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AMERICAN FLAG IS LOWERED

JAPS NEARLY SUCCEED IN EFFORT

Bottling Squadron, Escorted by Flotilla, Enters Inner Roadstead in Face of Terrible Fire.

Two Vessels Sink Themselves While Others Are Prematurely Torpedoed.

ENTRANCE NOT CLOSED UP

Not the Least Damage Done to Flotilla and All the Crews Are Saved With Exception of Four Men.

Washington, March 29.—The Japanese legation has received from Tokyo Admiral Togo's report respecting the attempt to bottle up Port Arthur. About 3:30 a. m., March 27, the bottling up squadron, composed of four ships, and escorted by torpedo flotilla, reached the outside of Port Arthur and in spite of a terrific fire the ships made their way into the inner roadstead, one after the other.

The steamer Chyo Maru anchored at position about 1/2 mile from Golden Hill, blew up itself and sank. The Fukui Maru passed a little ahead of the Chyo Maru and while laying her anchor was torpedoed and sank. The Hachi Hiko Maru anchored to the left of the Fukui and blew up itself and sank. The Yoneyama Maru, colliding with the stern of one of the enemy's destroyers, passed by the others and anchored in the roadstead. At this moment the ship was torpedoed by the enemy and was carried toward the left side of the shore and sank sideways. The result of the action being that there is some space left between the Hachi Hiko and Yoneyama Maru. It is a matter of regret that the roadstead could not be completely closed up. The casualties were as follows: Two officers and two sailors were killed and two officers wounded. The

remainder were safely taken in by the torpedo fleet. Although the Japanese flotilla was subjected to a terrific fire not the slightest damage was done to any of the boats.

MITCHELL WILL TAKE HOLD.

Labor Leader Will Go to Colorado to Settle Trouble.

Denver, March 29.—John Mitchell, president of the U. M. W. of A., will be in Denver on or before April 18, and it is expected that he will take personal charge of the strike of the coal miners in the state. This information was given out by W. R. Fairley, a member of the executive board of the national organization, and Chris Evan, the financial representative of Mr. Mitchell in the strike district. April 18 marks the meeting of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor in Denver. This meeting will be attended by President Samuel Gompers and other noted leaders.

"Our organization," said Mr. Evans "is now and always has been ready to meet with the employers to consider any proposition which might tend towards a settlement of the strike. We are getting along well with the military. Our supply bureau has not been interfered with and we are caring for all of the men and their families who are in need."

NO VOTE IS REACHED.

Opposition Shown Toward Misbranding Salmon Bill.

Washington, March 29.—A bill authorizing the erection of an additional department building in Washington today was given the subject of a spirited debate in the senate. It remains unacted upon.

Senators divided largely on the question of location, but there also was talk as to the necessity of better office accommodations for the senate and supreme court.

During the day there was renewed effort to pass the bill prohibiting the misbranding of salmon, but owing to the opposition that the bill is calculated to interfere with rights of individual states under the guise of effort to control interstate commerce, a vote was not reached.

Heaviest Rainstorm Recorded.

Boise, Ida., March 29.—Last night and today this section of Idaho was visited by the heaviest rainstorm of which there is any record. The gauge showed a fall of 2.50 inches.

A LAND FIGHT TAKES PLACE RESULTING IN DEFEAT OF THE RUSSIANS

Effort to Dislodge Japanese From Position Results in Defeat to Muscovite Arms Though Attacking Force Retires in Order.

Retreat to Foot of Hill When Squad of Cavalry Shows Up to Reinforce the Besieged—Three Cossacks Killed and Twelve Wounded—Japanese Casualties Thought to Be Large, Though Loss Is Not Known.

London, March 29.—The correspondent of the Times at Niu Chwang, cabling under yesterday's date, says: "The Russians today ordered the American flag on the correspondents mess to be hauled down. The proclamation of martial law completely paralyzes the whole commerce of this port.

St. Petersburg, March 29.—The emperor has received a dispatch from general Kuropatkin giving lengthy report from General Mishchenko dated at 10 p. m. March 28, which says that an important engagement took place near the town of Cheng Ju in which the Russians were defeated, retiring in perfect order. General Mishchenko's report follows:

"Having learned that four squadrons of the enemy were posted five versts beyond Cheng Ju, March 28, six companies marched to Cheng Ju. As soon as our scouts approached the town the enemy opened fire from behind a wall. Two squadrons promptly dismounted and occupied the heights 600 yards distant. An engagement ensued.

"In the town a company of infantry and a squadron of cavalry were lying in ambush. Our men were reinforced by three companies and attacked the Japanese with cross fire. Notwithstanding this and our commanding position the Japanese gallantly held their ground and it was only after a fierce fight of half an hour's duration that the Japanese ceased their fire and sought refuge in the houses.

"Soon afterward three squadrons of the enemy were seen advancing along Kasan road at a full gallop toward the town, which two squadrons succeeded in entering, while the third fell back in disorder under repeated volleys from our troops. A number of men and horses were seen to fall.

"An hour and a half after the beginning of the engagement four companies were seen on the Kasan road, hastening to the attack. I gave an order to mount, and the entire force advanced in perfect order and formed in line behind the hill. The wounded were placed in front, and the retirement was carried out with the deliberation of a parade.

"The Japanese squadron, which was thrown into disorder, was evidently unable to occupy the hill which we had just evacuated, and their infantry arrived too late.

"It is supposed that the Japanese had heavy losses in men and horses. Our side had three officers severely wounded—Stepanoff and Androoke in the chest and Vassevitch in the stomach. Schlinkoff was less seriously wounded in the arm but did not leave the field.

"Three Cossacks were killed and 12 were wounded, including five seriously."

PROBABLY ANOTHER VERSION

Japanese Report Battle in Which Russians Meet With Defeat.

Tokio, March 29, 9 p. m.—A mixed force of cavalry and infantry attacked and dispersed a force of Russians at the Tyonjyn near Ping Yang Sunday morning, estimated in the number of 600.

The Russians offered a strong resistance at first, but finally fell back, abandoning their position. The Japanese sustained a loss of one officer

and one sergeant killed and two officers and 10 privates wounded. The Russians are reported to have left three dead behind, but to have carried off a number of wounded.

It is possible that the above is another version of the engagement at Chong Ju. The name Tyonjyn is not given on the maps.

TRANSFER IS ANNOUNCED.

Officially Stated That Mohler Will Go to Union Pacific.

San Francisco, March 29.—The appointment of President A. L. Mohler of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation

company as president of the Union Pacific railway was today announced in the office of the Union Pacific in this city. Mohler will make his headquarters in Omaha and will probably assume his new duties about the first of April.

E. E. Calvin, at present assistant general manager of the Short Line at Salt Lake, will go to Portland to take charge of the O. R. & N. lines. He will have the title of general manager and will have control of all the Southern Pacific lines in Oregon, north of Ashland. Before their departure for the east, Directors Stubbs and Kruttschnitt will pay a visit to Portland to consult with President Mohler.

Move Toward the Yalu.

St. Petersburg, March 29.—The correspondent of the Novosti at Liao Yang reports that the Japanese have moved on to the Yalu river and a conflict is expected about April 1.

MAN NOT ASSASSIN.

Italian Had no Intention of Killing President Roosevelt.

New York, March 29.—The story of an alleged plot to assassinate President Roosevelt which upon investigation proved to be entirely without foundation, was made today by Police Commissioner McAdoo.

Several days ago the commissioner received a letter from a man in Italy, saying that an Italian was about to come to this country for the express purpose of assassinating the president. The writer gave a detailed description of the alleged anarchist, the steamer on which he would sail and full details of the alleged plot. When the steamer docked, an inspector was on hand with a large squad of detectives, and the suspect was found and detained. Investigation, however, showed that the case was purely one of spite on the part of the man who wrote the letter. It was found that the detained man was not an anarchist, and that he had a perfect right to enter this country. He was allowed to land.

The object of the letter, it was found was to have the man deported.

ARRAIGNS REPUBLICANS.

Denounces Protective Tariff and Scores the President.

Washington, March 29.—For want of speakers, the general debate on the sundry civil appropriation bill in the house today was closed several hours before time agreed on and the bill was read for amendment. Seventy-five pages were disposed of.

Campbell of Kansas and Williams of Illinois were the principal speakers to-

day, the former defending the protective tariff policy of the republican party and the latter denouncing the republicans for failing to investigate the postoffice department.

Williams said that the scandals in that department would be an important issue in the coming campaign. He arraigned President Roosevelt and Attorney-General Knox regarding trusts.

PARENTS ARE WEALTHY.

Young Woman Who Committed Suicide Was of Good Family.

Bellingham, Wash., March 29.—Penomla Peterson is the maiden name of Mrs. Lillian Boyce, the woman who, under the name of Lillian Grey, stabbed herself to death with a pair of scissors last Friday in the home of the Graham family, at this place. Her father is said to be a wealthy resident of Eados, Norway. He has been notified of his daughter's death, and her body is being held awaiting his instructions. The woman's alleged husband, James Boyce, is here, and in case the father makes no request regarding the disposition of his daughter's remains, he will have them interred here.

The suicide came to Portland from her Norway home five years ago to visit a married sister, who died two years since. The married sister's name Boyce refuses to disclose. After her sister's death, Miss Peterson went to the bad, and made an end to matters Friday morning by stabbing herself to death.

Low Rates to California.

E. Church to be held at Los Angeles, Cal., May 24, 1904, and the National Association of Retail Grocers at San Francisco, May 3-8, 1904, the O. R. & N. Company will sell round trip tickets at greatly reduced rates. For rates, dates of sailing and limits, call at O. R. & N. ticket office or address G. W. Roberts, agent, Astoria.

French Flag Hoisted.

Tien Tsin, March 29.—A Frenchman named Kreaular, an employe of the Russo-Chinese bank, has been appointed French consular agent at Niu Chwang. He has hoisted the French flag over the bank buildings. It is considered probable that this is a forerunner of a movement to fly the tricolor over all the Russian government buildings at Niu Chwang.

WAR AGAINST LINES MAY BE WAGED

Fears Entertained in Portland That Freight Tariffs to San Francisco Will Be Raised.

If Extortion Is Undertaken O. R. & N. and S. P. Will Be Declared Merger.

TO INVOKE RECENT DECISION

Should Steamship Line Be Removed or Rate Be Made Uniform Court Proceedings Will Be Brought.

Portland, March 29.—The Oregonian will say tomorrow:

"As the result of the consolidation of the O. R. & N. and Southern Pacific fears are entertained here that an attempt will be made to raise freight tariffs in existence on rail and water lines between here and San Francisco and in case this is done local business men will undertake to have the consolidation declared merger under the recent decision in the Northern Securities case.

"Though no one was willing to talk for publication until it is definitely found out what changes would be made yet it was the general idea among business men that should the new arrangement result in the withdrawal of the steamship line or an attempt to make a uniform rate with that of the railroad, proceedings will be instituted immediately."

Salt Lake, March 29.—E. E. Calvin, assistant general manager of the Oregon Short Line, left for Portland today. It is expected that he will enter upon his new duties April 1. He will be met tomorrow at La Grande by President Mohler of the O. R. N. and together they will inspect the company's lines in Oregon.

It's Plain as Print



That the place to purchase **CLOTHING** is at Stokes; Reason, superior goods and lowest prices.

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New and Beautiful Line of Ladies' Suits, strictly Up-to-date; prices: \$10 to \$30, and you can buy them **CHEAPER**

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EASTER BIBLE SALE

Sunday next is Easter, and we prepared for it with a magnificent line of Bibles, Testaments, Psalm Books and Hymnals. All we ask is that you see them. We feel certain you will then be anxious to pay 10 per cent. less than the very low price they are marked.

J. N. GRIFFIN.