

GOOD EVENING.

The Weather: Tonight, occasional rain; Saturday, showers; high southerly winds.

Oregon



Journal

TODAY'S News Today!

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PRICE FIVE CENTS.

CHINA STANDS READY TO CREATE A WORLD'S WAR

FIRE FIEND THREATENS TO DESTROY ROCHESTER

England Receives the Startling News That Celestials Will Abandon Promise and Fight Against Russia.

France Aroused Over News of Aid to Japan and Fear Is Openly Expressed That Russia Must Be Helped --- Activity Everywhere.

(Journal Special Service.)

London, Feb. 25.—A dispatch containing advices of the greatest importance was received at the foreign office from Peking today. Minister Lansdowne has issued orders that the contents will not be given out in detail, but so much has been secured by the press that the public is apprised of the fact that China has practically abandoned her policy of neutrality and openly intimates to the powers that her forces will be held in readiness to assist Japan, or, in more pertinent words, "to become the mikado's ally."

It has been the opinion here that China would not enter the struggle only by desultory action in Manchuria, but it is now assured that the myriads of Chinese stand ready to do battle with Russia, which power they consider "the black foreign devil of them all."

A dispatch from Paris says that the foreign office there has received very serious advices from Peking, and further intimates that France may soon be called into action. A mercenary motive as well as treaty duty compel the French government to aid Russia. This, it is said in the dispatch, may be understood when facts reveal that Russian securities are held by the French people and their commercial institutions to the vast amount of nearly \$2,000,000,000.

In view of these late dispatches excitement runs higher in this kingdom than at any time since the Boer war. England is for Japan, and the integrity of China, and the British people cannot at this time see the end of a strife which, if begun, may change the map of the world and start a new epoch in the world's history.

(Journal Special Service.)

Washington, Feb. 25.—From advices received from Peking today it is believed that the Chinese have decided to engage in the present war and take issue with Japan. No news will be given out at the state department, although it is known that constant communication is in progress with England regarding the growing seriousness of the far eastern question.

At the war department there is unusual activity, and it is known that orders have been given to recruit the army up to its full strength. The object of the Russo-Japanese war subject and alludes to the trouble on the Isthmus of Panama. This evasion is believed to be part of their instructions from the cabinet.

RUSSIANS HAD NO VICTORY.

Official Statement of Last Engagement at Port Arthur Is Made.

London, Feb. 24.—The Japanese embassy this morning issued an official statement as follows: "Early on the morning of February 24 four old vessels were escorted by Japanese torpedo boats to blockade the mouth of the harbor at Port Arthur. The object of sinking these vessels was attained. All officers and members of the crews returned in safety. Although there is no report regarding our fleet direct from Admiral Togo, no doubt can be entertained regarding its safety."

RUSSIA COMPLAINS.

Says Americans Failed to Assist Drowning Sailors.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Russia today called the attention of the state department to the alleged action of Commander Marshall of the Vicksburg, who is charged with having failed to rescue drowning Russian sailors in the engagement off Chemulpo. Secretary Hay reported the matter to the navy department and was informed of the receipt of a dispatch this afternoon from Marshall. In which he states he was the first of the foreign commanders to go to the assistance of the Russians. It is believed the animus of the Russian complaint is leveled against Marshall's refusal to take joint action with other foreign vessels in protesting against the supposed violation of international law, when Admiral Druin demanded that Russian battleships leave the harbor of Chemulpo. In this Marshall was entirely justified as he is forbidden under American naval regulations from joining representatives of other nations in such acts.

CEAR BLESSES HIS ARMY.

Issues Imperial Proclamation Through General Kuropatkin.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.—The czar issued a proclamation to the army through General Kuropatkin, who was a few days ago relieved of the war portfolio and put in chief command of all land forces. He lauds the past services of Kuropatkin and confers on him the order of Alexander Nevsky. He transmits to the army the imperial greeting and blessing.

HOLDS UP ENGLISH VESSEL.

London, Feb. 25.—A Russian torpedo boat fired a shot across the bows of the British India liner Mombassa in the Red sea Monday and then boarded and examined her papers. The vessel was bound for Calcutta.

(Hearst Special Service.)

San Francisco, Feb. 26.—Edwin H. Clough, the well-known special writer for the Hearst service, writes from Tokio of Japan's preparedness for war.

Mr. Clough's letter was received last night by mail and was written two days before actual hostilities commenced. He clearly outlines the pending situation and deals with the Russian policy of diplomatic time-wasting. The letter follows:

Tokio, Feb. 5.—Japan has been prepared for war since last October. Previous to that time the Japanese had been merely making ready. It was Minister Conger of the United States who sent the first note to Russia, informing that power that the continued occupation of Manchuria was subversive to the peace and dignity of the Orient. This message was in the form of a verbal announcement to Prince Ching that, as by the terms of the Manchurian convention, the final evacuation of Manchuria by the Russians had been fixed for October 8, 1903, it would be presumed that when that date arrived the terms of the agreement would have been fulfilled and that the ports of Mukden and Ta Tung Kau would be open to the commerce of the world under a previous treaty just concluded between the United States and China.

A Similar Treaty.

About the same time a similar treaty had been arranged between Japan and China adding the Yalu port of An Tung Heien to those named in the treaty. The ink was scarcely dry on these treat-

(Continued on Page Two.)



PRINCE LOUIS NAPOLEON WHO WILL COMMAND RUSSIAN CAVALRY. The Picture Shows the Nephew of Napoleon III, with General Wirballen at a Railroad Station in Russia. The Prince Has Long Been an Officer of the Russian Army in Manchuria.

SIBERIAN RAILWAY RUSSIA'S DEPENDENCE

Without the Trans-Siberian railroad, Russia would be practically helpless in the war with Japan. It is the mighty artery through which pour the supplies, the munitions, and the troops with which the government of the car-carrying forward the conflict. Nearly one-fourth of the earth's circumference separates the Russian capital from the seat of war, and without railway communication it would be impossible to offer any prolonged or effective resistance to the forces of Japan.

The Trans-Siberian railroad is the longest in the world. From Moscow it stretches through European Russia, over the Ural mountains, across the snow-covered plains of Siberia, and through Manchuria to the Sea of Japan. Its eastern termini are Vladivostok, Russia's chief naval base in the Orient, and Port Arthur, the principal scene of hostilities since the war began. From Moscow to Vladivostok is a distance of 5,307 miles, and nearly three weeks are consumed in the journey. Giant rivers and mighty mountain ranges are traversed by the railroad, and broad frozen lakes are crossed on ferry boats, equipped with powerful machinery to break a passage through the ice. Much of the scenery along the route is magnificent and impressive beyond description.

The Japanese have been quick to appreciate the vital importance to Russia of this line of communication. (Continued on Page Two.)

Rochester is one of the most prosperous cities in the Empire state. It is the capital of Monroe county, situated on the Genesee river, seven miles from Lake Ontario. It is an important railroad point on the four-track New York Central, and the Erie canal runs through the business section of the city. The federal census of 1900 gave Rochester the population of 163,608, but it is estimated that during the last three years and a half more than 40,000 inhabitants have been added. It is becoming one of the leading manufacturing cities in the east, and probably leads in manufacturing of ready-made clothing and boots and shoes, with two or three exceptions. Flour, beer, tobacco, carriage and furniture manufacturing and trade, has made the city prominent during the last decade. The city contains the University of Rochester, a Baptist institution founded in 1850; the Baptist Theological seminary, the Rochester observatory, and many charitable institutions. A reformatory and the Monroe penitentiary are other institutions. The place was settled in 1812 and named after Nathaniel Rochester. It was incorporated as a city in 1834. Probably no city occupies a more picturesque site, or one more favorable to growth. It is surrounded by the richest agricultural country in the state, and is in touch with commerce on the great lakes. Within its limits are the celebrated Genesee falls.

HOUSES WRECKED

Small Tornado Accompanies Hail Storm in Center Addition.

A small tornado accompanied the hail storm which began at 10:30 o'clock this morning.

Injured in the cyclone were Amos Seybold, T. H. Starbuck and Mrs. Sheen. Houses blown down are those of T. H. Starbuck, Messrs. Haleck, Edward Sheen, Schorer, E. A. Fearing, C. H. Thompson, J. E. Thomas and C. W. Davis.

The residence of the Starbuck family was picked up bodily by the force of the storm and dropped down, a mass of ruins. Mr. Starbuck was in the bath room, putting up a shelf. The wind whirled him around like a top and then slammed him to the floor, severely cutting his wrist. The roof came down, and would have crushed out his life but for a heavy iron bath tub, which kept it from touching the floor.

(Continued on Page Eleven.)

During High Gale Fierce Conflagration Rages in Business Section of City-- Aid Called From the Outside.

After Desperate Fighting Flames Are Confined to a Limit--Loss May Reach Ten Millions-- Population Becomes Frantic.

(Journal Special Service.)

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 25.—At 5 o'clock the people of this city were awakened by a series of general fire alarms sent in from a point in the center of the business district.

At the time a high gale was blowing from Lake Ontario, seven miles distant, and grave fear was experienced by the hurried risers who grasped the situation.

Within half an hour 10,000 excited people had gathered at Main and St. Paul streets, a block from where the flames were seen roaring 100 feet in the air above the great building occupied by the Rochester Dry Goods company.

Every available fire apparatus in the city had arrived on the scene and after battling to stop the progress of the flames for nearly an hour it became apparent to the fire chief and his assistants that the entire city was in danger of destruction unless additional aid was given.

The wind, which had been high during the night, seemed to increase in vigor as the fire spread.

Spread Rapidly.

Ten minutes after the alarm sounded the six-story building of the dry goods house was in a mass of flames and in less than half an hour the rear wall fell and the flames spread into the seven-story drop-top building of the Sibley-Carr company.

After two hours' fighting, the fire chief said he was powerless to stop the flames, which by that time were encroaching on the wholesale district. It was then that Buffalo and Syracuse were appealed to for special aid. Given by the railway companies, which started from the cities named, carrying extra fire apparatus.

At 7:20 a series of explosions followed by the breaking out of flames in the 12-story building at the corner of St. Paul and Main streets, within half an hour were belching through the roof.

Intense Excitement.

At 8:15 o'clock the Buffalo and Syracuse fire companies arrived. It seemed at this time as though the fire would cross Main street east and the windows of the store across that thoroughfare began to burst out under the terrific heat.

The entire police force were holding the immense crowds in check and employees of threatened buildings were allowed to assist in removing goods. The streets were piled high with merchandise. The merchants at this time were panic-stricken, fearing another Baltimore terror. In the Sibley-Carr company alone 1,500 employees, and as many more in others, were hustling out goods. They had but small success, as in the actual fire district the salvage was small. The fire wall of the Sibley wholesale building temporarily stopped the spread of the flames north.

The inhabitants of several houses on Mortimer street were removed from their homes by the police. Shortly afterward the Sibley wall fell, crushing these same houses. The west wall dropped into St. Paul street and this was followed by the explosion of the boilers.

The excitement at this time was terrific.

The explosions threw the fire into the granite building whose 12 stories were soon ablaze through the shaft. It had been regarded absolutely fireproof and was the finest office building in the city. The heat was so great that the front and rear walls bulged and became dangerous. Shortly after 9 o'clock the front wall of the five-story marble building adjoining fell outward into Main street, compelling the firemen to abandon all fight in that direction.

Several companies of firemen mounted the roof of the six-story Burk-Fitzsimmons department store and began throwing streams, but their position was so unsafe that they were ordered away. Several firemen were carried from the roof, having been overcome with the awful heat. Three were burned but not fatally.

Big Main Burns.

The Syracuse relief consisted of two engines and two hose companies and the same from Buffalo. More were ordered and will arrive. All streams were concentrated on the granite building and its surroundings.

Shortly after 10 o'clock the big 36-inch main burst, thus materially diminishing pressure. The burned district includes that portion from a point on Main street east of Midway between Clinton avenue and St. Paul street to St. Paul street; thence north to Division street; thence half way to Mortimer street. The fire wall of the Cox building marked the line of flames on the north side. Up Division street the burned district extends half a block. The total burned area is at this time about four acres. The fire is now confined within this section, but there will probably be little relief for firemen until tomorrow.

The wind is still high and biting cold and there is fear that the flames may yet get beyond control.

The only accident so far known is that of Assistant Chief Jaynes, who fell from a window and is probably fatally injured.

The loss at this time is estimated at nearly \$10,000,000. This includes buildings and expensive contents. Insurance on all will probably reach \$4,500,000.

At 1 o'clock this afternoon the flames were smouldering, but the danger is believed to be over. Later estimates make the loss about \$7,000,000.

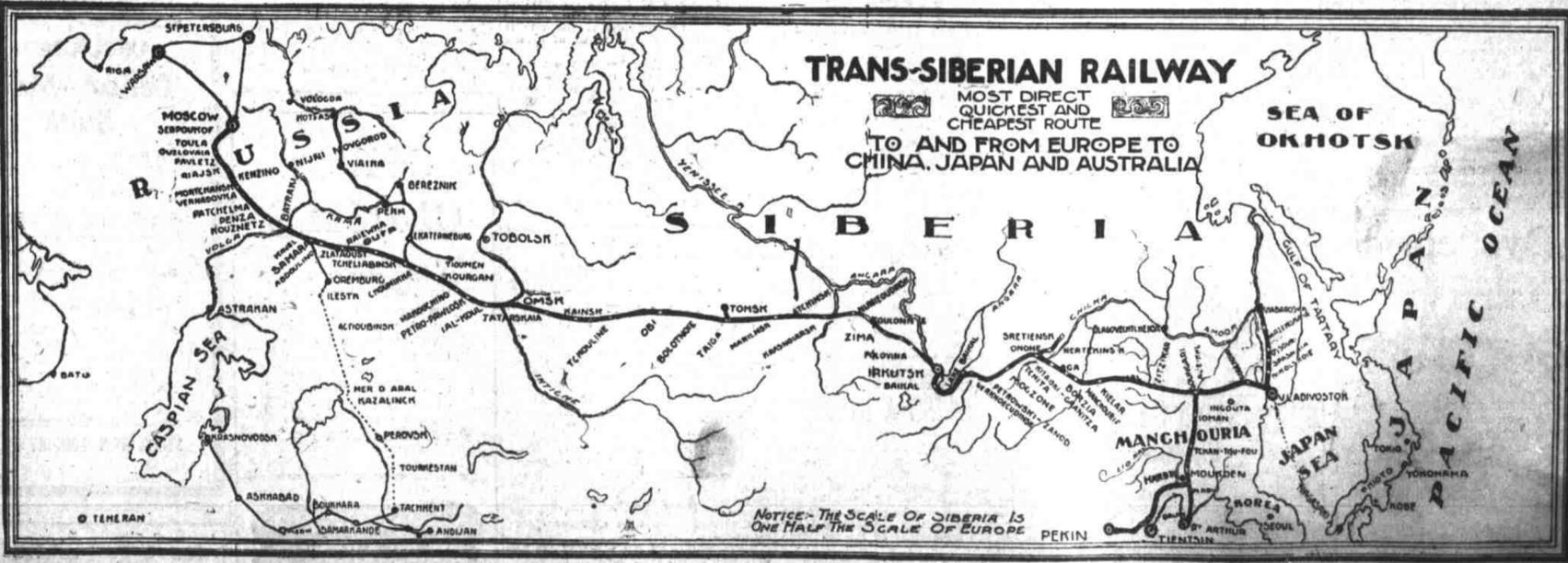
NINETEEN BUILDINGS BURN.

(Journal Special Service.) Scranton, Pa., Feb. 26.—Fire this morning destroyed 19 buildings in the business section of Nicholson, a town 20 miles from here. The loss is \$75,000.

BIG DAMAGE SUIT.

(Journal Special Service.) Washington, Feb. 26.—Captain George Broome of a Porto Rican regiment, today entered suit for \$250,000 damages against Mr. and Mrs. James Barbour, stepfather and mother of his wife, for alienating his wife's affections.

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY, OVER WHICH RUSSIA IS HURRYING HER HORDES OF SOLDIERS TO THE FRONT.



By courtesy of A. D. Charlton, assistant general passenger agent of the Northern Pacific railroad.