

MAY GIVE UP PORT

Signs Point to Evacuation of Port Arthur.

CZAR TAKES NEW COUNSEL

General Who Favors Step to Aid in Planning Campaign.

DEEM ALEXIEFF A BLUNDERER

People Are Beginning to Fear That Port Arthur Fleet, and Perhaps That at Vladivostok, Will Be Lost.

SPECIAL CABLE.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 3.—General Dragomiroff, ex-Governor-General of Kieff, and one of the best posted of Russian military experts, has been summoned to the capital by the czar to take part in the deliberations regarding the conduct of the war, and incidentally to aid in the preparation of the plan of campaign.

This step on the part of the czar is regarded as highly significant, in view of the fact that General Dragomiroff has severely criticized Admiral Alexieff's policy, and has insisted that the sensible policy would have been to direct both the army and navy to evacuate Port Arthur, and not to have permitted the Japanese to shut them up like rats in a trap. Such a retreat, he has maintained, would have been a sensible policy, and would prevent further great disasters to the Russian army.

While General Dragomiroff's published strictures have been promptly repudiated by the government, and his statement that Port Arthur should be abandoned has been criticized in severe terms by General Kouropatkin and other high army chiefs, it is nevertheless a fact that there is a general feeling that Admiral Alexieff is directly to blame for the disasters that have followed the beginning of hostilities. He is declared to have committed such blunders, both of commission and omission, that the whole Port Arthur fleet, and possibly the Siberian squadron now penned up in Vladivostok harbor, must inevitably be lost to Russia.

Stops Street Demonstrations.

The feeling through Russia is so strong that the czar has felt constrained to order Count von Plehve to repress even the patriotic street manifestations. It is held that these demonstrations are not only very often inappropriate, inasmuch as they celebrate only imaginary victories, but that they are likely to produce counter-manifestations from the revolutionists, especially from the students, who are members of the secret societies that are planning an uprising.

It is an acknowledged fact that the police pay rough characters to turn out and shout for the czar and the government in order that they may call the attention of the higher officials to the "patriotism" of the people, and this fact has aroused the indignation of many of the more enlightened class. Many citizens are not only disgusted with such artificial and more or less drunken exhibitions, but they are also opposed to the war, and some of them feel so strongly that they have even ventured to protest.

The students of the high schools and universities have protested emphatically

against the "royal addresses" in regard to the war, drawn up by the professors who desire to carry favor with the authorities. Similar protests have been made by the students in St. Petersburg polytechnic schools and the engineering institute. The attitude of the pupils of the high school for women in St. Petersburg has caused the authorities to close the institution, owing to the strength of the anti-war feeling.

AWFUL CONDITIONS AT HARBIN

Russians Suffer From Hunger and the Cold is Increasing.

SPECIAL CABLE.

ROME, March 3.—The Agenzia Liberia has received a dispatch from its correspondent at Harbin in which the latter states the conditions are frightful. There is a scarcity of supplies for the Russian troops already in Manchuria, and those arriving daily carry but scant commissary stores. Many of the troops, he declares, are actually suffering with hunger.

The correspondent states that the Arctic cold is increasing the death rate among the troops until it is approaching alarming proportions. The officers in charge of the commissary arrangements are grossly incompetent, and the confusion is intolerable.

Vladivostok, the correspondent declares, will prove an easy prey to the Japanese. The country between it and Harbin is filled with Manchuzos, who are in such force that it would require an army division to dislodge them. The officials know this, and will make no attempt at present to send reinforcements to the beleaguered port.

HOPE FOR RUSSIA'S SUCCESS.

Austrian Christian Socialists Adopt Strong Resolutions.

SPECIAL CABLE.

VIENNA, March 3.—At one of the largest adopted meetings ever held here of Christian Socialists, a resolution was adopted praying heaven's blessing upon the Russian arms, and wishing Russia a brilliant victory over the yellow race. Several municipal councilors and one priest explained to the meeting that the Japanese cause was identical with that of the Jews, and consequently all good "Christians" must wish that neither the Japanese nor the Jews shall come out of the war with a whole skin.

Russia, they declared, deserves the sympathies of all nations, because she has been nearest the hearts of those who hate the Jews.

VLADIVOSTOK IS ISOLATED.

Japanese Tear Up Railway and Cut Telegraph Line.

SPECIAL CABLE.

TOKIO, March 3.—It is reported that a mile and a quarter of the branch line of the Trans-Siberian railway connecting Vladivostok and Harbin has been destroyed at a point outside of Min Guma, a town midway between the two terminals. The Japanese agents who performed this feat also removed the telegraph wire along the line, thus effectively isolating Vladivostok.

No Trace of Japanese Fleet.

SPECIAL CABLE.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 3.—The War Office has given out what purports to be a summary of an official telegram from Viceoy Alexieff, which states that Admiral Stark, commanding the Port Arthur squadron, reports that there was no attack by the Japanese on February 23 or 24. On March 1, Admiral Stark reports he made a reconnaissance with his cruisers and destroyers within a radius of 60 miles, but failed to discover any trace of the enemy.

LONDON SENDS TROOPS TO CHINA.

LONDON, March 3.—Orders were issued today to dispatch 2000 troops to reinforce the British garrison at Malta. It is believed that this movement is made to facilitate the reinforcing of the stations in China later should necessity arise. Four hundred troops were also ordered to China to raise the local stations there to war strength.

FELL WITH CRASH

Skeleton of Tall Building Collapses.

FIVE KNOWN TO BE DEAD

Eight or Ten Missing and About a Score Hurt.

FLOORS ARE OVERLOADED

Timbers Go Through Hotel Near By and Kill Woman at Luncheon—Buildings in Vicinity of Accident Are All Shaken.

NEW YORK, March 2.—

Fourteen persons are believed to have been killed, of whom the bodies of only five have been recovered, about a score injured and several are missing through the collapse today of the steel skeleton of the Hotel Darlington, a 15-story apartment-house in course of erection at 57 West Forty-sixth street. The steel framework had been erected as far as the 11th floor and the structure was swarming with ironworkers, masons and laborers, when, without an instant's warning, the upper floor sagged and collapsed, and the whole structure fell with a crash that was heard for blocks and shook all the buildings in the vicinity.

A portion of the steel frame fell upon the rear of the Hotel Patterson, on West Forty-seventh street, crushing in the wall of the dining-room and killing Mrs. Ella Lacey Storrs, wife of Frank Storrs, a wealthy resident of Rye, Westchester County, as she was sitting at luncheon with the wife of Rev. Dr. Minot Savage, who escaped unhurt.

The other dead, so far as known, are Frederick Morrill, foreman of the Roeb. Ling Construction Company; Farrell I. Pagan, a derrick man, and two unidentified men, apparently laborers.

The more seriously injured, with one exception, laborers on the building, are: Joseph Sinto, Andrew Maher, James W. Sath, Henry Strobe, Tony Smith, Demie McGinnis, Frederick Weissenmuller, Gottlieb Witterau, A. V. Benter, Joseph Gentry and Ernest Peiter, a waiter employed in the Hotel Patterson.

Rescue Work Promptly Begun.

Among those missing is Frank J. Allison, of the Allison Realty Company, the builder of the hotel, who is known to have been in the building when it fell.

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Major Harrison, of Chicago, gains control of Cook County Democracy by strategy. Page 3. Colonel W. M. Bidpath announces his candidacy for Governorship of Washington. Page 4. Pacific Coast.

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AT BOTTOM OF IT

Hitchcock Only Signed, Never Read Report.

OREGON CASE IN POINT

Booth and Bridges Commended, Not Censured.

PRESIDENT INSPECTS PAPERS

Secretary Says Commissioner Told Him Finding Was Adverse to Roseburg Officials, So He Opposed Them.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash-

ington, March 2.—The Senate today confirmed the nominations of Joseph T. Bridges as Register, and James H. Booth as Receiver, of the Roseburg Land Office, and incidental to that action there comes to light the inside facts showing why President Roosevelt reappointed these two officials over the repeated protests of Secretary Hitchcock. On the occasion of the recent conference at the White House, when the Oregon Senators requested the President to reappoint Bridges and Booth, the President determined to go to the bottom of the affair, and ascertain on what grounds the Secretary based his opposition.

Aside from his objections to Booth because of his connection with the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company, Secretary Hitchcock admitted, when pressed, that he had indeed an adverse recommendation made on these two men by Land Commissioner Richards, and he said the Commissioner's recommendation was based upon an adverse report of an inspector who had been to Roseburg.

"Let's see the report of that inspector," said the President. As he handed it over, Secretary Hitchcock explained he had not read it himself, but had been assured by the Commissioner that it bore out the adverse recommendation. The President read but a little way into the report when he looked up in amazement.

"Mr. Secretary," he said, "you certainly have not read this report. It does not clear you out in any way, whatever. Why, I find it commends both Bridges and Booth in the highest terms, and the inspector even goes so far as to express his doubt if better men could be found to fill the office."

After reading the report through the President turned to Secretary Hitchcock and demanded an explanation of why he had persisted in opposing the reappointment of Bridges and Booth when he had no grounds for doing so. The Secretary's explanation was that he had taken the Commissioner's recommendation as the basis for his objection.

Further investigation disclosed the fact that Commissioner Richards had no knowledge of the facts concerning Bridges and Booth, but upon his return to Washington from a temporary absence had

SMOOT ON TRIAL

Senate Committee Begins Its Investigation.

ASKS LIGHTON MORMONISM

President Smith Testifies as to Tenets of Church.

HE BELIEVES IN POLYGAMY

Utmost Latitude Will Be Allowed in the Hearing—Protestants Regard the Ruling as a Victory.

SENATE COMMITTEE.

Julius C. Burrows, Michigan. George F. Hoar, Massachusetts. Louis E. McComas, Maryland. Joseph B. Foraker, Ohio. Chauncey M. Depew, New York. Albert J. Beveridge, Indiana. William P. Dillingham, Vermont. Albert J. Hopkins, Illinois. Edmund W. Pettus, Alabama. Fred J. Dubois, Idaho. Joseph W. Bailey, Texas. Lee E. Swann, North Carolina. James F. Clarke, Arkansas.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—An effort to unearth secrets of the Mormon faith was manifested in the first day's proceedings before the Senate committee on privileges and elections, which is investigating the protests against Reed Smoot retaining his seat as a Senator from Utah. President Joseph F. Smith, the highest official of the church, was on the stand all day. He was questioned closely in regard to the principles of divine revelations. He said he adhered to all the teachings of the church in that regard, and he himself had been visited with divine inspirations from God directing him as to details in matters pertaining to the welfare of the church, though no angels had come to him as in the case of the revelation to his uncle, Joseph W. Smith, Jr., the founder of the church. He subscribed to the standard of authority for the church in relation to the revelation commanding polygamy, as made known to the first president in a visit from "an angel in black."

He also said he still believed in polygamy. The testimony was directed in a slight degree at Senator Smoot, and no attempt was made by the defense to curtail the admission of testimony until President Smith was questioned in relation to polygamy. The committee then went into executive session, and after a full discussion determined to allow the utmost latitude to the hearings, which means that court practices will be avoided. The protesters said they regarded this as a victory for them. The committee will hear practically all the prosecution has to offer, and determine itself what is competent.

At an executive session of the committee following the afternoon hearing, it was decided to meet every day at 10:30 A. M., and remain in session until 12, meeting again at 3 P. M., and continuing throughout the afternoon. Five members, including the chairman, will constitute a quorum.

First Inquiry as to Creeds. Other investigations have been directed at the rights of certain contestants to seats in Congress, but never before has there been inaugurated an inquiry to creeds or political factors to determine whether an unlawful influence is being exerted in the political affairs of the Nation. Such is the nature of the Smoot inquiry, and it is conceded that the hearings will extend over several weeks and precipitate a contest in which the noted legal talent will fight every inch of the way.

Interest increased with the announcement that Joseph F. Smith, president of the Mormon Church, would be the first witness, and in all probability occupy the attention of the committee for two or three days. The attorneys for the defense, A. S. Worthington, of this city, and Waldemar Van Cott, of Salt Lake, arrived early and engaged in consultation with their client J. G. Carlisle, ex-Secretary of the Treasury, and R. W. Taylor, ex-Representative in Congress, and the attorney who prosecuted the successful contest against Brigham Roberts retaining his seat in Congress on the ground of his violating the anti-polygamy law, are the counsel for the protestants. Half a dozen witnesses, nearly all of them officials of the Mormon Church, occupied seats in the rear of the large committee-room. Quite a number of women were in attendance and watched the proceedings with interest. Chairman Burrows, after ascertaining by roll call that a quorum of the committee was present, directed Mr. Taylor to proceed with the case.

Mr. Taylor inquired the number of witnesses present, and Mr. Burrows read the following list of those on whom summons had been served: Mahel Parker, Chairman; Charles M. Merrill, John S. Kennedy, Andrew Charles Mathews, Gordon Hiles, Moses Jensen, John Smith, Hyrum M. Merrill, Thomas Merrill, Charles B. Merrill, Alma Merrill, Lorin Harmon, Moses Thatcher, M. W. Merrill, Joseph F. Smith and Francis M. Lyman. Taylor announced his readiness to proceed and asked that President Joseph

RE-APPOINTED TO THE LAND OFFICE AT ROSEBURG

JOSEPH T. BRIDGES, REGISTER.

J. HENRY BOOTH, RECEIVER.

Joseph T. Bridges was born at Santa Rosa, Cal., on February 4, 1867. With his parents he came to Oregon in 1875, and has resided in Douglas County nearly all the time since. He engaged in the mercantile business at Drain in 1887, which result followed with one or two intermissions, until after his appointment as Register of the United States Land Office at Roseburg on June 2, 1898. He was for some time also interested in the lumbering industry at Hudson (now Leonas), in Douglas County.

Mr. Bridges was elected a member of the Oregon Legislature in 1894. He was re-elected to the Legislature in 1900. Since the expiration of Mr. Bridges' four years' appointment as Register of the United States Land Office at Roseburg, on June 2, 1902, a prolonged and bitter fight has been made against his reappointment by other aspirants for the position. His continuance in the office was also opposed by Secretary Hitchcock, although he had the endorsement of the entire Oregon delegation in Congress. An appeal direct to President Roosevelt has resulted in his being retained.

Mr. Bridges is married, and has a son and daughter, and Mrs. Bridges is a leader in Southern Oregon social circles. J. Henry Booth is a native son of Oregon, born near Roseburg 33 years ago. He was educated at Umpqua Academy, at Willnett, and at Willamette University, Salem. He graduated at the university in 1893, and went to Grant's Pass and entered the lumber business, becoming a member and director of the Sugar Pine Door & Lumber Company, of that place. He was appointed from Josephine County June 2, 1898, as Receiver of the United States Land Office at Roseburg, to which position he has just been reappointed after one of the most prolonged and bitter political fights ever made in Oregon politics.

In 1897 he went to Lane County and assisted in the organization of the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company, and it was because of his being a member and officer of this company, as well as a shareholder in the Oregon Land & Livestock Company, that his reappointment was opposed by Secretary Hitchcock, over whose protest it was finally made by the President. Booth is interested in farming and stockraising in Douglas County, and is a member of, and closely identified with, the Douglas County Bank of Roseburg and the First National Bank of Grant's Pass. He was married in 1896, his wife being Miss Kate Campbell, of Grant's Pass. They have two children.

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