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PAST AND PRESENT

AS IT COMES TO US FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE EARTH.

Telegraphic Information Gathered by the News for the Enlightenment of the Many.

Sea Takes Heavy Toll.

A dispatch from Halifax, N. S., says: More than half a hundred seamen have lost their lives off the upper North Atlantic coast during the past few days as the result of a storm of unprecedented severity and it is possible that the turbulent sea has claimed even the greater toll of lives. The reckoning itemized as accurately as the meagre reports will allow is rendered as follows: December 3, Seventeen members of the crews of three fishing schooners were killed; one foundered; December 4, Twenty-eight members of the crew of the steamer "Soo City" which is believed to have sunk in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; December 5, Seven members of the crew of barge No. 101, which went down off the coast of Nova Scotia. In addition to this death toll, which will be noted includes no passengers, there developed a mystery in the discovery of life belts bearing the name "S. S. Stanley," which were washed ashore with the wreckage from the "Soo City." No steamer of that name navigating in this vicinity has been reported and in lieu of any other explanation it is said that these life belts might have been a second hand purchase for use aboard the "Soo City."

Pastor Refuses Church Gift.

Presented with \$40,000 by members of his congregation on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his rectorship of Grace church in New York City, the Rev. Dr. William Reed Huntington has declined to accept the gift and has turned it back for use in the church. In a letter Dr. Huntington suggests to the parishioners that the income from the sum be used during his rectorship to carry on parochial, charitable and missionary work. In the event of his retirement from the church he is to make use of the income himself, but when he dies it shall revert to the church treasury.

Fire Panic in Chicago Hotel.

Guests at the Kaiserhof Hotel in Chicago were roused from sleep by a fire which originated in the hotel kitchen and filled the corridors and lobby with volumes of dense smoke. To avoid a panic the management directed the porters and bellboys to notify the occupants of the rooms above the first floor that there was no danger. Notwithstanding this assurance many of the guests hastily dressed themselves and with their valuables sought the hotel office.

T. R. Marshall Retires from Firm.

The law firm of Marshall, McNagney & Clugston, at Columbia City, Ind., of which Governor McNagney is a senior partner, has dissolved partnership after an existence of thirty years. Mr. McNagney purchased the interests of his partners and will continue the business in the present quarters. Mr. Clugston will retire from the practice on account of failing health.

Many Families Made Homeless.

Sixty-five families are homeless in Contralla, Pa., as the result of a fire which wiped out three squares of property in the heart of town. The fire started in a building occupied by a moving picture show and spread rapidly among the frame houses. Lack of water, the result of the prolonged drought, left the town at the mercy of the flames for a time. The total loss is estimated at \$100,000.

Bilik Gets Reprieve 'Till January 29.

After a brief hearing of the Herman Bilik case Acting Governor L. Y. Sherman granted the condemned man a new lease of life by giving him a further reprieve until January 29, 1909, the sixth date that has been set for the execution of the defendant, who has been in jail for more than two years at Chicago. Bilik was to have been executed this week.

More Ohio Counties Dry.

Licking County voted dry by 700, knocking out eighty-four votes. Hardin county voted dry by 200. Twenty-one saloons are affected.

Snow One Foot Deep.

Farmers in the vicinity of Delphi, Ind., are rejoicing because their wheat fields are blanketed with a foot of snow. The fall was heavy and the crop of wheat is of great benefit to wheat growers.

Place for an Indiana Man.

A dispatch from Washington states: Robert J. Neely, of Indianapolis, Ind., has been appointed a meat inspector in the Agricultural Department. He will be stationed at New York.

Fall Into the Lake.

Driving along a country road near Youngstown, Ohio, in inky darkness, LeRoy Brest, aged 30, of Mercer, Pa., an employee of the Kyle Lumber Co., with his wagon and team of horses, plunged off a high embankment into the lake at Struthers. He was drowned, as were both horses.

Fall Breaks Neck.

George S. Stainforth, a cook, aged 40, fell down stairs at the Hotel in Hamilton, Ohio, sustaining a broken neck and a fractured skull, dying instantly. His home is in Richmond, Ky.

Crum Gets Another Term.

The President has decided to reappoint W. D. Crum (colored) collector of the port at Charleston, S. C. It was the original appointment of Crum that caused such a furore in the Senate three years ago in which Senator Tillman bitterly attacked the President.

Real Estate Dealer Found Dead in Bed.

Albert H. Hunt, 52 years old, a well-known real estate dealer, was found dead in bed at Richmond, Va. He had been appointed a meat inspector in the Agricultural Department. He was to have been stationed at New York.

ALEXIS OVERTHROWN;

NEW RULER IN HAITI

Bloodless Revolt Deposes Aged Executive and Makes Legitimate President.

NOT A SHOT FIRED IN COUP.

Movement Led by Citizens of Port au Prince—Committee of Safety Controls the Capital.

Through a well-organized and sudden bloodless revolution in Haiti was accomplished Wednesday. The people of the capital seized power, deposed the President, Nord Alexis, set up a provisional government of their own, and made Gen. Legitime their new President.

The only leader remaining loyal to Alexis is Gen. Camille Gabriel, his nephew, who for the last six months has directed the policy of the administration. He remained at the palace with Alexis. All the ministers and high military officials under Alexis took refuge in the foreign legations. These are the same men who nine months ago were protesting vociferously against the granting of the right of refuge to unsuccessful revolutionists by the foreign diplomatic and consular representatives.

The revolution had been well organized. Early in the day hands of citizens, organized and armed, moved quietly about the town and took possession of various points of vantage. The movement was directed by Gen. Canal, a member of the Senate. Not a shot was fired. The soldiers of Alexis saw that the rebels had the upper hand and quickly let it be known that they had no intention of starting a fight that might result in much bloodshed. The presence of the American cruisers, Des Moines and Tacoma, and the French cruiser Tropic undoubtedly had a restraining influence.

Gen. Nord Alexis, who has been President of Haiti since 1902, was born in 1821. He was elected for seven years. The salary is \$24,000. Haiti is the western or French portion of the island of Santo Domingo. Its area is 9,242 square miles and its population 1,500,000. It is a country of revolutions. In October, 1907, sixteen men were sentenced to death on a charge of conspiring to overthrow the government. In January, 1908, an army of insurgents, under Jean Jumeau, marched on the capital, Port au Prince, but were repulsed by government troops under the leadership of Gen. Celestin Cyprien, the minister of war.

The stirring events of the exciting and historical day that saw President Nord Alexis driven from his heels, were followed by a night of looting, pillage and murder in Port au Prince. Twelve men were killed before order was restored. The passions of the people had been aroused, and after being defeated in their endeavors to do bodily harm to Alexis they turned their attention to well-stocked storehouses and the residences of the supporters of their late president. They were rapidly getting out of hand when the authorities succeeded in controlling the situation.

NEVADA OIL FIELDS A MYTH.

Inquiry Shows Petroleum Is Absent

Where Claimed to Be. "Alleged oil prospects in Nevada" is the title of a report issued by the United States geological survey and which effectually disposes of claims that sections investigated showed the presence of oil. The geologists investigated the field west of Reno, in the region north of the bend of the Walker river, east of Washoe, in Smith valley, north of Wellington, and in a small area south of Fallon.

POLITICS AND POLITICIANS

William R. Hearst was the heaviest backer of the Independence party in the recent election. His contribution was \$42,265.

The belief that the subject of woman's suffrage is gaining the public ear in the United States has been strengthened by the discovery of the existence of an organization known as the Secret Suffrage Council in New York City, the membership of which includes a number of wealthy and prominent men and women.

At a dinner given by the Cincinnati Commercial Club, Taft was the guest of honor, along with Congressman Longworth and others of local or national prominence. He expressed himself as full of hope that investors would now go forward with the completion of the canal project. He gave fair warning that no favors could be expected from the next administration by men who break the law.

One of the most interesting results of the recent election in Colorado, where the return came in very close, was the election of the famous judge of the Juvenile Court, Lindsay, who ran independently from both the Republican and Democratic organizations and refused him a nomination because his experience of grafting politicians of high degree in both parties. Lindsay's election was made possible by the almost unanimous support of the women voters, who, though differing from the national ticket almost without exception marked their ballot for the child's friend and helper.

At San Antonio, Texas, where Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bryan stopped on their way to Mexico for a vacation, the defeated Democratic candidate made up a group of friends that he hoped it would never be necessary to run for office again, but that he would not attempt to decide that question until the time comes to act. In reply to the direct question whether he would run for presidency again, he said he was not discouraged as to the future of the Democratic party. That party was already a great educational force, and he hoped it would be the voters' right to let it be the accomplished of necessary reforms.

The announcement was made by Secretary of State Root, after a conference with President Roosevelt and President-elect Taft on Sunday that he was ready to accept the New York leadership as a successor to Taft, although he insisted that he was not seeking the office. The announcement was taken to mean that all the strength of the administration and of the Taft influence would make the election of Root a foregone conclusion.

The Charter Committee of Chicago has decided, six to four, in favor of a bill to give women the right to vote on all municipal questions. The matter came before the Charter Convention and then before the Legislature.

The G. A. R. Commander Dies. J. H. Sharer, commander of Ohio of the Grand Army of the Republic, died at his residence in Alliance. He was attacked a day or two before with acute indigestion.

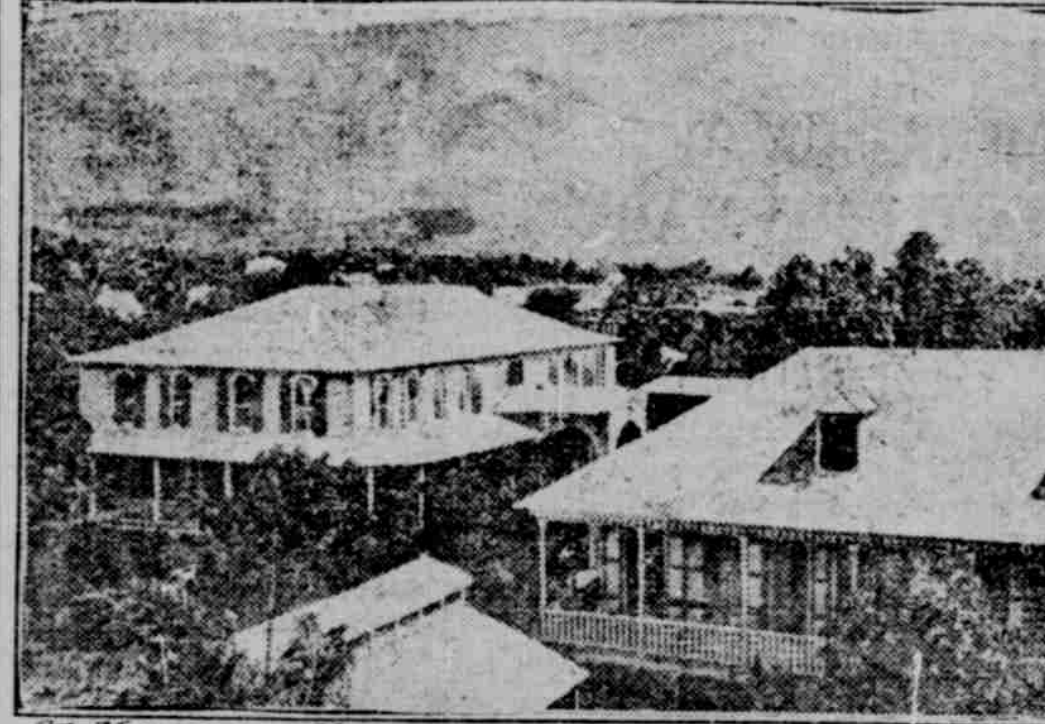
SCENES OF THE CAPITAL OF HAITI, WHICH WAS SEIZED BY THE REBELS, WHERE LOOTERS WORKED HAVOC IN A NIGHT OF TERROR.



THE MARKET PLACE - PORT AU PRINCE.



NATIVE TROOP IN THE STREETS OF PORT AU PRINCE.



ST. MARSHALL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL COLLEGE NEAR PORT AU PRINCE.

PUBLICITY CURB FOR TRUSTS.

Sec'y Straus in Report Urges Federal Registration of Corporations.

The effective control of corporations can be brought about, declares Secretary Straus of the Department of Commerce and Labor, in his annual report, by federal supervision of interstate corporations with the primary end of securing complete publicity in corporate affairs and federal registration.

Secretary Straus says that some constructive system, which will give the widest publicity and allow of the most complete co-operation, must come soon and it will have the following basic features: It should be carried on by the federal government, as the only jurisdiction competent to handle a subject matter so entirely national in its scope and nature. It should require a system of regular reports from all large interstate corporations to be made to an administrative office and should provide that that office shall have access to the records of these corporations. It should further provide that that office shall publish the important facts as to corporate operations, so far as they are of public interest, safeguarding at the same time from unnecessary publication all proper business secrets. So far as possible the system should be made voluntary rather than compulsory.

In exchange for giving this publicity corporations should be allowed to register under such a law as to obtain a federal standing and the public benefit of their position as concerns not afraid of scrutiny.

CANADA IMMIGRANTS FEWER.

Rigid Regulations Against Entrance of Poor Class Cause Decrease.

Canada's labor market is not likely to become congested so long as the present policy of the immigration department to restrict the entrance of dependent settlers are enforced, reports Consul Chilton. He states that the total immigration for the first nine months of this year was 12,630, against 235,829 for the corresponding period of 1907.

Ten Years for Mail Thief.

Charles Stevens, the negro accused of stealing a registered mail pouch containing \$50,000 from a train in Kansas City, July 4 last, was sentenced to ten years in the federal prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Steel Plant Is Reopening.

The Carnegie Steel Company has ordered two big furnaces at its Mingo Junction, Ohio, plant started. The rest of the plant will shortly be put in operation. It employs 3,000 men and has been idle thirteen months.

New Public Printer Takes Oath. Samuel B. Donnelly of New York, the newly appointed public printer, after a call on President Roosevelt, took the oath of office and filed his bond with the Treasury Department in Washington. He assumed charge of the government printing office Dec. 1.

Grand Trunk Dies Burn. Its fourth large fire within a year occurred in Portland, Me., when two of the eight docks of the Grand Trunk railroad were destroyed, together with three sheds and their contents. The loss is estimated at upward of \$150,000.

Given Rewards by Late Empress. Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, daughter of President Roosevelt, has been presented with a beautiful pair of jeweled bracelets, the gift of the late Empress Dowager of China, to whom she paid a visit during her trip with the party of officials and friends taken by Secretary Taft to the Philippines.

Ed Corrigan placed all of his races on sale at public auction in Lexington, Ky. The string included forty mares, twenty-five horses in training and thirty-four yearlings. Corrigan will retire from the turf.

The United States and Germany have agreed for a postal rate on letters between the two countries of 2 cents instead of the existing rate of 5 cents. The new rate will go into effect Jan. 1.

SHIP SOO CITY SINKS.

Steamer from Chicago Goes to Bottom in Gale Off Newfoundland.

The steamer Soo City, from Chicago, is believed to have sunk in the Gulf of St. Lawrence with all aboard. No passengers were on the vessel. The Soo City, for some time on the run between Chicago and Benton Harbor, had piled the great lakes as an excursion boat for twenty years.

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Wreckage which has come ashore at Cape Ray leaves little room for doubt that the sturdy little steamer went down in the gale that lashed the Newfoundland coast for two days.

The steamer was in command of Captain John G. Dillon, of Brooklyn, who was formerly commander of the United States government transport Missouri. The exact number of the crew is in doubt. It is known, however, that no fewer than eighteen men were on board, and it has been reported that the crew was recently increased to twenty-eight men.

The Soo City was sold recently by the Indiana Transportation Company to Felix Jackson, of Velasco, Texas, and was being taken to New Orleans, where it had been planned to put her in service between that city and Texan ports.

LEVEE IS BLOWN OPEN.

Mysterious Blast at Pine Bluff, Ark., Averts Flood from City.

The government levee opposite Pine Bluff, Ark., was dynamited Wednesday night, supposedly by two business men, in an effort to save the city from destruction by flood. Watchers at the shore report that the river is slightly lower. Early in the week the city applied to the government to blow it up, but the levee in order to save the city from the rising flood which was undermining the buildings along the shore. The government refused, and on Tuesday the citizens in a meeting decided to blow up the levee themselves. However, Wednesday night's act is not regarded as official or ordered by the mass meeting. The situation is believed to be improved.

A point of land just opposite the city has been giving badly and the current is now striking below the courthouse and against the government dyke, which is doing much good in diverting the channel from property below there. Just above the dyke is Berlin's lively stable. The water is eating its way under this and a portion of it tumbled into the river Wednesday afternoon, entailing a loss of several thousand dollars. The rear wall of the annex of the courthouse is about fifteen feet from the river.

PERISH IN STORM ON LAKE.

Steel Steamer Clemson Is Given Up as Lost with All on Board.

The steel steamer D. M. Clemson, owned by A. B. Wolva of Duluth, is given up as lost and the twenty-four men aboard are believed certain to have perished. Several days ago she passed up the Soo, bound from Lorain, Ohio, on her last trip of the year. Her owners say that in all probability she foundered in the terrific storm that raged at the lower end of Lake Superior, or is stranded somewhere on the north coast. In either event her entire crew must have perished.

New "Dry" Law Is Enjoined.

A restraining order temporarily enjoining the enforcement of the Rose county law in Hancock county, was granted by Judge George H. Brinkley, Friday, Ohio. Hearing for a permanent order is to be held in a few days. Hancock county was voted "dry" by over 2,000 majority recently.

Loss by Fire at Resort.

Damage amounting to \$100,000 was done by fire at Exposition Park, Concord Lake, a popular summer resort near Steubenville, Ohio. One of the buildings was destroyed by a number of buildings.

Two Hunters Killed.

Joe Berenski and John Barndole, foremen, were instantly killed while hunting near Steubenville, Ohio. One of the men fired a bullet into a cat that had previously entangled nitroglycerin, causing a terrific explosion.

Philadelphia Has \$200,000 Fire. Fire of supposed incendiary origin destroyed the bending shop, eight large sheds of hard wood and a huge water tank at the car shops of J. G. Brill & Co., Sixty-second street and Woodland avenue, Philadelphia, entailing a loss exceeding \$200,000. The loss is covered by insurance.

Scandal in Revenue Service. Instructions from Washington direct the convening of a court martial in Port Townsend, Wash., to try Lieut. Muller S. Hay on charges of conduct prejudicial to the revenue cutter service. The offenses are said to have taken place in Alaska.

Heavy Recovering from Wound. Francis J. Heney has so far recovered from the effects of the wound inflicted by Morris Haas on Nov. 13 that he was able to leave the Lane hospital Thursday for Kentfield, where he will probably remain until fully restored to health and able to resume his work in the prosecution of the San Francisco graft cases.

T-0-cent Postage to Germany. The United States and Germany have agreed for a postal rate on letters between the two countries of 2 cents instead of the existing rate of 5 cents. The new rate will go into effect Jan. 1.

CONGRESS RESUMES ITS IMPORTANT TASK

National Lawmakers Meet to Finish Business Which Was Dropped Last Summer.

NEW LABEL BILL IS OFFERED.

Plan to Brand Imitations of Goods Other than Foods Provides Prison Term.

Convening of the Sixtieth Congress brought to the capital the usual throngs bent on gaining admission to the House of Representatives or the Senate chamber for the opening exercises. For days the demand for cards entitling the bearers to seats in the galleries had been great. When the doors of the massive structure were thrown open at 9 o'clock a crowd more than sufficient to take up the entire seating capacity of the two chambers had assembled. From that time on the visitors arrived in droves. The corridors on both floors were soon filled with crowds surging back and forth, while long lines of people stood outside each gallery awaiting an opportunity to get a glimpse of the Senate or House through the open doors.

Immediately after the Senate had been called to order at 12 o'clock by Vice President Fairbanks, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, the chaplain, opened the session with prayer. Senator Dillingham of Vermont presented the credentials of his colleague, Carroll S. Page, who was sworn in as a member of the Senate. The House was called to order at noon. When the Vice President-elect, James S. Sherman, entered the chamber he was accorded an ovation by his Republican colleagues.

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Patterned after the pure food law, a bill was introduced in the House by Representative Hall of Iowa, making it a misdemeanor to manufacture for sale or transportation imitated articles of commerce, unless branded so as to show exact ingredients. Practically all articles in domestic use would be affected, including clothing, furniture or any article sold under a name now recognized as designating any mineral, metallic, animal or vegetable substance which occurs in a state of nature. Conviction of a first violation of the act is made punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500 or one year's imprisonment.

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