

The Weather: Tonight, fair with frost; Friday, increasing cloudiness, warmer; variable winds, becoming southerly.



THE CIRCULATION OF THE JOURNAL YESTERDAY WAS 14,700

VOL. III. NO. 20.

PORTLAND, OREGON, THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 31, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

IS ALMOST DESERTED

Russian Stronghold Waits Attack With Grim Patience.

RIGID RULES PREVAIL

Shops Kept Open During Bombardments--Sentries Ordered to Shoot the Overly Curious--Press Again Attacks America.

(Journal Special Service.) St. Petersburg, March 31.—The Novosti today graphically describes Port Arthur as a place markedly changed. Trains from the city are filled with fugitives. The members of the military forces are almost the only persons left in Port Arthur, which resembles a city of the dead.

General Stoessel has ordered all shops to remain open during all bombardments.

The newspaper Rus continues its praise of England and attack on America, taking the statement of a witness of the Chemulpo battle as its text. The British captain threatened to fire if the Japanese pursued the sinking Russian vessels for the purpose of destroying them in the inner harbor, according to the statement published in the Rus, which adds: "The American ship Vicksburg alone refused to act the part of humanity, an act which was due to American moral soundness, and can not be overlooked."

General Stoessel has ordered sentries to shoot and kill all unauthorized persons approaching the fortifications and batteries at Port Arthur.

Admiral Makarov in reply to congratulations by the commander of the Black sea fleet states that Lieutenant Krinitski, the commander of the torpedo-boat destroyer Stirlis is the real hero to be honored in repelling the last Japanese attack.

The ice-breaker Ermack has arrived at Cronstadt, where she will immediately open a channel.

JAPANESE WERE BRAVE.

Admiral Togo Gives Details of Valiant Commander Hirose's Death.

(Hearst Special Service.) Tokio, March 31.—In addition to the information given yesterday, Vice-Admiral Togo's report of the Port Arthur campaign last Sunday gives some interesting details of the heroism of the Japanese seamen who volunteered to man the stone-laden steamers which were intended to block the channel. Commander Hirose and his boat-crew, Sugino, who were killed, displayed remarkable courage. Boatswain Sugino was just going down to light the magazine on the Fukui Maru when the ship was struck by the enemy's torpedo, which killed him.

THEIR WAY AWAY.

Russians at Chong Ju Abandoned Everything—General Mischenka Escaped.

(Journal Special Service.) London, March 31.—The Central News Rome correspondent telegraphs that Seoul advices state that General Mischenka, the Russian commander in the Chong Ju fight, narrowly escaped capture by the Japanese. The Russians left many sabres and rifles behind in their flight, together with commissary supplies that were sadly needed by the Japanese troops participating in the attack.

SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC INCREASES.

Thirty Per Cent of Population in Village Near Irkutsk Now Suffering.

(Journal Special Service.) London, March 31.—The Eastern Gazette reports an increase of the smallpox epidemic in the province of Irkutsk. Thirty per cent of the population in the town of Matshae is infected. The increase of the plague is attributed not so much to the lack of isolation stations as to the objections of the people to vaccination.

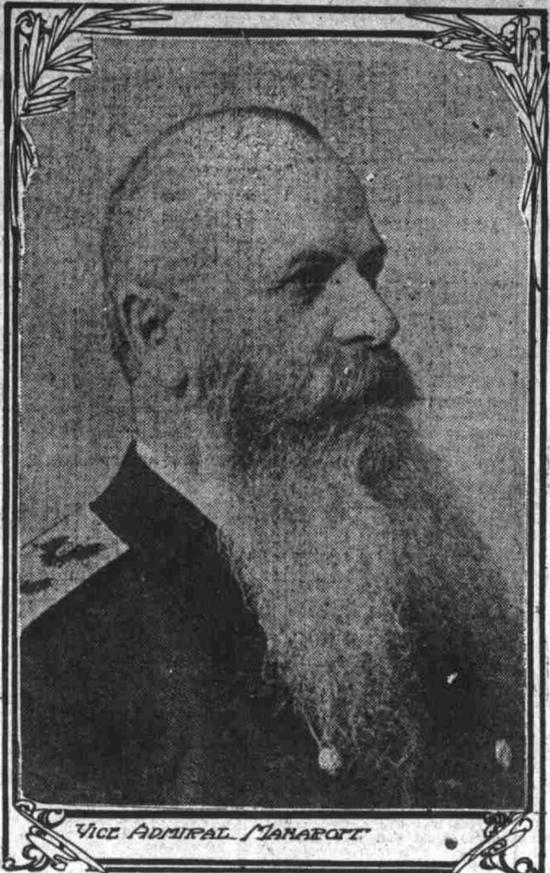
All attempts of the authorities to induce the lower classes to submit to vaccination are frustrated, and cases have been discovered where persons suffering from the disease have been secreted in their homes by other members of the family until all were attacked by the contagion.

PRISONERS DON'T ACCEPT.

Car's Offer of Pardon Has as Yet Found No Takers.

(Journal Special Service.) Berlin, March 31.—The Voessische Zeitung reports that the offer of the czar to pardon any political prisoner

(Continued on Page Two.)



VICE ADMIRAL MAKAROV

GIRLS KILLED IN AWFUL EXPLOSION

Powder Works and Squib Factory Blown Up and Mangled Dead Are Taken From the Ruins.

(Journal Special Service.)

Scranton, Pa., March 31.—Five girls and one boy lost their lives in a horrible manner this morning in an explosion which occurred at the Dixon squib factory and powder mills at Pricburg, a small town four miles distant from this city. Five other girls were badly injured, all of whom may die.

At 11 o'clock this morning a slight explosion was heard in the wrapping room where 10 girls were working. No excitement followed as it was soon ascertained that a small pan of powder had ignited, evidently from a spark blown in through a partially opened window, and which came from the engine-room smoke stack a hundred yards away.

All hands resumed work and had been so engaged for 10 minutes when a terrific explosion occurred which was heard and felt in this city and for miles around.

Hundreds of conjectures were made as to the source of the explosion, and by many to be the scene of the accident, but as telegraph and telephone communication had been ruined by the concussion, nothing for certain could be told.

Soon, however, a car of the Scranton Electric line, which connects with Pricburg, came into the city bearing four wounded young women accompanied by a physician.

A fearful story was told and a score or more of city physicians at once left for the scene.

Hundreds of persons crowded the cars which were leaving, and before noon 1,000 people had gathered about the ruined works.

The scene described is an awful one. Rescuers were at work within an incredibly short time, under the direction of Scranton police, who were despatched in patrol wagons.

Five dead young women and a boy were taken from the smoldering pile of wreckage, and five other girls were rescued from the ruins which were being consumed by fire.

Cause Not Known. Investigation at this time has not proved the exact cause of the last explosion, although it is known that the powder magazine, in which was an immense quantity of high explosives stored, is blown from the face of the earth. The powder works and the squib factory are piles of burning debris.

The girls who were killed were employed in the squib factory and in the main building. An annex to this factory was toppled over, but no one was killed in that wreck.

The body of one girl, fearfully mangled, was picked up two blocks from the scene.

When it is said that dead bodies have been recovered it is meant the parts of them. Some are minus limbs, some hands, others feet, and one lacerated corpse was almost headless.

A man who gave his name as Angus and who was employed at the powder mills as night watchman, was interviewed by press representatives this afternoon, and he told a graphic story of the catastrophe as follows: "I left the works at 7 o'clock this morning about the time many of the girls were assembling for work. Everything was in ship-shape order as usual. I had gone to my home, 600 yards from the mill, and was fast asleep when I was awakened by an awful explosion. I realized at once what had happened. "I ran outside and looking in the direction of the mill, saw nothing but a huge cloud of dust and smoke. Pieces

of the wreckage were strewn about, and my woodshed was wrecked and two chimneys to my house were gone.

"Shrieks and screams at this time filled the air, and waiting no longer I started for the scene of destruction.

When about two blocks from the squib factory I came upon the body of a young woman whose clothing had been completely torn from what remained of her body. I was terrified to see that the dead woman was minus part of her head and one arm.

"By this time I was filled with horror, but gained the place of the catastrophe. Three men were there before me and had begun to search among the wreck. I then thought to call into Scranton for assistance, but ascertained that the telegraph and telephone wires were blown down.

"I ran to the terminus of the Scranton Electric company's line and found a car there, but no one in it. The conductor and the motorman were two of the men who were at the mills when I arrived there.

"I returned and by this time others had arrived and were trying to get the injured from among the wreckage. Three of the injured were lying on the ground when I got back to the mills and as two of them lived in Scranton and were seriously hurt, we determined to take them to the city hospital. At this time a local doctor arrived and examined those found injured and directed that two be at once taken to the city hospital if their lives would be saved.

Both were unconscious and with improvised litters we carried them to the car and the physician accompanied them to Scranton.

"Before the police and firemen arrived from the city we thought we had rescued all the injured. The police took charge of the situation when they came on the scene, and soon two other girls with broken limbs were taken from under timbers of the squib factory. One was badly burned."

TO FIGHT DAVE HILL

New York Democrats Desert Machine and Favor Hearst.

PARKER ALSO UNDER BAN

Indications Point to Liveliest State Convention Held in Recent Years—Bitter Antagonism Felt in Local Issues.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

New York, March 31.—The Democratic primaries and conventions which are now being held throughout the state of New York show that every county where the Democratic vote is strongest the can-cuses and conventions are against Hill. Where the Republican vote is heaviest the primaries are usually in favor of Hill, owing to the apathy of Democrats residing in those districts.

The Democrats outside of New York city have declared against the Hill machine. Forty counties have held their primaries and conventions so far in the state. Of the total of 655,388 votes cast the counties carried by Hill up to date show a total of 211,339 votes cast in the last state election, it being less than one-third of the total Democratic vote. These figures are remarkably significant as showing the weakness of Hill among the Democratic voters.

Most bitter antagonism has been shown against the machine by the Democrats throughout the country districts and many Democrats who have formerly been favorable to Parker have swung around in favor of Hearst through antagonism to Hill.

The fight has now resolved itself into a bitter fight against Hill and his protegee, Judge Parker. Many of the conventions held were "snap" conventions and all sorts of trickery were resorted to by the machine politicians to attain their point. In Cobleskill a convention was held presided over by one of Hill's lieutenants, where the votes were counted as they entered the voting place. When the chairman found that he had a sufficient number of votes, as he thought, to carry the primaries he declared that the polls were closed with their way up. Hill barely carried this primary with a majority of two.

In Niagara county the feeling is very bitter, Hill having won in one district by a margin of three votes, and a bitter contest will be made in the county convention for recognition of the opposing delegation. There are numerous contests in other parts of the state, and the indications are that the state convention will be the liveliest and most bitter held in years.

MINIATURE BATTLE FOUGHT IN BALKANS

(Journal Special Service.)

Vienna, March 31.—Fierce fighting is reported near the village of Kostur, in the Monastir district. Twelve Greeks and 20 Bulgarians were killed.

The report of deaths, while undoubtedly authentic, contains no detail of the clash other than to state that the Bulgarians were surprised by the Greeks and that the conflict terminated by the withdrawal of both sides.

PURSER CARDOZA IS CHARGED WITH THEFT

(Journal Special Service.)

San Francisco, March 31.—A warrant was issued this morning for the arrest of James Cardoza, who is charged with embezzlement. Cardoza was purser of the steamer State of California of the Pacific Coast Steamship company. It is claimed he stole \$5,000 worth of tickets and pocketed the proceeds.



GENERAL PITTOFATHIN

PAY FIVE CENTS OR SWIM THE RIVER

In Two Weeks Morrison Street Bridge Will Be Closed for Eight Months to All But Street Car Traffic.

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.)

Washington, D. C., March 31.—Senator Fulton and Representative Williamson had a lengthy conference with Secretary Hitchcock and Commissioner Richards today and urged the department to expedite its action regarding the timber and stone entries in Oregon. The officials gave their petitioners the assurance that the utmost haste, consistent with good administration, would be followed in dealing with all entries. A large force of special agents will be employed and meritorious claims will be accepted without any delay.

The Morrison bridge will be closed to teams and pedestrian traffic in about two weeks, to remain closed perhaps for eight months. The streetcar service will continue and if stopped will be so only for five or six days, according to Manager F. M. Butler, of the Pacific Construction company. President Swigert, of the City & Suburban Railway company, says 5-cent fares will be charged, and Mayor Williams says the city has done toward cheap transportation all it can do for the public wishing to cross the bridge.

So much complaint was made over the recent proposition made by the executive board and accepted by the City & Suburban company to charge 2-cent fares merely for crossing the bridge by trolley that it was rejected. Both Mayor Williams and President Swigert of the company, feel hurt because of the rejection of the plan.

"The executive board made the 2-cent fare proposition to the City & Suburban Railway company because its members desired to benefit the portion of the public wishing to cross the bridge," said Mayor Williams. "But when it became known that the plan was, on foot the people made such a protest that we rejected it. Now, as far as the city is concerned, the people can take care of themselves. They howled at a 2-cent fare, but the company had the right, and still has it, to charge 5 cents. It will probably do so. The city cannot prevent it."

"The executive board made the proposal to us to reduce fares and we acceded to it," said President Swigert, of the City & Suburban company. "Then we were accused of entering into a graft scheme with the city officials, and, of course, we dropped the plan. I do not know what, if anything, will be charged by this company, but I feel pretty sure that a 5-cent fare will be charged."

"The bridge will be closed about eight months to teams and pedestrians," said Manager Butler. "It is our intention to keep it open all the time to streetcars. We have 30 days' time for that if we need it, but I hardly think it will become necessary to stop the cars for more than five or six days at a time."

WILL BE NO DELAY FOR OREGON ENTRIES

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.)

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ANARCHY IN BERLIN HAS SOUGHT COVER

(Journal Special Service.)

Berlin, March 31.—The Anarchistic diehard yesterday had left a marked impression on the people of this city, although to all outward appearances perfect quiet prevails today. The authorities are through masters of the situation.

The damage done railroad property at the Lehrter station by the rabble, by tearing down signal boxes and tipping up tracks, is considerable, but the vigorous action of the military and the police had the wholesome effect of scattering the mob, which afterwards assembled at the point far up the line from the depot. They were unable to summon reinforcements and the crowd gradually dispersed.

More than 40 persons have been arrested for participating in the riots, and the police have been instructed to break up all anarchistic gatherings in the city.

ANARCHISTS PLOT TO ASSASSINATE KAISER

(Journal Special Service.)

Rome, March 31.—The newspaper Berico states that the police are searching for an alleged anarchist named Pretti, who it is suspected contrived a plot against the Kaiser.

It is said that letters from Pretti discovered on the person of a prisoner, through which the plot was partially made known, indicate that some of the most dangerous anarchists of Europe were involved in the plan for assassination. All government detective agencies of Europe have been bulletined to aid in the capture of Pretti and his confederates.

THE REGIMENTS IN HALIFAX

(Journal Special Service.)

Halifax, March 31.—The military authorities are expecting 10 regiments of the line next month to be stationed in Canada in the event of certain developments in the far east, which have not been given out. It is said that while no trouble is anticipated, the stationing of troops in this vicinity is done as a

BOTKIN IS A MYSTERY

Accused Poisoner Asks to Be Tried by the Same Jury.

A SENSATION IN COURT

Court Has No Recourse But Must Continue the Trial Despite Charges That Jury Is Fixed.

(Journal Special Service.)

San Francisco, March 31.—Most sensational is the Cordelia Botkin case today. In fact, since yesterday when it was discovered that four of the jurors had been bribed, or alleged to have been bribed, and that the fifth one had been gagged and that the great and renewed interest has been manifested in this remarkable case.

Today the greatest surprise came when Mrs. Botkin, who is accused of having killed two inoffensive women by sending across the continent a box of poisoned candy, arose in the crowded courtroom and demanded that she receive her verdict from the present jury, despite the fact of the almost sure attempt to fix that jury.

Ignores Her Attorney.

Mrs. Botkin ignored the advice of her attorney and insisted that the present jury be allowed to proceed with the trial.

When court convened this morning not a foot of standing room was to be obtained and the corridors without were jammed with the curious and interested. Judge Carroll Cook, who presided in the case, was told by Attorney Knight, Mrs. Botkin's counsel, that his client refused to be bound by the motion made yesterday that the jury be discharged. Accordingly the counsel withdrew the motion and asked the prisoner if she had anything to say.

Mrs. Botkin immediately arose and in a well-modulated voice said: "Your honor, in direct opposition to the advice of my attorney, I demand a verdict from this jury."

Judge Cook declared that there was nothing else to do but to go on with the trial, and the jury was brought into the room.

The Speculation.

There is much speculation among lawyers and laymen concerning the ultimate consequences of the woman's act. Some are of the opinion that it is a play on the part of Knight and his client, as they both know that the present jury is "fixed."

Others say that Mrs. Botkin is the only one beside the actual fixers who knows all the facts, and that she counts on a disagreement being much more willing to take such a termination of the trial than to submit her chances to another jury, the members of which would surely know the evil intent the woman had with the former jury.

It is generally believed here that the present jury is fixed sure enough, which goes further to prove to the nine-tenths of the people who have no sympathy with the Botkin woman that she is guilty of murder in the first degree.

DOMINION WANTS TO HOLD YUKON TRADE

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Victoria, B. C., March 31.—The customs department has received instructions from the dominion government that it has rescinded the order in council prohibiting the carriage of goods in American bottoms from Canadian ports destined for the Yukon by way of St. Michael.

An enforcement of the order against Canadian goods being carried by American bottoms of the way of the St. Michael route would have cut off perhaps \$2,000,000 worth of Canadian goods now carried by United States companies. It would also have left the White Pass & Yukon Railway company without a rival to the Yukon river route in carrying Canadian goods, and would have left the interior Canadians at the mercy of the White Pass route.

HERMANN REPORTED TO BE IN CONTROL

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Salem, Or., March 31.—The Republican county convention organized this morning by electing Hon. J. J. Murphy chairman, and C. A. Murphy secretary. The committees on organization, order of business, apportionment and resolutions are controlled absolutely by the Hermann people. It will be late this afternoon before candidates are nominated.

BRYAN PRACTICALLY LOSES HIS CONTEST

(Journal Special Service.)

New Haven, Conn., March 31.—William Jennings Bryan practically lost his case when, in the contest for the nomination of a sealed letter to the Connecticut will controversy, the Honorable Judge Gager decided that, according to the Connecticut law, the letter should be admitted, as it is not described with sufficient certainty in the will and that an extraneous paper cannot be admitted in the construing of the will.



THE RUSSIAN FORT WHICH THE JAPANESE SIEGED