

READY TO SPRING

Twenty-Two Japanese Warships In Track of Russians.

WILL WAIT FOR THE ENEMY

Great Naval Battle Seems to Be Next Scene in the Military Drama in the Far East.

London, March 16.—A dispatch to Lloyds, dated at Singapore, 6 p. m., says the British steamer Hongwan I reports having passed 22 Japanese warships off Horsburg, 20 miles east of Singapore, at the entrance to the Straits of Malacca.

The appearance of Vice Admiral Togo's fleet in the track that would be used in any attempt by Vice Admiral Rojstvensky to make for Vladivostok is the most interesting news of the day. It is not known whether Vice Admiral Togo himself is with the fleet.

According to the Daily Mail's correspondent at Singapore, who visited the fleet, the officers were unusually reticent. Two Japanese officers landed and conferred with the Japanese consul, and it was understood by the correspondent that the squadron would soon sail again, as it required nothing.

The presumption is that Rojstvensky's squadron is still off the coast of Madagascar, but, as the ice in the harbor of Vladivostok is beginning to give way, the Russian admiral must soon make a decision whether to dash for Vladivostok or return to Russia.

Naval experts here believe that Togo will not come much further in quest of the Baltic squadron, on the ground that he cannot afford to run unnecessary risks.

STORM ON BRITISH COAST.

Many Shipwrecks and Serious Loss of Life Result.

London, March 16.—A storm of hurricane force burst over the Irish and English coasts during the night, and it is feared that many disasters have occurred. The telegraph lines are broken at many points. The British ship Khyber has been wrecked off the Cornish coast. Twenty-three of her crew were drowned and three were saved. The Khyber sailed from Melbourne, Australia, October 26, for Queensland.

The storm swept over the north of Ireland early this morning, and did great damage to property. Fears are entertained for the safety of the fishing fleets.

The high winds have caused terrible havoc along the coasts of the United Kingdom. Telegraphic communication between London and many points is cut off. The lifeboat stations are busy, and shipping everywhere is seeking shelter. Numbers of minor wrecks, accompanied by loss of life, have been reported.

READY ON TIME.

Lewis and Clark Fair Will Be Complete on Day of Opening.

Portland, March 16.—With the exposition more than two months away, exhibits from all parts of the world are daily reaching the exposition grounds. There are now a hundred cars or more of exhibits stored in the various buildings and word has been received that many more shipments are en route from Eastern points and ports.

The significance of this is that the various displays can be arranged more effectively than has ever before been recorded at an exposition. Since the exhibit palaces are nearly all completed and the others will soon be done, there can be no delay in getting the exposition ready, and it is announced as the intention of the exposition management to have the fair in a state of readiness even to the slightest detail on June 1.

Poles Don't Want to Fight.

Warsaw, March 16.—Reservists who were waiting in the barracks at Wolkowak, government of Gronda, formed a conspiracy to foment organized disturbances among the troops in order to avoid being sent to Manchuria. The offenders were court-martialed, five of them were condemned to death and executed on March 13, and four were sentenced for life and eight to 20 years' penal servitude. The mobilization of the Fifteenth and Nineteenth corps, stationed in Poland, is expected to begin in a few days.

Russian Guns Sunk in Rivers.

Ninchwang, March 16.—The military men here advance the theory that the difference in the number of guns the Japanese are reported to have captured and those General Kuropatkin is reported to have lost, is owing to the Russians, when routed, dropping their guns into the rivers through the ice and abandoning others in ravines and gullies. It is expected that, as soon as the present rush at Mukden is over, search for the lost artillery will begin.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

Friday, March 10.

The Santo Domingo treaty was today reported favorably to the senate.

The only legislative business transacted was in relation to the death of Senator Bate, of Tennessee. Gorman introduced a resolution providing for the payment of the funeral expenses of Senator Bate, which was immediately adopted. At 12:50 the senate took a recess until 1:50, when the funeral services of the late senator took place.

At the conclusion of the Bate funeral ceremony the senate adjourned until Monday, when discussion of the Santo Domingo treaty will commence.

Monday, March 13.

The senate will do its utmost to complete the Santo Domingo treaty and adjourn this week. This was manifested when the treaty was taken up in executive session today. For more than an hour the senators discussed ways and means and finally agreed to meet at 11 a. m. daily in order to give time to a full discussion of the measure and still adjourn by Saturday. It is conceded that, if the vote were delayed beyond that time, a quorum of the senate could not be maintained. One amendment was presented today, providing that such expenses as may be incurred by the army and navy shall be paid from the revenues of Santo Domingo. No decision was reached.

Tuesday, March 14.

The discussion of the Dominican treaty in executive session of the senate today resulted in the drawing of party lines. The Republicans have counted on some Democratic votes, and, losing these, it will be impossible for the treaty to pass. There was some talk today of postponing action until a commission could investigate the affairs of Santo Domingo, including the character of the claims and the stability of the Dominican government. This is not likely, however, as it is not believed the president will approve the plan.

Wednesday, March 15.

Republican leaders of the senate are all at sea respecting the action advisable to take in regard to the Santo Domingo treaty. Recognizing that the Democrats control more than one-third of the votes, and that two-thirds are required to ratify the convention, the Republican leaders think that the treaty should be withdrawn by the president. On this subject the senate and the president do not agree, and the idea prevails that, after one or two days more of inconsequential discussion, the special session of the senate will be allowed to adjourn without date, and the treaty lapse. But this plan is not popular in the senate and a way to avoid it is being sought.

Thursday, March 16.

Senator Morgan occupied practically the entire time in opposition to the Santo Domingo treaty in the executive session of the senate today.

A new plan suggested is to let the whole matter go over until the next regular session of congress, when a joint resolution will be passed to authorize the president to do the very things that are proposed by the treaty.

Have Nothing to Fight With.

Warsaw, March 17.—One of the highest officials in Poland, in the course of a conversation today, said: "It is all very well to talk of continuing the war, but with no leaders, no generals, no soldiers, no guns, and the theater of war so far away we are unable to transport troops quickly, the war now appears to be ended. It is true we have soldiers in the empire, but it is impossible to withdraw them from central and southern Russia to Manchuria while the disturbances continue. All is quiet in Poland now, but let orders for mobilization be given and we will have a revolution."

Small Hope for Kuropatkin.

London, March 17.—The advice from the Far East are believed here to indicate that General Kuropatkin and his forces in Manchuria will be forced to surrender to the Japanese within a very short time. The correspondent of the London Daily Mail at St. Petersburg, telegraphing late last night, says that advice received by the Russian war office indicate that a very large force of Japanese have succeeded in carrying out Marshal Oyama's enveloping movement and is now far to the northward of the fleeing Russian columns.

Peabody is Seated.

Denver, March 17.—James H. Peabody today won his contest for the office of governor, from which he retired on January 10 after serving a term of two years, but his victory was achieved only after he had given his pledge to resign and surrender the chair to Lieutenant Governor Jesse F. McDonald. The vote in joint convention of the general assembly by which Governor Alva Adams was ousted and Governor James H. Peabody installed was 55 to 41. Ten Republicans voted with the Democrats for Adams.

Calls Peasantry to Arms.

Paris, March 17.—Father Gopon, the leader of the St. Petersburg workmen in the demonstration of January 22, who, according to the Tribune Russ, is still hiding in France, has issued another stirring appeal to the Russian peasantry, calling on them to follow the directions of the revolutionary committee, forgetting all differences of religion and race, and rise as one man, armed for a general insurrection against czarism.

Bomb for Pobiedonosteff.

London, March 17.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg to the News agency reports that late last night a bomb exploded on the tramway line close to the residence of M. Pobiedonosteff, procurator of the Holy Synod. No one was injured.

ONE MUST LEAVE

Secretary Hay and His Assistant Don't Agree.

DOMINICAN TREATY THE CAUSE

Loomis Its Chief Promoter—Action on Ratification Will Decide Which Must Go.

Washington, March 14.—Unless some conciliatory bird of peace shall perch itself in the State department soon, either Secretary Hay or his first assistant, Francis B. Loomis, will resign within a month. That there has been a rupture in the department has been known for some time, but that it had reached a serious point is just manifest.

The whole trouble is said to be due principally to the fact that Secretary Hay is not in thorough accord with President Roosevelt in his policy toward Santo Domingo, as emphasized by the much criticized treaty now under consideration in the senate, while Secretary Loomis is the power behind it in the State department. It is well known that Secretary Hay has a large following in the senate and much of the opposition to the treaty, as sent to the senate, is due not only to the objections of the senators to the treaty as it stood, but because of their desire to uphold the hands of Mr. Hay.

By those closest to the parties concerned about three weeks is the time given within which one or the other will resign. Much will depend upon the action of the senate on the pending treaty and still more on the success of the president and his friends in healing the breach between Hay and Loomis. Among the leaders of congress here the loss of Secretary Hay to the cabinet is regarded as impossible.

Mr. Adee is acting secretary of state today. Secretary Hay being in attendance at a meeting of the Carnegie institute and Mr. Loomis having left for a trip to California.

HUGE BOOTY AT SINKING.

Japanese Capture Outfit of an Army and Annihilate a Division.

Tokio, March 14.—The following report was received today from the headquarters of the Japanese armies in the field:

"It is estimated that the spoils which fell into our hands in the direction of Singking (Yenden), since the occupation by us of Tsinkentschen on February 24 has been as follows:

"Rifles, 22,000; machine guns, 6; small ammunition, 320,000 rounds; shells, 11,500; entrenching tools, 6,000; wire, 1,200 bundles; materials for a light railway of 33 miles; wagons for the latter, 450; garments, 10 cartloads; coal mining machinery for eight pits; timber, 4,000 pieces.

"Besides these we took large quantities of cereals, fodder, tents, beds, stoves, maps and telephones, as well as a great number of bullocks and horses.

"The enemy left about 1,200 dead on the field. We took 80 prisoners.

"It is estimated that the enemy's casualties were about 20,000.

"Prisoners say that the Seventy-first division was almost annihilated."

NOT YELLOW FEVER, MALARIA.

Secretary Taft Says That is Health Problem of Isthmus.

Washington, March 14.—Secretary Taft, after a brief talk with the president today, said it was a mistaken report that yellow fever was on the increase in the American zone of the Isthmus of Panama. "In fact," said the secretary, "it is not yellow fever that will give us the most trouble on the isthmus, but malaria, which is very prevalent. Eventually, while there are some cases of yellow fever in the American zone, we shall be able to stamp out that disease. It will be a hard fight, however, to reduce trouble arising from malaria."

Millions for Great College.

Montreal, March 14.—Sir William C. MacDonald, the millionaire tobacco manufacturer, today laid before the Protestant committee of the council of public instruction a proposition to endow an agricultural training college and a college for the training of school teachers in the sum of \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000. Sir William has selected Professor Robertson, the man who developed the Canadian dairy business, as the director of the scheme. The college will be located at St. Anne de Bellevue, 30 miles from Montreal.

Storm Brings Joy and Sorrow.

San Francisco, March 14.—California, from its northern boundary to San Diego, has been visited by a drenching rain storm, which in many quarters proved a blessing to agriculturists, but in others did damage not yet estimated. Along the coast and in the extreme south the storm was accompanied by a gale which left in its trail levelled buildings, uprooted trees and prostrated telegraph poles. A number of vessels are overdue.

Mankato Loses Large Building.

Mankato, Minn., March 14.—The glass block, one of the largest buildings in the city, was entirely destroyed by fire tonight and a number of adjacent buildings were damaged. Loss, \$150,000.

ROASTED TO DEATH.

Nineteen Persons Perish in New York Tenement House Fire.

New York, March 15.—Nineteen persons were burned to death in a fire which destroyed the five-story tenement house at 105 Allen street early today. More than 40 are injured and only a few of the sleeping inmates escaped unhurt. Several of those who perished were roasted to death in plain view of the thousands in the streets.

Coroner Goldenkrantz declared after an investigation that he had reason to believe the blaze was the work of an incendiary. He issued subpoenas for the fire marshal, tenement house commission and building owners and health and police officials to appear before him at the inquest Thursday.

The fire started in the basement occupied by Isaac Davis, his wife and three children. Davis had been out last night, and returned early this morning, going into his store upon the same floor just in time to see the kerosene lamp in the rear explode.

He says he woke his wife, and both tried to put out the flaming lamp, but without success, and then gave all their attention to getting their children out of the building. A policeman who heard the cry of alarm rushed to the scene, and every effort was made to rouse the sleeping persons in the house.

In the meantime the flames had spread with startling rapidity, and when the persons who had been asleep in the upper floors awoke they found themselves confronted by a wall of flames on every side. The panic-stricken people, fighting for their lives, rushed to the fire escapes, only to find them littered with rubbish of all descriptions and almost impassable. Down through these narrow passageways flowed a stream of humanity.

WHOLE LAW DEAD.

Congress Unintentionally Abolished Lieu Land Selections.

Washington, March 15.—Without intending to do so, congress has apparently repealed the lieu land law in its entirety. It doing so it has erased from the statute books the law which has been responsible for more fraud than any other public land statute; it has put an end forever to a system of exchanges by which the Federal government has actually been cheated out of millions of dollars' worth of valuable timber land.

In the closing hours of the last congress, the senate passed a bill that had long been in its calendar, intended to restrict lieu selections to non-timbered lands. It was a bill that had previously been passed by the house, but which had been amended by the senate committee. Because of this amendment, the bill was sent to conference, and there it was again altered until it was amended out of shape and accomplished a very different purpose from what it did as it passed the house and senate.

Although the bill retained its title, "An act prohibiting the selection of timber lands in lieu of lands in forest reserves," its text was so changed that it not only prohibited the selection of timber lands, but all lands in exchange for lands in forest reserves.

FINANCIERS MAY BRING PEACE

Refusal of French Bankers to Lend Money is a Blow to Russia.

London, March 15.—The revolt of the French bankers is considered by the London newspapers as the most hopeful and important news of the day, promising an early conclusion of peace between Russia and Japan. Apparently the proposed loan has not been absolutely refused, but only "postponed." This, however, is regarded here as being tantamount to a refusal, and is expected to speak louder to the Russian war party even than Kuropatkin's reverse at Mukden.

It is the general belief that by the death of M. Germain, the late governor of the credit Lyonnais, Russia lost her strongest financial friend in France, and that, had he been still alive, no difficulty would have been experienced. With the American and English markets closed to her, it is thought that Russia can only turn to Germany, which is not likely to be much more responsive than France, and the only alternative would seem to be to make peace.

Island Officers Get More Pay.

Washington, March 15.—Hereafter the ten per cent additional pay allowed the officers serving in the insular possessions will be computed on the basis of their regular salaries, with longevity pay added, according to a decision rendered by the supreme court of the United States. The question was involved in a suit instituted by Lieutenant Colonel Stephen C. Mills, who served two years in the Philippines. His salary was \$3,000 and his longevity allowance \$1,000. He was paid 10 per cent additional upon the \$3,000.

Price of Linoleum Will Advance.

New York, March 15.—Leading manufacturers of linoleum have agreed, says the Journal of Commerce, to advance all inland goods 10 per cent and all printed goods 20 per cent the increase to take effect on all goods manufactured from today. Present stocks will be sold at the old prices between now and May 1, after which nothing will be sold except at the new figures. This action has been prompted by radical changes in the cost of raw material.

Nebraskans Will Keep Pauses.

Lincoln, Neb., March 15.—The house today, by a vote of 42 to 40, argued to indefinitely postpone the bill making it a crime to give or accept railroad passes. Today's action disposes of all the anti-pass measures, every one being defeated.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

TO SPEND \$50,000.

Fast Development on New Quartz Property on Applegate River.

Grants Pass—The Michigan Mining and Milling company, composed largely of Michigan mining men, of which W. T. Perry, of Portland, is manager, is preparing to spend some \$50,000 or more within the next few months in the development and equipment of its quartz mines on Applegate river, eight miles south of this city. A large crew is employed at present building a mill, shops, quarters and in development of the mine. A large boiler, engine and other machinery will arrive this week and will be hauled out at once and placed in position. The mill, which will be one of the Pratt type, will have a capacity equal to ten ordinary stamps, and will also be supplied with riffle separators and vanners, by which at least 90 per cent of the assay value of the quartz will be saved.

There are three large ledges on the Michigan company's grounds, of which there is 500 acres, all highly mineralized and well timbered. The Applegate flows just below, from which water can be derived for all purposes. The quartz carries an average of \$25 a ton in free gold and sulphurets, and occurs in a constant vein between porphyry and slate.

A broad avenue is being cleared from the camp down to the road, leaving the big oaks, laurels and fir standing, and by this avenue the camp dwellings and cabins will be built. A number of the Michigan people interested in the mine will make their homes at "Michigan City," the name that has been given the new and fast growing camp.

OUT OF THEIR OWN POCKETS.

Regents of Weston Normal School Will Pay Its Expenses.

Pendleton—The regents of the Eastern Oregon normal school held a meeting here for the purpose of devising ways and means for the maintenance of the institution. The board was unanimous against the idea of closing the school, and will hold themselves personally responsible for its needs, believing that in any event no future legislature will refuse to reimburse any indebtedness that economical management may incur. The action of the board seems to meet the approval of the people of Eastern Oregon, who are greatly interested in the institution, and say that it should not be closed in any event.

Jackson Citizens at Work.

Ashland—The county court of Jackson county has appointed a long list of citizens as a committee to have charge of arrangements in securing an exhibit at the Lewis and Clark fair. A meeting of this committee has been called to take place at Medford Saturday, March 18, for the purpose of taking definite methods of collecting a representative display of the county's resources for exhibition. While the county court has appropriated no definite amount for a county exhibit, it will have charge of the same.

Umatilla Irrigation Project.

Pendleton—John J. Whistler, engineer in charge of the Oregon reclamation work, says that Thomas H. Mean, the government soil expert, will arrive in the city soon to make an investigation as to the feasibility of winter irrigation in the lands of the Umatilla irrigation project. Mr. Mean will be in the district only a short time, but the samples of the soil will be forwarded to the government station at Berkeley, Cal., for complete analysis, and the results returned to this city.

Shear Sheep by Machinery.

Pendleton—The J. E. Livestock company has received a five horse power gasoline engine with which to propel a 12-machine sheep shearing plant. The company has 25,000 head to shear at the ranch near Pilot Rock. As these machines make a saving of from one to one and a half pounds on fleece over the old style hand shearing, at the current price of 16 and 17 cents a pound for wool the company will make a saving of over \$5,000.

Log Scarcity is Felt.

Eugene—The big sawmill of the Booth-Kelley Lumber company at Coquille has been closed down for several weeks. This is partly on account of the scarcity of logs and partly to give an opportunity to overhaul the plant. The indications are at present that there is going to be great difficulty in getting logs to the mills this summer, as the streams are now very low and as there is no snow in the mountains, they will be very much lower later on.

May Build Logging Road.

La Grande—Owing to the light fall of snow in the Blue mountains the past winter and the uncertainty of the volume of water in the Grande Ronde river and its tributaries, the Grande Ronde Lumber company at Perry is contemplating building a narrow gauge logging road some 30 miles up the river, where the company has a large amount of logs cut, and which it will be unable to float to their mill. The road will be built solely for the use of the mill.

Trees in Bloom at Dallas.

Dallas—Warm weather has brought forward the fruit blooms remarkably early this season. Some varieties of prunes and plums are blooming. Pears and cherries are coming on very fast. Considerable fear is felt that late cold rains or frost may do damage.

LIVESTOCK FAIR AT WOODBURN

Marion and Clackamas County Raisers Organize for Business.

Woodburn—The Livestock association of North Marion and South Clackamas counties has been permanently organized in this city. The following officers were chosen: Fred Dose, president; W. P. Pennebaker, secretary; Harry Cole, treasurer.

It was decided to hold a livestock fair in Woodburn on Saturday, April 1. The stock on which premiums will be awarded will be stallions, brood mares, colts, roadsters, teams and saddle horses. Other stock, it is expected, will also be exhibited. The stallions will be divided into classes—draught and roadsters—with \$5 entrance fee and an additional entrance fee of \$2.50 for sweepstakes prize.

G. L. Shryder, M. S. Shrook, Dr. W. A. Leonard, F. J. Miller and J. F. Plank were chosen an executive committee to fix prizes, solicit funds and make all other necessary arrangements. The judges will be selected on the day of the fair. The horsemen and farmers are enthusiastic over the proposed fair and an immense crowd is expected here on that day.

INSURANCE RATES HIGH.

Hood River Men Hear Proposition for Decrease of 15 Per Cent.

Hood River—Hood River business men held a conference in the rooms of the Commercial club with Mr. Stone, of Portland, representing the board of insurance underwriters, to find out just what would be required of the water company in order to secure a reduction of insurance rates if a system of fire protection were installed. Stone stated that he would recommend a reduction averaging 15 per cent from the present almost exorbitant rates, provided the water company would maintain a reserve supply of water in a reservoir with a capacity of 750,000 gallons, and lay certain size pipe for the mains. Brick buildings were promised a further reduction of five per cent.

As the water company recently secured \$50,000 on the sale of bonds, it is expected that the city of Hood River will soon be given an adequate system of hydrants for fire protection. A volunteer fire department has already been organized, and a \$1,200 chemical engine purchased by the city.

Newell to Meet Water Users.

Vale—F. H. Newell, chief of the government reclamation engineers, accompanied by several consulting engineers, will arrive here in April. Mr. Newell is making this trip for the purpose of meeting with the Malheur water users' association and to arrange matters so that active operation can commence on the Harper basin project during the approaching summer. It seems to be now generally understood that little difficulty will be encountered in getting the various owners of the water ditches to "sign up" their land under the agreement recently arrived at, leaving the appraisal of values to arbitration.

Old Stampmill Found.

Medford—What is believed to be the first stampmill that did service in the Oregon gold fields has been brought into Medford. It is a crude machine, being hand made throughout, but the principle on which it operated is identical to that of the orthodox and modern stamp and battery, the mortar, mosh and feeder all being present. The old machine, bramble-covered and going to decay, was found on a deserted prospect in the Willow Springs district, Jackson county. It will be sent to the Portland fair.

Water is Scarce.

Sumpter—The outlook for placer mining in this section is not so favorable this season as in former years. Snow is rapidly disappearing from the mountain ranges under the influence of warm sunshine during the past three weeks, but cold and freezing nights have a tendency to check the flow of water that should result. Placer miners as a rule along small waterways are uneasy for fear that all the snow will be gone before they will be able to take advantage of its benefits as formerly.

Cinnabar Mines Show Up Well.

Medford—The flattering showing made by recent reports of ores from the cinnabar mines of the Meadows quicksilver district, of Jackson county, near Trail, has caused a revival of interest in the mining of mercury in this section. Eighty pounds of mercury to the ton is produced by the properties of the Rogue River Quicksilver Mining company; the shareholders of which are Medford men. The ore reduces easily and in uniform quantity.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 85c; bluestem 92c; valley, 87c per bushel.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.37 1/2 @ 1.42; gray, \$1.50 per cask.

Hay—Timothy, \$14 @ 16 per ton; clover, \$11 @ 12; grain, \$11 @ 12; chest, \$11 @ 12.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 18c per dozen.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 27 1/2 @ 32 1/2; Potatoes—Oregon fancy, 90c @ \$1; common, 70 @ 85c.

Apples—4-tier Baldwins, \$1.25 @ 1.50; Spitzenbergs, \$1.75 @ 2.

Hops—Choice '1904, 23 1/2 @ 24c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 10 @ 20c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 12 @ 17c per pound; nohair, choice, 25 @ 29c per pound.