

The Morning Astorian.

VOL. LVII.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1904.

NO. 87.

AIM OF JAPAN SEEMS TO BE TO PREPARE FOR ANY SITUATION THAT MAY ARISE

While Government Is Striving Desperately to Reach a Peaceful Settlement, Russia Remains Unchanged.

The Presence of Russian and Japanese Fleets in the Red Sea at the Same Time, Coupled With an Attempt of the Latter to Occupy Korean Ports, May Bring About a Naval Clash Likely to Precipitate War.

Washington, Jan. 15.—State department advices today from Japan indicate an extraordinary activity in the preparations for war. These add to the pessimistic feeling already existing here respecting the probability of amicable adjustment of the Russo-Japanese trouble.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government is reported to be striving desperately to find some possible means of settlement, but the state department learns that, while professing a desire for peace, the Russian position, at least in principle, remains unchanged, and there is no sign of a disposition to yield to the Japanese proposal. Still, the official opinion here is that if left to diplomacy the present situation may continue for several days, or even weeks. The two chances of an earlier breach are said to be found in the possibility of the immediate occupation of Korean ports by Japanese forces, and the presence in the Red sea simultaneously of Russian and Japanese warships.

Respecting the possibilities of a naval clash in that section, it is pointed out that only in case of formal existence of war could be applied to the Suez canal the policy of neutrality, which requires a period of 24 hours to elapse between the departure from the terminal of the canal of warships of belligerent powers; so in advance of a declaration of war there is nothing to prevent a naval battle within sight of the canal entrance in the Red sea.

as evidence that the situation has not grown worse. The interest of the United States in the crisis continues to be the subject of a great deal of discussion.

The Standard says: "Although the most informal engagements may be violated with impunity in the dealing with the Manchuria situation with the emperor, the president of the United States can not be treated cavalierly. It would be far too hazardous a game, and too likely to end in humiliating complications."

The Tokio dispatches printed this morning show no changes in the situation.

MAN AND WOMAN HOLD TOWN AT BAY

Black Duck, Minn., Jan. 15.—Excitement prevailed at Kellher, a new border town 20 miles north of here, all last night and today it continues over a shooting affair that started in a gambling-house. The house was surrounded all night by a score of armed men, who were trying to get a man of the name of Plummer and a woman companion, who had ejected the proprietor from the place at the point of their revolvers and then began to "shoot the place up" in true border fashion.

When the inmates were driven out, the town council assembled and called for volunteers. Each man was furnished with a rifle and a quart bottle of whisky, the latter was a stimulant against the cold. The house was riddled with bullets. The couple in the house wrecked the interior with axes and fired at every one who came within range. The battle continued until midnight, when a truce was arranged until morning. The town marshal was wounded slightly. The besieged then took turns at watching and sleeping

Pacific Utterances Given Prominence

London, Jan. 16.—An account of the imperial New Year's reception at the winter palace in St. Petersburg Thursday, and the pacific utterances of the czar to the Japanese minister, are given prominence by the whole British press as the most gratifying news of the day. His assurances are accepted

and occasionally a shot was fired. In the meantime the sheriff from Beveridge was summoned and he is now en route.

Corea to Open Ports.

London, Jan. 15.—The Daily Mail's Tokio correspondent says the Korean cabinet has decided to open Yongsampo and Jikobo.

Would Change Constitution.

Chicago, Jan. 15.—The National Business League today began a movement to amend the constitution of the United States so as to fix the presidential term at six years and make the president ineligible for re-election.

Jury Is Not Discharged.

Georgetown, Colo., Jan. 15.—The jury case of the Idaho Springs union miners charged with conspiracy to blow up the Sun and Moon mine, reported to the court this evening that no agreement had been reached. The court said

that in view of the time already consumed by the trial, he would ask the jury to make another attempt. The court adjourned until tomorrow with the understanding that should a verdict be reached in the meantime, the court would be convened immediately.

Murderer is Hanged.

Kirksville, Mo., Jan. 15.—John Roberson was hanged today for the murder of his father-in-law, George Conklin. He died declaring that he had made his peace with God and had been forgiven for the murder.

John Brown's Daughter Dies.

Pasadena, Jan. 15.—Mrs. Ruth Brown Thompson, daughter of John Brown "the liberator," died at her home here today, aged 76 years.

Mac Arthur Assumes Command.

San Francisco, Jan. 15.—Major General McArthur assumed command of the division of the Pacific today.

BRYAN HAS A NEW ONE

Is Smitten With an Idea While in Europe, Which He Will Tell Later.

St. Louis, Jan. 15.—"Everything points to victory," said William J. Bryan, who spent an hour in St. Louis today en route home to Lincoln, in answer to a question asked by the Post-Dispatch as to the democratic national outlook. "I think we will win, and I am now convinced that a dark horse will capture the nomination," he continued.

"What do you think of Judge Parker, of New York?" he was asked.

"I am not thinking of Parker at all."

"How would Senator Gorman suit you?"

"I am not discussing Mr. Gorman or any other candidate at this time."

"Is it true that you have expressed a preference for Mr. Hearst?"

"Now," said Mr. Bryan, "I wish you would write down what I have to say about Mr. Hearst."

He then dictated the following: "I appreciate the work Mr. Hearst has done for the democratic party, and count him among my personal friends, but I am not advocating his nomination or that of any other person. I am avoiding any expression of preference for anybody."

"I think I have already made it sufficiently plain that I am not."

"Would you become one if conditions should indicate the necessity of your making the race?"

"I can imagine no circumstance under which it would be either wise or necessary for me to be come a candidate."

Mr. Bryan would not commit himself as to the eligibility of Mayor McClellan, of New York, for the democratic nomination.

"Did your journey modify in any way your views on the money question?"

"It did not," he replied, emphatically. "I am still a believer in the principle of free silver. But I will say this, that I got one new idea, which I will discuss at some future time."

MAY BE HELD RESPONSIBLE

Captain Roberts, of the Wrecked Steamer Clallam, and Others Will Be Arrested.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 15.—Application was made today at the coroner's inquiry into the Clallam disaster for warrants for the arrest of Captain Roberts and others on the charge of manslaughter. C. H. Laughlin, representing the Dominion government, today said that sufficient evidence had been secured to show criminal negligence.

Evidence was given this morning by Richard Griffiths, one of the crew of the Clallam. As the steamer was hauling the ensign to half-mast upside down, Captain Roberts ordered him to take it down and put it up right side up as if nothing was the matter.

About that time a steamer passed about three miles away. Captain Roberts saw he was wrong and in about 10 minutes later allowed the sail or to put up the flag in reversed position.

Griffiths said no steps were taken to rescue those in the water after the first boat was capsized, though they were alongside the steamer. There were no rockets, blue fires, or other signals on board as far as he knew. The rudder was known not to be in good condition.

Two Bodies Found.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 15.—The tug Albion today discovered two more bodies of the victims of the Clallam disaster. The remains are those of Harvey Sears, stevedore, and R. Campbell, of Seattle.

Livery Strike is Ended.

Chicago, Jan. 15.—The strike of livery drivers was ended today and the union men were ordered back to work. A committee of employers and drivers had a conference, at which an agreement was brought which recognizes "closed shops," one of the chief points of disagreement. The matter of increased wage scale will be arbitrated as soon as possible by a committee of unions and employers.

EASTERN OREGON LAWYER SHOTS BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

Baker City, Jan. 15.—Colonel W. F. Butcher, prominent lawyer and leading democrat, tonight shot and perhaps fatally wounded J. C. White, a well known local contractor. After the shooting White walked several hundred feet to secure medical aid, but the attending physicians are unable to say whether or not he will recover. Colonel Butcher is one of the best known attorneys of eastern Oregon and has long been prominent in political circles. He was the democratic candidate for congress against Congressman Williamson.

The shooting was the outcome of a business misunderstanding between the two men, who had been interested together in a contract for the construction of a lighting and water plant at Weiser, Idaho. According to statement made by White after the affray,

he went to Butcher's office this afternoon to discuss matters pertaining to the Weiser contract and a wordy altercation ensued. White admits that he told Butcher he proposed to shoot him when he met him upon the street.

Tonight the two men met, and Butcher fired two shots at White, both taking effect. One struck White in the neck, inflicting a dangerous wound, while the other took effect in the arm.

Butcher hastened to give himself up to the authorities, while White went for medical aid. Butcher secured bondmen shortly and was released from jail. When asked for a statement he was inclined to be reticent, and declined to discuss the affair other than to say he had fired in self-defense.

The shooting has caused much excitement, because of the prominence of the principals involved.

NATIONAL LIVESTOCK MEN ADJOURN SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION AT PORTLAND

Delegates Appreciate That One of the Most Important Sessions in History of Organization Just Ended.

Establishing of Packing Houses Leading Feature—T. J. Hargenbarth, of Idaho, Elected President—Denver Next Place of Meeting—Last Day Consumed in Routine Matters and Listening to Short Addresses.

Portland, Jan. 15.—With the feeling that one of the most important meetings in the history of the organization was held, and that much was accomplished that will contribute to the future success of the livestock business, the seventh annual convention of the National Livestock Association adjourned this afternoon to meet in Denver next year.

From the opening session of the National Woolgrowers convention to the closing one of the livestock, unity and harmony have characterized every action. With this feeling prevailing the work of the conventions was easily accomplished. Many important questions have been considered. Of these the most important were the administration of public lands relative to grazing, the relations of railroads to the stock industry, and the most important of all the establishment of an independent packing house. The work of securing subscriptions toward this end will be taken up in each state immediately.

The last day's session was crowded with the business of election of officers, which resulted in the election of F. J. Hargenbarth, of Idaho, president; S. A. Jastro, of California, first vice-president; Francis Stewart, of South Dakota, second vice-president; Chas. F. Martin, secretary; Geo. L. Goulding, of Colorado, treasurer. The principal event of the morning was the address of E. Benj. Andrews, chancellor of the university of Nebraska.

In the afternoon the convention selected officers and the next place of meeting, Denver. A number of resolutions, of a routine nature, were adopted.

J. R. Anderson, of British Columbia, delivered a brief address on the

subject, "Evils of Cross Breed or Scrub Sires."

Dr. A. D. Melvin, of the bureau of animal industry, read an address by Charles Bremer on "Livestock Sanitary Measures." Short addresses followed and a loving cup was presented to President Springer who in turn presented, in behalf of the orchestra, two pairs of socks, made of Oregon wool, to Hon. Jerry Simpson, the sockless stockman. Then the audience sang "America" after which the seventh annual convention was declared adjourned, sine die.

SIX CHICAGO CHURCHES ARE ORDERED CLOSED

quest today was given over to witnesses from the fire department, Chief Musham and several of higher ranking assistants testifying. Chief Musham declared, in his opinion, that it was the duty of the building commissioner to report to him if fire protection in a theater was in adequate. No report had ever been made to him. It has never been the custom of the fire department to inspect theaters or public buildings for protection, unless the report had been made from the office of the building commissioner. In this connection it may be recalled that Building Commissioner Williams testified it was not the business of his office to report on fire protection, but that the matter was entirely belonging to the fire department.

Orders were issued to Commissioner Williams to close six more churches for failure to comply with the building ordinance.

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SALE COMMENCES

Monday, January 4, 1904.

P. A. STOKES