



RUSSIAN ARMY

Conditions in Manchuria Unfavorable.

WILL NOW LOSE HARBIN

Russian Army Gradually Retreating Followed by Japanese Army.

ANOTHER BATTLE PROBABLE

Russia Contemplating Immediately Providing Vladivostok With War Munitions and Supplies for a Two-Year Siege if it Can Be Done.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—It is a possibility that if the Russian army should not be able to hold the lower line of the Sungari river at Chuchintau or may be compelled to retreat, not only to Harbin, but also farther westward along the railroad, abandoning to the Japanese northern Manchuria and Russian maritime amur provinces, as well, is the latest startling news from the front.

The strategic weakness of General Linievitch's position as he falls back northward is made clear by Gunshu dispatches to the Associated Press, in which it is pointed out that unless Chuchintau and Sungari lines, a scant 100 miles below Harbin, can be held, it will be difficult to maintain a position further back before Harbin where, with the front of the army paralleling the railroad, and the practicability of a turning movement which completely severs the communications and isolating an army 400 miles from home is too serious for consideration. In view of this possibility the dispatch alluded to suggests the advisability of immediately providing Vladivostok with war munitions and supplies for a two-year siege. The correspondent estimates that the number of reinforcements needed to give General Linievitch the requisite superiority in force would require 200,000 men.

That such a dispatch should have been permitted to pass the censor at the front is considered significant, and if Linievitch communicated a similar estimate of the situation to the emperor, it may account for his majesty's increased disposition to listen to peace counsels and open negotiations before the Japanese establish themselves on Russian soil.

With Manchuria entirely abandoned to the Japanese and Vladivostok only left as a Russian solitary sentinel on the Pacific, it is realized that Russia will be practically at Japan's mercy in the matter of peace terms.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—It is announced here that the Japanese army is marching to Vladivostok and that all the women have been ordered to leave the city.

It is now definitely stated that the decision to appoint Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevitch to the supreme command in the far east has been reconsidered because the outlook at the front does not warrant the risk of compromising the prestige of a member of the imperial family.

(unless it is significant that there are now well marked peace party at the winter palace.

The reports persist in stating that the Japanese turning movements are on both flanks of the Russian army. The Chinese state that the Japanese have recruited many Chinese bandits and probably they will now be able to count a superiority in cavalry as well as infantry. The branch of the Russo-Chinese bank has been removed from Kirin to Harbin after the attack on the bank office in which two guards were wounded with cobbie stones.

Captured Japanese report a terrible affray in the streets of Mukden on March 10, when a big detachment of Russians, the last to leave the city, were entrapped by Chinese bandits and a few Japanese soldiers, who closed the gates of Mukden and blocked the narrow streets. According to the report, which is not confirmed, not a Russian escaped.

EQUITABLE LIFE.

Effort Being Made to Have 52 Instead of 28 Directors.

New York, March 23.—A committee headed by John D. Crimmins and claiming to represent a large number of policy holders in the Equitable Life Assurance Company, met today and announced their intention to work for the election of equitables of the entire 52 directors by policy holders, instead of 28 as proposed by the directors a few days ago. Crimmins has applied to the state superintendent of insurance for a hearing on the subject, and the hearing has been set for Tuesday next.

Coon Caught.

Seattle, March 23.—Ben Williams colored, who had confessed to stabbing Jack Franks at Ravensdale Saturday night, was caught by the deputy sheriff. His victim, whom he stabbed during a saloon fight, cannot, according to the physician, recover, and will not live more than a day or two.

ATTEMPTED WRECK

Timber Placed Across Track of Southern Pacific.

OCCURRED NEAR ALBANY

The Only Thing That Saved a Disastrous Train Wreck Was That the Timbers Placed on the Track Were Rotten and Discovered in Time.

Albany, Ore., March 23.—When the south bound passenger on the Southern Pacific railroad, the overland train, reached here Wednesday night, a piece of timber was found wedged under the pilot of the engine. It was thought that the timber had fallen on the track accidentally. An investigation today shows that a few blocks north of the station where the street crosses the track, a bridge timber eight inches square had been placed across the track against the end of the guard rail with the evident intention of wrecking the train. The only thing that saved the train was the fact that the timber was old and rotten and when the engine struck the timber the guard rail cut through the rotten wood, allowing the timber to slide along in front of the engine until it became wedged in under the pilot. Several other pieces of timber were found lying across the track. The matter is being investigated and suspicious persons are under surveillance.

Went Register Bonds.

Topeka, March 23.—State Auditor Wells announced today that he would refuse to register state oil refinery bonds unless ordered to do so by the supreme court. This will force the immediate test of the legality of the bonds. The auditor's action is friendly and is taken for the purpose of giving the bonds a proper standing.

Only a Report.

New York, March 23.—It is reported that the government of Bolivia intends to send many young men who display talent to Santiago to study in the military academy. This is accepted as a significant sign of the rapprochement of the sister republics.

INVESTIGATION

Beef Trust Trial Now in Chicago.

WITNESSES EXAMINED

District Attorney Will Close Investigation After Examining Fifty Witnesses.

STRICT CENSORSHIP IS KEPT

A Number of Witnesses Supposed to Be Employed by the Beef Trust, Were Examined Today and Evidence Adduced as to Price Paid Breeders.

Chicago, March 23.—Twelve out of fifteen witnesses, supposed to have been employed by the various packing firms and retail meat dealers, have thus far been examined and testified before the special grand jury hearing evidence against the so-called beef trust.

Although the censorship against any publicity of what transpires in the jury room is strict as on the first day of the investigation, and the witnesses have been so thoroughly coached that they fear to make the names public. It was learned tonight that during almost all of the day's session, District Attorney Morrison sought evidence concerning the price the retail dealers were forced to pay the packers and the prices some of the packers have been paying cattle raisers for beef on hoof.

District Attorney Morrison announced tonight that if 25 or 50 witnesses gave evidence sufficient for indictment, the investigation would close with their testimony. Since the investigation began names of witnesses have been rolling into the prosecutor's office by the score, but subpoenas were not issued for these persons.

FROZEN TO DEATH.

Mother and Thirteen-Year-Old Son Found Dead.

Denver, March 23.—The Republican special from Westcliffe, Col., says that the body of Mrs. Henry Fall was found today three miles from Junkins Park frozen to death. A 13-year-old son was lying beside her, frozen stiff, but still alive. It is believed he too will die. The mother and son left Junkins Park to walk to Cliffe and were overtaken by a blizzard.

BELL NOT CAPTURED.

Albert E. Bell Still at Large and no Clue of Him.

Tacoma, March 23.—A staff correspondent of the Ledger, who just returned from McNellis island, reports at 10 o'clock tonight that no trace has been discovered of Albert E. Bell, the noted mail pouch robber and forger, who escaped from the federal prison on McNellis island yesterday. Fifty armed men are patrolling the beach and island.

Last night was unusually rainy and boisterous and the officials believe Bell must soon become desperate and come out from his hiding place and endeavor to steal a boat and make a break for the mainland, if he is not already there. They have, however, absolutely no clue to work one. When Bell escaped it was only 200 yards from the thick timber and since entering the woods nothing has been seen of him.

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION.

Curriculum of Colleges Results in Some Broken Heads.

Golden, Col., March 23.—Harry B. Clapp of Denver and Arthur J. Weing of Durango, Cal., both freshmen at the State School of Mines, are suffering from injuries received in a class battle which occurred between freshmen and sophomores. Clapp is unconscious from concussion of the brain and may

die. Weing is injured internally and is in a critical condition. A flag fight, beginning at 2 o'clock in the morning and continuing intermittently throughout the day, culminated in a clash on the campus at dusk.

A rough and tumble fight lasting an hour and a half followed in which a number of the students were bruised and cut.

CASE OF SUICIDE.

Woman Found in Chicago Leaves a Note of Her Intention.

Chicago, March 21.—The finding of a note declaring her intention to take her life has cleared the mystery surrounding the finding of the body of a young woman in the lake at Wilmette.

The body was identified as that of Miss Annie Nelson, a nurse girl, and a note addressed to her brother declared her life had been a failure and that she feared falling health. It is believed, however, that disappointment in a love affair was the prime cause of the suicide.

STILL RUNNING.

Russians Hurrying to Get Out of the Way of Japanese.

Tokio, March 23 (Noon).—An official report from imperial army headquarters says: "Our detachment pursuing the enemy entered Changtu on March 21 at 2:30 p. m.

"A large body of the enemy in disorder is retreating toward the northeast, along the line of the railway.

"A part of the enemy's cavalry has halted at a point within two miles of Changtu."

Working Overtime.

New York, March 23.—Explosions of Vesuvius have abated, cables the Herald's correspondent at Naples. The only sign of internal activity is an occasional light puff of material and smoke.

TACOMA CAPTURED

Prize Court at Nagasaki Making Investigation.

GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE

John P. Hartman, representing the Northwestern Steamship Co., wires that the Tacoma was not carrying Contraband Goods for Russia.

Seattle, March 23.—Acting Secretary of State Adee today wired the Northwestern Steamship Company that the steamer Tacoma had been captured by the Japanese in Aniva bay on the southern end of the Skatatan island, and was being towed to Nagasaki, where the Japanese prize court was sitting. John P. Hartman, representing the Northwestern Steamship Company, at once wired Mr. Adee to the effect that the Tacoma was not carrying contraband goods, that she was bound direct for Shanghai and that every barrel of beef she carried was consigned to Shanghai merchants. The state department has been asked to intervene and prevent, if possible, the condemnation of the Tacoma.

SCIENCE OF EGGOLOGY.

San Francisco Professor Makes an Unimportant Discovery.

Chicago, March 23.—A dispatch to the Tribune from San Francisco says Prof. Jacques Loeb has discovered in producing artificial life by fertilizing the eggs of the sea urchin that they were best fertilized by the use of acetic or vinegar of formic acid, followed by common salt.

Large numbers of sea urchin larvae normal and healthy, can be produced from eggs by purely chemical and physical means. Many students of heredity have long been looking for means for raising animals in large enough numbers for experiments, which should possess the hereditary character of one parent only.

Detailed comparisons of such individuals with those which derive their characters from both parents will lead to results in the field of heredity of far reaching importance.

PANAMA GRAFT

Policians on the Canal Commission.

POOR ORGANIZATION

Bay Rolls are Padded and Various Forms of Petty Graft Practiced.

DUE TO BAD MANAGEMENT

The Present Canal Commission is Declared to Be a Failure by Every Man Who Has Visited Panama During the Past Six Months.

Washington, March 23.—Graft has already made its appearance among the employees of the United States on the Panama canal, according to an American engineer who was on the isthmus only three weeks ago. It is evidently high time President Roosevelt were carrying out his plan for a complete reorganization of the canal commission. This engineer, who had exceptional opportunities to gather information as to conditions on the isthmus, declares it is within his personal knowledge that pay rolls are already being padded and that various forms of petty graft are practiced.

The trouble is said to be lack of an efficient organization. Chief Engineer Wallace is working like a Trojan in the field and has almost worn himself out trying to push the work at Culebra hill and to bring order out of chaos in the organization. The present canal commission is declared to be a failure by every man who has visited the isthmus during the last six months. The commission remained at Panama just long enough to establish certain ironclad rules, whose literal enforcement has been a great detriment to the chief engineer and the other officials who are trying to push the work. Then the members of the commission, with the exception of General Davis, returned to the United States, and are here yet. Evidently they do not care to live on the isthmus, and prefer the climate of New York and Washington. On account of the unsatisfactory state of affairs on the isthmus many engineers and other employees of the commission are giving up their jobs in disgust and returning home.

A SMALL MATTER.

Legal Battle in Philadelphia Over a Small Estate.

Philadelphia, March 23.—A legal battle over the hundred million dollar estate left by William Weighman, the manufacturing chemist, to his daughter, Mrs. Mina A. Walker, is threatened by the widow of Weighman's son. Attorneys are engaged in drawing up papers in the suit which, it is understood will be brought at once on behalf of six grandchildren of the manufacturer.

Her mother has remarried since the death of her first husband and now bears the name of Mrs. Jones Wister. She asserts that William Weighman pledged himself to remember the offspring of his son in a codicil. Mrs. Wister states that since the death of her first husband's father she has through her attorneys made efforts to have Mrs. Walker carry out Mr. Weighman's alleged promise and to have received Mrs. Walker a flat refusal and denial that she will bear such a codicil. When Weighman died he made his sole surviving child Mrs. Walker, sole heir. She is considered the richest woman in the world.

WORK ON JETTY.

The Chinook Will Not Come to Astoria This Year.

Portland has succeeded in preventing the Chinook coming to Astoria. Had it been used to dredge the channel

near Portland there would have been no objection on the part of Portland. The following is from yesterday's Oregonian:

"The work of improvement at the mouth of the Columbia river this summer will be confined exclusively to jetty extension, in accordance with the provisions of the late river and harbor bill. The chief of engineers will soon award the contract for furnishing stone for the jetty and as soon as possible thereafter delivery will commence and the jetty will be pushed seaward.

"It has been finally determined to abandon dredging on Columbia river bar. Major Langitt is not impressed with what was accomplished by the dredge Chinook last season, and inclines to the opinion that the money required for operating this dredge might better be expended on permanent work on the jetty. This view is now concurred in by the department officials. What will be done with the Chinook has not been determined. She may lie up at a dock or be sent to some other locality where dredging produces better results."

Uprising in Samar.

Manila, March 23.—Major Allen of the constabulary, commander of the federal troops in the island of Samar, reports that the uprising among the Pulajanes is now under control, and that the majority of the regulars will be withdrawn. Major General Corbin and General Allen are now at Calbayog, Samar, holding a conference regarding the measures which will be necessary to take in the future.

A Woman Principal.

New York, March 23.—The Chaupagna Institute in Westchester, one of the best known Quaker schools in the country, is to have a woman principal, the first in its history. She is Mrs. John Cox, wife of an architect living in this city.

ROBBER AND FORGER

Albert E. Bell Made a Successful Dash for Liberty.

ELUDES PURSUING OFFICERS

Notorious Robber and Forger Who Has Committed Crimes in Many Cities of the United States Escapes and is Being Pursued by Bloodhounds.

Tacoma, March 23.—Albert E. Bell, one of the noted mail pouch robbers and forger, in the United States, made a successful dash for liberty at the United States prison at McNellis island yesterday, escaping into the heavy woods near the prison.

Bell covered his tracks so thoroughly that all trace of him was lost soon after entering the timber, and a general alarm was turned in at the prison, guards being sent out to scour the woods and guard all avenues of escape from the island.

At a late hour tonight Bell had not been captured and it was believed he was still in the woods on the island.

The bloodhounds at the prison were pressed into service last evening. Bell is wanted in many cities in the United States, and was arrested in Tacoma last April for stealing a mail pouch at Seattle and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

ANOTHER CANDIDATE.

Indications Point to Another Slugging Match.

New York, March 23.—Jacob White, the champion lightweight pugilist of England, has started for the west, arrangements having been practically completed by telegraph for him to meet James Britt before the Yosemite Club, in San Francisco, in the latter part of April.

White is en route to California and will begin training at once under the care of Charles Mitchell and the latter's son.

At Kalamazoo.

Kalamazoo, March 23.—Willie Fitzgerald of Brooklyn, knocked out Otto Scloff of Chicago in the sixth round of a 15-round contest tonight.