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RUSSIAN FLEET SEEKING TO GO

Joined by Third Squadron, It Now Has Immense Superiority in Ships.

SAILED FROM KAMRANH BAY.

Reported to Have Passed Formosan Straits Without Attack—France Answers Japan's Complaint of Breach of Neutrality.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 21.—(1215 A. M.)—The Ministry of Finance has received a telegram from a confidential agent at Shanghai giving a rumor that Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky has already passed the Straits of Formosa without encountering Vice-Admiral Togo.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 21.—A telegram from the seat of war in Manchuria states that the Japanese armies are advancing northward, preceded by cavalry.

SPECIAL CABLE.

PARIS, April 21.—If the French authorities are to be believed, news of momentous import may be expected from the Far East very soon, as, according to Foreign Minister Delcasse, the Russian fleet under the command of Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky sailed early on Thursday from Kamranh Bay. Its destination is unknown, but it is believed that it will now sail to endeavor to locate the Japanese fleet and give battle.

Naval experts here believe that the third Pacific squadron of the Russian navy, which is commanded by Admiral Nebogatoff, has joined Rojestvensky, and that the latter now has ready to face the Japanese eight first-class battleships, three second-class battleships, three armored cruisers and a number of other vessels of not quite so good a type. He is also believed to have received large quantities of ammunition which had been shipped to him some time ago, to have filled the coal bunkers of his ships, and generally to have placed his command in condition to give a good account of itself.

It is believed here that Admiral Jochiquera, who is in command of the French naval force in the waters of French Cochinchina, agreed to get a message to the Russian commander today, and that the departure of the Russians followed. Such action has been expected, as the French authorities consider that the prospect of Japan against Russia's using neutral waters to recast and refill depleted ammunition magazines was well founded, and if Russia has been asked to move by the French commander in the Far East, a difficult situation has been cleared up.

JOINED BY THIRD SQUADRON

American Naval Men Believe Rojestvensky Has Superior Force.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(Special.)—Naval experts here believe that the third Pacific squadron of the Russians has already effected a junction with the Baltic fleet, and that, when the naval battle in the Far East comes, it will be one of the greatest in history.

They base their belief in the junction on the conflicting reports. One set had five battleships steaming through the Sunda Straits, while other dispatches told of Russian warships passing through the Straits of Malacca. The former advised would fit Admiral Nebogatoff's fleet, which was last reported off Sokotra, off Northeast Africa, several weeks ago. If this third squadron has joined Admiral Rojestvensky, the Russian fleet will consist of eight sea-going battleships, three coast defense battleships and three armored cruisers, all armed with the most modern guns.

ASKOLD MADE READY FOR SEA

Russian Cruiser Prepares to Escape From Shanghai.

SHANGHAI, April 21.—Five Chinese warships are in the offing, evidently watching the Russian cruiser Askold, which was reported disarmed after she took refuge in this harbor after the destruction of the Russian Port Arthur fleet. The Askold has recently been painted white, and with her yellow stacks resembles more an United States cruiser than a Russian.

It was learned yesterday that the parts of guns and engines taken away by the Chinese authorities have been replaced and that a pilot has been engaged for a period of three months. Under his direction the Askold has been placed in condition for sea.

NOT IN FRENCH TERRITORY.

Delcasse Denies Violation of Neutrality in Answering Japan.

PARIS, April 20.—Acting on instructions from his government, Dr. Motono, the Japanese Minister to France, called on Foreign Minister Delcasse this evening and submitted representations on behalf of Japan concerning the presence of the Russian Pacific squadron in Kamranh Bay. An official communication issued after the meeting states that Minister Motono's action had not the character of a formal protest against an alleged violation of neutrality but was to obtain assurances that France would observe strict neutrality.

Notwithstanding the official version, it is evident that the intention and effect of Mr. Motono's mission is in the nature of a protest. M. Delcasse responded to the representations of the Japanese Minister by pointing out the precautions that had been taken to preserve neutrality and the special instructions recently sent to the General-Inspector of Indo-China, urging continued care to preserve neutrality. M. Delcasse's assurances sought to allay the apprehensions of Japan, which he maintained had not been justified by any specific facts.

The exact terms of Japan's representations have not been disclosed, but it is understood that, while having the usual courteous form of diplomacy, they set forth that serious apprehensions had been aroused by the stay of the Russian warships in Kamranh Bay and the earnest desire that French neutrality be placed beyond doubt. The terms of the French response, although not given out, tend to give ample assurances on all the questions raised. The text of the official communication is as follows:

"Dr. Motono, Minister of Japan, has taken steps to call the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the reported presence of Russian vessels in Kamranh Bay. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs it is said that Minister Motono's action does not take the character of a formal protest against alleged violation of neutrality by France relative to the Russian fleet. The Japanese particularly desired to obtain from the French government, as had been done when the Baltic squadron passed Cherbourg, and more recently when it sojourned off Madagascar, some formal assurance that France would continue to observe strict neutrality. These assurances evidently seemed more and more indispensable to Japan as the Russian fleet approached the coast of Indo-China and entered the theater of war.

"The French government has on frequent occasions pointed out that all precautions have been taken for the observance of neutrality. Special instructions have been forwarded to Indo-China on the subject. The Minister of Foreign Affairs is therefore able to allay the uneasiness Japan has manifested, which has not been justified up to the present by any specific act."

Besides these general assurances, the conference doubtless permitted of the explanation of the French point of view concerning the stay of Russian warships in Kamranh Bay. It is maintained that this was at most a brief sojourn and not a prolonged stay, official information leading to the belief that the squadron actually left Kamranh Bay last Sunday. No Japanese ships were in the vicinity during the stay of the Russian squadron, and therefore, it is held, it has not the character of giving asylum to a belligerent against the attack of an enemy.

Moreover, it is maintained, the size of Kamranh Bay permits ships to enter and anchor without being in French territorial waters. The bay has a triangular shape, its greatest length being 16 1/2 miles, its greatest width ten miles and the distance across the entrance about eight miles. These dimensions permit vessels to enter and move without crossing the three-mile French shore limit. From the French standpoint it is not to be presumed that ships are within French waters until it is affirmatively established that the three-mile limit has been encroached upon. Furthermore, officials say that France had no previous knowledge that the Russian Second Pacific Squadron intended going to Kamranh Bay, and therefore had no opportunity to foresee or guard against the visit.

Concerning the course of the Russian warships in taking on stores, it is maintained that these were not contraband, but were necessary provisions for the crew and for the use of the ships in their own ports. It is pointed out in this connection that the chief article of contraband, namely coal, had been furnished to the Russian squadron by German ships which took on their cargoes from the British port of Cardiff, presumably for other destinations.

It remains for Tokyo, to which the French reply was sent tonight, to say whether the assurances are considered sufficient. The answer is of a nature to avert serious complications.

However, the attitude of the Socialist Deputies promises to bring up the entire question before the Chamber of Deputies. The Socialist movement follows the general sentiment in Socialist quarters against the Franco-Russian alliance. The appearance of the question as a political issue in Parliament leads to the feeling in some quarters that Rojestvensky's presence in Indo-Chinese waters constitutes a considerable menace to France and may operate to weaken the relations between Russia and France.

RESIGN! NOT HE, HYDE'S ANSWER

Agents Make Almost Unanimous Demand, But He Scornfully Rejects It.

FATHER'S MEMORY INVOKED

Emphatic Address of Agents' Committee Calls Forth Emphatic Answer—Agents Will Organize Equitable Policyholders.

NEW YORK, April 20.—After First Vice-President James H. Hyde, of the Equitable Life Assurance Society had formed a committee of managing agents this afternoon that it would be impossible, because of previous engagements, to address them today, the agents' convention, which had been in session in this city for three days, adjourned without day. Mr. Hyde said, however, that he would prepare a statement and transmit it to the committee, covering the situation as he conceived it.

The invitation to address the agents followed a call of a committee on Mr. Hyde with a request that he resign as an officer of the company. This Mr. Hyde declined to do in an address in which he said he would consider such an action unworthy and disgraceful to the memory of his father. Mr. Hyde's speech had followed one by Joseph Bowes, of Baltimore, chairman of the agents' committee, in which Mr. Bowes recited that the request for the resignation was practically unanimous. These were the developments of the session which began at the Hotel Savoy this morning. Permanent organization was effected and officers chosen.

Big Guns Among Lawyers Hired.

The executive committee of the Equitable also met today in President Alexander's office, but other than the announcement that the demand for Mr. Hyde's resignation was discussed, nothing was given out.

The committee on investigation, of which H. C. Frick is chairman, was in session in the course of the day, and unanimously agreed to employ ex-United States Attorney General Knox as counsel. In connection with legal ends in the Equitable litigation today's announcement that Ethel Root remains as one of Mr. Hyde's counsel, in spite of stories to the contrary, was interesting. The retaining of Joseph H. Choate as one of the Hyde counsel was also confirmed.

There was some talk tonight of a settlement of the difficulties between the Hyde and Alexander parties, but no confirmation could be secured. Shortly before the adjournment of the agents, this afternoon, the following resolution was adopted:

Agents Will Organize Policyholders.

Whereas, We believe that when we return to our homes we shall be in a position to conduct our policyholders' cause in being successfully championed; and

Whereas, This body is formally constituted to mutualization and faithful administration of the society's affairs; and

Whereas, Policyholders' committees are being organized in various parts of the country; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this body recommend to each of its members, the necessity, until his return to his field, of organizing his policyholders into a compact body who are prepared to demand and enforce their rights under his leadership, and that immediately upon his return he proceed to organize his agency force to act as his lieutenant in a campaign of this kind, inviting his policyholders to communicate through him with the officers and directors of the society instead of allowing themselves to be drawn into organizations not so thoroughly equipped for bringing about what every policyholder of the society desires.

The resolution was introduced by F. H. Hazleton, of Portland Me., although it was admitted by officers of the organization of managing agents that he was not its author. The identity of the author was not revealed. When questioned tonight about their interpretation of the resolutions, members of the conference would not admit that the measure involved a grasp upon the policyholders throughout the United States through the general agents and managers.

Gone to See Hendricks.

The special committee left for Syracuse tonight to wait on Superintendent of Insurance Hendricks tomorrow. From there the committee will go to Albany. Later a subcommittee will be appointed to remain at the state capital and present arguments directly to members of the Legislature.

Members of the conference today signed applications for a total of \$1,000,000 of additional insurance on their lives, the statement being made that this was done as a compliment to Mr. Alexander and as an expression of their confidence in him.

It was learned officially tonight that the vote on the resolution asking for Mr. Hyde's resignation was 174 to 11.

DEMAND FOR TARBELL'S SCALP

Second Vice-President Will Be Asked to Resign All Offices.

NEW YORK, April 20.—The Herald will say tomorrow:

"Gage E. Tarbell is to be requested to resign his position as second vice-president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, to relinquish his position as a member of the society's executive committee and to withdraw as a member of the board of directors.

"Unless these peremptory demands are made within the next few days, a program that had been decided on last night will have to be changed.

"When H. C. Frick was asked last night

BARRETT'S FATE IN THE BALANCE

Governor Magoon, of Canal Zone, Will Probably Ask for His Recall.

TAFT SHARES HIS DISLIKE

Minister to Panama Has Not Resigned, But Office Will Probably Be Consolidated With Magoon's. No Future as a Diplomat.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 20.—Considerable uncertainty surrounds the future of John Barrett, Minister to Panama. The rumor that he had resigned is not credited at the State Department; in fact it is thought improbable that Barrett will resign, though it is not so improbable that he will be relieved. But when and why are the questions yet to be definitely answered.

If there was to be no American government of the canal zone, and if the Panama government was to dominate that strip as well as the balance of the Panama Republic, Mr. Barrett would probably remain in his present post indefinitely. But our relations with Panama are henceforth to be conducted largely through Secretary Taft and Governor Magoon of the canal zone, and the duties of Minister to Panama will become insignificant. Some months ago Mr. Barrett recommended the discontinuance of his office and suggested that the Governor of the canal zone act as Minister as well. This suggestion will probably be carried out, though no such plan has yet been formulated. No change is likely to take place within the next two months.

Panama Too Small for Both.

Judge Magoon will leave for Panama and take up the duties of Governor in about a month. He does not take much stock in Mr. Barrett. In fact there is considerable friction between them. While he has not demanded or recommended Mr. Barrett's recall, he has expressed the belief that he will not be able to get along with Mr. Barrett, and has intimated that there is not room enough in Panama for both Mr. Barrett and himself. Judge Magoon will probably not make any move looking to forcing Mr. Barrett's recall until he reaches Panama, and it is possible that Mr. Barrett may be able to patch up his differences with Judge Magoon and establish himself on a friendly footing with the new Governor. If so, Mr. Barrett may remain. But Judge Magoon thoroughly disapproves of Mr. Barrett's methods and believes Mr. Barrett will embarrass him, and if he finds his fears are fulfilled, he will insist upon Mr. Barrett's recall.

Recall Would Ensure.

In case this situation develops, there is no doubt that Mr. Barrett will be recalled, for Secretary Taft, who is the immediate superior of the Canal Commission and of the Governor of the canal zone, has confidence in Judge Magoon, and, it is understood, shares his feeling toward Mr. Barrett. If Mr. Taft deems it expedient to relieve Mr. Barrett, the President will follow out any suggestion Judge Magoon makes and either appoint a new Minister or, as Mr. Barrett himself suggests, consolidate the office of Minister with that of Governor and give Judge Magoon full sway.

No Other Diplomatic Post.

President Roosevelt is personally fond of Mr. Barrett, and has upheld him in his course as Minister to Panama. The State Department is pleased with his conduct of affairs in the little republic, but it is the War Department, the new power, that threatens to cause Mr. Barrett trouble. Mr. High in Administration circles, while denying that Mr. Barrett is to be recalled because of anything he has done as Minister to Panama, are very confident that he will be recalled if it is Governor Magoon's wish, and these same officials believe that if Mr. Barrett should be recalled under those circumstances, President Roosevelt would not tender him another diplomatic post.

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SHIOUX CITY, Ia., April 20.—The contract for the extension of the Great Northern from Sioux City to Ashland, Neb., has been let to Peter Stens, a St. Paul contractor, according to advices received here today. It is said that a big

GRIZZLY BEAR SHOWED FIGHT

Was Slaying Dog With Each Blow When President's Two Shots Killed Him.

WILL MOVE CAMP SATURDAY

He Spends Whole Day in Saddle and Eats Prodigious Meals—Deep Snow Hampers Hunters—Will Be in Washington May 3

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo., April 20.—That President Roosevelt is enjoying royal sport in his hunt for Rocky Mountain grizzlies is attested by Secretary Loeb, who returned from the camp late today, after having spent the night with the party. While the only game killed today was a bear shot by the President and the bobcat shot by Dr. Alexander Lambert, there has been plenty of recreation. Every day the dogs have followed trails that looked promising, showing that there are more bears to be found in the vicinity now being hunted. Camp will not be moved until Saturday. Then the party will locate on West Divide Creek, within 20 miles of the present location, and four miles nearer Newcastle.

The point toward which the party is working is Red Stone, where camp will be broken on May 14. The private car Rocket will pick up the President there and he will spend the night at Glenwood Springs. The start home will be made on May 15, with stops of one day each at Denver and Chicago.

Mr. Loeb left Glenwood Springs yesterday morning with Elmer Chapman, the courier who brought out the first word from the camp. They went to Newcastle, procured mules, and rode the 21 miles to the Charlie Penny ranch. It was storming when they started, and the roads, in addition to being naturally rough, were muddy in spots. It was after 5 P. M. when they came within sight of the ranch. About three miles from camp they heard the baying of hounds but on the trail of game. They waited, and soon the entire hunting party rode up. It was time to quit for the day, and Mr. Loeb and Mr. Chapman joined the President and his companions and rode into camp with them.

Finished Bear With Two Shots.

The hunting party had been in the saddle ten hours without stopping for lunch, so dinner was served soon after their arrival at camp. Mr. Loeb says it was only necessary to see them eat to know that the hunters were in the best of health and enjoying themselves. During the dinner and afterward the President and Mr. Loeb had a long chat. Naturally the secretary wanted to know all about the bear killed. It was an interesting story, in which all members of the party shared in the telling.

The dogs had several times caught up with the bear, and had him by the neck until he was in a vicious mood. Finally, when he was at bay, two or three members of the party, including the President, came up with the dogs. One dog had been killed and several others badly wounded, and the grizzly was playing havoc with the others that were tantalizing him. To save the dogs, the President had to shoot hurriedly. Every sweep of the bear's paw bowled over a hound, and rather than see any more of the pack killed, the President took the chance of shooting between the dogs at the bear. He fired once and hit the animal in the shoulder. Firing again, he killed his game. He takes great pride in the first trophy of the hunt.

The most important business between the President and his secretary was in relation to appointments that have been made. Mr. President signed the appointment of George W. Aikman, of West Virginia, to be Judge of the Court of Claims for the District of Columbia, as well as several pardon cases.

Will Move After More Game.

When the camp is moved to West Divide Creek it will be located on the ranch of Will Griggs. It is believed game is more plentiful there. The snow is beginning to go away and the dogs will be able to do better work. When the party is in its new camp Mr. Loeb will pay the President another visit. P. B. Stewart, of Colorado Springs, expects to leave the camp on Saturday, in which event Mr. Loeb may stay two or three days.

There was no hunting today. A heavy snow began to fall early and had not stopped when Mr. Loeb left the camp. It was decided to put in the day resting. The snow was dry, and it will give the dogs an opportunity to get a fresh start after the game.

The return trip of President Roosevelt, as far as Denver will be made over the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. No excursions of a sightseeing character are to be made in the state, although invitations have been pouring in on Mr. Loeb. No new invitations of any kind will be accepted. It is probable that the party will be in Washington again on the morning of May 20.

PLATT TAKES WORSE TURN

Aged Senator Has Chill and Convalescence Is Grave.

WASHINGTON, Conn., April 20.—Senator O. H. Platt, who is ill with a recurrent attack of pneumonia, had another chill today which has contracted the favorable turn in his condition. The Senator's condition is now as grave as at any time since he took to his bed.

Dr. Ford said tonight that Senator Platt was sleeping and was more comfortable than he was today. "I can't say that he is any better," he said, "but I think he is more comfortable."

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JEFFERSON WILL RECOVER

Confidence of Family Encouraged by Doctor and Nurse.

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., April 20.—

There is every indication at midnight that Joseph Jefferson will recover. Charles B. Jefferson, his son, is confident; Dr. R. B. Potter, physician in attendance, is hopeful, and Mabel Bingham, the nurse, thinks that the worst is over.

The reports to the effect that Mr. Jefferson was suffering with pneumonia are incorrect. His illness has been due to overexertion when on a visit to Hoboken. Added to this was a general weakness, caused by indigestion, from which he suffered last Spring. This ailment returned and was in itself very pronounced. Tuesday night, when there was such a decided change for the worse, it came after days of failure to retain nourishment. But though he told his son Frank, who was at his bedside at that time, that he wanted to pass away quietly, believing that he appeared fearful of death, he was the first to say that he would recover, and today he has been talking cheerfully and asking that arrangements be made for his return to his Northern home.

From what Dr. Potter says, the hope for recovery came when Mr. Jefferson was able to retain nourishment. This favorable condition was pronounced today when he called for food and retained all given him. At 4 o'clock he asked to be permitted to sit up, and his request was granted.

At 7:30 o'clock Dr. Potter said to the representative of the Associated Press that he would not go to the Jefferson home tonight unless called for. At midnight Mr. Jefferson was resting quietly.

FLEE FROM THE BLOCKADE

Travelers in Italy Hurry From Rome for Fear of Strike.

ROME, April 20.—The railroad strike situation has been somewhat improved today, and foreigners profited by the partial re-establishment of train service to escape from Rome, fearing a general strike. During the past 24 hours the exodus from this city reached 7000 travelers, preferring to face delays rather than remain here.

About 100 passengers who reached Naples today on board the North German Lloyd steamer Koenig Albert, from New York, refused to land because of the railroad strike. On the other hand, a party of 20 German engineers, traveling for instruction, who arrived today at Milan, proceeded to Turin, Genoa, and Rome, saying they could not have chosen a more interesting time for a study of Italian railways.

Would Shut Out American Goods.

VIENNA, April 20.—The National Hungarian Economic Society of Buda-Pest recently adopted a resolution calling on the Minister of Commerce to request the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister to terminate the commercial treaty between the United States and Prussia of 1893. Under both these treaties the United States received the most favored treatment. This movement appears to furnish evidence that the central industrial League is taking steps against American agricultural exports to Europe, and also to secure Germany as a market for Hungarian agricultural exports, especially in view of the possibility of the establishment by Hungary of an independent tariff. The Foreign Office has not yet been officially informed of the request of the Buda-Pest society.

Jones' Body Lies in Church.

PARIS, April 20.—The body of John Paul Jones was today borne from the School of Medicine to the American Church of the Holy Trinity on the Avenue d'Alma and was deposited in the receiving vault to await the arrival of the naval squadron which is to carry it to America.

Hay Leaves Nervi for Genoa.

NERVI, April 20.—Secretary Hay and his party, all in good spirits, left here today for Genoa.

RUN ON TRADING STAMPS

Crowd of Excited Women Closes Big New York Store.

NEW YORK, April 20.—The run which began yesterday on the trading stamp store of Benedict & McFarland was continued today by hundreds of excited women. While they were clamoring for the redemption of the books of blue stamps they held, creditors of the concern filed a petition in bankruptcy against it. Later in the day United States Judge Holt appointed a receiver.

The company was incorporated in 1902 with a capital of \$1,000,000. It established branches in Chicago, Denver, St. Louis and other large cities. One of its big contracts with a store in New York terminated a few days ago and news of this precipitated the run.

KILLED BY MINE EXPLOSION

Five Miners Meet Death Through Conrade's Carelessness.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., April 20.—A mine explosion in the Calva Creek mines, near Kayford, about 20 miles above here today is believed to have resulted in the death of five miners and the fatal injury of three others. The disaster, it is thought to have been caused by a powder explosion, the result of a miner's carelessness.

Those known to be still in the mine and probably dead are: Burt Green, Charles Nicola, Iras Nicola, Arthur Crump, William Allen. The three fatally hurt are: George Eastman, night boss; Mowra Darby, assistant night boss; William Robinson, laborer.