

THE HEPNER TIMES

Published Every Thursday.

HEPNER OREGON

EVENTS OF THE DAY

Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week. Presented in Condensed Form, Most Likely to Prove Interesting.

Mobilization of the Manchurian army is now complete.

The South has just been visited by the greatest storm since 1872.

General Kouropatkin has arrived at Mukden and assumed command.

The sundry civil appropriation bill will have a good surplus for the year.

The senate committee has reported a bill to punish assassins of presidents.

The house committee has completed its report on the 1905 fair bill and recommends \$475,000 be given for an exhibit.

The Russian fleet at Port Arthur made a trip out of the harbor to locate the Japanese fleet, but could find no trace of the enemy.

London is horrified by the deeds of a modern Bluebeard. Eight women are known to bear his name and two of them were murdered.

Fire in Wall street caused much excitement and for a time threatened one of the largest commercial centers in the world with destruction.

Russians are strongly fortifying the country about Antung.

Japanese continue to rush forces from Chinampo to Ping Yang.

Floods following the gale in the vicinity of Chicago caused heavy property losses.

China has been given new assurances that Russia will disarm the gunboat Mandjur.

Almost all of the Panama troops have been disbanded. Only one battalion is now under the colors.

Much property was destroyed and several persons injured in a tornado near Fort Smith, Ark.

United States Minister Dudley reports that bubonic plague has broken out in three ports in Peru.

Senator Hanford declares that the railroad lobby is back of the move to repeal the present land laws.

The dowager empress of China has rejected the proposals of generals to make an open alliance with Japan.

A report to the Korean government shows that Russian troops began crossing into Korea four days before Japan made her first attack on Port Arthur.

Colorado military is again deporting striking miners.

Newell is anxious that irrigation works be begun in Oregon.

The house has again voted against an investigation of the postoffice department.

Russia believes that Japan intends to land a force in China on neutral ground.

The public minister of France decides that Colombia has no case in the Panama canal matter.

The Japanese have effectively blockaded Port Arthur, sinking seven vessels in the harbor entrance.

Russia denies that one of her war vessels was blown up by coming in contact with a floating mine.

Damaged Russian warships are said to have been repaired with such haste that they dare not venture out.

Russia has bought a wireless telegraph system and will use it in connection with the transportation of troops across Lake Baikal.

The senate has passed the Indian appropriation bill carrying funds for the Chemawa school and decides that Alaskan students may enroll there.

The house has turned down the amendment to give Bristol less power.

The Japanese advance toward Ping Yang is more rapid than the Russians expected.

The trial of Senator Burton, of Kansas, on the charge of selling his influence, is begun.

The Northern Securities company has sent out a circular saying the directors have decided to distribute the stock and give future plans.

Japan believes foreign advisers to Korea are giving Russia information and recommends their removal.

The military funeral of the Duke of Cambridge was the most impressive since the Duke of Wellington died.

Governor Peabody declares Telluride county, Colo., to be in a state of insurrection and has ordered out troops.

E. E. Calvin is said to be slated for president of the O. R. & N. and A. L. Mohler is to get a high position with the Union Pacific.

The isthmian canal commission has begun its preliminary work.

The report that Port Arthur had fallen into the hands of the Japs was unfounded. Three attacks were made but each time the enemy was repulsed.

Bristow declares that he did not regard Beavers as an honest man.

The British house of commons had a warm debate over the admission of Chinese into the Transvaal, but vote of censure was defeated.

TWO STATES ARE CREATED.

House Committee Decides Four Territories Should Be Combined.

Washington, March 29.—The states of Oklahoma and Arizona are created in a bill which has been completed by the Republican members of the subcommittee of the house committee on territories. The Democratic members of this committee have been placed in possession of the bill, and after they have considered it for a few days a meeting of the full subcommittee will be held. The two states mentioned are composed of Oklahoma and Indian Territory, as "Oklahoma" and Arizona and New Mexico as "Arizona." The admission of the latter two territories is not delayed by any restriction of law, but may be effected as soon as a convention can be called to form a state constitution.

The bill provides, however, that Oklahoma and the Indian Territory shall not be admitted as a state until the year 1906. By this time all the Indian lands will have been allotted. The problem of providing proper revenue for schools, growing out of the fact that the Indian lands of Oklahoma and Indian Territory have been allotted in severalty to the Indians under a law which makes them non-taxable, has been met by an appropriation of \$5,000,000 out of the treasury. This money is to be used to establish and maintain schools. The principal of this fund may be used to the extent necessary, the balance being placed in deposit at 3 per cent to the credit of the state for the maintenance of the schools established.

The state constitution to be formed under the bill must contain an abundant prohibition of polygamy. Suffrage cannot be restricted except for ignorance, imbecility, age and sex. This will not permit woman suffrage if the constitution to be adopted shall so provide. Negro suffrage cannot be restricted as such.

ANNOUNCES RUSSIA'S AIMS.

Czar Says War Must Establish Her Pre-eminence on Pacific.

St. Petersburg, March 29.—The text of the emperor's message to Viceroy Alexieff notifying him of the appointment of General Kouropatkin to the command of the Russian troops in the Far East and Vice Admiral Makaroff to the command of the fleet of Port Arthur, not only clearly defines the latter's position, but specifically announces Russia's aims. The message follows:

"The importance of the impending struggle which is intended to finally assure the predominating position of Russia on the Pacific ocean, and foreseeing that it will be necessary for you, as my lieutenant, to transfer your residence to a more central position, for instance, Harbin or some other place of your choice, I have found it expedient to send to your assistance General Kouropatkin or the direction of the land forces with the rights of army commander and Vice Admiral Makaroff for the direction of the sea forces, with rights of fleet commander. I am convinced that the appointment of these independent, responsible commanders in chief will enable you, as my lieutenant, to discharge the difficult and historic task which has fallen to your lot."

FLEETS TO UNITE IN FALL.

Russia Will Completely Overhaul One Squadron in the Meantime.

Paris, March 29.—A St. Petersburg correspondent of the Petite Parisienne reports an interview with a high officer of the Russian navy regarding the departure of the Baltic squadron for the Far East. The fleet of Admiral Wironius will, this officer says, be recalled and thoroughly overhauled. He adds that the united squadrons cannot leave before the end of September, when the sectional torpedo boats which are to be sent to Port Arthur will be ready. This will give the Russians a decided superiority and the war, the officer asserts, will be brought to a speedy close. The correspondent's informant declares that the cruiser Dmitri Donskoi, on account of its slowness, will remain at home.

A crisis in the tea trade, adds the correspondent, has been caused by merchants, who announce that a 10 per cent advance in price will be made today.

Great Barley Shipment for Japan.

San Francisco, March 29.—One thousand tons of barley for the Japanese government is to be carried by the steamer Coptic, sailing on April 2, for the Asiatic coast. This is part of a large shipment ordered some months ago before hostilities began with Russia. Several hundred tons of the barley were sent out on the Siberia, but the bulk of it is to go on the Coptic, and the disability of most of the Russian warships on the coast of Asia makes it almost certain that the grain will reach Yokohama in safety.

Japanese Delay Advance.

Liao Yang, Manchuria, March 29.—General Mischchenko has been informed that the Japanese have suspended their advance on the Ping Yan-Anju line. Three thousand Japanese troops are stationed at Anju and 1,000 at Pak Chien, while 40 Japanese warships and transports are anchored at Chennampo. According to Russian advice, the object of the Japanese is to turn the Russian's flank, and are awaiting the concentration of their army.

For Rivers and Harbors.

Washington, March 29.—The house committee on rivers and harbors today decided to report a bill this week carrying an appropriation aggregating \$3,000,000 to carry on existing river and harbor improvement contracts. No new surveys will be authorized.

MONEY TO CANAL

THE DALLES PROJECT IS IN SUNDRY CIVIL BILL.

Amount is \$100,000.—Shows That Congress Adopts Work as Continuing Contract—Senators Will Introduce Amendment Making Appropriation of \$300,000.

Washington, March 28.—The sundry civil bill reported to the house today contains but one important item for the Pacific Northwest, namely, \$100,000 for continuing the improvement of the Columbia river between The Dalles and Celilo. The fact that this appropriation is carried in the sundry civil bill establishes beyond question the fact that congress has adopted The Dalles project as a continuing contract, and that necessary appropriations for carrying on and completing the work will hereafter be made annually in the sundry civil bill, a river and harbor bill not being depended upon.

Unfortunately, the bill makes no appropriation for carrying on work at the mouth of the Columbia river but the senators will endeavor to attach an amendment appropriating \$500,000 for this project \$225,000 for the Columbia and Willamette below Portland, an increasing the appropriation for The Dalles canal to at least \$300,000.

The sundry civil bill carries \$24,000 for rent of temporary quarters for the Portland postoffice and for the courts; \$100,000 additional for the Seattle public building; \$120,000 to commence construction of the public building at Spokane, \$40,000 for the Tacoma building, and \$3,000 for Crater lake national park.

HAWAII IS BEST CUSTOMER.

American Trade With Noncontiguous Territory.

Washington, March 28.—Commerce of the United States with its noncontiguous territory now averages about \$8,000,000 per month, and it is apparent that for the full fiscal year it will aggregate a round \$100,000,000. In the term "noncontiguous territory" are included Alaska, the Hawaiian islands, the Philippine islands, Guam, Tutuila and Porto Rico. Records of their shipments to the ports of the United States and of shipments from the various ports to them are now regularly presented by the department of commerce and labor, through its bureau of statistics.

These records show that the shipments from the United States to Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico, the Philippines, Guam and Tutuila aggregated in the seven months ending with January, 1904, nearly \$21,000,000, and the merchandise received from them in the same period, nearly \$31,000,000. If to this is added the gold bullion received from Alaska, the grand total of our commerce with the territory in question for the seven months ending with January would amount to nearly \$60,000,000, which makes it quite apparent that for the fiscal year ending with June 30 next, the total will be fully \$100,000,000.

Of the shipments to these noncontiguous territories, the largest total for the seven months under consideration is to Hawaii, \$7,224,156 worth of domestic merchandise and of foreign merchandise, \$52,677.

FAVORS TWO LAND DISTRICTS.

Interior Department Gives Its Approval to Alaskan Bill.

Washington, March 28.—The interior department is heartily in favor of the creation of the two land districts in Alaska with headquarters at Nome. The passage of a bill for this purpose is recommended by Secretary Hitchcock and by Commissioner Richards, of the general land office, their recommendation being based upon a report made by James W. Witten, after an investigation of land conditions in Alaska. The department believes that Nome is the proper location for a land office in Northern Alaska, as it is apparently a permanent city and the center of an active mining district. Instead of placing this office in charge of regular land officers, the bill pending in congress provides that the marshal for the Nome district shall act as register and the clerk of the court as receiver of the Nome land office.

Those With Food Can Stay.

St. Petersburg, March 28.—Proclamations issued by General Voronetz, who is in command at Vladivostok, have been received at St. Petersburg. They urge the people at Vladivostok to remain, but add that only those will be allowed to stay who have 432 pounds of flour and 108 pounds of buckwheat, enough to last eight months. All Chinese and Koreans who are without occupation have been ordered to depart. Persons who start untrue and alarming reports will be court-martialed. Looting is strictly prohibited.

Agree on Macedonian Reform.

London, March 28.—According to the dispatches received today from Constantinople, the ports and the Austro-Hungarian authorities have reached an agreement in regard to the organization of the Macedonian gendarmerie under European officers, so it is believed that it will not be long before the reform scheme for Macedonia is recognized by the emperors of Roumania and Austria at their meeting at Muerstedt Styrum.

No Sickness Among the Russians.

St. Petersburg, March 28.—General Linevitch has telegraphed to the general staff that there is no sickness among the Russian troops.

GALE WORK RUIN.

Chicago and Suburbs are Swept by a Fierce Wind Storm.

Chicago, March 28.—One of the most severe storms this city has known in many years passed over Chicago tonight. Great damage was done in the suburbs. The storm did not strike the business portion of the city in its greatest force.

The town of Indiana harbor, 20 miles southeast of Chicago, was the heaviest sufferer. L. Barker, the proprietor of a dry goods store, was killed, and 15 people who were in his store when the storm struck were injured, some of them seriously, although none is expected to die. Barker's store was entirely demolished. Eighteen residences were blown down, and a number of people were hurt in the ruins of their homes. The number of people injured at Indiana Harbor will probably approximate 25. All three of the hotels in the place were badly damaged. One two story frame building was entirely turned over.

At Hammond, Ind., a number of residences were badly damaged, and two people were injured, but not fatally. One end of the large plant of the Republic Iron & Steel company was blown down, causing a loss of \$25,000. A number of business houses were unroofed.

To the north of the city the storm was also severe, much damage having been done in the suburbs of Evanston, Rogers Park and Thornton.

An exceedingly heavy fall of rain accompanied the storm.

In Thornton a frame dwelling was blown into a stone quarry and reduced to kindling wood. One man was fatally hurt and several other persons were severely injured.

CHINA KILLS IT.

Exclusion Act Will Expire on the 27th of Next December.

Washington, March 26.—The state department has received formal notice from the Chinese government denouncing the Chinese exclusion treaty, so this convention will expire about December 27 next, unless replaced by another treaty by that date. Under its terms six months before the expiration of a period of ten years from December 27, 1894, if either power be dissatisfied with the treaty, it is required to denounce it. This is the action which China has taken, in spite of the strongest efforts to the contrary on the part of the state department. Had the notice not been served, the treaty would have continued in force for another term of ten years from December 27, 1904.

The department pointed out to the Pekin authorities through Mr. Conger that it was very probable that, so far from bettering the conditions relating to the admission of Chinese into the United States, any new treaty would be of approval by the senate. The Chinese would thus be exposed, in the absence of the sheltering treaty, to the full rigor of the Geary and Heinz law, and the exclusion would be much more complete than at present.

However, the treaty having been denounced, there is nothing to do but to proceed with a formulation of a new treaty, which has already been initiated in a way, although with little hope of senatorial approval.

HEADQUARTERS AT PANAMA.

Canal Commission Settles Two Important Points.

Washington, March 26.—Two important points have been developed in connection with the work of the isthmian canal commission. One is that the headquarters of the commission probably will be on the Isthmus of Panama instead of at Washington, although an office will probably be maintained here. The other point is that a part of the time of at least five of the commissioners will be devoted to their private interests.

Admiral Walker, the chairman of the commission, and General Davis, the army member of the body, will devote their entire time to the canal work.

Legislation now pending before congress provides for the appointment of a governor of the American zone on the isthmus. If it should be enacted into law, it is quite probable that the president may designate General Davis as the governor of the canal strip.

Fear Siege by Japs.

Vladivostok, March 26.—While the situation here remains quiet it is not expected that Vladivostok will continue to be much longer free from the vigorous operations of the Japanese. In anticipation of the appearance of the enemy, and of a possible siege, a ladies' circle has been formed, which sits six hours daily at the ministry of marine, preparing bandages of linen for sick soldiers and sailors. Most of the women in Vladivostok belong to this circle, including the representatives of the aristocracy.

Express Satisfaction at His Death.

Washington, March 26.—Secretary Taft and the officials of the war department openly expressed their gratification at the news of the death of Macario Sakay, the so called president of the Philippine republic. Sakay secured his freedom under the amnesty proclamation and fled to the mountains with a small force of kindred spirits, and since has made much trouble by attacking small villages and unprotected expeditions.

American Consul Going to Post.

London, March 26.—A correspondent of the Times at Shanghai says United States Consul Davidson will start for his post at Antung next week, and that he has arranged with the Japanese naval authorities to assist his vessel to reach its destination.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

PRAIRIES OF NEBRASKA ARE BEING SWEEPED CLEAN.

Blaze is Past Hope of Control—Property Valued at \$100,000 Already Destroyed—Three Deaths Reported and Several Persons Missing—Number of Small Towns in Danger.

Loomis, Neb., March 25.—A prairie fire is raging through this section of the state, and already three deaths are reported, while a number of farmers are missing. Houses and stock running far toward \$100,000 have already been lost, and the fire continues with unabated fury.

August Olson, an aged farmer, is known to have been burned to death and two of his hands are missing. James Lewis and William Anderson, ranchmen, are also dead. A number of cowboys are reported missing from different directions.

The flames are past all hope of control, and are leaping across the prairie at racehorse speed, burning everything in its path.

The Burlington railroad has sent a special train with fire-fighters from Holdrege to assist the ranchmen in saving the small towns in the path of the flames. From Loomis the Platte river, 15 miles, the whole country will be swept clear by the fire. Further to the west, toward which the blaze is sweeping, the prairie country extends for nearly 200 miles. There are no streams of note along this country, and the fire may sweep to the bend of the Platte river in that direction.

JAPAN'S FOOHOLD IS STRONG.

Elaborate Preparations Made for Handling Troops in Corea.

Chinampo, Corea, March 25.—The organization of the Japanese in Corea is perfect. Elaborate preparations have been made for landing troops and advancing them through the country, and pontoon bridges and stables are built wherever they are found to be necessary. The greatest difficulty facing the Japanese is the commissariat, as, owing to the poor food supplies of Corea, it is only possible at present to maintain 90,000 men.

The Japanese hold two enormously strong positions at Ping Yang and on the Miakokak-San range between Hwangju and Seoul. The latter is practically impregnable and secure from land attacks from the northwest. In the event of defeat, it is intended to hold the passes at Kazan, thus protecting Ping Yang valley. The Japanese troops are suffering from dysentery and pneumonia, and many of the cavalry horses, which are poor, have died, but the army is full of spirit.

There are probably 20,000 Japanese at Ping Yang, which might easily have been taken, when the Russian scouts first arrived, there being then only 250 Japanese soldiers.

WILL NOT LET CHINA JOIN HER.

Japan Will Not Run Risk of Russia Occupying Provinces.

Vienna, March 25.—The number of alarming editorial articles in the Austrian press regarding the probability of China coming to the assistance of Japan and making common cause against Russia has had the effect of creating genuine alarm throughout the nation against the "yellow peril," and the Japanese minister has been addressed on the subject. The result has been the receipt of an official statement from the Japanese government setting forth the "real position" of Japan.

After stating in unmistakable terms the relations between China and Japan, and the latter's intention of compelling China to maintain an attitude of strict neutrality, the statement concludes by saying that "Chinese aid and support would be in many respects advantageous to Japan, yet the Japanese government cannot run the risk of Russian occupancy of other Chinese provinces than Manchuria.

Under the War Department.

Washington, March 25.—The president practically has determined that the Panama canal commission shall be attached to the war department. This proposition is not pleasing to all members of the commission, but the bureau of insular affairs of the war department has been so successful and economical in its management of details of governmental affairs in the Philippines, Cuba and Porto Rico that it is felt to be the proper bureau to look after the myriad details of the government of the canal zone.

Censorship to Be Relaxed.

London, March 25.—The stringent Japanese censorship is likely to be relaxed early in April, says the well-informed Daily Telegraph's Seoul correspondent. In the meantime the veil has not lifted, and not a word has yet issued, either officially from Japan or unofficially from any other source, concerning the last bombardment of Port Arthur. The rumored naval battle off Port Arthur of March 18 is also totally unconfirmed.

Russian Ship Reported Lost.

Tokio, March 25.—A special dispatch from Moji, opposite Shimonoseki, Japan, says the Japanese fleet made another attack on Port Arthur March 18, bombarded the city and its defenses, and fought a furious engagement with the Russian fleet outside the harbor, destroying one battleship. Seven Japanese casualties are reported.

JAPS DRIVEN OFF.

Admiral Togo's Entire Fleet Bombards Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, March 24.—Another attack by the Japanese fleet on Port Arthur, beginning with operations by torpedo boats and ending with a bombardment by battleships and cruisers, took place after midnight Monday.

The emperor received the first message regarding the attack late this afternoon, but nothing was allowed to reach the public until 10 o'clock.

All information which has reached St. Petersburg shows that the defenders of Port Arthur had taken seriously to heart the coup of the Japanese torpedo boats at the beginning of the war, and were now maintaining a sharp lookout.

The Japanese torpedo boats were twice discovered sneaking toward the harbor entrance under cover of darkness, but both times they were detected far out at sea, and were driven off by the hot fire opened on them. The breaking of day necessarily prevented further torpedo boat operations, but Admiral Togo brought his battleships and cruisers up.

The division of his fleet was for the purpose of making a cross fire upon the harbor in the hope of destroying the town and of damaging the Russian ships lying in the basin, or at least demoralizing the personnel of the defending force. When the first official dispatches were received the belief gained ground that Vice Admiral Makaroff had put to sea and that a naval fight had taken place. Later advices established the fact that the admiral had simply gone with the undamaged portion of his fleet to the outer roads, where he could more effectively support the batteries, and at the same time take advantage of any weakness which might develop in the enemy's attack.

AID TO '05 FAIR.

The House Committee Decides on an Appropriation of \$475,000.

Washington, March 24.—A substitute for the senate Lewis and Clark bill, carrying an aggregate appropriation of \$475,000, was today ordered reported by the house committee on expenditures, the vote being unanimous. The provisions of the bill are \$200,000 for a government exhibit, including forestry and irrigation exhibits; \$250,000 for government buildings, which will include in addition to the regular government exhibit, the Philippine, Alaska, Hawaiian and Oriental exhibits, and \$25,000 for the Alaskan exhibit.

The bill provides that the plans for the government buildings shall be prepared by the supervising architect of the treasury and the buildings erected under contract. The cost of preparing the grounds and lighting is included in the appropriation for buildings, and authority is granted for the coinage of 250,000 gold dollars to be used as souvenirs.

Chairman Tawney, of Minnesota, who has the bill in charge, will report it, and no reference will be made to Sunday closing.

The senate will refuse to accept this substitute bill after it is passed by the house, and this will cause it to be sent to conference. As all the conferees—Senators Burnham, Hansbrough and Daniel, and Representatives Tawney, Sherman and Bartlett—are strongly in favor of the Lewis and Clark exposition, there is good reason to believe they will increase the appropriation to the \$750,000 asked for.

War Funds are Assured.

Tokio, March 24.—The Diet has adopted resolutions thanking the navy in the name of the nation for the several successes that have resulted since the beginning of the war. It is announced by the leaders of both political parties that they are in complete accord with the program for raising the revenue needed for the conduct of the war. The compromise whereby the tax on land has been reduced and that proposed on salt and silk stuffs is eliminated from the bill has disarmed the opposition, and the revenue bill will likely be passed without a dissenting vote. The total amount affected by the changes is about \$5,000,000. It is said that the bill as finally passed will provide that the increased tax shall be levied for one year, and not five, as was at first proposed.

Yankee Defies China.

San Francisco, March 24.—Officers of the steamer Coptic, just arrived, saw the Russian gunboat Mandjur lying in the river at Shanghai, and report that her commander is a Captain Carter, born in the United States, but a Russian by naturalization. When ordered to leave Chinese waters, Captain Carter emphatically refused, and invited somebody to make him move. At last accounts he was still at Shanghai with his gunboat. A Japanese gunboat and a cruiser flying the same flag passed out of the river.

Russia to Settle Battleships.

Paris, March 24.—The Echo de Paris correspondent at St. Petersburg says it is rumored in naval circles there that Captain Reitzenstein's Vladivostok squadron has been ordered to overtake at a certain point in the Pacific the battleship and two cruisers bought from Chile by Japan and return with them to Vladivostok. The Russian general staff, estimates that the number of Japanese troops landed in Corea does not exceed 75,000.

Russians Prepare for Siege.

St. Petersburg, March 24.—The Russians are continuing preparations for a prospective siege of Port Arthur by rushing large quantities of supplies to that point.