

PERISH IN CONVENT

Fourteen Women and Girls Are Burned to Death.

NO HELP WITHIN THEIR REACH

Sisters Give Up Their Lives in Effort to Save Children and Helpless Old Women.

Montreal, April 22.—The little village of St. Genevieve is in mourning tonight over the loss of 14 lives in a fire which destroyed the convent of St. Anne there early today. One nun, nine children, ranging in age from 10 to 19, and four aged women, perished in the flames. Two nuns were so severely burned that it is feared they will die.

In their grief over the catastrophe, the villagers find some comfort in relating the heroism displayed by Sister Marie Adjuteur, who gave up her life, and Sister Marie Therese and Marie Robertine, who were perhaps fatally burned in their efforts to save the lives of the children and helpless old women. Bucket brigades were hurriedly formed by the villagers, but the fire had gained such headway that it was soon apparent that there was no chance to save the building from destruction.

Sister Regetera, in her efforts to save the lives of the children in her charge, succumbed to the smoke and flames. The pupils who perished were in a portion of the building where the fire had obtained too much headway before the alarm was given to enable those who responded to effect their rescue.

An effort was made to get Point Claire by telephone so that assistance could be had from Montreal, but for some reason no response was received from Point Claire.

The fire started about midnight in the old ladies' hospital, and the smoke was so thick that the children on the floor above were unable to get down.

The convent was called Ste. Anne's, and was a branch of the convent of the Sisters of Ste. Anne's of Lachine. The building was a gray stone structure.

REFUSE TO PAY TAXES.

Igorrotes Cannot See Necessity for Helping to Support Government.

Seattle, Wash., April 22.—If the Philippine commission attempts to enforce the collection of taxes among the Igorrotes, trouble will be experienced. Twice the date for commencing the payment of taxes has been postponed, and each time the natives have concluded that the American government does not dare to attempt the enforcement of the commission's decree.

During the time the islands were under Spanish control no attempt was made to collect taxes from the Igorrotes and other so-called non-Christian tribes. Spanish officials were unable to penetrate very far into the Igorrote country, and the wild tribesmen have never contributed toward the expenses of white government.

Chief Fomeloy, the leader of the Igorrote party now in Seattle on the way to the Portland exposition, whose selection by his tribe for the journey indicates his popularity, is strongly opposed to the collection of taxes. He is regarded as a rich man among the Igorrote tribes, owning about 200 head of carabao and a correspondingly large amount of land.

The carabao of the Igorrotes are worth from \$75 to \$100 gold and are raised more for food purposes than as beasts of burden. In the lower provinces the carabao are trained to work, and are worth twice as much as the Igorrote animals.

It is impossible to explain the necessity of taxation to Fomeloy, who stoutly insists his people never paid taxes and gain nothing by contributing to the government.

Wants a German Jury.

Chicago, April 22.—Johann Hoch, on trial for the murder of one of his wives, Marie Walcker Hoch, expressed a desire today for German jurors to try him. The confessed bigamist already had secured a change of venue to get before a German judge. With a German jury, Hoch professes to believe that he will succeed in getting his liberty. When the hearing was resumed counsel for Hoch made a motion to quash the indictments. The motion was overruled by Judge Kersten. Examination of venire then began.

Turning Russian Right.

St. Petersburg, April 22.—A dispatch from Gunshu pass says the Russians have discovered a turning movement 80 miles northeast of Kuan-chengtu, about 30 miles northeast of Gunshu pass, by two forces, each of 3,000 Chinese bandits, several thousand Japanese cavalry and 22 guns. Kuan-chengtu is identical with Chang-chun, the extreme right of General Linievitch's main front, which extends thence toward Kirin.

Gives Hints to Homesteaders.

Washington, April 22.—Commissioner Richards, of the general land office, has prepared a circular to be sent to entrymen under the homestead law giving them minute instructions as to how to proceed under the law to perfect their claims. This never before has been done and the ignorance of the homesteaders and their attorneys has caused much confusion.

RUSSIANS SEEKING TOGO.

Baltic Fleet Joined by Third Squadron of Five Battleships.

Paris, April 21.—If the French authorities are to be believed, news of momentous import may be expected from the Far East very soon, as, according to Foreign Minister Delcasse, the Russian fleet under the command of Vice Admiral Rojestvensky sailed early on Thursday from Kamranh bay. Its destination is unknown, but it is believed here that it will now sail to endeavor to locate the Japanese fleet and give battle.

Naval experts here believe that the third Pacific squadron of the Russian navy, which is commanded by Admiral Nebogatoff, has joined Rojestvensky, and that the latter now has eight first-class battleships, three second-class battleships, three armored cruisers and a number of other vessels of not quite so good a type. He is also believed to have received large quantities of ammunition which had been shipped to him some time ago, to have filled the coal bunkers of his ships, and generally to have placed his command in condition to give a good account of itself.

It is believed here that Admiral Jonquieres, who is in command of the French naval force in the waters of French Cochinchina, agreed to get a message to the Russian commander today, and that the departure of the Russians followed. Such action has been expected, as the French authorities consider that the protest of Japan against Russia's using neutral waters to recoup and refill depleted ammunition magazines was well founded, and, if Russia has been asked to move by the French commander in the Far East, a difficult situation has been cleared up.

CHINA AGREES TO PAY UP.

Will Make Good Deficit in Indemnity Due to Fall in Silver.

New York, April 21.—After two years' discussion, the powers and China will sign an agreement today, according to a Herald dispatch from Peking, regarding the payment of the deficit in the indemnity due to the fall in the price of silver, and providing for the future payment of the indemnity in gold.

The agreement comprises three paragraphs, and briefly states sets forth that China is to pay 15 days after the signature of the document the sum of \$6,000,000 and interest at 4 per cent on this amount from January 1, 1905, which sum is to be accepted in full payments of all deficits due to the change from silver to gold.

In the second paragraph China agrees to sign immediately fractional gold bonds, expressing the amounts due to each country in the coinage of that country.

By the third paragraph China undertakes in the future to pay the amount due each year in 12 equal monthly installments, credited every six months. China will be allowed interest at 4 per cent on the monthly payments made in advance of these biennial periods. China will pay also in gold bullion, gold drafts or telegraphic transfer of silver at the average monthly London rates, each foreign government selecting the method it prefers.

PARDEE NAMES THE DAYS.

National Irrigation Congress Will Be Held August 21-24.

Sacramento, Cal., April 21.—Governor Pardee, as president of the National Irrigation congress, has issued an announcement that the next session of the congress will be held in Portland, from August 21 to 24. The session is to follow shortly after the Trans-Mississippi congress, which takes place from August 16 to 19.

Governor Pardee states that he expects this meeting to be one of the most interesting as well as the most important. The United States Reclamation service will be one of the subjects of discussion. There is some hope that President Roosevelt will attend the session for one day, and President Diaz, of Mexico, has also been invited. An effort will be made to have both dignitaries present on the same day.

Not Enough Money to Pay Them.

Washington, April 21.—On account of the shortage of last year's appropriation, Commissioner Richards, of the General land office, has found it necessary to disburse temporarily with the services of 17 of the 80 special agents of that bureau. They have been merely furloughed, and will be restored to the service when the new appropriation bill becomes available on July 1 next. The suspensions have been made in locations where there were more than one agent. It is believed the service will not be materially crippled.

Japanese Accumulating Stores.

Yinkow, April 19, via Tientsin, April 21.—Few transports are now arriving at Niu-chang-jung. This contrast with the rush of traffic since the opening of the Liao river indicate that precautions are being taken against possible interference by the Russian Pacific squadron. Vast accumulations of stores have already been made along the Japanese lines of communication, assuring full supplies to the armies in the field, even if the transport service is interrupted.

Stock Transfer Tax Law.

Albany, April 21.—Gov. Higgins tonight signed the stock transfer bill imposing a stamp tax of 2 cents on each \$100 of par value of all corporation stock securities sold or transferred.

PROTEST TO FRANCE

Broken Neutrality May Involve Her in War with Japan.

WOULD MEAN AID OF ENGLAND

Russian Fleet Must Either Leave Kamranh Bay or Fight Battle in the Harbor.

Tokio, April 20.—Japan is contemplating declaring war on France and calling on Great Britain for support. This action follows the sending of a formal protest to France against the use by the Russian Baltic fleet of Kamranh bay as a rendezvous and the coupling therewith of a statement that if France refrained from acting Japan will send a fleet of war vessels to attack the Russians in the shelter of a neutral port.

A conference of elders was held last night at which the entire situation was discussed. Immediately afterward the mikado was notified that the elders believed that the time had come when France should be forced to live up to her declarations of neutrality, and the note of protest was drafted and forwarded.

It is felt here that the situation is extremely grave, and there is no doubt that if France does not act quickly the consequences will be far-reaching.

A dispatch from Sasebo states that a Japanese squadron is getting in readiness there to sail for Kamranh bay and attack the Russians there, while Admiral Togo continues to hold the passage toward the Pacific.

It is reported that an American and a British squadron is in touch with the Russians, watching for violations of neutrality or the endangering of British and American shipping. The belief is growing here that the stay of the Russian fleet in Kamranh bay was prearranged.

THEY RESIGN UNDER FIRE.

Accused Examiners Who Gave Pensions to Carpet Soldiers.

Washington, April 20.—Nine of the ten pension examiners constituting the board of review were separated from the government service today. Commissioner of Pensions Warner transmitted the nine resignations to Secretary Hitchcock, with the recommendation that they be accepted, and Mr. Hitchcock took the desired action without delay.

The resigned examiners assert that representations were made to them, purporting to come from the commissioner, that should they hand in their resignations, the matter would be relieved and restorations would be made at some date in the near future. Mr. Warner, however, made no such representation to the secretary of the interior. The difficulty involving the board of review was its approval of several pensions to applicants whose only claim was enlistment in a Pennsylvania and a New Jersey regiment of volunteers for service in the Civil war, but the services of whom were never availed of by the government.

MORE FIRMS ARE INVOLVED.

Chicago Strike is Spreading and All Efforts at Conciliation Fail.

Chicago, April 20.—Although influences are still at work in the hope that an amicable adjustment of the difficulty existing between the teamsters and Montgomery, Ward & Co., can be reached, the indications tonight are that the strike of the teamsters will spread to other concerns. Today 150 drivers employed by the E. M. Forbes Teaming company were ordered on strike because the firm insisted on making deliveries to Montgomery, Ward & Co. President Spear, of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, declared tonight that he would order out all drivers engaged by firms that insist on delivering supplies to the big store.

Barrett Has Resigned.

Washington, April 20.—John Barrett, of Portland, Or., United States minister to Panama, has saved the State department the embarrassment of ordering his recall. He has asked that he be relieved of his post, so that he may retire from the diplomatic corps. The government has been dissatisfied with some of Mr. Barrett's acts, and it was decided month ago that he should be succeeded at Panama by Judge Charles Magoon, of the Insular bureau, but it was the intention to assign him to another post.

Great Snowstorm in Wyoming.

Denver, April 20.—At midnight it was announced that all telegraph and telephone wires leading into Cheyenne were down as result of a heavy fall of wet snow. Previous to this, however, the Postal Telegraph company had one wire working and information came that trains were running behind the schedule. It is impossible to learn any details, but it is known that the storm was unusually heavy over Southern Wyoming.

British Engineer Named.

Washington, April 20.—Sir Mortimer Durand, the British ambassador, today informed Secretary Taft that the British government had, at the secretary's invitation, selected Chief Engineer Hunter, the builder of the Manchester ship canal, to act as one of the consulting engineers of the Panama canal board.

WILL USE HIS TORPEDO FLEET.

Togo Will Not Risk His Big Vessels Against the Russians.

London, April 19.—Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to Great Britain, expressed the opinion to the Associated Press today that Admiral Togo would not give battle to Admiral Rojestvensky with his entire squadron, but would continue the cautious tactics which has characterized his attacks on the Port Arthur squadron, not because he feared defeat, but owing to his desire to inflict the greatest amount of damage on the Russians with the least possible loss to himself.

While confident of his ability to accomplish the total destruction of the Russian squadron in a big battle, there is danger of Togo losing one or two of his big ships. Therefore, Baron Hayashi believes, Togo will employ his torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers, which number more than 100 and are vastly superior to the Russian torpedo boat flotilla, in harassing the Russians while gradually picking off the Russian warships.

He said the coasts of Japan, Corea and Formosa lend themselves to night work with torpedo boats, while the narrow channels will make the maneuvering of large war ships difficult and dangerous.

BREAKS ALL RECORDS.

Steamer Minnesota Crosses Pacific in Very Fast Time.

Seattle, April 19.—The steamship Minnesota, of the Great Northern Steamship company's Seattle-Oriental fleet, and the largest freighter carrier afloat, reached port last night, on her return voyage from the Orient, having broken all trans-Pacific records on her trip across. The Minnesota's time from Yokohama was 13 days, 21 hours and five minutes.

Among her passengers were a number of Russian officers and their wives being sent home on parole from Shanghai, whither they were taken at the time of the capture of Port Arthur. There were also a number of American army officers coming from Manila, either on leave or under orders to report at Washington, D. C. Altogether the Minnesota brought 162 passengers, 47 of whom were first-class, and a little more than 7,000 tons of general freight, of which hemp formed the bulk.

MUST HAVE TRIBAL TIES.

What Indian Children Can Have Share in Lands.

Washington, April 19.—Indian Commissioner Leupp today promulgated the order defining what children of Indian parentage are entitled to share in lands and annuities of various Western tribes. Under his instructions all children whose parents are both Indians may share in these benefits, as may all children whose mothers married white men, provided the mother is still a recognized member of the tribes and affiliates with its members.

Whenever an Indian woman, after marriage to a white man, has withdrawn and is no longer identified with her tribe, her children are not entitled to lands or annuities allowed that tribe.

NEUTRALITY IN PHILIPPINES.

Admiral Train is Having All Waters Well Patrolled.

Manila, April 19.—Admiral Train, determined to maintain the neutrality of the Philippine waters, will immediately dispatch additional vessels to patrol the Basilan straits, as a result of the reports that both Russian and Japanese vessels have been sighted there. Saturday the United States gunboat Queros was sent to inspect six Russian colliers which are reported to be lying in the gulf of Lingayen. A gunboat is also scouting for Japanese vessels.

A report has reached here that 16 Japanese cruisers have been sighted off Sumpulok point. The cruisers are said to be scouting in force for stray scouts, ships and colliers of the Russian fleet.

Judge Upholds the Law.

Denver, April 19.—Judge N. Walter Dixon, in the District court today, upheld the constitutionality of the law of 1897 relating to building and loan associations, under which President E. M. Johnson and other officers of the defunct Fidelity Savings association have been indicted on charges of making false reports. The law was attacked by Johnson's attorneys on the ground that the legislative records concerning its passage were incomplete, a leaf apparently having been torn from the journal of the house.

Fifty Boys Were Injured.

Indianapolis, April 19.—No deaths have been added to the list of four boys that lost their lives in the crush of newsboys in the stairway of the Masonic building last night, eager to obtain free theater tickets for a performance at the theater. The revised list of the injured shows that no fewer than 50 were more or less injured. Of this number, fully 25 were seriously crushed and the death list may be increased.

Fifty Hurt in Strike Riot.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 19.—Fifty men were hurt in a fight between 60 nonunion men from Pittsburgh and 150 strikers from the Whitaker mill. Clubs, stones, knives and pistols were used, but the nonunion men finally scored in getting into the mill.

Conquest of the Great American Desert

Great Irrigation Projects.

Surveys have been completed for thirteen great irrigation projects in as many different States, contemplating the reclamation of 1,131,000,000 acres of desert land, at a cost of \$31,395,000, or an average of \$27.26 per acre. The land thus improved will be sold to the public at that price in ten annual installments, and thus the entire amount of money expended will be refunded to the government. The President is greatly gratified at the rapid progress that is being made by the irrigation bureau. Contracts have been let and thousands of laborers are already employed in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, Nevada and New Mexico.

The law allows enough land to each settler to support a family. No cash payments are required; no commutations, but the settler must actually live on it and cultivate it for five years and pay \$2.50 an acre each year for ten years, when he will receive a title to the land and own the water rights without additional payments. Private land which receives the benefit of the water must pay at the same rate—\$2.50 per acre for ten years. After ten payments the owner of the land will have the water rights free of cost for all eternity. The land is good for alfalfa, sugar beets, potatoes and all the root crops and fruits of the temperate zone. It is only twelve hours from San Francisco by rail, fifty miles from the capital of Nevada, and is surrounded by mining settlements in every direction.

Part of the land reclaimed will be the old Forty-Mile Desert, or Carson's Sink, which was a horror of early emigrants—the worst spot on the overland trail; and was lined the entire distance with the bones of men and animals. Thousands of poor creatures died there from thirst and exhaustion. Farmers who plow there now turn up in almost every furrow gun barrels which were driven into the earth to mark graves and have since been buried deep in the drifting sands. As an illustration of the perversity of nature, the engineers who have been laying out the proposed irrigation system have found an abundance of cold, pure water a few feet below the surface wherever they have made borings. All of this desert will be redeemed, and when the present proposition is finished the works will be extended to the Humboldt and Walker rivers, which will bring several hundred thousand acres more under irrigation and make a paradise of what is now the most desolate spot in Nevada.

How One County Was Redeemed. Thirty-two years ago there was only one house in the town of Fresno, in the central desert of California, says a writer in the World's Work. A hole was dug under it, forty feet deep, into which the inmates lowered themselves by a bucket and a windlass, to escape the heat of the day. Around it, as far as the eye could see, stretched the glaring desert, unbroken by any cultivated spot of green. The whole country seemed a hopeless waste—dead and profitless.

To-day this spot is the center of a cheerful community of 8,000 homes, in a land made fertile by irrigation. Ten thousand children attend its public schools. The industries there yield \$14,000,000 annually. The risha crop of 1902 put into the farmers' bank accounts \$2,800,000.

All the raisins imported into the United States in 1902 amounted in value to only \$400,000. In 1902 the oil wells of Fresno County yielded 570,000 barrels of crude petroleum, worth \$200,000 before refining. Eighty-nine thousand head of cattle graze on its rich alfalfa.

When the few straggling fortune-hunters came to the county late in the 60's they were welcomed by this sign hung over Fresno's one building: "Bring your horses. Water, one bit; water and feed, three bits." Fresno was a "watering station" only. In 1872, however, M. J. Church conceived the idea of bringing water in ditches from Kings river, twenty miles away, to irrigate the land. His proposal was laughed at as a dreamer's scheme. But persistence won; in 1876 he had water on land within three miles of the town of Fresno, and the first year's crop proved the soil to be fertile. The area of watered ground was rapidly extended. To-day there are 300,000 acres under irrigation.

CASTRO A REMARKABLE MAN.

Began Revolution with 23 Men and Fought His Way to Presidency.

For a little South American dictator Cipriano Castro, President of Venezuela, is making a lot of trouble in the world of international politics. In many ways, writes William Thorp in the New York Times, he is a remarkable man. He first appeared in Caracas, the capital, several years ago as a legislator. He was sent to Congress as a deputy from the State of Los Andes, his native place. His fellow muleteers and cattle smugglers elected him, and at that time he knew practically nothing of life outside of the mountain village in which he was born. Only one memory of his brief career as a legislator is preserved. Day by day he went to the hall of Congress in a tight-fitting pair of very shiny patent leather shoes. As soon as he was comfortably seated he bent down and removed them from his cramped feet, and placed them on the desk in front of him. He sat patiently

through the long-winded debates which South American politicians love, never offering a word of his own, and at the end of each session he put on those tight boots again and went back to his cheap hotel. Of course he had never worn boots before. Nobody does wear them in Los Andes.

It goes without saying that the savage from the back of beyond was the butt of his colleagues in Congress. Most of them are now dead, slain on the battlefield, or rotting in the frightful dungeons beneath the old fort at Maracaibo, or in exile in Curacao, Paris, Bogota or New York.

Cipriano Castro came back to Caracas at the head of an army made up of his muleteer and smuggling friends. He started his revolution with precisely 23 men at his back. It was local at first, but he won small victories and then big ones, until in the course of three months he had drawn enough men to his standard to be able to advance on Caracas and fight for the presidency.

When he was in sight of the city an accident happened that would have ruined the chances of any other revolutionist. He was thrown from his horse and broke both his legs. The government army was facing his forces. From a horse litter he directed the battle, won a great victory, and subsequently bought over the government general. Then he marched into



PRESIDENT CASTRO.

Caracas, made himself President, and suppressed a revolution almost before he could manage to hobble around.

All the ministers slavishly imitate Castro in everything. He is not only President, but Lord High Everything Else in Venezuela. The heads of all departments, the members of the Legislature, and even the judges are merely his puppets.

Castro is supremely ignorant of the affairs of other nations. He has never seen but one battleship in his life up to the time of the international episode of 1902 and he speaks with contempt of the power of Germany, Great Britain and other foreign nations.

Castro is very democratic. He never surrounds himself with guards or secret service men, though he has as many deadly enemies as a Russian grand duke. But he always carries a revolver in the top left-hand pocket of his frock coat. So far as is known, only one attempt has been made to assassinate him. It was when he was riding through the streets of Caracas, soon after he became President. The bullet missed him, but he put a man's shot through the man's leg before any of his suit realized what was happening. Then he not only magnanimously pardoned the fellow, but actually sent his own doctor to attend to him.

Castro is undoubtedly the strongest man in Venezuela to-day and there is no one as yet in sight who is powerful enough to oust him from the presidential chair.

Discovery of Peat Baths.

The discovery of the value of peat baths was made accidentally many years ago. On the coast of France there lived at one time a poor family. The father of the family eked out a scanty living by killing aged cattle and divesting them of their skins. The ghastly remains he sold to tanners and refiners.

Of the three children which belonged to this couple one was a poor creature, delicate and wretched and apparently half-witted. The mother was so ashamed of this boy that she could not bear to have the child in her sight. Consequently he spent most of his time half clothed and badly fed, rolling about in the peat bogs which were behind the cottage. Little by little it was noticed that the child was improving in health, that his skin was becoming as fair and soft as a peach, his eyes bright and his spirits and actions those of a strong, healthy boy instead of a half-witted little animal. The old country physician on one of his rounds noticed the improved condition of the boy and mentioned the fact and the cause at a medical conference in Paris. The result was the use of the peat bath, which leaves far behind any other kind of hydrotherapeutic cure known to this day and its success is becoming greater each season.

We don't know much, but we know too much to play a slot machine, and every man ought to have as much sense as we have. The cards are stacked against you when you play a slot machine.

Take care of your pennies while young and give some chap a chance to bunko you out of your dollars when you get old.