

GOOD EVENING.

The Weather: Tonight and Friday, occasional rain; southeasterly winds.

Oregon



Journal

TODAY'S News Today!

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VOL. II, NO. 302.

PORTLAND, OREGON, THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 25, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

FIERCE NAVAL FIGHTING CONTINUES AT PORT ARTHUR WITH RESULT UNKNOWN

Subjects of the Czar Know That Conflict Is Raging But Fear the Truth When Details Are Told.

Vladivostok Threatened by Japanese Fleet—Son of Marquis Ito Says Japan Wants to Win Without Assistance From Powers.

(Journal Special Service.)

London, Feb. 25.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg today states that Russia's greatest fear is that China's hostile actions in Manchuria may precipitate a far-reaching strife. It is pointed out that unless neutrality is maintained in the flowery kingdom, European powers will surely be drawn into warfare.

England is known to stand ready to become an ally of Japan, while France and Austria are the only nations that Russia can really count upon for aid, although Germany and Italy may remain neutral if their rights are not molested.

Despite the news of the Port Arthur victory, gloom, rather than joy, prevails in this capital, principally for the reason that the people are skeptical of the report, as they were made to believe that Russia had defeated the Japanese at the first attack on Port Arthur, when later and truthful reports told of a Russian disaster.

One of the Japanese vessels sunk in the attempt to enter the harbor here Tuesday, now lies behind Goldhill fortresses, another lies near the battleship Retzivan, while the third and fourth are between the channel entrance and Liaotshan. The two others are still afloat.

The London dispatch continues: "In the absence of further definite details regarding the naval engagement Tuesday at Port Arthur it is believed by experts here that following a daring attempt of the Japanese to blockade the Port Arthur harbor entrance Russian cruisers probably came out a short distance to reconnoiter and the Japanese then fired from a long range and the Russians retreated back into the harbor. This in a measure is confirmed by private advices."

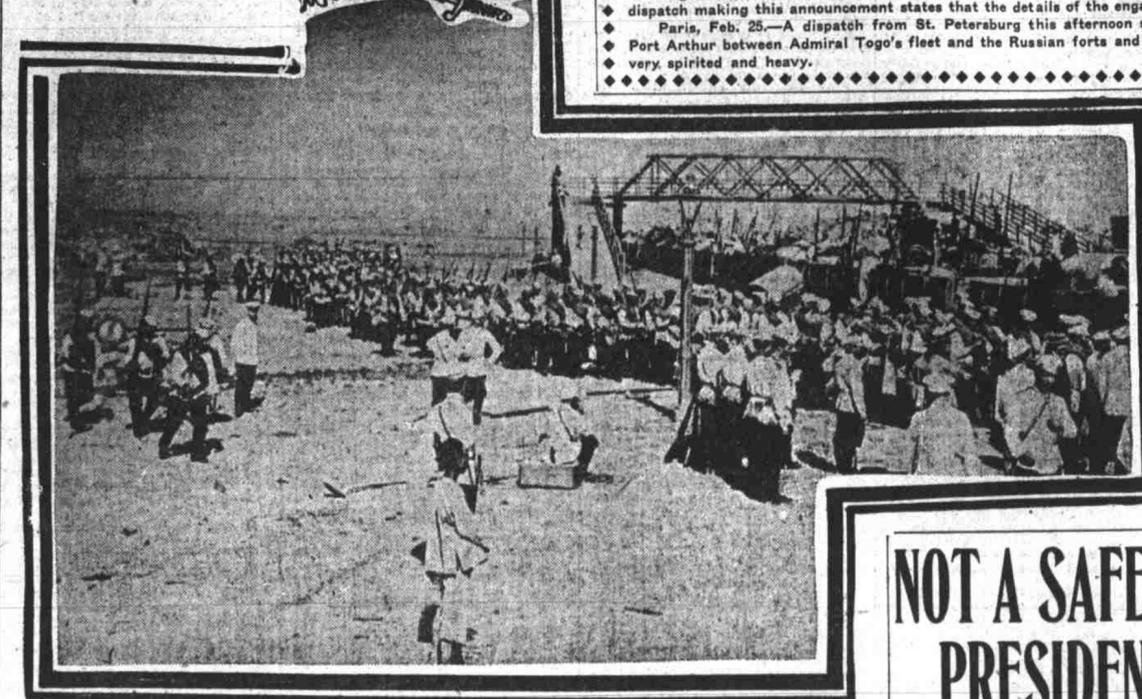
WANTS TO FIGHT ALONE. Marquis Ito's Son-in-Law Tells of the Situation—On Mission. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 25.—Baron Suematsu of Tokyo, son-in-law of Marquis Ito, in whose cabinet he held the responsible post of minister of foreign affairs and of communication, arrived in this city last evening on the Japanese liner Iyo Maru, which left Yokohama on the 19th, two days after hostilities had commenced.

"For," he adds, "if China becomes involved it means that mother Europe and all her powers will become embroiled, and Japan wants to fight this battle alone."

Having been foreign minister in Japan during the Boxer troubles in China, Baron Suematsu has an intimate knowledge of the country of Russian soldiers. He regards them as lacking in the initiative while at the same time he admits that the Cossack is a desperate fighter and a man to be feared, especially as Japan is weak in their cavalry arm.

He says in marked contrast with the indifferent spirit of the czar's subjects is that displayed in his own country, where the most intense war sentiment has been aroused. School children, he says, are contributing daily to war funds, and a short time before he left the minister of finance received from a scholar in one of the public schools 25 yen as a child's contribution to the campaign fund.



Here is a typical group of Mikado fighting men. They are shown in the trenches during the time given them for lunch. They are hardy little chaps and splendid soldiers.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 25, 6 p. m.—It is reported here that not deterred by the apparent failure of the attempt to blockade Port Arthur, the Japanese fleet again attacked the Russians between 1 and 3 o'clock this morning. They were repulsed at every point, according to the advices telegraphed by General Pflug. The dispatch making this announcement states that the details of the engagement will be forwarded later.

Paris, Feb. 25.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg this afternoon states that fresh fighting is going on at Port Arthur between Admiral Togo's fleet and the Russian forts and battleships and that the engagement is very spirited and heavy.

CONGRESS MAY ADJUST THE "OVERLAP" LAND TROUBLES

"Settlers Have No Ground to Complain," Says One of Them, "They Were Warned That Their Titles Might Be Disputed"—Prosecution For Stripping Land of Timber, and Damage Suits Possible.

Wholesale arrests and prosecutions of individuals for the illegal use of timber and civil suits for damages against the government may be the aftermath of the sweeping decision made by the supreme court of the United States, in holding that the government had no right to the land in the "overlap" territory in Washington, title to which it declares to be vested in the Northern Pacific Railroad company.

proposition may be made to the railroad company to take the timber land scrip in lieu of the land that has been given them by the supreme court. The scrip is a good investment, the face value being greater per acre than the valuation which has been placed on the railroad land by a board of appraisers.

and carried the case before the department of the interior. Secretary Hoke Smith in 1895 decided that the railroad company had no right to the "overlap" as the same land had been reserved at a prior period and forfeited. The case was then brought before United States Judge Hanford at Seattle, who upheld the decision of Hoke Smith.



This is a type of the torpedo boat destroyer of which there are a number in the Russian squadron at Port Arthur. They are swift and well equipped with torpedo tubes and are invaluable as scouts.

THE CANAL NOW SURE

President Roosevelt Signs Panama Treaty This Morning.

FILLS THE COMMISSION

Names a San Francisco Engineer as the Seventh Member of the Important Board—All Ready to Begin.

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.) Washington, Feb. 25.—President Roosevelt signed the Panama treaty at 11:40 o'clock this morning.

All that now remains to be done is to place the construction of the canal actually in the hands of the president and a formal exchange of the ratifications between Secretary Hay and Basau-Varilla of Panama, will take place tomorrow at the state department.

Before signing the treaty the president completed his selection of members of the Panama canal commission by determining upon C. Ewald Grunsky of San Francisco as the seventh member.

At 11:40 the president signed the Panama treaty. Senator Kittredge of South Dakota was presented and was given the pen used by the president.

Mr. Grunsky is a resident of California since 1875, and has held high positions in state and municipal engineering departments. At present he is city engineer of San Francisco.

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NOT A SAFE PRESIDENT

Not Long Before He Died Senator Hanna Talked Plainly to Roosevelt.

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.) Washington, Feb. 25.—The last time Senator Hanna called at the White House he had a talk with President Roosevelt about the sudden uprising in the republic of Panama, and the president's part therein.

"Mr. President," said Hanna, "do not the people criticize what was done in the Panama matter?"

"Do not the people think I am a patriotic president?" asked Roosevelt in turn.

"Yes," said Hanna, "but they do not think you are a safe president."

A Chicago man closely identified with Hanna for years in politics and business, was in Washington a few weeks before Senator Hanna died, and asked him why he did not state flatly that he would not be a candidate for the presidency and favor Roosevelt.

"Because I gave my word to J. P. Morgan that I would not," Hanna replied.

"Morgan came to me and asked me if I was to be a candidate for president. I told him I would not; but not that I would not like to be president if I could, but because my health would not permit me to be."

"Do you think Mr. Roosevelt will be nominated?" Mr. Morgan asked me.

"It looks so now," I replied.

"And you will not be the candidate?"

"I cannot. I want to live. It would kill me to make the campaign."

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COLOMBIA READY FOR HOSTILITIES

(Herald Special Service.) Panama, Feb. 25.—Despite Colombia's internal disturbances, letters have just been received from there which declare the Colombians are ready to fight as soon as news arrives that the Panama treaty has been ratified.

THE NAVY WILL BE INCREASED

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.) Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—The house today, in committee of the whole, continued the naval appropriation discussion.

The house today, by a rising vote of 28 to 15, defeated Burton's motion to strike from the naval bill provision for a 15,000-ton battleship. A motion by Kitchen (N. C.) to strike out the appropriation for two first-class armored cruisers, was lost, 65 to 114.