

What an opportunity for another set of war paintings Verestchagin has missed!

With Japan and Russia holding a gun at each ear, how can China help being neutral?

If you want to retain your faith in a critic you ought never to see the things he criticises.

Judging from the way the czar is acting, there is nothing in that story of its being a borrowed boy.

There is a shortage of 40,000 servant girls in New York. Verily the police man's lot is an unhappy one.

Now that he has a son and heir the czar will be affectionately referred to by his faithful subjects as the old Nick.

The New York World says that "the poor consumer can never strike." Down this way he strikes many a snag.

How these flying machine inventors must wish that they could hitch their aerial wagons to the soaring price of wheat.

The man who is fool enough to hunt trouble is scarcely man enough to face it after his search has been rewarded.

One of the leaders of Newport society has just given a "bal blanc." It is now up to her hated rival to give a colored dance.

It is quite evident that there is no meat strike in China, for we read that the dowager empress is reducing her household expenses.

The prehistoric animal whose tracks have been found leading out of New Jersey was probably trekking away from the mosquitoes.

During a fire in a New York hotel a woman dressed herself in less than fifteen minutes. The record will doubtless stand for eternity.

If the report that credits the sultan of Turkey with the ambition to outlive all his predecessors is justified, it may explain some things.

And now Mr. Charles M. Schwab comes forward with a declaration that he wants to die poor with significant and emphatic emphasis upon the "poor."

Realizing that a woman climber set upon a mountain top cannot be hid Miss Peck of Boston shows no disposition to hide her light beneath a bushel.

Now that he has taken up smoking, it is up to Edward Atkinson to invent a tobacco consumer that will give three times the smoke with half the material.

It was kind of the kaiser to give his American-built yacht Meteor, of which he is tired, to the crown prince; but will she be fast enough for such a speedy youth?

Venezuela has entered suit against an asphalt company for 50,000,000 bolivars. The exact value of a "bolivar" is unknown to us, but we are always willing to learn.

A deaf and dumb man wants to be mayor of St. Paul. It might be a good thing for St. Paul to have such a mayor. The grafters would have to put their demands in writing.

In New Jersey a young woman is suing her guardian because he has not bought her a new hat in three years. It's certainly scandalous to keep a girl from going to church all that time.

King Edward would doubtless feel flattered if he could know what wide attention his double-breasted trousers are attracting in the editorial columns of the newspapers of the United States.

A man has been discovered in the south of France who remembers seeing Napoleon cross the Alps. Somebody will turn up some day who remembers seeing old Russell Sage "come across."

Hazel Belle Melvin of Hudson, N. H., boasts of a hydrangea which was planted the day she was born and which now has 129 blossoms. But that doesn't give away the secret of Miss Hazel's age.

The Newport society leaders who are setting the fashion of short skirts for fall suits are probably indifferent to the fact that at last they are doing something that will meet with general popular approval.

The young Count von Arnim, just killed in battle with the natives of South Africa, once threatened Bismarck with a challenge to a duel, but as Bismarck was sensible the young man lived to die in the battle with the Hamakari.

Still, the action of the czar in issuing the manifesto providing that in case of his death before the czarevitch attains his majority, the Grand Duke Michael shall become regent, does not prove conclusively that the emperor is going to the front.

LEAVE LAIO YANG

RUSSIANS WITHDRAW TO THE LEFT BANK OF TAIHSE RIVER.

ADVANCE OF THE JAPANESE

Kuroki's Army Crosses the River on Pontoon Bridge—Japanese Casualties Since August 29 Estimated at Ten Thousand.

TOKIO—The Japanese left began pressing the Russians toward Ttazho at dawn Friday morning. The Japanese right is engaged in the neighborhood of Heiyngtal.

The Japanese casualties since August 29 are officially estimated at 10,000.

ST. PETERSBURG—The news of the occupation of Liao Yang by the Japanese and the withdrawal of the Russian army to the right bank of the Taitse river reached only a small section of the people of St. Petersburg at a late hour and caused intense excitement and disappointment.

The following statement was obtained by the Associated Press from the war office at 10 o'clock Thursday night:

"General Kuroki's army crossed in force to the right bank of the Haitse river, and it therefore became necessary for the Russians to be in a position to repel a blow in this direction.

"In view of this development in the operations General Kuropatkin decided to abandon his positions on the left bank and to concentrate his whole army on the other side of the river.

"By withdrawing to this position, the Russian army avoids the necessity of being divided by the river and enjoys the advantage of compactness.

"General Kuropatkin's move, therefore, is not to be considered as a retreat, but rather as the carrying out of a well defined idea."

The withdrawal of the Russians to the right bank involved the abandonment of Liao Yang, which is situated on the left bank. The Japanese took advantage of this to occupy the city, but the sternest part of the fighting is still before them unless General Kuropatkin decides at the last hour to again fall back to the northward.

It is more than likely, however, that he will decide to fight to a finish. The cards are all in his favor, it is believed, now that he has the Japanese divided by the river, thus effectually turning the tables up his foe.

CANNOT FIND RUSSIAN SHIPS.

British Cruisers Fail to Take Message to Volunteer Vessels.

LONDON—The efforts of the British cruisers of the Cape of Good Hope squadron to establish communication with the Russian volunteer fleet steamers Smolensk and St. Petersburg has thus far failed. The admiralty received late Thursday afternoon a dispatch from Rear Admiral Durnford announcing that none of his ships had caught sight of or had heard by wireless telegraphy from either of the Russian cruisers.

In Russian diplomatic circles it is said that it is not surprising that neither of the Russian cruisers had put into an African port to coal, for the reason that before they sailed Black sea colliers preceded them with instructions to transfer coal at certain specified points.

Subway Muddle Yet Unsettled.

NEW YORK—Another fruitless effort to settle the threatened trouble between the Interborough Rapid Transit company and the employees was made by committees representing both interests. At the conclusion, which was held at the home of August Belmont, the announcement was made that no agreement had been reached.

Russian Steamer Goes Down.

TOKIO—A Russian steamer engaged in clearing the channel at Port Arthur struck a mine and was destroyed.

Russian Crews Told to Leave.

SHANGHAI—Repair work on the Russian cruiser Askold and torpedo boat destroyer Grozovoi has been stopped by the order of the British minister, the dock at which the repairs are being made being owned by British citizens. China has ordered that the paroled crews of the Askold and Grozovoi return to Russia.

RACE QUESTION THE ISSUE.

The South Wrought Up Against Roosevelt.

ESOPUS, N. Y.—Senator Asbury C. Latimer of South Carolina was the only political visitor at Rosemount.

After leaving Rosemount Senator Latimer said: "I came to tell Judge Parker that the south stands ready to send a host of orators north to help in the campaign against Roosevelt.

The announcement by David B. Hill of his contemplated retirement January 1 occasioned much interest in Esopus today, but Judge Parker refused to comment on it.

INTENSE ANXIETY PREVAILS

Battle Now in Progress May Put an End to the War.

ST. PETERSBURG—Even late Monday night the greatest uncertainty prevails regarding the actual situation at Liao Yang. There is intense anxiety for definite news from the front, but even the authorities are frankly ignorant as to whether or not the long expected decisive action will be fought at Liao Yang or further north.

It is possible that a great battle is now proceeding and there are many indications that such is the case.

If this is so, the fate of this year's campaign may be settled within forty-eight hours. At the same time, opinion is almost equally divided, many believing that General Kuropatkin will not make a determined stand and that the Japanese will crack the shell, only to find that the bird has flown.

PULLMAN SHOPS TO CLOSE.

Seven Thousand Men Will Be Out of Employment.

CHICAGO—The great shops of the Pullman company are to shut down on September 1 and thousands of men employed in the various departments of the car building corporation will be without work.

When the Pullman company is working on the full time 7,000 persons are employed. During the last few months owing to a lack of new orders, men have been laid off, 600 and 400 at a time, until now the force does not amount to more than 2,000.

These men are engaged in finishing the construction of cars already under way, and when these are ready for the rails the shops will be closed and the plant rendered idle. The plant may remain closed for more than a month.

IS A GAME OF GIVE AND TAKE.

Forts Change Hands Repeatedly at Port Arthur.

CHE FOO.—A Chinese who lived near Rihlungshan declares that he saw the Russians occupying this fort, from which previous reports stated that they had been driven. Probably both reports were correct at the time they were current, as semi-official advices state that many positions about the fortress change hands repeatedly.

The fighting, which began on the 27th soon became general. While the Chinese were at sea August 28, the heavy firing was resumed.

Two junks containing contraband of war were sunk by a Japanese torpedo boat ten miles off Liaoti promontory.

It is said that fort No. 5 has changed hands four times and is now unoccupied.

MORE LIBERAL TO FINLAND.

Policy of Russification Possibly Suspended.

ST. PETERSBURG—The imperial decree convening the Finnish diet not only convokes it this year, but makes provisions for its meetings three years hence, thus foreshadowing regular meetings of the diet at intervals of not less than five years, in accordance with the letter of the Finnish constitution, for the first time since the grand duchy came under Russian sovereignty.

Negro Lynched at Laramie.

LARAMIE, Wyo.—Joe Martin, colored, was lynched by a mob of 300 men in front of Judge Carpenter's house at 8 o'clock Monday night. Martin was a trusty in the county jail. He attacked Della Krause, a white girl employed in the jail kitchen, and slashed her face and arms with a knife. One man was injured by Martin when they were entering the jail to drag him out.

Baltic Brings Two Thousand.

NEW YORK—What is said to be the largest number of steerage passengers ever brought from Great Britain in a single vessel arrived Thursday on the steamship Baltic, which brought 2,000 passengers in the steerage, in addition to 671 in the cabins, making a total of 3,124 persons on board, including the crew. Among the steerage passengers were a number of returned Americans. William Riley, a well known cattleman, was in the steerage, having completed his 20th round trip across the Atlantic.

TWO BIG ARMIES

NOW LOCKED IN A DEATH STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY.

THE SECOND DAY'S CONFLICT

Nearly Half a Million Men Engaged in a Battle That May Mean a Crushing Defeat for One Side or the Other.

ST. PETERSBURG—With the knowledge that the Russian and Japanese armies about Liao Yang are locked in a death struggle the tension in St. Petersburg is strained to the utmost. It is believed here that the fight cannot stop short of the crushing defeat of one side or the other.

All reports so far are favorable to the Russians, though the suspension of all news for many hours has been exceedingly trying and has given rise to several rumors, somewhat tempering the earlier enthusiasm. It is stated officially, however, that the report that the railway and telegraph have been cut north of Liao Yang is untrue.

A member of the general staff said to the Associated Press at midnight: "I can assure you that up to this hour communication with Liao Yang has not been interrupted. General Kuropatkin has taken particular precautions against any attempt to cut the railway. While it is always possible that a small raiding party might slip through the Russian patrols or that hired Chinese bandits might cut the wire, it is a fair supposition that this has not been done."

The highest military authorities here consider that the most critical stage of the battle has not yet been reached, and they believe the fight may continue for some time before either side acknowledges defeat. This is an important consideration by the light of which to interpret any immediate news. It is thought here that in view of the numbers engaged, the desperateness of the assaults and the length of the line (about seven miles), the losses in the two days' fighting cannot fall short of 10,000 on each side. Both sides are straining every nerve, realizing that the fortunes of war for a whole year are in the scale, and neither side is in the mood or the position to spare men in the effort to achieve a final victory.

The battle of Liao Yang will probably rank as one of the great sanguinary battles of history. It is estimated by the general staff that the Japanese armies engaged number seventeen divisions of 15,000 men each, or allowing for inefficient, about 240,000 men. Each division has thirty-six guns, and there are two independent artillery brigades of 100 guns each, making a total of about 800 guns.

The estimates of Russian correspondents range at from 600 to 1,000 guns per side.

In the preliminary fighting on Monday the Russians captured 200 prisoners, who have already arrived at Harbin, and report persists that they captured over forty Japanese guns yesterday.

General Kuropatkin's effective forces are variously estimated at from 170,000 to 200,000 men.

The Japanese Wednesday morning attacked three sides of the Russian position. One of the Associated Press correspondents also mentions a Japanese movement to the northeast of Liao Yang, showing that the Japanese were undoubtedly trying to work around Kuropatkin's rear.

One of the surprising phases of the situation is the endurance of the men. They have been engaged desperately for two days, after more or less severe fighting under unfavorable conditions every day since August 24. It would seem that human endurance could not persist much longer without respite of some sort.

MURDERER OF VON PLEHVE.

Question of Whether He Will Be Tried by Court Martial.

ST. PETERSBURG—The statement in these dispatches last week that Sasonoff, the assassin of Minister of the Interior Von Plehve, had been sentenced to death proves to be incorrect. The question as to whether the assassin will be tried by court martial or by civil court has not yet been decided. This is one of the questions that the new minister of the interior will have to pass upon, the fact that St. Petersburg is technically in a state of siege giving the minister this power.

Balmashoff, the murderer of M. Sipagin, M. Von Plehve's predecessor, was tried by court martial. It is expected that the emperor will appoint a new minister of the interior as soon as he returns from the Don.

Servia to Extend Railroads.

BELGRADE, Servia.—The government proposes to raise a loan of \$6,000,000 for purposes of extending the railway system of the kingdom.

Nine Persons Killed.

MONTREAL—Nine persons were killed and twenty-three injured in a head-on collision on the Grand Trunk railway, near Richmond, Que., Tuesday. The trains involved were a special excursion from Montreal bound for Sherbrooke and passenger train No. 5, running between Island Bond, Vt., and Montreal. The collision, it is claimed, was due to neglect of orders on the part of the train crew of the excursion train, which left Richmond without awaiting the arrival of the passenger train.

NEBRASKA STATE NEWS

THE NEWS IN NEBRASKA. ARGUE FOR ASSESSMENT RAISE.

The peach crop about Humboldt is being harvested and is very fine.

A party of twenty Fremonters left Fremont to attend the conclave of Knights Templar at San Francisco.

Ervin Corey, the youngest son of A. Corey, a prominent farmer living north of Sutton, dropped dead while playing in the yard.

Announcement was made by the populist state central committee that Presidential Candidate Watson had been secured to make four speeches in the state during the campaign.

Miss Annetta Sprung, who taught German in the high school at Plattsmouth last year, has resigned to accept a similar position in the schools of Lincoln. No one has yet been selected to fill the vacancy.

Reuben Newton and Bill Bennett broke jail at Butte, undoubtedly assisted, as the window bars were broken from the outside and the locks on the steel cages where the men were confined were taken off and are missing. Considerable damage was done to the jail.

John Wiggins, for thirty years a resident of Columbus, is lying at his home in a critical condition as the result of a stroke of paralysis. His physicians say that he has practically no chance to recover. Mr. Wiggins is 55 years old, and for many years was engaged in the live stock business at Columbus.

The farmers organized a branch of the Farmers' exchange at Bee, Seward county, last week, with 400 subscribers. The president is O. E. Bedford; secretary, F. E. Bek; trustees, J. E. Moravic, O. E. Bedford and U. J. Battefelder. This is the fifth branch of the company to be organized in Nebraska. Other branches are in Richardson and Otoe counties.

Two boys named Smith and Ridgley, whose homes are near Cortland, left home about a week ago, taking a team belonging to a relative of one of them. They told their parents that they were going to the Blue river on a fishing trip and nothing has been heard of them since their disappearance. Sheriff Trude has been requested to join in the search for them.

The dedication of the new M. E. church at Dorchester took place last Sunday. Rev. G. W. Abbott of Geneva, Neb., preached the dedicatory sermon. At the close of the sermon the pastor, Rev. T. A. Hull, stated the cost of the building to be \$6,000. To this the audience responded cheerfully, and in just eight minutes over \$400 was raised, and everybody joined in singing the doxology.

John L. Pope, the engineer at the Harris brick yard just south of Fremont, was caught in the fly wheel of his engine and so badly injured that he died in a few minutes. A boy by the name of Stout, who was in the engine room at the time, says that Pope turned on the steam a little and then took hold of the spokes or rim of the fly wheel to start it. He slipped and his left arm went under the belt, drawing his body up against the wheel and breaking his neck.

There are 462 cases to go on the supreme court docket for the September term. This is twenty-three more than the number of cases on the docket for the September term last year, and proves conclusively that the litigation in the supreme court, instead of falling off, is increasing at a famous rate. With this great increase in the number of cases which must be disposed of, there is a prospect of another glut such as that which existed three years ago when it took the average litigant from two to three years to have his case determined in the supreme court.

Word reached Ord of an almost fatal accident that befell Earl McIntyre, an engineer in charge of an engine that was running a threshing machine a few miles north. In an attempt to start the engine forward he made a mistake and reversed the machine and it came back, pinning him between the steering wheel of the machine and the separator. He is badly hurt, but may recover.

New Brunswick (N. J.) dispatch: After traveling fifteen hundred miles to marry George Hoagland of Bond Brook, who advertised for a wife, Miss Annie Humphreys of Lincoln, Neb., returned home without a husband. Hoagland is a carpenter and sixty years of age. He awaited the arrival of Miss Humphreys at the station, holding a photograph in his hand to identify the young woman, who is about thirty years of age. On meeting Hoagland proposed that they go at once to a minister, but the woman demurred. She said she would not marry Hoagland, as he was not young enough and nothing like the photograph he had sent her.

Rural free delivery has been extended at Leigh.

While the threshing outfit of Starr & Pense was threshing on the farm of Mr. Williams, fourteen miles northwest of Harvard, running at a high rate of speed, the connecting rod of the engine broke, pieces flying so close to and over the head of John E. Pense, the engineer, that one small piece of bolt struck him on the temple, making a slight bruise, but fortunately doing no serious harm except the general wrecking of the engine.

Attorney General Attempts to Defeat the Church Howe Injunction.

AUBURN.—The case wherein Hon. Church Howe obtained a temporary injunction restraining the county clerk from extending on the tax rolls the 5 per cent increase made by the State Board of Equalization came on for hearing on the motion filed by the attorney general and county attorney to dissolve the temporary order before Judge W. H. Kelligar of the district court. Attorney General Prout and his deputy, Norris Brown, together with County Attorney Quackenbush, argued the case in support of the motion, and Edgar Ferneau and H. A. Lambert represented the plaintiff. The first contention of the attorneys for the defense was that the court had no jurisdiction of the case; that the board acted judicially, and its action was final and could not be reviewed by a court of equity. This contention was overruled by the court which announced that in a proper case a court of equity would grant relief. The case was then argued on the question whether the petition stated a cause for action, and whether there was any equity in the bill, and on this phase the court took the case under advisement, and will render an early decision.

One of the contentions of the plaintiff is that the authorities cannot tax a man on a valuation of his property for more than the true value thereof, and that any law that permits it, or any attempt to do so is illegal and in violation of the constitution.

The motion to dissolve is in the nature of a demurrer, and the attorney general announced his intention to stand on his motion, should it be overruled and take the case to the supreme court, where he hopes to get a speedy hearing.

Alleged Forger Arrested.

YORK, Neb.—On August 23 a man stopped at the Miller hotel and registered as E. H. Seaman and wife. He remained one day and when he called for his bill presented a check upon a leading lumber firm of Davenport, Ia., and payable at the Citizens' National bank of that city. The draft was protested and the bank notified here that it was a forgery. Mr. Miller at once began the search for the man who signed his name E. H. Seaman. He was traced from here to Hastings, Sutton and Fairmont, where he took the train for Fairbury. The sheriff of Jefferson county was notified and on his arrival at that place he was arrested and placed in jail.

Flagman Has a Close Call.

KEARNEY.—George Smith, a Union Pacific flagman at the Central avenue crossing, met with a painful accident, and at the same time had an exceedingly narrow escape from being crushed beneath the wheels of a locomotive. He attempted to step upon the pilot of an approaching locomotive and missed his footing. His foot was caught beneath the pilot, and while he held on he was dragged for some distance, his foot being turned and the side and top of it ground into the gravel beneath the pilot.

Wreck Spills Wheat.

GRAFTON.—As a freight train from the west was slowing up for this station a car of stone destined here for street crossings, broke down. Four cars following were demolished and the contents, wheat and corn, scattered about. The front trucks were torn from another car of wheat which remained on the track. Passenger train No. 12, coming just after the wreck, backed to Sutton and went around by way of Lushton.

Killed by Train.

AURORA.—Frank Kilmer, aged about 22, when driving home from a neighborhood dance between 3 and 4 o'clock the other morning, was struck by a B. & M. passenger train and instantly killed at a place known as the Butler crossing, between Aurora and Hampton. It is supposed he was asleep when struck. Both horses were killed.

Former County Clerk Insane.

ALBION.—F. M. Sillik, an early settler of this county and county clerk for two terms, was adjudged insane by the insanity board and taken to Lincoln.

Omaha Man Gets Place.

F. M. Coleman of Omaha has been appointed bailiff of the supreme court to take the place of Henry Leavitt, who will leave the office September 1.

The Blair canning factory is now in operation, using about one hundred tons of sweet corn per day.

House Burned by Tramps.

PLATTSMOUTH.—The large, two-story farm residence of John Wiles, located six miles south of this city, was burned to the ground. None of the members of the family were at home at the time, and when discovered by some men working in a field some distance away the roof was a mass of flames. Some of the household goods were saved, but the men were powerless to stop the progress of the fire. It is believed that the blaze was started by tramps.