

Stoessel Replies to His Critics

HE TAKES ALL BLAME

Says Port Arthur Could Not Hold Out.

LAST HOPE OF RELIEF CONE

Supply of Food and Munitions Almost Exhausted.

CARNAGE THE ALTERNATIVE

Stoessel Officers Unite in Denouncing Alexieff and Admiral Ukhtomsky, and Extolling Kondratenko as the Hero.

(Copyright, 1905, by the New York Times.) ADEN, Feb. 9.-The French steamship Australian arrived here at 8 o'clock this evening, carrying among her other paspengers General Stoessel, seven Generals, two Admirals, 136 other officers and 143 artillery soldiers, formerly of the Port Arthur garrison. Mme. Stoessel brings with her six orphans whom she has adopted, sons of officers who fell at Port Arthur. Communication between the Australian and the shore is not allowed on account of a recrudescence of the plague here, where there are 50 deaths a day We were able to embark, thanks to the isolation of the rock in front of Aden, on which is a plague hospital. We were graciously received by General Stoessel and General Reiss, his chief of staff, who acted as interpreter.

They said it was a sad thing to return vanquished, but they were conscious of having done their entire duty in holding the fortress as long as they did.

Only for Four Days More. They could not have held Port Arthur at the most for four days longer. The munition and food supplies had been almost completely exhausted. There remained only 4000 loaded shells and 2,000,000 eartridges, which were powerless against the II-inch guns which rained their fire apon the Russian front, 25 kilometers "In the garrison," said General Stoes-

pel, "There were 20,000 men, of whom 18,000 were in the hospital and 4000 were noncombatants. Of the remaining \$600, 2006 were afflicted with scurvy and were obliged to fight down in the trenches. "For several months," said General

Stoessel, "the troops received 200 grammes of horse meat aplece each week. All the food was prepared with machine oil. "After September, the only ships which succeeded in running the blockade were

the steamer King Arthur, commanded by a French captain, and three junks. All brought flour.

Last Hope of Relief Fades.

"The last news we received from the outside world was on September 20, when e telegram from General Kuropatkin said he would come to relieve us in three months. The three months having passed and no news of the fleet under Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky having been received. the situation became desperate. The garrison being exhausted and the fleet, whose preservation had been the principal reason for resistance, having been destroyed after the capture of a high mountain (203-Meter Hill), I considered that further prolongation of the struggle would inevitably lead to frightful carnage.

General Stoessel added that he decided on the capitulation on his own authority and without consulting any one. He concluded by saying:

Clear Conscience Above Fame.

"The Czar and my peers will judge whether I should have prolonged the siege or by a heroic but criminal act have blown up the fortress. I prefer a less great name in military annals to having Con

20,000 lives on my conscience." Alexieff Most to Blame.

A number of other officers whom I interviewed did not share this moral satisfaction of General Stoessel. They expressed iolent resentment toward Admiral Prince Ukhtomsky for his disastrous handling of the flect, against several incapable Generals, and above all against ex-Viceroy Alexieff.

The last-named, they declare, had foreseen nothing and prepared nothing. It was necessary to reconstruct the greater part of the fortifications under deplorable onditions and under the fire of the enemy.

Kondratenko the Hero. The officers declared that General Stoes-

sel was a brave man, but not a genius. General Kondratenko, they said, was the real soul of the defense, and was adored by his men. When he died, Port Arthur died with him. Smyrnoff and several other Generals, in

spite of the Czar's permission, preferred captivity to a shameful return.

In spite of the sympathy of the passen gers and the warm ovations they received at Salgon, Indo-China, the Russian officers on the Australian are all mel-

"No." and added sadly that if General Kondratenko had been in command at Port Arthur, they would not have been

The Russians will leave the Australian at Port Said. One officer, who is ill, disembarked here.

BOTH SIDES MAKING FORTS

Armies Labor Constantly in Villages, and Snipe at One Another.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY, Huanshan, Pebruary 10.—At pres-ent the attention of the Jupanese is main-ly concentrated on the narrow line east and west of the railway, where also pass the two main roads to Mukden. The armies are closely in touch all aling the line of Sandiapu, Paohsingtun, Chen-lianpu, Liuchangtun and Shakbe. The region is entirely deserted by na-tives, but their stone houses and stout

tives but their stone houses and walls have been turned into verifable fortresses. The declivities have been look and the ascent would be almost impo-and the ascent would be almost impoand the ascent would be almost impossfole, even without obstructions and
abattis. The approaches to the streets of
the villages can be swept by machine
guns hidden behind the thick walls.

Notwithstanding the number of these
quasi-fortresses, the Japanese are not
slackening their energy in entrenching,
but persiet in the work in the day time
and in the face of the Russian batteries,
and at night the loud noise of the rumbling of carts gives evidence of their untiring labors. The Russians are equally
persistent, and beside harassing the Jap-

tiring labors. The Russians are equally persistent, and, beside harassing the Jap-anese working parties with rifle and cannon fire, themselves are fortifying and re-

The Japanese continue to scatter procis mations in the Russian lines and these papers are openly distributed by Chinese in the streets of Mukden.

Rojestvensky Quarrels With German

Colliers, and His Men Are Mournful. PORT LUIS, Mauritius, Feb. 10.-Arrivals from Nossibe (off the coast of Mada-gascar) report that the Russian second Pacific equadron was still there on Febru-ary 2. A dispute had arisen between Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky and the German companies which are coaling the fleet. The Admiral who is well supplied with coal wishes the colliers to follow the fleet, but they refuse to do so on account of the too close proximity, of the

Japanese squadron, The Russian ships will not leave Nos-sibe before February 28. They are getting little news from St. Petersburg, and the crews are dispirited owing to the fall of Port Arthur.

Lieutenant Yokowo a Hero.

TOKIO, Peb. 11.—The publication of naval honors discloses the fact that Lieutenant Yokowo, commander of the tor pedo-boat destroyer Fuji, thrice during last July swam into Port Arthur harbor. towing fish torpedoes, Lieutenant Yokowo performed many other acts of bravery.

Railroad Shops Burned. LORAIN, O., Feb. 10.-The Baltimore Ohio Rallroad shops were destroyed by fire tonight. Loss, \$100,000.

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Army Transport Coming to Portland.

ANOTHER MAY FOLLOW

Infantry and Cavalry From Philippines on Board.

LEAVES MANILA MARCH 15

Quartermaster-General Arranges for Fourteenth Infantry and Twelfth Cavalry to Land Here-Nineteenth May Embark.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 10.-Quartermaster-General Humphrey today notified Senator Fulton that the transport Sheridan will sail FLEET STILL HUGS THE PORT from Manila for Portland on March 15, bringing the Fourteenth Infantry, which has been ordered to Vancouver Barracks, Orders have also been issued that the econd squadron of the Twelfth Cavalry shall return on the same steamer and land at Portland.

General Humphrey has been investigating to see if it will be possible to send another transport to Portland to carry the Mineteenth Infantry, new at Vancouver, to Manila. He says that it will be impossible to have a regular transport make this trip and it will be necessary to send a special transport to Portland. If so, he will have to make a large shipment of lumber from Portland on the ame steamer.

The Quartermaster-General promises, if possible, to have a transport sent to Portland for the Nineteenth Infantry.

WILL ARBITRATE THE PRICE Klamath Ditch Company Agrees on Board.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 16.—Negotiations are well under way for the purchase of the property and vested rights of the Klamath Ditch Company, in Klamath County, Oreion. If satisfactory terms of sale are agreed upon and the Government buys out this company, as seems probable, the Reclamation Service will be ready to proceed with the construction of its proposed irrigation project, all other obstacles having been removed.

President Hawkins, of the Klamath

with officials of the Reclamation Service and has made what he deems a reasonable offer to sell out to the Government, on condition that the Government will give him exclusive right to navigate in its canals, and will pay him \$250,000 for the works he has already constructed and in ompensation for losses he will sustain by being deprived of his vested rights. He originally demanded \$500,000.

The Reclamation Service insists that the property of the Klamath Canal Company and the work actually done is no worth more than \$50,000, but admits that the company is entitled to a margin on account of the losses it will sustain by stepping aside in the interest of the Government. These officials finally conented to pay Mr. Hawkins and his company \$150,000 if they will sell out. This is as close as they can get, but both parties have agreed to submit the matter to a board of arbitration, consisting of Senators Fulton and Bard and Representative Needham, and to abide by whatever terms the board may deem just and equitable, it being assured in advance that the price to be paid shall be between \$160,000 and \$250,600, with the further stipu lation that the Klamath Canal Company shall have the exclusive navigation rights on the Government canal. It is believed that in a short time the board will agree upon the terms of sale, which both the Government and Hawkins are pledged to

WILL FIGHT HENRY L. WILSON

Ankeny, Foster and Piles All Oppose His Promotion.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 19 .- Notwithstanding that the President has announced his intention to appoint Henry L. Wilson, of Seattle, Minister to Brussels, Wilson appears to be some way from being confirmed. Senator indicated their intention to defeat his comination, if it is sent in before March 4, and from recent telegraphic advices from Seattle it is learned that Senator Piles expects to co-operate with Ankeny after that date to prevent Wilson's confirmation.

Wilson is now Minister to Chile, and his record there is highly satisfactory to Secretary Hay and the President. His transfer to Brussels is in the nature of a deserved promotion, and is made without any political influence or significance. In view of this fact, the Washington Senators, if they oppose Wilson, will array themselves against the administration, and will in the end fail in their attempts

New Oregon Rural Carriers.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, D. C., Feb. 10 .- Rural carriers aproute 1, Fred A. Caviness carrier, Charles Baird substitute; Eugene, route Charles Ballard carrier, Leo Duffy substitute. Irene C Brownson has been appointed postmast years Wat reville, Lane County, Or., vice Clarence Islompson, resigned.

Pullman Permitted to Resign. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 10.—John Puliman, of Walla Walla, Wash., has been permitted to resign from the Annapolis Naval Academy tuse of fallure to pass the examina-

RETURNING COMMANDER OF A CAPTURED FORTRESS

House Caucus Decides on Statehood.

STANDS BY ITS BILL

Republicans Will Fight Amendments of Senate.

BRING OBJECTORS INTO LINE

Decision of Former Caucus Sustained, and All Members of Party Are Bound by It, Though Some Are Very Restive.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.-Statebood for Oklahoma and New Mexico will not be granted during this session of Congress unless it be on the lines provided in the House statehood bill. This was decided Foster and Senator Ankeny have both today at a conference of Republican members of the House.

The following resolution setting forth this position was adopted, 112 to 33, after three hours of debate:

Resolved. That it is the sense of this conference that the caucus decision of Republicana, held April 15, touching the statehood of New Mexico and Arizons, as provided in the bill of the House, which has been amended in the Senate and is now pending in the House con we inslat on such parliamentary proceedings as can be had by a majority of the House, of adopted by a majority of the House, under which the aforesaid policy of the Republican of the House will be worked our

Cannon Carried His Point.

Speaker Cannon is the author of this esolution. When the conference convened three proposals were laid before pointed for Oregon routes: Baker City, it, none of which was adopted. The first was a resolution offered by Daizell, reciting the history of the statehood legis-, James C. Wooley carrier, Henry H. lation in the House and reaffirming the Belle substitute; Milwaukie, route 2, caucus action taken at that time. Another was a resolution by Sibley of Pennsylvania, providing that the statehood bill be made the subject of conference between the two houses. The third was an amendment to the resolution offered by Tawney recommending that in such conference the House conferees be instructed to insist on the House provisions of the

Delegate Rodey, of New Mexico, made a strong appeal for concurrence in the

## vere made by Representatives Dalzell (Pa.), Hamilton (Mich.), chairman of the ommittee on territories, and Powers (Me.). Delegate McGuire, of Oklahoma pleaded for action whereby at least Oklahoma and Indian Territory might be ad

Oregontan.

Speaker Cannon occupied the floor at ength on two different occasions. Other speakers were Representatives Hepburn Tawney, Burkett, Needham, Brick and Gaines

The debate was keyed to a high pitch at all times. The ground was taken by those who favored the House provision or nothing that the Republicans of the bod- would be sacrificing their position taken heretofore to a few Republican Senators who had seen fit to unite with the minority of the Senate, if the bill as amended was accepted.

Bound by Previous Caucus.

A definition of what is regarded as the

binding feature of a caucus was made to those Republican members who have indicated an intention to vote with the Democrats, should opportunity arise to the acceptance of the Senate bill. This definition was that, unless a member gives notice in caucus that he will not b bound by the action taken, he must hold himself bound thereby. At the Repub lican caucus on April 15, when the House bill was agreed to as the measure to be supported, there was no member who indicated his unwillingness to be bound by the caucus. This binding feature of the caucus, it was declared, was in force throughout the Congress in which the caucus occurred, and the statement was made that no Republican member of the House can now feel himself free to support the Senate statehood propo-

There is some talk among House mem bers that the Senate might accept the House bill and negotiations with this end in view have been in progress. To make it impossible for the House committee to take any action until some understanding has been reached, the committee at its last meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the chairman, and no meeting will be held until a call shall have been issued

SENATE PLAYS FOR MORE TIME Elkins Telis Roosevelt It Can't Pass Rate Bill This Session.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 -- (Special.) Senator Elkins, chairman of the committee on interstate commerce, called upon President Roosevelt this afternoon and informed him that the Senate could not at this session of Congress give him the railroad legislation desired. He discussed the situation in all its phases and suggested to the President the possibility of his committee not making much greater headway than to continue its hearings and later report the resolution offered by Kean (N. J.) providing for a Congressional investigation of the subject during the

The Esch-Townsend rate bill, which passed the House yesterday, was received by the Senate before adjournment this evening, and immediately referred to Elkins' committee, which will Butte Creek Land, Lumber & Livestock hold a special meeting tomorrow for its consideration. It is understood that at the second added another mark to the list today's meeting of the committee an inten members on posed to action at this time to three in favor of it.

belief that the Ser Esch-Townsend bill at this session.

House Considers Panama Canal Bill

and Passes Pension Bills. WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.-After mainsidered for a short time the bill providing a government for the Panama Canal a government for the Panama Canal Zone. An early adjournment was taken to enable the Republicans to confer on

The House passed a bill to provide for a land district in Wasatch and Ulutah Clark E. Loomis and Edward D. Strat-

The bill providing for the government of the Panama Canal Zone, which among other things abolishes the Panama Canal Commission, was then considered. In explaining the measure, Mann (III.) said that it was not intended as a reflection on the present commission, but that it was neccesary to separate the engineering prob-lems from the administrative problems in constructing the canal. The bill, he said. left the President authority to appoint of the United States as the foregoing and any of the present commissioners as con- alleges that the defendants conspired to sulting engineers. The measure was still sideration when the House adfourned until tomorrow.

NEW TARIFF FOR PHILIPPINES House Committee Favorably Reports Secretary Taft's Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.-The House mmlittee on ways and means today authorized a favorable report on the tariff bill for the Philippines. The bill is a complete revision of the duties collected by the Philippine government on imports from all countries. The schedules as prepared by the Philippine Commission ad revised by Secretary Taft were not amended in any material particular the committee. An unsuccessful effort was made by Williams (Dem. Miss.) for the minority, to provide absolute free trade on those articles which the Philipnes have heretofore purchased from the United States, and also to reduce the duty on rice. On motion to report the bill there was no party division

Proceedings of the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.-Before the routine proceedings of the Senate began today President pro tem. Prye announced his selection of Perkins to read to the Senate Washington's farewell address on February 2. He also announced the selection of Depew and Culberson as visitors to the Military Academy and of Dick and McCreary as visitors to the Naval The following bills were Academy.

Authorizing the Secretary of War to sell magazine rifles to rifle clubs upon ests of Governors of the various Permitting the Territory of Oklahoma

to appropriate money to construct agri-cultural college buildings. Gunboat Newport Towed to Navy-Yard

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 10.—The United States gunboat Newport, which, while bound from Boston to Santo Domingo hast week, lost her propellor off the Caroliua coast and was for several days the land inclosed helpless at sea, was towed to the Norfels y-yard today by the auxiliary gunboat

**Prominent Men Indicted** for Conspiracy.

ACCUSED BY GRAND JURY

Charges Filed Against John Hall and Edwin Mays.

W. W. STEIWER ALSO NAMED

Binger Hermann, H. H. Hendrickt and F. P. Mays Are Implicated-Henry Meldrum and Others Face New Indictment.

THOSE WHO WERE INDICTED.

Winiock W. Steiwer, ex-State Senate Lumber & Livestock Company. Hamilton H. Hendricks, secretary and easurer of the company.

5. Glass, officers and employes of the Butte Creek Company. Binger Hermann, ex Con the General Land Office, and now Rep-

Zachary, Charles A. Watson and Clyde

resentative in Congress John H. Hall, ex-United States District Attorney. Edwin Mays, ex-Assistant United States Attorney under John H. Hall. Franklin P. Mays. State Senator from

Multnomah County and attorney for the Butte Creek Company Edward D. Stratford, an employe of

In the Meldrum Case, Henry Meldrum, ex-Surveyor-General George E. Waggoner, ex-chief cierk in

David W. Kinnaird, ex-examiner of

greys. Benjamin F. Minton and Gustave Kinetsch, land surveyors, George Sorenson, Livy Stipp and Frank

Two judiciments were returned by the Federal grand jury yesterday afternoon, by one of which the long-drawn-out investigations into the dealings of the Company were brought to a close, while already against the names of Henry Mel-

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drum and his associates. The indictment against the Butte Creek Company and some of its employes The President has not changed his charges a conspiracy to prevent and obnate should pass the struct the free passage over and free use of certain of the public lands situated in Wheeler County. The document also LEAVES IT ALL TO PRESIDENT alleges that threats of violence and other means of intimidation were used to drive those legitimate homesteaders already settled on the land from the vicinity. As defendants the indictment names Winlock W. Steiwer, ex-State Senator; Hamtaining its record for the rapid disposal of private pension bills. 431 being passed in an hour and a half, the House today conary, Adelbert C. Zachary, Charles A. Watson and Clyde E. Glass, employes of the company; Bloger Hermann, John H. Hall, Edwin Mays, ex-Assistant United States Attorney: Franklin P. Mays,

> ford The second indictment is against Henry Meidrum, ex-Surveyor-General; George E. Waggoner, Meldrum's cierk; David W. Kinnaird Rentamin F. Minton and Gustave Klaetsch, deputy surveyors; George Sorenson, Livy Stipp and Frank H. Duncan, notaries public. It is brought under the same section of the revised statutes of the United States as the foregoing and defraud the Government of the United States by false and fraudulent surveys.

> The section reads as follows: ection 5440. If two or more person spire together to commit offense against the United States, or to defraud the United States in any manner or for any purpose, and one or more of such parties do any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, all the parties to such conspiracy shall be liable to a penalty of not less than \$1000, and not more than \$10,000, nt not more than two years

> Details of Alleged Conspiracy. The story of the first indictment has been told before and the details are well known. It is alleged that on February 15, 1902, the defendants entered into a conspiracy to defraud the Government by preventing the use of a portion of the public lands situated in Wheeler County, It is alleged in general that the Butte Creek Land, Lumber & Livestock Company, through its employes, acquired the use and benefit of a large portion of the nublic lands in Wheeler County. It is charged that the employes of the company and those secured for the purpose by the company would take up claims. scattered along the line of a large circle through Wheeler County. These claims would then be fenced in, thus inclosing thousands of acres of Government band in a large pasture, which would then be used by the company in pasturing its

Many of these claims were fraudulently gained, so it is said, and are now being held unlawfully by the company. The men who filed on them were hired to do so by the company with the understanding that the claims should be deeded to the corporation as soon as secured by patent from the Government. The claims were so taken that, with the aid of the rimrock and the streams, forming natural barriers across which no cattle could pass, fences could be built from claim to laim, leaving no point of egress from

After having fenced up the land, it is

(Concluded on Page 11.)

GENERAL ANATOLI M. STOESSEL.