

Unswayed by fear, unflinched by favor, the East Oregonian will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, in every county, state and national affairs. It is fair, absolutely fair, to those who differ from its views, as well as to its friends.

The Best Oregonian of Pendleton, Oregon, is published at the heart of the wonderful inland Empire. You will find that it is readable, reliable and progressive, and will give you the news reliably, accurately and fully.



BATTLE OFF PORT ARTHUR BEGUN BY THE RUSSIANS

Land Fighting Begun and First Engagement Results in Russian Victory and Capture of Chemulpo.

FORMAL DECLARATION OF WAR.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—Czar Nicholas this morning issued an official declaration of war as follows:

"To all dear subjects—I declare we are anxious to preserve the peace so dear to our hearts, and did all in our power to maintain tranquility in the Far East. With these peaceful aims we declared our readiness to revise the existing treaty between the two empires regarding Korean affairs.

"Negotiations were not able to reach a conclusion, Japan, without awaiting our reply, broke off diplomatic relations, without apparently considering what such rupture meant, and commenced warlike actions.

"Japan ordered torpedo boats to attack our squadron at Port Arthur. After receipt of the report we ordered the governor to reply with arms. We hereby make known our decision in a firm trust and help from Almighty God and assurance in the unanimous readiness of our true subjects to stand with us in defense of our fatherland. We call the blessing of the Lord upon our brave army and fleets."

London, Feb. 10.—An official account of the Chemulpo battle has been received by the Japanese embassy here.

It says the Japanese squadron, escorting transports to Korea, was met on the way to Chemulpo by the Russian gumbot Korietz, as the latter was leaving Port Arthur. The Korietz assumed the offensive and fired on the Japanese torpedo boat. The latter replied, firing two torpedoes without effect.

The Korietz then returned to her anchorage in Port Arthur harbor. Early next morning Admiral Irim, commanding the Japanese, formally demanded that the Russian vessels leave the port, adding if they did not comply by noon he would be compelled to attack them within the harbor.

The Russian men-of-war left at 11:30 and battle was immediately given outside of Polysensian Island. After an hour's engagement the Russians took refuge among the islands and towards evening the cruiser Varig sank.

About 4 o'clock February 10, the Korietz was sunk by her own crew, who, finding her disabled, blew her up. The officers and men of the two vessels then took refuge on the French cruiser Pascal.

There were no casualties on the Japanese side.

Chinese Gratification.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The Chinese minister called at the state department this morning and expressed China's gratification at the news issued yesterday to the neutral powers. When the minister came from Mr. Hays' office he said he understood Prince Ching has issued an edict to the various viceroys of China commanding them to observe the strictest neutrality.

Minister Cassini, of Russia, called at the state department and notified Hays that a solemn declaration of war and yesterday's battle.

Russian Victories.

Vladivostok, Feb. 10.—Private dispatches received here state that the Japanese forces on the Yalu river were completely routed by the Russians, and also Chemulpo has been captured by the Russians, who are now occupying that port.

Chinese Neutrality.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Secretary Hays still declines to make public the text of his note to the powers. He wants it known, however, America will not take a solemn demonstration even if it becomes necessary to eject Russia from Manchuria.

Japanese Troops in Korea.

Paris, Feb. 10.—A telegram from Tokio states the Japanese landed a large force at Masampo, Korea which is but a short distance from Fusan, one of the terminals of the Japanese Pusan-Seoul railway, which leads to the Manchurian border.

Russian Claims of Victory.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—At 3:30 the newspapers issued extra claims in Russian victory at Port Arthur. Three Japanese warships and four torpedo boats are reported seriously crippled. One report says the Japanese battleship Shikishima was sunk. The people are demonstrative but there is no official confirmation of the latter report.

Japanese Very Hopeful.

Rome, Feb. 10.—The Japanese minister here today said official advisers here have made it safe to predict that Japan will be complete master, and have troops pursuing the Russians through Manchuria within a fortnight.

NORMAN WILLIAMS HELD FOR FOUL CRIME.

Two Women Leave Hood River Hotel With Him and Are Seen Afterward—Lived on Adjoining Homesteads and Mysteriously Dropped Out of Sight.

The Dalles, Feb. 9.—Norman Williams, formerly of Hood River, is under arrest at Bellingham Bay, Wash., for defrauding the government in a land deal, and is also wanted for murdering two women, near Hood River, in March, 1900.

Williams lived on a claim adjoining Miss Alma Nesbitt and her mother, and one night in March he started to take the women from Hood River to their homestead, 20 miles in the country, by team. After the women left the hotel at Hood River, with Williams, they were never seen again.

Williams has also been missing, until recently, when he was arrested in Washington for defrauding the government out of a homestead, and when questioned about the murder, said he could prove that the women were seen after he drove them home that night in March.

Soon after the women disappeared letters flooded the Hood River postoffice regarding their whereabouts, and from that time until today, not a trace has ever been found that would lead to their discovery.

Searching parties were at once organized following their disappearance, the rivers were dragged, the

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Owed \$30,000 Twelve Years Ago and During That Time Banked \$70,000 —"Padded" Purchase Price for Lands in His Earlier Testimony.

Washington, Feb. 11.—The cross-examination of Machen was continued this morning by Mr. Conrad. It elicited the information that although he owed \$30,000 when he arrived here in 1891, he nevertheless, from 1891 till removed from office, deposited in the Westminster (Md.) National Bank, \$77,000. His salary during that period was \$3,500 per year.

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DOSE FOR THE SICK MAN.

War Probable Soon With Bulgaria and Macedonia.

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Thirty million cartridges have been ordered from France. War with Turkey is expected in March.

A dispatch from Lyons says word is received there that Turkey is making important purchases of artillery in view of the imminence of war in Macedonia.

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There have been three deaths in this vicinity from diphtheria within the past week, and while there is no probability that the school here will close on that account, the gravest fears are entertained for the spread of the disease.

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La Grande Office Has Been Overwhelmed With Work Since the Opening.

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TWO SQUARE MILES FIERY RUINS

Baltimore Conflagration Burned to a Natural Limit and No Longer Spread When the Wind Died Down.

BURNED AREA TWO MILES SQUARE.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—The fire has been effectually stopped so far as extension into new territory is concerned, but the two miles square over which it marched is a sea of surging, roaring flame and falling walls, of red-hot pavement and white-hot girder, safe and vault.

The fire stopped because it reached a natural territorial limit, not because the efforts to check it were or could be any more availing during the last hours than the first. The boundary is the vast area of lumber and coal yards, nearly the entire contents of which were burned, but at which the firemen had a chance to use water, as there were no towering walls and shafts of flame hundreds of feet high to sweep over and beyond their puny efforts.

The convention of insurance adjusters roughly estimate the losses which they must pay, at \$50,000,000.

Dynamite was almost completely exhausted as a means of checking the fire, let alone keeping it within bounds. The flames leaped the spaces left by the collapsed structures and rushed on almost without interruption.

Only gross carelessness, or a violent wind can result in any further spread of the fire, which destroyed almost every building in the business part of the city.

FORGER TELLS THE COURT HE IS MORE THAN GUILTY.

Judge Frazer Surprised to Hear Forger Ask for Maximum Sentence, Instead of Begging for Mercy—Given Five Years With the Admonition That He Reform on His Release From Prison.

Portland, Feb. 10.—Thurlow W. Parker, the forger, who was chased all over the Northwest, was finally captured at his home in Deer Lodge, Mont., and later escaped from Detective Joe Day, on an O. R. N. train near Arlington, was yesterday sentenced to five years in the penitentiary for his crimes.

Before sentence was passed, Parker made a speech to the court, asked Judge Frazer to impose the maximum sentence on him as he realized that he was guilty of more than an ordinary crime, in view of his average intelligence and family relations.

He lamented that he had caused death and remove all his capabilities and would leave him a helpless machine on his release, and that he would give Parker but five years in which to think over the error of his ways.

The maximum sentence for his crime is 20 years, but Judge Frazer said this was too long a time for a man to serve for forgery, as it would deprive him of his family and children and would leave him a helpless machine on his release, and that he would give Parker but five years in which to think over the error of his ways.

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FOR COUNTY DIVISION.

Citizens of Grant Will Discuss Subject on Feb. 12.

Long Creek, Feb. 9.—The people of Northern Grant county are thoroughly aroused over the proposition of dividing the county. The proposed line will commence near the Beech Creek sawmill and run due west to Wheeler county.

Beginning again near the Beech Creek sawmill it will run in a zig-zag direction to the middle fork of the John Day river near the Thomas ranch and from there due north to Umatilla county. A call is issued to the voters and taxpayers living within the above described boundary to meet in Long Creek on Friday, Feb. 12, to discuss the matter and effect some kind of an organization to treat with the people of the south end in the matter of dividing the county on the above named lines.

People from every part of Northern Grant county should attend this meeting.

Fireman Injured.

William Carlos, a local fireman, was injured by a face in the first floor of the Equitable building, a sixteen story structure, the frame of which was still standing. He was setting the strength of the walls.

Hundreds of insurance representatives are in the city viewing the ruins. They exhibit almost a feeling of panic.

Deposits and Records Safe.

Governor Warfield says the safe deposits and records of public institutions are believed to have withstood the fire.

A dozen cities are sending messages of condolence and proffers of financial aid.

City Faces Famine.

Baltimore will not seek outside aid. This decision was reached by the city authorities this afternoon with the knowledge that 50,000 persons are out of employment and that the faces of the city are in a state of starvation.

A conference between Mayor McLean, the city council and members of the legislature. A bill will be introduced in the legislature to the relief of the destitute, who are now practically the city's wards.

A bill will also be rushed through regarding the provision of Baltimore's city charter which limits any emergency fund to \$50,000. This act will give the city's administrators unlimited resources to cope with the situation.

The working people seem to be unrealizing the extremity of their position. They know that the commission houses are in ruins, but forget that the city is without food.

They surround the fire lines in holiday attire, charmed with the scorching rains, lapping flames and volcanic sound of the burning.

Outside Relief Measures.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Enrich of Chicago introduced a bill in the house this afternoon appropriating \$1,000,000 for the relief of Baltimore, to be used in sheltering the homeless and clearing the streets of debris.

New York, Feb. 9.—The Chamber of Commerce, which gave \$1,000,000 after the Chicago fire, is one of the first to ask if financial help is needed.

Regular Army Engineers.

Washington, Feb. 9.—On a telephone request from the mayor of Baltimore, Secretary Taft this afternoon sent to the devastated city Major Burr and Captains Gillette and Newcomer, all of the engineer corps, accompanied by a company of engineers from Washington barracks. They are to have charge of pulling down dangerous walls, and otherwise assist local authorities.

Instructions From Pope.

Rome, Feb. 9.—The pope has issued instructions that all possible be done to alleviate the distress resultant upon the disastrous fire at Baltimore.

Spreading Stopped.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—Acting Chief Emerick, of the fire department, made the following statement this morning:

"The fire is practically a thing of the past. The ruins are vomiting smoke and flames, but there is no danger of it spreading farther."

Ascertaining Losses.

Turner, of the German-American Company, was elected chairman, and has appointed a committee to constitute a clearing house for the big force of clerks and accountants will be employed to tabulate losses and arrange payments.

One of the greatest problems is lack of food.

All the visiting fire departments will leave today, but the local force is able to handle it. General Corbin returned to New York this morning.

The city is not under martial law, the troops merely acting as an adjunct to the police force. A thousand militiamen are on duty, making a cordon around the burned district.

Property Loss and Destruction.

Baltimore is beginning to realize the immeasurable magnitude of its loss. The weather has taken a wintery chill, and workers who are idle realize they will probably be compelled to look for other cities. All estimations of loss today vary from \$150,000,000 to twice that amount.

It will be months before losses can be adjusted, as they are so great the adjusters are dazed by the great work ahead. A dispatch from Liverpool this morning says the London Globe is fully prepared to pay the millions of losses which it sustained. The special agents of all important companies were in special session at 11 this morning.

Dynamiting Ruins.

At 10 this morning the ruined Law building, facing the new and imposing courthouse, was dynamited by naval experts sent from Washington by Secretary Moody. Bombs, tons and pounds were used in a series of mines.

No Looting as Yet.

It has been decided that as no federal troops have been made for Baltimore that none will be brought from New York. Those from Fort McHenry were ordered back to their post today.

There is very little trouble in holding back the crowds. No attempt at looting have yet been discovered, although an enormous wealth is buried in the safe and vaults in the burned district.

sequently there has been considerable "gun talk" of late.

While there is no clue to the dynamiter, the editor of the Ranger will swear out warrants for several prominent citizens, he alleges, who he suspects of complicity in the destruction of his office.

MORE IDAHO RESERVATIONS.

Lands on Salmon and Little Salmon Withdrawn.

Lewiston, Feb. 9.—The United States land office at Boise has received telegraphic instructions from the interior department of the withdrawal of several thousand acres of land in Washington and Idaho counties for forest reserve purposes. This means that the land has been withdrawn from settlement, entry, sale or other disposal, excepting under the mineral law.

The minute description of the land withdrawn has not been received, but it is tributary to the Boise, Salmon and Little Salmon rivers. The description of the land withdrawn is expected to be received in a few days when the land office will be in a position to know the full details.

W. H. Allison, a prominent mining man and promoter of Butte, took an overdose of morphine, Tuesday, and died from the effects an hour later. He took the drug to induce sleep.

GOVERNMENTAL AND OTHER NEWS

MACHEN ON THE WITNESS STAND IN OWN DEFENSE.

Famous Shipbuilding Trust Case Is Ended and No One is in the Penitentiary—United States Circuit Court Renders a Decision Adverse to Augustus Heinze—Another National Bank Failure—Senate Is in Executive Session.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The senate today passed the diplomatic consular appropriation bill without debate.

Overman of North Carolina made a speech on the Panama canal treaty explaining why he would vote against a ratification of the canal treaty.

Daniel introduced a bill appropriating \$3,000,000 for an exposition to be held in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1907. In the house Maynard introduced a duplicate of the Daniels senate bill.

Machen on the Stand.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Machen, on the stand today in his own defense, vigorously defended his necessary subordinate affixing his (Machen's) initials to vouchers, his business, and also asserted the money paid him by Lorenz was in a private transaction involving the sale of oil lands, having nothing whatever to do with the government or Groff fasteners.

Shipbuilding Case Ended.

Judge Kirkpatrick today signed a decree adjudging the insolvency of the shipbuilding trust, and also appointing James Smith as permanent receiver. The court declared all litigation ended and therefore no further hearings necessary.

Decision Against Heinze.

San Francisco, Feb. 10.—The United States circuit court of appeals today denied Augustus Heinze a restraining suit against the Butte & Boston Consolidated Mining company, in which he sought to gain possession of copper property in Montana valued at \$3,000,000.

National Bank Failure.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The comptroller of the currency announces the closing of the doors of the Equitable National Bank at New York, on account of bad loans and injudicious management. No other banks are involved. Resources and liabilities each approximate \$750,000.

Thomas Barbee, a pioneer of Lane county, died Tuesday, 75 years of age.

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