

BLOW UP SHIP

Russians Sink Their Own Vessel at Chefoo.

THREE DULL EXPLOSIONS HEARD

Japanese Vessels Seen Off Coast and Commander Feared Capture—Carried Important Message

Chefoo, Nov. 18.—Fearing capture by the Japanese, whose boats were off the port, the Russians today blew up the torpedo boat destroyer Rastoropy, which escaped from Port Arthur under cover of a severe storm and entered this harbor last night.

The correspondent of the Associated Press learns authoritatively that the Rastoropy had sealed orders providing that unless there came a highly favorable opportunity to escape, the vessel should be blown up. Sufficient powder for the purpose was secreted before the destroyer left Port Arthur. Small charges of ordinary powder placed in each of the five water tight compartments were exploded.

Customs Officer Koenig was on board the destroyer, and the Russians experienced considerable difficulty in getting him off without arousing his suspicion. The destroyer's cutter, manned by two men, was lying near, and the official was persuaded to take a ride around the Rastoropy in order that he might see the injuries she was alleged to have received.

No sooner had the customs officer stepped into the cutter than a petty officer drew his watch and urged the rowers to make all speed away. When the destroyer had gone down the official was taken on shore.

The Russians, with the exception of one man, left the destroyer during the afternoon. This last man lit slow fuses and blew up the vessel. There were three dull explosions which were scarcely audible 100 yards away from the place where they occurred. Almost simultaneously the Rastoropy sank to the bottom. A single spar marks her grave.

NATIONAL SESSIONS OPEN.

Thirty-Eighth Annual Opened with Sixth-Degree Ceremony.

Portland, Nov. 17.—National Master Aaron Jones opened the 38th annual convention of the National Grange at Armory hall yesterday morning at 11 o'clock assisted by the other officers of the national body. The ceremony was conducted in the sixth degree, prefaced by a declaration by the national master announcing its aims and purposes. A special choir furnished the opening songs, those among the audience who were singers assisting in the chorus. The opening session was necessarily brief, owing to the lack of complete preparations. The only business transacted was the appointment of the committee on credentials, upon which the convention took a recess to meet again at 1:30 P. M.

Promptly at 1:30 P. M. the master's gavel fell and the afternoon session began with a song by the choir, followed by the report of the committee on credentials.

During a short space of time, while the committee on credentials was making its report, upon the invitation of the master, the assemblage listened to short addresses by Hon. William Hillery, Hon. Augustus High and Hon. Jacob Voorhees.

REMOVED BY PRESIDENT.

Roosevelt Takes Initial Step Toward Purging Alaska Service.

Washington, Nov. 18.—Convinced that the Alaska judiciary is more or less undermined with rottenness, and that all the courts are resting under a cloud of suspicion because of innumerable charges preferred against the various judges and their subordinates, President Roosevelt today took the initial step toward purging the service of undesirable elements by summarily removing Frank B. Richards, of Alaska, marshal of Nome district, and requesting the resignation of Melville C. Brown, of Wyoming, judge of the Juneau district.

Japan Appreciate's France's Position

Tokio, Nov. 18.—The negotiations between Tokio and Paris, concerning the alleged violation by France of neutrality in permitting ships of the Russian second squadron to use French harbors, continue. Pending their conclusion, the Japanese government is silent. Sections of the press and public are indulging in somewhat severe criticisms of the action of the French, but the feeling is distinctly more temperate among the better informed Japanese who sympathize with the delicate position of France as Russia's ally.

Liberty Bell Sent Home.

St. Louis, Nov. 18.—Special farewell exercises in honor of the Liberty bell, which had been on exhibition in the Pennsylvania building at the World's fair, were held today, at the conclusion of which the honored relic was started on its trip back to Philadelphia. An immense throng attended the exercises, crowding the space around the bell in the rotunda of the Pennsylvania building. The ceremony closed with prolonged cheers.

Russia Has New Foe.

London, Nov. 18.—A dispatch to the Pall Mall Gazette from Moscow says that a telegram received there from Baku announces that trouble has occurred between Russians and Afghans at Keshk. The Afghans, it is added, exploded a Russian magazine, and many soldiers were killed.

EXPLOSION CAUSES FIRE.

Missouri Building at St. Louis Fair Totally Destroyed.

World's Fair Grounds, St. Louis, Nov. 22.—The Missouri state building was destroyed by fire tonight, resulting from the explosion of a hot water heater in the basement. Instantly the flames shot up through the rotunda and the north wing and cupola were a solid mass of flames within ten minutes after the explosion. The loss cannot be estimated accurately, owing to the temporary nature of the construction material, which has no salvage value. The principal loss is in the contents of the building. The building cost \$145,000, and in the building were \$75,000 worth of furnishings, the most valuable of which were portraits of ex-Missouri governors and supreme judges. These cannot be replaced.

The fire was the most spectacular that has occurred in St. Louis in years. Thousands of persons hurried from all portions of the grounds, attracted by the sheet of flames that spurted from the cupolas, making a far greater brilliancy than the illumination of all the buildings. A wind was blowing from the south, and the flames shot down the northern side of the cupola and met a sheet of flames which enveloped the northern wing. Instantly the building was aflame from top to bottom in the northern half. Sparks were carried over the United States government building as far northwest as the Liberal Arts palace. Bucket brigades were hurried to the roofs of these buildings, preventing ignition.

After the flames were under control and had been sufficiently extinguished to admit the firemen entering the building the south wall fell without warning and buried Lloyd Randolph, driver of city engine No. 28, and Frank O'Connor, of city truck No. 9. Several others only escaped by a narrow margin. Captain Edward O'Neill, of World's fair truck No. 4 was seriously hurt, George Carenbach was killed and Jerry Fagin, of the same company, was probably fatally injured.

TWELVE LIVES LOST IN FIRE.

Early Morning Blaze in New York Tenement District.

New York, Nov. 22.—At least 12 lives were lost in a fire in a Brooklyn tenement house early today, and the firemen are searching for other bodies. It is believed the death list will equal 15. Twelve persons were injured, none, it is believed, fatally.

Shortly after 2 o'clock this morning flames were found in the cellar of No. 186 Troutman street, a three story frame tenement house, and by the time the firemen arrived the stairways and air-shafts were ablaze and the halls filled with smoke. Three other alarms were turned in and soon a large detachment of firemen was at work fighting the fire.

Despite the efforts of the firemen the flames spread to the adjoining tenements, 182, 184, 188 and 190. The occupants of these houses were early notified of their danger and it is believed that all escaped.

The firemen found the dead bodies of nine persons shortly after their arrival at the scene and another was added to the number within a few minutes. Further search was rewarded by the finding of the bodies of a man and a woman in a bedroom on the top floor of No. 186. They were severely burned, but death, as in the cases of the other victims, had been due to suffocation.

The first floor of the building, where the fire originated, was occupied by Antonio Giambalvo, who conducted a grocery store, his living apartments being in the rear. The flames were first found, according to those who turned in the first alarm, in the cellar immediately under this store, and they communicated with lightning rapidity to the upper floors of the house. The cause of the fire is unknown.

The money loss is inconsiderable. The occupants of the houses were laborers.

May Succeed Hecker.

Washington, Nov. 22.—While no announcement has yet been made regarding the president's action in the selection of a man to succeed Colonel Frank J. Hecker on the isthmian canal commission, it is known he is considering seriously the appointment of Senator Francis M. Cockrell, of Missouri, to the vacancy. It is intimated that Senator Cockrell himself practically will have the determination of the matter. If his health will permit him to undertake the arduous work it is reasonably certain he can have the appointment.

Russia Buys Destroyer in England.

New York, Nov. 22.—A remarkable story comes from the Glasgow correspondent of the American, to the effect that a torpedo boat destroyer of great speed, built in an English shipyard, has been delivered to the Russian government, and that Burke Roche, ex-member of parliament from Ireland, and well known in society, had commanded the boat during its voyage through the Kiel ship canal to Libau, on the Baltic.

Italy for Arbitration.

Rome, Nov. 22.—Foreign Minister Tittoni today informed Ambassador Meyer that he had given instructions to the Italian ambassador at Washington to sign an arbitration treaty with the United States similar to those between the United States and France and France and Great Britain.

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Train No. 4 connects at Albany with the Portland-Albany local, which arrives there at 7:10 and runs to Corvallis leaving Albany at 7:15 and arriving in Corvallis at 7:30 p. m.

For further information apply to
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