

The most remarkable thing about fish stories is that they are sometimes true.

A New York woman hit a street-car conductor, which shows that downtrodden woman will finally turn.

Russia's lack of foresight in overlooking those double back action Missouri catapults is costing her dear.

Susan B. Anthony's sister has paid her taxes under protest, but that is more than some men can be got to do.

The man who makes hay while the sun shines is in a position to lend money to the fellow who writes poetry about it.

Since Gov. Odell refuses to let the corporations have Niagara falls, they will have to water their stocks with something else.

Eminent defenders and opponents of the higher criticism are having a hot fight in the newspapers. Why do the heathen rage?

It is said that the horse has greater pulling strength, in proportion to his weight, than any other animal. How about the octopus?

A 16-year-old lady has secured a divorce in Chicago. With such an early start it is to be hoped that she may succeed in living it down.

The editor of the London Medical Press says that rats and mice are good eating. We understand now the reason for the unrest in China.

General Ma is said to have command of the 5,000 Chinese regulars now on the march. There's no doubt about it. Mas are always in command.

Uncle Russell Sage thinks no man ought to pay more than fifty cents for a straw hat. Well, a \$50 Panama on a fifty cent head does look a little misplaced.

The principal part of King Edward's job appears to be to visit around among his relatives and try to keep them from declaring war on one another.

Sermons are now being delivered by phonograph down in New York. But a great many prominent citizens will continue to get theirs by wireless telegraphy.

In view of the fact that the "Pilgrim's Progress" is about to be dramatized, the critics are sharpening up their pencils and a few of them are reading the book.

The thoughtful Cincinnati Enquirer says "a game of baseball is not in the nature of things a religious festival." Every office boy knows it is often in the nature of a funeral.

Perhaps the English educator who talked about the "feminized" American youth saw some of those queer things in baggy trousers, dinky coats and caps like clam shells.

The members of the W. C. T. U. won't agree that the Boston man who bought six quarts of whisky for 45 cents at an express company's unclaimed package sale was lucky.

We do not doubt the assertion of Dr. Rondthaler that in Philadelphia you think of your grandfather. The atmosphere of the place conduces to thought of those who are at rest.

Panama now talks of disbanding its army. This would seem to be an easy matter. All that is necessary is to charter an omnibus and distribute the soldiers around at their several homes.

A junkman down in Bridgeport, Conn., cut a telephone cable that contained 100 wires, and when the telephone people found it out they said something much more expressive than "Hullo!"

Bibb county, Ga., has a record of a hundred divorce cases at one term of court. The climate of the Dakotas would seem to have been instrumental in shifting the divorce center to the southeast.

Do not scoff at the Chicago woman who declares that she used to weigh 224 pounds, but has taken off seventy pounds by mental action. Many a woman has taken ten years off her age in the same way.

Mr. Otto Nordenskjold, who once tried to find the South pole, has failed to land the chair of geography in Stockholm university. The candidate's proved ignorance of exactly where the pole is doubtless told against him.

A man who signs himself "Dr. M. A. Lee, B. S. A. B. M. D." advertises in a North Dakota paper that he desires to become a member of the state legislature. He must think North Dakota is getting right up into the Massachusetts class.

"A woman should be first a homemaker," says Mrs. "Bob" Burdette, who has just declined to be a candidate for the president of the national federation of women's clubs. "That is the first article of my club creed," she adds. Lady "Bob!"

LOSS OF THE JAPS

TEN THOUSAND MEN FALL IN A LAND ATTACK.

LOSS OF THE RUSSIANS 3,000

This, However, is an Unconfirmed Dispatch from Russian Consul at Che Foo—Japanese Are Said to Have Lost Three More Cruisers.

ST. PETERSBURG—It is reported that Foreign Minister Lamsdorf has received a message from the Russian consul at Che Foo saying that the Japanese have made a land attack on Port Arthur and that in doing so they lost 15,000 men killed and wounded. The Russian loss is placed at 3,000 men. The ultimate outcome of the fighting is not stated.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Paris Matin says that it is persistently rumored that the Vladivostok squadron has captured three cruisers that were bought by Japan from Chile.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Central News says that there was an explosion Monday on board the battleship Orel at Cronstadt and that ten stokers were killed. The vessel, the report says, was damaged and it will take weeks to effect repairs. The explosion, according to the dispatch, was the result of an accumulation of gas in the bunkers.

CHE FOO—The captain of a Rus-

EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

Contractors and Laborers Deeply Interested.

WASHINGTON—One of the most important questions with which the Panama Canal commission will shortly have to deal is whether the present eight-hour law, act of August 1, 1892, applies to the construction of the Panama canal, and whether, if passed, the eight-hour bill now before congress will so apply. Not only are thousands of prospective contractors and subcontractors vitally interested in a decision on these points, but also the public at large, as the application of either the present laws or the pending bill would extend the time of construction at least two years and increase its cost by many millions of dollars. It is understood that the American Anti-Boycott association, which includes in its membership many builders and dredgers and others who may become directly or indirectly interested in canal contracts, will undertake to secure a decision from the proper officials. In this event Mr. Daniel Davenport of Bridgeport, Conn., the executive agent of the association, who has been so prominently identified with the opposition to the eight-hour bill, will have charge of the case.

The leaders of organized labor are also looking into the matter carefully, for although the canal will be located far from the United States, it will be dug on American territory, or territory under the jurisdiction of the United States, and be constructed and owned by the government, and the application of the eight-hour principle to a government work of this magnitude would not only be a

THE JAP-IN-THE-BOX.



A St. Petersburg Dispatch Says That the Japs Have Turned Up "At Six Different New Places."

sian merchantman, who left Port Arthur on May 20, and is among the recent arrivals from Dalny, said in an interview that the whole Japanese fleet had not returned to Port Arthur since the 15th inst., when, besides the battleship Hatsuse, another big vessel struck a mine and was towed away disabled. Gunboats and torpedo boats returned off the port on the 20th inst., when the Russians succeeded in sinking a small gunboat and two torpedo boats. The Russians are now confident of holding Port Arthur with the 30,000 men stationed there, exclusive of the navy and the crews of mechanics working upon the damaged warships, all of which, except the Czarovitch and the Retvizan, are ready to rejoin the fleet. These will also be ready for sea service by June 1.

The entrance to the harbor has been cleared and small boats now pass in and out freely from Port Arthur to Dalny.

The forts on the land side of Port Arthur have been completed and are now prepared for a severe contest.

Of the few soldiers left at Dalny, the majority have gone to Port Arthur, and the only defenses left there now are the mines in the harbor.

The attempt of the Japanese to land troops in the Kin Chau gulf on the 16th inst. failed owing to insufficient water to float the boats.

There has been no fighting in the vicinity of Port Arthur up to Saturday inst., when two squadrons of Japanese cavalry were wiped out, only eight men of which escaped.

Miss Roosevelt Off for St. Louis. WASHINGTON—President Roosevelt arrived here from Groton, Mass., where he participated in the prize day exercises of the school at which two of his children are students. Miss Roosevelt, accompanied by Mrs. Waters of this city, left for St. Louis.

Invited to the White House. WASHINGTON—President Roosevelt on Monday extended an invitation to the Methodist Protestant conference through Representative Adanson of Georgia, to be received at the White House Thursday afternoon. The invitation was accepted. A special committee of fifteen was authorized to deal with the question of church union. The co-operation of the conference was asked in a movement for an expression from all Protestant denominations on the question of remarriage after divorce.

triumph, but have a far-reaching and, they believe, wholesome moral effect. On the other hand, those who, like Mr. Davenport, regard the present eight-hour law as vicious, and the bill for its extension as socialistic, hold that under no circumstances should either be so applied.

It is argued by some that as the canal zone is entirely under the control of the canal commission, acting, of course, under the supervision of the secretary of war, and by the direction of the president, the eight-hour act of 1892 does not ex proprio vigore apply to the zone, and that until congress shall determine otherwise the matter rests entirely with the commission. It is further represented that as the canal will necessarily be constructed so largely by labor other than from the United States, the commission will not restrict such labor to eight hours a day. But while it is not probable that the commission would undertake to enforce this law should the canal be constructed directly under its supervision, what the prospective contractors want to know is whether they would be exempt if the work should be done under contracts and they should be fortunate enough to secure some of them. In the absence of an authoritative opinion in advance they fear the question might be raised at a later time by the labor organizations at home and they might be heavily mulcted.

Bryan Wins in Primaries. OMAHA—Bryan democrats carried every ward in the city where there was a contest in the primaries held yesterday for the selection of delegates to the county convention, May 28. The defeat of the Success league people was decisive, the Bryan delegates receiving 868 votes to 501 for the opposition in the seven contested wards in Omaha.

Lincoln Trying to Secure Convention. LOS ANGELES, Cal.—The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers continued in session, being still occupied with matters of comparatively minor importance. Only a brief session was held. The delegates left late in the day for an excursion to Catalina Island. They will not return until Saturday afternoon. Already activity is being manifested by delegates from several towns to secure the location of the next biennial convention. Memphis, Tenn., and Lincoln, Neb., are making a systematic campaign.

THAT COAL TRUST

INQUIRY OF THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

THOMAS FIXES PRICE OF COAL

Says He Would Make Cost More Than It is if He Could—What Fixes the Price and How Far the Public Are Willing to Pay the Same.

NEW YORK—President Thomas of the Lehigh Valley road, in his testimony before the interstate commerce commission, which is conducting an inquiry into the alleged coal trust, said that he fixed the price of the coal of the Lehigh Valley Coal company that is sold at tidewater. Asked if it was not a fact that according to his answers it was quite possible the public had to pay what all the railroads demanded, and not what any one railroad demanded, Mr. Thomas said: "You don't believe that any more than I do; nobody believes that in a country of free men a necessary commodity would be kept from them by unfair prices."

Mr. Thomas said that he conferred with President Baer of the Reading and other railroad officials before issuing the circular of prices to prevail beginning April 1, but denied that any agreement was made regarding prices. "I made no concealment of what I was going to do," he said. "Nor did they conceal anything."

"Would you raise the Lehigh Valley's price if you thought you could get the increase?" he was asked. "Yes, sir; I would."

"Do you think you could maintain an advanced price if your competitors did not follow suit?" "No, sir; I do not."

In reply to questions by Commissioner Prouty, Mr. Thomas said it would be impossible arbitrarily to fix the price of coal.

"What determines the price if the railroads do not fix it?" Commissioner Prouty asked.

"The willingness of the public to pay the price and the ability of the railroad to produce it at that price."

President Thomas said there could be no reduction from present prices because of commercial conditions, and when Commissioner Prouty asked him to define those conditions he said that interference of politicians caused the big strike; the arbitration commission immediately imposed obligations upon producing interests; the mines were growing deeper and more expensive to operate and maintain; all grades of labor were at higher wages. These were but a few of the general conditions.

Local conditions, he said, in the aggregate seem to have increased the expense of operating. To Commissioner Clements, Mr. Thomas said there had been no change by any railroad from the circular prices because the conditions of trade had not warranted it. He said that reduction in tidewater prices would mean a reduction in miners' wages, according to the terms of the decision of the arbitration commission.

OVER A QUARTER OF MILLION.

Number of Persons in the Employ of the Government.

WASHINGTON.—A bulletin was issued by the census bureau Wednesday which gives the total number of employes in the executive and civil service of the United States as 150,383. These figures include only those employes who are required to take an examination. About 85,000 postmasters are excluded, as are about 15,000 employes at small salaries in the field branches of the war department, about 16,000 employes at navy yards, who are classified, but appointed under navy yard regulations, and a few thousand in other parts of the service.

Of the 150,383 given, 25,675 are employed in the District of Columbia; 137,016 are males, 135,575 are native born, and 102,431 are engaged in clerical work.

RUSSIANS MASSING TROOPS.

Armies Are Being Concentrated Around Liao Yang.

LONDON—The New Chwang correspondent of the Daily Mail, in a dispatch dated May 23, says that coincident with the Japanese advance in the direction of Liao Yang there has been a concentration of all the available Russian troops between Liao Yang and Mo Tien pass, and that the fortifications of Liao Yang are being feverishly hurried. The railway between Tatschitsia and Liao Yang is still intact, but every preparation has been made for its immediate destruction in the event of the necessity for a retreat to Mukden.

The correspondent says that under cover of a continuous naval patrol, secret landings are in progress on the coast of the Liao Tung peninsula.

Upon Conclusion of the War.

PARIS—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris says: "I am able to affirm that Russia is preparing to mobilize 2,000,000 soldiers in Europe on conclusion of the war with Japan. Foreign Minister Lamsdorf has informed several members of the diplomatic corps that he was uneasy on the subject of China. Russia, he said, had adhered unreservedly to the terms of Secretary Hay's note, but if China should violate, or permit the violation of neutrality, Russia would act."

JAPS CAPTURE KIN CHOU.

Said to Have Stormed the Place to Get Possession.

LONDON—A dispatch to the Central News from Tokio says the Japanese have stormed and captured the town of Kin Chou, about thirty-two miles north of Port Arthur.

In an earlier message the Tokio correspondent of the Central News cabled that Japanese spies had ascertained that the Russians had thirty guns at Kin Chou and numerous mines and wire entanglements at all points where a Japanese attack was expected.

The correspondent of the Central News at Tokio cables that the Japanese attacked Nan Qwan Ling on the narrowest path of the Kwan Tung peninsula yesterday and drove back the Russians by main force.

The attack on Kin Chou, the dispatch adds, was begun at dawn today, and by noon Kin Chou was in the hands of the Japanese, who occupied the castle.

The fighting continued during the afternoon and was of the most desperate character.

BRYAN SAYS NO COMPROMISE.

Emphasizes the Fact that There is No Middle Ground.

DALLAS, Tex.—In an interview given aboard the train between Parsons, Kan. and Dennison, Tex., William J. Bryan stated to a staff correspondent of the News that there was no middle ground on which the opposing factions of the democratic party could compromise. He emphasized the statement: "They cannot go together," saying: "You might as well start two men out from the same point in opposite directions and expect them to go together."

Asked as to whether he would abide the result at St. Louis he said: "Things have not developed far enough to tell. No one can answer such a question intelligently until a platform and a candidate are known."

He also criticized Judge Parker's silence.

COME WEST FOR CHANCELLOR.

Takes President of Coe College at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

PITTSBURG, Pa.—Dr. Samuel Black McCormick, president of Coe college, Cedar Rapids, Ia., has been elected chancellor of the Western university of Pennsylvania. Dr. McCormick is a trustee of Bellevue college, Omaha, and president of the board of trustees of the Theological Seminary of Nebraska, at Omaha. He was born at Irwing, Pa., in 1858, and received his education in western Pennsylvania. He was admitted to the bar in Allegheny county and practiced law here. Later he studied theology. It is believed he will accept the position here, as he had been advised by the trustees that he would be elected.

Four Men Killed in Storm.

SPALDING, Neb.—Four deaths have resulted from a storm in this vicinity Tuesday. John Pollard, 30 years of age, and Edward Benhamton, aged 20, lost their lives by driving into a wash-out in Freeman creek. The body of the latter has been recovered, but search continues for the former. Pollard was a married man and came here from Schuyler two years ago, having purchased the Charles Meehan place. His companion was attending school in Spaulding. Benhamton have a mother living in Omaha.

Looks into Cattle Rates.

DENVER, Colo.—The cattle growers' interstate executive committee received word that the interstate commerce commission had issued an order to proceed of its own motion to investigate the freight rate situation and the service of railroads in live stock shipments in the west and northwest. The hearing will be held in Denver, but the exact date has not been fixed.

Nuncio Ready to Go.

PARIS—According to reliable information, the vatican authorities have instructed Monsignor Lorenzelli, the nuncio at Paris, to leave Paris if he is able to foresee from the discussion in the chamber of deputies of the difficulties between the vatican and France that it is the intention of the government to give him his passports.

Came Near Being Serious.

BEATRICE—While rowing on the Blue river three boys went over the dam south of Court street. The boat became unmanageable when within a few feet of the dam and turned, spilling the boys into the water about nine feet below. No injuries resulted.

Racing News is Barred.

At some of the public libraries in London the racing news is carefully blacked out of the newspapers before they are put upon the files for reading.

Sun Worship Fast is Fatal.

CHICAGO—Miss Eloise Reuse of St. Paul, Minn., who became insane here while undergoing the ordeal of the so-called "sun worship fast," is dead in the State Hospital for the Insane at Elgin. Dr. Frank S. Whitman, superintendent of the hospital, says death was due to acute mania, induced by starvation. During the fast, which is said to have lasted forty-one days, deceased is said by the hospital authorities to have been subjected to torture by means of needles and the application of lotus oil.

IMPORTANT MOVE

SAID TO ABOUT TO BE MADE BY GENERAL KUROPATKIN.

THE RUSSIANS ARE EXCITED

After Engagement with Korean Troops They Burn the Shrines—Telegraphic Communication with New Chwang Interrupted.

ST. PETERSBURG—There are indications that General Kuropatkin is preparing to make a very important move against the enemy.

One of the reasons for this belief is the suddenly increased restrictions upon the war correspondents at the front.

The prevailing belief here is that General Kuroi's army is in difficulties.

SEOUL, Korea—A telegram has been received here from Gen San, on the east coast of Korea, saying that the Russians, after the engagement with Korean troops at Ham Heung, on May 19, burned the shrines and the royal mausoleum which were erected there by the founder of the present Korean dynasty in the year 1365, and which were regarded by the Koreans as sacred. This apparent wanton desecration of tombs in a land imbued with the spirit of ancestor worship has caused excited denunciation of the Russians on the part of the Seoul officials. (Ham Heung is on the coast of Korea and about fifty miles north of Gen San.)

The Cossacks which are believed to be at Kyong Song have, according to Korean reports, about twenty guns with them. If this is true this artillery probably is composed of trans-Balkal horse batteries, several of which were attached to the First corps at Vladivostok before the war.

A Japanese who has returned here from Yongampho reports that there are only a few Japanese troops there. The people are quiet, but they do not welcome the Japanese occupation because of the severity of the military authorities. The Russians left many thousands feet of useful timber at Yongampho.

There are not more than 8,000 soldiers in the garrison at Seoul. Barracks which heretofore were filled are now vacant, the troops having gone north to Anju. The local gendarmes are being transferred to Yongampho, Wiju and An Tung.

ST. PETERSBURG—Telegraphic communication with New Chwang is interrupted, and private messages for points south of Liao Yang are refused here at the telegraph office.

The nature of the interruption with New Chwang is not known, but the cause for refusing messages south of Liao Yang is the complete absorption of the lines for military purposes.

SLAUGHTER IN THE PHILIPPINES

Fifty-three Men, Women and Children Are Massacred.

MANILA—A report has been received here from Camp Overton, on the island of Mindanao, dated May 15, stating that a massacre had taken place on the 12th inst., near Malabang on the southern coast of Mindanao.

Fifty-three Filipino men, women and children, employes of the United States military government at Malabang, and their families, were surprised at midnight while asleep by the Datto Alis and a band of Moros from the Rio Grande valley, and slaughtered.

The chief and his followers escaped before the alarm could be given.

Details of the massacre are meager. Major General Wood has been in the interior of Mindanao since May 12. Cable communication between Manila and Mindanao is interrupted and the wires are down in the interior of the island. The report of the massacre was received by mail from a correspondent at Camp Overton.

WHEN FRANCE MAY MIX IN.

If China Gets Aggressive There Will Be Trouble.

PARIS—The Soir claims that it has learned from a trustworthy source that Lieutenant General Baron Fredericks had another member of the Russian court, who recently visited Paris, came on a secret mission which had for its purpose the seeking of the intervention and effective support of the French government in the event of China adopting an aggressive attitude toward the Russians in Manchuria. The paper alleges that the government gave formal promise of compliance with Russia's request.

Russian Story is Not Confirmed.

ST. PETERSBURG—The report cabled to the Associated Press that the foreign office had received a telegram from the Russian consul at Che Foo reporting that the Japanese had made a land attack on Port Arthur and had lost 15,000 men killed and wounded, and that the Russians had lost 3,000 men, is true, but as nothing corroboratory has been received from any other source the report is not given credence. The consul in his telegram said his information was obtained from Chinese sources.