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RUSSIAN STORY OF PEACE MOVE

Official Announcement of Acceptance of Roosevelt's Offer.

FRIENDSHIP OF AMERICA

Czar Expresses Thanks for New Evidence of It—Discussion of Japan's Terms—People Prepared for Peace.

ST. PETERSBURG, June 14.—(2:30 A. M.)—Instead of publishing the text of its official reply to the message from President Roosevelt regarding the initiation of peace negotiations with Japan, the Russian government decided, with the purpose of taking the public into its confidence regarding the prospects of peace, to issue a statement summarizing the status of negotiations, which will appear in the form of a communication in the Foreign Office Gazette today. This statement, which puts a graceful tribute to President Roosevelt's action, expresses in a general way Russia's willingness to negotiate, without entering into particulars which cannot be considered to be definitely determined until the receipt of the Japanese reply. The Russian government under the circumstances has deemed it best to leave to the Washington government the publication of the Russian reply. Following is the text of the communication:

Meyer's First Step for Peace.

"The President of the United States instructed his ambassador to the Imperial court to request a private audience in order to convey directly to the Emperor assurances of the unflinching friendship of the United States to Russia and to express President Roosevelt's personal desire to contribute as much as possible, in the interest of the whole world, toward the cessation of hostilities in the Far East. The ambassador was instructed to add that the President was making simultaneous overtures to the Japanese government. The Emperor was pleased to receive the American ambassador on June 7 and gave benevolent attention to President Roosevelt's initiative, which had, moreover, met an entirely sympathetic reception on the part of the friendly powers.

Russia Accepts Offer.

"In reply to this communication, the foreign minister, acting under the Emperor's orders, informed the American ambassador in a note dated June 12 that the Emperor, deeply sensible to the sentiments expressed by the President, was pleased to see therein a fresh mark of the traditional friendship uniting Russia and America and that President Roosevelt was in complete accord with the views the Emperor held on a general settlement so essential to the good progress of the whole of mankind. As for an eventual meeting of Russian and Japanese plenipotentiaries charged with ascertaining how far it would be possible for the two powers to elaborate on conditions of peace, the Imperial government would have no objection in principle to such an attempt, if the Japanese government expressed a desire to do so.

Japan's Terms Under Debate.

The fact that the Japanese government has not yet communicated with Russia as to the time and place and the number of plenipotentiaries is not considered strange, inasmuch as the text of the Russian reply sent to Washington yesterday could not have arrived in Tokyo, considering the difference in time, until last night at the earliest.

Japan's Terms Under Debate.

Japan's terms continue to be a matter for speculation. A well informed diplomat who has been in Japan for some time before the battle of Mukden, considered them to have been very moderate and believes that even now they will be found to be not unduly harsh. Private advices received from a Russian source at Shanghai says it is certain that Japan will demand the surrender of all ships interned in Eastern waters, which may be another item of settling indemnity.

Prepare People for Peace.

Papers supposed to have semi-official inspiration continue to speak dubiously of the results, but it is noticeable that the cheap and popular papers like the Gazette plainly advise the people to reconcile themselves to defeat and peace. The paper named says:

"Defeat is not disgrace and will not prevent development. Look at France. We have survived previous misfortunes. We were beaten many times by Poland and Lithuania, but now they are ours."

The Litske, another popular paper, pays a glowing tribute to President Roosevelt as "the peace-maker far beyond the seas."

With peace in sight, however, by a strange perversity, some of those who were loudest in its favor when it was below the horizon, seem suddenly to have changed their attitude, finding it less attractive than when it was opposed by the government.

RAISE MONEY FOR INDEMNITY

Witte Appointed and Strikes Snag With Foreign Bankers.

ST. PETERSBURG, June 12.—M. Witte

admits his appointment to negotiate the indemnity loan. The foreign bankers demand the people's endorsement of the payment to be made to Japan, but the czar will not hear of such a condition, which would necessitate the calling of a national assembly. It was only by avoiding this necessity that he was able to consent to public preliminaries. A committee has been appointed to find resources for the payment of interest on the indemnity loan.

Nicholas has promised an audience to the Moscow delegates. The convocation of the Zemsky Sobor has been indefinitely postponed.

Despite official denials, peace terms have been practically agreed on.

Foreign buying has caused an unprecedented rise in consols, which now stand at 87.

FRENCH ALLIANCE IN DANGER

Russians Advocate Overtures to Britain for Agreement.

CHICAGO, June 12.—(Special.)—The Moscow correspondent of the Daily News says:

Pro-French Russians, of whom there are many in influential quarters here, affirm that the autonomy must take energetic measures to relieve German pressure on France or witness the tearing up of the dual alliance and a new alignment of European powers fatal to Russian ambitions in the Far East. These persons favor the immediate conclusion of peace with Japan, the recall of the Manchurian army and the conclusion of a Franco-Russian understanding with Great Britain.

They argue that Russia can get a better arrangement with England while that country's policy is gravely menaced by Germany than at any other time. They admit that the Manchurian army, once home, might throw its lot with the liberals, but they hold that this would only mean the disappearance of a regime through which Russia has already suffered all but national death. They believe that, in any event, Russia would regain her powerful position in Europe and thus save her central interests from going the way of her interests in the Far East. Competent politicians are convinced that the restoration of Russia's strength only the restoration of Russia's strength in the German frontier will keep adventures in Berlin from pressing on French fears until they get to war with France, which is almost certain to involve England.

RUSSIAN REPLY RECEIVED.

Discussion Now Centers on Plenipotentiaries and Meeting Place.

WASHINGTON, June 12.—It was announced today that the formal reply of the Russian government to President Roosevelt's note of last Thursday is in the hands of the American government. The response was handed to the American minister at St. Petersburg by Count Lamsdorff and transmitted by the Ambassador to President Roosevelt. It is in perfect consonance with the oral assurance given by the Russian plenipotentiaries at the conference in London, which was made, however, that the contents of the reply are not only accurate, but practically complete as to the information contained in them.

It had been intended by the President to make public the replies of both Russia and Japan at the same time, but a decision has been reached not to publish them at this time. This determination was arrived at as the suggestion of both plenipotentiaries that the publication of the responses at this juncture might not be desirable. Official assurance is given, however, that the Russian plenipotentiaries' reply is more complete than that of the Japanese plenipotentiaries, and that the Russian plenipotentiaries' reply is more complete than that of the Japanese plenipotentiaries.

It is pointed out that a formal armistice between the two great armies facing each other on the plains of Manchuria hardly will be arranged until the peace conference shall have taken definite form. The plenipotentiaries are more anxious to view of the pending negotiations neither the Russian nor the Japanese governments would permit another general engagement.

The subject of the pending negotiations was considered in an informal way at the Cabinet meeting today, the President expressing his confidence in the plenipotentiaries of his Cabinet on the result of his negotiations. Assurance is given that no important decisions bearing upon the negotiations were reached.

ROSEN VISITS M'CORMICK.

New Ambassador's Movements in Paris Cause Peace Gossip.

PARIS, June 12.—Baron Rosen, the recently appointed Ambassador from Russia to the United States, and Baroness Rosen, were entertained at the United States Embassy by Mr. and Mrs. McCormick today. Although a purely social event for the renewal of an acquaintance made at St. Petersburg, much interest attached to it in connection with the American peace initiative and the part Baron Rosen probably will take in its execution. In private conversation, Baron Rosen was asked to give his view over the situation, but the result of his conversation remains private.

In other quarters satisfaction prevails at the progress of the peace preliminaries, but there is pessimism concerning the parties agreeing on final terms. Financial circles are the exception to this feeling.

The Bourse is showing great buoyancy, and there was a general advance in prices today, owing to the prevailing belief in the success of the American efforts.

Take Shine Off Roosevelt's Glory.

CHICAGO, June 12.—(Special.)—The Vienna correspondence of the Daily News says:

While agreeing that President Roosevelt has done a splendid thing in trying to bring Russia and Japan together, say that his heroism in the matter is probably exaggerated. They imagine that before the President acted he was assured not only of the friendly disposition of Russia and Japan, but also of the vigorous support of France and England.

FRANCHISE WAR IN PHILADELPHIA

People Demand Repeal of What Machine Council Gave to Companies.

ALMOST MOB COMMITTEE

Cries of "Thieves" Greet Men Who Oppose Weaver's Plan to Exact Payment for Use of the Streets.

PHILADELPHIA, June 12.—Amid the cry of "thieves" and "crooks," and under the protection of a squad of police, the council's committee on street railways today referred to the city solicitor for his opinion as to their legality four bills repealing ordinances granting street car companies the right to use 100 miles of streets to lay tracks without requiring any compensation for the franchises. The meeting was in all respects as sensational and as stormy as that held by the committee on franchise some weeks ago when the gas lease was under consideration. The "repealers" were introduced at the instance of Mayor Weaver, and the action of the committee today is the first setback the mayor has received since the inauguration of the reform movement which began with the fight on the gas lease. Another situation in the political situation today is the arrest of Frank H. Caven, select councilman from the Thirty-fourth ward, on the charge of violating his councilman's oath by being interested in city contracts. He was held in \$10,000 bail for a further hearing. He denies the charge.

Franchises Were Given Away.

The fight over the street car franchises promises to be warm before it is ended. It is a contest between the mayor and citizens living in the territory through which the proposed new lines are to be run, on the one hand, and the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, backed by the Republican organization, on the other. Recently four street car companies, subsidiary concerns of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, which corporation controls practically all the street car lines in the city, caused to be passed by the city council ordinances giving them the right to lay tracks on 100 miles of streets without the city receiving anything for the privilege. Citizens protested against the ordinances and Mayor Weaver vetoed them. The same day the gas lease was passed by the council and the four bills were passed over the mayor's veto, but no further action was taken because of the gas lease fight. Two weeks later, when the council adopted a resolution withdrawing the gas lease, four ordinances were introduced repealing the street railway ordinances and today was set for a hearing on the measures.

The committee room was crowded. Select Councilman Thomas J. Ryan, the only Democratic member of the select council, suggested that the bills be sent to the city solicitor for his opinion as to their legality.

"Thieves" and "Crooks" the Cry.

His suggestion was received with a storm of hisses. This made Mr. Ryan very angry, and he spoke bitterly of the disturbers. Four members of the committee who spoke against the repealers were hissed "thieves" and "crooks," and a disorderly din of the proceedings became so bad that a squad of police was hurriedly summoned. Thereafter better order was maintained.

After both sides had been heard, the committee, by a vote of 15 to 11, referred the bills to the city solicitor for an opinion by noon Thursday.

Councilman Arrested for Fraud.

The affidavit against Mr. Caven charges that while being a member of council, he committed the offense of being interested directly and indirectly in certain contracts for furnishing supplies and materials for the use of the city. Those supplies consisted of sand and gravel which were furnished to Daniel J. McNichol & Co., contractors, to be used in the new filtration beds.

State Senator James P. McNichol, one of the leaders of the Republican organization in this city, is a member of the contracting firm involved. Mr. Caven denies the charge.

Contract Fraud Blocked.

Director of Public Works Acker today temporarily suspended work on the Torpedo boulevard, which is expected to cost \$200,000, because it is alleged that the contractors are not living up to the specifications in the matter of material. Colonel Sheldon Potter, director of public safety, notified all employees today that hereafter no permission will be necessary for any employee to change his place of residence. Colonel Potter said that in the past a printed form had to be filled out whenever a man desired to move, and his application for permission to move had to be endorsed by a ward leader.

Frank M. Riler, a former director of public safety, was appointed secretary of the Civil Service Board today.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH EVEN YET

La Follette Signs Railroad Rate Bill, but Critics Fret.

MADISON, Wis., June 12.—Governor La Follette tonight signed the railroad rate commission bill, submitting a memorandum in which he mentions a regret that the bill does not contain a provision authorizing the commission to regulate the issue of stocks and bonds.

Judge Brewer, Flatters Women. NEW YORK, June 12.—David J. Brewer, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, has aroused much applause among the Vassar College seniors by an address in which he referred to woman suffrage and intimated that at some future time a woman may occupy the Presidential chair.

While this was said the Justice, who has no privileged class that comes to its opportunities by inheritance. You are a privileged class, for you have had the privilege of a college education. Do not give yourselves entirely to the enjoyment of literature, leaving the Republic to take care of itself. You are to your country the duty of serving it with all the advantages of your education, for who shall say that within the next decade the suffrage shall not be extended to men and women, as it has already been in many of the states; who shall say that before gray hair shall come to your heads women like Queen Victoria shall not sit at the White House to glorify this Nation as Victoria glorified England?

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Declares for City Ownership.

NEW YORK, June 12.—Absolute municipal ownership of all future subways, provided most favorable terms cannot be obtained from private bidders, together with municipal operation of lighting facilities, are advocated in a resolution which has been adopted by the city committee on the subject. The resolution will be handed to the city convention of the party, with the recommendation that it be incorporated in the platform this fall.

BONDS IN GREAT DEMAND

ISSUE OF \$4,000,000 BY PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC.

New York Investors Eager for Securities of One of Oregon's Great Corporations.

NEW YORK, June 12.—(Special.)—N. W. Harris & Co., Wall Street bankers and brokers, were yesterday offering to private investors a part of their entire holding, which they took under negotiation, of the \$4,000,000 first mortgage gold bonds of the Portland General Electric Company, secured by a first and only mortgage on the plant and all its property, operating in Oregon under a perpetual franchise and controlling the entire electric light and power business of Portland and surrounding territory.

One of the representatives of Harris & Co. stated today that the prospects were that their holdings would be over-subscribed before the time limit expired. The bonds are of the highest quality and are as good as a sure thing on the ground of security and safety.

CONTENTS TODAY'S PAPER

The Weather. YESTERDAY—Maximum temperature, 69 deg.; minimum, 48. Precipitation, none. TODAY'S—Cloudy in the morning, clear to partly cloudy in the afternoon; northwest winds.

War in the Far East.

Russia announces acceptance of Roosevelt's offer. Page 1. Disagreement on place of peace conference. Page 2. Russia begins general advance and may fight to influence negotiations. Page 3. Russia may seek settlement with England to prevent loss of French alliance. Page 1.

British and America Refuse to Join in Conference on Morocco.

Premier of Greece murdered by gambler. Page 3. Germany will testify Kiao Chou Bay. Page 3. King Oscar issues reply to Norway. Page 3.

National.

Cabinet considers protest against Chinese ex-clusion. Page 5. Government attorneys agree best trust can be convicted. Page 5. Attacks on Potomac and Chesapeake Bay forts defeated. Page 6.

Relics.

Street-car franchise cause exciting time in Philadelphia Council. Page 1. Convention of Mayors called to consider municipal ownership. Page 4.

Domestic.

Jekyll and Hyde case in New York. Page 4. Big issue of Portland electric bonds sold in East. Page 1. Charge of wholesale bribery of Chicago labor leaders. Page 5.

Sport.

Pacific Coast League scores: Portland 3, San Francisco 2; Los Angeles 5, Oakland 0; Seattle 2, Tacoma 1. Page 10. Young Corbett defeats Maurice Thompson, of Butte, in ten rounds. Page 5.

Pacific Coast.

James Slatery, of Portland, lost in the timber back of Tillamook. Page 7. Two wealthy Minnesotans sentenced for conspiracy to defraud Government in Montana. Page 8. Andy Ingram convicted of murder in second degree at Grant's Pass. Page 6. Judge H. G. Struve, of Seattle, dies in New York. Page 6.

Commercial and Marine.

Willamette Valley League committee will draft law on transportation. Page 6. General Electric Company may owe state money. Page 1.

Commercial and Marine.

Oregon wheat crop in good condition. Page 13. Dairy produce markets depressed. Page 15. Yamhill County wool pool sold. Page 15. Thrashing returns in Texas show inferior grain. Page 15. California grain crop undamaged. Page 15. Lack of interest in stock speculation. Page 15.

Lights ordered on launches and rowboats.

Page 5. Governor Chamberlain and staff visit McCulloch. Page 5. Schooner Cleo loads lumber after long delay. Page 5.

Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Admission 11,684. Page 10. Half rates will be charged on Sundays at the fair hereafter. Page 10. Willamette County has its day at the Exposition. Page 10.

Portland and Vicinity.

Three young bloods who stole roses pawn their diamonds to pay for a party. Page 10. High school students will graduate. Page 11. Ten-year-old boy falls from tree and is drowned. Page 9. Blair Scott makes big claim against insurance company. Page 14.

Crew of Marblehead is deserting. Page 15. Many Masons have thirty-second degree conferred. Page 15. Mitchell's destroyer is broken aside and his trial will begin next Tuesday. Page 1. True cost, value will be basis of assessment. Page 10. Eastern Star elects its officers. Page 14. Californians and Oregonians express the community of interests of the two at Commercial Club gathering. Page 7. Tax-shirkers who hold valuable franchises grinded at Democratic love feast. Page 14.

CAPITAL SAVED FROM INVADERS

Dickins' Fleet Discovered and Constructively Joins Rojestvensky's.

BATTLE WITHOUT WOUNDED

Daring Attacks on Potomac and Chesapeake Bay Forts Constructively Repulsed by Harmless Pogsuns.

PORT HUNT, Va., June 12.—The first gun in the defense of Washington was fired by one of the eight-inch batteries at Fort Hunt at 5:11 o'clock tonight. The target was one of the units of Admiral Dickins' squadron, which appeared to be of the cruiser type. She had just rounded Marshall's Point, about three miles below the fort, proceeding slowly up the river. That she was an "enemy" was indicated by the signal from one of the fort's 60-inch searchlights. After the initial fire the shooting became general, and in six minutes was taken up by Fort Washington's six-inch batteries. Not a reply came from the warship and, when the required number of shots from the fort had been fired to constructively put the ship out of action, the firing ceased.

The offending craft passed calmly up stream during the cessation of the fire from the fort, and when she reached the mine fields, which are a little below the forts, the boats were lowered and manned. A harvest of mines was quickly gathered, but not before the rapid-fire guns of the forts and occasional 15-inch guns had scored on the illuminated target at the closer ranges. The ship returned the fire and her guns sputtered and flashed at a lively rate for several minutes.

The fort observers could not identify the ship by name, although she was thought to be the converted gunboat Silver. The moon shone brightly and not a breath of air was stirring. Again the fire ceased and the craft slowly turned and floated leisurely down stream, leaving the zone of action at 12:15 o'clock. The approach of the cruiser was observed first by the two scout boats of Fort Washington.

At 11 o'clock three of Admiral Dickins' torpedo-boats rounded Marshall's Point and made a dash for the mine fields. They were at once under the fire of the forts.

Torpedo-Boats Spit at Forts.

The three torpedo-boats were followed in close order by four monitors and a cruiser. The action began at 11 o'clock and lasted for 35 minutes. The torpedo-boats destroyed were all dark and they spat sputter at the lower searchlight of Fort Hunt and then, with constant flashes from their sides, they ran directly between the two fortifications on their way to Washington.

There was no break in the single-file procession in the Potomac channel, for the whole fleet went by. When the monitors were in front of the forts, their searchlights were flashed into the sky, as were those of the forts. The sky became overcast with clouds and smoke. They sounded from the forward monitor the bugle to cease firing, and in silence and in darkness the fleet maintained its course toward the National capital.

ATTACK ON MONROE FAILS

Searchlights Find Dickins' Ships, and They Are Knocked Out.

PORT MONROE, Va., June 12.—The attack which Fort Monroe had been expecting since midnight Saturday came at 2:30 this morning, when Admiral Dickins moved on the land forces with three vessels in his fleet, the battleship Texas (flagship) the training-ship Hartford and the converted yacht Vixen. No official information concerning the thirty-minute engagement, which followed is obtainable, but the impression prevails that the whole sea force was constructively sunk. The firing ceased at 3 o'clock. The naval commander immediately withdrew, apparently up the bay, and his whereabouts is unknown. A close watch is being maintained in anticipation of an attack from the whole fleet.

Perhaps the most notable development of the engagement was the demonstration of the efficiency of the searchlights, which picked up the fleet at a distance of approximately five miles. The weather was still thick enough to interfere with the getting of maximum results from the operation of the lights.

Only a part of the available guns at Fort Monroe was used. The first firing came from Fort Wool, a detached artillery station in the roadstead. Then after the Texas had opened up in reply, brought into action. Only the flashes from this place indicated that firing was in progress, the distance being too great to permit the reports of the sub-caliber charges to be heard here. The only firing from Fort Monroe proper came from the batteries nearest to Buckroe Beach, at the upper end of the military reservation. Admiral Dickins maneuvered his vessels so as to keep several barges and other boats, which were on the bay at the time, between him and the land batteries and thus the aiming of Colonel Putts' guns was interfered with to some extent. The three vessels are supposed to have encountered mines during the progress of the fight.

The Texas and one of the converted yachts attached to Admiral Dickins' fleet, presumably the Hornet, made another demonstration at 12:35 this afternoon. As soon as they were sighted there, a constructive firing from the mortar batteries of Fort Monroe and immediately afterwards some of the smaller land batteries were put into action and fired a few shots. The fact that the two vessels continued up the "roads" and then turned and went back up the bay is taken to indicate that the constructive mortar fire was considered to have destroyed or disabled them.

The ships were first sighted at about 2:15 o'clock this morning, when they were about seven miles off shore. The Texas, flying Admiral Dickins' flag, led the procession, with the Hartford and Hornet in the order named. The boats came down close to the fortifications and were constructively sunk by a combination of mines, mortar fire and heavy shells from the main battery, all of which concentrated on the enemy for 15 minutes. They retired after half an hour of fighting and passed out of sight across the bay in the direction of Cape Henry.

This afternoon at 1:30 the Texas and Hornet returned and attempted to storm the forts during the heavy rainstorm. The ships were put out of action before they had a chance to fire a shot or two, the mortars being credited with the work. The Texas kept up on the Roads, however, and the batteries along the shores all fired on her for practice.

The exercises appear to demonstrate that it would be almost impossible for a small fleet to run the batteries here and get into Hampton Roads.

SYLVIA DESTROYS MINES.

Cruiser Sneaks Up to Fort Howard Before Being Sunk.

BALTIMORE, June 12.—Just before dawn this morning the auxiliary cruiser Sylvia of Admiral Dickins' squadron, which is manned by the Maryland reserves, was discovered at a point opposite Fort Howard, destroying mines. The Sylvia had come up the bay so stealthily that she had not been before detected, and the crew in small boats had already removed a number of mines before being seen from the fort, the searchlights being ineffective at that hour.

Upon discovering the enemy, the big guns at Fort Howard boomed out and the Sylvia was theoretically sunk in short order, afterwards proceeding down the bay, probably to join Admiral Dickins.

MIDDY DROWNS IN MANEUVERS

Vertrees of the Newark Lost and Body Can't Be Found.

ANAPOLIS, Md., June 12.—A wireless message was received at the Naval Academy tonight from Commander C. D. Balger, commanding the U. S. S. Newark, conveying news of the death by drowning of Midshipman L. L. Vertrees, of the second class. Details of the death are lacking, but it was stated in the message that the Newark and the flagship Texas had given up search for the body. The academy authorities sent the Government tug Standish to assist in the search.

Young Vertrees was 19 years old and a son of W. J. Vertrees, of Busanell, Ill.

SUNK FOR THE THIRD TIME

Dickins' Constructively Wrecked Ships Have Many Lives.

PORT MONROE, Va., June 12.—For the third time in the last 24 hours the battleship Texas, flagship, the training-ship Hartford, and the gunboat Hornet were constructively sunk off Fort Monroe tonight about 10 o'clock. The attack on Chesapeake fortifications was made tonight at 9:30 and heavy firing was maintained by both feet and forts for half an hour. So far as can be ascertained, only one man was exploded during the latest encounter, and that may have been struck by a merchant ship.

ALL ARE SENT TO THE BOTTOM

Baltimore Ports Play Havoc With Attacking Ships.

BALTIMORE, Md., June 14.—At 1:15 this morning Baltimore's defending forts were again attacked by a part of the fleet under Rear Admiral Dickins. The cruiser Atlanta was discovered in the cut-off channel. She was followed by the Newark and the Sylvia. Fort Howard opened fire, the war vessels used as a partial screen for the latest encounter, and that may have been struck by a merchant ship.

MITCHELL MUST STAND HIS TRIAL

Technical Demurrer to the Indictment Without Avail.

CASE SET FOR TUESDAY

Great Land-Fraud Case Will Now Enter on the Actual Fight in Court With All Technical Barriers Swept Aside.

Senator Mitchell must stand trial upon the Krib's indictment, charging him with having accepted fees while a Senator of the United States for services rendered to Frederick A. Krib, by which timberland claims belonging to the latter were passed through the General Land Office to patent.

Judge De Haven yesterday morning in few words overruled the demurrer of the defense and set the trial of Senator Mitchell for Tuesday, June 20, thus sweeping away every hope of the indicted man and his counsel in the success of the dilatory tactics so long employed, and bringing them face to face with the necessity of meeting the mass of the Government's evidence in denial of the guilt alleged.

It was quickly over, though for a moment there were those in the courtroom yesterday morning who lived more than twice the time indicated by the clock as the Judge paused in his discussion of the demurrer before rendering his final opinion and holding against the plea of the defense. "As to the form," said Judge De Haven, "the indictment is justly open to criticism; indeed, very severe criticism."

Anxiously Await Result.

The audience sat rigid, waiting for the next words that would decide whether Senator Mitchell would be released from the charge against him through defect in the instrument or would have to stand his trial and face the guns of the Government. The attorneys, grouped around the long table, watched the face and lips of the Judge as though they would read the mind of the next sentence before it had been spoken. "But, still, I think," the court continued, slowly, "that it substantially charges the offense described in section 1752 of the revised statutes."

No more was needed. The Government had won. The defendant had lost. The opening of what will be one of the most bitterly contested and one of the most far-reaching cases ever tried before the courts of Oregon was in sight.

Technicalities Do Not Avail.

The action of Judge De Haven in denying the demurrer drags from in front of the jury the last barrier standing between it and a speedy trial. With the demurrer out of the way, Senator Mitchell will now have the immediate hearing demanded by him several months ago, and which has been delayed through press of business, change of Government quarters and through various other causes.

The case now stands out in the open, stripped of motions and demurrers and plain ready for the searchlight of the evidence, which will begin to shine by the middle of the week to come. The plea of the Senator, entered yesterday in his behalf by ex-Senator Thurston, by which it was contended in one word that the defendant had no part in the fraud alleged in the indictment, places the bar against anything but an immediate hearing.

Judge De Haven also settled the contention of the defense in regard to the drawing of the jury in an unexpected manner, though a satisfactory one, yesterday morning, after the announcement of his decision. He directed that the drawing take place at once in open court, and then, in the presence of the attorneys for the defense, those for the Government, and in view of the spectators, Captain Sladen, Clerk of the court, drew the names, one by one, from the jury-box while his deputy wrote out the list. In this manner were the wishes of the defense satisfied and all whispers of unfairness silenced.

Court Delivers Opinion.

When the court was called yesterday morning, Judge De Haven, immediately after taking his place upon the bench, delivered his decision in regard to the demurrer argued the day previous. In delivering his opinion, he said:

"The demurrer that was argued and submitted yesterday I am prepared to decide at this time. The objections urged against the indictment I think go mostly to the form of the indictment. As to the form, the indictment is justly open to criticism; indeed, very severe criticism. But still, I think that it substantially charges the offense described in section 1752 of the revised statutes. I think it appears therefrom that the defendant Mitchell is charged with having rendered services in a fraudulent manner to the United States. As a party in interest, and receiving compensation for that service while he was occupying the