



NATIONAL.

The chief topic of the past week has been the awful theatre fire in Chicago, which occurred during the Wednesday matinee. In this fire 586 people lost their lives and several hundred are missing or injured. The asbestos curtain failed to work and in the panic many were crushed. This is the worst theatre disaster that ever happened in this country.

President Roosevelt has sent a special message to Congress on the Panama question. The message is an exposure of Colombian greed and bad faith, and a vindication of the honor of the administration in the action which it has taken. The question of whether the canal shall be built or not is declared to be the only issue which Congress has before it for decision.

The President sent to the Senate the nomination of William H. Taft of Ohio to be secretary of war, and of Luke E. Wright of Tennessee to be civil governor of the Philippine Islands.

The Supreme Court has decided that Porto Ricans are not aliens of the United States and that they are entitled to enter the country without obstruction.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs by a vote of 7 to 2 decided to report favorably the nomination of General Leonard Wood to be major-general.

The United States expedition to Abyssinia under Consul General Skinner has succeeded in negotiating and signing a treaty between the United States and the Empire of Ethiopia, opening for the first time friendly commercial relations between the two countries.

FOREIGN.

The situation between Japan and Russia has been very critical for several days and war has been imminent, but now the tension seems to have slackened a little, and although both nations are

preparing for war, a peaceful settlement may be obtained. It is thought by many that Russia will not force matters to actual hostilities, but will temporize as usual rather than fight. It is certainly to be hoped that such will be the case.

Colombia's internal situation is becoming threatening and President Marroquin has proposed that it be determined by elections whether the constitution shall be changed, decentralizing Bogota's powers and increasing the powers of municipalities and departmental governments.

A despatch from Kimberly says that considerable alarm is occasioned by the threatening attitude of Hottentots throughout German Southwest Africa. Bands are ravaging the country and plundering Europeans, and there are indications of a general native uprising.

GENERAL.

The cotton boom seems to have come to a climax during the past week, there being some sensational scenes in the New York market due to the decline and to the subsequent violent fluctuations in price. The selling of fourteen-cent cotton marks an epoch in the speculation over the size of the year's crop.

Immigration at the port of New York has passed all previous records. Last year there landed 619,984 steerage passengers, which is an increase of nearly 75,000 over last year's record. Most of the immigrants come from Southern Europe, Italy leading all the rest. There was, however, a marked increase in the number from Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

The United States Steel Corporation has decided to supply its mills with coal from its own mines, and so the Pittsburg Coal Company, commonly known as the Bituminous Coal Trust, has lost its largest customer. The United States Steel Corporation consumes about 8,500 tons of coal a day, the consumption last year being nearly 3,000,000 tons, representing a value of over \$4,000,000.

Hon. Patrick A. Collins has entered upon his second term as mayor of Boston.

San Miguel County, Colorado, has been declared to be in a state of insurrection and the commander of the military forces at Telluride has established a press censorship and has taken control of both telegraph and telephone lines.