FLEET IS AT SEA

Japanese Go South to Meet Russians.

TOUCH AT SINGAPORE

Expect to Intercept Russian Baltic Squadron.

NUMBER OF CRAFT UNKNOWN

Highest Estimate Is Given at Eighteen, Including Two Battleships, Four Cruisers and Twelve Torpedo Craft.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—(Special.)—The Daily News has a cablegram from a staff correspondent under Singapore date as follows:

"Two Japanese converted cruisers, the Nippon Maru and the Hong Kong Maru, entered the Singapore Strait this morning and anchored in the roadstead seven miles from Singapore City at noon. Chartering a launch, I steamed out, and was courteously received on board the Hong Kong Maru by the Captain.

"He informed me that the two cruisers were sea scouts of the Japanese battle fleet, which is composed of two first-class cruisers and a flotilla of 12 torpedo craft. These vessels are now on their way to a certain place where they intend to give battle to part of the Baltic fleet.

"According to the Japanese Captain, the naval situation at Port Arthur being now settled and the Russian fleet entirely disabled, Admiral Togo has turned his attention to the outcoming fleet. He declined to give any further information, but admitted that he would go west and south, and had called here to communicate with the Japanese Consul. When informed that I hoped to be permitted to meet and accompany the Russian fleet, the Captain said:

"'Tell them we are waiting for them. If you find them, we will entertain you at dinner.'

"It is thought here that the Japanese fleet has a secret base among the islands, and will attempt to seize colliers and boats carrying contraband to the Russian fleet in these waters. The Japanese cruisers left today at 1:30 P. M."

Eighteen Vessels in Fleet.

SINGAPORE, Straits Settlements, December 22.—Two Japanese cruisers called here this morning and left at noon. They reported that two Japanese battleships, two first-class cruisers, two second-class cruisers and 12 torpedo-boat detroyers were near by, steaming westward.

The cruisers that called here were the Nippon and Hong Kong, formerly Pacific liners, with great coal capacity.

TOO WEAK FOR OFFENSE.

St. Petersburg Believes This to Be a Scouting Squadron.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 22.—The announcement that four Japanese cruisers and 12 torpedo-boats are proceeding west from Singapore is received here with much interest. It is not believed, however, that such a small squadron can have been sent out by Japan with any idea of engaging in offensive operations, but it is regarded as more probable that it is the purpose of this squadron to keep a surveillance over the two detachments of the Russian fleet which are expected to soon unite in the neighborhood of Madagascar.

It is generally believed that Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky intends to establish a naval coaling base on some small island between Madagascar and the Philippines and that the Japanese cruising squadron is to mark the rendezvous for Vice-Admiral Togo's information.

The belief is expressed that Admiral Rojestvensky will be able to catch up with the Japanese scouts, who, it is believed, he could easily destroy, thereby weakening the Japanese in the final naval engagement.

Escaped From Port Arthur.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The Daily Telegraph's Chefoo correspondent reports that eight torpedo-boat destroyers have escaped from Port Arthur, where for the last 24 hours, he says, a severe snow storm has been raging.

FORTS ABOUT LIAO YANG.

Japanese Said to Be Building Extensive Works.

MUKDEN, Dec. 22.—There was more artillery firing from Poutiloff Hill on December 21, which resulted in dispersing a party of Japanese who were trying to entrench in front of that position.

Chinese report that Field Marshal Oyama and his staff have established headquarters at Liao Yang and that the Japanese are constructing new forts around the city.

The Japanese are reported to be suffering severely from cold and sickness in the vicinity of Palaszandzi and Shilikhe, where it is said they lost 2000 men in a single week.

The port of Yinkow is closed by ice.

All Japanese reinforcements landing at Dalny are going in the direction of Port Arthur.

SUICIDE RATHER THAN CAPTURE

Many Japanese Soldiers and Officers Kill Themselves at Defeat.

MUKDEN, Dec. 22.—Apparently there is little personal animosity toward the Japanese among the European Russians. The Russian reservist goes out to fight simply because the Emperor wills it, and takes little interest in the political reasons involved in the struggle. But with the Siberians it is different. The war is closer to their native soil, and they regard the Japanese as their natural enemies. For this reason the only animosity that has been displayed toward the Japanese wounded has been in those hospitals where there were a majority of Siberians. The Sisters of Mercy, on the other hand, have showed a decided partiality for Japanese patients, and there has been some jealousy aroused among the Siberians, who thought the Japanese were getting "the best of it" at the hands of the nurses.

Most of the Japanese wounded have, therefore, been placed in the hospitals with Russian soldiers. The Finlanders almost alone of the Europeans take interest in the policies of the fighting, but they make none the worse soldiers for that.

One of the most inexplicable things to the Russian soldier is the fact that the Japanese commits suicide when endangered with defeat. There are so many eye-witnesses' reports of this nature that it is impossible to discredit them all.

Japanese officers especially seem to make a practice of saving their last cartridge for themselves. A Russian, under the circumstances, would rather go down fighting, leaving his enemies to do the killing if he thought there was nothing to be gained by holding on. In the capture of Poutiloff (Lone Tree) Hill, especially, there were a number of such cases. When the Japanese batteries were captured one officer shot himself across his gun. Another drew his sword and fenced at the empty air until he was shot. During the same fight two villages occupied by the Japanese were surrounded and burned. Numbers of the Japanese remained quietly in the huts and were burned. A Russian officer hauled two Japanese prisoners out of a blazing hut, but one slipped back, and perished in the flames. Japanese officers were found in the huts after the fight, burned to death or suffocated, sitting in chairs, as though they had been quietly awaiting their doom.

FIGHT ON PIGEON BAY.

Important Post Captured by Charging Japanese.

TOKIO, Dec. 22.—A dispatch received by telegraph today from the Japanese army before Port Arthur says:

"The right column of the army at 5 o'clock this morning, taking advantage of the enemy's excitement, drove the enemy off an eminence north of Housanyentao, on Pigeon Bay, and occupied the position, and at 7 o'clock dislodged the enemy from a height on the peninsula west of Housanyentao, which he occupied, capturing one small gun. After the Japanese occupation of the positions, the enemy made a counter attack, but was immediately repulsed. At present our occupation of the position is practically secure."

MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

The buildings, preparation of grounds and the 2500 individual exhibits of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition that will be opened in Portland on June 1, next, will represent the investment of many millions of dollars. The Government exhibit will be one of the most creditable ever made at any of the National Expositions. Every building at the great Fair will be shown by handsome illustration in the New Year's Oregonian that will be published on January 2, next. The engravings of the details of these buildings will be made especially attractive. The New Year's number will be sent to any address in the United States or Canada, postage prepaid, for

10 CENTS A COPY.

Address THE OREGONIAN, Portland, Or.

Report of Japanese Loss.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 22.—General Kuropatkin has telegraphed to the General Staff that he has received a report from a reliable Chinese source to the effect that the Russians have recaptured 203-Meter Hill, at Port Arthur, with the guns mounted by the Japanese.

Kuropatkin's dispatch, which is dated December 21, also reports further reconnaissances of both the Russians and Japanese, but says they were not productive of important results.

The weather at the front is sunny, and the thermometer registers 14 below Fahrenheit.

The War Office has not any additional information regarding General Kuropatkin's report that the Russians have recaptured 203-Meter Hill, but the officials consider it certain that the commander-in-chief would not have sent the report unless it came through exceptionally reliable channels.

The Japanese Legation says it has no confirmation of the reported recapture of 203-Meter Hill.

Many Reports of Escape.

SPECIAL CABLE.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 22.—Reports have reached here from various sources, mainly from Chefoo, that the greater number of the Russian torpedo-boat destroyers have escaped from Port Arthur harbor in a blinding snow storm. Owing to the general belief that the blockade of Port Arthur is no longer effective, the reports are credited by many.

Denial by Corean Officials.

SEOUL, Corea, Dec. 22.—The report that the Corean government, influenced by Japanese advice, will recall its Ministers from abroad, is denied by the Corean officials, who say that the Emperor has no desire to adopt such a measure.

Fighting Long Range.

MUKDEN, Dec. 22.—The situation remains unchanged. The opposing armies continue artillery fights. Both sides have extended their positions far to the eastward.

News is Confirmed in Tokio.

TOKIO, Dec. 22, 4 P. M.—The Japanese troops have captured some important positions on Pigeon Bay.

SUFFOCATED IN A MINE.

Shanty on Fire at Mouth Destroys Life of Seven Men.

BOLIVAR, Pa., Dec. 22.—Seven men were suffocated today in the No. 2 soft-clay mine of the Reese Hammond Fire Brick Company, near here. The victims were Austrians. There were about 25 men in the mine, and all but seven were rescued, though they were all in bad condition and two are likely to die.

A small building, about 16x30, burned down at the mouth of the mine. The air-shaft from the workings to the surface, some distance in the mine, acted as a sort of flue and drew into the drift the heat and smoke from the fire, thus suffocating those whose escape was shut off by the fire at the opening. As soon as it could be done, the burning shanty was torn away and rescuers rushed into the mine, but already five men had succumbed to the heat and smoke, and others were in a dying condition. One more died while on the way out, and another after they had reached the fresh air. The men were not burned in any way.

Practically all of the men in the mine were foreigners. The property loss is trifling.

Many Overcome by Gas.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22.—Twenty-seven persons, most of them women and children, were overcome by coal gas in a crowded tenement-house at 315 Monroe street, in the foreign settlement of this city, early today. Twelve of them were in such a serious condition that they had to be taken to a hospital, but it is believed they will recover.

The lower part of the tenement was occupied by a Turkish-bath establishment, and the gas escaped from a large furnace used in the baths.

Receiver Helm Has Resigned.

DENVER, Dec. 22.—The resignation of Receiver Helm, of the Fidelity Savings Association, was accepted today by District Judge Booth Malone. No successor will be appointed. R. H. Malone, appointed as co-receiver some time after Helm was named, will act alone in the future.

The Fidelity failed for more than $1,000,000. About $100,000 of the assets have been collected, half of which amount has been paid out on claims. Several of the officials of the association were indicted as a result of the failure.

HID BY THE FISHERS

Japanese Torpedo-Boats Were Among North Sea Trawlers.

RETOLD AT ST. PETERSBURG

Russian Consul at Hull Says Boatswain of the Ava Swore to Seeing War Vessels—Sailor Now Denies It All.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 22.—According to a local paper a number of English fishermen have appeared before the Russian Consul in London and have deposed to have seen foreign torpedo-boats among the Hull fishing fleet. Their depositions, it is added, will be submitted to the International Commission, now in Paris, the circumstances under which they were obtained being explained.

PAINTED A DIRTY GRAY.

Russian Officer Says He Saw Japanese Vessels Among Trawlers.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 22.—Four Russian naval officers bearing dispatches from Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky have arrived here on board a packet. Lieutenant Valrond, of the torpedo-depot ship Kamchatka, was interviewed and said that he was conveying to Emperor Nicholas the reports of the commanders of the warships that were present at the Dogger Bank incident, together with Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's report. He also was taking for investigation at Paris the original tapes of the wireless instruments showing the messages that were exchanged between vessels of the Baltic squadron at the time of the firing upon the fishing fleet.

Lieutenant Valrond says he worked the searchlights aboard the Kamchatka and that he saw plainly two four-funneled torpedo-boats, their color being dirty gray, whereas the Russian torpedo-boats were black. When he saw these boats pursuing the squadron the order to fire was given.

AVA'S BOATSWAIN SAW CONSUL

Now Says He Was Drunk and His Story Was False.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The publication in St. Petersburg of the statement that Hull fishermen have voluntarily deposed that foreign torpedo-boats were among the trawlers off Dogger Bank when the latter were fired upon by ships of the Russian fleet is probably nothing more than a repetition of similar statements emanating from Hull and appearing in London papers the last few days. These are circumstantial, and it would certainly appear to be true that some of the men of the Gamecock fleet have made statements before the Russian Consul.

The name of only one of these has been revealed. He is the boatswain of the trawler Ava, and he said today that he was induced to make the statement while he was intoxicated. He admits he received a certain amount of money, but now says the statement he made is untrue. The extraordinary tenor of his statements or any others has not been revealed.

All published reports from Hull say positively that these statements were secured by two agents of the Russian government, but the Russian Embassy in London tonight repeated the denial communicated to the Associated Press on December 21, saying that there is absolutely no truth in the statement that the Russian government or any one in official capacity or any one delegated by Russia has been endeavoring to secure statements from the Gamecock fishermen in support of Russia's position before the Paris Commission. It was pointed out, however, that although Russia had offered a reward for information, the Russian government was not responsible for the action taken by any person desiring to secure the reward, which would only be paid in the event that the information and the method in which it was secured were approved by the Russian government and shown to have been received from irreproachable sources. It was positively stated that the Embassy has no knowledge and no information tending to support the report of the St. Petersburg paper alluded to.

The sensational press of England directly charges the Russian government with using underhand means by bribery and intoxicants to secure false statements from men of the Gamecock fishing fleet. The Russian Consul at Hull tonight said the boatswain of the Ava was brought to his office, but that he sent him to the Commissioner of Oaths, where, the Consul says, the boatswain swore he saw a Japanese torpedo-boat with the trawlers. The Consul says he knows of other trawlers who are ready to make similar statements, but that they are afraid of the consequences.

The Consul indignantly denies that he has made any attempt to induce fishermen to make statements.

Altogether, an air of mystery surrounds the matter, but no credence in responsible quarters is given to the allegations that unfair methods have been used by the Russian government. One explanation of the whole matter emanates from Paris, where it is said that two reporters of the Petit Parisienne recently visited Hull in order to interview men of the Gamecock fleet and secure independent information concerning the Dogger Bank affair. As none of the newspaper reports assumes to identify the "agents" as Russians, being limited to calling them "foreigners employed by the Russian government," this is the most probable explanation of the story, which, however, may possibly have a sequel in the testimony before the international tribunal at Paris.

FIFTH MEMBER IS CHOSEN.

Austro-Hungarian Admiral Will Serve on North Sea Commission.

PARIS, Dec. 22.—The International Commission appointed to inquire into the North Sea incident, met at the Foreign Office at 10 o'clock this morning. Rear-Admiral Davis, U. S. N., was present. His presentation to President Loubet has been set for 6 o'clock this evening. The Commission unanimously elected Admiral von Spaun, of the Austro-Hungarian navy, to be the fifth member, completed the preliminary organization and adjourned until January 9. Admiral Davis during the day called on the president of the council, M. Combes, Marine Minister Pelletin, and the various Admirals of the Commission.

The opening session was held in a suite of sumptuous salons of the d'Orsay palace, Foreign Offices. Admiral Davis arrived in civilian dress, accompanied by his aids, Lieutenant-Commander Roy S. Smith, the naval attache of the American Embassy, and Ensign William F. Bricker, U. S. N. Admiral Fournier, the French member of the Commission, in behalf of Foreign Minister Delcasse, who was absent from the city, met the American Admiral and extended him a cordial greeting. Admiral Fournier presented Admiral Davis to Admiral Kazankoff, the Russian member of the commission, and Rear-Admiral Sir Lewis A. Beaumont, Great Britain's representative, the group of Admirals joining in an informal chat. The Admirals and their aids did not wear uniforms, thus detracting somewhat from the expected brilliancy of the opening session.

Admiral Kazankoff, as senior in rank and age, invited his colleagues to a private salon, where he proposed that Admiral Fournier should preside, pending the arrival of the fifth member of the commission. Admiral Fournier was unanimously chosen, accepting the presidency in a felicitous spirit, in which he spoke of the friendly presence of the representatives of many navies. M. Andre Boulange-Boudin, a Minister Plenipotentiary of France, was selected as secretary, and William Martin and the Viscount de Gregeuil were appointed assistants, with a large corps of attaches.

Admiral von Spaun was then unanimously elected the fifth member of the Commission and the Commissioners were asked to inform their respective governments of the fact.

M. Loubet received Admiral Davis in the library of the Elysee Palace at 6 P. M. The Admiral wore his full uniform and was accompanied by his aids, also in uniform. The interview was a brief and formal exchange of amenities, the President expressing his pleasure at the fact that the United States was represented on the Commission.

Wireless Message Interpreted.

SPECIAL CABLE.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Standard's Paris correspondent states that a wireless message sent by a vessel of the Russian Baltic fleet has been intercepted, and that its contents have the gravest bearing on the North Sea incident inquiry.

The correspondent says that if the message comes into possession of the British government it will probably form an important feature of the inquiry and may operate largely in favor of the British side with the commission.

POULTRY BOOKS IN LIBRARY.

List of Works Treating Every Phase of Subject.

The visitors to the poultry show may be interested in the circulating books on the subject to be found in the Public Library. The library also contains the valuable material upon poultry and its management which is published in the Farmers' Bulletins issued by the Agricultural Department; also the reports from the various state experiment stations. These pamphlets do not circulate, but may be used in the library upon application to the reference librarian.

POULTRY.

Babcock, H. S., ed. American standard of perfection as adopted by the American Poultry Association. 1888.....636.5 B112
Beale, Stephen. Profitable poultry-keeping. ed. by Mason C. Weld. 1884.....636.5 B366
Dow, R. Q. Capons and caponising; a book for every poultry-raiser. 1890....636.5 D744
Fiske, G. B. Poultry appliances and handicraft; how to make and use labor-saving devices, with descriptive plans for food and water supply, building and miscellaneous need; also treats on artificial incubation and brooding; comp. by G. B. Fiske. 1902.....636.5 F541
Long, James. Poultry for prizes and profit. 1886 .....636.5 L848
Practical poultry-keeping. (Series. Cypher's Incubator Company, pub.)—
1. Profitable poultry-keeping in all branches. 1903 .....636.5 C996
2. Profitable care and management of poultry. 1903 .....636.5 C996p
4. Profitable egg farming. 1903...636.5 C996pr
5. Profitable market poultry. 1903.....636.5 C996pro
6. Greiner, Tunico. Capons for profit. 1903.....636.5 G829
Roland, Arthur. Poultry-keeping; ed. by William H. Ablett. 1879.....636.5 R744
Saunders, S. M. Domestic poultry; being a practical treatise on the preferable breeds of farmyard poultry. 1877.....636.5 S257
Watson, G. C. Farm poultry; a popular sketch of domestic fowls for the farmer and amateur. 1901.....636.5 W338
Weir, H. W. The poultry book. 1904.....636.5 W425
Wright, Lewis. Practical poultry-keeper; a complete and standard guide to the management of poultry.....636.5 W951

CATS.

Clark, M. R. Pussy and her language, including a paper on the wonderful discovery of the cat language by Alphonse Leon Grimaldi 636.8 C594
Huidekoper, R. S. Cat; a guide to the classification and varieties of cats and a short treatise upon their care, diseases and treatment 636.8 H899
Loti, Pierre, pseud. Lives of two cats, from the French, tr. by M. B. Richards 636.8 L883
Mivart, St. George. Cat; an introduction to the study of back-boned animals, especially mammals 599.7 M685
Reppller, Agnes. The fireside sphinx.....636.8 R425
Simpson, Frances. Cats and all about them 636.8 S612
Winslow, H. M. Concerning cats..636.8 W779

PARROTS.

Selby, P. J. Natural history of parrots. (See Jardine, Sir William, Naturalists' library, v. 10).....590 J37

ALLIANCES WITH GREAT BRITAIN

Miss Alice Blight, of New York, to Marry Hon. Gerard Lowther.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—The engagement of Miss Alice Blight, daughter of Atherton Blight, of New York and Philadelphia, and the Hon. Gerard Lowther, British Minister at Tangier, has just been announced by a private cablegram from London. Lowther was for some time secretary of the British Embassy at Washington. In 1901 he was appointed Minister to Chile, and was lately transferred to Tangier.

Miss Leiter Soon to Wed Earl.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Henry Molineux Paget Howard, Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire, today took out a license here to marry Miss Marguerite Hyde Leiter, a daughter of Mrs. Levi Z. Leiter, and a sister of Lady Curzon. The marriage will be solemnized in this city on the 27th instant.

CURE FOR SPOTTED FEVER.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin Is Used With Good Effect on Patient.

BRISTOL, Conn., Dec. 22.—The first practical test of the theory recently advanced by Dr. Wolff, of Hartford, a bacteriological expert, whose experiments would indicate a definite relation between diphtheria and cerebro-spinal meningitis, or spotted fever, is being made at Forestville, near here.

A young girl was taken sick yesterday with spotted fever, and the disease progressed so rapidly that when a physician arrived he considered the case almost hopeless. As a last resort, 6000 units of diphtheria anti-toxin were administered, with the result that the patient was much improved today, and there is thought to be good prospects of recovery.

Fifth Sixth and Washington — Meier & Frank Co. — Fifth Sixth and Washington

SUPPLEMENT TO AD ON PAGE 2

In the Christmas Book Store Today

First Floor.

50c and 60c BOOKS 39c EACH—Books of Biography, Life of Lincoln, Life of Washington, Life of McKinley, Life of U. S. Grant, Life of W. T. Sherman and Life of Barnum; all large cloth bound, from 400 to 600 pages; illustrated. Our 50c and 60c grades—special for, each 39c

60c BOOKS FOR 24c—History of Birds; a graphic description of nearly all known species of birds and fish and insects; 526 pages, 500 illustrations. Regular price 60c—special 24c

CHRISTMAS BOOKLETS HALF PRICE—A line of artistic Christmas Booklets, gems from poets, beautiful hymns and other suitable Christmas subjects; all handsome colored pictures. Regular 8c to 40c values, at HALF PRICE.

CHILDREN'S 25c PICTURE BOOKS 13c—A line of Children's Picture Books. Regular 25c values—special 13c

PICTURE BOOKS

16c LINEN PICTURE BOOKS 9c—A line of Picture Books for the little tots, printed on untearable linen, with colored pictures. Value 16c—special, each....9c

Rag Books for Children

Dean's Rag Books for children, imported; absolutely fast colors, can be washed if wished; printed on flexible cloth, in colors—

15c grade for 11c
30c grade for 22c
35c grade for 24c
50c grade for 37c
$1.25 grade for 80c

90c BOOKS FOR 59c—Life of Paul Jones and Life of Ethan Allen. Value 90c—special 59c

6c STORY BOOKS FOR THE CHILDREN, 2c APIECE.

60c BOOKS 41c APIECE—Laureate edition of the poets, beautifully ornamented binding, illustration of all popular poets. Regular 60c value—special, each..41c

35c BOOKS 22c—Following is a list of copyrighted Books by General Charles King: AN ARMY WIFE, NOBLE BLOOD, A WOUNDED NAME, TRUMPETER FRED, FOUND IN THE PHILIPPINES, A GARRISON TANGLE, WARRIOR GAP. Our regular 35c values—special 22c

FRIDAY SPECIALS IN THE SHOE STORE

New Sixth-Street Annex—First Floor.

Men's $3.50 Shoes for $2.45

MEN'S $3.50 SHOES FOR $2.45—Men's Shoes in three leathers, velour calf, storm calf and box calf, and three lasts, footform or broad toe, medium toe, narrow toe; welted soles, good and thick and up-to-date in style—Regular $3.50 values, special, pair ..$2.45

MEN'S $2.00 SLIPPERS $1.10—A line of Men's Slippers, soft black uppers, nullifier style, flexible soles, full round toes; Santa Claus' favorite and home comfort—Regular $2.00 values, special, pair $1.10

Choice Economy Special From the Men's Shop

Sixth-Street Annex—First Floor.

ONLY 45c FOR SMART FOUR-IN-HANDS WORTH 75c—The prettiest and newest tie to be had—the French Fold Four-in-Hands, in the newest shades, two-inches wide—Our 75c value, special for Friday Economy Sale at, each 45c

Friday Savings in The "Wardrobe Shops"

Second Floor—Annex.

Our entire stock of Children's Dresses, of fine wool plain and fancy materials, made in a great variety of style, including Buster Brown, Peter Thompson, Sailor and Russian Blouse effect. Sizes from 4 to 14 years.
Regular prices .....$2.00 to $22.00
Special prices .....$1.00 to $11.00
Or the entire stock at HALF PRICE.

Hand Embroidery Doilies and Centerpieces, on white or colored linen, in floral or conventional designs. Prices from $3.00 to $22.00—special prices from $1.50 to $11.00, or HALF PRICE.

Extra large-size Shetland wool Shoulder Shawls, fancy crocheted, deep fringed border; black, white and colors. Regular price $1.25—special at 89c

Ladies' fine cambric Corset Covers, in a great variety of style, in lace and embroidery insertion and edging, beading and draw ribbon. Regular 85c—special at 49c

Fancy Waste and Work Baskets, in large assortment of styles of weave and shapes. Regular prices from 75c to $7.50—special prices from.....38c to $3.75
Or all at HALF PRICE.

Ladies fine flannelette Gowns, in fancy blue or pink and white stripes, yoke trimmed with embroidered domet flannel insertions between clusters of tucks; collar and cuffs of same insertion. Regular price $1.85—special $1.19

TODAY'S BARGAINS In Millinery Department

Second Floor—New Annex.

This department has made a gallant fight for first prize in the "Store Managers' Sale," and our Millinery Chief thinks this Friday offering will certainly clinch it.

49c FOR HATS WORTH UP TO $3.00—Another lot of fresh, new, ready-to-wear Hats, worth up to $3.00, special for, each 49c

SILK VELVET TURBANS $3.00—A line of hand-made Silk Velvet Turban, in black, brown, blue and red; Hats that have been selling as rapidly as we could turn them out of our workroom—Regular $5.00 and $6.00 values, today we will offer a limited number for, each $3.00

BLACK BRAID AND CHIFFON TURBANS $1.98—A line of black braid and chiffon Turbans, light weight, early Spring style, suitable for young and old—Special $1.98

Today we will give you another opportunity to buy any of our choice Ostrich Plumes for HALF PRICE.

In the Silk Store

First Floor—Fifth-Street Annex.

BLACK ALL-PURE SILK TAFFETA FOR ALL DAY FRIDAY SPECIAL—The best values offered at our regular low price—acceptable Christmas Gifts—for suits coats, waists or drop skirts—

Regular 75c quality, 19-inch—Special 49c
Regular 85c quality, 19-inch—Special 59c
Regular $1.00 quality, 24-inch—Special 69c
Regular $1.25 quality, 27-inch—Special 89c
Regular $1.50 quality, 36-inch—Special $1.19

ALL-PURE SILK AND WOOL COLORED CREPE DE PARIS—The most stylish and dressy fabric shown; this has no equal for swell street and party gowns. All the following shades in the assortment—cream, pink, champagne, gray, copper, onion, russet and golden brown, emerald, reseda and Hunter's green, tans, modes, pearl, light blue, lilac, royal and navy blue—The best $1.50 grade shown in America, special for Friday only ..$1.12

ASK CHANGE IN CHARTER

CONTRACTORS SOLICIT AID FROM LEGISLATORS.

Among Changes Asked Is One Reducing Time for Sale of Unredeemed Property to One Year.

Street contractors have petitioned the Multnomah Legislative delegation to amend the Portland charter in six details so as "to facilitate public improvements and guard the interests of all concerned." The amendments proposed came up at a meeting of the delegation last night and were referred to the charter committee, consisting of Representative A. L. Mills, Senator Dan J. Malarkey and Representative S. M. Mears.

The petition complains that the privilege of remonstrance or protest possessed by property-owners against improvement proceedings is abused; that as contained in the charter it does not so much protect the property-owners as inflict injury on contractors and hamper needed improvements; that it causes assessments to be needlessly delayed and delinquent with the result that "contractors of Portland are today carrying thousands of dollars in street and sewer improvement warrants for work long since completed and for which no sufficient reasons exist why the payment should be delinquent," and that "as a result the warrants are of low commercial value and the contractor is cheated out of what is rightly his. Here is graft stupendous. Depreciation of the city's warrants naturally works to the disadvantage of both the property-owner and the contractor."

The amendments proposed are as follows:

1. No patent article to be used in municipal work unless another article, equally as good, is also specified for the same. The object is to stimulate competition.

2. Changing the time of redemption of property sold for improvement assessments from three years to one. It is held that this would facilitate collection of delinquent assessments, as three years is held to be too long a time to have money tied without return.

3. Make or publish the proposed assessment at the same time the notice of acceptance is published. The contractors say that there is needless delay in making an assessment and issuing the warrants after an improvement is finished.

4. Require the City Engineer to file the final estimate at the same time as the certificate of acceptance of work is made by him. The pretext for the delay in proposition 3 is, as said to be, the delay of the City Engineer in making the final estimate.

5. Provide for a penalty of 15 per cent in addition to interest for failure to pay assessment within 20 days. The only penalty at present is the addition of interest after ten days from the time of entering the amount on the docket of city liens. Since the legal rate of interest was reduced from 8 to 6 per cent, say the contractors, many property-owners wait before paying until the city advertises their property for sale, because the penalty is but a low rate of interest.

6. Grant no permits for work, which is included in the estimate of the City Engineer after the ordinance for the time and manner of improvement is passed. The habit of some property-owners in taking out permits for sidewalks, etc., after an improvement is started by the Council, is held to cause confusion and extra work in making the final estimate, and to interfere with the uniformity of the improvement, and to deprive the contractor of a part of the work on which he bid.

The contractors represented in the petition were Miller & Bauer, Smyth & Howard Company, J. W. Sweeney, Frainey & Keating, Joplin & Meeks, Giebisch & Joplin, R. J. Debuhr, Bechill Bros., Elwood Wiles, M. J. Conley, J. R. O'Neil, Stevens Bros., William Lind, Louis Janin, Star Sand Company and Nickum & Kelly.

The lawmakers did not discuss the woes of the contractors, and did not listen to them very sympathetically. "Mr. Mills can wrestle with that trouble," remarked Chairman Herbert Holman, as the petition was started down the chute to the committee.

A letter asking for an appropriation of $600 for the Baby Home was placed on file. It was written by F. S. Akin, secretary of the Home. Applications of two young women for clerkships were also placed on file; likewise an application of an aspirant for first assistant chief clerk of the Senate. The delegation decided to choose no persons for clerkships until the Republican caucuses just prior to the organization of the two houses. The delegation will meet again in two weeks, unless sooner called together by Chairman Holman.

The Legislators present last night were: Senators Herbert Holman, Dan J. Malarkey and C. W. Nottingham; Representatives A. A. Bailey, Elmer B. Colwell, Madison Welch, M. F. Henderson, W. R. Hudson, S. B. Linthicum and George W. Holcomb, Jr.

The absent members were: Senators C. W. Hodson, who is in California; F. P. Mays, Sig Sichel, Dr. Henry W. Coe and Representatives A. J. Capron, Captain T. H. Crang, W. M. Killingsworth, S. M. Mears, A. L. Mills and W. T. Muir.

PROTECTS MINOR INVESTORS

Judge Grosscup Refuses Sale of Chicago Street-Car Companies.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Judge Grosscup, in the United States Circuit Court today, refused to order a sale of the streetcar companies controlled by the Union Traction Company. The receivers of the companies made application for authority to issue certificates to pay for equipment, repairs and improvements. The bondholders objected, and intimated that the court should sell the property.

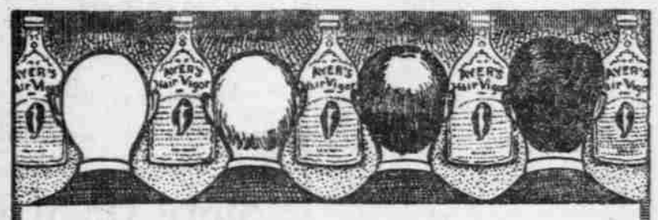
The decision recites that the receivers filed a petition asking authority to issue certificates to raise money to pay off certificates issued for the purchase of cars and for repairs and reconstruction, saying that the earnings have been sufficient only to meet operating and fixed charges. It continues:

"The trustees of the bondholders resist on a number of grounds, the most important of which are that the suit is a mere creditors' bill, and that the court has no power other than to sell out the property at the first opportunity.

"A sale under existing uncertainties relative to franchise renewals would mean the possible sacrificing of every man's and woman's interest who could not bring to the auction block the power to protect such interest by a purchase of the vast whole. The bondholders of these companies number perhaps 10,000 persons. The stockholders number as many more. Of these, the great majority have made their investments out of personal savings. Should a sale of those properties at this time be ordered, there would be on hand at the auction block the active, wide-awake, experienced traction people. They would have in hand the means for purchase. They would, on the property thus purchased, create a new company. They might, and they might not, include in this new company the little investors. The past, in such matters, is not wholly reassuring. And if they did not, these widespread investments would, by one quick whirl, go by the board."

Chile Has No Charges.

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, Dec. 22.—Secretary of Foreign Affairs Verragara has published a letter declaring that the Chilean government has no charge to prefer against the conduct of any Foreign Minister respecting affairs at the custom-house. The declaration is well received by the public.



This your head to the left?

Then there's no use trying. It's too late! Nothing in the world can make hair grow on a bald scalp that has been smooth and shiny for years. It's too late! No use trying now!

Or is this yours to the right?

Good. Only look out for dandruff! It leads straight to baldness. But there's use trying now, for Ayer's Hair Vigor cures dandruff, keeps the scalp clean and healthy, and checks falling hair.

Made by the J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.
Also manufacturers of
AYER'S SARSAPARILLA—For the blood. AYER'S PILLS—For constipation.
AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL—For coughs. AYER'S AGUE CURE—For malaria and ages.