



STOESSEL A COWARD

Charge Made By Smirnoff In Secret Report.

WAS ALSO INCAPABLE

Blunders and Treason Given as Causes of the Fall of Port Arthur.

OTHER COMMANDERS BLAMED

High Officers in the Garrison of Be- sieged Fortress Were Almost at Swords—Are Now on Trial For Their Lives.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 26.—A copy of the secret report on the defense of Port Arthur, which is the basis of the indictment on which Lieutenant General Stoessel, Lieutenant General Fock, who commanded the fourth East Siberian division at Port Arthur and Major General Reiss, are standing trial for their lives before the supreme court martial, has been obtained by the Associated Press. It is of the greatest interest as explaining the decision to try these three officers and not to prosecute the other defenders of Port Arthur. The report which was written by Lieutenant General Smirnoff, the actual commandant of the fortress, is sensational in the extreme and categorically accuses Stoessel and Fock of cowardice and incapacity and finally of the deliberate, treasonable hastening of the surrender to save his own life and in defiance of the decisions of two successive councils of war. The report is biased in the extreme, breathes the most bitter enmity and shows that the high officers of Port Arthur garrison in the darkest days of the siege were almost at each other's throats. The indictments summed up in the conclusion of General Smirnoff as follows:

"A series of unpardonable blunders outside the fortress due to the ignorance and lack of military capacity and martial prowess of Generals Stoessel and Fock brought about the investment of the fortress several months earlier than necessary and after the investment a desire for undeserved glory moved Stoessel to interfere in the defense with unfortunate results. Finally at the last period of the siege Stoessel usurped his authority with the assistance of Generals Fock and Reiss and committed treason in surrendering suddenly and prematurely. I regard our defeat at Mukden as a direct result of this treason."

Smirnoff declares that when he prohibited the withdrawal of provisions in preparation for the siege, Stoessel disregarded the orders and allowed their sale to the field army. He is charged also that Stoessel removed an order for the establishment of a hospital for contagious diseases because the site chosen would lessen the destructibility as a residence of General Fock's villa. He relates numerous instances of conflicts of authority and says that at one period the relations between Stoessel and the late Admiral Withoft, in command of the Russian fleet, were severely strained. He also tells of severe condemnation of Stoessel, his plans for the defense of the fortress and his failure to supplement the supply of provisions by General Kuropatkin and Admiral Alexieff, the viceroy of the far east when they visited the fortress in June. General Smirnoff charges that Stoessel was guilty of the rankest kind of cowardice, the most inexcusable ignorance of

engineering, of costly tactical errors, and that he sought to bring credit to himself for the notable achievements of others.

BOMB DISCOVERED.

Attempt on Life of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholasovich Fails.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 27.—The Novoye Vremya this morning prints a sensational account of the foiling of another plot on the life of Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholasovich. The plot is said to have been discovered shortly before three o'clock this morning, the time scheduled for the arrival of the Imperial train bringing the Grand Duke from Tsarskoe Selo. The guard patrolling the track near station at St. Petersburg end of line caught a man dressed as a workman in the act of placing a wooden box in the middle of the track. Aided by the darkness the plotter escaped. The box was found to contain an infernal machine of enormous power.

T. B. ALDRICH ILL.

BOSTON, Feb. 27.—Thomas Bailey Aldrich, the poet, is in a critical condition on account of an operation performed yesterday.

RETAINS CHAMPIONSHIP.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—"Gunner" Jim Moler, heavyweight champion of England, knocked out "Tiger" Smith tonight in the first round. The purse was \$6,000.

DIME NOVEL PLOT

Story of Gypsy Kidnapping and Rescue Comes from Illinois.

FATHER SEARCHES FOR YEAR

King of Gypsy Camp Snatches Up Girl at Moment of Rescue But After Struggle Parent Secures Her Aided by Officers of the Law.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—After a search of nearly a year, in which almost every gypsy camp in the South and Northwest had been visited, Cecilia Demetro, 12 years old, daughter of a wealthy Greek in Little Rock, Ark., who had been kidnapped March 1, 1906 was found yesterday in a camp near Thornton, Ill. The little girl was given shelter at the police station here last night.

Trace of the girl was obtained by Leo Demetro, her father, who had searched for her eight months in vain. Then he met a gypsy in Salt Lake City who learned of his sorrow. The man promised to inform him should he ever hear of the camp in which the child was held.

Accompanied by four deputy sheriffs Demetro went to Thornton yesterday. Just beyond the outskirts of the town is a camp consisting of more than 100 tents. It was there that Cecilia was held prisoner. When the Greek copersmith and his companions arrived the girl was playing on the prairie with several other youngsters.

Before Demetro could reach his daughter he was thrust aside by John Joe, king of the camp, and who is said to have kidnapped the child. Jaoat burst from a tent and seized Cecilia as she was about to spring into her father's arms. In an instant hundreds of gypsies were swarming out of their smoke-filled homes and hurrying to the scene.

Demetro seized the gypsy Joe by the throat. While they were struggling on the ground scores of Joe's followers crowded around and threatened to interfere but the officers drew their revolvers and then seized the little girl. An instant later Demetro regained his feet and taking his daughter stood with the officers. Awed by the display of weapons, the gypsies retreated and the deputy sheriffs hurried to Thornton where the boarded a train for Chicago.

ENDS CROSS EXAMINATION

Mrs. Thaw Leaves Wit- ness Stand.

TRIAL NEARS ITS END

Delmas Blocks Introduction of Much of Hummel's Tes- timony.

ALIENIST WILL COME NEXT

Doctor Britton Evans Will be Cross Examined Today by Jerome—Mrs. Thaw's Mother Drew Three Thou- sand Dollars From White in One Year.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Mrs. Evelyn Thaw's long ordeal on the witness stand at the trial here ended today. Jerome ended the cross examination, which has lasted nearly five days, at this afternoon were brief. The disamination and re-cross examination the morning session. The direct ex-trict attorney tomorrow will begin his cross examination of Dr. Britton D. Evans, one of the defense's alienists. Drs. Wagner, Deemar and Binghamman will be called in rapid order. The trial at last seems to be entering on the final stages. The completion of Mrs. Thaw's testimony followed an unsuccess-ful effort of the prosecution to draw from Abraham Hummel certain facts relating to the affidavit which Mrs. Thaw is said to have made in Hummel's office.

In this affidavit it is declared that Thaw beat Mrs. Thaw while abroad in 1903. Delmas blocked practically every question. The witness got no further than to say that he knew Mrs. Thaw, that she came to his office October 27, 1903 and that he dictated to a stenographer while she was there. Justice Fitzgerald held that under the rules of evidence covering Mrs. Thaw's testimony, the introduction of collateral facts was not permissible, the district attorney not being allowed to controvert her testimony though he may test her credibility. Jerome said in open court, that he realized that if he could show that Stanford White was in Europe on the night Mrs. Thaw declares she was assaulted by him, he would not be allowed to introduce such testimony. Mrs. Thaw today bore up the odds and ends of her testimony. She denied ever using any of the letter of credit given to her by Stanford White when she started on the European trip with Thaw and her mother. She denied that she had ever been mentioned in connection with the James Garland divorce case. She said Stanford White paid all her brother's school expenses and identified the receipts and checks signed by her mother showing that the latter drew more than \$3,000 from Stanford White's fund from May 1902 to May 1903. Evelyn was at school most of this time. Just before Harry Thaw was taken out of the courtroom he handed the reporters the following note: "Mrs. Thaw and Lady Ashburton, formerly Frances Belmont, were not friends, they were simply acquaintances when both were playing at the same theatre."

MR. ALLEN'S RESIGNATION.

Succession in District Attorneyship Still Undetermined.

The resignation of Hon. Harrison Allen, as district attorney for the Fourth Judicial district of Oregon, was placed in the hands of Gov. George

E. Chamberlain on Saturday last to become effective on March 1st.

In speaking of the matter yesterday, Mr. Allen assured a representative of the Morning Astorian that his relinquishment of the post was made absolutely without any reservations on his part or anyone else's, so far as he knew; he is pleased with his business prospects at Portland, and desires to be free to make the most of a new and successful business venture, and in this connection, it may be said, in passing, that while there are hosts of people here who will regret sincerely to see him pass out of the social and official life of the city and county there are none to begrudge him the last limit of a success in sight in every field he may occupy.

A rumor was current in this city yesterday that the district attorneyship has been promised to Representative John C. McCue the rule of courtesy in such matters being followed by the appointment of a republican in succession of a republican, but this report was beyond all chance of confirmation or denial yesterday.

The possibility of the appointment of Attorney A. M. Smith to the vacancy was negatived to a certain extent by the assurances received from that gentleman that he had made no overtures for the place nor had he received any from his friend, the governor; so the matter remains in status quo until His Excellency shall see fit to lift the veil which will be probably, when the vacancy actually occurs, on Friday next.

NATION AND MAN

Confronted in the Harriman In- vestigation in New York.

POWER OF SWOLLEN FORTUNES

Northwest Held Back For Years by Failure of Union Pacific to Secure Northern Pacific—Many Grave Char- ges Against Roads.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The assertion by E. H. Harriman that Stuyvesant Fish was deposed from the presidency of the Illinois Central because of misconduct as to the funds of the company was a leading feature of today's session of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Harriman was the only witness, and events brought out by testimony make the hearing memorable. Other features of Harriman's testimony were; his continued refusal to answer the questions relating to individual stock transactions.

The explanation of the transfer of 300,000 shares of Southern Pacific stock to William Rockefeller, during the attempt of James B. Kerr to secure control of the road and of the delayed announcement of dividends in Union and Southern Pacific. Regarding the latter, Harriman testified that he was compelled to attend a funeral the board had agreed to meet and that the meeting was not held and the dividend not until three o'clock in the afternoon declared. Harriman said this was after the close of the stock market, and the fact that the dividend had been declared was withheld in order to give the New York market an advantage over the London markets.

Then followed the attempts of the government to show that the Union Pacific charges unfair rates, stifles competition in the vast territory traversed by its line, and that its dividends of 10 per cent and its expenditure of \$240,000,000 came from an unfair toll on its patrons. An academic discussion of railway regulation, by high authorities on either side, that ran from plea for legalized combinations of railroads under government supervision to the suggestion that government control railway stock issues.

The charge and admission were made that the misconduct of the railroads created a popular anger that moves determinedly for their regulation. The charge was made that no

ARMY TO DIG DITCH

Engineering Branch to Try Panama Canal.

PRESIDENT CHANGES

Abandons Design of Having the Work Done By Contract. System.

ENGINEER STEVENS RESIGNS

Said to Have Taken Criticism of Work to Heart—President Determined No- thing Shall Check Continuance of Digging of Canal.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—By order addressed to Chairman Shonts of the Panama canal commission, President Roosevelt as far as lay in his power under existing law transferred to the engineering branch of the army responsibility for the further construction of the Panama Canal. He also formally recorded the abandonment, for the present at least, of the project of having the canal work done by contract. Another feature was the announcement of the resignation of John F. Stevens as Chief Engineer of the canal construction. The President intends that there shall be re-organization of the Commission with three army officers, General Goethals, Major Galliard and Major Siebert, of the engineer corps as its leading members who are to have charge of the engineering features of the canal work. General Goethals will be chairman and chief engineer. Blackburn of Kentucky who will retire from the Senate in March will be made a member of the commission. The retirement of Shonts and Stevens will leave but two vacancies, so there will be two more retirements necessary to make way for the army officers and Blackburn. The President is determined that the work on the canal shall proceed continuously and temporary disloca-tions caused by resignations of higher officials will not be allowed to interfere with the progress.

The president is unaware of any specific reasons for Stevens' resignation. It surprised him very much for as late as the middle of December Stevens made no mention of a wish to retire. It had been known, however, that Stevens had been stung very much by the criticism aimed at him in connection with the canal work, some of which came out during the hearings before committees of congress. It is understood that Stevens is leaving to accept a position with a great engineering enterprise in this country at an annual salary more than double that which he now receives from the government.

country in the world is so hostile to large transportation interests.

The assertion was made the purchase of the Southern Pacific by the Union Pacific had given the southwest ten years advantage in development and that the failure of the Union Pacific to secure the Northern Pacific had left the Northwest ten years behind where it would have been if the control had been obtained. All this ended in a remarkable scene where government and the man stood confronted. The days events gave a vivid and intimate realization of the problem of swollen wealth and railway regulation. It made a notable contribution to the financial history, light and dark, of the time. Harriman's examination was conduc-

ted by Frank B. Kellogg of St. Paul, special counsel for the government. The statement of the witness as to Stuyvesant Fish came in the middle of the morning session. Kellogg in reference to the Illinois Central spoke twice of a squabble between the witness and Fish.

DIES FOR CHILDREN.

MONTREAL, Feb. 26.—Principal Maxwell and sixteen children perished in a fire this afternoon in the Hoche-laga school of the Protestant commis-sion. The fire was first noticed by some workmen employed nearby.

The teachers were notified and the work of getting the children out of the building was begun. The Kinder-garten department was located on the second floor and it was here that the loss of life occurred. The children were started out but found the lower hall full of smoke and refused to Ja-scend. They retreated to the room whence they had come. The fire was making its way upward and by this time the smoke was growing so dense that even the experienced firemen could not stand it. Fireman tried to get Miss Maxwell to go down the lad-der but she refused and rushed back into the building in search of the child-ren.

Later she was found lying on the door with a child beside her. Their deaths were caused by asphyxiation. No fire escapes were on the building. The children killed were aged from three to eight years. It was asserted in the office of the Building Commissioner that official notice was served on the school commissioners in November that not only this school but fifty others in the city must be provided with fire escapes. None had been built at the Hoche-laga school. Another point to be explained is why the kindergar-ten class had to be taken to an upper story.

PASS ALDRICH BILL

Senate Bill for Issuance of Ten Dollar Gold Certificates.

OPEN INDIAN RESERVATION

Senate Measure Authorizes Deposit of Customs Receipts in National Banks —Raises Limit of National Bank Cir- culation Withdrawable Monthly.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The Sen-ate today passed the Sundry Civil bill carrying \$114,000,000. It also passed the Aldrich Currency bill by a vote of 43 to 14. The Currency bill authorizes the issuance of ten dollar gold cer-tificates to the end that the ten dollar greenbacks may be broken up into one, two and five dollar bills for which there is great demand. It also author-izes the deposit of customs receipts in national banks as the internal revenue receipts are now. It raises from \$3,000,000 to \$9,000,000 the national bank circulation that may be retired in any one month. The conference reports were adopted on the Naval Army, For-tification and District of Columbia ap-propriation bills. The conference re-ports on the bill allowing the Govern-ment the right of appeal in criminal cases was agreed to as was also that on a bill opening to settlement one million acres of Rosebud Indian pres-ervation in South Dakota.

CHANGE PASTURE LIMITS.

The conference reports on the Army and River and Harbor Appropriation bills were presented. Conferees were appointed on the Postoffice Approp-riation bills after ineffectual effort had been made to recede and concur in certain Senate amendments relating to the pay of rural letter carriers and rail-way mail employes. Two veto mes-sages of House bills were received, one of them negating the Kiowa pas-ture townsite bill and the other a bill for the relief of a civilian who serv-ed in the Civil war.