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TERMS

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The coming legislature should get up another bill for a constitutional amendment this winter so as to have some more printing for their pets at full legal rates.

Roosevelt and the Railroads.

President Roosevelt's attitude upon the question of amending the interstate commerce law as to compel the railroads to obey the rates fixed by the commission until its findings are reversed by the courts, is creating a great deal of speculation everywhere.

No student of the railroad problem, from the standpoint of individual ownership, will deny that with the law so amended, and an interstate commerce commission strong enough to stand for right, great relief could be realized from it for the people.

Around the railroad trust, woven into and a part of it, are the steel trust, the oil trust, the meat trust, the harvester trust and many others.

That the people have the ear and heart of the president there is little room to doubt, but there is room to doubt the power of the government directed toward the theory of control.

The people must arise, not as politicians, but as patriots, and strike the fatal blow at the trust domination, by owning the railroads.

PORT ARTHUR HAS FALLEN

General Stoessel wrote a letter to General Nogi offering to capitulate Port Arthur, asking for terms and the appointment of commissioners to confer with the same appointed by him.

LETTERS OF SURRENDER.

Tokio, Jan. 2.—General Nogi reports as follows:

"At 5 in the afternoon of January 1, the enemy's bearer of a flag of truce came into the first line of our position south of Shuishiying and handed a letter to our officers.

"Judging by the general condition of the whole line of hostile positions held by you, I find further resistance at Port Arthur useless, and for the purpose of preventing needless sacrifice of lives, I propose to hold negotiations with reference to capitulation.

Shortly after dawn today I will dispatch our bearer of a flag of truce with the following reply addressed to Stoessel:

"I have the honor to reply to your proposal to hold negotiations regarding the conditions and order of capitulation. For this purpose I have appointed as commissioner Major General Ijichi, chief of staff of our army.

A MEMORABLE SIEGE.

The siege and the defense of Russia's stronghold in the far east have been marked by bravery, gallantry and desperation unequalled in modern warfare.

The story of the operations around Port Arthur is one of repeated fighting, both by land and sea, and of the most desperate and thrilling character.

Isolated instances of heroism that would have set the world ringing under less overwhelming circumstances have been dwarfed by the generally magnificent conduct of both forces.

By sea there have been torpedo boat dashes of superb recklessness and big ships have plowed through mine fields with heroic disregard to give battle or in wild efforts to escape.

By land the Japanese have hurled themselves against positions declared to be impregnable. They have faced and scaled rocky heights crowned with batteries and crowded with defenders.

ple have lived under a devastating rain of shell and shrapnel. On scanty rations, besieged on every side, knowing that hope or success or escape was vain, the garrison has fought with a stubbornness that has evoked the admiration of the world.

Over corpse-filled trenches men have fought hand-to-hand with cold steel and clubbed guns, and at short range have hurled at each other hand grenades filled with high explosives.

The whole story is one of undaunted courage and sublime bravery.

What Port Arthur has cost in human life and money is not estimated and even approximate correctness cannot be made. The losses have been appalling.

The defense of the position which fell to her as a heritage after the Chinese-Japanese war, has cost Russia practically her entire fleet in those waters.

Save the three or four cruisers and some lesser craft that lie in the ice-bound refuge of Vladivostok, not a warship now flies the Russian cross in the waters of the northern orient.

And Japan too, has had her losses in the long drawn out operations. Mines have struck from Admiral Togo's fleet many first ships add smaller vessels since the morning of February 8, when he hurled his fleet at the Russian ships in Port Arthur's roadstead.

AT THE BIG EAGLE'S NEST.

Che Foo, Jan. 3.—Noon.—The formal negotiations for the surrender of Port Arthur were held in called the Big Eagle's Nest and it is near Rihlung mountain.

According to the reports of the negotiations received here, General Stoessel's proposal that the Russian sick and wounded should remain under Russian medical supervision and that the Japanese transfer the non-combatants was acceptable to General Nogi.

Midshipman Klisorich, commanding a launch which left Port Arthur last night, said today:

"No shot has been fired at Port Arthur for two days. That which Chinese heard last night was the Russians blowing up forts, ships, magazines, warehouses, docks and everything valuable. When I left Port Arthur the fortress and town were almost completely wrecked.

"You need expect no more ships from Port Arthur as these are unable to leave on account of the blocking of the harbor.

"Colonel Reiss represented General Stoessel in the negotiations for surrender. A table was spread with wine and food at the Eagle's Nest and the envoys treated each other with great courtesy.

forces.

"The statement that there remained 5,000 fighting men at Port Arthur is misleading, because a majority of these are sick or slightly wounded.

"The news that General Stoessel was prepared to treat for surrender was received by the soldiers with the feeling of utmost relief. For the past month severe wounds have been gladly received by the soldiers because they were allowed to rest.

"The bombardment of the last day or so was terrific. Everybody remarked that even General Stoessel must see the futility of further resistance when our guns were unable to reply.

"We might have surrendered a month ago with the highest honor. That resistance has continued effectively since is scarcely less than a miracle.

"It is a mere handful of broken men who surrender and a debris strewn desert which the Japanese gain. No one of Port Arthur's magnificent public works remain.

"The feeling created when General Stoessel took the unwelcome step was generally one of relief.

"The soldiers for whom one month's service has counted for a year are rejoicing that they will soon see their families."

After all is over and Port Arthur is in the hands of the Japanese it mean but little if Russia decides to retake the country. The victory is similar to that of Napoleon at Moscow which had been burned prior to his occupancy.

Democratic Opportunity.

Mr. Bryan has announced through the columns of his paper, The Commoner, that the principal cause of democratic defeat this year was that the men who secured control of the party organization at St. Louis sounded a retreat when a charge should have been ordered all along the line.

It will be necessary to regain control of the party organization. To do this the friends of reform throughout the entire country must work together. A democratic paper of national scope offers the best means for carrying on this work, and The Commoner occupies this field.

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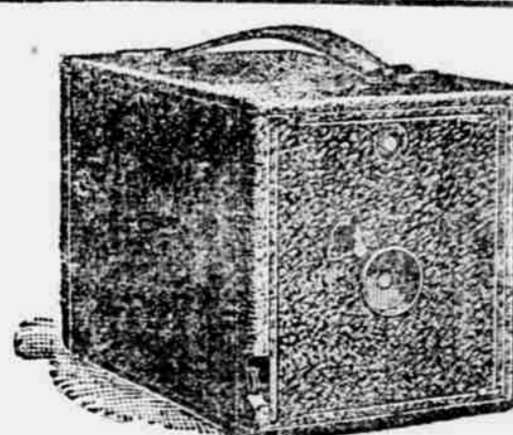
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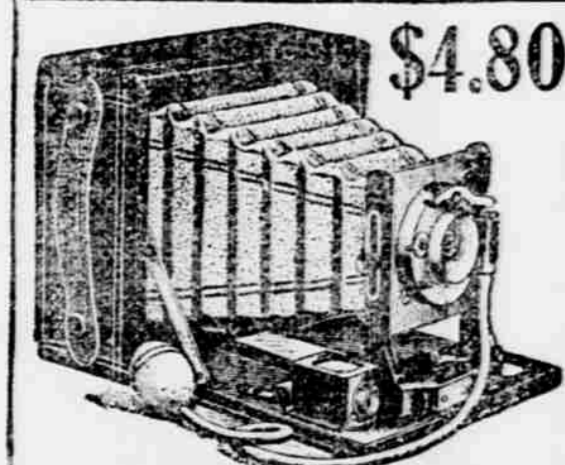
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