



TOGO LAID TRAP

Russian Fleet Enticed From Harbor.

DANGER SEEN JUST IN TIME

Wireless Brought Japanese Battleships on the Run.

MINES LAID ON A DARK NIGHT

Course of Makarov's Fleet in Previous Encounters Had Been Marked and Destruction Laid in Path of Vessels.

TOKIO, April 17, 5 P. M.—The Japanese are elated over the successes they have won at Port Arthur. They are also proud of the achievement of Vice-Admiral Togo, particularly of his newest strategy in countering the enemy's harbor and destroying him across this field of mines to an equally dangerous flank attack.

The success of the system of placing deadly countermines is due principally to a series of careful observations made by the Japanese during their previous attacks on Port Arthur. The Japanese saw the Russian fleet leave the harbor and return to it several times, and they discovered that the Russian warships followed an identical course every time they came out or went in, evidently for the purpose of avoiding their own mines.

The Japanese took bearings on this course. When the destroyer division of the Japanese torpedo flotilla laid the countermines during the night of April 12 and 13 they placed them along this course. The laying of these countermines was exceedingly perilous, because if any Japanese boat with mines on board had been struck by a lucky Russian shot she would have been annihilated.

Mines Laid on a Dark Night.
The weather of the night of April 12-13 favored the work. There was a heavy rain, the night was dark and cloudy, and the Russian searchlights playing over the channel failed to reveal the presence of the Japanese destroyers.

Rear-Admiral Dewa was in command of the Japanese squadron which decoyed the Russian ships over the field of mines. His squadron consisted of the cruisers Chitose, Yoshino, Kasuga, and Takasago, all unarmored vessels, which presented a tempting bait for the heavier guardships. Vice-Admiral Togo directed the flank attack. He had the battleships Hatakeyama, Mikasa, Asahi, Shikashima, Yamashiro, and Fuji. He waited 30 miles out at sea until Rear-Admiral Dewa signalled him by wireless telegraphy to come in. His vessels then dashed at full speed toward the entrance of the harbor. All the battleships under Vice-Admiral Togo are capable of a speed of 23 knots, and they quickly covered the distance.

Russians Warned of Trap.
It is not clear what warned the Russians that they had been trapped, but they probably discerned the battleship squadron on the horizon, and retreated precipitately to the harbor. Vice-Admiral Togo did not succeed in preventing the

Russians from entering, but did force them to a disastrous retreat, which ended in the destruction of the Petropavlovsk and the disabling of the Pobieda.

After these occurrences the cruisers Nishin and Kasuga were used to bombard Port Arthur. They possess the highest-angled guns of the fleet, capable of throwing shells to the elevated Russian land works, were beyond attaining by the average naval weapon.

Vice-Admiral Togo calls this attack on Port Arthur the eighth, whereas here it is numbered the seventh. A probable explanation is that Vice-Admiral Togo regards the last operation as two distinct attacks.

Expressions of regret at the death of the Vice-Admiral Makarov are general here. Speaking for the naval staff, Commander Ogasawara has published a long statement, in which he laments the death of the Russian Vice-Admiral and pronounces it to be a loss to the navy of the world.

Commander Ogasawara reviews the life, professional career and the personal attributes of Vice-Admiral Makarov, and declares that he is entitled to be classed with the best Admirals in the world. The Koryumaru, which participated in the latest attack on Port Arthur, is a torpedo-boat ship under the command of Commander Oda. Oda is a mine expert, and the success of the Japanese countermining operations was due largely to the ingenuity and bravery of Oda.

The Japanese report that the wreck of the Petropavlovsk is east of South Golden Hill, one mile outside the entrance to the harbor.

REFUSES JAPANESE CREDIT.
Russian Naval Authority on Sinking of the Petropavlovsk.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 17.—Notwithstanding Vice-Admiral Togo's claim that mines laid by his vessels were responsible for the disaster to the Petropavlovsk, said a high naval authority who is in a position to have access to all government reports, to the Associated Press:

"I am more than ever convinced that the Petropavlovsk and the Pobieda, did not strike Japanese mines. Each ship was struck under the hull amidships, while a mine would have exploded on first contact near the bows. The fact that in both cases the ships were struck amidships warrants the acceptance of the theory regarding submarine vessels, although personally I do not hold that idea.

"The Pobieda probably escaped the fate of the Petropavlovsk because she carried coal in her bunkers between the bottom and the boilers, which, moreover, are of the Belleville type, whereas the boilers of the Petropavlovsk were of Scotch make and were not protected by her bunkers."

One of the shrewdest naval attaches at St. Petersburg, however, told the Associated Press that he believed the Japanese laid the mines which were responsible for the disaster, pointing out that this was one of the oldest systems of blockading when ships did not dare to run the risk of entering under an enemy's guns. The attaché said he thought that they would do this when he noticed that the Japanese fleet always made a wide detour of the entrance.

It is also significant that Chinese junks have been reported as cruising off the harbor, and it is considered possible that the Japanese kept these junks there systematically in order to throw the Russians off their guard if they were seen when the actual time arrived to lay the mines.

Captain Crowe, who went down with the Petropavlovsk, joined that ship on the previous day, having succeeded in getting through from Shanghai, where he left his vessel, the gunboat Mandjur. Captain Crowe was a descendant of a Scotchman who fought with Russia in the war with Sweden when he captured the first Retvizan.

Quiet After Bombardment.
PORT ARTHUR, April 17.—Since the bombardment of Friday all has been quiet here.

Viceroy Alexieff has hoisted his flag on the battleship Sevastopol.

PIERCE AT PEACE

No Internal Political Dissensions at Tacoma.

CUSHMAN'S FULL CONTROL

Will Probably Throw County Strength to McBride.

FOSTER SELDOM MENTIONED

McBride May Be Nominated by Pierce County Votes, but Railroad Commission Bill Cannot Be Passed at Next Session.

TACOMA, Wash., April 17.—(Staff correspondence.)—None of the internal, external and internal strife which always makes pork out of the Seattle hog before it has an opportunity to do much rooting is in evidence in Tacoma. This political peace shows that in some respects there are advantages in having only one candidate for one position. The Hon. Francis Cushman, whose silver-tongued, spell-binding eloquence and shiftness on his political feet have enabled him to sidestep into safety from many a threatening mixup, has the political destiny of Pierce County in his own pocket.

"No, I don't think Frank will be home before the convention unless we should need him," said one of his lieutenants this morning, "and," he added with a smile, "I don't think we will need him."

Cushman, who came into the convention with fear and trembling two years ago, has the nearest thing to a political "elephant" that could well be imagined, and he is in supreme control of the 68 votes which Pierce County will have in the State Convention, and he will use them in forming the best possible combination for Cushman. The political mantle of the late Senator Ed Hamilton has not yet fallen on the shoulders of a successor with talents anywhere near approaching those of the dead leader, and with this absence of any opposition all is plain sailing.

Smith's Withdrawal Helped Cushman.
The death of Hamilton, however, was by no means the principal event that has smoothed the pathway for Cushman. Dr. J. J. Smith, who was forced out of the race for Governor, is almost as powerful a factor in Pierce County politics as he is in those of King County.

He resides within less than two miles of the Pierce County line, in a district that is always threatening to cut loose from King and go over to Pierce. His business interests and his practice lie largely in Pierce County, and he is well liked there.

Had he remained in the fight for Governor, he would undoubtedly have taken a portion of Cushman's strength and traded it with some other aspirant for Congressional honors who was more acceptable to the party wing with which Smith was allied and which Cushman deserted two years ago.

As has previously been stated, the Piles-McGraw combination forced Smith out of the fight in order that they could have the Governorship to be used in placating Brownell, who was out for Humphrey's Congressional bid. That was not the kind of a crown that Brownell desired, and, like Caesar, he refused it, leaving the Piles people with a Governorship on hand.

With the elimination of Smith from the fight all formidable opposition to Governor McBride vanished. The railroads, having split their forces on Smith, could not jump up another candidate. Piles himself is reported to have declared his willingness to help McBride if he can strengthen his own candidacy by so doing.

But McBride is no longer flirting with the Piles-McGraw combination. He has a softer game than that for the split in the railroad forces opened for him an avenue through which he is in a fair way to march to success.

The McBride-Stevenson Meeting.
Nothing has yet come to light that indicates that both the Governor and George Stevenson did not tell the truth when they said no deal had been made between them. They met and met alone, and the Egyptian sphinx is a high-geared talking machine compared with either of them when they are interrogated regarding that meeting. In the light of subsequent events, it is almost a certainty that the conversation which followed the time-honored remark of the Governor of North Carolina to the Governor of South Carolina, ran about like this:

Governor McBride—I am going to do up that Piles-Great Northern crowd.

Stevenson—Bless you, my boy, I am after them with a meat ax myself.

Governor McBride—And I am also going to pass a railroad commission bill.

Stevenson—And I will take pleasure in knocking your commission bill in the head whenever it shows up.

When the Piles-McGraw crowd forced Stevenson out of their camp by defeating his friend, Dr. Smith, they split the railroad forces in two and gave McBride a feeling of confidence that for the time being has made him rather independent of either faction, his friend Cushman taking advantage of the row

and slipping away from both of them and now being in a position to hand Pierce a railroad county over to the anti-railroad Governor, and at the same time swing it back into line for Foster, a railroad Senator.

Foster's Chances Not Bright.

Pierce County's delegation to the State Convention may have enough votes to throw the nomination to McBride, but it does not follow that she will have enough votes at Olympia next Winter to elect Foster. The history of Washington's Senatorial fights will show that except in rare cases it has been decidedly necessary for a candidate to brand his followers on the range instead of in the Olympia corral, for wherever this practice has been departed from the victim has usually discovered on reaching Olympia that his voters have been "Mavericked" by some other candidate.

Foster has some strength and will, of course, have the votes of Pierce County for a starter, and he has some strength from outside, but his home county is not uproariously anxious to have him returned to the Senate, and unless he begins to round up the outsiders and get an organization together he will go down to Olympia with insufficient strength to warrant even his own county in remaining too long with him.

No Hope for Commission Bill.

It is an accepted fact that the railroads are not fighting McBride as furiously as they were two years ago. It is unnecessary that they should, and it did not require a deal between Stevenson and the Governor to bring about this pause in conflict. A railroad commission bill cannot pass the next Legislature. The hold-over Senators who voted against the bill last Winter, reinforced by the men who are certain to be sent to Olympia from counties where the railroad sentiment is overwhelmingly strong, will make it impossible to get the measure through the Legislature, which meets next January. This makes the railroads safe from an attack of McBrideism until January, 1907, which is now far in the distance.

No man knows this better than McBride himself, and all of his ranting against the men who refuse to stand on a platform not to their liking will not change matters. Like the railroad crowd, he is tamer himself than he was two years ago, and will be satisfied if the railroad interests continue to scrap each other while he slips back into the Governor's chair.

As for Stevenson, he seems to have his hands too full fighting the Piles-McGraw-Great Northern crowd to pay much attention to McBride just now, but if any one thinks he has forgotten McBride's commission bill, they will discover their error when the votes are counted at Olympia next Winter. As matters are now framed up in Pierce County, Cushman can do what he pleases with it to help himself.

After securing all that he requires personally he will pass the remaining strength on to McBride. If there is anything left after McBride gets through, it will belong to Foster, this being the relative order of the strength of the three men in this county, although it is to the interest of the candidates of all three of them to work together for the present at least.

E. W. W.

CHOICE OF TWO

Parker or Hearst Will Get the Nomination.

ALL OTHERS ARE OUT OF IT

Canvass Made of Democratic National Committeemen.

FAVORS THE NEW YORK JUDGE

Nebraska Is Put Down as Uncertain, While Pennsylvania Is Said to Be for the Jurist-New York Will Decide, Says Clark Howell.

CHOICES OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEEMEN.

Indiana	.....Parker
Illinois	.....Parker
New York	.....Parker
Texas	.....Parker
Minnesota	.....Parker
Georgia	.....Parker
Louisiana	.....Parker
Massachusetts	.....Hearst
California	.....Hearst
North Dakota	.....Hearst
South Dakota	.....Hearst
Kansas	.....Hearst
Nebraska	.....Parker or Hearst
North Carolina	.....Gorman or Parker
Delaware	.....Hearst or Gorman
Pennsylvania	.....Noncommittal (Parker)
Wisconsin	.....E. C. Wall (Parker)

CHICAGO, April 17.—(Special.)—Parker against Hearst. Members of the Democratic National Committee who feel free to express their opinion at this time on the situation regarding the nomination of a candidate for President by the St. Louis Convention believe the contest will be between these two residents of New York.

Many of the committeemen decline to express any preference or opinion at present. Enough have responded to a query sent out, however, to indicate the general feeling among the leaders of the Democratic party.

"Whom do you favor as the Democratic nominee for the Presidency, Parker or Hearst, Gray or Gorman?" was the question transmitted to the members of the National committee in several states and territories.

Of the replies received six are unqualifiedly in favor of the nomination of Judge Alton B. Parker, either from personal choice or on grounds of political availability. Four National committeemen are

uncompromising Hearst men. Two favor the nomination of Arthur Pue Gorman, although one of the two, Daniels, of North Carolina, says his state will be for Parker if the contest lies between the latter and Hearst.

One, Ryan, of Wisconsin, favors the nomination of E. C. Wall, of the Badger State. Three replied to the telegram of inquiry without stating any preference.

New York Will Decide Question.

The answers to the question show some significant crystallizing of sentiment that has followed the inauguration of the Parker movement in New York State. Clark Howell, of Georgia, who some time ago was credited with a leaning toward the Hearst candidacy, now declares that if New York instructs for Parker the question practically will be settled and no name other than Parker will be presented to the St. Louis Convention.

It is also worthy of note that wherever there is a Hearst man on the National committee he shows an unhesitating willingness to advance a line of argument in favor of his candidate.

J. M. Guffey, of Pennsylvania, one of the influential members of the committee, is noncommittal, but it is generally understood by his colleagues that he will be for Parker if the situation remains as it is at present. Mr. Ryan, of Wisconsin, may also be counted among the Parker men if there is no reasonable show for the nomination of Mr. Wall.

Where Mr. Bryan Lives.

The attitude assumed by the Nebraska member of the committee is sure to be considered by many politicians as significant, in view of the fact that he represents Bryan's state. Mr. Dahlman, the committeeman from there, thinks the nomination will go to some one who has not yet been prominently mentioned.

FORECAST BY FITZGERALD.

Ex-Representative Believes Olney Has a Chance on a Deadlock.

BOSTON, Mass., April 17.—(Special.)—Ex-Representative Fitzgerald tonight gives out a forecast with detailed figures by states of the make-up of the Democratic National Convention. He gives Judge Parker 547 delegates and W. R. Hearst 188. Olney is given his home state, 32; Cockrell, Missouri, 36; James R. Williams, Illinois, 54, and E. C. Wall, Wisconsin, 26. Oregon, Washington, Mississippi, Iowa, Kentucky and Ohio, aggregating 138 delegates, are classed as doubtful.

The entire South is given to Parker, with Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Montana, half of Minnesota, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont and West Virginia.

Hearst is given Alaska, California, Hawaii, half of Minnesota, Utah, Wyoming, Porto Rico and the balance not included above.

He sees a big chance for Olney in the inevitable deadlock between Hearst and Parker.

TAMMANY MAY BE THROWN OUT

Hill Says Parker Must Be Indorsed by New York Convention.

ALBANY, N. Y., April 17.—If the policy adopted by the friends of Judge Alton B. Parker, at whose head stands Ex-Senator David B. Hill, is carried out at the

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STICKS TO LAW

Roosevelt True to Civil Service Reform.

CRITICISM IS GROUNDESS

Ex-Commissioner Foulke Gives Out Some Facts.

FAVORITES NOT APPOINTED

Competitive System Has Advanced Under the Present Administration Faster and With More Certainty Than Ever Before.

WASHINGTON, April 17.—Chairman Gillett, of the House committee on civil service reform, recently wrote to W. D. Foulke, ex-civil service Commissioner, calling his attention to the recent Congressional and other criticism of President Roosevelt, on the ground that he had made a larger number of irregular appointments to the classified service than any of his predecessors, and in view of the fact that the period covered was while Foulke was Commissioner, asking his opinion to the charges. In Mr. Foulke's letter, under date of April 15, he wrote:

"The fact is exactly the other way. There have been fewer appointments without competitive examination under President Roosevelt than under any other President, and there has been no advantage since the passage of the civil service act in which the competitive system has advanced with greater rapidity and certainty."

Appointive Positions Lessened.
"It has been necessary for every President to permit certain positions to be filled without examination. The number has been reduced from time to time and the range of the competitive system extended. This process has gone on faster under President Roosevelt than under any other President."

"Of the 69 cases of suspensions of the rules during his administration, only 23 are of persons who were allowed to enter the service without examination. In other words, out of over 70,000 appointments to the competitive service since Mr. Roosevelt became President, it was deemed unnecessary in these cases to require competitive examination."

"These cases form less than one-twentieth of one per cent of one of the appointments. They comprise, for instance, a steward in the White House, a coachman in the Navy Department, two special agents in the Bureau of Corporations, the Superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane and other cases where, on account of special reasons

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