

ATTEMPT TO BOTTLE HARBOR

Eight Fireships and Two Torpedo Boats Go Down.

Reported That Another Big Land Battle Fought and That the Japanese Were Victorious.

St. Petersburg, March 3.—A sensational rumor is current this evening that eight Japanese fire ships and two torpedo boats have been sunk by the Russians at Port Arthur while the former were trying to bottle up the harbor. Two official telegrams have arrived, but have not yet been issued to the press.

St. Petersburg, May 3.—Viceroy Alexieff reports officially that eight Japanese fire ships were sunk last night, when an attempt was made to block the Port Arthur harbor. The land batteries and torpedo boats participated in sinking the ships. Two Japanese torpedo boats also went down, according to the report.

The fireships were discovered by the searchlights creeping in from the east and southeast. The torpedo boats and destroyers were ordered out Alexieff himself went aboard the coast defense ship Otravahni. A heavy fire was kept up from midnight till five o'clock, when the last fireship was sunk. The Japanese steamers were armed with Hotchkiss and Maxim guns and responded warmly to the Russian fire. Two officers and a few members of the crews of the fireships were saved by the Russians.

London, May 3.—A St. Petersburg dispatch says that there is a rumor current there to the effect that another great battle has occurred on the Yalu between 30,000 Russians and 80,000 Japanese, in which the Japanese were victorious, capturing thirty-six Russian cannon, two thousand prisoners, among whom were 20 officers. About six hundred men are reported wounded. The rumor may be a belated exaggeration of the last fight.

London, May 3.—Additional details of the Russian repulse on the Yalu continue to sift in. Reuter's Seoul correspondent states that the Japanese now hold the north bank of the Yalu from Antung to Liaskukon. Despite their confused condition the Russians were able to carry off all the wounded at Antung. They found that in addition to the force confronting them they were threatened by strong detachments on either flank, then their retreat became so rapid that there was no time to replace the artillery horses shot down by the Japanese and the guns, ammunition and rifles were captured.

London, May 3.—A Central News correspondent at Rome wires that a Mukden dispatch reports General Kurapatkin marching from Liaying to Fenwang Cheng with 20,000 men, apparently taking personal command of the forces opposing the Japanese.

London, May 3.—Minister Hayashi made public this evening a dispatch from General Kuroki, commending the Japanese forces giving the details of the fighting following the battle of the Yalu and the pursuit of the retreating Russians. General Kuroki says: "On the afternoon of May 1 the enemy offered stubborn resistance to our pursuit, adding three hundred to our casualties. The enemy fought bravely to the last. Finally two companies of artillery, having lost a majority of their men and horses, surrendered, raising the white flag. The officers who were taken prisoners asserted Division General Kashtalinski, commander of the Eleventh and Twelfth infantry regiments, and many superior officers were killed or wounded. Many refugees who subsequently returned surrendered and the total number of prisoners is thirty officers and three hundred sub-officers and men. The details of our losses are under investigation."

DESPERATE FIGHT AT PORTLAND

Portland, May 3.—In a desperate free for all fight yesterday between the crew of the French barque Marshal DeNestles, now in port, fifteen men were wounded, three seriously, and one killed. The men used knives

The decks of the ship are covered with blood. The battle ended only with the intervention of the U. S. marshal. The trouble was the result of a drunken spree. Jos. Collett, the leader, was arrested this morning on a charge of murder.

Unconfirmed Rumor.

New York, May 3.—A Wall street news agency dispatch from London states that the rumors current there that the Japanese fleet under command of Admiral Uriu captured the Russian Vladivostok squadron wholly unconfirmed.

Tyner and Barrett.

Washington, D. C., May 3.—The jury in the case of Tyner and Barrett, accused of complicity in the post-office frauds, was completed this morning, and the preliminary statements made. Tyner was in court in an inmate's chair.

British and the Blacks.

London, May 3.—A dispatch today reports that a British force under Major Trenard while operating against the natives in Southern Nigeria had a severe battle in which British native troops lost four killed and seven wounded. The enemy lost two hundred killed and wounded. Six villages were burned.

SOME IOWA POLITICS

Democratic State Convention Meets Tomorrow Morning.

Indications for Hearst Delegation—Strong Fight Against Him.

Des Moines, Ia., May 3.—Twenty-four hours before the meeting of the Democratic state convention, the contest between Hearst's supporters and the anti is being more stubbornly fought than before. Indications still favor the New Yorker, but the margin is so small as to make it anybody's fight. A new element is being brought in, a boom for Senator Cockerell, of Missouri. The Bryan Democrats, who are not for Hearst, are flocking to Cockerell, while Parker, of New York, doesn't figure.

A French Strike.

Marseilles, France, May 3.—Over three thousand men are idle and two hundred vessels tied up as a result of the strike of master mariners and dockworkers today.

A Kurapatkin Rally.

Berlin, May 3.—Die Post reports that General Kurapatkin has arrived at Pong Huang Cheng to rally the Russian troops fleeing before the Japanese advance.

Didn't Block Port Arthur.

Tien Tsin, May 3.—Russian officials here have received a dispatch stating that nine Japanese fireships were sunk by the guns of Port Arthur and clear of the harbor entrance.

FINE WEATHER AT WORLD'S FAIR

St. Louis, May 3.—Fine weather and a good attendance mark the third day of the great exposition. The opening day attendance is announced as 157,733 by official count. The work of placing the exhibits is being pushed, 1500 men being employed unloading cars. The only formal ceremony today was the dedication of the Commerce building.

Secretary of War Taft left today for the East.

Panic Among Girls.

Carmel, N. Y., May 3.—Fire in Smith Memorial Hall early this morning caused a panic among seventy female students and teachers. All reached the ground safely, garbed in night apparel. The building was totally destroyed.

Murderer Electrocutted.

Dannemora, N. Y., May 3.—Allan Mooney, the murderer of Ellen Thomas and Violet Middleton, women of questionable repute, at Saranac Lake in November, 1902, was electrocuted at 11:30 this morning. Jealousy caused the crime.

SHIPS SUNK IN HARBOR ENTRANCE

Japanese Reported Successful in Their Last Attempt

This Report Comes From a Japanese Source—Oriental Liner Stopped by a Russian Warship.

ships sunk in harbor entrance Rome, May 4.—A dispatch asserts that the latest Japanese attempt to block the channel of Port Arthur was successful. Two vessels, the telegram says, now lie in the harbor entrance.

London, May 4.—Reuter's Tokio correspondent also states that the Japanese were successful in the attempt to bottle up Port Arthur Monday.

London, May 4.—Reuter's Port Said correspondent reports that the Oriental liner Osois was stopped by a Russian warship and the mail gone through in search of Japanese letters. The Japanese mail at the bottom of a huge pile was not touched. The Osois was nine hours from Brindisi when stopped by a blank shot from the warship Kratzki and detained two hours.

Berlin, May 4.—A St. Petersburg dispatch states that three students sent to Siberia in 1901, who were pardoned and sent to the front, have been hanged for attempting to betray the Russian cause.

Seoul, May 4.—A dispatch from the Japanese front on the Yalu states that the dead have been buried and the wounded given medical attention. The army is ready to continue the advance. The message adds: "Many of the enemy were found hiding in the underbrush and taken."

Port Arthur, May 4.—An idea of the terrific resistance offered by the Russians in defending the channel Monday may be gained from the fact that 3500 shots were fired by the Russian batteries and guardships on the attacking fireships.

China Against Russia.

St. Petersburg, May 4.—The newspaper Navikie claims to have authority for the assertion that the Chinese generals Yuan Shikai and Ma are promoting an anti-Russian agitation in the Flowery Kingdom.

School Children Killed.

Dublin, May 4.—A wagonette conveying the Cahla convent school children and servants from a visit to King Edward at Spaobally today was overturned and two killed. Others were injured.

A Congressional Picnic.

Norfolk, Va., May 3.—Secretary of the Navy Moody and Senators Hale, Penrose and Bacon and Representatives Dalzell, Meyers and Hemingway sailed for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, this morning aboard the Dolphin to inspect the naval station there.

The Machinists' Strike.

Washington, May 3.—O'Connell's advices this morning state that the Santa Fe strike order is being generally obeyed throughout the system with no reports of disorder.

Topeka, Kans. May 3.—All is quite this morning at the Santa Fe shops. Eighteen additional deputies have been placed on guard. No trouble is reported along the line.

FIENDS KILL 2300 SHEEP ON RANGE

Ten Masked Men Swoop Down on Herds at Silver Lake.

Lakeview, Or., May 4.—Word has just been received here by telephone from Silver Lake that a band of 2300 sheep belonging to Groebe & Parker, of this place, have been slaughtered by ten masked men on the desert forty miles northwest of Silver Lake. Several other bands are lambing in the vicinity, and cannot move now,

and fears are expressed for their safety.

This makes about 4000 sheep wantonly killed on that range this year. There seems to be no clue to the perpetrators of the crime. Much excitement prevails here among the stockmen.

Sam Parks Dead.

Ossining, N. Y., May 4.—Sam Parks, the walking delegate of the house-smiths' union in connection with the building trades strikes, died at 7:25 this morning in the prison hospital. His sentence was a year and six months. Parks failed in health immediately after he fell into the clutches of the law. Tuberculosis was the cause of death.

Trapped From a Train.

Spokane, Wash., May 4.—Driven crazy, it is supposed by lack of food and the care of nine children on a journey across the continent, Mrs. Mary Fieleski threw her four-month-old baby through the window of a Great Northern train near Columbia Falls Sunday night. She tried to follow it, but was held by passengers.

The train backed up and the infant was found. Apparently it had fallen on some shrubbery and rolled into a mudhole and was practically unharmed. The mother was brought to a Spokane hospital.

GENERAL METHODIST CONFERENCE

Los Angeles Full of Delegates Ready for Opening.

Delegates Tell of 3000 Caught in Grand Canon of Colorado 24 Hours Without Food or Water.

Los Angeles, May 3.—Every train is bringing in scores of Methodist delegates and their friends. The city is rapidly filling up. All arrangements for opening the conference tomorrow morning are complete. Dr. S. W. Thomas, of Philadelphia, tells of the sufferings of three thousand delegates in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado without food or water for twenty-four hours. The delegates worked Sunday laying a temporary track around the wreck.

The first skirmish of the Methodist Book Concern fight took place this morning when the book committee met to consider the consolidation of the Eastern and Western concerns of New York and Chicago. No report will be made till the regular session of the conference, but it is understood the committee favors consolidation.

SPRUNG A LEAK IN MIDOCEAN

Crew of Ausrat Barkentine Forced to Work at Pumps Continually for Nine Days.

New York, May 4.—Captain Bertolzia and crew of eight men of the Austrian barkentine Marije who abandoned the vessel in mid-ocean Sunday, arrived here on the German steamer Princess Irene today. Dismasted in a storm, the Marije sprung a leak and for nine days the crew labored with pumps while the captain stood over them with a revolver in his hand compelling the continuance of the work. The officers of the Princess Irene observed the vessel's flag of distress and rescued the captain and crew.

WILL WORK FOR COLORED BISHOP

Los Angeles, May 4.—J. W. Bowen, colored, a professor in historical theology of the Canon Seminary, South Atlanta, Ga., said today that the colored delegates to the Methodist conference will make a hard fight to secure the election of a colored bishop. He said the colored delegates stand for the retention of the amendment clause. The candidates for colored bishop are Dr. Bowen, Dr. M. C. S. Mason, Rev. J. J. B. Scott.

GENERAL CONFERENCE IN SESSION

Big Meeting of Methodists Opened at Los Angeles Today.

Hazard's Pavilion Crowded to the Doors and Numbers Were Unable to Obtain Admission.

Los Angeles, Cal., May 4.—Hazard's Pavilion was crowded to the doors when the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church was convened today and numbers were unable to obtain admission.

The pavilion presented a gala appearance, being tastefully decorated throughout. There was an early rush for seats and all were filled long before the conference was called to order.

The session was opened with devotional exercises, the venerable Bishop Merrill presiding. After the assignment of seats and the election of delegate secretaries, the bishop's address was read by Bishop Foss, of Philadelphia.

Seven hundred and eighty-four members, representing three million members of the church, are enrolled.

Delegates who have not arrived sent credentials ahead of them and a full conference is assured until the important questions before the church are disposed of.

Four bishoprics are vacant. Bishop Merrill is expected to ask for his retirement and the superannuation of another bishop is predicted. These two additional vacancies will make a total of six bishoprics to be filled. The candidates having the strongest support are the Reverends Thomas Neely, J. W. Bashford, William McDowell, of New York City; B. A. Butcher, Denver; R. J. Cooke, Athens, Tenn.; J. W. M. Bowen, colored, Atlanta, Ga.; George F. Bovard, Los Angeles; Henry Spellmeyer, Newark, N. J.; Joseph Berry, Chicago; Homer Stunts, presiding elder Philippine district, and J. E. Robinson, presiding elder Calcutta district.

Legislation will be had in the proposed consolidation of the benevolent societies; the unification of the missionary societies and the formation of one society out of the several educational and aid societies. An effort is being made to amalgamate the different societies into three associations. Failure is predicted because of the large vested interests of the several societies. A consolidation would require a redivision of real estate and this, it is thought, would cause dissension.

Reports of the publishing agents of the church will show that while the physical assets are worth at least \$3,000,000, the properties of the church, including its periodicals and papers, are valued at fully \$10,000,000. Editors and publishers whose salaries range from \$750 to \$5000 will be elected and a consolidation of the publishing houses is to be proposed. Advisability of increasing the salaries of bishops from \$5000 and traveling expenses to \$6000 will be discussed. Two days will be occupied with organization, after which will be heard reports of committees and memorials from conferences.

Ten or fifteen days are to be devoted to consideration of the reports. The announced intention of several influential members to attempt to repeal "paragraph 248" of the church code has caused the orthodox delegates and a clash is expected. The paragraph refers to dancing, attending theatres, circuses and horse races, renting property for saloon purposes and playing games of chance as imprudent and unchristian and grave enough to justify expulsion on a third offense. The repeal is sought by members who had relatives and friends in the Iroquois theatre disaster.

The work of the conference proper will be detailed to fourteen committees, to meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week. One of the interesting features of the conference will be a great missionary exhibit occupying all of the large hall formerly used by the Chamber of Commerce. This will contain material from all of the foreign fields occupied by the church, and will be in charge of returned missionaries and native workers from distant foreign countries. There will be great missionary rallies in the pavilion from 2 to 4 o'clock each afternoon, and the course of lectures and addresses during the evenings of the month at the same place.

VETERANS STAND ON THEIR DIGNITY

Many Will Not Accept "Physical Disability" Pension—Say Order Makes it a "Pauper" Pension.

Washington, May 4.—Applications for original pensions and increase under order "78," making sixty-two years of age an evidence of physical disability, now number 11,500. Commissioner Ware says it is impossible to approximate the number of applications resulting from the order. Many veterans on learning from Commissioner Ware the particulars of the order, have declined to avail themselves of the pension on the ground that it is a "pauper's pension."

To Suppress the Herreros.

Berlin, May 4.—Lieutenant-General Teroth has been appointed to command the troops operating against the rebel Herreros in German Southwest Africa. Stringent measures to suppress the rebellion will be taken.

The Santa Fe Strike.

Topoka, Kas., May 4.—Eighty-four machinists and apprentices went to work in the Santa Fe shops this morning. The company will bring men to take the strikers' places immediately. Third Vice President Buskall of the International Machinists is in charge of the strike on the entire system. He will tour the road. A picket line was established today. The strikers are orderly.

ROAMED STREETS WITHOUT SHOES

Creffield's Wife and Miss Sophia Hartley Are Deceased Insane.

Corvallis, (Or., May 4.—"Apostle" Creffield's wife and Miss Sophia Hartley, aged eighteen, daughter of Lewis Hartley, the mining man, were committed to the asylum today. Both were roaming the streets barefooted the bareheaded.

(Mrs. Creffield is a daughter of O. V. Hurt, of Corvallis, at whose house Creffield started the sect known as the Holy Rollers, and where he was harbored for several weeks while the Rollers were at their height of "success." Shortly after the marriage to the self-styled "apostle," determined residents of Corvallis took Creffield and his partner, Brooks, through the streets of the town one night, and then covered them with tar and feathers. There is a reward of \$100 for the capture of Creffield, who several weeks ago disappeared without leaving any trace behind him.)

UNCLE SAM NOW OWNS THE CANAL

Panama, May 4.—The formal act of turning over the Panama canal to the United States government was performed with much ceremony at seven o'clock this morning. The canal was received by General Brooks and staff on behalf of the United States. Consul General Gunder and other prominent Americans witnessed the ceremony, which concluded with the raising of the American flag.

COUNTY JUDGE CANDIDATE FIGURES

Register Says Mr. Cheshire is Worth About \$20,000—Assessment Roll Says \$7,815.

The Register characterizes the calling attention of voters to the fact that Mr. Christman, Republican candidate for county judge, is assessed at over forty thousand dollars as a "cheap, cowardly attack." That pattern of newspaper and moral propriety does not hesitate in the same connection to say Mr. Cheshire "is worth about \$20,000."

How did the Register get those figures? From the Lane county assessment roll from which Mr. Christman's figures were taken? No, for W. P. Cheshire's assessment on that roll for 1903 is \$7815. Charitably, we believe the Register was misled. We cannot think it would deliberately falsify where proof of falsification is so plain and easily obtainable.