

FERNIE WIPED OUT

ENTIRE BUSINESS PORTION IS DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Water Supply Inadequate and Flames Burn Themselves Out—Loss Will Reach Nearly One Million Dollars—Heavy Insurance Is Generally Carried on Buildings and Stocks.

Vancouver, B. C., May 2.—Ferne, B. C., the principal coal mining town in the Crow's Nest Pass district, was practically wiped out, so far as its business interests are concerned by fire at an early hour this morning. The entire business district of the town, fronting on the Canadian Pacific railway tracks, was destroyed.

The water supply was inadequate and soon gave out. The distressed inhabitants, after heroically struggling to subdue the flames, worked frantically to save what they could from the stores in the path of the conflagration.

The work of salvage accomplished, there was nothing for the people to do but look on while the fire ate itself out, although efforts were made by the volunteer fire brigade which resulted in finally extinguishing the flames when they had died down sufficiently to be handled by the fire fighting apparatus at hand.

The loss is this afternoon estimated at \$900,000. How much of that amount will fall as a loss is not yet known, but it is asserted that the merchants were fairly well insured, and that as a consequence the insurance companies will lose heavily.

Ferne is a town of 3,500 to 4,000 inhabitants, the population being to a large extent composed of coal miners and those dependent upon that industry.

The head offices of the Crow's Nest Pass coal company are located at Ferne, and the company is a heavy loser.

FIGHT FOR FAIR GOLD ENDS.

Heirs of the Widow Will Receive in the Neighborhood of \$775,000.

New York, May 2.—It has just been learned that the terms of final settlement between the Fair estate and the heirs of Mrs. Charles L. Fair will entail a total payment to the Nelsons, of New Jersey, representing Mrs. Fair, of nearly \$775,000 exclusive of personal property estimated to be worth \$50,000 or \$60,000.

It is understood that the Nelsons have accepted \$250,000 in cash as a compromise for their claims and that the battle for the Fair millions is ended. Besides this sum, they eventually will receive approximately \$100,000 additional. As they received \$425,000 on September 19, their total inheritance will amount to nearly \$775,000.

According to the same authority, the James G. Fair millions will be distributed together with the Charles Fair estate in San Francisco within two weeks. Mrs. Oelrichs will leave for San Francisco this week to join her sister, Mrs. W. K. Vandebilt, Jr., who with her husband has already proceeded to the Pacific coast. By the terms of the settlement, it is said, Mrs. Vandebilt and Mrs. Oelrichs will receive \$2,000,000 each from the estate of their brother. They will at the same time receive some \$8,000,000 as their portion of the James G. Fair estate, which would have gone to their brother, Charles, who was killed together with his wife automobiling in France.

INDIAN LANDS WILL BE SOLD.

Roosevelt Signs Bill for Disposal of Grand Ronde Tracts.

Washington, May 2.—One of the last bills signed by President Roosevelt was that authorizing the sale of 25,791 acres of unallotted lands on the Grand Ronde Indian reservation. Under the terms of the bill these lands will be advertised within 30 days and sealed bids therefor will be received by the secretary of the interior. No bids will be accepted, however, until the "total amount of all bids received shall equal or exceed \$28,500," which sum is to be paid to the Grand Ronde Indians on a pro rata basis.

Russians Moving on Wonsan.

Paris, May 2.—The Temps' correspondent at St. Petersburg telegraphs as follows: A Russian column is about 20 miles from Wonsan, where the Japanese garrison has fortified itself. The Vladivostok fleet supports the movement of the Russians. Some skirmishes have occurred on the right bank of the Yalu, resulting favorably to the Russians. Thus far only the advance guard of the Japanese has crossed the river, but the passage of the entire Japanese army is imminent.

Convicts Try to Get Out.

Phoenix, Ariz., May 2.—News from Yuma reached here tonight that an attempted prison break occurred at the territorial prison at that place. Superintendent Wilson Griffith was saved from death by a life term. Assistant Superintendent Wilder was stabbed and badly beaten. Five convicts were stabbed and shot, one fatally, but none escaped. The revolt was led by William M. Lastannan, leader of the labor riots at Morenci last year.

Severe Weather Delays Advance.

Liao Yang, May 2.—The delay of the forward movement of the Japanese into Manchuria is due to the exceptionally severe weather. It is rumored that there is considerable suffering among the Japanese troops, due to the intense cold and illness.

SHIPPING BILL PASSES.

House Disposes of This and Many Other Important Measures

Washington, April 28.—When the house met at 10 o'clock this morning only a few members were present. Included among the number were Dalzell and Cockran, each of whom was in his seat.

Hemenway (Ind.) called up the conference report on the general deficiency bill. The report was unanimously adopted, and the house then proceeded to the consideration of the conference report on the sundry civil appropriation bill. On a yeas and nays vote, the report was adopted, 138 to 129.

Overstreet (Ind.) called up the conference report on the postoffice appropriation bill and explained it was a complete agreement of the conferees. The report, said Moon (Tenn.), the ranking minority member of the postoffice committee, was in the spirit of compromise. He declared, however, that the appropriation of \$45,000 to the Oceanic Steamship company for carrying the mail to Tahiti was a pure gift, because of the fact that it cost the government \$6.50 for every pound of mail carried to that island. The resolution was adopted.

The house then resumed consideration of the bill requiring the employment of vessels of the United States for the transportation of supplies for the army and navy.

It was 6:15, and the house adjourned until 9 o'clock tonight.

When the house reconvened, Burton (O.) presented the conference report on the emergency river and harbor bill. It was adopted without debate. The shipping bill was again taken up, and Lucking (Mich.) offered two amendments to the bill, one providing that no greater charge shall be made by vessels referred to in the bill for the transportation of supplies of the army and navy than are made by such vessels for like goods of private parties or companies, and the other restricting the transportation to ships manned by American sailors as against those manned by Mongolians. The amendments of Lucking were disagreed to, and a test vote showing a majority for the bill, the Democrats forced a roll-call on the adoption of the previous question.

The previous question was ordered by a strict party vote and the house passed the shipping bill 123 to 98.

WILL EXAMINE ALASKA FORESTS.
Expert is to Ascertain Whether Reserve Should Be Created.

Washington, April 30.—W. A. Langville, an expert in the bureau of forestry left for Alaska today, where he will remain throughout the summer examining lands to determine the advisability of creating additional forest reserves. About two years ago a forest reserve was created to embody most of the islands of the Alexander archipelago. It has since been reported to the government that other islands in the group and part of the mainland should be added to this reserve.

Langville's early work will be confined to this region, and on his report the department will determine whether the Alexander forest reserve shall be enlarged. Later in the season he will proceed to Norton sound, where, on August 5, last, the secretary of the interior temporarily withdrew about 6,000 square miles, with a view to creating a permanent reserve. The government has now no definite or reliable information as to this tract, and is undecided as to how much is suitable for forestry purposes. Langville does not expect to return to Washington until December.

Frowns on Utah Woman.

Salt Lake City, April 29.—Mrs. Mary G. Coulter, of Ogden, a prominent Utah clubwoman, and a Gentle, will not be allowed to make an address at the biennial convention of the National Federation of Women's clubs in St. Louis May 17 next, because she voted for Smoot while a member of the last legislature. Mrs. Anna D. Nash, of Boston, chairman of the domestic science department of the federation, the subject on which it is asserted Mrs. Coulter was to speak, says repeated requests have been made by Mrs. Coulter's friends, asking that she be invited to make an address, but on account of the general opposition of club members of Utah, based on Mrs. Coulter's support of Smoot, the request has been refused.

To War! Off Money Flurry.

Paris, April 30.—Some of the most important details of the payment of \$40,000,000 to the Panama Canal company for the canal concession are still open. This is due to the desire to effect the payment without causing a disturbance of the French market. Some of the leading financial institutions, report that the sudden dumping of \$40,000,000 on the French market may cause a disturbance. Therefore, it has been considered advisable to make the payment so far as possible by trade bank balances.

Russia Proposes to Be Consulted.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—It was learned today that Russia proposes to be considered in connection with the disposition of Egyptian funds, despite France's withdrawal of her objection to their use by Great Britain, in connection with the Anglo-French agreement. The attitude of Russia is based on the fact that she is one of the six powers which originally guaranteed to make good the deficit in the Egyptian administration.

Commander of Black Sea Fleet.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—Rear Admiral Korsakoff, the governor of Archangel, has been appointed commander of the Black Sea fleet.

LOSS BY JAPANESE

ATTACK FORT ON THE YALU BUT CANNOT TAKE IT.

Russian Fire Also Proves Too Heavy for Gunboats Which Went to Support of Troops—Submarine Boat Reported to Have Sunk Transport and That 600 Men Went Down.

Lao Yang, April 29.—The Japanese troops, which crossed the Yalu north of Euitjion (Tchangdjiou) charged during the night of April 26-27 the Russian position near Liavena, a village on the Manchurian bank of the Yalu. They were repulsed, but their loss is not known.

Two gunboats steamed up the river to the support of the Japanese, when a Russian field battery opened fire upon them, resulting in a battle which lasted for 20 minutes. The Russian fire was too hot, and the gunboats were forced to steam out of range.

Japanese Transport Sunk.

Paris, April 29.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Journal reports that a Russian submarine boat sunk a Japanese transport which was conveying 600 men to Corea, and that all the troops were lost.

ADVANCES MONEY FOR CANAL.

French Syndicate Desires to Expedite Panama Deal.

Washington, April 29.—Attorney General Knox today received cablegrams from Messrs. Day and Russell, who went to Paris as his representatives to conduct the negotiations for the Panama canal property, to the effect that the deeds of the property and all other papers and effects, which will belong to the United States under the transfer, have already been turned over to them, and that the purchase price of \$40,000,000 has been advanced to the canal company by a Paris syndicate of bankers. This syndicate, it is understood, offers to pay over the money with a view to expediting the consummation of the sale on the assurance of the Attorney General that the draft of the syndicate on the United States for the \$40,000,000 will be honored on presentation at the treasury at Washington.

At the time the money was paid over to the canal company in Paris, Major Markbrooke, of the engineer corps of the army, now in Colon, was authorized formally to receive the papers on the isthmus in the name of the United States. Whether this transfer has actually been made by the republic of Panama, the department of justice has not been advised, but it is assumed it will be made within a day or two. Messrs. Day and Russell are expected to return to Washington within the next ten days.

MAY MOBILIZE FOURTH ARMY.

Japan Evidently Means to Move on Vladivostok and Port Arthur.

London, April 29.—It is announced from Shanghai this morning that the third Japanese army, now mobilizing, will comprise the fifth division from Hiroshima, the tenth from Hsinjeu, and the eleventh from Zentsu. Preparations are on foot to mobilize a fourth army should it become necessary.

The destination of these armies is a matter of considerable speculation here, though it is supposed that it may be the intention to use them against Vladivostok or Port Arthur.

No further light has been thrown upon the operations on the Yalu and in the absence of official dispatches little attention is paid to Russian reports of Japanese reverses which, it is believed, are spread with the motive of influencing the European money markets in favor of Russian financial operations. No definite news has been received regarding the whereabouts of the Vladivostok squadron, but the indications are that it has regained the harbor.

Will Regard It Unfriendly.

Vienna, April 29.—In response to the request of the Associated Press for a statement of the Hungarian government's position in regard to the new emigration laws, Premier Tiza telegraphed today from Budapest as follows: "I can only say that there seems to be a total misconception of the attitude of the Hungarian government concerning emigration. Our aim is to prevent it as much as possible, and to get action of agents of shipping concerns under our control."

Kuropatkin Ahead of Them.

Chicago, April 29.—A report to the Daily News from Niu Chwang says: "If official Russian advices from Mukden can be relied on, General Kuropatkin's deployment is so far advanced that it covers the very lines the Japanese propose to occupy. Should the Japanese succeed in driving the Russians north, the Muscovite line of defense will extend from Niu Chwang to Liao Yang and from Liao Yang to the Yalu river."

Russians Harass Chinese Villages.

London, April 29.—The Tientsin correspondent of the Standard sends a report that 40,000 Russians are harassing the Chinese villages west of the Shuang Tai Su river, midway between Chin Chau and Yinkow.

CHINA DESIRES TO BE NEUTRAL.

Diplomat Says Only Danger Lies in Priests Stirring Up a Revolt.

Paris, April 28.—Mr. Ou, first secretary of the Chinese legation here, in an interview on the danger of China being drawn into the Russian-Japanese war, said General Ma was not a very important personage, and had never been commander in chief. He is in command of the regular troops in the province of Pechili under the viceroy of Tien Tsin, who would incur the death penalty, if he acted without the direct orders of the Peking government, which, the secretary said, was determined to maintain neutrality. Moreover, General Ma had not over 15,000 troops, which there was no reason to suppose were ill disposed toward Russia.

Asked point blank whether he did not foresee danger of complication, the secretary admitted the Chinese people were favorably disposed toward the Japanese, and in this fact there might be a possible source of trouble. If the Buddhist priests and the secret societies stirred up a revolt, and the rebels attacked the Russians, the latter might consider the imperial government responsible.

"If we should be treated as belligerents," said the secretary, "we should be obliged to defend ourselves. That would be the only event in which we would make common cause with Japan."

SUBMARINE BOATS IN ACTION.

Russia Hears From Vessels Sent in Sections to Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, April 28.—A dispatch from Port Arthur says:

"Experiments with submarine boats here have been attended with brilliant success.

"All is quiet in the region of the fortress."

The entrance into service of four submarine boats at Port Arthur means the addition of a new and formidable weapon for the defense of the stronghold. The dispatch of the boats in sections over the railroad have been shrouded in secrecy, and even today many in St. Petersburg are inclined to doubt the report by officials of their presence at Port Arthur, or to accept the information as trustworthy.

An effort now to close or blockade Port Arthur will be too dangerous, it is thought, for Vice Admiral Togo to attempt. The defenders of the port will be able to guard against Japanese submarine vessels entering the harbor and attacking the Russian ships at anchor.

TO CUT OFF RUSSIAN SQUADRON.

Japanese Ships Pass Kobe, Undoubtedly Making for Gensan.

Chicago, April 28.—A special cable to the Daily News from Kobe says:

"Under full steam a strong squadron of Japanese armored cruisers were observed this morning, making their way northward in the Japanese sea. It is believed that the vessels are on their way to attempt to cut off the Russian squadron that appeared off Gensan, on the east coast of Corea yesterday. It is feared, however, that, as the czar's cruisers are superior in speed to those of the mikado, they may escape in safety to the shelter of Vladivostok.

"It is also stated that the Japanese have succeeded in luring the Russians from the protection of the Vladivostok guns, and that there is another Japanese squadron between them and their retreat, but these are mere rumors."

Amending the Patent Laws.

Washington, April 28.—Favorable reports were authorized today by the house committee on patents on the Mann bill amending the patent laws by authorizing the issuance of patents on the formulae of proprietary remedies instead of on the manufactured article, and the lawney bill requiring affidavits to be filed with copyright applications stating the place where the type for the publication was set. No copyright is to be issued on works not printed in this country. The penalty for a misstatement in the affidavit is fixed at \$1,000.

Steamers Fear Mines.

Tokio, April 27.—Japanese companies which operate steamers on the Yellow sea, and the gulf of Pechili are cancelling their engagements to call at points beyond Chemulpo, Corea, because of the mechanical contact mines which are known to be adrift on the high seas. These mines drifted away from Port Arthur and Port Dalny, and constitute a serious menace to navigation. It is known that many mines have been detached from their moorings by storms and currents and several have been destroyed.

Eight-Hour Bill May Go Over.

Washington, April 28.—The senate committee on education and labor, by a vote of 4 to 3, today decided to postpone action on the eight-hour bill until next December. There were two members of the committee absent, and they will be permitted to record their votes. Friends of the bill believe that when the absentees have voted the result will be changed and the bill may be favorably reported at this session, although they expressed no hope of passing it.

Russia to Buy More Warships.

Paris, April 28.—According to a report, the truth of which it is impossible to verify, the sum of 105,000,000 rubles has been appropriated by Russia for the purchase of several torpedo boats in France, two Argentine cruisers and two German transports. The two German transports have already arrived at Libau.



The Fin Coulter.

The cut herewith illustrates a style of plow coulter which is often used in the West. It is made from high-grade crucible steel about three-eighths of an inch thick, and cuts through the soil easily. There are certain conditions under which the rolling coulter will not work well, and then the fin coulter can often be used to good advantage. Years ago the land side of the share was always dovetailed and the cutter set in level, but later manufacturers and blacksmiths have simply riveted or bolted the steel to the share without dovetailing. This is cheaper than dovetailing, but the latter method causes the plow to run better than when the cutter is bolted to the side. The fin coulter is always slanted well back and is rounded back at the top. When made in this form, wear does not so soon impair its usefulness as if the



FLOW SHARE WITH FIN COULTER.

edge were made straight like a cutter which is cast on the share. A fin cutter made with a straight-cutting edge and rounded forward at the top would soon wear so that grass, roots, trash, etc., would not readily pass upward and off at top of coulter. A few years ago I bought a plow with fin attachment, the cutter having been put on by the manufacturers. It was such a clumsy affair that I would have done much better to have bought the plow and had the smith put the cutter on, for it was over one-quarter thick and stood forward at top so much that it would not work at all until it was re-modeled. There was one nice feature about this cutter, in that it was bolted on with stove bolts, so it could be taken off and put on again, as conditions required.—Geo. T. Pettit, in St. Louis Republic.

Selecting a Good Layer.

An old country poultryman makes the following suggestions as a help in selecting good layers: "There are certain individual characteristics, one of which is the shape of a bird. If a straight line be drawn from the back of the head to the toes, the hen which is likely to be a good layer will usually have the hinder half of her body largest, whilst a hen which may be suspected of being a poor layer will show more in the front; the reason being that a poor layer makes a better table bird, and has a larger, longer breast, whilst a good layer makes a poor table bird, and has a comparatively small breast, whilst the egg organs are more fully developed. Birds which are good layers are usually very active. They always look healthy, and in most cases their combs are usually fully developed, particularly if they belong to the long-combed varieties, which are reputed to be the best layers. A hen with a long comb may usually be regarded as a good layer, and if she is not there must be some special reason for the contrary."

Co-Operative Milk Selling.

The Springfield (Mass.) Co-operative Milk Association is regarded as something of a model of its kind. The association received during the year 4-216,521 quarts of milk and paid the farmers \$123,297.77 for their product. This lacks a small fraction of being three cents a quart for the year round paid for the milk furnished. The volume of business done during the year was not far from \$300,000. A report was made on the creamery established by the association in Washington County, N. Y., from which it now receives its supply of cream and butter. In eight months the product amounted to one hundred thousand pounds of butter. The association received 579,000 quarts more of milk this year than last, and paid the farmers about \$18,960 more than last year. The farmers were paid on the whole product about one-sixteenth of a cent more per quart than the preceding year.—American Cultivator.

A Preventive of Scratches.

Keep your stable dry. Prevent the wind from blowing on the horses' legs if wet, when standing in stable. Keep the curry comb off the horses' legs below the knee and hock joint. As the horses' legs are nothing but skin and bone, to speak of, it is very easy to cut the skin and lay the foundation for a case of scratches. Use a big corn cob to rub off the dried mud and dirt. You will be surprised how quick it is done without the least danger of cutting the horses' legs. Follow up with a good brush, well applied. Scratches are well named "curry-comb scratches." I have had the care of horses for the last forty years, and never had a case of scratches in all my experience.

Seeding for Pasture.

The following mixtures of annual crops are recommended by the Ontario station for pasture: Oats, hairy vetches and Hungarian grass; and barley, crimson clover and Early Amber sugar cane. For permanent pasture the following mixture of grasses and clovers has given the best results in several years experiments: Orchard grass, four pounds; meadow fescue, four pounds; tall oat grass, three pounds; timothy, two pounds; meadow fxtall,

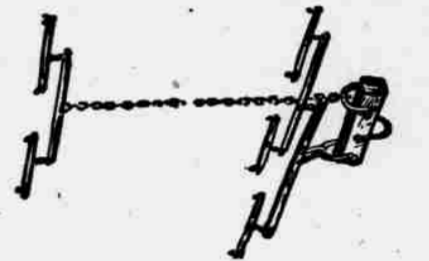
two pounds; alfalfa, five pounds; alsike clover, two pounds; white clover, one pound, and trefoll, one pound, making a total of twenty-four pounds of seed per acre.

Testing the Seed Corn. The Illinois Agricultural College authorities are urging the importance of testing seed corn, and have found in their tests samples from farmers ranging in vitality from 63 to 97 per cent. The importance of testing seed corn cannot be too strongly urged. The following is an extract from a letter received from Professor A. W. Hume, of the Illinois College on this subject:

"If, as seems probable, we are compelled to select seed corn for next spring from a crib having a large percentage of frosted ears or of ears which for various reasons will not grow, the question is what can be done to help insure our stand of corn for the coming year? It will hardly do to plant seed on valuable land with a certainty that one-fifth will not grow. The best suggestion the writer has to offer to corn growers is that they make a most careful inspection of corn, which they expect to use for seed, whether it be purchased from reliable growers or selected from their own storehouses. We believe it would be possible for every ear of corn planted in Illinois to be tested for vitality. If an ear does not come to the required standard, it may be possible to discard it, thus reducing the amount of seed which will not grow and materially increasing the stand of our corn crop the coming year."

Five-Horse Equalizer.

A. J. Katan, of Treesbank, Man., writes the Nor-West Farmer inclosing a sketch of a five-horse equalizer. He says: "I have had considerable experience in breaking up grub land and have found that the very best results come from a good strong fourteen-inch grub plow. Two men, an ax, brush scythe and five horses comprise the best outfit that can be obtained for any field. In order to equalize the combined strength of the horses an evener is made on the plan shown in the illustration. A piece of timber 3x5 and fifteen inches long is selected. An inch hole is bored three-fifths of the distance from the end for the clevis



which attaches the timber to the plow ring. A three-horse attachment is fastened to the short end, a chain is attached to the long end of the piece of timber running between the two off side horses through their neckyoke ring and attached to a double-tree clevis for the lead team."

Sheep for a Weedy Farm. A Kansas correspondent has a weedy farm, wishes to try sheep, and wants to know what breed is best to start with in a section where but few sheep are grown and the surplus would have to be sold to the local butcher.

We would get as good a type of mutton sheep as we could conveniently without inquiring particularly as to the breed. We would not take Merinos, however, unless they were pretty well graded up with some of the mutton breeds of which the Shropshire is the most generally known and a very popular breed. We would not get more than twenty-five or fifty to start with and would use a buck of the mutton breeds that we could get most conveniently; Shropshire, Southdown, Hampshire or Oxford. If the butchers do not give enough we would kill the surplus and sell them to the neighbors. Where a man has weedy pastures or weedy lands, any kind of sheep will pay even if he has to sell the surplus at low prices.—Wallace's Farmer.

Use for Cottonseed Hulls.

Paper from cottonseed hulls is the latest utilization of a waste product. A factory has been established at Niagara Falls. It is said that a good quality of paper can be made from this material. The diminishing supply of wood and other materials for paper stock has caused a search for substitutes. If the utilization of cottonseed hulls in this way proves a success, it will mean a new industry for the South. Now that the mills have found an honest use for hulls, it is hoped they will keep the stuff out of the meal which they send North.

Good Points of Macaroni Wheat. Macaroni wheat is a drought resister, a heavy yielder, an early maturing grain, and has another good point for poultrymen—it has a large kernel. This grain sown by itself, or with oats, and kept in the bundle makes a poultry ration hard to beat. We would suggest getting the smooth varieties, as the strong barb on some of the bearded varieties might be objectionable when fed in the bundle. Mixed with oats, as many do now for horse feed, this heavy-yielding grain certainly bids fair to be a good one.

Millet Hay for Horses.

I have used millet hay for horses for years, and will say that if it is not allowed to get ripe before cutting it is not injurious; at least, I have not found it so. But I do not feed it exclusively to horses, but use wild hay regularly, three times a day, it will affect the kidneys of horses after a while. But for cattle it can be used without bad results, providing always that the seed in it was not allowed to mature.—Dakota Farmer.