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Astorian.

COVERS THE MORNING FIELD ON THE LOWER COLUMBIA

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

SUBWAY FLOOD

Train Service Suspended in New York.

FEW REACHED HOME

Hundreds of Persons Caught in the Blockaded Trains in the City.

CONSIDERABLE DAMAGEDONE

Men, Women and Children in the Cars Thrown into a Panic and but for the Prompt Action of the Officers Averted Loss of Life Among Passengers.

New York, June 12.—Train service in the subway was suspended throughout the night as a result of the flood from a 48-inch water main Sunday afternoon. The flow of water continued uninterruptedly four and one half hours while subalterns of the city water department waded about in the vicinity of Park avenue and Forty-first street turning off one gate after another in a futile search for the proper shut-off to stop the destructive flood. Officials of the subway frantically telephoned in all directions but they failed to find any one in authority with the requisite knowledge of the mains. The damage was finally checked through information furnished by private citizens employed by a contracting firm.

It is estimated that the loss to the subway alone will be \$100,000. Hundreds of persons were caught in the blockaded trains and almost smothered before they were able to reach fresh air by wading through 18 inches of water to the nearest station. Many women had their clothing practically ruined by water which splattered through the open windows.

There were thousands of persons waiting along the entire line for trains and much time elapsed before news of the blockade reached them. Consequently many travelers bound for the Grand Central and other railway stations missed their trains out of town.

There were scenes of considerable disorder at the Brooklyn Bridge station. Coming from the beaches and other resorts great crowds poured into the underground stations and for half an hour after the trains stopped they continued to gather, tickets being sold as usual. Then the agents began giving out "blockade transfers" and guards were stationed at the entrance to warn away the would be passengers, but the crowds from Coney Island brushed them aside and continued to enter. After a much delay a short train service was established as far north as Fourteenth street. To further complicate the situation a car jumped the track on the spur from the city hall to Rector street and blocked traffic on that section. It was then found necessary to close the stations south of the city hall.

Unfortunately, for the traveling public, the subway tracks just where the water mains loosed its torrent are depressed four or five feet beneath the average grade and this quickly filled, making it absolutely necessary to pump out the tunnel, as there was no outlet. A big steam pump was quickly rigged and at an early hour this morning was slowly gaining on the water with the promise TWELVE ... that the third rail would be free in time to permit operations during the morning rush down town.

Persons who were caught in the trains near the flood when the power failed had a terrifying experience. All lights were suddenly extinguished, following a series of loud explosions. Men, women and children who filled the cars were thrown into a panic of dread as the tunnel suddenly became intensely dark. There was a rush for the doors when wat-

er began to spray through the windows and the guards held their grounds and closed the windows. The temperature quickly became stifling and finally the guards were unceremoniously pushed one side while the passengers plunged into the water and made their way to the nearest stations, groping along the walls in order to avoid the third rail current. Hundreds were afraid, however, to risk their lives and workmen were soon on the spot with lanterns. The faint glow from this source heartened the imprisoned passengers and soon long lines of the frightened men, women and children threaded their way between the rails until the nearest platforms were reached.

A condition that attracted the attention of nearly every one who was not too scared to observe it, was the sudden oppressiveness that filled the tunnel and stifled those in the cars. Within five minutes after the trains stopped moving the temperature appeared to rise many degrees, until the cars were like the hot room in a Turkish bath. Open windows gave little relief, and many persons emerged from the stations in a limp and exhausted condition.

In addition to the damaged roadway in the tunnel, burned out motors and the fusing of hundreds of electrical contrivances added greatly to the loss. Private property along Park avenue also suffered severely. Quick work at the Hotel Belmont avoided heavy loss. The building, which is partially completed, extended four stories underground. Employees on the spot got a pump into action and kept the flood moving into the sewer. Many private cellars in the neighborhood were filled, however, causing much damage.

While the officials of the subway were exhorting the employes for permitting the flood to go unchecked for four hours, thousands of passengers who had purchased tickets all along the line before notice was received of the blockade were demanding their money back. They met with a refusal and riots were narrowly averted. In due season another order went round permitting the agents to give out transfers good for another ride within 48 hours. Each ticket had to be signed and dated so that the crowds became very impatient. The police force was called at some of the stations before the disorder could be quieted.

WAS HE MURDERED

Mysterious Disappearance of Revenue Cutter Officer.

AN OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION

Strange Disappearance of Officer of the Rush Leads to the Belief That he Has Met With Foul Play and Was Thrown Overboard in the Night Time.

San Francisco, June 12.—The mystery surrounding the strange disappearance of Lieutenant William G. Bladel, of the revenue cutter Rush deepens each day, and a special board has been convened to investigate the case. L. G. Bladel, of Los Angeles, states that from a conversation held with the officers of the Rush he is satisfied that his brother was murdered and his body dropped over the side of the ship, where the strong current carried it out to sea.

Bladel scouts the idea that the officer deserted the ship, and says that the latter was so well satisfied that when it was suggested that he be transferred the lieutenant made a request to be allowed to remain with the Rush. It is of the opinion of Bladel that his brother was struck over the head by some seaman who bore him a grudge and was afterwards dropped over the ship's side by means of a rope. He believes that his theory is reasonable inasmuch as none of the watch heard the splash, as they certainly would have done had the lieutenant fallen overboard. The night was extraordinarily quiet, and any splash or call for help would have been heard on board the Rush.

STORY OF WAR

Russian Naval Officers Make Statement.

LACK OF DISCIPLINE

Not a Single Officer of Russian Fleet Knew of the Admiral's Plans.

EXTENSIVE TARGET PRACTICE

Rojestvensky Continued Careless Manoeuvring and When Japanese Appeared The Russian Fleet was Caught in Impossible Formation and Were Helpless.

Vladivostok, June 12.—A series of interviews which a correspondent of the Associated Press has had with the naval officers of the Russian fleet who survived the battle in the sea of Japan have developed a most sensational story of the causes of the Russian disaster first of all and the complete demoralization which followed the sinking of the flagship Kniaz Souvaroff and the wounding of Rojestvensky.

It is explained that not a single officer of the fleet knew the commander in chief's plans. The admirals in command of divisions knew no more than the sub-lieutenant and had to rely on the signals from the flagship, Nebogotoff, upon whom the command devolved had seen Rojestvensky only once after the juncture of their squadrons and then only for a few minutes.

All stories of extensive target practice at Madagascar were fakes. During the entire voyage there was practically no training in gunnery worth of name. Ugly stories of the happenings at Madagascar are told. Even the very morning of the battle, while buzzing wireless instruments on the Russian ships showed the Japanese scouts communicating his dispatches to Togo, Rojestvensky continued careless maneuvering and when the Japanese appeared the Russians were caught in an impossible formation and were attacked on three fronts. Rojestvensky's position was so cramped and his transports so badly placed that it caused confusion. While the Japanese were raining projectiles on the Russian ships the latter were huddled together blanketing each other's fire.

TWO CHILDREN SHOT.

What is the Result of Allowing Children To Fool With Guns.

Los Angeles, June 12.—Raymond Coin, aged 14 and Mabel Cooper aged 10 were accidentally shot today and perhaps fatally wounded with a shotgun in the hands of Claudine Coin, the 13-year-old sister of the boy. The boy and girl who were shot were playing together at the house and became engaged in a quarrel. The boy slapped the little girl's face and Claudine picking up the shotgun aimed at the two children, saying, "If you don't stop your racket, I'll shoot you both." Her finger accidentally touched the trigger and a heavy charge of number seven shot struck the two children in the face, producing terrible wounds. The boy's skull is fractured and it is thought he cannot survive. The charge struck the little girl near the temple, producing a possible mortal wound. Claudine, who was prostrated over the accident, was taken into custody by the police.

RUSSIAN REPUBLIC.

One Man Power to Be Replaced By Parliamentary Congress.

St. Petersburg, June 12.—The Russian experiment in parliamentarism will begin in September. The Associated Press is now in a position to make this positive announcement. Emperor Nicholas has already given his approval to a scheme now being finally but formally reviewed by the council of state for a legislative

body consisting of a lower house to be called Gosudarstvennaia, дума and an upper house called Gosudarstvennaia Suvet, or present council of the emperor with power to formulate legislation discuss budget, interpolate ministers, etc., but reserving in the emperor's own hands final authority.

The election will take place during the coming summer. Although the scheme clings with desperation to the essence of autocracy, it marks the beginning of the end. The die once cast, there can be no retreat, and a quasi parliamentary regime which will be inaugurated will prove to be only a transitory bridge over which absolutism must cross to constitutionalism.

Steamer Arrives.

Seattle, June 12.—A cable message received by the Pacific Coast Steamship Company officials tonight from Nome announce the arrival yesterday of the steamer Senator, the first of the regular liners to reach that port. No ice was encountered in Bering Sea. The Oregon, Ohio, Victoria, Olympia, Zeland and Valencia are due.

KILLED IN EXPLOSION.

Disastrous Explosion in Iroquois Iron Company Works.

Chicago, June 12.—By the explosion of a furnace at the plant of the Iroquois Iron Company early today one man is believed to have lost his life and two others were severely burned. Nicholas Rejoif, the worker believed to have been killed, was standing within a few feet of the furnace. No trace could be found of him after the explosion and he is supposed to be buried under the molten metal. Michael Tanew was severely burned and is not expected to recover. Joseph Tojic also received many serious burns.

The loss to the company is estimated at \$50,000.

Smallpox Increasing.

New York, June 12.—Small pox is increasing and the Lazaretto is filling rapidly, cables the Herald's Valparaiso, Chile, correspondent. There are today more than a thousand patients scattered all over the city. The disease also is raging in other cities.

In June, bubonic plague broke out recently and is causing great alarm.

GIGANTIC TRUST

Combination of Equitable With Several Trust Companies.

THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD

Three Large Trust Companies to be Consolidated With the Equitable Life Assurance Society is the Plan Outlined By Thos. F. Ryan, of New York.

New York, June 12.—The organization of the largest trust company in the United States and one of the largest financial institutions in the world, was said today to be a part of the plan of Thos. F. Ryan in negotiating the purchase of the stock of the Equitable Life Assurance Society held by James Hyde.

Ryan's plans, as reported today, will be to consolidate the Equitable Trust Company, the Merchantile Trust Company, and the Morton Trust Company, all of this city, with the last named in control. It is expected that this will result in creating a financial institution with deposits second only to those of the National Bank of New York City, which has deposits amounting to \$185,000,000. The deposits of the proposed consolidated companies would amount to \$169,000,000, capital stock to \$7,000,000 and surplus \$22,000,000. Ryan's plan as reported today contemplates the elimination of the control of the subsidiary companies by the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Fought a Draw.

Salt Lake, June 12.—Jimmy Gardner, of Lowell, Mass, and Jack Okef, of Chicago, fought 10 rounds to a draw tonight.

HOPES BRIGHT

No Doubt of Satisfactory Peace Terms.

RUSSIA IS PLEASED

Count Cassini Calls on President With Emperor's Acceptance of Offer.

THE QUESTION IS DISCUSSED

Place of Meeting to Consider Peace terms Has not Been Definitely Settled and an Important Conference Is Expected to Take Place Tomorrow.

Washington, June 12.—Official assurances of the president's efforts to bring Russia and Japan together to discuss peace will be crowned with success was brought to the White House today by Count Cassini, Russian ambassador, who called by appointment and in the name of Emperor Nicholas formally accepted President Roosevelt's offer of good will.

The ambassador states that Russia will appoint plenipotentiaries to meet plenipotentiaries of Japan to discuss the question of peace. The place of the meeting is being discussed. During the past two weeks the president's efforts have been directed toward securing a mutual agreement to consider terms of peace. This he accomplished finally today. It remains now for the belligerent powers to name their plenipotentiaries and agree upon a time and place for them to meet and discuss terms and negotiate a treaty of peace.

These details are now under consideration with bright prospects of such minor differences as may exist will be dissolved within a few days. A conference of supreme importance was held today in Washington. President Roosevelt, Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, and Kogo Takahira, the Japanese minister, were the principal conferees. President Roosevelt has now unequivocal assurances from both Russia and Japan of the acceptance of his proposition that they enter into negotiations for peace. In addition as indicating the acceptance by the Russian government of the president's proposition Cassini informed the president of Russia's answer as to the place of the meeting of the plenipotentiaries and named those who would probably be named an delegate to represent the Russian government.

Minister Takahira had a conference with the president this afternoon. The interview lasted 35 minutes. It can be said that the place of meeting of the plenipotentiaries has not been finally settled. In the arrangement of this detail and others of like choice the president, acting as an intermediary between Russia and Japan. Russia, through Cassini, has indicated her preference for one place for holding the peace conference. Japan through Takahira, has suggested another. It is known that neither Washington nor the battle field of Manchuria was the selection of either Russia or Japan. Other than that information of a definite character is withheld.

St. Petersburg, June 12.—The Russian official reply to President Roosevelt will be printed in the official messenger tomorrow or Wednesday. At the foreign office this afternoon the Associated Press was informed that Japan's indication of time and place of meeting of plenipotentiaries is expected within 24 hours or 48 hours at the most. The Russian plenipotentiaries, continued the informant, will be clothed with full power to receive the Japanese terms and give Russia's answer which will involve the power to conclude

temporary suspension of hostilities. Such suspension will probably be limited to from three to eight days in which Russia will decide whether it will be possible to proceed.

Paris, June 12.—The opinion in official and diplomatic quarters here are becoming rather pessimistic as to the outcome of the peace movement, owing to St. Petersburg dispatches showing a reserved attitude of Russia and the activity of the war party. A special dispatch to the semi-official Temps says the influential Russians are forming a war element and making a strong rally, being reinforced by protests against peace telegraphed from the field by Linévitch and all division commanders.

PITTSBURGH ANARCHISTS.

Pittsburg, June 12.—Two bombs were found today on the premises of the Springfield public school in this city by the janitor. No reason can be given for the selection of the school as an object of any attempted outrage. There are many Russian families in the vicinity of the school, many of whom, it is said, so far as Russia is concerned, are intensely anarchistic.

CHINESE EXCLUSION.

American Asiatic Association Confers With the President.

Washington, June 12.—President Roosevelt held a conference today with about 30 members of the American Asiatic Association, representing the cotton textile industry and the iron and steel trade of the United States. The delegation entered into formal protest against such enforcement of the Chinese exclusion laws as might imperil the export trade of this country with China.

Today's Weather.

Portland, June 12.—Western Oregon and Washington, Tuesday, partly cloudy, slightly warmer except near the coast. Eastern Oregon and Washington, partly cloudy.

Hall Whips Burke.

Sacramento, June 12.—Jack Hall, of San Francisco, whipped Jack Burk, of Sacramento in less than two minutes. It was to have been a nine-round go.

SUBWAY SYNDICATE

Three Prominent Capitalists Interested in Purchasing Property.

NEW YORK RAPID TRANSIT

Secretary Morton was to Have Directed the Operations of the Syndicate formed For Building a Gigantic System of Railways in New York City.

New York, June 12.—Thomas F. Ryan, Peter A. B. Weidener and Edward J. Barwind are, according to the Herald, the three capitalists who compose the mysterious Metropolitan syndicate which is to bid for the construction of the extensive subways laid out by the rapid transit commission. Considerable secrecy has heretofore surrounded the identity of the men composing the syndicate whose operations were to have been directed by Secretary of the Navy Morton had he not taken up the chairmanship of the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

It is further asserted by the Herald that the syndicate will enter the rapid transit field in this city with a combined capital of \$100,000,000, each member contributing one third of that amount.

Mr. Ryan and Mr. Barwind are well known in New York's financial affairs and Mr. Weidener is one of the wealthiest men in Philadelphia.

The routes for which the syndicate will bid have already been laid down by the rapid transit commission, and it is estimated that the total cost of building the proposed lines will reach \$150,000,000. The contracts will probably not be let before November.