

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## YELLOW WAR CLOUD ASSUMES A SHAPE THAT IS THREATENING

### JAPAN FOOLED THE WORLD WHEN IT MOBILIZED ITS NAVAL AND ARMY FORCES

#### England and United States Thrown Into Peculiar Situation by Actions of Oriental Country

London, March 5.—Striking events in the Chinese-Japanese controversy, which have occurred within the last 24 hours, have convinced the British foreign office that war between the two great Mongolian races is very imminent.

The seizure of the Japanese steamer *Tatsu Maru* by the Chinese, is considered to significantly demonstrate the unsettled conditions that now exist in the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

**Japan Precipitates Climax.**  
Japan's demand, which was little short of an ultimatum, for the return of the vessel, and the almost insolent display of Japanese naval force that accompanied the request, for the immediate release of the vessel, brought the tangled affair to a climax. All that Japan now awaits is a favorable moment to strike.

**Fleet Mobilized.**  
The mobilization of the Japanese fleet, which has been taking place for the last two months, the rush of war preparations that have been going on at the great arsenals at Osaka, are now believed to be explained in the developments of the Chinese crisis.

**World Was Fooled.**  
Japanese diplomacy let the world feel itself in attaching importance to these preparations as a result of American naval activity, while the

real cause of it all lay to the eastward, in Manchuria.

add london date—war story

**England is Worried.**

Officials of the British foreign office will not speak authoritatively on the crisis, but they make no secret of the fact that England is greatly concerned in the war cloud that has so swiftly developed in the Far East within the last two weeks, and which has assumed such a serious hue within the last 48 hours. England, as an ally of Japan, would be in a very peculiar and far from enviable position. The United States is looked upon to uphold the territorial and administrative entity of the yellow empire, and in case Japan forced a conflict, they would be expected to make strong representations to the European nations, at least those which signed the Hays circular note of 1899 providing for that thing.

**World Policies Involved.**  
If the English government failed to support the note and the attitude of the United States, she would at once make a move very unpopular at home and very threatening to the continuity of the peaceful possession of her Chinese possession and her recognized rights in the British sphere of influence.

(Continued on page 8.)



Ex-Councilman E. W. Bartlett, Who Was Acquitted of Extortion Today.

## CLOUD OF SUSPICION OVER BARTLETT RAISED BY JURY

"Not guilty," such is the verdict which the jury in the Bartlett trial brought in this afternoon at 10 minutes after 3. The jury was out exactly two hours and ten minutes. The verdict was no surprise to those who heard the evidence and the judge's instructions. It was evident to those who had followed the trial and listened to the instructions given the jury by Judge Smith, that there was practically nothing else for the jury to do, as it was evident to all that the state had failed to prove that Bartlett had made any threat.

The following resume of the instructions covering the point regarding the matter of a threat will clearly show:

### Judge's Instructions.

The judge's instructions to the jury were plain and covered every point at issue. Special emphasis was placed upon the fact that the real question at issue, was whether or not Bartlett had made a threat to prosecute Klein and Smith, and that whether or not he had received any money from them, or any one else, had no bearing whatever upon his guilt. According to his instructions the jury were to remember that Bartlett was being tried upon the charge of attempting to extort money, and that according to the indictment it was necessary for the state to prove beyond a question of a reasonable doubt that he had made a threat that he would prosecute Klein and Smith. There were other features of the evidence regarding which the judge issued instructions, but this particular section was the one which the jury was called upon to give special regard.

It was undoubtedly this special instruction which enabled the jury to arrive at a verdict in so short a time.

### Negro Political Clubs.

Washington, March 5.—Prominent colored men from several states are in Washington today to arrange for a consolidation of the negro voters of the country and for the organization of negro political clubs in all centers of colored population. The conference will be continued through tomorrow, and will probably name a national committee and provide for the participation of negroes in the campaign. Senator Foraker is apparently the favorite presidential candidate of most of the delegates.

### Abandon Last Refuge Camp.

San Francisco, March 5.—Lobos Square camp, the last of the original 13 refugee camps in San Francisco, is now in process of dissolution and the residents are scattering to all parts of the city. The camp originally had a population of 3500 and was undoubtedly the most cosmopolitan aggregation of human beings ever gathered in a like space, nearly every nationality in the work being represented.

### Free Love Colony Abandoned.

Seattle, Wash., March 5.—With the disposal of the realty and other property by a receiver, the famous Free-Love colony in Skagit county finally passes out of existence. The colony was founded by Alexander Horr as an anarchist and free-love project and attracted refugees from all parts of the world.

### Hughes to Speak in Gotham.

New York, March 5.—Governor Hughes will be a guest of honor at the dinner of the Traffic club tomorrow night, and it is expected that he will air his views on the subject of railroad legislation.

## HORRIBLE SCENES ENACTED IN STRICKEN CITY OF COLLINGWOOD

### WOMEN FAINT AND LOSE THEIR MINDS AT SIGHT OF GHASTLY PILE OF HUMANITY

#### One Hundred and Sixty-Two Bodies Have Been Rescued From Ruins of Burned Schoolhouse--Some Burned Beyond Recognition

Cleveland, March 4.—Gaunt horror and heart-rending misery made the little town of Collingwood their home last night. No one slept. In the grim and pitifully bare building used as a railroad shop by the Lake Shore railroad lay the 162 burned and mangled bodies that a few hours before held the hope and pride of 162 Collingwood homes.

**Injured Moan in Agony.**  
In every home for a radius of many blocks were heard the fitful fevered cries of the injured. Doctors hurried from house to house, while gathered in the streets and in front of the temporary morgue was a great crowd of almost frenzied parents and relatives, awaiting the moment when the police would allow them to enter the building and attempt to identify their dead.

**162 Bodies Recovered.**  
One hundred and sixty-two bodies have been recovered. This accounts for all the missing, declares City Engineer Gould, who is in charge of the work. Of this number 110 have been positively identified. Thirty are so burned that Coroner Burke declares that there is no hope of identification.

**Bodies Laid in Rows.**  
It was a pitiful scene when the parents were first allowed to enter the morgue. The bodies were laid out in rows and the mothers and fathers of the missing children were led past the silent little forms by attendants. Many of the women fainted.

**Investigate Cause of Fire.**  
Today the board of education at Collingwood is investigating the cause of the fire. Architects declare that the fire could not have been caused by an overheated furnace, but there is no evidence of incendiarism. The janitor declares that he opened the outside doors, but on this point the testimony is conflicting. The plans show that the rear doors should open outward, but this is disputed.

**Firebug May Be Responsible.**

Cleveland, March 5.—The first information that the terrible disaster to the Collingwood school yesterday was the result of the work of a firebug was given today in testimony of Dr. Williams at an inquest in which he said he was the first person to reach the scene of disaster, and that he thought it was the work of a firebug. Testimony also was given that the fire might have been the result of crossed electric wires.

During the examination of Janitor Harter, who saw one of the children killed in the crush, and who lost two in all, shrieked and collapsed on the stand.

A letter received conveys the news that Brakeman A. E. Edwards, who moved from this city about one year ago, was killed a few weeks ago while working in the railroad yards at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

## DISCOUNT RATE MUCH SMALLER

RATE OF DISCOUNT NOW ONE-HALF PER CENT.

England Now Assured That Financial Status in America is Much Improved and Bank of England's Directors Have Reduced the Minimum Rate of Discount to the Half of One Per Cent—No Fears of Heavy Demands on the Bank of England Now.

London, March 5.—What is considered to be evidence of the belief in England that financial affairs in the United States were again normal and that the Bank of England would not be called upon to meet extraordinary demands within the next few months, occurred today when the directors met and reduced the minimum rate of discount to half of one per cent.

The rate in force since January 1 had been 4 per cent.

## DO IT NOW

Don't put off selecting your Spring Suit until you want to put it on. Come in now and look over the magnificent Royal Tailor line of Spring Suitings. 500 samples to choose from—all the snappiest woolens produced by the best mills in the world are represented.

Suits To Your Measure

and  
Guaranteed to Fit  
\$17.50 UP

Royal Coat Fronts are guaranteed not to break--Several hundred satisfied customers in this vicinity will testify to the fact as well as the satisfying qualities of Royal Suits.

*The Fair*

LA GRANDE, OREGON

## Prescriptions

There is no more vital question to be considered in the family than that of the compounding of the doctor's prescription. There should be no half way methods regarding prescriptions. We use pure drugs, compounded just "according to the doctor's orders."

HILL'S DRUG STORE

La Grande

Oregon