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BLOW UP THE SHIP

Russians Sink Own Vessel at Chefoo.

CAPTURE IS FEARED

Japanese Are Seen Off the Harbor.

THREE EXPLOSIONS HEARD

One Man Is Left on Torpedo-Boat to Light Fuses.

SINGLE SPAR MARKS GRAVE

Commander Sends Important Messages From Stoessel to Czar—General Is Determined as Ever to Die Fighting.

In so far as the contents of the reports sent by General Stoessel to Emperor Nicholas by the torpedo-boat destroyer Ristoropny, which craft was sunk in the harbor of Chefoo after accomplishing the purpose of her dash out of Port Arthur, have come to public knowledge, it serves to indicate that the Russian military Commander at Port Arthur regards the crisis of the siege as remote.

The report asserts that the inner line of defenses is intact; that the damage to warships in the harbor by Japanese shells is not great, and that the garrison will be able to hold out against assault for some time.

Conditions south of Mukden remain unchanged, although there are said to be indications that important developments are at hand.

CHEFOO, Nov. 16.—Fearing capture by the Japanese, whose boats were off the port, the Russians today blew up the torpedo-boat destroyer Rastoropny, which escaped from Port Arthur under cover of a severe storm, and entered this harbor last night.

The correspondent of the Associated Press learns authoritatively that the Rastoropny carried sealed orders providing that unless there came a highly favorable opportunity to escape, the vessel should be blown up. Sufficient powder for the purpose was secreted before the destroyer left Port Arthur. Small charges of ordinary powder placed in each of the five water-tight compartments were exploded.

Customs Officer Koenig was on board the destroyer, and the Russians experienced considerable difficulty in getting him off without arousing his suspicions. The destroyer's cutter, manned by two men, was lying near, and the official was persuaded to take a ride around the Rastoropny in order that he might see the injuries she was alleged to have received.

No sooner had the customs officer stepped into the cutter than a petty officer drew his watch and urged the rowers to make all speed away. When the destroyer had gone down the official was taken on shore.

Only One Man Left on Ship.

The Russians, with the exception of one man, left the destroyer during the afternoon. This last man lit slow fuses and blew up the vessel. There were three dull explosions which were scarcely audible 100 yards from the place where they occurred. Almost simultaneously the Rastoropny sank to the bottom. A single spar marks her grave.

Prior to the destruction of the destroyer the Taotai had officially notified the Japanese Consul that her disarmament had been completed, the breech blocks and ammunition being removed and the machinery disabled.

Commander Pelem, of the Rastoropny, in an interview on his adventurous voyage, said:

"I left Port Arthur at midnight in a blinding snow storm. The boat was navigated through all dangers of floating mines without a mishap. Once reaching the open sea we saw a Japanese cruiser and some torpedo-boats in the distance, but we were steaming rapidly through the storm with lights extinguished and passed them unnoticed. We reached Chefoo without mishap of any kind."

The commander was optimistic with reference to Port Arthur. He declared all the forts remained in Russian hands and that the garrison was confident and in good spirits.

He declared the destroyer's object was simply to carry dispatches. The other Russian ships remained at Port Arthur.

The Rastoropny, being one of the fastest of the Russian vessels, soon outdistanced her pursuers. She entered Chefoo with a music-box playing a sprightly air, and the savory odor of a breakfast steak apparently testifying to the fact that Port Arthur still enjoys fresh meat. The destroyer sped in like an arrow at 6:50 A. M. and anchored a few hundred yards abaft the United States cruiser New Orleans, flagship of Rear-Admiral Folger, commander of the cruiser squadron of the Asiatic fleet.

The Chinese cruiser Hai Yung raised steam within 20 minutes and came close to the Rastoropny. Captain Ching, of the Hai Yung, boarded her and held a brief conference with Commander Pelem. Ensign Wainwright, Rear-Admiral Folger's aide, boarded the Rastoropny immediately, but he and Captain Ching were not invited to enter the Rastoropny's cabin, through a blizzard was cutting their faces.

Captain Ching notified Commander Pelem that 24 hours was the limit of time he could remain armed at Chefoo, after which the Rastoropny would be compelled to disarm. While delivering this ultimatum the sailors, who seemed to be healthy and carefree, began greasing the torpedo tubes, which were loaded.

Dispatches Brought Ashore.

Following the conference with Captain Ching, the Rastoropny was moved further into the old anchorage of the torpedo-boat destroyer Ryeshiteini, where the Russian Consul boarded the Rastoropny and brought dispatches ashore.

The Russian officers are all reticent, but deny the report that the Russian armored cruiser Bayan has been sunk, though they admit a shell damaged her engines, which are being repaired. Russian cruisers come out of Port Arthur daily, the battleships remaining in the harbor.

The overdrawn optimism of the officers, it was asserted ashore, made it obvious that their story was rehearsed before it was given to the public.

When the correspondents were allowed on board the Rastoropny a quarter of beef was carefully placed where it was impossible to miss seeing it. This, it was claimed, was meant to convey the impression that Port Arthur was snug and comfortable.

It was learned from the officers of the torpedo-boat destroyer the ex-Russian Governor of Port Arthur, M. Sakaharoff, died recently at Port Arthur of enteric fever.

The explosion was so subdued and the crew remained so silent that it was some time before the report of the affair became current. Even the officials most intimately concerned got the news from the correspondents.

The Japanese Consul says that nine of the Russian crew came ashore with their rifles, against which action he has protested to the authorities.

The Japanese Consul declares that the Russians wasted their vessel, as the Ryeshiteini incident would not have been repeated.

SURRENDER NOT CONSIDERED

Stoessel Will Only Give Up When the Last Shot Is Fired.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 17 (2 A. M.).—General Stoessel's report, brought to Chefoo by the Ratstoropny, has not been given out, but the Associated Press understands it contains no request for instructions regarding the surrender of Port Arthur. This information was secured from a General who was with the Emperor yesterday, and who knows the contents of General Stoessel's message. The General said he was not at liberty to disclose the nature of the report, but remarked:

"Only when the last biscuit is eaten and the last cartridge fired will the garrison

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LOSES HIS OFFICE

Marshal Richards of Alaska Removed.

JUDGE ASKED TO RESIGN

Melville G. Brown Has Been Guilty of Indiscretions.

CASE OF MOORE IN ABEYANCE

Roosevelt Is Convinced the Judiciary of the Territory Is More or Less Corrupt, and Will Hereafter Name Only Tried Men.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 16.—Convinced that the Alaska judiciary is more or less undermined with rottenness, and that all the courts are resting under a cloud of suspicion because of innumerable charges preferred against the various Judges and their subordinates, President Roosevelt today took the initial step toward purging the service of undesirable elements by summarily removing Frank H. Richards, of Alaska, Marshal of Nome District, and requesting the resignation of Melville C. Brown, of Wyoming, Judge of the Juneau District. It was erroneously announced that the President had also called for the resignation of Judge Moore, of the Nome District. His case is still in abeyance. This announcement was subsequently retracted. At the same time the President announced the reappointment of James Wickersham, of Tacoma, as Judge of the Third or Eagle District.

The President's action is based entirely upon a report made to him by William A. Day, Assistant Attorney-General, who spent the Summer in Alaska investigating the charges against the judiciary. Great secrecy is maintained both at the White House and the Department of Justice as to the nature of Judge Day's report, and nothing is officially stated as to the reasons for dismissing Richards and forcing Brown to resign.

Charges Against Richards.

It is generally believed Richards has been found guilty of contempt of court and of attempting to pack a jury. Judge Wickersham, two years ago, held Richards in contempt and a great amount of evidence has been submitted from time to time to show that Richards attempted to tamper with a Nome jury. There has been a denial of these charges, and Richards made a technical defense, but it is believed Day's report shows he exceeded his authority as Marshal, otherwise such drastic measures would not have been taken in his case. Beyond this it has been known for many months that Marshal Richards and Judge Moore have been at swords' points, and that the service has suffered in consequence. President Roosevelt was on the point of dismissing Richards on this account two years ago, but changed his mind and decided to wait until he could have the charges investigated by a responsible man.

It is understood that nothing of a damaging character was proved against Judge Brown, but that he has been guilty of indiscretions which have impaired his usefulness in Alaska. For one thing, it is said, he sat in a case in which a mining company in which he held a large interest was a party to the suit. Judge Brown before permitting the case to be heard admitted his interest in the case, but opposing counsel expressed a willingness to have him hear it. In another instance he appointed a clerk of his court as receiver of a company involved in litigation pending before that court. While this was not an actual violation of the law, it is condemned as an extremely indiscreet thing to have done. Just such things as this have created the impression in the Juneau District that Judge Brown has not been altogether a fair Judge.

Moore Had Trouble With Marshal.

So far as can be learned the charges made against Judge Moore, of the Nome District, are not substantiated unless he is partly censurable for trouble with his Marshal. Dismissal of Richards, however, removes this obstacle, and Judge Day did not recommend Moore's removal, nor did he recommend that he be allowed to resign.

President Roosevelt has come to the conclusion that Alaska can and must have a judiciary that is above reproach. Realizing the temptations that are thrust before Judges, Marshals and others in that territory, he has determined to pick out not only honest men, but men of great force of character, strong enough to "stay put" even when in distant Alaska, where they are likely at any minute to be brought under corrupt influences. In filling these vacancies the President will pay no heed whatever to the political indorsements of applicants, but will assure himself he has the kind of men he wants and will then appoint them. The Judgeships in Alaska pay $5000 per year. The Marshal receives $4000.

Charges have been made from time to time against nearly all the Federal officials of Alaska, Governor Brady not being exempt, but it is said that the action of the President today finally closed the matter of the charges, officials of the Administration being satisfied that Governor Brady, James Wickersham, of the Yukon district, and other officials involved in them have acted in the best interests of the territory.

TROUBLES OF RICHARDS.

He Fell Out With Wickersham Over Expense Account as Early as 1901.

SEATTLE, Wash., Nov. 16.—(Special.)—Marshal Richards' troubles began in the Fall of 1901 over an expense account that Judge Wickersham failed to approve. The two had gone to Unalaska together after Wickersham succeeded Noyes, and Richards' expense

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HOTEL IN ASHES

Olympia's Noted Tavern Totally Destroyed.

GUESTS ESCAPE FLAMES

Flying Brands Threaten Business Section of City.

SMOKE OVERCOMES FIREMEN

Washington State Capital Is Now Without Proper Facilities for Entertaining Visitors During the Legislature.

THE BURNED BUILDING.

Built by syndicate of Olympians in 1889.
Capacity, 250 guests.
Comprised four stories and a basement, with 115 rooms.
Cost, $125,000.
Furniture and other property worth $36,000.
Hotel insured for $16,000.

OLMPHIA, Wash., Nov. 16.—(Special.)—The Olympia Hotel, the home of the majority of the members during eight sessions of the Legislature, and famous throughout the state, burned to the ground tonight. With the loss of the hotel Olympia is deprived of one of the essentials of a session of the Legislature and tonight the people are genuinely perturbed as to how they will provide for the hundreds of people who will flock to the city shortly after the first of the year.

So far as known no lives were lost in the conflagration, as there was ample time for the escape of all the inmates after the discovery of the fire. The first alarm was given about 10:30, when smoke was detected in the rear of the basement in an unused part of the hotel. The early fire was apparently of a smoldering nature and created dense volumes of smoke that permeated the entire building.

Engineer Driven From Post.

About 20 minutes after the discovery the engineer in charge of the electric light plant was driven from his post, and darkness throughout the hotel added to the difficulty of saving the effects of the inmates. A still alarm was turned into the Fire Department immediately upon discovery of the fire, but the firemen found it impossible to get near the flames on account of the dense smoke. One by one the men were overcome, some being brought out of the building in a prostrated condition.

It was fully 11 o'clock before a sheet of flame was visible to those outside the building, but within five minutes thereafter the big sturcture was an immense mass of red fire, sending brands in showers into the business part of the city. It was soon seen that the business portion of the city would be in actual danger of destruction unless the fire was checked at once.

A fierce wind was driving the flames across a small lawn toward the old home of General T. I. McKenny, one of the landmarks of the city, and immense brands were lighting on the roof of the Mitchell Hotel, a few feet beyond. At this stage of the fire practically all efforts were turned toward saving the two structures in danger.

Governor a Volunteer Fireman.

A general alarm was turned in at the fire hall and great crowds congregated who were called upon to assist. Upon the first call for volunteers, Governor McBride seized the nozzle of a hose and worked valiantly for half an hour in a heat that was breaking the window panes of the buildings the workers were trying to save. At an opportune time a drenching rain fell, which greatly aided in confining the fire to the hotel. At midnight the flames were under control.

The Olympia Hotel was built in 1889 by a syndicate of Olympia people at a cost of $125,000. It comprised four stories and a basement and had 115 rooms, barroom and laundry. On the main floor was a lobby larger than any other single-room hotel lobby in the state. During the sessions of the Legislature this lobby every evening swarmed with legislators, and men attracted to the city by the sessions.

The hotel during session was always crowded, and cots were provided in the parlors and ballrooms and the inmates were compelled to "double up" throughout the rooms of the hotel. It probably housed 250 persons during the interesting parts of the sessions.

Boarders Lose Their Effects.

The building contained furniture worth about $30,000. The building and furniture had for several years been in the possession of Boston people who had held and foreclosed a mortgage on them. They were insured for $16,000. In addition to the property owned by the hotel company the manager, E. N. Tunin, had in stock and liquors and other property about $3000, on which there is no insurance. The hotel had about 15 regular boarders, nearly all of whom lost all their effects.

There were about 35 transients registered, among them being ex-Senator George Turner, of Spokane, and Edward Whitson, of North Yakima, chairman of the Republican State Convention at Tacoma. Several men, including Whitson, were congregated in Judge Turner's rooms on the first floor when the alarm was sounded. Judge Turner carried his grip out, but left it on the hotel veranda and has been unable to locate it since. Mr. Whitson could not find his room and lost his suit case and clothing.

Escaped in Light Attire.

O. C. White, ex-State Printer, was the last to leave the building. He had a narrow escape and but for a thorough knowledge of the stairways could not

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ORATORY RULED

Grangers Are Welcomed With Eloquence.

GREAT CROWDS AT ARMORY

Two Thousand People Take Part in Grand Reception.

GOVERNOR AND MAYOR SPEAK

Visitors Are Cheerfully Made Welcome to Portland, and Express Themselves Highly Pleased With the Reception.

Rosy-cheeked apples, immense pumpkins, beets, potatoes and other table delicacies belonging to exhibits from Oregon and Washington counties, divided interest with visitors from the East, South and Middle West at the public reception held last night in the Armory. Over 2000 persons were present. The dominating note in the speeches were: The paramount importance of the agricultural industry, and the return visit of many of the delegates with their friends to visit the Lewis and Clark Exposition next year.

"Isn't that a gathering for you, of which any city might well be proud?" remarked Richard Scott, of Milwaukie, to an Oregonian man, during the period when visitors were going around the line of masters of State Granges, and their wives, shaking hands and making everyone feel at home. "Just think of this one fact," went on Mr. Scott. "Suppose the farming interest of this country did not do any work from December 1 to June 1, just took a sort of vacation, how would the other people of the country like it? Some of them would be pretty nigh to starvation. Yet, I don't see any great display of flags or bunting outside the Armory. I haven't even seen a card in the window of any business house, bidding the Grangers "welcome." Pass the hint. Portland ought to dress herself in her best to show the Grangers that they are doubly welcome, as honored guests. The Armory, with its interesting agricultural exhibits, is open every day except Sunday during the time the convention is in session, from 12 to 2 o'clock P. M., and from 5 to 7 P. M. We want Portland people to come here and shake hands with the Grangers."

Governor Pays Tribute.

Governor Chamberlain struck a recurring chord when he said that the National Grange deserved thanks for its work in making possible rural free delivery of mail matter, which has brought the farmer into close and intimate touch with urban life.

Master of the National Grange Jones' speech was a "chaffing" one at first, but he soon steadied down and won a round of hearty applause when he stated that after viewing the agricultural exhibits at the St. Louis Exposition, he was sure the exhibits in the Armory were every bit equal to those at St. Louis, where the whole world was taking a hand. Mayor Williams gave a fine bit of word painting in describing Portland in its rainy season, and he took advantage of his opportunity to put in a good word for the Lewis and Clark Exposition. Governor Batchelder, of New Hampshire, told a funny story which set the audience laughing, and was also interesting when he spoke of the dignity and usefulness of the agricultural calling.

Augustus High, of Vancouver, Wash., past master of Washington State Grange, presided.

Chamberlain Makes Address.

In giving the address of welcome on behalf of the State of Washington, Governor Chamberlain said:

As executive of the state I extend to you a most cordial welcome. Oregon is proud to entertain as her guests such a distinguished body of ladies and gentlemen as those who compose the National and several state Granges, and all of her people hope that your stay here may be most pleasant.

A number of congresses and conventions have been held in this city in the past year, comprising delegates and representatives from every state and territory, men of National and international reputation. All of them have had for their end and aim organization of their forces and the cultivation of a unity of sentiment and action as the best means of advancing the several interests which they have been called upon to represent. All of these conventions have been important, and have been productive of good not only to the individuals who have been able to attend, but to the country at large, and it is no disparagement of any of them to say that none have been of more importance to the welfare of our people than the one which convenes here today.

The National Grange has had for its first object the betterment of the condition of the farming classes in the United States, and it is impossible for any one to calculate the good that has been accomplished by it and its membership throughout the country. This is an age of organization, and that body of men is best able to meet and overcome obstacles in the way of successful enterprise who can breast them with perfect organization and consolidation of their forces.

Although there are a greater number of individuals engaged in agriculture than in any other industry in the United States, it is nevertheless true that until the organization of this order little in the way of state or Federal legislation was ever had in their behalf. Certain it is that it has been largely through their influence and instrumentality that grants of land and appropriations of money have been made for the establishment of agricultural colleges in nearly if not every state in the Union. But for their efforts and those of its distinguished head, who is present with us today, it is questionable whether the rural free delivery, which has brought the farmer into close and intimate touch with urban life, would ever have been established. And certain it is that the slow recognition of agriculture as the foundation of our country's wealth was brought about through the efforts of the Grange, and now it has been so dignified through their combined energy that a department has been created with a representative at its head who sits in the official family of the President of the United States.

No one can say that the accomplishment of these things has been brought about by misdirected effort. The result has been beneficial both to individuals, state and Nation, and as united effort and concentration of energy have brought about the achievements which I have mentioned, there is much yet to be done in the interest of the farmers and their families in this country. Let me suggest a few:

Greater attention ought to be paid in the public schools of the state to instruction along the lines of field and farm. The trend of public thought is in this direction, but until

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PORT ARTHUR—

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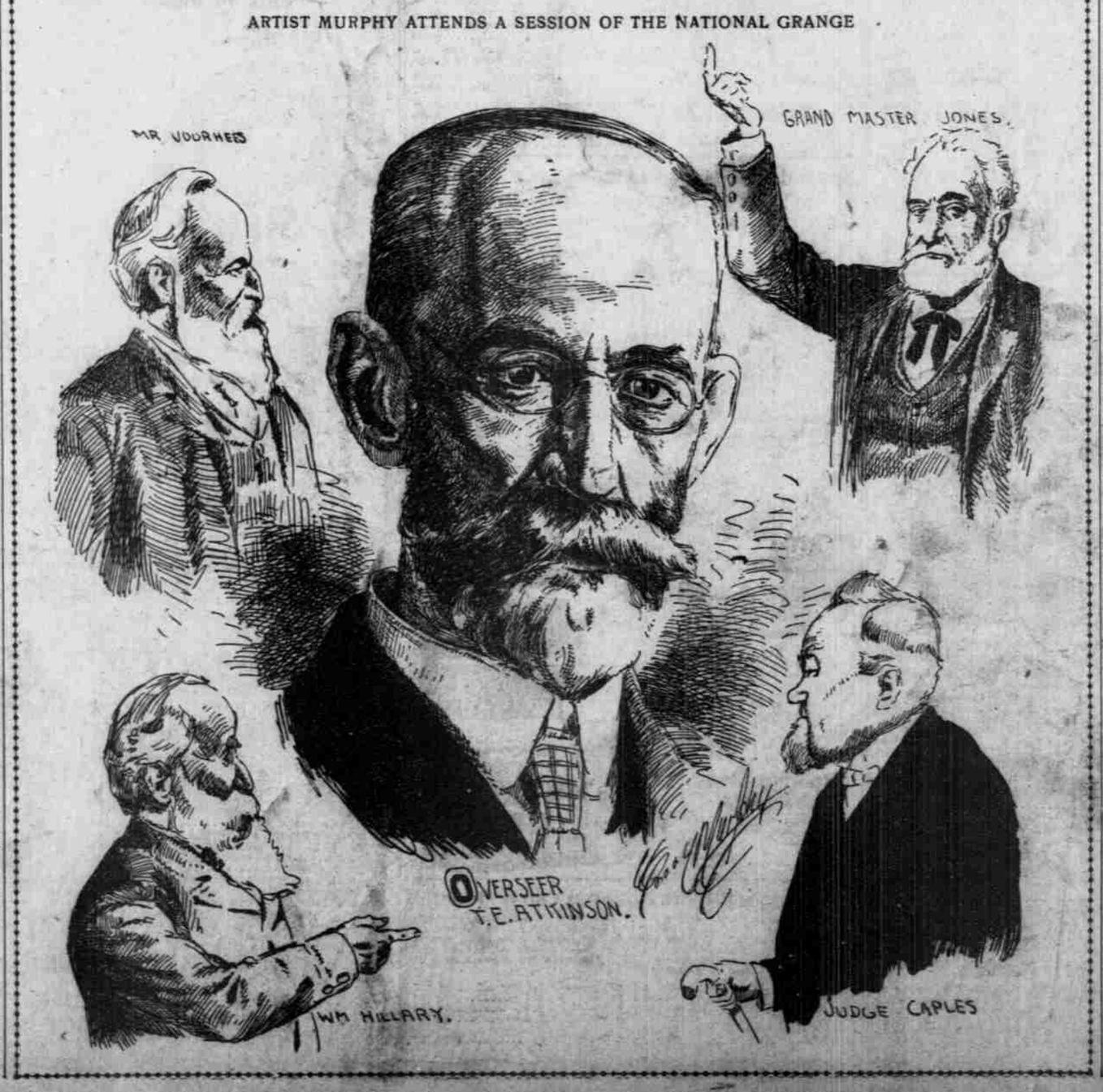
ARTIST MURPHY ATTENDS A SESSION OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE