

BLOWN UP BY A MINE

STRIKES UNPLACED EXPLOSIVE AT PORT ARTHUR.

Four Members of Crew Alone Saved—Viceroy Alexieff Denies Reports of Extensive Damage by Fire.

CHU YOO—While entering Port Arthur on the 16th inst, the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Skorri took an unplaced mine and was blown up. Four of the crew were saved. Viceroy Alexieff wires a report confirming the account of the damage done to Port Arthur during the bombardment of the 10th. He says the story of a fire there is "a base fabrication."

The United States cruiser Cincinnati just arrived from Chemulpo, reports everything quiet, with no news from the front. At the request of Minister Allen the cruiser brought two former Korean officers who had left Korea in consequence of their friendship for Russia.

Warnings have been received here concerning previous reports to the effect that the Russians have laid mines along the Liago Tung peninsula and that neutral vessels are obliged to show their colors five kilometers off shore and await a Russian pilot.

TIEN TSIN—Lloyd's, agent at New Chwang wires as follows:

"Port Arthur will be open between March 25 and 30 and steamers have been chartered for spring shipments. The reports that New Chwang will be attacked shortly are untrue, and there is no truth in the statement that the Russians are trying to lay mines abreast of the fort."

"Business is going on as usual, and M. Grosse of the civil administration is doing all in his power to further the trade interests of both Chinese and foreigners."

"The American and British residents insist that warships should be stationed here, but there are no signs of any trouble."

"Japanese troops probably will land in Kai Chou by and cut off the main line at Tashi Chao, southeast of New Chwang."

LONDON—Inquiries made at Lloyd's on the subject of the Tien Tsin dispatch, in which Lloyd's agent at New Chwang is quoted as telegraphing that Port Arthur will be opened between March 25 and 30 elicited the statement that the New Chwang agent probably meant that the river at New Chwang will be free of ice between March 25 and 30 and that communication with Port Arthur by sea will then be reopened.

SHANGHAI—Three Norwegian Steamers—the Brand, Argo and S. F. Ostad have arrived here. Officers report that scarcely a residence in the new part of Port Arthur escaped damage.

Says He Is Doomed.

WASHINGTON—As a result of the inquiry into the charges against Senator Dietrich of Nebraska, William S. Summers, United States district attorney of Nebraska, will be removed from office. President Roosevelt today informed Senator Dietrich and Editor Rosewater of the Omaha Bee that he would take such action against Mr. Summers. The probabilities are that Chairman Lindsay of the republican state committee of Nebraska will be appointed to succeed him.

OMAHA, Neb.—District Attorney W. S. Summers was shown the Washington dispatch stating that he would be removed from office as a result of the Dietrich investigation and refused to discuss the matter, remarking:

"Just say that silence is golden." Friends of Mr. Summers, however, have anticipated a tion of his nature, and the announcement did not come as a surprise to them.

Receiver For the Paxton.

OMAHA—On petition of Rome Miller, a minority stockholder in the Kitchen Brothers Hotel company, owners of the Paxton hotel, one of the largest in the city, Judge Baxter in the district court today decided to appoint a receiver for the company, later to be recalled upon. The court found from evidence presented that James B. Litchen, president of the company, owned by the minority stockholders \$120,000, from undivided profits, and that he had not conducted the business in a proper manner. The hotel will not be closed pending the selection of a receiver.

CASE ABOUT ENDED

DIETRICH COMMITTEE HAS BUT ONE MORE WITNESS.

WILL BE HEARD SATURDAY

TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF LITTLE INTEREST.

No Intimation as to When Report to Senate Will Be Made—Burrket and Hinchaw May Not Come Home.

WASHINGTON—The Dietrich hearing was practically concluded today. Saturday U. S. Rohrer of Hastings will testify, and then the senate committee can deliberate on the measure of the senator's wrongdoing or the extent to which his reputation has been blasted.

The hearing was resumed at 10:30 A. M. R. Wright, of Hastings, a janitor in the post office there until February, formerly a minister and formerly janitor of the German National bank, was called. Senator Hoar read a letter from United States Attorney Summers about the \$748 voucher for moving the postoffice fixtures. Judge Batty explained that the said contract was made by ex-postmaster Hahn and hence it had no relation to Senator Dietrich. In it O. N. Stanley contracted to move the fixtures from the G. A. R. building to Dietrich's building. The witness knew nothing of the contract of the voucher.

Senator Hoar passed the letter of Attorney Summers on to the other members of the committee. Senator Platt could not see that any important evidence attached to the letter.

The witness knew of no attempt at fraud in connection with the Hastings postoffice in any way. Judge Batty asked the witness about the conversation with Mr. Hahn. The witness said after Fisher was made postmaster, Hahn said to witness that he would get even with Fisher and Dietrich if it cost him \$10,000.

The attorney asked permission to read the affidavits of Dr. John Cooke, who died three weeks ago, and of Alexander Campbell, who is ill. Chairman Hoar said Attorney Summers had sent to the committee the names of Dr. Cooke and Alex Campbell, saying that one had said to the other certain things prejudicial to Dietrich. The committee withdrew to consider the affidavits and later Senator Hoar announced that such affidavits would not constitute evidence in court, but as it was the committee's duty to investigate the documents would be admitted in evidence. They were not read.

Judge Batty recalled Senator Dietrich and cited the statement made by witness Dutton, who said Dietrich had said he thought Fisher ought to take the fixtures off his hands. The witness denied that such statement had been made, but said Dutton first suggested that Fisher buy the postoffice fixtures and later Dietrich went for Fisher. Also when Dutton spoke of the attempt of the state central committee to have Adam Breece appointed postmaster, Dietrich denied that the state central committee had endorsed Breece for postmaster. Dietrich asked permission to put his witness testimony in answer to the charges in their indictment into the record. It was granted.

More Liberal in Pensions.

WASHINGTON—Commissioner of Pensions Wire, with the approval of Secretary Hitchcock, has issued an order making the following change in age consideration in pension rulings:

Ordered: In the adjudication of pension claims under said act of June 27, 1890, as amended, it shall be taken and considered as an evidential fact, if the contrary does not appear, and if all other legal requirements are properly met, that when a claimant has passed the age of sixty-two years and he is disabled one-half his ability to perform manual labor and is entitled to be rated at \$8 per month; after sixty-five years at \$8 per month; after sixty-eight years at \$10 per month, and after seventy years at \$12 per month, and after seventy-two years at \$12 per month. "Advances at higher rate, not exceeding \$12 per month, will continue to be made as heretofore, where disabilities other than age show a condition of inability to perform manual labor."

WILL HOLD THE FORT

RUSSIA HAS NO THOUGHT OF ABANDONING PORT ARTHUR.

Forward Movement by Japanese in Korea Indicated by Orders Issued at Seoul—Abandoning New Chwang.

ST. PETERSBURG—From the highest official quarter the Associated press has received information that there is absolutely no foundation for the rumors persistently sent out from Tokio that the Russians are abandoning Port Arthur.

"It is the vilest nonsense," said the official informant of the Associated press. "Nothing has occurred there to warrant such reports. The Japanese fleet has not been seen for forty-eight hours."

The newspapers here manifest the greatest indignation over the report, the Boerse Gazette characterizing it as outrageous and a British invention.

General Kurapatkin expects to reach Mukden March 23. Everything will be sidetracked in order to get him to the front on schedule time. The general may proceed on a flying visit to Port Arthur, but he is more likely to enter at once upon his duties as commander-in-chief of the Manchurian army.

General Kurapatkin had his plan of campaign practically perfected before he left here for the far east. He returned to St. Petersburg quietly from his country seat and his presence here was not known for four days. These four days he devoted to the elaboration of his plans in conjunction with his staff and with the aid of all the information in possession of the ministry of war as well as of the special reports from the theater of war.

On account of the difficulty of housing the vast number of troops poured into Mukden, 14,000 have been sent forward within the last few days towards the Yalu river, as reinforcements for the 7,000 troops already at Kusan and Anju, and the stream of soldiers from European Russia is now being held at Harbin. The housing problem will disappear with the advent of warm weather, but in the meantime the government is hurrying forward large numbers of portable collapsible wooden quarters.

Close To a Fall.

LONDON—Premier Balfour's government today was defeated in the house of commons by the combined liberal and nationalist vote. This reverse was due to the prohibition by Mr. Wyndham, chief secretary for Ireland, on the teaching of Gaelic in the junior grades of the Irish nationalist schools. Mr. Balfour, though defeated by a majority of eleven on this question, does not regard the vote as one of want of confidence, and he will not resign on this account. His determination not to resign was strengthened by the fact that shortly after the foregoing defeat he was able to secure a majority of twenty-five.

The failure of the government to carry the house with it on a question of purely administrative policy in its Irish department is generally admitted to greatly weaken its already waning prestige with the country, although it is not thought probable that any immediate development will ensue.

Favor Anti-Mormon Party.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Non-Mormons who are indignant at the testimony of President Joseph F. Smith and the admissions made before the Smoot investigating committee, met here tonight with the avowed purpose of forming an anti-Mormon party. A committee of twenty-five citizens was appointed to frame a plan of political action and a mass meeting will be held next week to rally the action and perfect the organization. A protest against the statements of President Smith was unanimously adopted and was at once signed by about 20 citizens. The protest will be forwarded to Chairman Burr was of the investigating committee and copies will be circulated for further signature in Utah and adjoining states.

The resolutions declare that the law-abiding citizens repudiate emphatically the statement of President Smith that his offense of living in open polygamy is condoned; that on the contrary the disclosures made by him at Washington were nowhere received with greater amazement, indignation and disgust than in Utah.

CZAR TO GO TO WAR

EMPEROR MAY TAKE FIELD AFTER FIRST ENGAGEMENT.

PEACE IS BEING TALKED

ACTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN EUROPEAN CABINETS

Efforts at Present Mainly Directed Toward Preventing Spread of Contagion—China Only a Scarecrow.

PARIS—"It is almost certain," telegraphs the St. Petersburg correspondent of Gill Bias, "that the emperor will assume command of the troops in the far east after the first important engagement."

It is affirmed in Paris that Prince Ichijo, naval attaché to the Japanese legation, will leave France shortly as a result of a conference between Foreign Minister Delcasse and M. Montono, the Japanese minister, on the subject of the Martin treason case.

Martin, a non-commissioned officer, now under arrest, who was employed in the ministry of marine is said to have attempted to sell French naval secrets to the predecessor of Prince Ichijo and to have approached the prince to the same end. It is alleged that Martin also sold some important official documents to an Italian, the name of whom has been recalled. The figure this morning prints an interview with a person of much importance in the diplomatic world, who declares that although the recent rumors of probable mediation between positive denials of those rumors are equally baseless.

"I can assure you," this person says, "that favored by the comparative calm which prevails at this moment a most active exchange of views is going on between European cabinets."

The chancelleries have begun to lay the part of 'international friendliness' in other words, they are trying to rest let the spread of the contagion and to protect adjutant states.

"One thing remains certain, namely, the new and striking affirmation of the close friendship uniting Nicholas II. and King Edward VII. Everywhere peace is desired, and governments are working for it with all their strength."

"China is not a source of danger; the press and court hate Japan. The treaty of Shimonski has not been forgotten, and moreover, the race question in Asia has not the importance which Europeans attribute to it."

Chairman Hoar Asks Light

WASHINGTON—The special senate committee to investigate the Dietrich charges had another long and important session today, adjourning over until Wednesday morning to hear the testimony of two rebuttal witnesses called at the instance of Senator Dietrich. It is thought the testimony can all be gotten into the record Wednesday, although it may go over to Thursday.

Edward Rosewater, who was summoned as a Dietrich witness, put in his appearance today, but did not testify. Senator Dietrich explained that he had called for Mr. Rosewater to testify on a phase of the case which the committee had decided later would not be admissible. Chairman Hoar discharged the witness. The presumption is that the subject was a conference with postoffice officials relating to the lease of the Hastings postoffice at which conference Mr. Rosewater may have been present, but this is only conjecture.

Senator Hoar questioned the witness closely as to the date the latter relinquished the office of governor and the date from which he accepted money from the government at a national salary, and brought out an admission that one salary lapped over the other.

"I don't see how you could draw two salaries?" asked Senator Hoar. Dietrich: "I did sir but when I received the draft from the secretary I did not know from what date to what date it covered."

Senator Hoar: Did you return the salary?

Dietrich: "I have not returned the salary. It covered the time from March 28 to the following December, 1901."

PURPOSE OF "WASHING COAL"

Increases Its Heating Capacity.

The purpose of washing coal is to free it as nearly as practicable of all matter that reduces its heating capacity or has a detrimental effect upon the metal produced with such coal or with coke made from such coal.

The impurities in coal are of two kinds: Such as are chemically passive but which do not produce heat, but, on the contrary, absorb heat and clog the openings in the grates by forming ashes and clinkers. They must be repeatedly handled, shipped and freight paid for them and are a burden all around.

The other kinds of impurities are chiefly iron pyrites, an ore composed of iron and sulphur, containing as much as 53 per cent of the latter element. There occurs also frequently some phosphorus, which remains in the ashes. The sulphur and phosphorus are both injurious to the quality of the iron produced in a blast furnace and for this reason it is very important that coal or coke for blast furnace use shall be as free from these two elements as possible. The phosphorus occurs in the ash-producing matter and remains there, unless it is given an opportunity to chemically combine with iron, lime or other matter for which it has an affinity.

The value of furnace coke is based, apart from general commercial reasons, upon its degree of purity from ashed sulphur and phosphorus.

The ashes entering a blast furnace with the coke cannot be disposed of as under ordinary conditions, as for instance when fuel is burned upon grates, but it must be melted and thus converted into slag. But the heat in a blast furnace is not sufficiently intense to melt the ashes, unless some other element is added to the charge which melts readily and has the property of inducing the ashes to melt also. Such elements are in metallurgy called flux; one of the most efficient and cheapest is limestone, and this is used for converting not only ashes but also all nonmetallic matter contained in the iron ore into a liquid slag. But apart from the quantity of flux required to liquefy the earthy ingredients of ore it takes two pounds of limestone for every pound of ashes brought into the furnace.

If in accord with this, says Mines and Minerals, we consider the amount of ashes charged into a furnace consuming, say 300 tons of coke a day, and which coke contains said 10 per cent of ashes, then we find that the ashes charged amount to thirty tons, and the limestone consumed in melting the ashes is sixty tons. Now assuming that the cost of this is \$1 per ton comprising quarrying, loading, shipping, unloading and charging into the furnace, there is a daily expenditure of \$90, which is in round figures \$220.00 per year and represents 5 per cent interest on a capital of \$440,000. For this and the other reasons the price paid for furnace coke is based upon its greater or lesser freedom from impurities, which is ascertained by chemical analysis.

Free from "Help."

"Aunt Jemima," as everybody called her, was the oldest person in the neighborhood. She was known to be over one hundred years old, and insisted that she was nearly one hundred and twenty; but in spite of her advanced age she was still vigorous and in the enjoyment of perfect health.

Moved by that feeling of curiosity which people have about anything that is abnormal or unusual, several fine ladies from the city went one day to the little village where she lived, and called on her.

"Tell us, aunty," said one of them, "what is the secret of your great age and your wonderful vitality?" "Deed, honey," responded Aunt Jemima, with a sly twinkle in her eye, "I expect hit's becase I hain't nevah had no trouble wid hiah'r guls."

Culture and Agriculture.

A refreshing exception to the general home criticism of the college boy comes from the New York Sun. The minister had been inquiring about Fred Mason's progress at college.

"So so," replied Mr. Mason, who was a farmer. It was evident that there was a reservation. "He stood third in his class in Latin and close up to the head in English."

"Indeed!" said the minister. "You must feel exceedingly gratified at such promise."

"Yes," said Mr. Mason, "it's all right 's far 's it goes, but to my mind what Freddy needs is more athletics."

The minister looked surprised. "More athletics?" he repeated, as if he had not heard aright.

"You see," said the farmer, with a sly smile, "Freddy helped me harvest."

Safe.

"I guess the new minister down at Zion church is likely to be a fixture there for life."

"Why, the members of the congregation claim they can't make head or tail of his sermons."

"Exactly. So he isn't likely to be accused of heresy."—Philadelphia Press.