

CLOSE ON FORT

Japanese Steadily Advancing at Port Arthur.

SEVERAL POSITIONS TAKEN

Togo Will Withdraw Most of Squadron as Enemy's Ships are Almost Incapable of Resistance.

Chefoo, Sept. 30.—The news received from Port Arthur continues to show a steady, if slow advance of the Japanese upon the Russian fortifications. Day by day the remoter positions of the beleaguered fortress are being taken by the Japanese, and that its fall is only a matter of a short time is the general belief here. The number of Chinese refugees arriving here increases constantly, and this is taken to bode no good for the Russians.

The last of the Chinese to arrive from Port Arthur report a still further advance by the Japanese. They assert that several of the most important positions held by the Russians, farthest from the central fortress have been taken by the Japanese, the latter inflicting considerable loss upon the Russians. The Japanese had tunneled approaches to these positions and finally, with the help of mines, made their way within the fortifications. The Russians were taken by surprise and were able to offer little resistance. Finding they were unable to hold their own against the Japanese the Russians retreated, leaving their dead and wounded behind them.

When the Japanese attack was discerned by the other Russian forts they at once opened fire, and at last accounts this was still being maintained. It is considered doubtful whether the Japanese will be able to retain possession of their newly acquired positions. The greater portion of the Japanese fleet has returned to the Japanese base in the Elliot islands, the Japanese commander having become convinced that the Russian vessels within the harbor of Port Arthur are almost incapable of further resistance and of making any sortie into the open sea.

LAND FRAUDS ALL RUN DOWN.

Agent Greene is Sure Oregon Cases Will Result in Conviction.

Washington, Sept. 30.—Special Agent A. R. Greene, who has been Secretary Hitchcock's trusted lieutenant in running down land frauds in Oregon, is in Washington, conferring with the secretary. Discussing Oregon's affairs, Mr. Greene said:

"We believe we have finished up that land fraud business in Oregon. We have the men responsible held under indictment and it is a safe prediction that there will be some hot news out of Portland within the next month or two, when the trials commence."

After describing the methods of the fraudulent operators, Mr. Greene added:

The usual thing happened. One member of the gang did not think he was getting his fair share of the profits and gave the thing away.

ACT OF VANDALS.

Oil Paintings of Czar at St. Louis are Mutilated.

St. Louis, Sept. 30.—When the Russian exhibit in the varied industries building at the world's fair was opened today it was discovered that several valuable oil paintings of Emperor Nicholas had been torn from the wall and mutilated by some unidentified person or persons.

Another portrait of the emperor, a handsome and valuable panel, done in colored silk, had been torn from its support and subjected to the greatest indignity. The oil paintings were torn and there were marks showing that the pictures of the emperor had been stamped upon.

The vandalism was reported at once to the exposition authorities, and an investigation ordered. Every effort is being made by both the exhibitors and the world's fair authorities to discover the guilty person or persons.

Officer is Assassinated.

Geneva, Switzerland, Sept. 30.—Word has been received here that Colonel Bikoff, commander of the Russian guard on the Turkish frontier, has been assassinated. Colonel Bikoff recently helped the revolutionists in an attack upon Armenian troops, in which an Armenian priest, bearing a white flag, was killed as he approached the Turkish troops. Following the attack upon the Armenians, Colonel Bikoff permitted the Cossacks, who had joined the Turks to pilage and mutilate the corpses of the Armenians.

Japan to Borrow Again.

Tokio, Sept. 30.—The government has decided to float another domestic loan of \$40,000,000, on conditions similar to the last. It is probable that the conscription law will be amended, increasing the service in the reserve five years, and making the regular reserve service total 17 years and five months. This means a large increase in the strength of the army.

HIS LIFE ENDS.

United States Senator Hoar Passes From Earth.

Worcester, Mass., Oct. 1.—George Frisbie Hoar, senior United States senator from Massachusetts, died at his home in this city at 1:35 o'clock yesterday morning. The end followed a period of unconsciousness that had lasted since early Tuesday, and came so gently that only the attending physicians were aware of the exact moment of his ending.

The attending physicians despaired of the senator's life six weeks ago, but such was the vitality exhibited by their distinguished patient that even they were surprised, and the public was at times led to cherish faith in an ultimate recovery.

On Sunday last, however, all hope was abandoned after a last unsuccessful attempt to administer medicine and nourishment. Brief lucid intervals were followed by longer durations of unconsciousness until Tuesday morning, when the venerable statesman sank into a state of coma, from which all efforts to rouse him proved futile. During the last hours there was not a movement of the body, and only a scarcely perceptible pulse evidenced the final struggle.

There were present at the bedside when death came the senator's son, Rockwood Hoar, his daughter, Mary Hoar, and D. Warren R. Gilman, who for weeks has been in almost constant attendance upon the senator.

PAYNE VERY ILL.

Heart Disease Develops in Marked Form in Postmaster.

Washington, Oct. 1.—Postmaster General Henry C. Payne is seriously ill at his apartments at the Hotel Arlington here. Marked symptoms of heart trouble have developed, and his condition became so serious during the day as to cause grave concern.

Mr. Payne returned recently from a trip to the West and appeared much improved, though his health has been poor for a long time. He went to the White House to attend the meeting of the cabinet last Tuesday and that night was very restless. He was at his desk at the postoffice department during the forenoon yesterday, although feeling very badly, and did not return to the department after luncheon, remaining in his room. He became very ill last night, and has been confined to his bed ever since.

Dr. Magruder, who was his physician during his severe illness of some months ago, has been attending him, and Dr. Rixey, the surgeon general of the navy, also has been called. During the evening President and Mrs. Roosevelt called at the hotel and made inquiries regarding the postmaster general's condition. Dr. Magruder on leaving Mr. Payne's room later tonight gave out a statement which admitted the serious nature of Mr. Payne's condition, but said the patient was resting easier than.

STUDENTS GO ON STRIKE.

Chicago School Children Wrongly Believe Nigger Is to Teach.

Chicago, Sept. 30.—Fifty boy pickets stationed about the McAllister public school here prevented pupils from entering today. None of the pickets was more than 15 years old.

Outside the picket cordon, a crowd of 700 boys and girls hooted and yelled at the teachers looking from windows. Every infant striker wore a badge to show that he or she belonged to a "union." Some of the badges were merely scraps of paper with the word "union" scrawled across it. Others were union buttons which their fathers had worn. Many of the strikers carried clubs. They threatened violence against any child daring to enter the school yard.

The picketing was the result of a "strike" which was caused by a mistaken belief of the children that an assistant kindergarten teacher was colored.

After a detail of six policemen had been sent to the school to preserve order, the "strike" was "settled." A committee appointed by the youthful strikers learned that the rumor of a colored teacher having been employed in the school was false. About 80 per cent of the strikers went back to their classes. Truant officers began a search for the absentees.

Would Try to Reach Arctic.

Christiana, Norway, Oct. 1.—The Duke of Orleans has asked permission of the government to have the Arctic steamer Fram, in which Dr. Nansen made his voyage to the Arctic regions, for the purpose of an arctic expedition in 1905. It is understood that the admiralty will require that the Captain Otto Sverdrup, the former commander of the Fram, shall command the vessel, if the government agrees to the proposition of the duke. The plan of the expedition has been submitted for the approval of the authorities.

Wills City \$250,000.

Boston, Oct. 1.—Public bequests aggregating over \$1,000,000, the largest being a gift of \$250,000 to the city of New Bedford, are contained in the will of the late Mrs. Sarah Potter, of Boston, which was filed for probate this afternoon.

ARE AGITATED

Continued Discussion of Filipino Is Harmful.

REVOLUTION BEING PREACHED

Speeches of Antis are Made Texts for Fiery Editorials—Report of General Wright.

Washington, Sept. 28.—President Roosevelt is in receipt of a letter from Luke E. Wright, governor of the Philippines, in which the governor discusses frankly some of the conditions which he encountered in directing the government of the islands. Under date of August 15, General Wright wrote in part as follows:

"The effect of the continued discussion of the capability of the Filipino for self government is having its effect here, and makes our task more difficult than it otherwise would be. Unless a man is equipped with intelligence and those qualities which make for good citizenship, the more easily can he be persuaded that he is the possessor of all these qualities. These people have their full share of reckless, half-formed characters who are ready for intrigue in any direction which promises them profit or power. It is this class which has largely given force and direction to the Aglipayan movement, and has recruited its ranks from the ignorant and dangerous elements.

"In this general connection, I may say to you as a matter of information that the agitation in the United States for Filipino independence, and the spoken and written utterances of prominent men who are urging it, are all brought here and published in the native newspapers and are being made the text for editorials insisting that the Filipinos are now ready to become an independent nation.

"The effect of all this is distinctly injurious. Its tendency is to renew the influence of old insurrection leaders and make them active in preaching the old propaganda. This, in turn, has the effect of demoralizing and weakening the more conservative and thoughtful Filipinos, who fear if they speak out as they really think they would be considered the enemies of their people and lose their prestige with them. Those of the more prominent and best educated class, and who, naturally, have their ambitions, are inclined to join in the general cry."

UNIONS FEAR WAR.

Large Plants are Adopting "Open Shop" Policy.

Chicago, Sept. 28.—The opening of the plants of the International Harvester company and the Pullman company on the "open shop" basis, free from labor union regulations, has alarmed Chicago labor leaders.

The fact that 7,000 union men willingly returned to work for the big harvester company, under the new conditions, is admitted to presage disruption of their unions.

Fear is expressed that the recent defeats of labor unions, and the reductions obtained in wages, may be followed by many other large concerns.

That a grave crisis is felt in labor union affairs seems to be certain from the failure of the stockyards, the machinists and the garment workers strikes. All these walkouts have resulted disastrously for the union men and women. In addition to this, the following companies have reduced their wage scale and established the open shop:

Inland Steel company, Illinois Steel company, Republic Iron & Steel company, and concerns in the Chicago Metal Trades association. After being closed down since September 15, the car shops of the Pullman company reopened with a force of 2,000 men, out of a total of 7,000, who agreed to accept a cut of 10 to 20 per cent in their pay.

The union leaders are inclined to lay the blame on "lack of proper organization," and government officials for fostering the policy of the "open shop" by their action in the case of employees of the government printing bureau.

Race Riot in Mississippi.

Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 28.—Two negroes were killed and three fatally injured in a race riot near Lynchburg, Miss., 15 miles south of Memphis today. The shooting took place on the plantation of J. J. Johnson, who with his sons and two friends, went into a field to gather a load of corn. As the white men were driving their wagon from the field a fusillade from a party of blacks met them. The fire was returned, with the result that two negroes were killed outright and three were fatally shot.

Winter May End Fighting.

Mukden, Sept. 28.—Doubts are beginning to be felt as to whether it will be possible to continue the campaign through the winter, which begins in November. The Chinese have been unable to harvest their crops, and there probably will be much distress, as it is very difficult to bring up stores from China or the native population.

BLOCKADE TIGHTENING.

Absence of News From Port Arthur Alarms the Slavs.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 29.—The entire absence of news from Port Arthur, it is feared, indicates a closer blockade there. Hitherto, dispatches from General Stoessel have been coming through semi-weekly. The admiralty has not received any details of the reported sea fight off Aniva, at the southeastern extremity of Sakhalin. The Vladivostok squadron, it is understood, is still in the harbor. The cannonading at Aniva was probably a Japanese attack on blockade runners.

A telegram received here from Batoum reporting that reserves are being transported along the Caucasian coast brings the first intimation that troops are being mobilized there. There are only two army corps in the Caucasus, and one of them has apparently been ordered to the Far East.

Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky was received in audience yesterday by the emperor. The prince will assume charge of the ministry of the interior today.

The latest developments in the situation at the front is the definite establishment of the fact that Field Marshal Oyama has now begun to move up his left. General Kuropatkin's report shows that the Japanese have reached Davan, on the west bank of the Liao river. A considerable concentration of Japanese is observed at Stanchan, on the Hun river, 35 miles southwest of Mukden, and Japanese cavalry is massing in the vicinity of the Pu river. The latter is a tributary of the Hun river, which crosses the line of railway midway between Tie pass and Mukden, and may furnish a natural line of advance for the west.

Oyama's armies now apparently cover a front of 60 miles for enveloping movements. His wings are extended to the northeast and west of Mukden. Thus far the Russians have found little strength of pressure from the Japanese center. Oyama seems to be moving with great deliberation, probably gathering strength for a rapid advance of both wings when an attempt is made to close the net.

Although the imaginary line connecting the extreme Japanese advance and west of Mukden still passes ten miles below that city, it is evident that the fate of Mukden cannot long be delayed. If General Kuropatkin intends to try to hold the city fighting on his flanks will begin almost immediately.

ALEXIEFF TO COME HOME.

His Position Will Be That of an Advisor to the Emperor.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 29.—Although an official announcement to the effect is not expected immediately, since it will require some little time to get Russia's second army in the field, the designation of Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolaevitch, the inspector general of cavalry, as commander in chief is regarded as practically settled. The situation at the front, with two, and perhaps ultimately three, big armies, is considered to demand, above all else, that the supreme commander be of such personal authority as to be beyond jealousies and the possibility of intrigue on the part of subordinates, and such a man the emperor now realizes can only be supplied by a member of the imperial family. Grand Duke Nicholas is regarded as extremely well fitted for this great responsibility.

Grand Duke Nicholas will not rely upon a single adviser, but on a staff comprising the ablest strategists of the general staff, who in reality will constitute a board of direction of military operations.

Viceroy Alexieff is regarded as almost certain to return here. The report that he may become chancellor of the empire, however, is exploded. He is more likely to retain his title and come to St. Petersburg, nominally in the capacity of adviser to the emperor, and will thus efface himself as a factor of the military situation in the Far East.

Attempt to Ruin Warships.

New York, Sept. 29.—With the intention of ruining the hull of the battleship Connecticut, which will be launched today, an obstruction was placed on the ways. When it was placed there, or by whom is not known, as it was not discovered until divers were sent down to make an investigation. This investigation was made as a matter of precaution and the naval officers then learned that an obstruction had been placed on the ways that would have destroyed the work of months.

Torpedoboat Lost.

London, Sept. 29.—The British torpedo boat destroyer Chamois has been lost off the island of Cephalonia, in the Mediterranean. All on board were saved. While going at full speed on a trial yesterday, a screw blade came off, pierced the bottom of the destroyer and she sank.

HORRORAWFUL

Nine Ohio School Girls Suffocated in Vault.

SCORE OTHERS NARROW ESCAPED

Were Precipitated Into Cesspool as Collapse of Floor—Rescuers Overcome by the Foul Gas.

Cincinnati, Sept. 26.—At least nine school girls were suffocated in a vault today during the afternoon recess at Pleasant Ridge public school house, and as scores of others narrowly escaped the same horrible death.

All of the victims were from the primary grades. On opposite sides of the spacious grounds in the rear of the suburban school building are two outhouses. At recess, about 30 young girls were in the outhouse assigned to them, when the floor gave way precipitating them in the stone walled cesspool, 12 feet deep, and containing four feet of sewage.

The frantic struggles of those who were on top kept at least nine underneath until they were dead. The frame shed over the sewer was about 20 feet square, without windows, and had only one narrow doorway. One girl in the party escaped falling. She ran into the school building and told the teachers what had happened. Principal T. L. Zimmerman and seven female teachers ran to the rescue. Mr. Zimmerman secured a ladder, on which the drenched girls climbed out, most of them fainting as soon as they reached the surface, overcome by light and sewer gas.

The teachers were soon reinforced by the entire population of the suburbs, the police and fire departments rendering effective service.

Principal Zimmerman finally fainted. Then others lifted out dead bodies until the death pool was cleared. Those rescued alive presented such an appearance as to make many in the crowd of spectators faint.

James Smith, aged 14, a pupil, climbed to the roof of the school house and got the flag which was made into a rope that rescued several.

John Steinkamp, when his daughter was not among those brought out alive, entered the vault and carried out several bodies, among them that of his daughter. Then he fainted. At the same time there were other parents in the crowd who fainted when it was announced that all of the living had been rescued, and their children were still among the missing.

CHINA HAS APOLOGIZED.

Reparation Made for Attack on the Guard at Peking.

Paris, Sept. 26.—The foreign office has received a report from the French minister at Peking saying that China has given the most complete apology and reparation for the attack of Chinese soldiers at Peking upon Captain Laribe, of the French legation guard, on Monday last. The captain was insulted and struck with a stick, but he was not seriously hurt. The French minister energetically protested to the general commanding the Chinese, who wrote the minister an abject apology while the Chinese captain commanding the assaulting soldiers made a personal apology to Captain Laribe.

The Chinese general condemned the five ringleaders to punishment only one degree short of death. Owing to the action of the general, the officials here do not consider that this incident and the assault on the Italian soldiers September 15 indicate another general anti-foreign movement. Therefore the reparations have been accepted and the incident is closed.

Pier Gives Way.

Vinita, I. T., Sept. 26.—The east pier of a steel toll bridge being erected over Grand river at Carey's ferry, ten miles east of Afton, fell at noon killing three men, fatally injuring three and injuring 21 others, some of whom suffered broken limbs. All the surgeons in Grove and Afton were summoned. A messenger from the scene states that 100 men were at work at the time, and the pier collapsed without warning, owing to the faulty construction of the foundation, not going down to bedrock.

Telephone in Place of Telegraph.

Chicago, Sept. 26.—As rapidly as the change can be brought about the management of the Burlington system has determined to substitute the telephone for the telegraph in dispatching and operating both passenger and freight trains. The announcement was made today after the conclusion of comprehensive tests that have been in progress for several years on various parts of the system.