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NO. 43.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK

In a Condensed Form for Our Busy Readers.

HAPPENINGS OF TWO CONTINENTS

A Resume of the Less Important but Not Less Interesting Events of the Past Week.

The freezing of the Chesapeake bay has caused an oyster famine in Boston.

Riots at Baku, Russia, have caused 1,000 deaths, and twice as many were wounded.

Railroad strikes have cut off Poland and all southwestern Russia from the rest of the world.

All talk of peace is scouted by both Japan and Russia, and both nations are preparing for a decisive battle.

Following an operation for appendicitis, Sidney Dillon Ripley, the financier, is critically ill at his home in New York.

The state assembly of Wisconsin has passed a bill prohibiting the sale of giant firecrackers and other dangerous explosives.

Twenty-one buildings in the heart of Cape May Courthouse, the county seat of Cape May county, N. J., were destroyed by fire.

It seems that the decision of the North sea commission will let both nations down easily, not being a decided report either way.

The work of rescuing the dead from the Virginia mine, in Alabama, is proceeding slowly. Foul gas greatly hinders the work. The fourth day after the explosion 92 bodies had been recovered.

A great battle is impending in Manchuria.

Senator Mitchell will endeavor to have his trial in April.

A life saving station is to be established at Nome, Alaska.

Hearst will be an independent candidate for mayor of New York.

The funeral of Grand Duke Sergius will be private for fear of terrorists.

The government has begun a thorough investigation of the beef trust.

King Alfonso, of Spain, is to marry Princess Victoria, of Prussia, daughter of Kaiser Wilhelm.

Japan has a strong fleet in the Indian ocean awaiting the arrival of the Russian Baltic squadron.

Kansas will extend the investigation of the Standard Oil to all the trusts and other states offer aid.

Two trainmen and two women were seriously hurt in a wreck on the Northern Pacific near Plains, Mont.

Chinese junkmen have confessed to having murdered a German and a French attaché and one other European while they were attempting to escape from Port Arthur last August.

The senate has ratified the treaty between practically all nations for the exemption of hospital ships in time of war from the payment of all duties and taxes imposed for the benefit of the same.

Fire destroyed two piers and two steamers at Boston.

Utah will spend \$30,000 at the Lewis and Clark fair.

The Cody, Wyoming, bank robbers have been caught in Utah.

Pennsylvania oil men will build a large refining plant in Kansas.

All Panama canal commissioners took fees as Panama railroad directors.

Russian university students have demanded reforms and suspended study.

The president promises a thorough investigation of the Standard Oil company.

Threatening letters sent to the czar have caused martial law to be proclaimed at Tsarskoe-Selo.

Russian cavalry made a raid around the flank and rear of the Japanese army and drove in all small parties.

The Indian appropriation bill, as reported to the senate, will contain no provision for church schools.

Four men were killed and 14 others injured by an exploding boiler at the Provident Coal company, St. Clairsville, Ohio.

The Oregon land fraud trials are to be postponed until June. Attorney Heney expects more indictments when the grand jury reconvenes in April.

Nan Patterson is seriously ill with tonsillitis.

The powers have refused to allow Greece to annex Crete.

A report from Colon says that city is now free from yellow fever.

Three minor Russian officials have been murdered or assaulted by terrorists.

Russian terrorists have threatened the lives of nearly all of the imperial family.

The government has just contracted for 60,000 tons of coal to be delivered at Cavite, Philippine islands.

The United States Cotton Duck corporation in 1904 made a surplus of \$166,985, after paying interest on bonds.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Friday, February 17.

The house today rejected all changes in the original statehood bill by sending it to conference without taking any action on it.

The senate today passed a bill appropriating \$9,940,000 for the District of Columbia, and the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill carrying \$2,158,000.

Only one hour was spent today on the Swayne impeachment trial.

Saturday, February 18.

After an hour spent as a court of impeachment the senate today took up the appointment of a conference committee on the statehood bill. The matter was finally postponed until Monday, when the special order of the day, the eulogies upon the character of the late Senator Quay, was entered upon.

The house passed the pension appropriation bill, carrying \$138,285,200. The District of Columbia appropriation bill was sent to conference, a bill was passed to prohibit interstate transportation of insect pests, carrying with it a fine and imprisonment.

Monday, February 20.

The house passed the naval appropriation bill carrying a total of \$99,014,359. The provision for two battleships as reported by the committee on naval affairs was retained.

Whether the senate conferees on the statehood bill shall represent the party that defeated joint statehood for Arizona and New Mexico or the party that fought for the retention of that provision was debated at length today, but no decision was reached.

The Swayne trial was taken up at 2 o'clock. Two witnesses were examined. After the provisions of the Florida statutes relating to suits of forfeiture or disqualification of judges had been read it was announced that the case of the house managers was concluded. The preliminary statement for Swayne was not finished when the court adjourned for the day.

Tuesday, February 21.

The house today passed the Philippine tariff bill, practically as it came from the committee. The river and harbor appropriation bill was then taken up but it was soon laid aside and several measures were passed, the most important of which was the authorization given the secretary of war to return to the several states the Union and Confederate battle flags.

The senate committee today reported that it would be impossible to act on the railroad rate bill at this session without ignoring the railroads. Consideration of the Indian appropriation bill was begun. A short time was given to the defense of Judge Swayne, and the senate began the consideration of the bill for the government of the Isthmian canal zone.

Wednesday, February 22.

Government ownership of railroads was discussed by the senate today in connection with the purchase of the Panama railroad, while the bill for the government of the canal zone was under consideration. Consideration of the bill was not completed when the senate adjourned.

A number of witnesses were examined in behalf of Judge Swayne in the impeachment proceedings against him.

After a brief but spirited debate the house today sent back to conference the army appropriation bill. All senate amendments were again disagreed to, excepting one appropriating \$95,000 for continuing the cable from Valdez to Seward, Alaska.

Thursday, February 23.

Without a dollar being added or subtracted the river and harbor appropriation bill passed the house today, after the session had run well into the evening. The total amount carried by the bill is \$17,234,657. It was impeded by the offering of amendments, but only those presented by the committee were adopted.

The last testimony in the interest of Judge Swayne in the impeachment against him was today presented to the senate.

The bill providing a form of government for the Panama canal zone was passed early in the day.

Warships Bombard Rebels.

Constantinople, Feb. 24.—Extremely alarming reports are current here concerning the situation at Batoum and Poti. It is alleged that some vessels of the Black sea squadron (Russian) have bombarded Poti. An English merchant who has just arrived here says he was obliged to flee from Batoum, where his life was menaced by strikers and his office destroyed. This merchant says the authorities of Batoum are powerless. The strikers are all Georgians, and are estimated to number 40,000.

Rumors of Great Events.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.—A second day has passed without dispatches having been given out from General Kuropatkin, which is interpreted to support the rumors that great events are in progress in Manchuria. The war office, however, steadfastly maintains that there is no important news and that there have been no developments since the last dispatches made public, in which the commander-in-chief reported all quiet.

Conference on Land Frauds.

Washington, Feb. 24.—District Attorney Heney took lunch with the president today by invitation. Secretary Hitchcock and Attorney General Moody were present. The object was to have a conference on the Oregon land fraud matters. The president later sent for W. J. Burns, who had worked up the evidence in these cases, thanked him and warmly congratulated him on his successful work.

CASH FOR RIVERS

Chairman Burton Sure Appropriation Bill Will Pass.

ITS FATE RESTS WITH SENATE

Only Danger is that Load of Amendments May Sink It in the Upper House.

Washington, Feb. 23.—Chairman Burton, of the rivers and harbors committee, expressed the belief today that his bill, consideration of which was begun in the house yesterday, will pass both houses and become law before March 4.

There has been a growing fear that this bill would be sidetracked, not only because of the demands of party leaders for economy, but because of the unprecedented late date in bringing it up for consideration. Only eight days remain to pass it through both houses and through conference, less time than was ever before given any river and harbor bill.

Burton, however, says the shortage of time is a strong factor in favor of the passage of the bill. It will induce the senate to make only slight amendments, for fear of losing what is proposed by the house. He says that unless the senate loads the bill down with large amendments, it will pass without material objection, carrying practically the appropriations agreed to by the house committee.

HOPE TO BANKRUPT JAPAN

Russians Rely on Long Pursue for Escape from Defeat.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.—Although the party which is advocating peace as the only course from the present situation continues to gain strength, nothing has actually been decided, and no move has yet been made. It is officially maintained that Russia's attitude is unchanged. At the foreign office the slightest encouragement is given to the peace talk. On the contrary, it is affirmed as strongly as ever that Japan must propose terms, while at the same time it is admitted that it is inconceivable that Japan can offer conditions acceptable to Russia.

The idea of a complete Russian victory is not harbored, but it is insisted that Russia is not beaten, and will not be beaten until General Kuropatkin is decisively worsted by General Oyama and the fate of Admiral Rojstvensky's squadron is determined. The main consideration entering into the calculations of the uncompromising advocates of a prosecution of the war is that Japan's financial resources must become exhausted long before Russia's.

HALF THE BODIES ARE FOUND

Only Three Were Rescued Alive, and They Soon Died.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 23.—At 8 o'clock this evening 75 blackened and disfigured bodies had been recovered from the Virginia mine in which the awful explosion occurred on Monday afternoon, entombing more than 150 miners.

The rescuers are still heroically at work in the mine, and as they advance the bodies further in the mine are found to be worse burned and mutilated than those nearer the exterior. No hope is now held out that any are alive. Three men were found yesterday whose hearts were still beating, but they expired immediately.

The Birmingham district has come promptly forward in relieving the destitute families of the victims, and mass meetings have been held for that purpose. Hundreds of dollars have been subscribed, and the Birmingham Commercial club has raised more than \$1,000. Alabama District No. 20, United Mineworkers of America, today voted \$5,000 to be distributed among the families.

Russian Raiders Violate Neutrality

Tientsin, Feb. 23.—About 300 Russian raiders slightly damaged the railway between Haicheng and Tatchekiao on Monday night and again disregarded the neutrality of the territory west of the Liao river. The presence of Chinese soldiers was not reported. It is evident that the villagers kept the Russians well informed as to the disposition of the Japanese troops. It was expected that the raiders would repeat the attempt to destroy the Japanese stores at Nichiatun, but they retired without an engagement.

Oil Refinery for Colorado.

Denver, Feb. 23.—Representative Clifton H. Wilder's bill appropriating \$125,000 for the establishment of a state oil refinery was favorably reported to the house by the finance committee today. The bill also contains provisions to regulate the price of oil. Independent oil producers who are supporting the measure have offered to lease and operate the refinery when constructed, and to advance the money for its construction at low rates.

Kansas After the Railroads.

Topeka, Feb. 23.—The Kansas senate tonight passed a bill for the regulation of railroads. It provides that a state railroad board shall make changes in freight rates upon the complaint being made. A section giving the board power to change rates of its own initiative was included in the bill as it passed the house.

TERMS OF PEACE.

They Have Been Practically Agreed Upon by Japan and Russia.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22.—Despite the official denials, the Publishers' Press correspondent is in a position to state that the czar and his advisers have of late not only discussed the question of peace with Japan, but have also practically agreed upon certain terms, which are acceptable to the emperor, and, it is alleged, are almost identical with those which have been submitted by the Japanese government to Russia through the agency of the German emperor. It is still denied that such terms were submitted, but it is nevertheless true that they have reached the hands of the czar.

The terms acceptable to both nations, and practically agreed to by the czar, place Korea under Japanese suzerainty and cede Port Arthur and the Liao Tung peninsula to Japan.

Vladivostok, under the stipulations, is to be declared a neutral and open port in place of Port Arthur, the neutralization of which Japan would not agree to. This feature, it is stated, proved one of the most objectionable to Russia, as it was hoped that the disarmament of Port Arthur and its transformation into a purely commercial port, open to all nations, would end the vexing Manchurian question.

The Eastern Chinese railway is to be placed under a neutral international administration, and, in order to provide some sort of safeguard for future peace in Manchuria, that country, as far north as Harbin, is to be restored as an integral part of China.

The main difficulty in the way of bringing about immediate peace seems to be the question of indemnity. It is known that Japan will insist upon a considerable money payment, and Russia is not willing to submit to that condition. The difficulty, however, is by no means insuperable, but if it should prove to be a serious obstacle, the czar will perhaps be willing to risk another battle in the hope of gaining a victory which may make the Japanese more amenable to the Russian arguments.

LIFE IN ONLY ONE.

Blackened and Mangled Corpses Removed from Alabama Mine.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 22.—The scene at the Virginia mine this afternoon, where a terrific afterdamp explosion yesterday afternoon imprisoned 116 men 700 feet below the surface, was the most gruesome and harrowing that has ever been witnessed in this section of Alabama. Of the miners who entered the mines yesterday afternoon, so far only 50 bodies have been recovered. The recovery already of so many dead bodies precludes the idea that any living men remain among the unfortunates still in the mine. The corpses are frightfully mangled and disfigured and identification is almost impossible.

Out of the 50 bodies recovered up to this time, one was found about 4 o'clock which was barely alive. The body was carefully taken from the mine and heroic methods resorted to to bring the man to consciousness. He is still alive, but scant hope is held out for his recovery.

FAVOR COAST SHIPYARDS.

Humphrey Pleads for Differential on Naval Contracts.

Washington, Feb. 21.—An earnest effort is being made by congressmen from the Pacific coast to have inserted in the naval appropriation bill a provision for a 4 per cent differential in favor of shipyards on the West coast in the contract price for warships constructed in these yards.

Representative Humphrey, of Washington, today strongly urged the president to advocate such a differential. If adopted, the differential would increase the cost to the government of a battleship constructed on the Pacific coast about \$150,000. This sum, Humphrey explained, would not be in the form of additional profit to the constructing company, as the shipment from the East of necessary material entering into the vessels would amount to \$165,000.

Railroads Are Tied Up.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 22.—The railroad strike situation is reported to be growing worse in the southwest, and private advices are to show the existence of a reign of terror in Tiflis and the Caucasus generally. Many murders by Tartars and Armenians are reported. Communication has been almost cut off, even the telegraphers striking, the few who are still at their keys being kept there with pistols at their heads. The situation in Poland along the Austrian border is also causing great uneasiness.

Baltic Fleet at Nossi Be.

Port Louis, Mauritius, Feb. 22.—Russia's Baltic fleet is still making Nossi Be (Great Island), off the northwest coast of Madagascar, its rendezvous. The whole fleet and colliers number 70 vessels of all kinds. Only a few colliers remain at Diego Suarez, Madagascar. The Russian officers and sailors are enjoying themselves greatly. The fleet has been supplied with 50,000 cases of potatoes and 10,000 bags of flour by local merchants.

Investigate Texas Oil Also.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 22.—A petition is being circulated here asking Congressman Pickney to request President Roosevelt to include the Texas oil fields in the investigation of the Standard Oil operations in Kansas.

MANY MINERS DEAD

Over One Hundred Entombed in Alabama Mine.

EXPLOSION OF DUST THE CAUSE

Details of Cause of Explosion Will Likely Never Be Known—Relief Hurried to Scene.

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 21.—By an explosion in the Virginia mine, about 18 miles southwest of Birmingham, at 4 o'clock this afternoon, between 110 and 135 union miners are entombed and it is believed the entire number suffered an awful death. Scores of vigorous rescuers are at work digging into the mine to relieve their friends and comrades in the inside.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by an accumulation of dust, although the mine has heretofore been noted for being entirely free from dust. It is also believed that, as the entire quota has probably been killed, the details of the cause of the disaster will never be known.

The camp is almost isolated from the rest of the world, there is no telephone station at Virginia, and the only wire running to the place is a dispatcher's wire of the Birmingham Mineral railway, on which Virginia is located.

Details of the disaster were slow to come in.

The class of miners employed was the best in the district, and all belonged to the United Mineworkers of America. Since the strike has been on in the Birmingham district, many of the most industrious and thrifty miners of Pratt City and other important mining points have removed to the Virginia mines, so that the mines were being worked to their full capacity by the most skilled miners in the community.

Relief trains with surgeons and workmen were dispatched from both Birmingham and Bessemer as soon as the news of the disaster was learned. They began the work of succor in earnest and at midnight had not dug half way through the mass of debris. It is thought it will be 10 o'clock tomorrow before the interior of the stope is reached.

The stopes are well arranged and there has never been the least trouble in the mines before. They are owned by the Alabama Steel & Wire company, but are leased and operated by Reid & Co.

EXTRA SESSION ON RATE LAW.

Will Be Called in October, Earlier Action Being Impossible.

Washington, Feb. 21.—President Roosevelt, who for weeks has been hopeful that some definite action might be taken at the present session of congress on the railroad rate question, practically has relinquished the idea of securing legislation on the subject this winter. It is reasonably certain that he will not call an extraordinary session of congress to meet in the spring, but unless he changes his mind, he will call congress together, probably next October.

Representatives Eech and Townsend, joint authors of the rate bill which passed the house, had a talk with the president today. They outlined the rate situation and conditions as they found it. They agreed with him in the prospect for the enactment of rate legislation at this session was remote. They indicated that if no action was taken at this session, the subject would be considered thoroughly during the coming summer with the idea of presenting a measure at the next session which, very likely, would contain some additional features.

Will Confer on Irrigation.

Washington, Feb. 21.—A conference of reclamation engineers has been called to meet at Klamath Falls, April 1, to consider plans and estimates for the Klamath irrigation project. At that meeting it is hoped final plans may be made for buying out owners of the small canals, including the rights of the Klamath Canal company. The government is willing to pay this company \$150,000 to get out of the way. The company demands more, but it is believed will eventually accept this figure.

Will Issue Philippine Bonds.

Washington, Feb. 21.—After consultation by cable with Governor General Wright, at Manila, Secretary Taft has decided to avail himself immediately of the provision of the Cooper bill authorizing the issue of bonds to defray the cost of public works in the Philippines. It is the purpose to issue \$2,500,000 of these bonds bearing four per cent interest and they are to