

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Preparing for Long War.

Japan is preparing for a long war, which shows good judgment in looking out for eventualities. The first requisite in fighting Russia is to remember that it is a large proposition.

Can Talk Through Them All.

A Korean's fad is to own 40 different kinds of hats. He has an opportunity to talk through them all, now that the Japanese and Russians are making Korea a battle ground.

Nature's Power and Mankind.

When fire can rule a great city for 24 hours, as in Baltimore, wiping out man's handiwork and setting at naught man's most skillful warfare against it, one somehow acquires a new view of nature's sublime power and of man's insignificance.

Vital Point Obscured.

The Japanese now charge that the Russians fired the first shot of the war. Evidence concerning this question should be very carefully collected, as it will no doubt have a strong influence in determining the assessments of the costs during the peace negotiations.

Tax-Ferretting Declared Invalid.

Farming out the collection of taxes has been decreed unconstitutional by the Iowa supreme court in a test case from Hardin county for the payment to the tax ferrets, who had a contract for 15 per cent. of the taxes collected and 15 per cent. additional for attorney's fees.

Old Theory Demolished.

Forward comes a doctor with the statement that appendicitis is contagious. While this jars the old grape seed theory and also that holding fine flour culpable, it sustains the common belief that doctors know little of the malady beyond the expeditious way to amputate it.

Railroads in Korea.

A railway is in operation from Seoul, the Korean capital, to the chief seaport, Chemulpo (pronounced Chemul-po, with the accent on the second syllable), a distance of 30 miles. Another line has been begun from Seoul to the port of Fusan, which is the nearest harbor to Japan.

Rich Families Have Exhibit.

The results of the combined capital of two enormously rich families of the United States invested in the coal and iron fields of Colorado will be shown in the joint exhibit of the Goulds and the Rockefeller to be made in the mines and metallurgy building at the world's fair. The exhibit will show the finished products of the great plant at Pueblo, where \$75,000,000 have been invested.

Wants to Mix Races.

The Herald, of the City of Mexico, hopes that white foreigners will continue to come to Mexico and intermarry with the natives. It declares that Mexico has not had a homogeneous population since the first coming of the Spaniards, shortly after the discovery of America, and it holds that the admixture of bloods then commenced should continue until the Mexican population is even nearer white than at present.

Korea Independent Since 1894.

Up to 1894 Korea had acknowledged the suzerainty of China. In that year China sent troops into the country to suppress an insurrection. Japan resented this and war followed in which the mikado was overwhelmingly victorious. China was forced to declare Korea independent, but Japanese influence became at once predominant. It was the menace to this supremacy by the action of Russia that brought on the present war.

Inventive and Initiative.

It is sometimes said of the Japanese that they are imitative, but not inventive. It is a fact, however, that they have taken out patents in every patent office in the world, and that they invented and manufactured the rifle now in use in their army. Senator Beveridge says they have made greater progress in medicine in the last ten years than any other people on the globe and that their quarantine system is the best in the world.

Why Russia Covets Korea.

Korea has several fine, ice-free harbors which Russia covets, and its rivers are navigable for a long distance from the sea. The chief obstacles to navigation are the strong currents among the islands that fringe the western coast, the high tides on the same coast and the frequency of fogs. On the east coast the tides run from 2 to 6 feet; on the west, from 18 to 30. The country is hilly but there are no mountains. The rivers flow from east to west. The Koreans have a fine country for agriculture.

A RUSSIAN DEFEAT?

Battle Reported on the Yalu River in Which Loss Was Heavy.

Advance Guard of the Czar's Army Driven Back, Says an Unconfirmed Report—Japanese Landing Parties Keep Russians on Defensive.

London, Feb. 22.—The cables are still absolutely silent with regard to the progress of the war, but there are vague rumors of land fighting. As an instance the Paris edition of the New York Herald's correspondent at St. Petersburg talks of a Russian repulse on the Yalu river with a loss of 2,500 lives. These rumors are unconfirmed and, from a reliable quarter, the Morning Post's Chefoo correspondent says he learns tens of thousands of Japanese are advancing by forced marches from various parts of Korea on the Yalu and that severe fighting is expected shortly. These are the only references to actual operations that have reached London.

The Japanese Were Hanged.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22.—A dispatch received here from Harbin, Manchuria, dated February 20, says the railroad is in working order and that the Japanese who attempted to blow up the bridge over the Sungari river have been hanged. Bands of Chunchus (bandits) have been observed under Japanese leadership and are being pursued. Almost all the civilian inhabitants of Harbin have left and the remainder of the population is quiet. The movement of troops is causing heavy traffic on the railroad.

The War Cloud Spreading Over Europe.

London, Feb. 22.—Fear is felt here that the war cloud is spreading all over Europe. The epoch-marking crashes in the far east are given second importance in the face of the possibility that England, France and Germany may be drawn into the struggle. Russia's hatred and distrust of England are reciprocated by the latter and so comparatively trifling an incident as the British expedition into Tibet is being expanded into an importance that may lead to a clash.

Russians Acting on the Defensive.

Chefoo, Feb. 22.—The Russian forces in Manchuria are so far acting entirely on the defensive. Extensive preparations are being made at Dalny, Port Arthur, Nuchwang and Laiyang to prevent the threatened landing of the Japanese troops. A big force of men are at work on the damaged vessels in the Port Arthur harbor and efforts are being made to raise the battleship Retvizan.

Firing Heard Near Port Arthur.

Port Arthur, Feb. 22.—Sounds of desultory firing at sea are heard almost nightly and yesterday morning firing was again heard. This is doubtless due to the attempted approach of Japanese torpedo boats, but nothing serious has developed. The garrison is in excellent spirits and is firmly convinced of the ultimate success of the Russian arms.

Dewey in Active Service Again.

Havana, Feb. 21.—Admiral Dewey is expected to arrive here February 26. Instructions have been received at the American legation to prepare for his visiting President Palma officially. He will remain here two days and then go by rail to Santiago to join the fleet.

Two of Evans' Ships to Shanghai.

Manila, Feb. 21.—The United States protected cruisers Cincinnati and Albany, of Rear Admiral Evans' fleet, have sailed for Shanghai.

SECRETARY HEATH RESIGNS.

Owing to the Death of Senator Hanna He Retired from the Republican National Committee.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 21.—Perry S. Heath, former first assistant postmaster general and secretary of the republican national committee, wired his resignation of the latter position from here to Acting Chairman Payne, at Washington, as follows: "Due to the death of Chairman Hanna, I tender to you my resignation as secretary of the republican national committee, effective immediately." Mr. Heath stated that the telegram told the entire story and he had nothing to add to it.

THEY WON'T BE PROSECUTED.

Citizens of Colfax, Ill., Approve Action of Women Crusaders Who Emptied Whisky into the Street.

Colfax, Ill., Feb. 21.—A supply of whisky smuggled into Colfax to be used in a political celebration was discovered by the temperance ladies. They marched into a restaurant where the intoxicant was stored and seized the supply and emptied it into the gutter. Colfax is a prohibition community and the sentiment is strongly in approval of the action of the raiders.

More Money for the Orient Road.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 21.—More than \$750,000 was raised toward completing the purchase of the balance of the stock of the Union Construction company, which is building the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient railroad, at a banquet which President A. E. Stillwell gave at the Midland last night.

MORE FOR RURAL CARRIERS.

They Will Receive \$720 a Year After July 1, But Are Prohibited from Carrying Merchandise.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The house committee on postoffices and postroads has completed the postoffice appropriation bill which carries \$169,997,588. The appropriations last year were \$153,500,000. The total appropriation for rural free delivery service is \$21,000,000. Last year this item was \$12,600,000. The salaries of rural free delivery carriers is increased from \$600 to \$720.

This provision regarding rural carriers is inserted in the bill: On and after July 1, 1904, carriers shall not solicit business or receive orders of any kind for any person, firm or corporation, and shall not, during their hours of employment, carry any merchandise for hire.

WILL ELEVATE AGRICULTURE.

The Faculty of the Missouri University Decides to Make the Study of Farming a High Science.

Columbia, Mo., Feb. 22.—Decision has been made by the faculty of the Missouri university to elevate the study of agriculture to a place as a high science and agriculture as taught in high schools will be accepted as a basis for entrance of students to the university. This will have the effect of placing the study of farming on an equal footing with other sciences. It is proposed by the university to introduce the study into every high school in the state and, if the plan is successful, it is expected that other states will follow the example.

JUDGE RAYMOND SUSTAINED.

Court of Appeals Affirms Decision That Indian Parents Cannot Lease Children's Lands Without Court's Approval.

South McAlester, I. T., Feb. 22.—The decision of Judge Raymond, of the federal court at Muskogee, I. T., denying the right of the Indian parent to lease the land of his minor children without the approval of the court, and involving between 12,000,000 and 15,000,000 acres of land in the Indian territory, is affirmed by the United States court of appeals. The case was appealed from the court of Judge Raymond by the corporations and cattlemen.

AYALA WILL BE HANGED.

Constabulary Ringleader Who Revolted at Vigan, P. I., Hurriedly Disposed of—Big Reward for Ricarte.

Manila, Feb. 21.—Corporal Ayala, ringleader of the members of the constabulary force who recently revolted at Vigan, Luzon, has been captured, tried, convicted and sentenced by the court at Vigan to be hanged. Very few of the men who deserted their posts remain uncaptured and most of the arms and ammunition taken with them has been recovered. A reward of \$2,500 has been offered for the capture of Ricarte, the revolutionist leader.

Citizens Kill a Tramp Incendiary.

Fairplay, Mo., Feb. 22.—A tramp robbed and set fire to the Eastey & Hopkins lumber yard office here and shot the city marshal, who had attempted to arrest him. A crowd of citizens opened fire on the tramp and killed him. He had two companions with whom he had robbed the post office, a meat market and barber shop. The money and some of the stolen articles were found on him. His companions escaped.

Missouri's Fruit Exhibit.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 22.—L. A. Goodman, secretary of the State Horticultural society, will go to St. Louis to-night to complete arrangements for the Missouri horticultural exhibit at the world's fair. The exhibit will be the largest and best of its kind ever made by Missouri. It will consist of 1,200 barrels of apples and 2,000 jars of fruit. It will occupy 6,000 square feet of space in the horticultural building.

A Move for an Interoceanic Canal.

Mexico City, Feb. 22.—Dr. Mariano Medina has gone to the United States for the purpose of interesting capitalists in a project for constructing an interoceanic canal across this country south of the isthmus of Tehuantepec, taking advantage of several rivers which can be deepened and made navigable. The estimated cost of the enterprise is \$200,000,000. The project is entirely private.

Bonaparte Makes a Report.

Washington, Feb. 22.—The report of Charles J. Bonaparte, who was appointed to investigate affairs in the Indian territory, has been received at the interior department. It will be read by Secretary Hitchcock and then forwarded to the president. No intimation of its findings has been given out.

Even a Tramp Has Rights.

Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 21.—The Iowa supreme court has decided that a tramp has rights which a trainman must respect, affirming a decision from Pottawatomie county, in which Joseph Johnson secured judgment for injuries sustained by reason of forcible ejection from a moving train.

CAPTURE FOUR MORE

Japs Used Russian Signals and Won Victory at Port Arthur.

Czar Is Spending the Week in Fasting and Prayer While the Mikado is Vigorously Pushing His Army to the Front.

London, Feb. 23.—The Nagasaki correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, cabling under date of February 22, reports that the Japanese squadron has captured four Russian torpedo boats at Port Arthur by using Russian signals. This dispatch appears to confirm reports from various quarters of a fresh attack on Port Arthur by the Japanese.

A Russian Pilot Boat Blown Up.

Wei-Hai-Wei, Feb. 23.—The British steamer Ching-Ping, belonging to the Chinese Engineering and Mining company at Shanghai, has arrived here from Port Dalny and reports that she also was fired upon by the Russians and was hit seven times around her water line. A Russian pilot boat that was coming out of Port Dalny to pilot the Ching-Ping was blown up by a mine.

Japan Wants to Borrow Money.

Tokio, Feb. 23.—The news of the escape from death of the crew of the Nakonoura Maru was received in Tokyo with satisfaction and perceptibly lessens the feeling of bitterness toward the Russians on account of the sinking of the ship. A prisoner's intelligence bureau has been created and regulations regarding the treatment of prisoners of war have been published. The Tokio government, it is understood, has anticipated the necessity of soon providing for the care of Russian prisoners. Vice Gov. Takahashi, of the Bank of Japan, who goes to America and England, will investigate the financial situation generally with a view of floating a loan later, if one should be needed.

The Czar Fasting All This Week.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.—All classes of the populace from the highest to the lowest have begun the observance of Lent with even more than the customary rigor, doing penance and praying for the success of the Russian arms. The czar will pass the week fasting at the winter palace and immediately afterward the court will remove to Tsarskoe-Selo, the czar's favorite abode. On February 26 the czar will go to confession and visit the imperial tombs in the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul and also the chapel of the Saviour in the house of Peter the Great.

Untold Hardship on Jews.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.—The government has ordered the expulsion of all Jewish residents of Tomsk, Omsk, Irkutsk and other towns on the Trans-Siberian railway. Urgent protests were made on behalf of the Jews by the heads of Jewish organizations, but they were unavailing. The Russian officials seek to justify the severe measure by declaring it is necessary because the Jews throughout Siberia are aiders and abettors of treason.

Russia Is Pressing Turkey.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.—It is understood here that Russia is bringing great pressure to bear upon Turkey to secure the passage through the dardanelles of its Black sea fleet. It is asserted here that once the fleet gets through, England will content itself with diplomatic protests. No vengeance would be taken on Turkey for fear of Russia.

Battleship Kentucky to Hong Kong.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The battleship Kentucky, flagship of the American-Asiatic fleet, has been ordered to Hong Kong, where she will be docked for the purpose of making minor repairs. It is regarded as probable that Rear Admiral Evans will have the remainder of the battleship squadron accompany him to Hong Kong.

Only Six Russian Ships in Condition.

Kobe, Feb. 23.—It is believed here that only six Russian ships at Port Arthur remain fit for action, ten being disabled by the three Japanese attacks.

Forced Marches Toward the Yalu.

Chefoo, Feb. 23.—Some divisions of Russian troops are proceeding to the Yalu and tens of thousands of Japanese are proceeding by forced marches from various points in Korea toward the Yalu.

War Between Turkey and Bulgaria Likely.

London, Feb. 23.—Telegrams from Vienna and Salonica published here yesterday morning give alarming but unconfirmed details of preparations pointing to a war between Turkey and Bulgaria.

IN MIDDLE OF THE ROAD.

Chairman Parker Tells Populist National Committee That They Should Go It Alone This Year.

St. Louis, Feb. 23.—Thirty members of the national committee of the populist party met at the Southern hotel here for the purpose of fixing the time and place of the national convention. Mr. Parker presided and made a brief speech in which he outlined the object of the meeting. He declared that the fusionists and the middle-of-the-roads should get together this year and that the party should on no condition affiliate with either of the older parties.

HIS ATTEMPT FRUSTRATED.

William Rudolph, the Man Wanted in Missouri, Tried to Disarm a Guard at the Kansas Penitentiary.

Leavenworth, Kan., Feb. 23.—William Rudolph, alias Charles Gorney, the desperado from Franklin county, Mo., assaulted and tried to disarm a guard at the Kansas penitentiary last night with a view of making his escape. Rudolph was brought into the penitentiary dining room with a gang from the east wing cellhouse in charge of Guard Roe. After eating supper, as the convicts were passing out, Rudolph seized a case knife from the table and tried to cut Guard Roe, calling on Roe to surrender as he did so. Before Rudolph could injure Roe, an old lifetime prisoner named Tobe Taylor grabbed Rudolph by the arm and prevented him from using the knife. Two other prisoners assisted in overpowering and bearing him to the floor. Rudolph was marched back to the cellhouse and searched, when a note addressed to his mother was found on his person. This note shows conclusively that he is Rudolph, if any doubt existed on that point. Rudolph is now in shackles and will be held in a solitary cell till he is turned over to the Missouri authorities.

ASKS PRAYERS FOR JAPAN.

Rector of Grace Methodist Church at Des Moines Says Russia Is a Greedy Monster.

Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 23.—Rev. Dr. Guild, pastor of Grace M. E. church, urged his congregation to pray for the success of Japan. "Men talk of English greed," he said. "It is kind charity compared with Russia's devouring career. Over 100 nations and peoples have been conquered—harpooned by the imperial eagle's claws and dropped into the bubbling caldron which blends the whole into a feast for despotism. Out of sheer necessity little Japan has grappled with this monster and the anglo-Saxon should offer encouragement. It becomes Christians whether in America or elsewhere to pray to the God of nations, to the God of battles, to save the earth from such despotism."

WANTED TO SEE ROOSEVELT.

Crank from Chicago Named Edward Relgar Called at the White House on Monday and Was Arrested.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Edward Relgar, who gave his address as 2217 South Clark street, Chicago, was arrested at the white house Monday and locked up pending an inquiry into his mental condition. Relgar is evidently of unbalanced mind. He has written many letters to the president suggesting that people be named in accordance with their occupations. Thus he maintains that a dealer in wood should be named Wood, a carpenter should be named Carpenter and throughout the list. He says that the present scheme of naming people has caused a war among the flies which may be ended only by the adoption of his suggestion.

ENTIRE FAMILY POISONED.

Missouri Farmer Purchased Arsenic for Hog Medicine and It Got into a Baking Powder Can.

Tiff City, Mo., Feb. 23.—P. S. Crawford purchased arsenic at Tiff City to be used in making medicine for his hogs, and upon arriving at home put the poison in a new empty baking powder can. In about a half hour after breakfast, members of the Crawford family became sick one after another, and they soon ascertained that the poison had been used. All at once drove to Tiff City for medical aid. Mrs. Crawford and the mother of P. S. Crawford died in a short time after arriving at Tiff City, and his son, Bert Crawford, is not expected to live. Mr. Crawford and his eldest daughter are now in a precarious condition.

SEVEN LOCOMOTIVES A DAY.

Philadelphia Plant Is Filling a Rush Order from Japan at a Record-Breaking Rate.

Philadelphia, Feb. 23.—In consequence of a rush order from the Japanese government for locomotives a locomotive plant here has established a new record by the construction of seven locomotives in a day. The engines ordered by Japanese are for the military railroad that will connect Fusan, on the southern coast of Korea, with Seoul, the capital. The order, which called for 20 locomotives to be completed within 30 days, was received late in January. Eight of them have been shipped to Fusan. The remaining 12 will be shipped this week.

Will Allot Osage Lands.

Pawhuska, Ok., Feb. 23.—In letters received here from Washington members of the Osage treaty delegation say that a treaty practically has been decided upon for the allotment of the Osage lands and the per capita division of tribal funds.

Whitecotton a Candidate for Governor.

St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 23.—Speaker Whitecotton announced his candidacy for governor at the democratic dinner at 1:30 o'clock this morning.