

THE STAYTON MAIL.

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STAYTON.....OREGON.

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting.

The senate has passed the naval appropriation bill.

Another British cabinet crisis is believed to be at hand.

The Chicago Federation of Labor is fighting Mayor Harrison.

United Mineworkers will leave the question of strike with the local unions.

A second bombardment of Vladivostok is reported in which the Japanese lost one or two cruisers.

Report on affairs of Indian Territory smacks of graft on the part of officials connected with speculative concerns.

A Springfield, Ohio, mob took a negro, who shot a detective, from jail, hanged him and then riddled his body with bullets.

A witness in the Smoot trial says she was married after the issuance of the manifesto and is positive Brigham Young performed the ceremony.

The report on influence being exerted by members of congress to gain increases in postoffice rentals, clerk hire, etc., involves members from all but five states, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

Field Marshal von Waldersee is dead.

The house has passed the Indian appropriation bill.

Dreyfus has won an appeal for a revision of his case.

The United States will not grant the Guam-Japan cable concession.

Odell will not accept the chairmanship of the National Republican committee.

Eastern miners refuse to accept a reduction in wages and a strike is probable.

Senator Nelson declares American interests demand she prevent the dismemberment of China.

Troops have been sent from Vladivostok to meet the Japanese advance from the south.

President Smith, of the Mormon church, says congress is prying into his domestic affairs without right.

Britain believes the only diplomatic danger lies in a continental protest against the Japanese-Corean treaty.

Japan has again addressed the powers in reply to the Russian contention that she violated rules of war.

An earthquake in New Mexico did much damage to property.

Russia welcomes what it terms the change in American sentiment.

Advices from Port Arthur say the Japanese are again bombarding that place.

The body of a mastodon in a good state of preservation has been found near Dawson.

Japan has completed the landing of a great force in Korea, and a forward movement is expected soon.

President Smith, in the Smoot trial, says Mormons will defend plural marriages if an attack is made.

The Japanese fleet has allowed a number of colliers to proceed to Vladivostok, expecting to seize the fuel and supplies when it takes that port.

A bill has been introduced to allow the Northern Pacific to sell lands along the right of way and quiet title to tracts in Portland and other Western cities.

The Great Northern and Northern Pacific railways have agreed to offer homeseekers excursion rates during March and April. The rate to the west and return will be one fare, plus \$2.00.

The flood situation on the Ohio river at Toledo is serious.

King Edward is confined to his room on account of illness.

Senator Hale thinks the navy is asking for too many new ships.

General Kourapatkin will make Mukden his headquarters.

Chief of engineers recommends against the extension of the Grays Harbor jetty.

A high Russian official says the abandonment of Port Arthur would be disastrous to Russia.

Ex-President Cleveland denies that he ever had a Negro as his guest at luncheon, as reported.

Japanes refugees declare they were treated in a terrible manner by Russians at Port Arthur.

A maniac ran amuck in the war department office, shooting one man and firing at other clerks.

Fearing the approach of a Japanese fleet, Russians and noncombatants at Yinkow are preparing to retire.

Secretary Shaw has called on the national banks for \$30,000,000 of government deposits to be applied on the price of the Panama canal.

FLEET SHUT OUT.

Russian Ships Cannot Return to Vladivostok.

London, March 9.—The Japanese legation here has received no official information regarding the bombardment of Vladivostok. It is believed at the legation, however, that the Japanese are now between the Russian Cruiser squadron and Vladivostok, and there is reason to believe that the Russian squadron is in the vicinity of Possiet Bay.

Russian official dispatches do not mention this squadron, and this fact lends color to the belief that the Japanese warships have shut it out of Vladivostok. It is pointed out at the Legation that if this is true, the Russian vessels are in a critical position, since they must run the gauntlet of the Japanese squadron off Vladivostok or the Japanese squadron off Port Arthur, before reaching a Russian port.

In a dispatch from St. Petersburg a correspondent of the Standard gives a rumor that the Czar has received a telegram to the effect that the Japanese fleet bombarded Vladivostok all day Monday. According to this rumor only trivial damage was inflicted on the Russians, but one or two Japanese cruisers were sunk.

There is much curiosity here concerning the resisting power of Vladivostok, which has been long regarded as the Gibraltar of the Far East. Vladivostok is known to be better equipped as a naval base, and to have greater docking and repairing resources than Port Arthur, but doubts are expressed as to the character of its defenses. Russia has been settled there for 40 years, and it is consequently considered probable that the defenses and guns at this place are of a somewhat obsolete character.

It is understood that during the past few years all the available new guns and war material which it was possible to send over the single-line Trans-Siberian railroad have been used for the strengthening of Port Arthur and points in Manchuria, leaving Vladivostok with old-type guns of short range. It is reported that Vladivostok is ill-supplied with provisions and necessities.

Dispatches from Tokio published this morning speak of the sacrifices being made by the Japanese nation. According to the Daily Chronicle's correspondent at Tokio, the Mikado is abandoning all luxuries, the court following his example, and all are going to live abstemiously until the war is ended.

HOPE IS ON LAND.

Russia Considers That the War Has Hardly Begun.

St. Petersburg, March 8.—Although almost four weeks have elapsed since the Japanese fleet first attacked Port Arthur, here the war is considered hardly begun. Heavy land fighting, upon which the fate of the campaign depends, is not expected much before the end of April. By this time Russia will have in the field, exclusive of the large army of men required to guard the railroads, four army corps, each with a cavalry division and an artillery brigade. All that has happened so far, or is going to happen until these forces are in the field, is considered, according to the Russian view, to be nothing more than the prologue to the real drama.

The crippling of the Port Arthur fleet was unfortunate in that it gave the enemy the command of the sea at the very outset. It is, however, of relatively small importance from the standpoint of the main strategy of the war, whether Port Arthur stands or falls. But as long as it holds out, and the fleet is harbored there, it will constitute a potential menace which will restrict and hamper Japan's operations, and the Russians are determined to defend Port Arthur as heroically as they did Sevastopol. No large garrisons will be retained there; 10,000 men are as good as 100,000 for defense, while the more men the more mouths to feed. There are enough provisions there now to last for eight months. In addition, there will be a division of Cossacks with mountain batteries on the peninsula to oppose landings and harass the enemy if it succeeds in investing the city.

Flood Peril Is Passed.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 9.—The Juniata and Susquehanna rivers have been falling all day and Weather Observer Demain said tonight that they will continue to fall for 24 hours. The gorges above and below Harrisburg are still intact and there has been no movement in the Susquehanna river since the break of yesterday and in the gorge at High Spire. The conditions in the flooded district show an improvement over yesterday and unless there is a sudden rise in the river, it is thought the worst is over.

Railroad May Sell Lands.

Washington, March 9.—The senate today passed Senator Foster's bill authorizing the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to sell surplus lands within its right of way when it has no use for the same, and confirming sales of such lands heretofore made by this company.

CHANGE IS URGED

COMMISSION ASKS REPEAL OF TIMBER AND STONE ACT.

Forests Should Be Sold at Values Fixed by Appraisers—Change Homestead Law—Richards, Pinchott and Newell Advocate Restriction of Commutation Clause.

Washington, March 9.—The commission appointed by the President on October 22, 1903, consisting of W. A. Richards, commissioner of the general land office; Gifford Pinchot, chief forester of the department of agriculture, and F. H. Newell, chief engineer of the reclamation service, to make suggestions regarding revision of the laws relating to public lands, has made to the president a partial report which was sent to congress today. It recommends the repeal of the timber and stone act, and the substitution of suitable provisions for selling, after appraisal, the timber on public lands that is needed in large or small quantities for industrial purposes.

The committee also recommends the repeal of the law permitting assignment of entries under the desert land law, and urges the importance of a more careful administration of law especially as to those provisions relating to obtaining an adequate permanent water supply.

It advocates the restricting of the commutation clause of the homestead entry where such entries are located within forest reserves or where the land is chiefly valuable for timber. It suggests the outlines for a law permitting homestead entries upon agricultural lands within forest reserves and the survey and description of such agricultural lands by metes and bounds rather than by the regular system, thus permitting the agricultural lands to be selected along the valleys and to embrace the good tillable land without taking in extensive tracts of side hill.

The recommendation also is made that when lands are restored to entry after temporary segregation ample time should be allowed homesteaders to exercise their rights, giving them the preference over persons who may wish to select the land by the use of scrip or other form of entry.

DAMAGED BY SHELL FIRE.

Japanese Make Impression on Batteries at Port Arthur.

Niu Chwang, March 9.—New arrivals from Port Arthur confirm the rumors in circulation here last week that the western batteries have been badly damaged by the Japanese shell fire. Desultory bombardments continue, but there has been an absence of concerted action on the part of the Japanese warships for a couple of days. All of the civilian population has been expelled from the town.

A heavily-laden train was derailed near the town Saturday, but it is not known how much damage was done. The wreck was caused by an obstruction being placed on the track by Japanese agents.

There has been no recent damage to the Russian squadron at the hands of Japanese, the cruiser Askold has been floated, and Expert Gilchrist now declares that he can save the battleship Retzivan. The attempt to repair the drydock so that it would accommodate the battleship Czarevitch has been abandoned, and she will remain in a disabled condition until the close of the war, or until she can be sent to Vladivostok, where the drydock is large enough to accommodate her. Niu Chwang is now occupied by a small detachment of Cossack cavalry.

AGAIN ALARM IN BALKANS.

Sultan Rejects Memorandum Presented by the Reform Powers.

Vienna, March 9.—The optimistic feeling regarding the situation in the Balkans has again given way to pessimism. The Sultan was reported to have emphatically refused to ratify the Natchovitch agreement, and his attitude occasions much anxiety in the Bulgarian government.

Telegrams received here today declare further that the Sultan has rejected the memorandum presented by the reform powers as well as the demands for the gendarme commission. This commission is making slow progress in its work. The two civil agents are reported to have broken down under the strain.

Fare to St. Louis Fair.

Chicago, March 9.—A committee of the Transcontinental Passenger Association today decided to recommend to the general meeting of the association the adoption of "circuit rates" for the St. Louis Exposition from Pacific Coast points. Under this arrangement, the rate from the Coast to St. Louis through Chicago will be \$75, \$67.50 direct to St. Louis and \$72.50 direct to Chicago through St. Louis. The question of stopovers being allowed here was not settled. The committee also decided to recommend the adoption of homeseekers' rates.

Another Flood Is Feared.

Pittsburg, March 9.—From present indications the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers will again be at a flood stage tomorrow morning. Business men and residents in the low sections are preparing for a 20-foot stage.

SHELL THE CITY.

Japanese Fleet of Seven Vessels Bombard Vladivostok.

Vladivostok, March 8.—A fleet of five Japanese battleships and two cruisers appeared off this place at 1:25 o'clock this afternoon and bombarded the town and shore batteries for 55 minutes.

The fleet approached from the direction of Askold Island, at the east entrance to Ussuri Bay, and about 32 miles southeast of Vladivostok. Entering Ussuri Bay, the enemy formed a line of battle, but did not approach to a closer range than a mile and one-third. They directed their fire against the shore batteries and the town, but no damage resulted, as most of their 200 lyddite shells failed to burst.

The Russian batteries, commanded by Generals Vernotek and Artamonoff, did not reply, awaiting a closer approach of the enemy.

The Japanese fire ceased at 2:30 p. m., and the enemy retired in the direction of Askold Island. Simultaneously two torpedo-boat destroyers appeared near Askold Island and two more near Cape Maldel. The Japanese ships were covered with ice.

The attack resulted in no loss to the Russians, but cost the Japanese 200,000 rubles (\$100,000) in ammunition. Most of the projectiles were six and 12-inch shells.

The population of Vladivostok was warned this morning of the presence on the horizon of a hostile fleet and the prospect of an attack during the day, but it remained tranquil.

TO OPEN BIG TRACT.

Congress Is Asked to Allow Settlers on Yakima Lands.

Washington, March 8.—Representative Jones today introduced a bill opening to settlement about 1,000,000 acres of unallotted lands of the Yakima Indian reservation. Having the assurance of the support of the Interior department he hopes to secure the passage of this bill at the present session.

The bill authorizes the secretary of the Interior to classify and appraise the unallotted lands of the reservation. Irrigable and grazing lands are there to be thrown open under the homestead law, while timber lands will be sold under sealed bids after due advertisement. Mineral lands will be disposed of under the mineral laws and arid land under the desert act.

In addition to complying with the requirement of the land laws, settlers will be required to pay the appraised value of the lands they acquire. The bill recognizes the claim of the Yakima Indians to the disputed tract of 300,000 acres lying west of their present reservation and east of the summit of the mountains. The secretary is authorized to make allotments to those Indians on the reservation who have not yet received lands, and is also authorized to set apart tracts of grazing and timber lands for the benefit of the tribe.

FIRE LOSS GROWS.

Oklahoma Now Puts Cost of Prairie Blaze at \$500,000.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 7.—Three persons perished in the prairie fire and the financial loss by the fire and gale is estimated at \$500,000.

Further reports of property loss by both fire and wind indicate that the first estimate was too low. The damage by wind extends over seven counties in the Southwest. The total losses from fire and storm can as yet only be estimated, but it is the general opinion that they will reach \$500,000.

Scores of persons are suffering from burns and broken limbs. The area from which reports of damage by wind come cover a hundred miles square and means of communication over the district are meager. This difficulty is increased by the fact that poles are burned and wires blown down.

The little town of Francis was destroyed by fire, but no particulars are given.

Three residences at Snyder were demolished, and seven persons were injured, none, it is believed, fatally.

At Mount Park, several houses were demolished, and half a dozen persons were injured, none, seriously. A strip six miles wide and nine miles long burned 20 miles south of Hobart. The loss in the Kiowa country will exceed \$150,000.

Czar Will Replace Vessels Lost.

Paris, March 8.—The Figaro this morning published a St. Petersburg dispatch saying that a member of the committee on the increase of the navy has declared that \$7,500,000 has thus far been subscribed to this end. Count Orloff Davidoff has telegraphed from Rome that he has placed \$1,500,000 at the disposition of the committee.

The Czar, the correspondent continues, has decided to rebuild the Russian cruiser Variag and the torpedo gunboat Korietz, which were destroyed at Chemulpo, out of his private purse.

Russia Wants American Apparatus.

New York, March 8.—A rush order has been placed with an American firm for apparatus used in coaling warships at sea. It is expected that the 45 Russian vessels in home waters will be in position by June to proceed, if necessary, to Far Eastern stations, taking with them the American invention which will enable the war vessels to proceed without running afoul of the regulations at neutral ports regarding coal.

ENTRANCE CLOSED

PORT ARTHUR IS NOW BLOCKED TO BIG VESSELS.

Battleship Is in the Way—Only Small Cruisers Can Go Out—Japan Foresaw Possibility of Coal Being Held Contraband of War and Has Immense Supply on Hand.

London, March 7.—Little change in the Far Eastern situation is reported this morning. It is apparent that the Japanese are busily engaged in transporting their forces into Corea, and this work is facilitated by the enforced inactivity of the navy.

According to the Sebastopol correspondent of the Daily Graphic, Admiral Skrydloff has learned privately from Port Arthur that the Russian battleship Retzivan lies in such a position as to block effectually the exit of battleships from the harbor, the passage being practically only the cruisers. The correspondent adds that Russia's new battleships now building on the Baltic will not be ready for active commission before the end of August.

The Japanese officer who has charge of Japan's financial and commercial interests in England declares that the government foresaw the possibility of coal being declared contraband of war, and that it had been collecting large stores of Welsh steam coal for years, so that today it had a supply sufficient for the navy for years to come.

According to a Tokio correspondent of the Standard, the Mikado has sent a personal message to the Emperor of Corea assuring him that the war was declared solely with the view to securing permanent peace, and expressing the sincere wish that the recently concluded Japanese-Corean protocol would increase the intimacy of the two countries.

On the strength of a statement made by a missionary, the Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Chronicle sends in a doubtful report that 28 Japanese sailors have landed at Tengchow, west of Chefoo, saying their vessel had sunk as the result of an engagement with Russian warships, which also went down. No Russian were saved, but 200 Japanese were rescued by Chinese junks. This action is reported to have occurred between Port Arthur and Miao in Laotieshau channel.

GO TO PANAMA.

Canal Commissioner Called to Washington for Conference.

Washington, March 7.—Admiral Walker, chairman of the Isthmian canal commission, had a conference today with the President relating to canal affairs. At the conclusion of the conference Admiral Walker said he had advised the commission by telegraph to come to Washington at their earliest convenience. He said he expected the commission would sail for the isthmus on March 22. If, however, all the members could not arrange their affairs so as to leave at that time the commission would leave a week later.

It is said the President adopted an unusual procedure in specifically naming in the list of nominations Admiral Walker as chairman of the commission, as it is usual to leave the selection of chairman to the commission. But there were slight signs of friction, it is said, which impelled the President to prevent any contest in the commission by naming the chairman himself.

Rear-Admiral Rixey, Surgeon-General of the Navy, is going to Panama to make an inspection of the sanitary conditions on the isthmus. No date has been set for his departure, but he will have a conference with Rear-Admiral Walker before working out the details of his trip.

The health of marines and of the officers and men on the ships on duty in isthmian waters comes under the charge or Rear-Admiral Rixey, and he will make a careful investigation of the sites selected for camps, and on his return probably will draft a report he may see fit regarding proper quarters for the men and the making of whatever sanitary safeguards he thinks necessary.

There are on the isthmus six surgeons of the navy already. One of them who has just returned reports that the health of the men is excellent.

Anxiety for Von Waldersee.

Hanover, Prussia, March 7.—The condition of Field Marshal Count Von Waldersee is causing anxiety among his friends. He has been ill for some days, and is losing strength. There was no improvement late tonight, according to dispatches from Hanover. In the condition of Count von Waldersee, Professor Orth of Berlin, and Professor Eppstein of Göttingen, have diagnosed the disease as intestinal inflammation. The Count is very weak and the worst is feared. Emperor William has ordered that full reports of the Field Marshal's condition be wired him frequently.

Great Earthquake in Peru.

Lima, Peru, March 7.—A tremendous earthquake, which did much damage, occurred here at 5:20 this morning. Nothing comparable with it has been experienced during the last 30 years.