

# The Morning Astorian.

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## AROUSSED AGAINST FRANCE

### JURY RETURNS VERDICT OF GUILTY

Indictments Against August W. Machen, Geo. E. Lorenz, Sam A. Groff and B. Groff Are Sustained.

Four Defendants and Counsel Appear to Be Appalled at the Findings.

### JURY TAKES FIVE BALLOTS

Motion Made for New Trial and Arrest of Judgment to Admit of Bail—Bonds Fixed at \$20,000 Each.

Washington, Feb. 26.—"Guilty as indicted," was the verdict announced by the jury in the postoffice conspiracy trial shortly after 8 o'clock tonight, stating at the same time that this was the verdict as to all four defendants, August W. Machen, late general superintendent of the rural free delivery division; George E. Lorenz, of Toledo; Sam A. Groff, and Diller B. Groff, of Washington. The jury had been out nine hours.

When the verdict was announced the defendants and their counsel seemed appalled. During the time the jury was out the four defendants had paced up and down the hallway outside the courtroom and had given expressions to the belief that each hour the jury spent in discussing the case brought them nearer to an acquittal.

Five ballots in all were taken. On the first ballot the vote stood 7 to 5 for conviction, on the second 8 to 4 on the third 9 to 3, on the fourth 10 to 2 and on the fifth the vote was unanimous.

Immediately after the verdict was rendered Charles Douglass, in behalf of all four defendants, filed a motion for a new trial, for an arrest of judgment and for an appeal for the purpose of having the defendants admitted to bail. Bail was then fixed at \$20,000 each. The defendants will ap-

pear before Justice Pritchard tomorrow morning to receive sentence.

### NAVAL BILL PASSED.

Minority Keeps Things Tied Up for a Time, but Republicans Win Out.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The house passed the naval appropriation bill today. There was a party contest on the number of proposals during the day, especially on the effort of different minority members to secure an amendment to fix the price of armor plate at a figure bid by the Midvale Steel Company. Several amendments were ruled out on points of order and republican leaders by parliamentary tactics left the question of armor plate to the discretion of the secretary of the navy. An ineffectual attempt was made to have the eight-hour law applied to all ship construction. The contest over submarine boats was exciting and an amendment was finally adopted which leaves the question of the type of boats open, but increases the amount of the appropriation for such boats. The minority failed to secure a record vote on the proposal to recommit with instructions.

### Democrats Call It Subsidy.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The senate considered the bill requiring the use of American ships in carrying government supplies, but without action adjourned for want of a quorum. The bill was attacked by the democratic senators as being in the nature of a subsidy, but Hale, who was in charge of the measure, defended it.

Early in the day an agreement was reached to take up Monday the bill authorizing the erection of a joint building for the department of state justice and commerce and to devote Thursday to Alaska legislation.

### COLLAPSE OF A SCAFFOLD.

Dizzy Fall of Workmen, One of Whom Is Killed.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—One man was killed, another was probably fatally injured and a score of other workmen were barely saved from being crushed beneath a large scaffold which collapsed this afternoon in the center of the new postoffice building. The scaffold was built from the main floor of the building directly beneath its dome to the tenth floor, a distance of 161 feet. Thirty-five men were working about the dome and for a time it was thought that nearly half this number had been killed by falling timber, but all escaped with the exception of the two plasterers.

### REQUESTS COREA TO HAND MINISTER OF REPUBLIC HIS PASSPORT

### Attack of the Japanese Squadron on Russian Cruisers and Batteries Results in Nothing Being Done.

### After Desultory Fire on Both Sides Orientals Retire From Their Position, Four Cruisers Proceeding to Pigeon Bay and Engage With Torpedo Boats—They Go Away Without Attempting to Land.

London, Feb. 26.—A report which emanates from St. Petersburg says the Japanese minister at Seoul has requested the Korean government to hand the French minister his passport.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—(2 a. m.)—A copy of the telegram from Alexieff to the czar, just given out, dated February 25, follows:

"A squadron of 16 of the enemy's vessels approached the fortress about 11 o'clock this morning and opened bombardment on the cruisers Askold, Bayan and Novik, which were in the outer harbor, and also on the fortress. The firing continued half an hour. Then our cruisers went into the harbor. The enemy fired for several minutes on one of our batteries and then began to leave. They stopped within sight of the fort, but out of range of our fire.

"At this time four of the enemy's cruisers had detached themselves from the squadron and have proceeded to Pigeon bay, where they quickly opened fire on the torpedo boats cruising there. They directed also a strong cannonade against the shore. The commandant consequently sent troops to Pigeon bay, but no landing was made by the Japanese and their cruisers then departed."

### LEFT ENEMY FAR BEHIND.

According to Alexieff, Russians Are Pretty Good on Run.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.—The following telegram, dated February 25, from Alexieff to the czar, is published here: "On February 24, 17 of the enemy's warships with 12 torpedo boats and steamers were cruising outside Port Arthur, but keeping out of range. On the same day the Russian cruisers Bayan, Askold and Novik left the roadstead. Two Japanese cruisers advanced toward the Novik, which returned to Port Arthur, accompanied by our torpedo boats from Pigeon bay. The enemy's cruisers were left far behind. In the evening our cruisers returned to the roadstead.

"On the night of February 25 our torpedo boats proceeded seaward and the same night the Japanese torpedo boats again appeared in the roads and the battleship Retvizan and the fort batteries opened fire on them. Battery No. 18 reports having sunk one of the enemy's torpedo boats.

"At 9 o'clock in the morning a squadron of 14 vessels was sighted in the distance."

### MOST SHELLS FALL SHORT.

Engagement of Forty Minutes Ends in No Damage.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.—A dispatch from Port Arthur dated February 26 says:

"At 1 o'clock this morning several Japanese torpedo boats were sighted from here with their sails set for the purpose of disguising their character. The battleship Retvizan and shore batteries opened fire on them and continued firing until daybreak, without any visible result.

"After daybreak the Japanese squadron, apparently conveying troops, was sighted. At a quarter past 11 the squadron came nearer and an engagement which lasted 40 minutes ensued.

There was no damage. Few shells fell in Port Arthur.

"It is expected here that the Japanese will attempt landing soon.

"An inspection of the Japanese fire ships sent into this harbor on February 24 shows they were loaded with coal and kerosene, and electrical infernal machines had been placed in the midst of the cargo."

St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.—The Rus this morning publishes the following from Port Arthur, under date of February 25:

"On the night of February 24 the Japanese attempted to blockade the exit from Port Arthur bay in order to enclose our fleet concentrated within. Under convoy of torpedo boats and transports the enemy advanced four freighters, in ballast, at full speed to the gateway, where it was intended to sink the latter vessels; but the maneuver was immediately observed on the battleship Retvizan, which was standing in the bay before the entrance. The Retvizan at once opened fire and, after it, the batteries on the peak and those on the promontory took part. As a result the ships with which it was designed to blockade the port were destroyed and their mission rendered unsuccessful. According to a wholly unsupported report one Japanese torpedo boat was sunk.

"The cannonade began before 3 o'clock in the morning and continued until 7 o'clock. From 5 a. m., however, there were merely single discharges. The Japanese fleet, at long distance, answered our fire ineffectively. This evidently was done merely to cover the retreat of their torpedo flotilla.

"The enemy's squadron, consisting of 10 large vessels and 17 torpedo boat destroyers, which appeared yesterday about 9 o'clock in the morning, maneuvering in sight of Port Arthur until noon and then withdrew and disappeared from the horizon in the morning. The cruisers Novik, Askold and Bayan put to sea and after the considerable fire returned unharmed."

### Japs Find Allies.

Seoul, Feb. 26.—The Korean government has decided to order Korean troops to join the Japanese in the field. The port of Wiju was opened to foreign trade last night. The limitation to be placed on trade and other incidental matters will be discussed later.

### Russians Go Southward.

London, Feb. 27.—"Russian and Japanese scouts sighted each other Thursday morning at Sukchen, 25 miles north of Ping Yang, Corea, but did not come in contact," cables the Tokio correspondent of the Times. "Russians are now moving southward to the Tumen river, where the roads are extremely bad.

### Bodies Well Preserved.

Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 26.—Unconfined for 18 months, the bodies of W. J. Davis and Clair Ely have just been discovered in No. 2 mine, of the Crow's Nest Coal Company. Thus is completed the sad death role of the 125 victims of the explosion of May 23, 1902. The bodies were in a fair state of preservation owing to climatic conditions in the mine. As they would decompose very rapidly in the outside air, they were placed in coffins in the mine and then taken to Fernie for burial. The remains were found in the main west level, where a large cave-in had occurred. This level

was not being worked at the time of the explosion, and the men, who were driving around the cave-in to get at the face, were rudely surprised when they came across the bodies. Davis was a brattice man, and his work took him all through the mine, while Ely was a boss driver.

### LIBERALS IN ASCENDANCY.

Indications Are That Present Party in Power Will Step Down.

London, Feb. 26.—The Associated Press is in a position to declare that there will be a dissolution of parliament within six weeks, and if, as expected, the liberals are returned to power, King Edward will summon Lord Spencer, the liberal leader in the house of lords, to form a cabinet. His majesty and all the prominent politicians are fully aware of the situation created by the irremedial cleavage in the unionist ranks by the fiscal and other differences, and they are all preparing for a speedy fall of the present government and consequent general election.

### President Signs Treaty.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Secretary Hay and Minister Bunau Varilla this afternoon exchanged ratifications of the Panama canal treaty at the state department. It was then sent to the president, who signed it and then put it into effect.

### He Stole Electricity.

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 26.—Percy Roberts, an electrician apprentice, has been arrested on the charge of stealing electricity. It is claimed by the Seattle Electric Company officers who had Roberts arrested, that Roberts fixed up a large Japanese fan in his room to decorate the apartment. He thought it would look well to have the fan illuminated. From the end of each rib he fastened an electric bulb properly connected with wires. The lights were turned on, but Roberts found that it would be expensive to pay for the amount of the juice used. Then he heard of the arrest of Chicago Sam, a Chinaman, for tampering with an electric meter, whereby he lighted his laundry for nothing. Chicago Sam ran wires around the meter from the point it entered so that the current would not pass over the chronicle dial, but went on to the bulbs without registering. Roberts did the same trick. Detectives caught him fixing the attachment to the meter, which he did every night, and they arrested him. Now he must stand trial on the charge of larceny.

### NON-UNION MEN STRIKE.

D. M. Parry, Noted Union Scrapper, Cuts Wages Too Often.

Indianapolis, Feb. 26.—Seventy-five craters and hangers employed by the Parry Manufacturing Company, at the head of which is D. M. Parry, president of the National Manufacturers' Association and the National Industrial Association, of America, struck today on account of a cut in wages. All the men are non-union men. They were paid off and discharged. The men say they have been cut from 72 to 57 cents per piece since October and struck against an additional cut of two cents today.

### Fight to a Draw.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—Jack Root and George Gardner fought a six-round draw here tonight.

### LATEST HITS

Everybody is playing them Rags! Bidelia! Moon Moths! IN OUR SHOW WINDOW

J. N. GRIFFIN

Groceries, Hardware, Ship Chandlery, Paints, Oil and Glass—Hardwood Lumber Boat Supplies etc.

FISHER BROTHERS  
Cor. Bond and 12th Sts. Astoria, Oregon

### WORST FIRE IN THE CITY'S HISTORY

Rochester Drygoods Houses Crumble In Ruins Before Onslaught of Devastating Flames

Ideal Weather Conditions Save City from Total Destruction, Assisting Firemen.

LOSS MAY REACH \$5,000,000

Twenty-five Hundred People Rendered Idle By Destruction Wrought—Dynamite Used By Firemen.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 26.—The worst conflagration in the history of Rochester broke out shortly before 5 o'clock this morning in the basement of the Rochester Dry Goods Company's store, at 1516 Main street. The fire, according to the nightwatchman in the store, Thomas Connors, was discovered soon after it started, but it spread with such rapidity that by the time an alarm was turned in the entire front of the store was a mass of flames.

The fire department responded promptly. Assistant Chief Jaynes realized at once the dangerous nature of the fire and turned in a general alarm. By this time the fire had spread to the building occupied by the drygoods firm of Beadle & Sherburne.

Chief Little arrived on the scene promptly after the general alarm was sounded. He realized that the flames were beyond the control of the local department and appeals for more fire apparatus were sent to the chiefs of the Buffalo and Syracuse fire departments. Nearly five hours later four steamers arrived from Syracuse.

Within an hour after being discovered the fire had spread to the big Granite building occupied by the firm of Sibley, Lindsay & Curr, and by hundreds of business and professional men. The flames also spread to the buildings in the rear of the Granite block. The extreme cold making fire fighting difficult and hazardous, as the ladders were coated with ice.

The only accident reported was the injury of Assistant Chief Frank A. Jaynes, who was struck on the head by a flying nozzle.

The loss is estimated at between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000, most of which fell on the Sibley Lindsay & Curr Co., the Beadle & Sherburne Co., the Rochester Dry Goods Company, and the Walkover Shoe Company. The loss to the business office in the Granite building cannot be estimated at this writing.

At sunset tonight 10 engines were pouring streams of water on the ruins of most of the retail drygoods houses in the city. Three of the five department stores were consumed in today's fire. It is said that 2500 people are thrown out of work by the disaster.

Mrs. W. F. Halderman, of Warren-ton, was in the city yesterday.

**TODAY**  
IS POSITIVELY  
**THE LAST DAY**  
OF OUR  
**20 per cent**  
**Reduction Sale**  
**P.A. STOKES**