

TORNADO BLOTS OUT LIVES

Furious Windstorm Sweeps Over Missouri and Does Much Damage

EXPECTED LOSS OF LIFE WILL BE LARGE

Live Stock Is Killed and in One Place Entire Family of Four Is Wiped Out of Existence.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 28.—A special to the Commercial Appeal from Carruthersville, Mo., says:

A tornado swept the country twenty miles north of here last night, causing a great loss of life and destroying thousands of dollars worth of property.

The wires have been down all day and authentic news is hard to get, but as the latest reports come in the loss of life and property increases. It is now known that six lives have been lost and thousands of dollars worth of property destroyed.

The lives of the Shumaker family, living near Portageville, four in number, were blotted out and their home demolished. The family of Wesley Miller, living two miles west of Mount Pleasant, was killed and their home demolished. Their bodies were found 200 yards away badly mutilated. Mr. Miller was a wealthy mill owner and planter.

Fifty hundred dollars in money belonging to him was found scattered over the ground. Much stock was killed and wounded. Chickens were found with their heads cut off and stripped of their feathers. Fence posts were blown from the ground and giant trees were twisted aside like straws. It is feared a full report will reveal greater loss of life.

LOOK FOR MOVEMENTS SOON

Coming of Spring Likely to Witness Activity in War Operations.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—(New York Herald Service—Special Telegram to The Bee.)—Military men here are now looking for more rapid developments in the land campaigns in the far east. The firmness with which Vice Admiral Makaroff appears to be handling the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, which is shown to be still open, despite previous reports it has been closed, caused an impression most favorable to Russian prestige.

General Kouropatkin's hurried journey toward Manchuria leads to a general belief that when the natural battleground of Manchuria is released from the grasp of winter the Russian plan of campaign will become aggressive. Even from the meager advices received in Washington it is evident that Russia is maintaining a strict surveillance over the operations and tendencies of the Chinese army in the northern part of the empire. General Yuan Kai Kai, the Chinese commander, is known to be a violent pro-Japanese sympathizer who introduced a system of instruction by Japanese officers in the Chinese service. He is constantly suspected by Russia of working to embroil China in the present war as an active ally of Japan, despite the declared neutrality of China.

Russia holds more grave fears than does any other power of the danger of violation of Chinese neutrality. Russia is extremely anxious to know to what length the United States will join with the other neutral powers in enforcing the maintenance of neutrality in China. Secretary Hay, who addressed all the powers on the subject of neutrality, was satisfied with their adherence to the principle. Therefore no agreement was made as to action if China did threaten at any future time to join in the war.

NORTHEAST PASSAGE IMPRACTICAL.

Russian Admiral Who Has Made It Gives This Opinion.

BERLIN, March 28.—(New York Herald Cablegram—Special Telegram to The Bee.)—A dispatch to Berlin from Stockholm gives an account of an interview with Admiral Calander regarding the proposal that the Russian Baltic fleet proceed to Vladivostok by the northeast passage, instead of through the Bering canal.

Admiral Calander speaks with authority, as he commanded the Vega, which made the voyage some years ago. He declares it is quite impossible for the fleet to make the voyage. Maps of the Siberian coast were very unreliable during the voyage of the Vega and they had to take soundings continually. If the warships were caught in the ice and had to winter in the Arctic regions the crews would perish of cold or die of hunger. Admiral Calander considered the scheme to be madness.

The attitude of China continues to excite the greatest anxiety here, but the foreign office learns, however, that the commander of the 22,000 troops on the Manchurian frontier has received orders to withdraw into the interior, which he is now doing.

PROCLAMATION OF NEUTRALITY.

Chinese Governor of Manchuria Issues Notices.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 28.—A proclamation issued by the Chinese governor of Manchuria has been received here. It directs that all Chinese in Manchuria shall observe neutrality and attend strictly to business, and particularly to refrain from lamaging railroad and telegraph lines. They are also ordered to report any such attempts immediately.

General Tshitalagoff, commanding the railroad work in Manchuria, has forbidden the people to carry arms within a strip sixty versts wide which the railroad traverses. The order restricts the operations of Chinese troops and prohibits the pursuit of Chinese bandits by Chinese militia, except with special permission. It appeals

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JAPANESE BOATS NOT DAMAGED.

Correspondent Gets Good View of Attacking Fleet After Battle.

LONDON, March 28.—The Times' correspondent on a dispatch boat in the far east reports having seen a Russian squadron of five battleships and cruisers thirty miles southwest of Port Arthur Saturday morning steering for Port Arthur, their exposed flank being protected by a line of torpedo boat destroyers.

The same correspondent, writing on Sunday, says he saw the Japanese fleet leaving Port Arthur after the fight of that morning which he was too late to witness. A close examination of the vessels showed no sign of their having had hard usage.

The correspondent remarks that the Russian ships are using Japanese coal, the smoke of which can be detected at from fifteen to twenty miles distant, while the Japanese are burning Welsh coal, which makes very little smoke.

GOVERNMENT IS MAKING HEADWAY.

Revolutionary Contest in San Domingo is Losing Ground.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Information received at the Navy department today from Admiral Wise at Guantanamo indicates that the Morates government is making headway in the revolutionary contest in San Domingo. The admiral reports that it is now in possession of all of the ports of the island except the small one of Monte Cristi, on the north coast. This news was brought to Guantanamo by the commanding officers of the Hartford and the Yankee, which have returned to that place from San Domingo waters. They also report that matters are now quiet in San Domingo. The Topeka remains at San Domingo City.

SAYS CITY WAS OVERCHARGED

Plumbing Inspector Lynch Blams Fault with Work and Bill of T. F. Balfe.

It is said Plumbing Inspector Lynch, in a report he is about to make to the council, will criticize the manner in which hot water apparatus and plumbing were placed in most of the fire engine houses recently, and will declare the city might have saved from \$300 to \$500 had it gone about the business properly. Several months ago the council, at the request of firemen, instructed that apparatus to heat water for bathing be placed in each house at a cost not to exceed \$80 each. This was the estimate of Building Inspector Withnell and he was told to have the work executed. When the bills came in it was found the authorized amount had been greatly exceeded in nearly every case. A committee of the council found that T. F. Balfe had done the work and that, in addition to putting in the heaters, had done considerable other plumbing. The same committee found, also, that all the work done was badly needed and recommended the bills be paid. Councilman Hope opposed this and succeeded in having the bills referred to Plumbing Inspector Lynch. The latter says the contractor made a profit of from 40 to 50 per cent on the material sold the city, and that work that required from eight to nine days could be performed in four to five days. The total bill amounts to more than \$1,000.

UNCONSCIOUS AT THROTTLE

Engineer Struck by Missile as Passenger Train Pulls Out of St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, March 28.—When the "Motor" westbound fast passenger train on the St. Louis & San Francisco road, pulled out of Union station today a missile struck Engineer James C. Lindberg on the head, and his unconscious body hung half way out of the cab window as the train suddenly plunged ahead at terrific speed, the throttle having been jerked open as the engineer fell back. Fireman Charles F. Buschert sprang to the throttle and brought the train to a standstill after it's flight of eight blocks through the railroad yards.

BURIED UNDER TONS OF STONE

Stone Arch Near Ponca City Gives Way and Buries Contractor and Workmen.

GUTHRIE, Okl., March 28.—O. R. Strickland, a prominent contracting mason of Ray county, and William Shaul of Ponca City were killed while engaged in pulling the frame work from a stone arch bridge northwest of Ponca City. The arch fell and Strickland and Shaul were buried under tons of stone. The bodies were horribly mangled.

RIDE ENDS IN TRAGEDY

Party Throws Out of Automobile in Central Park and Woman is Killed.

NEW YORK, March 28.—Four persons in an automobile, owned and driven by Jerome Yeager, were thrown out while the car was swinging around a sharp curve in Central park today. Miss Florence Maas of the Hotel Euclid was picked up unconscious and died soon after being taken home, and Solomon Strook was seriously injured. The rest escaped unhurt.

PREACHES ON THE HILL OF MARS.

Rev. John Potts of Toronto Addresses Americans in Athens.

Movements of Ocean Vessels March 27. At New York—Arrived: La Gascona from Havre; Etruria from Liverpool and Queenstown; Melike from Hamburg; Southampton and "borough" from St. Louis; from Southampton and Cherbourg; Patria from Marseilles and Naples; Ciria di Milano from Genoa; Naxos from Marseilles. At London—Arrived: The Lizard—Passed: Minneapolis from New York for London. At Holyhead—Passed: Kronland from New York for Antwerp. At Southampton—Arrived: Canonic from Boston via Gibraltar; Algiers and Genoa for Alexandria, and proceeded. At Liverpool—Arrived: Bovio from New York; Umbria from New York via Queenstown. At Southampton—Arrived: St. Paul from New York via Plymouth and Cherbourg. At Antwerp—Arrived: Rotterdam from Rotterdam for New York. At Glasgow—Arrived: Numidian from New York. At Queenstown—Arrived: Lucania from London for New York.

IN THE INSURANCE FIELD

John M. Newburger, special agent of the Atlas of London and Kings county, was in the city Friday to make arrangements for a transfer of agencies in the local field. Wheeler & Wheeler will hereafter represent the company in this state.

The great prairie fires which have been raging in the western portion of the state during the last week have given local insurance agents little concern, owing to the fact that the loss is principally confined to agricultural risks, and these are principally carried in farmers' mutuals. Of late years nearly all the regular companies have ceased writing agricultural insurance on account of the fact that it has failed to pay them. The Phenix of Brooklyn and the State Insurance company are exceptions to the rule. It is the opinion at the local headquarters of these companies that there will be some losses reported, but up to Saturday no reports had been received of any having occurred.

E. R. Perfect, special agent of the American Security company, has gone to Rockford, Ill.

E. S. Freeman, special agent in the local field for the Milwaukee Mechanics, is still in Baltimore, where he went to assist in the adjustment of his company's losses in the great fire.

F. W. Little, adjuster for the Glens Falls, is in Utah. He will spend about two weeks in that state and Colorado on business connected with his company's interests.

Raymond Barnum, general agent of the Glens Falls, is in Lemars, Ia., where he has gone on business.

George Dodson, special agent for a number of companies as a member of the firm of Meikle & Dodson, is absent from the city. He has gone east.

Insurance men generally are very much pleased to see the old poles being removed from the streets. These poles have proved a great source of hindrance and annoyance to the fire department at all times, and every one which is removed affords the department that much better show for checking any fire which may occur. It is the opinion of all fire insurance men that the streets should be cleared as rapidly as possible of all things which may act as impediments in the way of firemen during a fire.

Some of the leading insurance men of the city are taking an active interest in the Civic Improvement league, not only on account of a desire on their part to beautify the city generally but also on the side of safety. D. H. Wheeler of Wheeler & Wheeler is one of those who are interesting themselves. He is chairman of the committee which has in charge the regulation of signs and sign boards, and is taking a great interest in the matter. It is Mr. Wheeler's belief that with a little push and energy all the box signs in the business district, and especially those which ornament the outward edge of the sidewalks, can be done away with. After a little missionary work is done in securing the removal of this class of signs it is the intention of the league to go after the signs which cross the sidewalks overhead. The principal difficulty, it is said, which interferes with the removal of the signs is the fact that there are two factions to contend with; the man who owns the sign and the electric lighting company which furnishes light to illuminate a number of them. It is believed that the lighting company will make a hard fight to continue the signs.

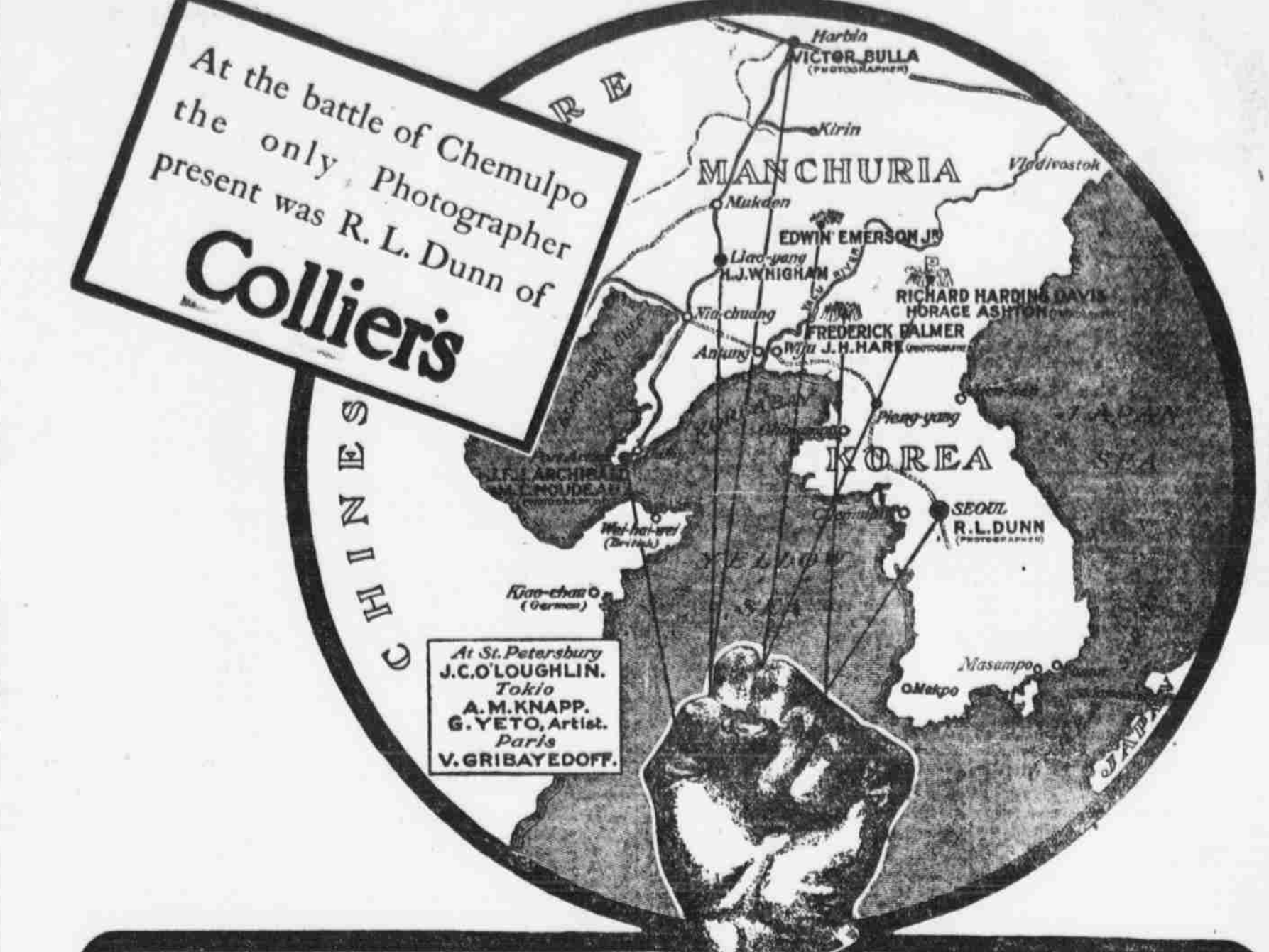
An excellent opportunity was afforded local business and insurance men to observe the efficiency of the sprinkler system in actual operation during the week. Thursday forenoon a fire broke out in the southeast corner of Hayden Brook's basement. Before any of the employees of the store had an opportunity to turn in an alarm to the fire department the sprinkler had accomplished its work and the fire was out. One of the clerks in the department, who was near the blaze when it started, said that the sprinkler threw a perfect deluge of water, and that the fire had absolutely no chance to gain headway under the spray. The work of the sprinkler was entirely automatic, as no one had time to assist in extinguishing the flames. Two of the flexible plugs were melted out by the heat, which was considered only slight, and both of the plugs worked to perfection. No one outside of the basement knew that a fire had occurred until some time after it was out. It is said by those who saw the fire that in case there had been no sprinkler to quench the flames it would have had such a good start by the time the department could have been on the scene that there would undoubtedly have been a great deal of difficulty experienced in extinguishing it. The fire occurred among materials of very inflammable nature. The principal point of superiority of the system was fully exemplified in this instance, and that is that the apparatus is at all times ready for business and does not depend on its work just as effectively had the fire occurred at midnight, when there was no one about, as it did in the daytime. This being the first fire which has occurred in Omaha to prove the efficiency of the apparatus, everyone concerned is very much pleased over the outcome.

Kennard & Lower have received souvenir postal cards which are being sent out from Baltimore to show the effects of the fire upon so-called fireproof construction. Some of the buildings in the pictures are still standing intact with the exception of the window frames and everything of an inflammable nature which the building contained. Although the walls are left standing a large amount of money will be required to place the buildings in as good condition as they were prior to the configuration. It is said that in most cases the buildings will have to be rebuilt. Experts say that although the flames had not been able to enter the building the heat would have been sufficiently intense from surrounding buildings to have consumed everything inside which would burn.

A report has been received by Kennard & Lower, state agents for the Milwaukee Mechanics, to the effect that that company has, up to date, paid out \$285,012.31 in losses resulting from the Baltimore fire. This total loss was covered by 192 policies. A few of the minor losses have not yet been settled on account of small differences which have arisen. It is said that the matter will be disposed of within another week or ten days. Copies of letters are also enclosed, with the statement to Kennard & Lower, to show how well satisfied Baltimore firms who have had dealings with the company are as a result of the promptness in settling.

A subagency of the Svea Insurance company has been established with Isaac Coles by Special Agent Parker.

President Robinson of the Bankers Reserve Life stated Saturday afternoon that his company had received during the previous twenty-four hours applications for over \$50,000 of insurance. He reports that the new states which have recently been opened up by the company are responding nobly, and that everything points to a liberal patronage from the new territory. The state in which the company has recently established



Collier's representative was the only one to photograph the Japanese troops landing at Chemulpo; the "Korietz" at the very instant she blew up; the burning of the "Variag"; Russian soldiers nursed by Japanese; etc.

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lished offices are North Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Idaho and Washington. The new business written by the company during the first quarter of 1904 shows an increase of over 50 per cent as compared with the corresponding period for 1903. The daily income of the company now averages over \$1,000, which is more than can be satisfactorily placed on farm loans at the present time. President Robinson says that at the end of 1904 his company will have \$10,000,000 insurance in force.

The news of the sudden death of Eugene Carey, western manager of the German-American insurance company, announced from St. Louis, was received with regret by local insurance men generally. Mr. Carey has been a very strong man in the business for many years, and has always stood for improved methods and the advancement of the business in general. It is said that Judge Carey had just finished a very brilliant address at the banquet tendered insurance men by the World's fair officials. At the close he proposed the health of President Francis of the exposition. The toast was drunk and President Francis was waiting for the applause to subside. Judge Carey lighted a cigar and the next moment fell from his chair dead.

The Omaha fire losses as reported by Chief Salter for 1903 were \$504,000, of which only \$38,525 was uninsured. This is the heaviest fire loss which has occurred in the city since 1885. The gross insurance premiums for the year were approximately \$400,000, of which perhaps from 18 to 20 per cent went to agents for writing the business. This would out of the gross premiums actually received by the companies down to about \$300,000. It is the opinion of local insurance men that every precaution should be taken by the citizens of Omaha to keep the loss rate down. The late fires which have occurred and which are said to have been of incendiary origin, are causing considerable comment among insurance men. While no large fires have occurred as a result of the operation of the incendiary, insurance men are somewhat worked up over the matter and believe that everything should be done to apprehend the author of the fires.

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