



TO FIGHT JAPS

Torpedo Boats are Being Shipped to Orient.

RUSSIA NOT "ALL IN"

Japs Will Have to Blow Up More Russ Destroyers Before Long.

ONE BOAT MAKES TRIP ALONE

St. Petersburg Inflamed by an incendiary Circular That Calls for Convocation of National Assembly at Once.

Tokio, Dec. 10 (Noon).—The foreign office has issued the following statement on the position which the Japanese government has taken in regard to the proposed international peace conference: "An invitation from the president of the United States of America having been received by the government of Japan at Tokio on December 1, to take part in the proposed second international peace conference, the government at once replied to the effect that being fully alive to the urgent necessity for more exact definitions of the uniform practices that now exist in respect to some of the questions about to be submitted to the proposed conference and, finding that the fact that the nation is now engaged in war is no sufficient reason why it should not take part in the work of the conference, it has been decided upon the part of the Japanese government to accept the invitation.

"This action is taken, however, with the distinct reservation that the proposed conference shall not assume to adopt any measure which will in any way affect the present conflict."

BOATS MISSING.

Thought That They Are in Hiding from Japan's Guns.

Tokio, Dec. 10, 11 a. m.—It is reported here that since the commencement of the bombardment of the Russian fleet in Port Arthur harbor, the Japanese military observers on 203-Meter hill have not seen anything of the Russian fleet of torpedo boat destroyers, and it is presumed it has taken shelter behind Laotli mountain.

The Japanese fleet lying off the entrance to the harbor is constantly on the alert in anticipation of an attempt being made by any of the Russian warships to escape and seek refuge in some neutral port.

STILL BUYS BOATS.

Torpedo Boats to Be Shipped to the Russian Government.

New York, Dec. 10.—Nine torpedo boats, built at Perth Amboy, N. J., for the Russian government have been completed and will leave the yards today. They have been taken apart and loaded on a barge, to be towed to New York and shipped as merchandise on a liner.

The tenth boat will cross the ocean under its own power. The six cylinder gasoline engines have been installed. Each is expected to develop a 300 horse power and drive the little boat at a speed of 20 knots. The crew of eight men is already aboard the boat which is 80 feet long. Below deck it is not possible to stand erect for there is only a five foot space. Should the passage be stormy the crew will be almost as effectually bottled up as if in a submarine. The only entrance to the compartments below deck is through a conning tower, from which the boat is navigated.

Each boat will carry one torpedo tube. One of the five water-tight compartments into which the hull is divided will contain the spare torpedoes.

Rough House Indian.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 10.—Word has reached here that Kill-na-meet-howya, a Newitt Indian, who murdered the Klotchman of the tribe some weeks ago, has, with his accomplice, Siwash

Jack, given himself up to the police. Both are in custody at Alert Bay, and will be brought to Victoria for trial. Kill-na, etc., since being jailed has boasted that the Indian woman whom he slew was the fourth victim of his ax and knife, but he neglected to add that about the first victim of the rope in his itinerary will be Kill-na, etc.

MISTAKEN LENIENCY

Andrew White Says President Roosevelt is in Error.

New York, Dec. 10.—"Much as I admire President Roosevelt as a true man, we have seen today a sorry example of the mistake a strong man can make. The president was appealed to by a colored Baptist minister to save the latter's son from the gallows for the murder of a farmer in Canada. The president listened to the appeal, and he secured a commutation of the negro's sentence. I do not admire the president for that."

This was the statement made by Andrew D. White, formerly United States ambassador to Germany, today in the course of an address on "Evolution vs. Revolution in Politics," before the league for the benefit of political education. White declared that the high crime is more frequent in this country than anywhere else in the world, except Sicily, and there is a widespread idea that it is the duty of people to protect criminals.

It was while calling attention to this, as he termed it, "mistaken leniency," that Mr. White referred to the president as quoted.

Cheats Gallows.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 10.—John Kay, a 17-year-old boy under sentence of death, and who was to have been hung Friday, died today in the penitentiary at New Westminster from tuberculosis. Kay, plainly a degenerate, was convicted of the murder of John Spittal, a hunter, whom he killed for his gun.

OLDSKOUT ARRESTED

Abraham McGee Has Knifed a Comrade.

ONLY MAN LEFT AT BIG HORN

Arrested Man Bears the Scars of Many Wounds He Got in the Fight of Custer and Sitting Bull.

New York, Dec. 10.—Abraham McGee, who claims to be the sole white survivor of Custer's command in the famous battle of Little Big Horn, is under arrest here, charged with homicide. Last Thursday night he got into an argument with Frank Mitchell, a salesman, over the proper method for cooking a kidney stew. A quarrel followed and the men attacked each other with kitchen knives, the fracas having occurred in Mitchell's flat. McGee, who lived on the western frontier 40 years declares Mitchell attacked him first and by practicing an old trick he felled his opponent, not, however, until he received a severe scalp wound.

Mitchell did not appear badly off at the time, but he died 24 hours later. McGee was arrested in the meantime in a newspaper office, where he had gone to set the editor right about the fight. In telling the story of the battle, McGee declared he was detached by Custer just before the massacre to carry a message to Major Reno, who was to have made a joint attack with Custer's troops on the Indians.

McGee bears the scars of many wounds which he claims to have received before he reached Reno's forces. Recently he came here from Texas and has been canvassing for a magazine.

OIL STEAMER ARRIVES.

Is Pioneer in Petroleum Carrying Trade in Orient.

San Francisco, Dec. 10.—The British steamer Dakota just arrived here from Shanghai, was formerly engaged in running petroleum cargoes in bulk from Black sea ports to India and China. She is said to be the pioneer steamer of a fleet of oil carrying steamers to ply between this coast and the orient. Before leaving with her first cargo she will have an oil burning plant installed. Her carrying capacity is 5000 tons.

SEATTLE WINS

Commercial Couldn't Stand the Line Bucking.

FIGHT WAS A GAME ONE

Astoria Held On in First Half but was Outclassed in the Second.

LINE BUCKING GOT THEM

Both Sides Played Clean Ball Throughout, But College Men Had Advantage of a Long Season's Training.

Seattle, Dec. 10.—Line bucks and a superior play put Astoria to the bad today, and the story is told in a score of 11-0 against Commercial of Astoria. At Recreation Park this afternoon Astoria went against a proposition it could not handle, although the battle was a game one, and in the first half Astoria was not in danger.

In the second, however, Seattle buckled down in line bucking, and the Astoria resistance was not sufficiently heavy to withstand the onrushes of the sound boys. By aggressive and snappy work Seattle jammed the ball across for two goals, but an easy goal was missed on the first down. The second time, though, Huntoon booted her fair and square between the posts and over the bar.

It is only fair to say that Seattle had the assistance of some college men, who have been in practice all season.

In the first half Astoria played a snappy game from which there was no recourse, but, in the second, Seattle took their measure, and, while in striking distance of the goal line, and while out-punting Seattle, they could not force the opposing line.

The second half found them in a weakened condition from the onslaughts of the first, and Seattle won as she chose. Both sides played good, clean football.

HUFF MUST EXPLAIN.

Land Fraud Trial Lands Yet Another Victim in the Net.

Portland, Dec. 10.—Guy Huff of Eugene, Ore., proves to be the mysterious "John Doe" against whom warrants have been outstanding in the land fraud cases. This fact was developed today when a warrant was issued for Huff on a charge of complicity in the conspiracy collaborated with the defendant's who are now out on bail.

The sureties offered by Huff were deemed insufficient by the court and the prisoner was remanded to the custody of the sheriff and went to jail.

GLUED ON THE BILL.

Actor Keane is Descriptive in the Extremes.

Here, girls, is a new one for you. Remember it, and if he doesn't do it in the glucose style get one with the sand and the inspiration to attend to it. James Keane was in a restaurant last night (actors sometimes eat), and the dinner pleased him, wherefore Keane became reminiscent and valuable. It may be Keane had been somewhere before he came in, but that is not established.

Mr. Keane started to relate an earlier experience, and it was not so different from the many that attend actors in pursuance of a stormy career, but he evolved an expression.

Said Mr. Keane: "Nother fellow and I ribbed up a play 'while back, an' she was a hummer. You see, we had a big frame in the background with the spot light on it, and I go into a dream. You've had 'em yourself, but this was a case where I had to act the part."

"When I got to a certain stage my departed love was supposed to carry this little dream along, step out from the frame I speak of, and come down and awake me by the beauty of her

presence. That was all right, only it didn't happen that way. That fool woman stepped down, reached for me like a prizefighter taking the count, mixed up my hair till they weren't mates, and then—she glued me on the bill. Mr. Keane meant that he got kissed.

First Snow Fall.

Baltimore, Dec. 10.—Ten inches of snow fell here today, reports from towns through the state show six to nine inches of snow.

The Other Side.

Now comes Alex Gilbert and for answer to Jack Johnstone's complaint, denies such and every allegation and defies the allegator. Gilbert admits, that in an evil hour, he was bamboozled into accompanying Johnstone on a hunting expedition to Chinook. Gilbert had the best gun ever brought to Astoria, while Johnstone had his old pump gun. While Gilbert was hunting Johnstone went to sleep on a blanket with a nursing bottle by his side. Gilbert secured a dozen fine ducks, and Johnstone one, which he bought of George Hibbert, it having been left at the Observer office for two years' subscription to that paper. Mr. Gilbert has the highest respect for Johnstone as a citizen, but draws the line at any pretensions he may make at hunting.

THIEVING SERVANTS.

Valuable Necklace is Still Missing from Their Effects.

New York, Dec. 10.—Detectives have arrested two Cuban servants of Mr. Squires, the American minister to Cuba, according to a Tribune dispatch from Havana. The minister recently complained of missing many valuable articles, including a necklace worth \$1000. Search of the servant's effects revealed part of the missing property, but not the necklace.

MEETING OF LOGGERS

To Discuss the Rights of Eminent Domain.

COMMITTEES ARE APPOINTED

Bills to Be Drafted to Present to the Legislatures of Oregon and Washington for Enactment.

Seattle, Dec. 10.—A meeting of the loggers, timbermen and millmen of the Columbia river, Grays Harbor and the sound was held today. The object of the meeting was to formulate some plans to secure the right of eminent domain for the various logging roads in Oregon and Washington. At present, this law only applies to railroad companies. Efforts have been made by the legislatures of both states in the past to secure laws whereby owners of timber lands can secure a right to go over lands in front of them, lying upon rivers and natural outlets for logs. Laws have been passed giving owners of land the right to construct logging roads, which shall be public highways, but the supreme courts have held these laws unconstitutional. The law of eminent domain will give logging companies the right to condemn lands for logging railroads, by tendering a reasonable value for the lands used. As the matter now stands, rich syndicates own most of the timber adjacent to rivers and streams and there is no way for timber owners back of them to get their logs to market. A committee was appointed to draft bills to be introduced in the legislatures of both states, granting the right of eminent domain to all logging companies now organized or to be hereafter organized in the two states. Representatives of the logging interests will go to the state capitals and attempt to secure the enactment of the law.

Famous Manufacturer Dead.

New York, Dec. 10.—Abner Clark Seamans, one of the original makers of typewriters in this country, is dead at his home in Brooklyn. He was 83 years old and retired from active business 15 years ago.

CAT IS RULER

Hoo-Hoos Put In Another Festive Session.

MENU CALLS FOR COUNT

Toastmaster Leads a Various Life During the Evening of Concatenation.

Fun Rules the Later Hours and the Banquet Makes Good for all the Losses of Feline Fur During the Midnight Festival.



The Ancient and Demented Order of Hoo Hoos congregated in Astoria yesterday for a grand concatenation. Some arrived on the passenger; some on the freight, and some walked, but they all arrived on time. Each wore a sanctionious smile on his phisog and a cedar shingle badge, trimmed in valencennes lace, with ornaments of glass, euphoniously styled diamonds. The visitors were royally entertained by the local members of the order, and at 8:30 over 150 members had assembled at Logan's hall, where the ceremonies were scheduled to take place.

After the transaction of routine business the order adjourned to the banquet hall. T. M. Shields of Seattle was elected toastmaster. The toasts were varied and unique—hard to say whether more variation than oddity—take your choice.

Mayor Meats (In Chunks—Kittens Salute)
Hume Ham, Legal Sauce
McGregor Veal, Cases and Boxes
Campbell Tongue and Groove.
Corenson Flat Cardines
Sandwiches
Hardy Ham
Sweets—
O'Brien Catnip Ice Cream
Lindes Tom Sakes.
Slevert Kitten Confectionery
"Draw Out in the Dark"
WHIFFS
Hoo Hoo Pipe Dreams
Opera House—The Collar and Elbow
Opera Company in the "Hoo Hoo Barber."

Ubet Theater—Little Africa, the Lole Fuller of the Nebalem Valley.
Coming—The Horticulture society in the strong heart drama, entitled "Chubs and Dog Salmon."
The menu at the banquet is somewhat puzzling, but, whatever the designations the viands were strictly "all right."

Take the count and read the menu. Jay S. Hamilton, alias "Asleep in the Deep," V. S.

Menu.
Oyster Cat Tails, Fur Trimmings, Staple Relishes
Olives, a la balls
Prael Transfer Pickles
Kiln Dried Peanuts
Onion-bed Sellery
Winter Salad with Tallings
Mansur Shrimps
Concoolly Wapato
By the tail of the Sacred Black
The ancient and battle-scared Toms present were:
Portland—Geo. S. Taylor, C. H. Jack-Snark, Jay S. Hamilton; senior Hoo Hoo, E. H. Habghorst; junior Hoo Hoo, T. M. Shields; bajum, W. C. Francis; Jabberwock, L. C. Jameson; scrivener, George M. Cornwall, Fred H. Gillman; gurdon, H. D. Gray; arcanoper, L. A. Mansur; custocatlun, George K. Wentworth, T. L. Chinnoek; medical examiner, W. R. Hume; official barber,

A. J. Capron; apprentice, R. E. Magruder.

The following resolution was adopted: "Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God to take from our midst Brother John A. Grim, 3501, a loyal and devoted member of the Hoo Hoo; and who by his aid and genial presence was a most worthy and efficient member of this order,

"Resolved, That at the concatenation held at Astoria December 10, it was unanimously

"Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread on the minutes and a copy be sent to his family and the lumber newspapers.

"FRED H. GILLMAN.
"GEORGE M. CORNWALL.
"GEORGE L. TAYLOR."

son, W. C. Francis, F. B. Mallory, A. J. Capron, Jay S. Hamilton, G. K. Wentworth, Jr., Geo. M. Cornwall, T. A. Chinnoek, E. H. Habghorst, N. P. Sorenson, L. C. Jameson, A. H. Potter, R. B. Magruder, O. G. Hugson, M. R. Colby, E. W. Ring, Albert Brix.
Seattle—Fred H. Gilman, T. M. Shields.

Astoria—James Winter, T. Lindas, N. Staples, W. F. McGregor, F. W. Hardy, O. S. Peabody, W. B. O'Brien, A. T. Slevert, J. W. Surprenant, C. F. Lester, H. D. Gray, L. A. Mansur, W. R. Hume, R. B. Campbell, F. W. Novberry, H. C. Smith.

"T. M. Shields, Seattle, toastmaster. The kittens, whose raucous yowls filled the jolting circumadjacent atmosphere were of the brindle breed, and the folly of their playful and unrestricted way was made patent to each though it took time.

The names of the unclawed at the breast follow, forget them:

Ralph Blake Dyer, Clatsop Mill Co., Astoria, Ore.; Frank Case Graham, F. C. Graham Lumber Co., Astoria; Herbert Shaver, Scow Bay Iron Works, Astoria; Henry Hoeck, H. Hoeck Logging Co., Astoria; Samuel Elias Harris, Bruener Logging Co., Astoria; Harry (Continued on Page 2.)

INJUNCTION IS FILED

Clatsop County Enjoined From Collecting the 1903 Taxes.

TIMBER SYNDICATES COMBINE

Complaint Alleges That Lands Have Been Assessed for More Than Actual Value.

Five of the principal timber syndicates yesterday filed in the circuit court, a complaint asking for a temporary injunction against Clatsop county and Thomas Linville, sheriff, restraining them from selling the property of plaintiffs for delinquent taxes. The companies are Charles A. Rust et al, C. H. Wheeler, John E. DuBois, Blodgett Co. and the Whitney Co. The complaint alleges that the plaintiffs are the owners of large tracts of timber in Clatsop county, and that they have been assessed erroneously, and at a higher figure than their appraised value, and more in proportion than adjacent lands similarly situated are assessed. They ask for a temporary injunction until the matter can be heard in the court and thereafter that a permanent injunction be issued restraining the sheriff from selling their property. They allege that the equitable taxes against the tracts of land are a certain sum, which they deposited in court. The aggregate amount of the money deposited with County Clerk Clinton in the five suits is \$7000. County Judge Trenchard issued a temporary injunction against selling their property. This will have the effect of stopping the sale of their property advertised for the 25th of December. It will not affect the sale of other property by being advertised.

As the timber lands involved are not assessed at one-third the price paid for them, and as the laws of Oregon require all lands to be assessed at their actual cash value, the contention of the plaintiffs is hardly tenable. They have escaped their just proportion of taxes for years. They bought the timber lands on speculation at a very nominal figure, and expect to realize handsomely on the investment. As a matter of fact, the land is not assessed enough, and it is to be hoped that this year, they will be compelled to pay their just proportion of taxes.