is especially gratifying. While the report shows a decrease of deposits as compared with the September 5, 1903, report the decrease is not as great as might be expected. It also shows a very decided gain in all important features for the year.

There has been a slight decrease in reserve since the September 5, 1903, report, but an increase since the report of a year ago, and the banks now hold a reserve of 29 1/2 per cent, nearly double the legal requirement.

It will be observed by the increase in reserve and the decrease of bills payable and notes and bills rediscounted over that of a year ago that money is decidedly easier with the banks of Nebraska at the date of this report than one year ago.

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts \$1,320,725.22
Overdrafts 453,664.90
Bonds, stocks, securities, judgments, claims, etc. 671,312.97
Due from national, state and private banks and bankers 8,210,253.44
Banking house, furniture and fixtures 1,429,891.14
Other real estate in the state capital 356,243.45
Premium on United States and other bonds and securities 1,686.92
Cash items 92,081.94
Cash 2,597,199.91
Total \$48,972,199.54

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock paid in \$ 8,018,100.00
Surplus fund 1,426,277.19
Undivided profits 1,925,471.43
Dividends unpaid 12,244.66
Deposits 37,673,882.24
Notes and bill rediscounted 199,672.16
Bills payable 307,151.28
Total \$48,972,199.54
Number of banks reporting, 50.
Number of depositors, 116,484.

MET THE BETTER RATE.

Lushton Shipper Gets Concessions from wo Railroads.

The Omaha Bee printed a special from Lushton, Neb., in which the following statement was made:

"A shipper of grain here learned something regarding rate on grain over the Northwestern and the Burlington railroads and was made a rate on a shipment of wheat through or around Omaha that was not on the published tariff rates, but is supposed to have been made this shipper by reason of the cut rate made by the Great Western and the agitation of the Omaha business men for a grain market in Omaha. The grain dealer ordered a grain car empty for wheat to be shipped to Omaha, and as a shipment to Omaha was out of the ordinary and customary way of billing grain the railroad agent asked him, 'Where do you intend to bill the grain after it gets to Omaha?' He was told that it was going to Minneapolis over another road that made a cheaper rate, and that by getting the car billed to Omaha and then shipped over another road he could get a better rate than the published through rates on the railroad here. The local agent at once took the matter up with the head office in Omaha and it was not long until he had instructions to accept the car for shipment direct through over their road to its destination and to make a rate that was the same. Since that time the grain buyer has been taking advantage of this rate."

Something Doing, Anyway.

The Hawaiian delegate to congress, Prince Kalaulaoualea, was chatting with a friend, who said to him: "You people in congress don't seem to be accomplishing much in the way of legislation at this extra session." "No, we're not passing many laws," said "Prince Cupid," as he is called, "but look at the mileage some of us draw."

Thirty Days to Pay Million.

LINCOLN.—Judge Holmes issued an order directing that Charles A. Fruenau pay the purchase price of the railway lien, \$1,160,000, into court within thirty days, and that the Triton company might have six days to redeem. Failing to do so, Fruenau would get a deed to the property. This ruling is virtually a victory for the company, as it could redeem after Fruenau has been put to the trouble of paying in the \$1,060,000.