

FIRE IN ROCHESTER

Heart of the New York City Converted Into a Colossal Torch.

FLAMES DESTROY RIG BUILDING BLOCKS

Estimated that the Loss Will Be Over Three Million Dollars.

BUFFALO APPEALED TO FOR ASSISTANCE

Dynamite is Used Successfully to Check Spread of the Flames.

NARROW ESCAPES, BUT NO LOSS OF LIFE

Fire Broke Out in the Basement of Rochester Dry Goods Company's Store and Spread Rapidly.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 26.—The sun set tonight with ten engines pouring streams of water on the ruins of most of the retail dry goods quarters of Rochester. Three out of the five department stores in Rochester were consumed in today's fire, which caused a loss of more than \$3,000,000. The Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company, the largest retail store in Rochester, was destroyed.

Of the loss \$750,000 represents buildings and the remainder stocks and furnishings. It is said that 2,500 persons were thrown out of work by the fire. The burned region lies on the north side of the main street, between St. Paul street and Clinton avenue, north from St. Paul street almost the entire length of the block.

The fire started in the basement of the Rochester Dry Goods company, and worked west, burning only one store east of this establishment, that of the Walker Shoe company, before its progress was checked in that direction. Next was the store of the Heald, Sherman company, which was destroyed. Then the Marble Granite building, occupied by the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company, was destroyed and finally the thirteen-story Granite building, the lower part of which also was occupied by the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company, and the upper part by others, was attacked. Only the front wall of the Marble building is standing tonight. The shell of the Granite building is intact and the floors are in place, but the building is gutted.

Only One Accident.

The Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company's six-story wholesale building, together with the stables in the rear, was destroyed with all its valuable contents, this loss being placed at \$1,500,000. There was a very small and some frame dwelling on Division street, a narrow thoroughfare running in the rear of the burned stores and these were damaged by water and falling walls.

There were no deaths and no one was injured except Assistant Chief Frank A. J. Janyne, who was struck by a flying piece of the power on the trolley line running along Main street was removed to avoid danger from electricity and no cars have run through the block where the fire occurred all day. All cars have been stopped and probably will not resume before Monday.

The mayor arrived on the scene soon after the general alarm was sounded. He realized the fire was beyond the control of the local department and appeals for assistance were sent to the Buffalo and Syracuse departments. Nearly five hours later four steamers arrived from Syracuse.

Several engines from the Buffalo fire department arrived at 11 o'clock. At that hour the fire was still burning fiercely, but Chief Little believed that the flames could be kept under control, as there was no wind. The firemen used dynamite only, but the use of explosives was soon abandoned.

Dynamite is Used.

The fire started at 4:30, so early in the morning that very few people were on the street, but by 6 o'clock there were thousands crowding the scene of the disaster.

The explosions of dynamite used to check the spread of the flames was supplemented by the thunder of falling walls. Mayor Cutler and Commissioner of Public Safety Gilman were on the scene shortly after the fire was discovered. Commissioner Gilman estimated the loss at 9 o'clock at between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000.

The interior of the huge Granite building, belonging to Sibley, Lindsay & Curr Co., the upper stories of which were occupied by hundreds of professional men, lawyers, doctors, dentists and business men, was destroyed from the basement to the tenth story. The entire tenth floor, which was the headquarters of the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company, was taken up with offices of the Vacuum Oil company, a branch of the Standard Oil company. At 8:45 there was a tremendous explosion in the basement of the Granite building, where the Sibley company conducted a large drug department. There have been several mysterious explosions in the burned buildings.

Principal Losses in Fire.

Following is a table of the losses:

Granite building.....\$1,000,000
Hull estate.....20,000
Marble building.....25,000
Cutler building.....60,000
Kirkley building.....25,000
Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company.....2,500,000
The loss on stock was as follows:

Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company.....\$1,500,000
Retail.....250,000
Wholesale.....250,000
Tenants in Granite building.....250,000
Heald & Sherman company.....250,000
Rochester Dry Goods company.....250,000
Smaller losses.....80,000

FOUR TRAINMEN ARE KILLED

Locomotive Jumps Track and Boiler Explodes on Iron Mountain in Arkansas.

POPULAR BLUFF, Mo., Feb. 26.—A freight wreck, caused by the locomotive jumping the track and exploding its boiler, occurred on the Cairo branch of the Iron Mountain near Sikeston, Mo., resulting in the death of four trainmen.

The dead were: WILL HACK, engineer, Popular Bluff; FIREMAN HAAS, Popular Bluff; FRANK ANDREWS, brakeman, Popular Bluff; J. CONNOR, brakeman, Bertrand.

The wreck occurred just one mile west of Sikeston on a level place of road while the train was running at passenger speed.

BREAD MAY BECOME HIGHER

Flour Makes Another Advance in Price and Bakers Are Buying Very Sparingly.

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 26.—Another advance of 10 cents a barrel in the price of flour was announced today as the result of the high record wheat prices which were reached on Thursday. Bakers are now buying flour sparingly and an increase in the price of bread is not impossible.

LEFT SEVEN MILLIONS

Appraiser of Estate Shows It Is More Than Was at First Reported.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 26.—Dan R. Hanna and his estate, reported to the probate court today, showed a valuation of \$7,000,000, more than double the amount reported at the time of the presentation of the will for probate. This makes it the largest ever presented for probate in the country.

The holdings of the late senator in the Cleveland Electric Railway company are valued at \$2,000,000. He also was a heavy stockholder in the American Shipbuilding company, Pittsburgh Coal company, Cleveland & Pittsburgh railroad, as well as in M. A. Hanna & Co. His interest in the Western Steamship company, the marine wing of the United States Steel corporation, was disposed of but a short time before his death. He was also interested in a number of other corporations.

In local bank stocks he held 1,000 shares of the Union National bank, of which he was president, valued at 48 cents in the Bank of Commerce, 200 shares, valued at 20 cents in the Federal Trust company, forty-five shares, at 50 cents; Guardian Trust, 250 shares, at 212 cents.

The appraisal of his realty, consisting of his home and much frontage in the business portion of the city, has not been completed.

KEEPS MISSOURIAN IN PRISON

United States Court of Appeals Passes on Case of Nathan Levine.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 26.—Judge Sanborn of the United States circuit court of appeals handed down an opinion in that court today which affirms the sentence of Nathan Levine of St. Louis to confinement in the penitentiary for five years for procuring hundreds of certificates of naturalization from the St. Louis court of appeals by fraud to enable aliens who were not entitled to citizenship to vote in that city.

Levine's counsel challenged his conviction on the ground that the St. Louis court of appeals had no jurisdiction to issue certificates of naturalization so that the procurement of them was no violation of sections 636 and 547 of the revised statutes. The circuit court of appeals holds, (1) that the act of congress which confers upon state courts of common law jurisdiction, the power to naturalize citizens is unconstitutional; (2) that the St. Louis court is a court of common law jurisdiction, and (3) that that court had jurisdiction to naturalize aliens, but Levine was properly indicted and convicted for procuring certificates of naturalization by fraud and that he must serve his sentence.

SCAFFOLDING GIVES WAY

One Man Falls 161 Feet to His Death and Thirty Others Have Narrow Escape.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—One man was killed, another was probably fatally injured and a score of other workmen were barely saved from being crushed beneath a large scaffold which collapsed this afternoon in the center of the new building.

The scaffold was built from the main floor of the building directly beneath its dome to the tenth floor, a distance of 161 feet.

Thirty-five men were working about the dome at the time of the accident and for a time it seemed as if nearly half this number would be killed by the falling timber, but all escaped with the exception of the two plasterers, James Byron and Barney McBride, who were standing on the portion of the scaffolding which collapsed.

Byron, who was working in the center of the scaffold when it gave way, fell to the main floor of the building and was instantly killed. McBride, who was working with Byron, also fell with the scaffolding, but he caught one of the floors as he fell and thus saved himself. His head was severely cut and bruised and his spine injured.

HIGH PRICES IN NEW YORK

Food Stuffs Scarce on Account of Unfavorable Weather, Sea Foods Being Particularly Short.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Practically all foodstuffs, except eggs, have reached extremely high prices in this city owing largely to unfavorable weather. Prices thought to be high a week or two ago now look reasonable for everything that reaches the table. Fish, clams and lobsters are most affected by the severe winter. Oysters never have been so scarce, none coming to the market, except from Providence River. Lobsters, which have been growing scarcer for years, are now hardly obtainable. There is a fair supply of cod and haddock, but the fresh fish, that is fish not frozen and transported a considerable distance, are scarce. Potatoes, beans, cabbage, lentils and other vegetables are higher than for years. Broad and rolls are being raised in various parts of the city and concerted action along this line probably will be taken at a meeting to be held next Monday.

In the tenement house district, where cabbage, beans and other staple articles of food are sold, the peddlers have even doubled their prices on each article sold.

NEED OFFICERS' QUARTERS

Brigadier General Bell Applies to City Officials for Leavenworth for Temporary Accommodations.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Feb. 26.—Brigadier General Bell, commander of the general service and staff college at Fort Leavenworth, has asked city officials whether it will be possible to provide quarters here for the National Guard officers and graduates of military colleges who are to be designated by the president to attend the war college for a two-year term.

Quarters will be provided for the students in this city until quarters can be built at Fort Leavenworth. The class, which is to consist of about 100 officers so chosen, is expected to arrive at Fort Leavenworth by September.

BRYAN CALLS ON MCLELLAN

Nebraska Makes Friendly Visit to Head of New York City Government.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—William J. Bryan called on Mayor McCall today at the city hall and remained in conference for some time. The mayor was summoned from a meeting of the Board of Estimates to meet Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Bryan, at the end of his visit, said that he had made only a friendly call on Mr. McCall, whom he knew very well, and that politics were not discussed.

EUROPE'S NERVES QUIETING

Indications that Serious Complications Are No Longer Feared.

CABINETS TAKE UP PEACEFUL SUBJECTS

England and France Renew Work on Arbitration Treaty Which Was Dropped When Eastern War Broke Out.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The Associated Press is in a position to declare that there will be a dissolution of Parliament within six weeks, and if, as it is expected, the liberals are returned to power, King Edward will summon Lord Spencer, liberal leader in the House of Lords, to form a cabinet. His majesty and all prominent politicians are fully aware of the situation created by the irreconcilable cleavage in the unionists ranks by fiscal and other differences and they are all preparing for a speedy fall of the government and a consequent general election. The government's majorities have been dwindling gradually ever since the beginning of the present session of Parliament.

A majority of 51 out of a nominal 120 or thereabouts, was all the government could muster after a debate of one week on such an important plank of its policy as the fiscal question. A similar small majority saved the government from defeat in a similar question, while last night it could only show a bare majority of 11 against an opposition amendment reducing the important supplementary navy vote. Last night's narrow escape was not very important because it was somewhat in the nature of a "smash quick" vote, but several such incidents make the government's position untenable.

Such large numbers of the government's usual supporters have decided not to stand for re-election that they are indifferent as to when the dissolution occurs, and in spite of all the efforts of the whips it has been found impossible to secure their regular attendance. On the other hand the opposition factions have been gradually healing their differences and their constant attacks on the government have shown rapidly increasing strength. The decision of the government against the Irish university bill, completed the alienation of the nationalists and John Redmond's followers decided at a meeting yesterday to vote with the liberals to turn out the government at the first opportunity.

The resignation of the duke of Devonshire, who was lord president of the council, proved a shattering blow to the already weakened Balfour cabinet and his successor, Lord Lansdowne, is expected to depart from Great Britain's free trade policy.

Those best informed on political matters, including even many persons in close touch with Joseph Chamberlain, anticipate that the liberals will not only win easily at the forthcoming election, but estimate their majority as high as 150.

GERMAN RAILROAD IN CHINA

Emperor Congratulates President of Company on Completion of Line of Tai Nan Foo.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The German Shan Tung railway, extending from Tsingtau to Tai Nan Foo, is approaching completion. It says a Times dispatch from Berlin. The first construction train has just been run from Tsingtau to Tai Nan Foo.

It is estimated that the railway, the west terminus of the railway, will be opened to traffic June 1.

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—Emperor William has telegraphed to Dr. Fischer, president of the Shan Tung railway, as follows:

"The news of the arrival of the first railway train at Tai Nan Foo afforded me much gratification. I congratulate the management upon the success which has been achieved in the far east and hope your indefatigable labors in China will be rewarded with other similar successes."

WILHELM.

THINK THE BALKAN WAR Averted

Feeling in Constantinople that Bulgaria and Turkey Have Agreed.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 26.—In consequence of the understanding already reported, a result of the communications exchanged between the ports and the Bulgarian diplomatic agent here, the conviction prevails that there will be no complications in the spring.

It is understood that Turkey undertakes to grant amnesty to the Bulgarians convicted in 1903, to permit the return of the refugees and to annul the vexatious regulations directed against the Macedonian Bulgarians to stop the Macedonian action in the principality and to prevent the incursions of revolutionary bands.

WILL ENFORCE THE CONVENTION

British Under Secretary for India Tells of Plans in Tibet.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Lord Hardwicke, under secretary for India, in the House of Lords today, replying to the request of Lord Ross, liberal, for further information regarding the British mission to Tibet, said the government was determined to insist on a first settlement regarding the carrying out of the terms of the convention of 1890. The Tibetans had refused to have intercourse with Great Britain, but the result of their continual intercourse with Russia had been to inspire the Tibetans with the feeling that they had Russia behind them and thus they need not fear the British.

This situation the Indian government and his majesty's government could not tolerate for a moment. While Lord Hardwicke refused to pledge the government regarding the limit of Colonel Younghusband's advance into Tibet, he said the mission was to insist on first settlement regarding the carrying out of the terms of the convention of 1890. The Tibetans had refused to have intercourse with Great Britain, but the result of their continual intercourse with Russia had been to inspire the Tibetans with the feeling that they had Russia behind them and thus they need not fear the British.

Russians Destroy Landmarks.

PESHAWAR, British India, Feb. 26.—It is reported that the American boundary pillars on the Afghan-Pakistan border have been destroyed by Russians.

French Organize Troops for Colony.

CHERBOURG, Feb. 26.—A strong contingent of colonial troops is being organized for service in Indo-China.

CHICAGO WHEAT TAKES TUMBLE

May Option Drops More Than Two Cents from Yesterday's Price.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—A loss of over 2 cents a bushel in wheat prices caused wild excitement on the Board of Trade today. Wheat for May delivery, which closed last night at \$1.07 1/2 a bushel, sold today at \$1.05 and the July option was down 2 1/2 cents at \$1.00. Lower prices at Liverpool were the principal cause of the sharp decline.

OPERATOR INTERRUPTS CRIME

Stops Man Who Was Choking Woman in Auditorium Hotel in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—A fashionably dressed young woman 19 years old has been choked almost to insensibility in the corridor of the Auditorium hotel by a man who tried to rob her of her purse. Had it not been for John Reddington, the telephone operator, who was entering the hotel, the thief would have succeeded and murder might have been committed.

Reddington entered the hotel from the Congress street entrance. It is a lonely spot at night, as few persons use that entrance. In this passageway Reddington encountered the young woman and her assailant, whereupon the robber released the girl and seized Reddington by the shoulders, throwing him against the wall. Reddington quickly recovered and clinched with the thief. In the scuffle both men fell to the floor. The assailant relaxed his hold, rose quickly and dashed out the Congress street door. Calmen in Congress street had heard the noise of the scuffle and attempted to trip him, but the fugitive avoided them and escaped.

BERRYS LOVED TROUBLE

According to Witnesses in Murder Case Dewey Was in Constant Danger.

NORTON, Kan., Feb. 26.—Robert M. Culhough, sheriff of Cheyenne county, in the trial of Chauncey Dewey and his two boys today, testified that he went to the home of Alpheus Berry on June 2, 1903, to ask a windmill and water tank. Culhough asked Berry if he was going to make any trouble about the sale of the tank. Berry replied:

"That depends on who comes to get it. There are two or three of the Deweys that I would like to thrash."

Albert Winslow testified the Berrys were all armed. The Dewey men remained in the room until the sale was over. The Berrys boys called Chauncey Dewey a coward and applied vile names to Dewey and Clyde Wilson. Roy Berry told witness of Clyde Wilson being driven off his place at the point of a gun by Mrs. Roy Berry. He said the results would be more serious if he ever caught Wilson on his place again.

PROMINENT JAPANESE ARRIVE

St. Louis Fair Commissioner and Two Diplomats Have Come to America.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 26.—Three important Japanese arrived here on board the Coptic from Yokohama. One is Heremich Shiga, of Tokyo, Japanese commissioner to the St. Louis fair; another is Fiki Hiohi, first secretary of the Japanese legation at Washington, and the third is T. Sakurai, collector of the port of Kobe, one of the most important commercial cities of the empire.

Speaking of the Japanese exhibit at St. Louis, Shiga said:

"It will be very much better and larger than the exhibit Japan had at the Chicago fair. Japan appropriated \$800,000 for the present exhibit. This increased interest and expenditure is an evidence of the cordial friendship of our country for the United States."

Eki Hiohi, the legation secretary, has served his country at St. Petersburg, Peking and at Seoul, Korea. He is now going to take the place of Count Matsui at Washington.

MAY NOW PAY THE DIVIDENDS

Justice Gildersleeve Dissolves Order Restraining Constituent Parts of Amalgamated Copper Company.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Justice Gildersleeve in the supreme court today denied the application of John MacGinnis to have continued the ex parte injunction he recently obtained, enjoining the Boston & Montana Copper Mining company, the Parrott & Anaconda company from paying money for dividends to the Amalgamated Copper company and at the same time he vacated the injunction.

In vacating the injunction Gildersleeve said: "There is no allegation of the insolvent condition of the constituent companies, and it is clear that they are all able to respond to any judgment that might be recovered from them."

CAPTURE TWO BANDITS BOLD

Omaha Small Boys Carrying Pistols Arrested by Police at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—Officer Hagerty arrested Jose Mesa and Michael Lewis at relay depot, East St. Louis, today. The boys stated that they were 15 and 16 years old, respectively, and claim that they came from Omaha to see "Bill" Rudolph when he landed in St. Louis. They declared they had read much about the desperado and wanted to see him life.

Several books dealing with Rudolph's adventures have been disposed of in Omaha, they say, but the boys believed they could get more information by seeing the man in the flesh. Each had two pistols and one carried brass knuckles.

PRESS FEEDERS GO TO JAIL

Men Interfere with Nonunion Employees and Court Imposes Fines and Sentences.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Today, for the second time, Judge Jesse Holdom fined Franklin Union of Press Feeders \$1,000 for violation of an injunction which was obtained to the Chicago Typothetae, charging the union with interfering with nonunion employees. Besides fining the union, Judge Holdom today fined President Wedner \$250, in addition to a jail sentence of six months. Jerome Collins and Harry Brown, members of the union, were given short jail sentences.

RAID COUNTERFEIT DEN

Detectives Make Four Arrests and Secure Plaster of Paris Moulds and Spurious Coins.

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill., Feb. 26.—Detectives tonight raided a room occupied by four men suspected of counterfeiting and placed them under arrest. The prisoners are William Croy, Harry W. Kane, John C. Davis and Roy Sanborn. Mrs. William Croy, wife of one of the men, and Mrs. Nettie Wilson, the keeper of the boarding house, were held as witnesses. A trunk, in which were plaster-of-Paris coin moulds, and two spurious coins were seized by the detectives.

DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT

End Expected in Six Weeks and New Cabinet Looked For.

GOVERNMENT MAJORITIES DWINDLING

Unpopular Attitude on Important Questions, with a Weak Cabinet, Factors that Strengthen Side of the Liberals.

(Copyright, by New York Herald Co., 1904.) LONDON, Feb. 26.—(New York Herald Cablegram—Special Telegram to The Bee.)—In these days when the woods are filled with rumors of possible and in some cases apparently possible international entanglements, it is quite refreshing to come across some actual tangible fact of such importance that anything more than a simple brief statement of its character is unnecessary. Here is such a fact. Some time ago, when the condition of affairs in the far east was beginning to cause most serious alarm, and when fears of European difficulties growing out of that situation were most intense, the work which had been taken in hand by the French and British governments of determining which questions would come within the scope of the Anglo-French arbitration treaty, signed by Lord Lansdowne and M. Delcasse, was dropped. I do not suggest that the head of either the French or the British Foreign office ordered it dropped because of a fear that questions which did not admit of that method of arbitration might speedily arise, but merely state the fact that the work was dropped.

Now, within the last week, so to speak, that work was taken up again, both at Downing street and the Quai d'Orsay. Herald readers will judge for themselves whether this is not a significant sign of the times, and one showing that in the highest official quarters in Paris and London it is hoped and believed that any danger of a serious misunderstanding between the two countries has been dispelled. The hour has come when the two countries are considered likely to have done with the matter of a treaty not designed for very serious affairs.

CEAR BLESSED SOLDIERS IN FIELD.

Issues Address When Appointing General Kouropatkin Commander.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 26.—A stirring manifesto to the army was issued by the czar today in the form of a message to General Kouropatkin, the commander-in-chief of the Russian army in the far east, as follows:

"Although as head of the military administration you have worked with energy and assiduity to reorganize and perfect the army, your work is not yet done. The hour has come when you must turn your head and dignity of Russia and its sovereign rights in the far east to the defense of our country. I am glad to entrust to you the responsible command of my Manchurian army against the Japanese, only trusting that your leaving your work as commander-in-chief will be a temporary one. May God help you in your difficult task, which you will with such self-denial have treated as your own."

A long official telegram giving details of the attack on Port Arthur February 25 was received this afternoon and is now in the hands of the military censorship committee. The correspondent of the Associated Press learns that the attack developed into a general engagement between the Japanese squadron and the Russian squadron and forts, which continued for three hours and resulted in the repulse of the Japanese.

The Red Cross society ordered its Siberian agents to provide 1,000,000 additional pounds of meat and sterilized milk. Reports have been received here to the effect that spring is commencing in southern Manchuria. The weather is warm and the ice on the rivers is expected to break up. In northern Manchuria the rigors of winter are still unabated.

FEAR EUROPEAN ENTANGLEMENTS.

Denmark, Sweden and Norway Combining for Mutual Protection.

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The Temps correspondent at Copenhagen telegraphs that the highest political authorities there are occupied constantly with the plans for united action on the part of Denmark and Sweden and Norway for mutual protection and neutrality in the event of the Russo-Japanese war causing European entanglements.

According to this correspondent Denmark is able to call out for active service 1,500 coast artillerymen and to commission four armored ships and four torpedo boat destroyers. A drive against the Baltic Mediterranean has been ordered to return to Copenhagen. Finally the correspondent says the treaty of arbitration signed by Denmark and the Netherlands February 16 permits other countries to take the same terms.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 26.—Replying to an interpretation today in the lower house of the Danish Parliament, the premier, Prof. Deuster, explained the necessity for preparations to assure the complete neutrality of Denmark during the Russo-Japanese war. In order adequately to secure the sea defense of Copenhagen, he said, reserve men had been called out, the forts had been equipped with searchlights and electric cables, the submarine mine stations had been manned, four torpedo boats had been cleared for action, repairs to the warships had been hastened, various improvements in the materials of the navy, especially torpedoes, were being made and two redoubts were being built at Saltholm island.

ALEXIEFF REPORT OF THE BATTLE.

Discrepancy in Hour of Attack as Reported by Flag.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 26.—A. M.—A copy of a telegram from Viceroy Alexieff to the czar has just been given out. It is dated February 25. The place from whence it is sent is not given, but is supposed to be Mukden. The message says:

"A squadron of the enemy's vessels numbering sixteen approached the fortress at about 1 o'clock this morning and opened a bombardment on the cruisers Askold, Bayan and Novik, which were in the outer harbor, and on the forts. The attack continued for half an hour. Then our cruisers went into the harbor. The enemy fired several minutes on one of our batteries and then began to leave. They stopped within sight of the fort, but out of range of fire."

"At this time four of the enemy's cruisers detached themselves from the squadron and proceeded to Pigeon bay, where they quickly opened fire on our torpedo boats and our gunboats. They directed also a strong cannonade against the forts. The firing there lasted for thirty minutes, but no landing was made. The Japanese cruisers then departed. Suitable measures have been taken to oppose a possible effort on the part of the enemy to creep up by sea."

"Our loss today was one man wounded at the fortress."

"Respectfully report the above to your imperial majesty."

ALEXIEFF.

NEBRASKA WEATHER FORECAST

Fair Saturday and Warmer in East Portion Sunday Fairly Clear with Probable Snow and Colder in West Portion.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday:

Hour.	Temp.	Hour.	Temp.
5 a. m.	13	1 p. m.	22
6 a. m.	12	2 p. m.	20
7 a. m.	12	3 p. m.	20
8 a. m.	12	4 p. m.	20
9 a. m.	13	5 p. m.	20
10 a. m.	14	6 p. m.	20
11 a. m.	10	7 p. m.	20
12 m.	10	8 p. m.	20

WRECKED SHIPS OF LITTLE VALUE.

Rivalry of Naval Men Gives Civilians a Chance.

TOKIO, Feb. 26.—Vice Admiral Togo's attempt to bottle up the Russian fleet at Port Arthur by sinking a fleet of torpedoed merchant steamers in the mouth of the harbor evidently failed, although the venture caused no loss of life and the vessels lost were not of great value.

Five ships were prepared by Vice Admiral Togo for this attempted blockade. Four are reported to have been sunk, but the fate of the fifth is unknown. Here it is presumed that it withdrew with the other Japanese vessels. The five vessels were filled with stones so as to make the obstruction permanent and were manned by volunteer merchant crews. It was impossible to select naval officers and sailors because of their great rivalry to participate in the daring venture.

Accompanied by four battleships, nine cruisers and numerous vessels of the torpedo flotilla, the stone-laden steamers reached Port Arthur on Wednesday. While the fleet engaged the shore batteries the torpedo boats planned for it. It is said that all of the crews of the four vessels escaped in boats and were picked up by the Japanese torpedo boat destroyers. The report that two of the torpedo boat destroyers were sunk by the Russians is denied.

The naval department has received a brief dispatch from the commander of one of the torpedo boat destroyers saying that no lives and war ships were destroyed and little damage was inflicted by the Russians. Pending the report of Admiral Togo the naval department declines to make any announcement regarding the affair.