

The Morning Astorian.

VOL. LVII.

ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1904.

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NO. 140.

CHINA MAY BE HARBORING JAPANESE

Russia Deems It Not Unlikely That Neutrality Laws Are Being Violated by Chinese Empire.

Figured Out That Vice-Admiral Toiga's Fleet Must Have Harbor Other Than Home.

COALING STATION A MYSTERY

Attacks on Port Arthur Too Frequent to Allow Vessels to Retire Far From Scene of Action.

St. Petersburg, March 19.—The government's private information is not reassuring as regards China's sincerity in observing a neutrality attitude. Secret advice indicates that at least a powerful party in the Chinese government is abetting the Japanese. Although at first reluctant to credit it, the Russian authorities continue to receive evidence that the Japanese contemplate landing on Chinese neutral territory west of the Liao river, and 17,000 men are being held especially to await developments in that direction. Moreover, the emperor's naval experts who have been studying carefully the puzzle as to where Vice-Admiral Toiga's fleet is coaling and provisioning between its appearances off Port Arthur are becoming more and more convinced that it is using as a base some quiet spot on the Chinese coast.

After each disappearance not a word is heard of the fleet's whereabouts until it reappears. A calculation of time and distance shows it is quite impossible for the fleet to steam to Nagasaki or Hiroshima, take on board coal and ammunition and come back. It is also certain the Japanese warships could not take on coal, much less heavy projectiles, at sea in the face of the prevailing rough weather. The idea that they are using Chemulpo, Fusan or some other place is rejected, as it is believed that if such were the case the numerous secret corps and secret agents of the Russians in Corea would certainly have reported the fact.

So, by process of elimination, the Russians seem compelled to arrive at the conclusion that the vessels of the Japanese fleet must be refilling their

bunkers in some inlet on the Chinese coast, either on the gulf of Liao Tung or the Shan Tung peninsula, so far from ports and inhabited centers that the correspondents are unable to get wind of it.

The dwindling number of Japanese battleships appearing off Port Arthur is increasing the conviction that many of them have had to put back to Japan for a thorough refitting. A high naval officer said:

"We probably shall never know how many of their ships were crippled or sunk, at least until the war is over."

The failure of the Japanese to rush their operations evokes agreeable disappointment here, as it gives the Russians the time necessary to complete their preparations. A Japanese landing on the Liao Tung peninsula to besiege Port Arthur would rather be welcomed now, as it would not be a large force, yet would weaken the frontal attack from Corea.

It was reported soon after the Japanese began their operations against Port Arthur that they had seized one of the Elliott islands, situated in the Korean gulf less than 100 miles east by north of Port Arthur, for use as a base, and the Tokio correspondent of the London Times, March 7, cabled that a Japanese squadron took possession of Hai Yang To, one of the Elliott group, February 28. The correspondent added that the Japanese found there only stores of coal and signalling flags, the Russians having evacuated the island February 23.

FOUND GOOD GAME.

Hunted for Bear and Discovers Rich Mine.

Vancouver, B. C., March 19.—Another shipping mine has been added to the Slocan producers, and all through a bear hunt. Nat Tucker went after bear in the neighborhood of Silverton. He was walking up the bed of the creek near the Fisher Maiden, when he found an outcropping of remarkable richness.

He traced it for a distance of 30 feet, and caught it on both side of the creek. He and George Long staked two claims. Being fond of horses, they called them the Lou Dillon and Del Mar. That was a few months ago.

They immediately started to develop and got pay ore from the grass roots. Now they have taken a force of men to sack the rich stuff, which averages 200 ounces of silver to the ton. It is a self-fluxing dry ore for which the smelters give low treatment rates. The property is within a few feet of the main Four-Mile trail, and it is very easy to access. The owners expect to send out several carloads this trip.

FIRE BOATS AND DEPARTMENT FIGHT DESPERATELY TO STOP CONFLAGRATION

Elizabethport, N. J., Threatened With Destruction by Oil Fire That Already Causes Loss Estimated at \$200,000.

New York, March 19.—Three Standard Oil Company tugs, two fire boats and the entire fire department of Elizabethport, N. J., are fighting to prevent the spread of an oil fire which has caused a loss estimated at \$200,000 and threatens with destruction the extensive oil works of the Borne & Scrymgeour Company at Elizabethport, N. J., and neighboring plants and lumber yards. This plant was partly destroyed on the night of February 27, causing a loss of \$75,000. The second fire began at nearly the same hour from the same cause, spontaneous combustion. Spreading in the main plant, which consists of eight or ten buildings and a dozen big oil tanks,

the fire became so hot that the firemen could only bend their efforts toward keeping it within bounds. Two oil tanks exploded, spreading their blazing contents in all directions. Fortunately the wind was blowing from the northwest, carrying the flames and ignited oil into Staten Island sound. Two schooners were taken out into the sound to escape the burning oil that drifted across the water. Rivers of burning oil began flowing, after the explosion, in all directions across the property of the company, which fronts on the waters' edge. A change of wind would have carried the fire directly into Elizabethport and probably caused great loss.

FATHER TAKES CHILD.

Man From Missouri Finds Daughter in Convent.

Father Lewisville, Idaho, March 19.—Considerable excitement was created last night by a rumor that a little six-year-old girl had been kidnaped from the Catholic convent here. Investigation showed that the alleged kidnaper was the child's father, J. F. Okey, of Grant City, Mo. Mr. Okey and the little girl left this morning for Seattle, where he expects to reside. In explaining the matter Mr. Okey said: "My wife and little girl came west several months ago, where I expected to join them. After remaining in Moscow for some time my wife went to Grangeville. I went there last week, but was unable to see Mrs. Okey, but learned that my little girl had been sent to Lewisville. On returning here I found the child in the Catholic convent and demanded and received her from the sisters. I was told by the sisters that the child had been brought to the convent by Frank Bailey, a traveling man from Spokane, who claimed to be the child's uncle. I should very much like to meet Mr. Bailey."

Persons who know Mrs. Okey say she was enamored of a stage career. Possessed of a fine voice, with some cultivation, she gave several entertainments in Moscow before leaving for Grangeville. To several who talked with her in Moscow she conveyed the impression that she was a widow and was trying to fit herself for a career in opera.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

Brokers Give Vent to Excitement Due to Sully Crash.

Liverpool, March 19.—The cotton market here this morning presented a lively appearance, in view of the Sully crash in New York, which was not announced until after this market had closed. The galleries and balcony of the exchange were filled with onlookers, and in the ring the brokers were waiting until the opening bell rang. They then gave vent to the pent up excitement which existed before the opening. The market opened 35 to 44 points lower.

CRUELTY IS ALLEGED.

Roseburg Woman Sues for Divorce From Naughty Husband.

Roseburg, Ore., March 19.—T. K. Richardson, secretary of the Improved Mineral Smelter Company, of Portland, now has trouble on his hands. His wife, Mrs. Angeline B. Richardson, of this city, has filed a suit for divorce in the circuit court here, and the grounds alleged in her complaint are many and of a serious character.

Mr. and Mrs. Richardson were married in East Portland, November 23, 1889, and from that time on, if reports are true, life has been a burden to Mrs. Richardson in her complaint she charges Richardson with misconduct and cruelty at considerable length. She alleges that after he had forged her name to several promissory notes which she paid to keep from exposing him, he was informed that he could

have no more of her money to squander; he finally, on January 22 of this year, notified her that he did not intend to live with her longer.

Mrs. Richardson further alleges that she was compelled to sell, mortgage and incumber nearly all of her property to satisfy indebtedness created by her husband while in business, and that money which she advanced to him was squandered; that she advanced money to him to purchase ten shares of stock in the Improved Mineral Smelter Company, with the agreement that the legal title of the shares be in her name, but that he caused the stock to be issued in his own name. Mrs. Richardson asks for possession of this stock and to be decreed the owner of what remains of her real property.

CORRESPONDENT SNUBBED.

Fails to Obtain Credentials for Former Conduet.

Tokio, March 19.—The British minister refuses to indorse the application of Hales, the correspondent of the Daily News, to accompany the Japanese army, giving as his reason that Hales' reports from the Transvaal during the Boer war were slanderous of the British army. The Japanese government requires that all correspondents shall have the indorsement of the resident minister of the countries they represent. Hales will therefore be excluded from all connection with all army movements.

The government has not yet fully disclosed the proposal concerning the war taxes to be submitted to the special diet about next week, but it now appears that it will not propose any changes in the tariff on sugar but will instead recommend a domestic tax on the basis previously stated. It now seems probable that the only changes effected in the customs tariff will be an increased duty on kerosene, because that trade is chiefly in the hands of British merchants.

It is anticipated that there will be a serious contention in the diet over the taxes on sugar and silk, and dealers in the former commodity are strongly agitating for a reduction in the rate, which it is thought the government will propose.

Pope is Congratulated.

Rome, March 19.—Today being St. Joseph's day, Pope Pius' name day, the Pope received congratulatory addresses and telegrams from all parts of Italy and from abroad. The members of the St. Peter's Club, which includes the whole of Roman clerical society, as is their custom, presented the pontiff with a magnificent basket of the most carefully selected fruits and flowers. The basket represented a Venetian gondola. The Pope, in thanking the givers, made a most touching reference to his "beloved Venice," adding:

"I pray I shall prove a good helmsman for the bark of St. Peter."

Fossil's Saloon Ordinance.

Fossil, Ore., March 19.—Hereafter the thirsty sheepherder sojourning in Fossil on Sunday will have to curb his appetite for drink until the next day, for at a meeting of the town

council held yesterday it was decreed that the town shall be dry on Sunday, and the marshal was ordered to enforce the ordinance on that subject, and also the one requiring boys to stay off the streets after 8 p. m. This action was taken upon the request of a committee of citizens who met with the council yesterday and made representations in favor of Sunday closing. The public sentiment behind the move was recently crystallized by the arrest and conviction of the two local saloon firms for selling liquors to minors. At that time it was suggested that further steps would be taken against the saloon, which threats have now been made good.

PEOPLE SEEK JUSTICE.

Walla Walla, Wash., March 19.—Governor McBride arrived in the city today and immediately drove to the penitentiary, where he, in company with Grant Neal, chairman of the board of audit and control, examined the affairs of the place.

The governor had many political callers today, and gave a correct imitation of how to look happy though bored.

The governor says that "the people of the state ask only justice in the matter of freight rates. The rate on grain from Minneapolis to Asia is \$8 per ton, while the rate from Eastern Washington to the same destination is \$7.75, an insignificant reduction for a very much shorter haul. That is what makes the farmer feel sore. Rates on manufactured items, etc., are not as they should be."

"A railroad commission is not to make railroading unprofitable, but to make agriculture and manufacturing more profitable. A commission would look at conditions from the standpoint of the producer, the consumer and the railroad, and all would naturally profit, as all are needed for the development of the state. Equity harms no one."

"I have the greatest confidence that all will be well in the state, and that the principles for which we are contending will triumph."

MONTANA STOCK SUFFER.

Butte, Mont., March 19.—Stock conditions in northern Montana are becoming precarious. Beginning a short distance north of Great Falls snow covers the ground all through that region. Sheep and cattle are dying off by the hundreds, owing to the scarcity of hay and water. The cattle will eat snow all day and then their thirst will not be assuaged.

As soon as one sheep dies the rest of the flock will pounce upon him and eat all his wool, except off the belly and neck. This wool will roll up in their stomachs and add to the death

WOODSCATTERS THEM LIKE CHAFF

News of Important Battle Comes From Province of Mindanao, When American Troops Defeat Natives.

Fort Taken, Tribesmen Captured, Outposts Abandoned—Enemy Takes to Flight.

LEADER IS HOTLY PURSUED

Datto Ali and Followers Take Up Arms Rather Than to Submit to Anti-Slavery Laws—Are Defeated

Manila, March 19.—News of an important engagement has been received from Catabo, capital of the province of Mindanao. On March 7 detachments of the Seventeenth and Twenty-third infantry, troop B, of the Fourteenth cavalry, and Galley's battery, in all 450 strong, under command of General Leonard Wood, attacked and captured the cotta (fort) which was held by the Datto Ali, who resists the anti-slavery law. His defensive works were destroyed and their abandonment forced by the accurate fire of the battery.

Two thousand Moros made their retreat, with a loss of 100. The Americans sustained no losses. Twenty-four cannons, 46 iantakas (native artillery) and a large quantity of ammunition were captured and the fortifications razed.

Major Truitt and Captain MacCoy pursued and captured the Datto Iyban-gun and his retainers. Troops are now trailing Ali.

Persons are paying as high as \$20 a ton for hay laid down at their ranches. It is either this or lose their stock. Another reason for this condition is the poor range of last season and therefore much stock which would otherwise have been shipped was kept for another season.

If northern Montana was an open country instead of having all the rivers fenced in on both sides, stock and sheep can secure sufficient water they can subsist a long time without any food.

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