

FRAMING BILL

House Committee Looks After Rivers and Harbors.

COLUMBIA RIVER IN HIGH FAVOR

Classed as One of the Most Important Improvements— Will Be Taken Care of First.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The house committee on rivers and harbors held a preliminary meeting today to prepare a bill which will be ready for presentation to the house before the Christmas recess. The measure was discussed only in a general way, but an agreement was reached that the more important projects would be taken care of first by the committee and the less important afterward. Representative Jones, of Washington, will look after the interests of the Columbia river, the improvement of which means so much to his constituents in Washington. Members of the committee who were seen today were of the opinion that the Columbia project properly came within the classification of important, and it will be among those considered first.

Mr. Jones was present today. In addition to caring for the Columbia river work, Mr. Jones will control to a large degree appropriations for improvements in the state of Washington.

It has been definitely determined that a river and harbor bill shall be passed at the approaching session of congress. Chairman Burton decided to get his committee together in advance of the convening of congress, so as to complete work on the bill and have it ready to present to the house just before the holiday recess. Once the bill is called up in the house it will take but a short time to get it through that body, and it will go through in practically the shape in which the committee reports it.

In the senate, however, there is likely to be considerable discussion of various features of the measure, and there is apt, before the bill reaches the senate, to be considerable discussion and amendment by the senate committee. The senate will, of course, pass the bill about as it comes from the committee on commerce, with probably a few amendments, increasing individual appropriations. Then it will be a question of holding the senate increases in the bill, and this will have to be done by the combined efforts of the various members of delegations whose states are interested.

Buried by Cave-In.

St. Louis, Nov. 30.—Eight to 12 laborers employed in the digging of a trench for the laying of water mains in Southwestern St. Louis, were buried today by a cave-in, and it is believed all have perished. The men were working close together when, without warning, tons of clay fell on top of them. A bursting water pipe caused the cave-in. Those who escaped at once went to work and dug out three of their companions, who were dead.

Coast Shipping Considered.

Washington, Dec. 1.—The Merchant Marine commission today made further progress toward completion of its report to congress. Some attention was given to the difficult problems presented by the conditions on the Pacific coast. The commission regards American shipping relatively stronger on the Pacific than on the Atlantic coast at the present time, yet the American ships, it is stated, are being severely pressed by foreign competition.

Japanese Capture Blockade Runner.

London, Nov. 28.—The Japanese, according to a dispatch from Chefoo to the Chronicle, are reported to have captured the British steamer Tung Chow, laden with 30,000 cases of canned meat for Port Arthur.

DEWEY MAY BE SENT.

United States Government Has Not Been Officially Informed.

Washington, Nov. 30.—Gratified by the spirit which has animated the contracting parties in agreeing to intrust to a commission the ascertainment of the questions of fact connected with the North sea incident, the United States government will cordially cooperate in the naming of the commission by the designation of one of its high naval officers as a member of that body. The outcome is especially pleasing to the administration, following as it does so closely on President Roosevelt's invitation to the powers of the world for a second Hague conference.

The popular impression has been all along that Admiral George Dewey, the ranking officer in the American navy, would be asked to be the American representative on the commission, although other names have also been mentioned in connection with the appointment. A decision will be reached promptly after the formal invitation has been received from the Russian and British governments as to who shall be designated.

This formal invitation has not yet been received, the two governments in the negotiations which have been in progress between them acting entirely on the presumption that the United States would cheerfully give its assistance and detail a naval officer.

TRIES TO HOLD MEETING.

Herr Most Taken Into Custody by St. Louis Police.

St. Louis, Nov. 30.—John Most, alias Herr Most, anarchist of New York, was arrested at 11 o'clock tonight after a fruitless effort to hold a meeting in St. Louis, and is now a prisoner at the Four Courts, held for Chief Kiely.

For ten days St. Louis detectives have watched Most. He was to have made a speech in National hall on Sunday afternoon, November 20, but the police prohibited it in view of the approaching visit of President Roosevelt.

He remained in St. Louis until last Wednesday, when it was announced he had gone to Chicago. Instead, it is declared he went across the river to East St. Louis, where he remained at the home of a friend until last night, when he recrossed the river. With the presence of Most in the city, it has developed that an international convention of anarchists was held in St. Louis for ten days just prior to the arrival of President Roosevelt. Chief of Police Kiely had a man at the meeting who made a complete report to him of the proceedings. It is declared that the chief business transacted at the convention, in addition to numerous speeches on liberty and free speech, was a resolution binding each delegate to use his influence to bring about a strike of all trades unions in the country next spring.

Russia Fears Crisis is At Hand.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 1.—Foreign reports of the fighting at Port Arthur are accepted here very seriously. If the Japanese have taken 203-Meter hill, as reported, commanding the whole harbor, it is believed that the situation is critical. Experts on Port Arthur topography assert, however, that it is more likely that the Japanese have occupied some positions at the base of the hill, and believe that owing to the concentrated fire of the covered forts the Japanese will find the top of the hill untenable, if taken.

Powers Urge America End War.

New York, Nov. 30.—The Herald's Washington correspondent says: The powers are again urging America to end the conflict in the Far East. Diplomats attach great significance to Prince Fushimi's visits to Secretary Hay and the interest of the United States in the return of Manchuria to China is emphasized.

MUST ATTACK

Japanese Officials Insist Port Arthur Be Taken.

RUSSIA READY FOR BAD NEWS

Certain That Stoessel Will Make the Assault One of the Costliest in World's History.

Washington, Nov. 28.—The Associated Press learns on excellent authority that the Japanese army has received orders to renew its attack on Port Arthur and to take the main fortifications at any cost.

Prepared for Bad News.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 28.—There is a lack of news from the front today. The report that the Japanese are concentrating their energies for a desperate assault on Port Arthur, in view of the approach of the Baltic squadron, is quite generally credited in official quarters. Such a move has been expected to transpire as soon as the Japanese learned that the squadron's trip was a reality and no mere demonstration.

The authorities are prepared to hear terrible reports of the projected assault. While not hazarding a guess whether the fortress can be carried, for the besiegers are utterly regardless of life, they are confident that General Stoessel will be able to make such an attack one of the costliest in history.

Russians Lack Ammunition.

London, Nov. 28.—The Post's Shanghai correspondent cables that, according to reliable information received there, the guns at Port Arthur have been silent for the past few days owing to lack of ammunition. This sudden turn for the worse in the condition of the defenders of the fortress has been caused by the recent blowing up of the most important magazine by Japanese shells.

BUBONIC PLAGUE IN CHILE.

Consul Winans Charged with Giving Improper Bills of Health.

Lima, Peru, Nov. 30.—It is reported here that Senor Martinez, the Chilean minister to the United States, will request the State department at Washington to cancel the authorization of Charles S. Winans, American consul at Iquique, to take charge ad interim of the Peruvian consul at that place. The request, it is said, will be founded on a charge that Mr. Winans has given improper bills of health to steamers leaving Iquique.

While the prevalence of bubonic plague has not been officially declared in Chile, it is said that there are cases that the Chilean government daily conceals in order that steamers may not omit touching at ports at which there are no sanitary regulations. This alleged action is considered a great peril to the Peruvian coast, Panama and the entire country bordering on the South Pacific ocean.

Troops Rushed to Arthur.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 1.—According to information which has reached the war office, Field Marshal Oyama's strength is much smaller than heretofore believed, tending to confirm the theory that a large force has been withdrawn to assist in storming Port Arthur. This information is to the effect that not much more than 150,000 men are now confronting General Kuropatkin, but that the Japanese lines are heavily fortified in order to check any aggressive movement which Kuropatkin might undertake.

Russia Will Copy America.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 30.—A project for applying the American scheme of free land for settlers in Siberia in order to attract colonization from the congested districts in European Russia is attracting much favorable comment. The plan as proposed follows closely the American homestead system.

FIRE ON TOWN.

Strikers at Zeigler, Illinois, Send in 500 Shots.

Benton, Ill., Dec. 1.—Zeigler was fired upon last night from sundown to daylight. It is intimated that no less than 500 shots were fired at the town. The town was completely surrounded, and the firing came from every quarter. Response to this fusillade was made by four Gatling guns placed at various points about the mine buildings. Assistant Adjutant General Reece and the Carbondale militia company arrived at Zeigler today, and General Reece will remain several days to investigate the situation. It is thought that still more troops will be brought.

Joseph Leiter reached Zeigler today with more miners from Chicago. Examination of the ground this morning showed that the men who were firing have powerful guns. They were stationed from one-half to three-quarters of a mile from the town. Almost a bushel of empty shells of every size were found in the woods.

A trail of blood was found on a rail fence, and from this it is supposed at least one person was wounded. Further trouble is anticipated.

JAPANESE OVER THE HUN.

Rivers Will Soon Bear the Weight of Transport Wagons.

Tokio, Nov. 30.—News received from the region of the Shakkho indicates that the Japanese have been across the Hun river. Further reports are to the effect that the Russian outposts on the right bank of the Shakkho were within 300 yards of the Japanese picket line. Frequent exchange of gun fire occurred and minor attacks are quite everyday affairs. The rivers will soon be frozen sufficiently to bear the weight of the heavy transport wagons. The following report has been received from Field Marshal Oyama:

"From the night of the 25th to the morning of the 26th bodies of the enemy's infantry attacked us in the vicinity of Sigulotsu, Fagsig and Shaotukau. All these attacks were repulsed. In the afternoon of the 26th the enemy's artillery east of Tasha hotly cannonaded us, but we suffered no injury.

"The greater part of the village of Changt-aimun has been burned by the Russians."

Negotiating for Steamer.

New York, Nov. 30.—Negotiations are reported to have been nearly completed whereby the steamship J. L. Luckenbach may eventually become the property of the Russian government. She was formerly in the trans-Atlantic service under the name Saale, and was partially destroyed in the great fire which swept the Hoboken water front several years ago. The steamer, which is now at South Brooklyn, was rebuilt after the fire and fitted up as a cargo carrier. She is valued at \$300,000. She will be used as a transport.

Taft at Work in Panama.

Panama, Nov. 30.—The first conference having for its purpose the adjustment of the questions in dispute between the United States and Panama was called this morning. There were present Secretary of War Taft, President Amador, Ricardo Arias, a member of the Panama fiscal commission, and General Guardia, the Panama minister of war. The case for Panama was presented, but beyond this fact nothing was given out, the proceedings being kept secret until an agreement is reached.

Students Ceasing Their Rioting.

Budapest, Nov. 30.—As a result of the order of the director of the university forbidding students to participate in political demonstrations, which yesterday culminated in a riot in which several students were injured, it was feared that there would be further trouble today, but the big meeting of the opposing parties was held and dispersed quietly after speeches had been made by Francis Kossuth, Count Apponyi and others.