

# THAT FATAL MINE

Forty-five officers and men perished.

## THE FIGHT OFF PORT ARTHUR

Rear Admiral Uriu Announces the Great Japanese Victory—Says that in the Engagement the Islanders Sustained No Losses.

ST. PETERSBURG—Forty-five officers and men perished on board the torpedo boat destroyer Bezrashni, whose destruction by the Japanese has been announced.

TOKIO—A brief report from Rear Admiral Uriu of Wednesday's fighting off Port Arthur reached the navy department Thursday afternoon. It says Vice Admiral Togo's fleet attacked Port Arthur in the morning and succeeded in sinking a battleship of the Petropavlovsk class and one torpedo boat destroyer. The Japanese sustained no losses. One Japanese was wounded.

A detailed report of the engagement is expected hourly.

The first intimation of the result of Vice Admiral Togo's seventh attack off Port Arthur reached Tokyo at 8 o'clock Thursday morning. It was received with intense satisfaction, particularly the reported destruction of the battleship Petropavlovsk. There was a note of regret, however, upon the reported death of Admiral Makaroff, for the Russian admiral commanded the respect of his opponents and the Japanese admired the manner in which he had rehabilitated the fleet after the first attacks upon Port Arthur, and the splendid fight he was making against

## AWFUL DISASTER.

An Explosion on the Battleship Missouri.

PENSACOLA, Fla.—By the explosion of 2,000 pounds of powder in the after twelve-inch turret and the handling room of the battleship Missouri, Captain William S. Cowles, commanding, twenty-nine men were instantly killed and five injured, of whom two will die. The Missouri was on the target range with the Texas and Brooklyn at practice about noon when a charge of powder in the twelve-inch left-hand gun ignited from gases, exploded and dropping below ignited four charges of powder in the handling room and all exploded.

Only one man of the entire turret and handling crew survives. But for the prompt and efficient action of Captain Cowles in flooding the handling room and magazine with water one of the magazines would have exploded and the ship would have been destroyed.

Captain Cowles, completely overcome by the disaster, referred all newspaper men to Lieutenant Hamner, the ordnance officer. The latter gave out a statement of the explosion and its probable cause. According to him, about noon, after the first pointer of the aft twelve-inch piece had fired his string and the second pointer had fired the third shot of his string, the charge ignited. The fourth shot was being loaded, and from all indications the first half of the charge had been rammed home and the second section was being rammed home, when gases from the shots previously fired, or portions of the cloth cover, ignited the powder.

The breech was open and a dull thud gave notice of something unusual. No loud report was made, but flames were seen to leap from every

# THE TWO HOUSES

WORK IN CONGRESS FOR THE PRESENT WEEK.

## FEATURES OF LOWER BRANCH

Appropriation Bills to the Front in the Senate—Pension Measure to Be Given Consideration—Other Matters in Both Houses.

WASHINGTON—Statehood and ship subsidy will be the feature of the house proceedings this week, with conference reports and minor bills to fill in the gaps. The committee on rules on Monday morning will decide on a program for the statehood bill. The rule on this matter, which will be brought in for adoption Monday, will call for consideration of the bill Tuesday, with debate limited probably to four hours. It is now the intention to dispose of this bill entirely on Tuesday.

The rule making a special order for the Gardner bill, providing for a joint commission of members of the house and senate to investigate the whole question of ship subsidy during the recess of congress, will be brought forward by Mr. Grosvenor on Wednesday. Debate on this measure will consume probably six hours. The Alaska delegate bill will remain the "continuing order" and receive consideration whenever there is nothing else before the house.

The present plan of the leaders contemplates final adjournment April 28. There will be an effort to keep appropriation bills to the front all the time during the present week in the senate, and to this end the sundry civil bill will be taken up on convening Monday. When it is disposed of the pension appropriation bill will be pressed and it is hoped that that bill will in turn be immediately followed by the general deficiency bill. The senate leaders are apprehensive of the effect of the consideration of various bills on the calendar and are exercising their ingenuity to keep them in the background.

There are some features of the sundry civil bill which will cause discussion and it is believed that it will hold attention during Monday and Tuesday. The pension bill usually goes through without debate, but it is probable there will be quite a little discussion on the pending bill. If opportunity is offered Senator Hansbrough will endeavor to obtain consideration of the Indian agreement bills.

Senator Fairbanks also stands ready to seize the first chance that offers to press his bill for a new executive building in Washington.

**HAVE FAITH IN KUROPATKIN.** Russians Believe Japs Will Be Driven Out.

PARIS—A dispatch to the Matin from its St. Petersburg correspondent says: "The Russians have the fullest confidence that General Kuropatkin will soon drive the Japanese out of Korea."

"While a strong army blockades Ping Yang another army corps will advance to Seoul; these being the only points wherein serious resistance is expected."

"The emperor was so shocked by the disaster to the Petropavlovsk that she has been obliged to keep to her bed. She got up a few hours Saturday."

"The emperor is working hard and is not receiving anyone, not even the high court officials."

**Japs Use Submarine Boats.**

ST. PETERSBURG—M. Suverine, manager of the Novoe Vremya, says he has seen a letter, dated March 19, from Dr. Volkovitch, who was drowned on the Petropavlovsk, in which it is alleged that Vice Admiral Makaroff and his staff declared that the Japanese were using submarine boats and that Port Arthur was not defended by Russian mines.

**Iowa Man at Head of University.** DANVILLE, Ky.—Dr. Frederick W. Hinit of Fairfield, Ia., who was recently elected president of the Central university of Kentucky, to succeed the late Dr. W. C. Roberts, has announced his acceptance and will take charge of the university soon.

**Give Out No War News.** ST. PETERSBURG—On account of the holidays the committee on military censures sat for only an hour Monday, leaving their office at 10 o'clock. Later official dispatches from the scene of war will not be made public until Tuesday.

**Disease Among Jap Troops.** ST. PETERSBURG—According to the reports of spies, the Japanese troops in Korea have been ravaged by various diseases. One of these diseases, called "imblion," is a kind of intermittent typhus. Another, called "souda," which has not yet been studied by European doctors, produces premature senility. The patients lose their teeth, become extremely weak, and the nails are twisted back on the fingers. Dysentery is said to be very prevalent among the Russians at Harbin.

**For Benefit of Missouri Victims.** WASHINGTON—Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, has taken a box for the society play to be given for the benefit of the families of the victims of the Missouri disaster. Although the Russian nation is in mourning for the Port Arthur disaster, the ambassador has consented for his daughter, Countess Cassini, to take part in the play. The Austro-Hungarian ambassador will be in the cast, and practically every embassy and legation in Washington will be represented at the play.

## COURT RULES WITH BRYAN.

Probate Judge Says He Can Remain Executor.

NEW HAVEN, Conn.—A decision denying in effect the application for the removal of William J. Bryan as executor of the estate of the late Philo S. Bennett was rendered Saturday by Judge Cleveland of the probate court. The application was brought by counsel for Mrs. Grace Imogene Bennett, the widow, and other residuary legatees on the ground that Mr. Bryan was acting contrary to the interests of the estate. The decision sustains a demurrer filed by Mr. Bryan's counsel and practically denies the application as far as the probate court is concerned. The matter will now go to the higher court on appeal.

The claim of the residuary legatees that Mr. Bryan was acting contrary to the best interests of the estate was based on the fact that he appealed as an individual and as a trustee from the decree of the probate court refusing to incorporate as a part of the will the sealed letter by which Mr. Bennett expressed a wish that Mr. Bryan should have \$50,000. It was claimed by the residuary legatees that this appeal is inconsistent with his duties as executor of the will and that he is unnecessarily delaying the settlement of the estate.

**AFTER BEEF TRUSTS.** Complaints of Western Ranchmen Effective.

CHICAGO—Prompted by complaints of ranchmen of the northwest, through Representative Martin of South Dakota, that it was their belief that a beef trust existed among the western packers to the restraint of trade and to the detriment of producers and consumers, the government has begun its investigation.

James A. Garfield, chief of the bureau of corporations of the department of commerce and labor, and assistant to Secretary Cortelyou, is in Chicago. He has come with Inspector Carroll of the department agriculture, purposely to make inquiry at the stock yards. Other men have been sent to Kansas City, Omaha and all the large cattle markets, while two representatives of the government have been sent to attend range meetings throughout the northwest among the cattle raisers. All of these men making investigations in various cattle centers are working under Mr. Garfield's orders. When they make their final report Mr. Garfield will compile his report to Secretary Cortelyou.

**SOON TO BE OURS.** France Nearly Ready to Turn Over Panama Canal.

PARIS—All the papers necessary for the transfer of the Panama canal to the United States are now completed. They include lengthy inventories and schedules of the property belonging to the company, both in Panama, here and elsewhere. These have been carefully gone over and checked up by W. A. Day and Charles W. Russell (the assistant attorney general) who came from Washington to assist in the transfer of the property, and the officers of the company. The most important paper is the contract for the sale. This sets forth all the preliminary negotiations between the United States and the company, leading up to the transfer and the final ratification of the transfer by the stockholders of the company. The consideration is stated to be \$40,000,000.

The signing of the contract will occur immediately after the meeting of the stockholders next Saturday. However, as the meeting probably will last until late, the signing may go over until Monday. President Bo will sign for the company.

**WILL BE NO TICKET SELLERS.** Half a Dollar in the Slot Will Open World's Fair Turnstiles.

ST. LOUIS—It has been decided by the World's fair to install electrical devices instead of having ticket sellers and ordinary turnstiles during the exposition period. The Lindell entrance will be the main gate to the exposition. There thirty-two turnstiles are being installed, and through this entrance alone it is estimated that at least 500 persons can pass every sixty seconds. To gain admission to the grounds a person must approach the turnstile and place a half dollar in a slot. This money, as it descends, is still visible and releases a lever which unlocks the turnstile. The person can then pass through the gate and the minute that he is inside the turnstile is locked. Individual gates are being installed for children. At these turnstiles a quarter will operate the mechanism.

With a decent supply of good will any man can be honest on a desert island.

**Death of a Guilty Couple.** CHICAGO—James H. Johnson, a railroad switchman, and Mrs. Mary McGrath, said to have come to Chicago recently from St. Louis, were found dead in bed Sunday in a cheap hotel in Archer avenue. The couple registered at the hotel Saturday as man and wife and were assigned to a room. Escaping gas in their room started an investigation, and when the door was forced open both bodies were found lying side by side on the bed. Gas was escaping from a jet in the room.

**More Beets Than Ever.** GRAND ISLAND—The factory of the American Beet Sugar company has begun the work of extracting sugar from the remaining syrups through the Osmose process. About forty men will be employed for thirty days at this process.

**Corean Minister to Help Viceroy.** TIEN TSIN—M. Pavloff, recently Russian minister to Corea, returned to Tien Tsin Monday. He will proceed to Mukden Tuesday next for the purpose of assisting Viceroy Alexieff.

# FUND FOR HEROES

FIVE MILLION DOLLARS FOR THOSE SAVING LIVES.

## IT IS CREATED BY CARNEGIE

His Great Endowment Will Be Known as the Hero Fund—Trust Placed in the Hands of a Commission of Prominent Men.

PITTSBURG—It was made known here Friday that Andrew Carnegie had created a fund of \$5,000,000 for the benefit of the "dependents of those losing their lives in heroic efforts to save their fellow men or for the victims themselves—'injured totally.'" Provision is made for medals to be given in commemoration of heroic acts. The endowment is to be known as the "Hero Fund," and consists of \$5,000,000 of first collateral 5 per cent bonds of the United States Steel corporation.

The trust is placed in the hands of a commission composed of the following gentlemen: W. L. Abbott, Edwin H. Andrews, W. W. Blackburn, Edward M. Bigelow, Joseph Buffington, W. E. Frein J. B. Jackson, Thomas Lynch, Charles C. Mellor, N. Miller, Thomas Morrison, Frederick P. Perkins, Robert Pitcairn, H. Kirk Porter, James F. Reed, W. L. Scaife, William Scott, W. H. Stevenson, E. M. Wilmot-secretary.

The commission held its first meeting here Friday and made known the project. It is learned that the scheme was conceived by Mr. Carnegie immediately after the Harwick mine disaster, when he summoned to New York Mr. Taylor, chairman, and Mr. Wilmot, manager, to discuss with them plans for the relief of the sufferers from this catastrophe.

On this occasion Mr. Carnegie announced to Messrs. Taylor and Wilmot his intention to endow a fund for heroes, outlining his plans, and asked that they consider the project and write him regarding it, making such suggestions and giving such ideas as might occur to them. This they did, and on March 12, just before his departure for Europe, Mr. Carnegie forwarded a letter to Mr. Taylor announcing the plan and stating that the certificate for the bonds had been placed in his hands.

Mr. Carnegie warns the commission against the danger of interference or conflict with the pension funds for municipal employes that exist in many cities and urges it to act in harmony with such funds. This, as is the case with all the details of the fund's administration, is left to the commission.

The claims upon the fund for some years cannot exhaust it. After some years pensioners will become numerous. Should the commission find, allowing liberally for this, that a surplus will remain, it has power to make grants in case of accidents (preferably where a hero has appeared) to those injured.

The field embraced by the fund is the United States and Canada and the waters thereof.

**BRAVERY IS TO BE REWARDED.** Proctor Bill to Be Reported Upon Favorably.

WASHINGTON—Senator Proctor today introduced a bill, which will be favorably reported by the committee on military affairs, to authorize the president to reward distinguished or especially meritorious service rendered by certain officers of the active list of the army. The bill provides for the creation of a distinguished service list, to include five colonels, six lieutenant-colonels, eighteen majors, ten captains and five first lieutenants. Appointments to the distinguished service list are to be made on the specific recommendation of a board, as near permanent as may be, of five general officers of the active list of the army.

**Cotton Crop of India.** WASHINGTON—The government of India has issued its final general memorandum on the cotton crop of British India, for 1903 and 1904, showing that the area under cotton of 17,670,599 acres, is over 1,000,000 acres larger than the corrected area of last year, which was then the highest returned. The official figures of the estimated yield is 2,874,893 bales. The estimate total yield for this season (excluding the returns from Assam and Mysore, which did not report last year) is approximately the same as for the last season.

**Panama Wants Recognition.** PANAMA—It has been decreed by the government that all the consular representatives of nations who have not formally recognized the republic of Panama will be unable to continue official relations with the government until such recognition has taken place.

**Afflicted with Trachoma.** WASHINGTON—There was landed at Tacoma, Wash., recently fifty Filipinos who were brought to the United States under contract to take part in the Philippine island exhibit at the St. Louis exposition. Thirty-nine of the number were afflicted with trachoma, a disease of the eye. Under a ruling by the attorney general natives of the Philippine islands and Porto Rico are not aliens within the meaning of the immigration act and they had to be admitted. Congress will be asked to meet such cases arising hereafter.

**To Leave It to the President.** WASHINGTON—The house committee on naval affairs on Tuesday authorized a favorable report on the Lacey bill, permitting the president, in his discretion, to appoint as midshipmen in the navy former cadets of J. H. Leland, E. W. Chaffee and J. D. Little, who were dismissed from Annapolis last year for hazing.

If appointed, will go to sea with their class as the lowest in rank. Their class finished at the academy in February last.

# NEWS IN NEBRASKA

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Charles H. Ream, who has been deputy sheriff and jailer in Dakota City for the last three years, resigned his position last week. Sheriff H. C. Hamlin will do all the work alone.

According to the report of Superintendent Hayward of the Kearney Industrial school, the total enrollment during the last month was 156, and at the end of the month it was 151.

W. R. Sperry of Weeping Water was in the vicinity of Papillion looking for a stolen team. Bloodhounds had traced the thieves to the Buffalo school house, where the trail had been doubled back to Louisville. The horses were found tied near Weeping Water in a thicket.

Dr. J. H. Crabb, one of the oldest physicians in that part of the state, died at Fremont of general debility at the age of 76. He was a native of Ohio. He practiced his profession in that state for about ten years and in 1864 came to Nebraska, locating at Fontanelle. A year or so later he came to Fremont.

The new railroad Young Men's Christian association building at Chadron was dedicated last Sunday. The new structure is a fine three-story brick, and when the finishing touches have been put on it will have cost about \$12,000. It is the finest association building in the state, considering the size of the town.

Mary A. Manzer of Lincoln filed a \$10,000 damage suit in the district court against a number of Lincoln saloon men. She claims that the liquor dealers are financially responsible for the alleged cruelty and debauchery of her husband, Eugene N. Manzer, against whom she recently brought a suit for divorce.

Rev. W. M. Howie, pastor of the United Presbyterian church of Alliance, died of a grippe, after an illness of but ten days, aged 58 years. Before coming to Alliance Rev. Howie officiated in New York, Chicago, Seattle, Lawrence and Garland, Kan., in all of which places he leaves behind monuments of his untiring zeal as a faithful pastor, covering a period of more than thirty years.

County Assessor Teegarden of Cass county is engaged in securing a list of all mortgages on file in Cass county. He estimates that the total amount of unreleased mortgages will be close to \$500,000. It is safe to say that many have been paid, but through neglect of the holder have not been released. Unless they are released very soon they will be assessed as a tax against the property.

It is requested of all horsemen who expect to make an exhibit at the St. Louis exposition and wish to take advantage of free transportation from Lincoln to St. Louis and return, furnished by the commission, that they file their applications for such provisions with O. E. Mickey, secretary, at Osceola, Neb., stating breed, sex and age of each entry. The Commission and Live Stock association will endeavor to provide a committee to examine and pass upon the availability of these entries as soon as possible.

Mrs. O. S. Ward of Lincoln was saved probably from a horrible death by the presence of mind of her 10-year-old daughter, Gertrude Rehlaender. Mrs. Ward was lighting a gasoline stove when the sulphur on the match flew off and ignited the bottom of her skirt. Almost instantly the blaze flared up and she was enveloped in flames. The daughter, who was in an adjoining room, promptly threw a pitcher of water on her mother and then followed the deluge with a couple of blankets, smothering the fire.

Rev. Joseph Underwood, whose step-daughter stated that he was the father of her child, has received a complete vindication at the hands of the girl and at the hands of his flock, composing the membership of St. Zion church in Lincoln.

The report of the Home for the Friendless filed with the secretary of state shows that during the last month there was received \$74 and there was expended \$100.31. The home already had \$105.45 on hand, so it is still to the good \$79.14.

The body of Corinne Jarmin, the 15-year-old daughter of W. J. Jarmin of Fremont, who was drowned in the Platte river on New Year's day, was found last week by Carl, the fisherman, and Luther Hormal. They were out in a boat on the river and saw something just underneath the surface of the water that appeared to be stationary. They immediately rowed to it and found it to be the body of the dead girl. It was in about three feet of water on the bottom and not more than 300 feet from where she disappeared through the ice.

State Treasurer Mortensen has issued a call for \$50,000 warrants numbered 98,272 to 98,897 for April 19. When this batch is gathered in it will wind up all warrants that bear a date earlier than June 9, 1902, making the outstanding warrants less than two years old.

An official, in discussing the amount of work turned out by the Burlington car shops at Plattsmouth, stated that the prospects were favorable for the employment of an additional number of men during the coming summer, especially in the freight car department.

Mrs. Riley J. Gilbert, wife of City Engineer Riley J. Gilbert of Argum, is dead. She was about 70 years of age and had been in poor health for a long time. The Gilberts are among the first settlers of the county and until within a few years resided on their farm near Brock.

In the construction of the Norfolk asylum buildings Twin City brick will be used, the state board of public lands and buildings having refused to change its contract after listening to arguments from representatives of both the Omaha brick and the Twin City brick.

## MEN GET THE MOST MONEY.

Figures on Salaries of Teachers in the State.

LINCOLN—Does the man teacher deserve a better salary than the woman teacher who does the same work? The table of increase for the last six years, as prepared by State Superintendent Fowler, shows that the lowest average salary paid the man teacher exceeds the highest one paid the woman teacher by \$1.77, and that the highest salary paid the man teacher exceeds the highest paid the woman by \$11.19. Despite the increase in salaries, the number of teachers has steadily decreased. In 1903 the decrease of men teachers and the corresponding increase in women teachers amounted to more than 16 per cent.

One of the reasons, other than financial, given for the defection of the men is that it is found that women are much more successful in the lower grades than are men. They are almost invariably more patient, persevering and tactful. Women teachers are now in demand for the country schools of the state, and men are not. It is claimed that the women themselves are in part to blame for their scanty wages because they do not prepare sufficiently for their work to enable them to demand adequate payment. But this assertion does not hold good in many cases. Nevertheless, Superintendent Fowler declares that it is in the power of the women teachers of Nebraska to raise the average wage of their sex from \$40 to \$55 simply by preparing for it and then demanding it.

## CLUB WOMEN OF NEBRASKA.

Official Train and Headquarters at St. Louis.

Notice is sent out to club presidents by Mrs. Beele Stoutenborough of Plattsmouth, secretary of the Nebraska General Federation of Women's Clubs, that for the seventh biennial meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, held at St. Louis, May 17-25, the executive board has chosen the Burlington as the official route for the Nebraska delegation.

Train service will be as follows: Leave Omaha 5:25 p. m., leave Lincoln 4:25 p. m., arrive St. Joseph 9:35 p. m. The delegations that travel from and via Lincoln will be combined with the delegations that travel from and via Omaha at St. Joseph, and will use the same train from St. Joseph, arriving at St. Louis the next morning at 7:19. There will be through sleeping cars, Lincoln to St. Louis, and Omaha to St. Louis. The officers and delegates of the state federation expect to leave for St. Louis May 16th, arriving in St. Louis on the morning of the 17th. The day of celebration at the fair grounds will be May 19th, known as "Louisiana Purchase Day." On this day there will be receptions at all the state headquarters.

The headquarters for the Nebraska club women will be at "The Odeon."

**Nebraska Girl Dead in Wyoming.** SHERIDAN, Wyo.—Miss Stella Moore of Helvey, Neb., died suddenly while en route from the depot to the home of her brother in this city. She was taken ill at the depot and was placed in a hack, but died before reaching home.

**Will Argue for Exemption.** LINCOLN—The Royal Highlanders will argue for exemption of the securities of fraternal societies from taxation when the state board of equalization meets in May. It is quite possible that the supreme court will be asked to pass on this subject.

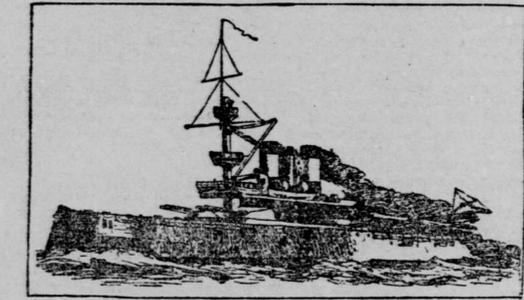
**Going Into Potato Raising.** SCOTTS BLUFF—T. C. Bottom of the commission firm of T. C. Bottom & Co. of Kansas City arrived here the first of the week with a gang of men who will put in 300 acres of potatoes on lands adjoining the town site. The potato industry promises to be profitable to the farmers of the valley. Several thousand acres will be planted this spring. This will create a good market.

**Buys Land for Feed Yard.** FREMONT—A big land deal involving a consideration that will range between \$50,000 and \$70,000 has been completed between Nat J. Johnson of Ames and the Standard Cattle company at that place, whereby Johnson becomes purchaser of 700 acres of land, including practically the entire townsite of Ames with all improvements.

**Yutan Depot Safe Cracked.** YUTAN—The depot at this place was burglarized. The safe was blown open and the contents taken. The booty was not large.

**May Go to Federal Court.** LINCOLN—In a petition filed in the supreme court the Missouri Pacific denies that it is a state corporation, the answer of the company to the request of the Co-operative Shipping association of Virginia, Neb., being filed. The company asks that the validity of the Ramsey bill be tested in the federal court. The farmers built an elevator and the structure was burned. Another was erected a short distance from the former site and the railroad refused to extend a side track.

**Fight Ends in Shooting Affray.** BENNINGTON—Chris Knagg and a man named Kelly, working for Chris Peterson, living four miles east of town, while slightly under the influence of liquor, got into an altercation over some trivial matters, and during the altercation Chris Knagg, having a .32-caliber rifle in his hands, deliberately pulled the trigger. The bullet struck Kelly in the breast, going clear through him and also went through Dr. Hall's clothes inflicting a slight flesh wound. It is not known whether Kelly's wound is fatal or not.



GEORGEI POBIEDONOSETS  
A Russian Black Sea Battleship.

odds. The navy department expects advices from Vice Admiral Togo by night. It is known that he left in the vicinity of Port Arthur Thursday to return to an unknown base, and it is expected that he will reach telegraphic communication by night.

WASHINGTON—The Japanese minister has received a dispatch from his government embodying an official report from Admiral Uriu, regarding the engagement off Port Arthur, as follows:

"According to the report of the torpedo destroyer flotilla No. 3, our fleet approached Port Arthur on the 12th of April and sunk one battleship of the enemy of the Petropavlovsk type and one torpedo boat destroyer. No damage to our fleet. No report yet from Admiral Togo."

ST. PETERSBURG—Vice Admiral Staff, formerly in command of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, in an interview is quoted as saying:

"In my opinion the Petropavlovsk struck one of the contact mines laid off Cape Liao Shan, but which had been torn from its moorings by the terrible storms prevailing last week, and which drifted under the stress of the south gales into the roadstead. It could not have been a mine laid near the entrance of the harbor, because the latter are not contact mines, but are fired by an electric wire from the shore."

## DUTY ON COAL MUST REMAIN.

This is What Austen Chamberlain Tells Anxious Petitioners.

LONDON—The combined efforts of the coal owners exporters, ship owners and miners have failed to induce Austen Chamberlain, the chancellor of the exchequer, to repeal the coal duty. A deputation representing all the above interests laid the case before the chancellor Tuesday and pleaded that the duty was disastrous to every industry connected with the coal trade and enabled their German and other rivals to displace British coal. Mr. Chamberlain in reply lengthily compared the arguments of the petitioners with the facts in his possession, and said there was no reason for the abolition of the duty. He said that the fact that the exports for the last year were the largest on record disproved the gloomy forebodings of the deputation.

**New York Bank Goes Down.** NEW YORK—The federal bank, a state institution in this city, was closed and officials of the state banking department are in charge. David Rothschild was president of the institution until a few weeks ago, when reports having come into circulation that the bank was connected with the Globe Securities company, which loaned money on salaries, he resigned and was succeeded by William Woods, who, with Doolittle, had secured control of the bank. The bank's capital is \$250,000.

**Skyrdloff Is at the Helm.** ST. PETERSBURG—The emperor's choice of a successor to the late Vice Admiral Makaroff has fallen upon Vice Admiral Skyrdloff, whom he appointed this evening, telegraphing to him to go direct from Sebastopol, where he is in command of the Black Sea fleet, to Port Arthur, and assume command there. Next to Vice Admiral Makaroff Vice Admiral Skyrdloff is the most popular man of this generation in the Russian navy. He is considered a very able sailor.

portion of the turret. A few seconds later another explosion, somewhat more fierce, occurred. This was in the handling room below, where 1,600 pounds of powder, or four charges ready to be hoisted above, had ignited. Fire quarters were sounded and in less than five seconds after the first explosion two streams of water were being played in the rooms, and when volunteers were called for every man of the ship responded.

Captain Cowles gave his commands and but for his presence of mind and that of the officers of the ship, the Missouri would have gone down. The second explosion occurred near one of the magazines and so hot was the fire that the brass work of the magazines was melted.

Smoke and the fumes of the burned powder made it almost impossible to enter either the turret or handling room. Every officer and man in the port and all but three in the handling room were killed.

Three minutes after the explosion all the dead had been brought on deck and the surgeons from the Missouri, Texas and Brooklyn were attending to those not dead.

The twenty-five men of the turret were found lying in a heap. They had started from the exit when the first explosion occurred and had just reached there when the more terrible explosion in the handling room occurred, which burned and strangled them to death. Lieutenant Davidson, the officer in charge of the turret, evidently had given some command to the men, as he was on top of the heap of men.

The accident is the most serious that has occurred in the American navy since the blowing up of the Maine in Havana harbor in 1898.

The bodies of the dead were hardly recognizable, the terrible and quick fire having burned clothing from the bodies of the men and the flesh hung to them in shreds. The faces were mutilated by the smoke and flames only. Only one man was breathing when the turret crew was rescued and he died a moment after he reached the deck.

**Senate Confirms Baxter.** WASHINGTON—The senate on Tuesday confirmed the nomination of Irving F. Baxter as United States attorney for the district of Nebraska.

**Pension Deficiency of \$1,500,000.** WASHINGTON, D. C.—Commissioner Ware of the pension bureau was before the sub-committee of the appropriations committee, which is preparing the general deficiency appropriation bill asking for \$1,500,000 to meet the amount required for pensions under order 63, the age pension order. The amount was to cover the expenditures up to July 1, this year. The amount has been included in the bill, but the democrats have given notice of a minority report and a contest over this item.

**Looking to Postal Investigation.** WASHINGTON—A proposal to pass a resolution for a postoffice investigation has been discussed by some of the republican members of the senate committee on postoffices and postroads, though a determination for such an inquiry has not been fully decided upon by the republican leaders. The resolution which has been suggested will provide that a sub-committee of the committee on postoffices and postroads may receive, during the recess of congress, any specific charges.