

News in Brief

Baron von Mannlicher, inventor of the Mannlicher rifle, is dead.

Osma Mothato and his four-year-old son, Juan, were burned to death at San Bernardino, Cal.

Fire, while the thermometer was 25 degrees below zero, caused a loss of \$105,000 at Dawson.

John Alexander Dowie, with his party from the east, sailed from San Francisco for Australia on the steamer Sonoma.

Mrs. H. Crocker of San Francisco has given \$25,000 to the University of California for archaeological work in old Mexico.

The main dining room, dormitory and laundry of the State Normal college at Greensboro, N. C., was destroyed by fire.

Empress Augusta Victoria of Germany has varicose veins in one of her legs and is obliged to keep it extended on a cushion.

Secretary Hay left for Thomasville, Ga., where he expects to remain two weeks as the guest of Colonel Payne. The secretary leaves for his health.

Simon S. Goldman, said to have been the inventor of the tucker and needle thread in general use on sewing machines, is dead at New York.

Albert von Maybach, former Prussian minister of public works, who successfully nationalized the Prussian railroads, died, aged eighty-three years.

Five hundred students of the South division and Lake View High schools, Chicago, engaged in a fight on the streets, and the police made several arrests.

The presence of smallpox among the troops at Jefferson barracks has resulted in the vaccination of all the men in the Fourth and Eighth regiments of cavalry.

The festivities in honor of the seventy-fifth birthday of King Oscar were inaugurated with special services in all the churches of Stockholm. The city was profusely decorated.

Nebraska grain dealers to the number of nearly 200 will be entertained in New Orleans during carnival week. They are members and officers of the Nebraska Grain Dealers' association.

A serious native disturbance has occurred in the interior near Pyeng Yang, cables the Seoul correspondent of the New York Herald. The authorities are apprehensive that it may spread.

According to a cable report from United States Minister Finch at Montevideo, the revolutionary disturbances in that country are much more serious and extensive than has been supposed.

The house committee on naval affairs authorized a favorable report on the Hitchcock resolution, calling on Secretary Moody for details as to cargoes used at government expense by heads of departments.

All the St. Louis theaters except the Odeon will get new licenses from License Collector Clifford to replace those revoked two weeks ago, Building Commissioner Hillburger having found they are complying with the law.

President Plantz of Lawrence (Wis.) university said that there would be no more Thanksgiving football for that institution. The decision was reached because of the agitation in religious papers against the game on that day.

Much excitement prevails at Dodge City, Kansas, over the strike of a one-inch vein of oil at a depth of 280 feet in the Bunyan farm, fifteen miles south of that place. The owner of the farm was boring for artesian water when the oil was struck.

Cyrus W. McCartney, a newspaper man, who disappeared from La Porte, Ind., several years ago and was supposed to have been murdered, has been heard from in a telegram from him at Dawson, Alaska. McCartney says he is well and rich.

George Hall, defaulting county clerk of Buchanan county, Missouri, who left nine years ago with a deficit of over \$20,000 in his accounts, sent word to his bondsmen that he is now in Monterey, Mex., and will soon return to reimburse them for losses.

Senator Gamble, from the committee on Indian affairs, made a favorable report on the bill ratifying the agreement with the Indians on the Lower Brule agency in South Dakota for the cession of a portion of the reservation at the price of \$1.25 per acre.

The third anniversary of the death of Queen Victoria was observed in London. There was the usual memorial service at Frogmore, which was attended by the king and queen and the royal family. The anniversary of the queen's accession was marked by salutes at the naval stations and dressing of the warships.

Hon. Augustus Anderson of Stratford, one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Central Iowa, died last week, aged 66. He had served two terms in the state legislature, and had been a resident of Stratford since 1863. He was a political leader in his section of the state.

The supreme court of California, by a majority decision, decided that a railroad ticket is not a contract. It also decided that transportation companies may make rules and regulations beyond what appears on the face of a ticket, and that passengers must comply with them all.

IN THE FAR EAST

OUTLOOK THERE SAID TO BE LESS HOPEFUL.

JAPANESE LANDING AN ARMY

Russian Does Not Regard Situation Serious Enough for Hostile Action—Talk of China Going to War Regarded as Absurd.

ST. PETERSBURG—Reports of an alarming nature of the situation there continue to pour out of the far east. These include the statements that the Japanese are landing an army at Ma-Sam-Pho, Corea, and that 3,000 Russian troops are crossing the Yalu river. The reported dispatch of Chinese army of soldiers trained by European officers beyond the great wall to preserve order in Manchuria cannot be confirmed here and the reports of the Japanese at Ma-Sam-Pho and the Russians at the Yalu are discredited at the foreign offices here and by M. Kurino, the Japanese minister to Russia.

M. Hartwig, a departmental chief of the Russian foreign office, spoke feelingly to M. Kurino regarding the harm being done by often utterly baseless reports. While the Russian government understands the situation in Corea to be disturbed and possibly threatening, it has not information of a situation grave enough to warrant the landing of a large Japanese army there.

Russia freely admits Japan's right, under existing conditions, to land in Corea a reasonable number of soldiers to preserve order, but the landing of an army at this stage of the negotiations could not be viewed with equanimity. M. Kurino is in no way anxious because of the delay in Russia's response to the latest Japanese note and says that Japan is not pressing for an immediate reply.

"Russia will be given all the time she needs," the minister is quoted as saying. The statement published by the Novoe Vremya that because Russia desired peace she cannot surrender all, coincides with the distinct impression gathered by the correspondent of the Associated Press at the foreign office that Russia will continue to maintain that the question of sovereignty of Manchuria is solely a matter between Russia and China.

The Svjet and the St. Petersburg Listoe have raised an outcry over the reported sending of Chinese troops to Manchuria, and the latter newspaper declares that if it is true that these troops go with the purpose of threatening the railroads between Port Arthur and Vladivostok, it means war with China and not with Japan. In an interview, Soo Wei-Teh, the Chinese minister to Russia, is quoted as saying:

"The talk of China going to war with anyone is absurd. We have no intention of fighting. If Chinese troops are being sent north it is solely for the purpose of inspiring confidence in our people, who are alarmed and who would become panic-stricken in the event of hostilities between Russia and Japan. Personally, I have no knowledge of this reported movement, but the fact of it would not necessarily be communicated to me."

FIRE CHIEF MUSHAM REPORTS

Blames Management and Builders for Iroquois Fire. CHICAGO, Ill.—Upon the management and builders of the Iroquois theater has been placed the responsibility for the fire horror, in a report rendered to Mayor Harrison by Fire Chief Musham. The report is prepared by Fulkerson after examination of nearly 100 witnesses in the days immediately following the fire.

No criticism is made of the building department, although seven violations of the building ordinances are noted. Attorney Fulkerson concludes that the theater building was not completed at the time it was opened; that the theater employees did what they could to put the fire out, and that the doors were generally locked throughout the building.

Pope Sends His Blessing.

ROME—Monsignor Serafino, the new apostolic delegate in Mexico, has been received in farewell audience by the pope and was entrusted by his holiness to express to President Diaz and the Mexican government his satisfaction with the measure of liberty granted under President Diaz to Catholicism in Mexico, which resulted in the prosperity of the church there.

Crushed by an Elephant.

LONDON—George Leckhart, the well known elephant trainer and circus proprietor, was accidentally crushed to death Sunday by an elephant while he was attending the unloading of the circus animals at the Hoe street railway station at Walthamstow.

Hurricanes in Fiji Islands.

MELBOURNE.—A disastrous hurricane has blown over the Fiji islands, resulting in great loss of life and property.

Rosebud Reservation Lands.

WASHINGTON.—The house committee on Indian affairs ordered a favorable report on the bill to open for settlement 400,000 acres of the Rosebud Indian reservation in South Dakota.

Term of Service Increased.

WASHINGTON.—The war department has ordered that hereafter all details of staff officers for Philippines duty shall be for three years instead of two years as at present.

THE PANAMA TREATY.

Discussion Will Be Continued in Senate This Week.

WASHINGTON.—The senate has no program for the week beyond a continuation of the debate on the Panama question. The fact that the Gorman resolution of inquiry was disposed of last week does not change the situation, except that it makes necessary a new basis for speeches. This will be supplied in the resolution of inquiry to be introduced Monday as the result of Saturday's conference of democratic senators. A number of addresses are still to be made on both sides of the controversy, and it is quite certain that the debate will continue for many days. It is well understood on both sides of the chamber that in reality the treaty and not any particular resolution is being discussed, the reason being that the treaty itself could not be discussed in open session, whereas the resolution can be. The democrats prefer an open discussion of the question and the republicans, as a matter of policy, and in the interest of the expedition to the vote on the treaty, have not objected. When it becomes apparent that the discussion in open session is exhausted, executive sessions will be ordered and the debate will proceed behind closed doors.

It is quite well understood that the amendments to the treaty reported by the committee on foreign relations will be withdrawn before final action is taken.

COLD MADDENS AN ELEPHANT.

Almost Kills Keeper and Does Much Damage.

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Maddened by the intense cold, which had frozen its ears and trunk, an elephant belonging to an animal show which had been exhibiting at a local theater, Sunday almost killed its keeper, Conrad Castens, and partially wrecked the Milwaukee freight house. Many of the attendants had narrow escapes from serious injury. Castens then went to the animal's head and attempted to pacify it, but the beast threw him to the ground and planted his foot upon him, crushing in his ribs and, it is believed, fatally injuring him. The brute then seized heavy articles of freight in the sheds and began tossing them about promiscuously, doing considerable damage. After laboring for nine hours attendants quieted the animal.

COTTON REACHES WAR PRICES.

Dr. Brown Springs a Little Surprised on the New Orleans Ring.

NEW ORLEANS.—Dr. Brown surprised the ring at the Cotton exchange Friday by telling traders to go to his brokers and give them everything they had for sale for May delivery at the market price. He said he was willing to buy everything offered up to half a million bales. Before he made this offer he bid 15.18c for 25,000 bales of May. His purchases were heavy.

The market remained in a healthy condition in spite of the levels that have been attained. The present prices are the highest since war times and since the future market has been established. There appears to be no weak long interest in the market and brokers are exacting heavy margins on all purchases.

IRRIGATION COMPANY LOSES.

County Has Right to Fix Rate for Water.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The decision of the circuit court of the United States for the northern district of California in the case of the county of Stanislaus against the San Joaquin & Kings River Canal and Irrigation company was reserved in the supreme court Monday.

The case involved the validity of the laws of California permitting the county authorities to fix the rate to be charged by the irrigation company for water. The company claimed the rate the county fixed was too low and that the laws prior to 1885, under which the company was organized, were equivalent to a contract, permitting the company to fix its own rate. The circuit court accepted this view and decided that the act of 1885 could not be invoked to impair the contract.

BLAIR OWED HALF A MILLION.

He Carried Life Insurance in the Sum of \$1,000,000.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The policies held by the late James L. Blair, former general counsel for the world's fair, who died at Enstis, Fla., last Saturday, are rapidly being paid by the insurance companies.

It is stated that the total amount of Mr. Blair's indebtedness, including the money advanced for him by friends and relatives during the last year of his life, has been officially determined at \$663,000. It is further stated that every dollar of this amount will be paid from the insurance now coming in, leaving \$549,000 for Mrs. Blair and her two sons providing that a policy for \$200,000, which one company began to contest before Mr. Blair's death, is paid.

Engage in Pitched Battle.

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Fifty non-union bridge workers employed on the Union Pacific Railroad company's bridge across the Kansas river, and about a hundred members of the Structural Iron Workers' union engaged in a pitched battle at the new Union Pacific bridge in Kansas City, Kan., Tuesday, during which thirty revolver shots were fired, hundreds of bricks were thrown and several men injured, two seriously. It was thought for a time that more serious trouble would result.

A TORNADO SOUTH

AT LEAST THIRTY PEOPLE ARE KNOWN TO BE KILLED.

AN INCREASE IN LIST LIKELY

Entire Northern Portion of Alabama Swept by High Winds—in Addition to Loss of Life Great Damage Results to Property.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—A disastrous tornado swept over Moundville, Ala., a town of 300 inhabitants, fifteen miles south of Tuscaloosa, early Friday and as a result thirty-seven persons were killed and more than 100 injured. Every business house, with the exception of a small drug store, was completely destroyed.

Surgeons were rushed to Moundville from Greensboro and Tuscaloosa and all possible was done to alleviate the sufferings of the injured. By the force of the storm persons were blown hundreds of feet from their beds in the blackness of the night. Through terror, a father, mother and three children fled from their home to seek refuge and in their excitement left a 5-year-old boy in bed. Later he was pulled from beneath some timber and thus far it is impossible to find any other member of the family. Bedding, carpets and wearing apparel are scattered for a distance of ten miles through what was a forest, but which is now as clear as if cut by the woodman's axe.

Freight cars were blown to splinters, the trucks from them being hurled hundreds of feet from the track. The depot, the hotel, warehouse, gins, thirty homes, five store houses, together with the stocks, were completely destroyed. Where they stood it is impossible to find even the pillars upon which these structures rested.

Bales of cotton, which were stowed in warehouses, were torn to atoms, the fragments of lint lodging in trees, making it appear as though that section had been visited by a snowstorm. Heavy iron safes, the doors of which in some instances were torn from their hinges, were carried away by the force of the wind.

A young clerk employed by W. P. Pfifer, hearing the terrible roaring of the storm, let himself into a well in the center of the store. He had no sooner found this place of safety than the store was completely demolished. He was uninjured.

The town of Hull, four miles north of Moundville, suffered from the tornado. The Bates Lumber company's planing department was completely wrecked and the negro fireman crushed. Four residences and one church were demolished.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Tornadoes played havoc at several places in North Alabama, resulting, as far as known, in the death of over thirty people and injury to many more. The storm center was at and around Moundville, a small town in the northern portion of Hale county, where heavy loss of life and great destruction of property are reported. Because of the fact that the wires were prostrated details of the disaster are meager. Reports received at Tuscaloosa indicate that no less than thirty people were killed at Moundville and many more injured.

The storm swept all of the northern portion of Hale county and destroyed many farms. It is feared that fuller reports will show an increased loss of life.

Driven from Home in Blizzard.

NEW CUMBERLAND, W. Va.—Fully one-half of this town is under twelve feet of water and a blizzard is raging. Dozens of factories are submerged and the big Chelsea China company plant is greatly damaged. At Empire, two miles above on the Ohio river, the town is under fifteen feet of water, and practically the entire population are camped out in box cars. Six miles above Empire a heavy landslide has covered the Cleveland & Pittsburg railroad tracks.

Island Trade Is Increasing.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Philippine trade statistics of the insular bureau of the War department show that the imports of those islands during the eight months ended August, 1903, aggregate \$22,266,531 and exports \$20,867,313. These figures are exclusive of coin and government supplies. The aggregate of exports and imports is an increase of almost \$6,900,000, over four-fifths of which may be credited to shipments from the archipelago, the hemp and copra output being especially large.

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Socialists to Meet.

OMAHA, Neb.—The executive committee of the national socialist party, in session in Omaha, issued a call for a national convention to meet in Chicago May 1. The call, after stating the result of the referendum vote on place of meeting, says the basis of representation shall be one delegate for each hundred members in good standing and one delegate at large from each state. The building in which the convention is to be held will be announced later by the local committee.



EXPRESS HELD UP

TRAIN ROBBERS LOOT THE SUNSET LIMITED.

DISPLAY RED DANGER SIGNAL

Trainmen are Overpowered and Express Car is Forced Open—Officials Assert that Amount Taken by the Robbers is Small.

SAN FRANCISCO.—While the Southern Pacific company's Sunset Limited was climbing the mountains between San Luis Obispo and San Ardo Thursday night a Wells-Fargo treasure box was mysteriously stolen out of the car by some person or persons. Timothy Sullivan, the messenger, was in another car and when he returned he found the side door of the express car open and the safe missing. The robber gained entrance to the car through the end door, the lock of which had been forced. Sullivan at once notified the railway officials of the robbery and a search for the missing safe resulted in finding it near Tunnel No. 2. It had been broken open and its contents taken, with the exception of a valuable diamond, some checks and other papers. The amount of treasure that was being carried in the safe has not been determined. The express officials state that it was only a few hundred dollars, but that there were some valuable papers.

Estimates from the scene of the robbery place the amount as high as \$50,000, but it is thought that this estimate is greatly exaggerated. The express car carried two safes, one a through safe, which is locked at New Orleans, and the other a local safe. It was the local safe that was taken. One man is under arrest at San Luis Obispo on suspicion, but the evidence against him is only circumstantial. The slow progress of the train would have permitted the robbers entering the express car, throwing out the safe and jumping off after it without danger.

R. W. Christianson of the Pacific department of Wells-Fargo & Co. says that there was very little in the box but there is a report that one package sent from Santa Barbara was worth about \$1,500. He said that Timothy Sullivan, the messenger in charge of the car, was an old employe and thoroughly reliable.

On the arrival of the train in this city Messenger Sullivan told the story of the robbery to Yardmaster Percival. He said that shortly after the train left San Luis Obispo on its way north he left the express car and went into the baggage car, immediately behind it. His helper was in a compartment of one of the cars. The express was temporarily vacant, and the thieves, possibly hoboos who had been stealing a ride, cut a hole in the front door and entered. They then forced open the side door, threw out the safe and presumably jumped after it. This was an easy matter, as the train was moving very slowly on an up grade.

SIoux CITY-ASHLAND LINE.

Slender Prospect of Building It This Year.

LINCOLN, Neb.—The Journal says: It may be said on the authority of a Burlington man well known in Nebraska, and now enjoying a position where he should know when the company intends building, that the Sioux City line, projected to run from Ashland to a connection with the Great Northern in Iowa, may not be built this coming season.

The tightness of the money market in the east may prevent the building of many lines in the west, notwithstanding the business of the west warrants extensions, connecting lines and improvements. Notwithstanding the present outlook, Sioux City is moving in the matter to induce Jim Hill to build the line at once, and it reports from her business men's committee are not too highly colored. There seems to be some prospect of success.

Mischief Makers in Korea.

WASHINGTON.—The only advice received over night at the state department from the east are from Minister Allen at Seoul. Minister Allen reports that Seoul is in a panicky condition and that there is apprehension of a riotous outbreak at any moment. The intimation is conveyed in the dispatch that interested foreign emissaries are at the bottom of these disturbances, the result of which may be to afford an excuse for intervention and the placing of large forces in Korea.

PURE FOOD BILL.

Measure Passed in House by Rising Vote.

WASHINGTON.

The house passed the Hepburn pure food bill Wednesday on a rising vote, 201 to 63, its opponents being unable to secure a roll call. The amendment inserting the word "wilful" with reference to persons who sell adulterated or misbranded goods and which would have compelled the government to prove intent to violate the law by the vendors, was stricken out on a ye and nay vote in the house. Several attempts were made to amend the bill, but no material changes were made.

The bill fixes the standard of foods and drugs as to their purity, strength and character, and defines who shall be considered adulterators or misbranding of foods and drugs. It also prohibits interstate commerce, importation and exportation of such misbranded or adulterated scope of the bureau of chemistry to include the bureau of foods and impose upon it the duty of performing all chemical work for the other executive departments. This bureau will be charged with the duty of inspecting food and drug products which belong to interstate or foreign commerce. The secretary of commerce is given authority to employ such chemists, inspectors, clerks and laborers as may be necessary for the enforcement of the act.

One section of the bill provides penalties for the introduction of adulterated or misbranded foods or drinks and another section requires the secretary of agriculture to prescribe rules and regulations to govern the bureau of chemistry and foods in examinations of articles required to be inspected under the law. Violations of the law shall be reported by the secretary of agriculture to the proper district attorney of the United States, who is to direct and cause proceedings without delay.

As soon as the bill was reported to the house Mr. Hepburn moved an amendment eliminating the amendment offered yesterday on motion of Mr. Stephens, dem. (Tex.), which made it necessary to show "wilful" intent on the part of persons prosecuted. Mr. Hepburn said that with the Stephens amendment in the bill it would be entirely inefficient as a law. The Hepburn amendment was agreed to by a vote of 145 to 126. The bill then was passed by a rising vote of 201 to 63, the yeas and nays being refused.

RESOLUTIONS AGAINST SMOOT.

Lincoln Ministers Take Action in Case of Utah Senator.

LINCOLN, Neb.—At the meeting of the Lincoln Ministerial association the ministers passed resolutions and will send the following instructions to the Nebraska senators to present to Senator Burrows, chairman of the committee on privileges and elections:

"Resolved, That, as the Ministerial Association of Lincoln, we protest against Senator Smoot retaining his seat in the United States senate, provided if it be found by the senate committee that the oath of loyalty to the Mormon church on the part of the apostle Smoot subordinates his allegiance to the government of the United States and interferes with a loyal support of the institutions of the government." The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Explorer Hubbard is Dead.

QUEBEC.—Word was received here from Chateau Bay, Labrador, that a sloop had arrived there Friday from Northwest river with the information that Leonard Hubbard, Jr., of the exploring party sent out by the magazine Outing of New York, had died from starvation in the wilds of Labrador on October 18. The remains are on their way to Quebec, so the report says, by dog train, with the other members of the expedition.

Thompson Will Return.

LINCOLN, Neb.—D. E. Thompson, United States minister to Brazil, now on a leave of absence, is expected to arrive in Lincoln about February 3. The steamer Tennyson, on which Mr. Thompson sailed from Rio Janeiro January 2 is due to arrive at Brooklyn on Wednesday, January 20. Immediately after landing Mr. Thompson will go to Washington to report to the state department. From Washington he expects to go to Michigan to visit relatives, and soon after to come to Lincoln.