

RUSSIANS RETIRE

Fifteen Japanese Warships Furiously Attack Port Arthur.

RUSSIA SUFFERED MOST

One Russian Vessel and Torpedo Boat Sunk and Others Badly Crippled—Japs Bound to Capture Fort.

A dispatch to the London Daily Telegraph from Yin Kow says:

"Fifteen Japanese warships furiously bombarded Port Arthur. The Russian cruisers Novik, Askold and Bayan, accompanied by four torpedo boats, steamed out to meet the attack. They were, however, forced to retire.

"The Askold was in a sinking condition. The Novik was badly damaged and a torpedo boat was sunk. The Russian battleship Retvizan was again damaged.

"The Japanese withdrew in good order."

General Stoessel, commander of the garrison at Port Arthur, has issued a general order directing the attention of the troops and inhabitants to the fact that the Japanese intend to land and seize the fortress. The general declares the Japanese consider the seizure of Port Arthur to be a question of national honor, and from their obstinate attacks and bombardments of the fortress and bays, he can only conclude that the enemy will make every effort to capture the fortress, failing which the Japanese will destroy the railroad and withdraw.

Orders have been issued by Japan to reduce Port Arthur at any cost.

China is regarded by Russia as a secret ally of Japan.

Russia has granted the request of United States officers to accompany her army.

Through fear of siege, non-combatants have been ordered to Port Dainy.

The first shots of the war on land were exchanged at Ping Yang. A small detachment of Russian infantry evidently scouts, appeared to the northward of Ping Yang. The Japanese outpost opened fire from a range of 1,700 meters and the Russians retired.

The Twenty-ninth Japanese infantry, occupying the Ping Yang river, midway between Seoul and the Yalu river, met a body of Russian cavalry and drove them back.

It is estimated that 60,000 Japanese troops have landed at Chemulpo. The transports now are not escorted by war vessels.

The Japanese sailors who manned the merchant vessels sunk at Port Arthur, on landing at Kimo, shaved their heads as a mark of the disgrace they feel at the failure of the project. The crew of the Jinsen Maru wrote their names on the foremast flag which remained above water when the ship went down.

Young Corbett Still Champion.

The champion featherweight (Young Corbett) had no difficulty in retaining his laurels, defeating Dave Sullivan of New York, in the eleventh round of a scheduled twenty-round contest, in San Francisco. Corbett left the ring without a mark, while, on the other hand, Sullivan received a terrific beating, only the merciful action of Referee Graney in stopping the contest saving the New Yorker from having his face beaten into a pulp. Sullivan put up a game fight, and while outboxed, outfought and outgeneralled, he gave the champion cause for worry in one round. Taking another feature out of the fight, which was Sullivan's excessive gameness, the contest was never in doubt. Corbett held his man safe during all stages of the contest and it was but a question of time when Sullivan would have to quit.

Koreans and Japs Sign Treaty.

The treaty between Japan and Korea provides for the latter conforming to Japan's ideas of reform, Japan pledging the safety of Korean royalty and territorial independence. Japan is authorized to resist the encroachments of a third party and to occupy Korean territory, if necessary, for strategic purposes. This provision of the treaty justifies Japan's occupation of Chemulpo and Seoul, and probable movements northward.

The treaty is considered highly satisfactory to both parties. A Korean envoy who was proceeding to Peking, during a late interview with Governor Lockhard, expressed convictions that the treaty would be of the highest benefit to Korea, provided Russian encroachments were frustrated, and that Japan would incur Korea's deepest debt of gratitude.

An \$18,000,000 Treasure Found.

Advices from La Paz, Bolivia, announce that the traditional treasure of the Incas has been discovered at Chalacatta, cables the New York Herald correspondent at Lima, Peru. It is said to amount to \$18,000,000. The discoverers are of various nationalities, and are quarrelling over the treasure, although a legal contract exists between them as to the division. The authorities have interfered in the matter.

TWO POSTAL CLERKS SHOT

Negro Desperado in Alabama Tries to Hold Up a Train.

Reports received by the officials of the Alabama Great Southern railroad, at Birmingham, Ala., tell of the shooting of two postal clerks on a north-bound train near Meridian, Miss. It was part of the plot to rob the train. The shooting was done by Jim Paris, a negro, who boarded the train in the Meridian yards as it was pulling out. Before it was under good headway Paris entered the postal car and opened fire on Clerks J. T. Stockton and A. J. Bass, killing Stockton instantly and wounding Bass in the arm. The negro then seized a package of registered letters and jumped off. In leaving the train he fell and had one leg crushed under the wheels, but managed to drag himself three miles. Bloodhounds were secured at Meridian, the train having backed to the place. Their scent led to the capture of Paris. Several registered letters were found in his pockets. He was taken to jail at Meridian. The railroad officials say three or four negroes were involved in the plot to rob the train, though only one of them appears to have entered the postal car.

SOUTH CAROLINA LOST.

The State Must Pay License on All Its Dispensaries.

In the United States court of claims at Washington the chief justice announced in the case of the state of South Carolina against the United States to recover various sums paid by the state of South Carolina as special taxes for the sale of liquors in the state at the various dispensaries by the officials in charge of these dispensaries that the petition of the state of South Carolina was dismissed.

This is one of the most important cases that has come before Commissioner of Internal Revenue Yerkes for decision since he has been in office. The state of South Carolina made claim before him for the refund of these taxes upon the ground that the state dispensary law was constitutional as decided by the supreme court of the United States, and that the collection of these taxes was in reality a tax levied upon state officials and therefore upon the exercise of a governmental function and power. The court rejected the claims and suit was then brought in the court of claims and by its decision Mr. Yerkes is sustained.

Jeffries and Munroe Matched.

Jim Jeffries and Jack Munroe have signed articles to fight for the heavyweight championship of the world at the Yosemite Athletic club, San Francisco, during the last week in May. A purse of \$25,000 is guaranteed.

The purse is to be divided, 65 per cent to the winner and 35 per cent to the loser. The stakeholder will be Harry Corbett of San Francisco. Each man is to put up a forfeit of \$5,000 and the club also is to post a forfeit of \$5,000. James C. Kennedy, of the Yosemite club, offered \$20,000 first, but when this was declined, he raised the offer to \$25,000. Billy Delaney represented Jeffries and Harry Pollock spoke for Munroe.

Isthmian Canal Commissioners.

The president sent the senate the following nominations:

Chairman of the isthmian canal commission—Major General George W. Davis, United States army, retired, District of Columbia; William H. Burr, New York; Benjamin M. Harrod, Louisiana; Carl Ewald Grunsky, California; Frank J. Hecker, Michigan.

Navy Commander—Lieut. Commander William G. Cutler.

Agent of the Kiowa Indian agency, Oklahoma—Lieut. Jas. F. Randlett, U. S. army, retired, California.

Sharkey Whipped by Munroe.

Jack Munroe outfought Tom Sharkey in their six-round bout at the Second regiment armory, Philadelphia. Munroe stepped from the ring without a mark which both of Sharkey's eyes were badly swollen from vicious right and left swings of the Butte miner. In only one round, the first, did Sharkey have any advantage over Munroe. After this the battle was almost wholly in Munroe's favor.

Paul Kruger in Good Health.

Contrary to the alarming rumors circulating in regard to the health of Paul Kruger, of Pretoria, France, former president of the Transvaal, Dr. Huysmann, his physician, says that not for some years has the health of Mr. Kruger been as good as it is at present.

Confessed to Stealing \$13,000.

Theron H. Brown, of Richmond, Va., who has been under arrest for some time in Chicago, confessed to the police that he had embezzled \$13,000 from an insurance company. Over \$8,000 of the amount taken has been recovered. Brown will be returned to Virginia.

Even the inquisitors never thought of the exquisite torture of giving a woman a lot of money and chaining her in front of a shop window so she couldn't go in and spend it.

RULES OF WAR

Rules Laid Down by Russia for Conduct of the War

DEFINES WAR CONTRABAND

Japanese Merchants Allowed to Remain in Russia Under Protection of Law Permitted to Continue Peaceful Occupations—Other News

Rules of war have been published at St. Petersburg. An imperial decree has been referred to the ruling senate by the ministry of justice for the laying down of the rules which Russia intends to follow during the war with Japan. The original draft of these rules was endorsed by the czar with the words "It must be so."

According to rule 1, Japanese subjects will be allowed during the war to remain in Russia under the protection of the law and will be permitted to pursue peaceful occupations. Japanese living in the east under the jurisdiction of the viceroy are excepted.

Rule 2 declares that Japanese merchantmen which were in Russian ports when war was declared will be permitted to remain there, but they must leave when they have loaded their cargoes, which must not include contraband of war.

Rule 3 says that subjects of neutral states will be allowed to carry on business uninterruptedly with Russian ports and towns, provided they observe Russian law and the principles of international law.

Rules 4 and 5 deal with neutral trade and give the following points: (A) The flag covers the cargo for a belligerent, excepting contraband of war; (b) neutral goods under the enemy's flag, except contraband of war, are not subject to confiscation; (c) blockades to be obligatory must be effective—that is, they must be sufficient of force to cut off approach to the enemy's territory.

Rule 6 enumerates at great length everything which will be regarded as contraband of war.

Neutral ships with contraband of war of any sort can, according to circumstances, not only be seized, but can also be confiscated.

The imperial government reserves the right to depart from the above decisions with regard to neutral or a hostile power which for its part does not observe them and in any given case to make its regulations suit special circumstances.

Suicides Get No Insurance.

In the district court at Seward the case of Louisa Lang et al. vs. Royal Highlander's lodge was decided in favor of the defendant. The action was instituted by the plaintiffs to recover \$2,000, the amount of a policy of life insurance issued by the lodge upon the life of the late A. D. Lange. The deceased committed suicide a couple of years ago, owing to some domestic trouble. The by-laws of the order provide that a policy should be void in case death resulted from suicide. The plaintiffs contended that the suicide clause was not legally passed but the court took a contrary view and instructed the jury to find for the defendant.

Killed While Hunting.

A young man named Guy Cutting, a teacher, who had just closed a school near Stromsburg, accidentally shot himself while hunting ducks near Edgar. He was on a visit to his uncle, S. G. Johnson, and in company with his cousin, young Johnson, had gone out to hunt ducks. They fired into a flock of ducks and one of them fell in some weeds and Cutting was poking around among the weeds with the breech of the gun when both barrels exploded. The charges entered just below the ribs, to the right of the sternum, and ranged upwards towards the heart. He fell forward, dying almost instantly.

Omaha's Postoffice Accepted.

Omaha's federal building has been turned over to the United States government completed within the contract time. Superintendent of Construction Murdock formally accepted the building from the contractors, Charles W. Gindale & Co., of Chicago. C. H. Riob, general manager of the company, came to Omaha, and with Mr. Murdock, made an inspection of the building. At the conclusion of the examination Mr. Murdock pronounced the work satisfactory and complete, and certified that the contract had been fulfilled.

Dewey's Prize Money.

James G. Payne, auditor of the district supreme court at Washington, D. C., has filed his report on the amount and value of the prize property in the case of Admiral Dewey against the Don Juan de Austria and other vessels captured and sunk in Manila bay, May 1, 1898. The auditor, to whom the question was referred by the court, reports that the allowances of property subject to the share of the libellant as prizes aggregates \$329,733.

WISCONSIN CAPITOL BURNS

The Loss is Estimated at Over Three Million Dollars.

The Wisconsin state capitol building was damaged \$3,000,000. The state carries only partial insurance, being in the process of changing from insurance in companies to a system of state insurance. The fire involves the building of a new state capitol, a special session of the legislature and the probable renewal of the agitation in favor of the removal of the capitol from Madison to Milwaukee.

Insurance men place the loss above \$3,000,000. Of this amount \$750,000 represents the loss on buildings and the remainder the loss on stocks of goods and to occupants of offices. It is estimated that 2,500 people are thrown out of employment temporarily, at least, because of the fire.

FOUR FOUND GUILTY.

The Postoffice Conspirators Get Two to Four Years' Sentences.

"Guilty as indicted," was the verdict announced by Carl Peterson, the foreman of the jury in the famous post-office conspiracy trial in Washington, D. C., stating at the same time that this was the verdict as to all four defendants, August W. Machen, late general superintendent of the rural free delivery division, Geo. E. Lorenz of Toledo, Ohio, and Samuel A. and Diller B. Groff, of Washington.

Justice Pritchard sentenced Machen, Diller B. Groff and Lorenz each to two years' imprisonment in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$10,000 each. The court decided to make the several counts in the indictment constitute one offense. The case of Samuel A. Groff was not decided. The beginning of their penitentiary sentences is to date from the time of their arrival at the penitentiary. All three defendants have given notice of appeal and have furnished bonds in the sum of \$20,000.

Porto Rican Trade Increases.

Commerce between the United States and Porto Rico during the calendar year 1903, amounted in round terms to \$22,000,000. In 1897, the year prior to the annexation, it amounted to \$4,162,912, the total for the year just ended being thus more than five times as great as in 1897. This statement of the commerce passing between the United States and Porto Rico is prepared by the department of commerce and labor, through its bureau of statistics, and gives the details of the movements, by principal articles, in both directions, both of domestic and foreign products. It also shows the commerce of Porto Rico with other countries, which amounted to over \$6,000,000, thus making the total trade of the island more than \$28,000,000 in the year just ended.

Narrow Escape from Death.

W. R. Guild, a banker and leading citizen of Bern, a small town across the line from Humboldt, Neb., in Kansas, came very near burning to death at a result of being covered with burning gasoline from a lamp in the Presbyterian church. The lamp was not working right and he thoughtlessly loosened a cap which permitted the fluid to be forced out by the pressure. Fortunately assistance arrived and the burns were confined to his arms and chest. His recovery is a matter of doubt.

More "Discriminating" Rates.

The interstate commerce commission has begun an investigation of the business methods of the Illinois Central, Louisville & Nashville, Mobile & Ohio, and the South Railway companies regarding switching charges on grain shipped from elevators in East St. Louis to interstate destinations. These roads have been made respondents in the proceeding and required to file full and specific answers on or before March 15 next. The investigation is the result of complaints alleging unreasonable and discriminating rates.

What Lancaster Pays For.

City Treasurer Fox and Bookkeeper Bowen figure that the annual amount of interest paid on Lincoln's general bonded debt, not including paving bonds and special obligations, is \$50,721.50. This amounts to \$4,226.79 per month, \$971.32 per week, \$138.96 per day, \$5.79 for every hour of the day and .0965 cents per minute. While the city sleeps for ten hours the interest bill amounts to \$57.90; while the busy man is eating a ten-minute noonday lunch the interest bill grows to 96 1-2 cents; while the people rest on the Sabbath \$138.96 is added to their municipal debt.

Farmers' Elevator at Nelson.

The meeting of the farmers of Nelson, Neb., and vicinity took place in the court rooms for the purpose of building a farmers' elevator, and was largely attended. The organization was formed, capitalized at \$5,000 and a committee of eight appointed to solicit subscriptions for stock, each share of which represents \$25, no stockholder being allowed to hold more than four shares.

FRAUD IN LANDS

Special Agents Working in Kansas to Uncover Rascality.

GOVERNMENT AFTER THEM

Many Cases in Kansas Where Additional 40's and 80's Were Illegally Bought by Ranchers.

Special Agents Burtis and Ryan of the United States land office have gone to Norton, Kansas. Mr. Burtis and Mr. Ryan have both been engaged in the prosecution of cases in the United States district courts against ranchmen who have fenced up government land. The work is now in the hands of Agent Ryan. The purpose of the visit is to gather information about infractions of the government land fencing laws.

Mr. Burtis has been working up information against persons who have taken advantage of the law of 1874 providing for disposing of additional homestead rights and have filed false affidavits regarding homestead entries. Such prosecutions will be on the charge of perjury. They will cover Kansas and Oklahoma. The law of 1874 authorized persons who had not previously homesteaded full allotments of 160 acres to homestead elsewhere enough ground to make up the difference, or to dispose of such rights to other persons. Many instances have come to light where parties who had homesteaded the full limit had made affidavits and had procured land warrants for amounts from 40 to 80 acres, and had transferred them to other parties who entered them in the names of the original holders. Only such cases as have occurred within the past three years can be prosecuted on account of the statute of limitations.

Kansas Oratorical Speakers.

The announcement of speakers for the state collegiate oratorical contest has been made. The contest will be held in the Topeka Auditorium on March 11. Eight contestants will participate, and it is possible there will be a ninth from Kansas university, which has held out on account of an unpleasantness in last year's contest. The speakers and their subjects will be as follows:

- Fairmount college, "The Man and the Measure," G. H. Findley.
- Ottawa, "The Awakening of China and Its Significance," W. G. Goble.
- Kansas State Normal, Emporia, "The New Man," Carl E. Franz.
- Southwest Kansas university, "A Mighty Generation and Its Work," speaker not named.
- Baker, "The Last Stronghold of Absolutism," speaker not named.
- Midland college, "American Diplomacy," O. P. Hudson.
- Kansas Wesleyan, "Anglo-Saxon Supremacy," speaker not named.
- Washburn, "The Problem of the Cities," Arthur L. Quant.
- W. C. Ward, of Southwest Kansas university, will preside at the contest.

Kansas Charters Granted.

- The following charters have been granted by the Kansas state charter board:
- The Glasco Telephone and Telegraph company, capital, \$6,000.
- The Morrowville State bank, Morrowville; capital, \$10,000.
- The Farmers and Merchants' State bank, Delphos; capital, \$10,000.
- The State Bank of Ottawa; capital, \$25,000.
- The Mound Valley Vitriol Brick company; capital, \$30,000.
- The Agricola Valley Oil, Gas and Mining company; capital, \$500,000.
- The Davis-Brewer Manufacturing company, Coffeyville; capital, \$3,000.
- Peoples Ice and Fuel company, Topeka; capital, \$15,000. The incorporators of the company are: J. S. Parks, W. F. Jensen, R. F. Hodgins, V. Kazynski, T. E. Sabin, C. M. Lawrence, and J. B. Nicholson, all of Topeka.
- The Citizens' State bank of Chautauqua; capital, \$10,000.
- The First State bank of Norcatur; capital, \$10,000.
- The Cawker City Oil, Gas and Mineral company; capital, \$10,000.

The Authorities at Fort Riley, Kas.,

have received an official notice from Washington, stating that in selecting sites for the maneuvers that are to be held annually, it was the purpose of the department to have the maneuvers next fall in the Atlantic and Pacific divisions, and in the fall of 1905 at Fort Riley, Kas., and West Point, Ky.

Unjust Taxation in Kansas.

In Saline county, Kan., the state board of equalization increased the assessed valuation \$1,355,025 over the amount returned by the township assessors. The total amount paid by Saline county for all purposes this year is \$217,461.27, as against \$207,978.71 last year. The state tax paid by Saline county this year is \$37,298, an increase of \$11,656 over last year. Yet the railroads actually pay \$826.94 less this year than last in Saline county, according to Mr. Nation's own figures.

TAX TITLES ARE GOOD.

A Supreme Court Decision Important to Nebraskaans.

Justice Day has handed down the opinion of the supreme court of the United States affirming the judgment of the supreme court of Nebraska, in the case of Alvin P. Leigh, against Henry S. Green, involving the tax sales of property. The court held that the owner of a tax lien may foreclose the lien upon notice by publication, which shall bring in anybody and everybody intended and that in the exercise of the taxing power the state may delegate that right and authority as was done in this case, to the purchaser at the tax sale and such procedure is not violative of the rights guaranteed by the fourteenth amendment of the constitution.

RATE WAR IN EAST.

Buffalo Grate Men Will Endeavor to Get Another Cut Rate.

The Buffalo Express prints an interview with a traffic official of one of the trunk lines in which he predicts that the grain rate war now in progress between Buffalo-New York lines and the Pennsylvania will become a general rate war within six weeks. Pennsylvania officials say they will continue to cut until they establish the differential in favor of Philadelphia. The New York Central will meet every cut which works against the port of New York and the other Buffalo-New York lines will follow as a matter of self-protection.

Killed by a Bear.

The body of Martin von Schlosser, formerly an officer in the German army and for many years a resident of Port Angeles, has been found on the range south of Hot Springs, Wash., near the body of a dead bear. The baron undoubtedly had been killed by the bear while hunting.

News of the fact was brought to Port Angeles by C. Bowine, a ranger. On his body were found receipts from banks in Portland, Ore., Chicago, and New York for more than \$100,000.

A letter found on the body directed that Judge Hatch should administer his affairs. Baron von Schlosser only recently had taken out naturalization papers.

Baltimore Newspaper Enterprise.

The Baltimore News, whose office and plant were completely destroyed in the great fire of February 7, is being published in Baltimore from its own plant. Its twelve issues since the fire were printed by the Washington Post. It has established in the old McShane foundry a complete plant, including three quadruple presses and twenty-one linotype machines, with boilers, engines and motors to run them. The American will use the News' plant temporarily. The Sun is being printed in Washington, and the Herald in Philadelphia until they can get new plants set up in Baltimore, which they are doing with all possible expedition.

No Damages on a Free Pass.

The question as to whether a passenger on a railroad train, riding on a free pass, who loses his life on account of an act of carelessness on the part of the railroad company, stands on the same footing as that passenger who pays his fare, has been decided by the United States supreme court against the free passenger. The case in which the opinion was rendered was that of Northern Pacific Railway company vs. Louise H. Adams and Frank H. Adams, heirs of Jay H. Adams, an attorney at law at Spokane, Wash., who was killed in 1898.

A Bright Kansas Woman.

Mrs. C. M. Burton, of Ness City, Kan., who is one of the wealthiest women in Kansas, is a practical business woman.

Mrs. Burton, who is a widow, is president of the First National bank of Ness City, and owns and manages one of the largest ranches in her county. She did not make her fortune, but the responsibilities which devolved upon her with its inheritance at her husband's death developed in her a business sense and executive ability unusual in a woman. Mrs. Burton has no children, but has two nieces, students at the College of the Sisters of Bethany, to whom she is greatly devoted.

"We wants to be considered a giant in debate."

"Yes," answered the other, "that's why he insists on using stilted language for undersized thoughts."

Horace Burt Guest of Japan.

Horace G. Burt, former president of the Union Pacific railroad and Mrs. Burt were passengers on the Korea, seized by the Japanese at Nagasaki. The Korea had passed Honolulu, the last cable station, when the war broke out, and Mr. Burt could not be notified of the opening of hostilities. His friends in Omaha have had no word from him since he sailed from San Francisco February 2. The cargo of beef carried by the Korea was packed and shipped from South Omaha.