

SEA FIGHT AT HAND

Hostile Fleets are Fast Approaching Each Other.

BOTH SEEN NEAR SINGAPORE

Russians Going in Direction of South China Sea, Most Probable Scene of Battle.

Singapore, April 8.—The belief is general here that a desperate engagement for the control of the sea is imminent off here between the Japanese defensive fleet, under command of Admiral Togo, and the Russian fleet commanded by Vice Admiral Rojestvensky. The two fleets are rapidly approaching each other, and naval experts here believe that a battle which will decide whether or not Japan is to retain supremacy on the ocean as well as on land will be fought within a fortnight.

The captain of a coasting steamer which has put into Penang reports having passed a fleet of 27 armorclads 70 miles to the southeast. The fleet was flying no colors, and when he altered his course to inspect the warships a destroyer sailed up and admonished him to turn back. The warning was promptly heeded.

Several Chinese junks that have arrived here bring the news that the converted fast merchantmen, formerly in the Yokohama-San Francisco trade, are patrolling every avenue through which the Russian fleet might pass in their rush toward Vladivostok, and the bulk of Admiral Togo's big fleet is kept in position where it can be hurled against the Russians as soon as sighted.

Accompanying the main body of the fleet are two floating furnaces that were built at Sasebo, and which are designed to repair all damage that may result to the fleet in its cruising operations. On these ships are mounted huge floating cranes, with which disabled guns can be lifted and which are expected to prove of great service, should the Japanese suffer at the hands of the Russians.

It is the general opinion that the battle will take place in the China sea, and there is a diversity of opinion as to the outcome. While it is admitted that the Japanese fleet has the advantage of seasoned men and experienced commanders, it is also sure that the Russian admiral will enjoy the advantage in weight of metal, and that he has improved the marksmanship of his gunners in the long voyage across is also sure. The battle is sure to be one of the most desperately contested in the history of naval warfare and the element of luck may play a large part in its outcome.

INSTALLING BLOCK SIGNALS.

Northern Pacific Making Extensive Improvements for Safety of Traffic.

St. Paul, April 8.—President Howard Elliott has authorized important improvements tending to increase public safety which will place the Northern Pacific system second on the list of American railways in the installation of the block system for the current year.

The new improvements will afford continuous signal protection, over all the principal districts of heavy traffic from the eastern terminus at St. Paul through to the Pacific coast. Construction has already commenced and will be rushed forward to completion. The districts over which new block signal protection will be afforded will add 613.5 miles to that already in use and are as follows:

Minneapolis to Staples, Minn.; Livingston, Mont., to Logan, Mont.; Garrison to Dixon, Mont.; Spokane, Wash., to Pasco, Wash.; Pasco to Elensburg, Wash.; and Seattle to Tacoma.

The block system being installed is the "telegraph block," a system found satisfactory on all lines now using it over long stretches.

Buy Out Colville Indians.

Washington, April 8.—Representative Jones today requested the secretary of the interior to send an inspector to Washington to negotiate an agreement with the Colville Indians under which they will consent to the opening of the unallotted lands of the south half of their reservation. He urged that such an agreement be made in time for submission to congress next winter. It is probable that Inspector McLaughlin will be sent to negotiate with the Colvilles this summer. The north half may also be purchased.

Plot Against the Republic.

Paris, April 8.—Much mystery surrounds the arrest of an ex-captain of the army on the charge of conspiracy against the public security, and the seizure in the same connection of a large number of cartridges and uniforms. The parties concerned seek to explain that it was intended to use the arms in a mission to the Ivory coast, but the activity of the secret police leads to reports of plots against the security of the government.

Should Agree on Life-Saving.

Washington, April 8.—The British ambassador, Sir Mortimer Durand, called upon Acting Secretary of State Loomis today to urge a reciprocal arrangement between America and Great Britain respecting the equipment of ocean going steam vessels with life saving devices. The proposition was referred to the department of Commerce and Labor.

DON'T RUSH TO MINIDOKA LAND

Pumping Problem for Irrigation Has Not Been Solved.

Washington, April 7.—The attention of the director of the geological survey has been called to the fact that a misapprehension exists on the part of certain citizens of Idaho as to the plans of the reclamation service in regard to some important details relating to the Minidoka project. This misunderstanding has arisen, it is believed, by reason of the efforts of many settlers to anticipate the plans of the engineers and secure choice holdings of land.

The government from the first has warned intending settlers to go slow in making entries on the lands embraced in this project, and has called particular attention to the fact that the plans for irrigation, especially those involving the pumping plant, were merely tentative, and could not be worked out as quickly as those for the gravity system. While nothing has arisen to prevent the ultimate development of a pumping plant, so many delicate engineering features are involved that careful consideration must be given to these before any definite conclusions are reached or the final plans are approved.

Thus, apparently, while no reason exists for believing that the pumping features of the Minidoka project will not ultimately be utilized, the engineers very wisely have concluded to give this question more study and consideration before recommending it for construction.

YAQUIS ARE SPREADING TERROR

Murder and Pillage Mark Their Trail Through Mexico.

El Paso, Tex., April 6.—John St. Clair, a well known prospector, whose statements are considered reliable, has returned from the Yaqui country near Ures, Sonora, and reports that the Indians are still on the warpath. He says that Malpuche, the old chief, is at the head of a band of over 50 and is devastating the whole country, murdering, pillaging and burning. Grain and cotton ranches are being abandoned and the people are going into the towns for protection.

The whole country is in a state of panic. Mail routes between the small towns have been abandoned and provisions are getting scarce. Although the country is overrun with soldiers, he says, the Indians are fearless and continue their depredations. St. Clair does not believe it is safe for Americans to go into the Yaqui country at this time, as the Yaquis are very hostile to Americans.

While going from Ures to his camp in the mountains, St. Clair heard firing and ran into what had been an Indian ambush. He found two dead Mexicans who had been killed only a few minutes before he reached the place. The Yaquis are armed with rifles and are well supplied with cartridges, St. Clair says.

HUNDREDS WERE MANGLED.

Results of Earthquake in India Worse Than First Reported.

Lahore, British India, April 7.—As the particulars filter in from the outlying districts, it is being revealed that the casualties caused by the earthquake of two days ago have been under, rather than over-estimated. In one spot alone at Dhamala, it is reported that fully 1,400 natives have been killed or injured. Of the injured many will die. Seven of the Europeans previously reported hurt have since died, and two others are in a dying condition.

There is not a house left in the vicinity that does not show evidence of the trembling of the earth. This is the report from one district alone, and as authentic information comes in it seems certain that the magnitude of the disaster will be sufficient to stir the entire world when fully revealed.

The Indian government is making arrangements to relieve all distress as soon as possible.

Think All Americans are Thieves.

St. Petersburg, April 7.—A correspondent of the Journal de St. Petersburg draws a rare picture of the dishonesty which he says pervades the highest American circles. The precautions taken by social leaders to prevent their guests from being robbed by one another, and tells of the consternation produced at a white house reception by a sudden failure of the lights, the reillumination showing that the ladies had hastily divested themselves of their jewels and concealed them, the men holding their pocketbooks.

Japanese Minister Will Rest.

Washington, April 7.—Minister Takahira, of the Japanese legation, called on Secretary Taft today and told him that on account of the state of his health he would be compelled to leave Washington for a different climate. He also states that there have been no further developments toward a settlement of the war. The secretary and the minister arranged to communicate with each other in case anything happens to make it necessary.

Forest Fire on South Mountains.

Gettysburg, Pa., April 7.—Forest fires burning over an area of thousands of acres have started in the South mountains, the line of fire extending a distance of three miles. The destruction of valuable lumber is great.

CZAR IS IN DANGER

Dynamite Is Found Hidden In Imperial Palace.

SECRET POLICE WERE IN PLOT

Twelve Members Arrested and Placed in Dungeon—Chance Leads to Discovery of Explosive.

St. Petersburg, April 6.—At last the terrorists have succeeded in penetrating the cordon of guards about the czar, and in smuggling high explosives into the palace itself, and as a result there is a feeling of apprehension among all of the high officials and the guards about his majesty have been trebled.

Late yesterday afternoon, as the guard at the palace was being changed, Lieutenant Colonel Shiraupsky, who was in command, noticed that one of the Cossacks who had been posted at the main door was wearing the sword of an infantry officer, and not the sabre of a Cossack. He thereupon called a corporal and placed the man under arrest. He was at once searched and incriminating documents were found on his person.

Search of the palace revealed two packages of dynamite, placed against the main door of the imperial suite, in a dark corner where they were not likely to be noticed.

A searching inquiry was at once instituted, with the result that 12 secret police agents were arrested as accomplices, and all were hurried to the Peter and Paul fortress, where they were interviewed by General Trepoif.

The fact that the terrorists have succeeded in corrupting members of the secret police and soldiers has caused much alarm, and another attempt against a high official is looked for.

PRICE PAID FOR CATTLE.

Next Question for Consideration Before Beef Trust Grand Jury.

Chicago, April 6.—Prices paid for livestock by the packers, alleged to be granted the packers by the railroads for handling the same and the private accounts of some of the packing concerns are to be closely inquired into within the next few days by the Federal grand jury which is investigating the business affairs of the beef trust. Another phase of the question of the alleged combination of some of the packers in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law and Judge Grosscup's injunction which is to be inquired into is the price paid by wholesale dealers to the packers for meats.

Witnesses who can give the jurors detailed and accurate information along these lines have been subpoenaed and appeared at the investigation today. Some of these witnesses testified and, although they refused to make public what they told the jury, it is said a large amount of data valuable to the government was secured from them.

More complaints of interference with the witnesses reached United States Attorney Bethea and Captain Porter, of the secret service, during the day. The session today was devoted to the examination of men employed at the Chicago stockyards and packing houses.

With the exception of the Sunday adjournments, the jury, it is said, will now proceed steadily to the end of the inquiry. The United States attorney has announced that May 15 will probably see the close.

It is said the hearing of the plea and demurrer of Thomas J. Connors, the indicted superintendent of the Armour company, will be disposed of before the jury presents other true bills involving persons on charges of tampering with witnesses.

Standard Sued for Inspection Fee.

Chicago, April 6.—The city of Chicago today filed suit for \$40,000 against the Standard Oil company. The bill is based upon the alleged non-payment of inspection fees by the Standard Oil company. It is claimed that the company has for years refused to pay for inspections made by the city under an ordinance regulating commerce in naphtha and gasoline. Representatives of the Standard Oil company hold that gasoline and naphtha are not products of petroleum and that the ordinance does not apply.

Peasants Loot and Burn.

St. Petersburg, April 6.—Official advices report continued disorders in the Caucasus. Within the past week peasants have looted and burned public offices in many villages in the Gore district, sacked schools and private estates, cutting down trees and threatening to kill the police if they interfered, and forced priests to go with them and take an oath of solidarity with their cause. Similar disorders are reported in the Tiflis district.

Want To Be Paid Monthly.

Santo Domingo, April 6.—The Belgian creditors of Santo Domingo have presented a proposition to President Morales and American Minister Dawson for the monthly payment of \$25,000 to the Belgians, intimating that then they would favor the debt arrangement being concluded. It is expected that the situation will remain unaltered until the United States takes final action regarding the pending convention.

NO SURRENDER

Man's Indomitable Courage in the Face of Stupendous Dangers.

Man's unwillingness to yield to circumstances is one of his most impressive characteristics. Sometimes it seems to be mere stubbornness, unreasoning and puerile. Far more often, however, it is admirable in a high degree, betokening the supremacy of mind over matter and the primacy of man among created things. Over many things man triumphs. Over nature he may never hope to triumph. The elemental forces of nature are a catastrophe as that which occurred in the Windward Isles, for example, man, with all the knowledge of the schools and all the resources of twentieth century civilization, is as helpless as the cattle of the fields and the worms of the dust. One witness of the destruction of St. Pierre says the people perished like flies. The description is accurate, and its suggestion is a true one. The flow of an hour, the gnats that dance in a summer sunbeam, are not more helpless than man in the face of such a convulsion of nature, says the New York Tribune.

Yet man remains defiant and indomitable. Pompeii was and Herculaneum was; yet Naples is, and it nestles fearlessly at the foot of their still restless and menacing destroyer. Today the horror-stricken world says of St. Pierre that it was, but it is no more. Yet to-morrow men will found a new city at the base of that same Rold mountain which has done this awful deed. A striking instance of such perseverance is seen in the neighboring island of St. Vincent, which has suffered less only than Martinique. Its great sulphur mountain erupted ninety years ago with appalling violence and devastation. Forthwith some said the island should be abandoned, and the British government actually began to make plans for the entire removal of the people and the distribution of them among other islands less menaced by volcanic action. But soon the idea was given up, and the people remained, some 40,000 of them, clinging resolutely to some 132 square miles of beautiful and fertile but ominously unstable land. To-day the revival and execution of those plans are suggested, even urged. But doubtless this, too, will pass, and for all the throes of La Soufriere the people of St. Vincent—those who are left of them—will remain where they are. There will be no surrender.

It is the same trait that causes the Finn and the Icander to cling to their semi-arctic homes rather than to seek more genial and more fertile regions, and the Switzer and Highlander to prefer their rugged rocks and cliffs to the soft, smooth lowland plains. It is the same spirit that nerves man to endure pain and trouble, to repress the groan and tear, and to meet with a smile the darkest frowns of disappointment and misfortune. Columbus bidding his mutinous crew "Sail on!" and Pallas burning his house to keep his furnace raging, and Gordon serenely awaiting his martyrdom at Khartoum were similar types of the unconquerable man who knows not how to frame the word "surrender." There are those who would desert St. Vincent and Martinique, who would abandon all efforts to reach the North Pole, who would yield, defeated at the first touch of elemental rage. They also would have had Columbus turn back in mid-voyage and every great inventor stop work in despair at failure of his first or his fiftieth experiment. Controlled by faint hearts, the world would know no progress. Those who lead mankind forward and upward are those whose watchword, even in hopeless sacrifice, is "No surrender!"

Wanted a Good Lawyer.

A well known lawyer of Philadelphia, whose office is located close to the city hall, received a tremendous shock the other day. He was counsel for a man charged with larceny, and, as the evidence was conclusive, he advised his client to plead guilty. "You know that you have a bad record and you have practically confessed your guilt," said the lawyer in a soothing manner, "and you will be sentenced to about three years in jail." This last sentence completely dumfounded the prisoner, but after he had looked about his cell for several minutes he turned to his attorney, and in a serious manner said: "Will you kindly go out and get me a good lawyer?"

As soon as the lawyer recovered from the shock he told the prisoner he would argue the case for him.

An Easy One.

Wilson—Here's a problem for you, old man. A donkey was tied to a rope six feet long; eighteen feet away there was a bundle of hay, and the donkey wanted to get at the hay. How did he manage it?

Sharp—Oh, I've heard that once before. You want me to say "I give it up," and you'll say, "So did the donkey."

Wilson—Not at all. Sharp—Then how did he do it? Wilson—Just walked up to the hay and ate it.

Sharp—But you said he was tied to a rope six feet long.

Wilson—So he was. But you see the rope wasn't tied to anything. Quite simple, isn't it?

When two persons tackle a duet it looks as if they ought to sing it in half the time one could—but they can't.

About all same pastors are good for is to raise money to apply on the church debt.

THE SWEET VOICES OF SPRING.



—Cincinnati Post.

AN INDIAN FRAUD.

Sitting Bull, the Much Advertised Sioux Warrior, Was a Coward.

According to Capt. Jack Crawford, formerly chief of scouts with the United States forces in the West, and who writes entertainingly in Munsey's Magazine on "The Last of the Indian Chiefs," Sitting Bull, the once famous Sioux and reputed a mighty warrior, was a monumental fraud. He was a mere medicine man, and became notorious simply because, with a few followers, he refused to come in and accept the rations offered by Uncle Sam. This put him into the outlaw class, and he was regarded as an enemy to the government. In 1875 he took to the hills and adopted the tactics of the renegade.

In the Little Big Horn fight, where Custer, the greatest of all Indian fighters, fell with his gallant 300 scattered on the field of massacre, it was supposed that Sitting Bull led the victory.



SITTING BULL.

rious Indians, and the world long pointed to him as the inspiring spirit of Sioux vengeance. The truth is that Sitting Bull was not in the Custer fight at all. He was looking for one of his youngsters who had strayed away from camp, and he did not put in an appearance until the historic fight was over. Nevertheless, the tremendous and sensational self-advertiser was hailed all over the United States and Europe, lionized and paraded as the greatest Indian general on earth.

To be pointed to as "the chief who wiped out Custer's command" meant something to an Indian, and Sitting Bull showed no reluctance about reaping the profits. He raised the price of Sioux signatures from 10 cents to \$1, and nearly got writer's cramp at that. But he discovered, like other American heroes, that popularity is short-lived. His association with the palefaces had taught him the importance of being earnest. Therefore he inaugurated the famous Messiah craze among his people. He told them, with much beating of the tomtom, that their forefathers would soon return to earth, properly decked in war paint, and would proceed to wipe out the palefaces, yank out the barbed wire fences, burn the government posts, drive the United States troops into the tall timber, and return once again to the topees and the watch-fires of the old regime.

During the time Sitting Bull was setting the stage and rehearsing his ghost dancers for the grand climax, he was so much afraid to show his face at the Indian agency that he sent one of his sons to gather in the bi-weekly rations supplied by Uncle Sam. The government authorities saw trouble ahead, and, knowing the Sioux tendency to massacre, gave orders for the arrest of the old medicine man. Thirty-nine Indian police and four volunteers went to the home of the great maker of signatures, and found him in the midst of elaborate preparations for flight. He submitted quietly to arrest, however, until one of his sons, doubtless familiar with his father's cowardly nature, began to jeer and jibe him.

Sitting Bull, true to his reputation, called in a loud voice for rescue. A general melee was precipitated, in

which six Indian police and eight of Sitting Bull's braves were killed, himself among them. This closed the career of one of the most garrulous old frauds with whom Uncle Sam has ever had to deal.

SHOOT BIG BEAR IN CAVE.

Three Hunters Have Lively Experience on Mount Hood.

Shooting a 400-pound black bear in the darkness of a cave twenty feet in the side of Mount Hood was the experience last week of three Portland plumbers, says the Portland Oregonian, who have returned to the city with the pelt.

The hunters are Fred H. Schindler, Jesse S. Hayes and Roy C. Maxwell. It was three days out from Portland that the party stumbled upon the bear's den. Just after lunch they saw, behind a large rock, an opening about six feet deep. Maxwell dropped inside, the others following. A candle was lighted and fresh bear signs were discovered. After going in fifteen feet they found that the cave widened out and pitched downward. Hayes was in the lead.

By this time the hunters were in darkness, except for the flickering light of the candle. Hayes was sure he had heard a bear moving about, so the trio proceeded with fear and trembling. They had come all the way from Portland to hunt bear, but to steal along in the semi-darkness of the interior of Mount Hood was not on the program as arranged.

When the party had walked 300 feet from the entrance and were down in the earth at least 200 feet, at the same instant all three heard the sound of claws on the rocky floor and saw two green eyes glaring at them, the bear fearing to approach nearer to the light. Hayes fired instantly. The report was deafening, but as nitro-smokeless powder was used there was no suffocating smoke. There was a half-stifled roar from the bear, and the hair of each man went straight up. Fearing an onslaught, all fired a volley of three shots each and awaited developments on the part of bruin. But the bear was dead. Half the shots had been wasted.

Not only the pelt was secured, but twenty-five pounds of meat as well. Bear meat at this season, however, is almost useless for food. No attempt was made to explore the remainder of the cavern.

The Value of New Ideas.

The recognition of the value of a new idea in regard to a business point is leading employers to encourage criticisms and suggestions from employees in respect to the details of the business, thus utilizing their microscopic view rather than depending solely on the birds-eye view which is taken by the manager. A friendly feeling results from this attitude, and the employee takes a deeper interest in his work, developing his own capacity and helping the business. To see his idea carried out by his superiors puts new life into him and adds new enthusiasm to his efforts.—Success.

All That Saved Him.

"Now," began the moralizer, "take the life of your neighbor, for instance. He—"

"I'd do it in a minute," interrupted the demoralizer, "if the law would tolerate it. He's learning to play the cornet."

Cynical.

"Which do you think counts for the most in life, money or brains?"

"Well," answered Miss Cayenne, "I see so many people who manage to get on with so little of either that I am beginning to lose my respect for both."—Washington Star.

The Best Kind of Charity.

The best kind of charity is not that which makes a man easy in destitution, but uneasy in it—uneasy enough to struggle out of it by the aid of a friendly hand.—Zion's Herald.

You can't blame the man who is putting up a stove for hitting the pipe.