

THE COLUMBIA REGISTER

VOL. I.

MOULTON, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1904.

NO. 1.

no 2 meeting

EVENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF THE TWO HEMISPHERES.

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

The Japanese have crossed the Yalu near Wiju.

President Loubet, of France, was warmly received in Italy.

The military at Telluride, Colo., has deported 29 more miners.

The Oregon building at the St. Louis fair will be ready for occupancy May 1.

Fire in London's wholesale district destroyed \$500,000 worth of property.

King Edward has made no peace proposals to Russia, as has been reported.

Russian authorities say the crossing of the Yalu by Japanese is no important victory.

Another unsuccessful attempt has been made to assassinate Premier Maury, of Spain.

The Vladivostok squadron is reported to have sunk four Japanese transports conveying 4,000 men.

The New York Central's railroad shops at Albany, N. Y., were destroyed, entailing a loss of \$250,000.

The senate has passed bills giving Portland an assay office and dividing Oregon into two judicial districts.

St. Louis has been warned to expect a flood.

The house has passed the bill giving Alaska a delegate.

The Vladivostok squadron has sunk a small Japanese steamer at Genzan.

Kourapatkin is to be made commander of land and sea forces in the Far East.

A dispatch from Port Arthur denies that 20,000 Japanese troops have landed at Dalny.

The foreign military observers assigned to Japan's first army in Corea have been ordered to leave for the front.

The Japanese are landing much material and other supplies and preparing to build bridges in the neighborhood of Wiju.

The powers are expected to back Russia in declaring the use of wireless telegraphy constitutes espionage. The United States alone is expected to make certain reservations.

The tomb of the famous Livingston family, near New York, was broken into and the bodies of several removed, while the bones of others were scattered over the floor.

The house has passed the senate bill providing that when the United States district judge of the district of Oregon is absent or unable to hold court, the circuit judge may hold district court and perform other duties of the district judge.

The czar has signed an order recalling Viceroy Alexieff.

The Japanese lines on the Yalu river now extend for 30 miles.

Bank robbers at Iola, Wis., secured \$1,200, but overlooked \$9,000 in their haste.

The Panama canal property has been formally turned over to the United States.

An American doctor and eight nurses have arrived in Japan to assist in Red Cross work.

Alaska Indian children will be brought to the Chemawa, Oregon, school or education.

Kourapatkin has forbid his generals to engage in any battles and even oppose small skirmishes.

Rumors of fighting on the Yalu, in which the Japanese lost heavily continue to come from Port Arthur.

George A. Hammond, consulting engineer, has been ordered to Eastern Oregon to assist in the examination of the Malheur irrigation proposition.

The Indian agent at Colville, Wash., and the bonded superintendent at Nez Perces, Idaho, reservation have been let out on account of indiscreet actions.

Neidermeir, Marx and Vandine, the Chicago carbarn bandits, have paid the penalty of their crimes.

A Port Arthur report says an entire Japanese column was destroyed on the Yalu river. No confirmation is obtainable.

It is reported that two Japanese, disguised as beggars, attempted to assassinate General Kourapatkin while he was in Nin Chwang recently.

The Hansbrough bill recently passed by the senate repealing the timber and stone act, and authorizing the sale of government timber to the highest bidder, has been practically killed in the house public lands committee.

CHINA DESIRES TO BE NEUTRAL.

Diplomat Says Only Danger Lies in Priests Stirring Up a Revolt.

Paris, April 28.—Mr. Ou, first secretary of the Chinese legation here, in an interview on the danger of China being drawn into the Russian-Japanese war, said General Ma was not a very important personage, and had never been commander in chief. He is in command of the regular troops in the province of Pechili under the viceroy of Tien Tsin, who would incur the death penalty, if he acted without the direct orders of the Peking government, which, the secretary said, was determined to maintain neutrality. Moreover, General Ma had not over 15,000 troops, which there was no reason to suppose were ill disposed toward Russia.

Asked point blank whether he did not foresee danger of complication, the secretary admitted the Chinese people were favorably disposed toward the Japanese, and in this fact there might be a possible source of trouble. If the Buddhist priests and the secret societies stirred up a revolt, and the rebels attacked the Russians, the latter might consider the imperial government responsible.

"If we should be treated as belligerents," said the secretary, "we should be obliged to defend ourselves. That would be the only event in which we would make common cause with Japan."

SUBMARINE BOATS IN ACTION.

Russia Hears From Vessels Sent in Sections to Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, April 28.—A dispatch from Port Arthur says:

"Experiments with submarine boats here have been attended with brilliant success.

"All is quiet in the region of the fortress."

The entrance into service of four submarine boats at Port Arthur means the addition of a new and formidable weapon for the defense of the stronghold. The dispatch of the boats in sections over the railroad have been shrouded in secrecy, and even today many in St. Petersburg are inclined to doubt the report by officials of their presence at Port Arthur, or to accept the information as trustworthy.

An effort now to close or blockade Port Arthur will be too dangerous, it is thought, for Vice Admiral Togo to attempt. The defenders of the port will be able to guard against Japanese submarine vessels entering the harbor and attacking the Russian ships at anchor.

TO CUT OFF RUSSIAN SQUADRON.

Japanese Ships Pass Kobe, Undoubtedly Making for Genzan.

Chicago, April 28.—A special cable to the Daily News from Kobe says:

"Under full steam a strong squadron of Japanese armored cruisers were observed this morning, making their way northward in the Japanese sea. It is believed that the vessels are on their way to attempt to cut off the Russian squadron that appeared off Genzan, on the east coast of Corea yesterday. It is feared, however, that, as the czar's cruisers are superior in speed to those of the mikado, they may escape in safety to the shelter of Vladivostok."

"It is also stated that the Japanese have succeeded in luring the Russians from the protection of the Vladivostok guns, and that there is another Japanese squadron between them and their retreat, but these are mere rumors."

Amending the Patent Laws.

Washington, April 28.—Favorable reports were authorized today by the house committee on patents on the Mann bill amending the patent laws by authorizing the issuance of patents on the formulae of proprietary remedies instead of on the manufactured article, and the Lawney bill requiring affidavits to be filed with copyright applications stating the place where the type for the publication was set. No copyright is to be issued on works not printed in this country. The penalty for a misstatement in the affidavit is fixed at \$1,000.

Steamers Fear Mines.

Tokio, April 27.—Japanese companies which operate steamers on the Yellow sea, and the gulf of Pechili are cancelling their engagements to call at points beyond Chemulpo, Corea, because of the mechanical contact mines which are known to be adrift on the high seas. These mines drifted away from Port Arthur and Port Dalny, and constitute a serious menace to navigation. It is known that many mines have been detached from their moorings by storms and currents and several have been destroyed.

Russia to Buy More Warships.

Paris, April 28.—According to a report, the truth of which it is impossible to verify, the sum of 105,000,000 rubles has been appropriated by Russia for the purchase of several torpedo boats in France, two Argentine cruisers and two German transports. The two German transports have already arrived at Libau.

VALUE QUESTIONED

SENATE DOUBTS ADVISABILITY OF BUILDING BIG WARSHIPS.

Recent Russian Losses are Cited—Some Favor Submarines—Conference Report Giving the President Power to Delay Construction of Battleships Deemed Advisable Agreed To.

Washington, April 27.—The senate today passed a bill to provide for an associate justice of the supreme court of New Mexico.

Hale called up the conference report on the naval appropriation bill eliminating the differences between the two houses. In making a statement on the report Hale criticized the modern battleship. Continuing he said:

"I must say that if I were secretary of the navy in the present condition, I should not dare to go on and commit the government to the building of another immense battleship costing \$9,000,000. The lessons of war between Russia and Japan thus far go to show the vulnerability and the unsafety of these immense and lofty battleships and the undesirability at present of committing ourselves to the further construction of them. The great and salient evils of war show how incomplete as an engine of war is one of these enormous high turreted battleships. If she is struck below the water line and the center of gravity is disturbed she turns over like a turtle and everybody on board is drowned."

"If an explosion takes place through hurried firing in a turret, it is more than likely to ignite the magazine and the whole ship is blown into the air and everybody on board is killed. Aside from the disasters in the East, where the large Russian battleships have been disabled and put out of business, we have had three explosions on our own battleships within a year."

Stewart expressed the opinion that the battleship will soon be a thing of the past and that submarine craft will take their place.

Continuing, Hale said he thought congress should legislate on the character of battleships for the navy, and not leave it to the department.

Allison said the discretion given to the president to defer action for a year was a wise one, because of the fact that a test of battleships was going on in a pretty lively way in the Far East.

The conference report was agreed to.

GAME OF STRATEGY.

Kourapatkin Has Large Force Thrown Across Upper Yalu.

St. Petersburg, April 27.—General Kourapatkin has played a strong card in the game of strategy. A large portion of General Rennenkampf's Cossack cavalry division has been thrown across the upper reaches of the Yalu, and a considerable force of cavalry, which crossed the Tumen some time ago, is moving down to the southwest to effect a junction with it. Together with this force, which, it is believed, totals 20,000 men, he will threaten Lieutenant General Inouye's left flank when the Japanese are ready to cross lower down on the Yalu.

Being composed of cavalry with a few mountain guns, Rennenkampf's force is extremely mobile. Unless it should be dislodged, it will compel the Japanese to leave a strong army to guard the communications, whereas, if a Japanese force should be sent to drive it out, it would have to move directly away from the main army while the Russian army, if compelled to fall back, can recross in the direction of the Russian troops concentrating in Manchuria.

KUROPATKIN TO BE CHIEF.

He is Destined to Command Forces on Sea as Well as on Land.

St. Petersburg, April 27.—General Kourapatkin, it is believed in the highest military circles here, is destined to become commander of all the emperor's forces, both military and naval in the Far East.

Admiral Alexieff may remain there for some little time as viceroy, but his reign is considered practically ended. He will not be humiliated, but in order to effect harmonious relations a way will be found to secure his elimination. While Alexieff and Kourapatkin are on fairly good terms, harmonious relations between Vice Admiral Skrydloff and the viceroy are considered impossible and with the three enjoying independent commands it is realized that friction ultimately will be bound to arise which might endanger successful operations. Skrydloff and Kourapatkin, on the contrary, are warm personal friends.

Treaty With America to Hand.

St. Petersburg, April 27.—The draft of the treaty whereby American firms can sue in Russia and Russian firms in America, over which Ambassador McCormick has been negotiating, has been received from Washington and laid before the foreign officers. Since it is no longer possible to secure its ratification during this session of congress, Mr. McCormick probably will allow the treaty to take its normal course.

RAIN CAUSES KANSAS FLOOD.

Rescuers From Homes Surrounded by Rising Waters.

Fort Scott, Kan., April 27.—Fort Scott is experiencing the most serious flood in its history. Marmatong river and Mill creek, which runs into the former stream here, have risen ten feet in the past 24 hours, the result of heavy rains. Several hundreds of persons have been rescued in boats. As far as known tonight no lives have been lost. The estimated loss in livestock drowned and property damaged is \$100,000.

The two streams began to rise at 10 o'clock last night and today the city was divided into three sections and almost completely isolated. Normally Mill creek runs into the Marmatong river, northeast of the city, but because of the rapid rise they formed a new channel which cut across one end of the city. Tonight the entire northern part of the city is cut off, and part of the city is inundated.

Ten feet of water is rushing through the streets in that part of the city and several hundred persons in what is known as Belltown have been forced to leave their homes. Many were taken away in boats.

There were several narrow escapes from drowning. Late today an aged couple named Lemore, living north of the city near the river, were rescued in boats. They were completely homed in. Rescuers went out all day under the direction of Fire Chief Auman, Mayor Congdon and Chief of Police Mendenhall, and they succeeded in saving thousands of dollars' worth of property as well as the hundreds of inhabitants of that district.

Many who refused to leave Belltown will still have to be taken away in boats, as all avenues of escape have now been cut off.

The gas works is three feet under water and has closed down. The engine and pumps at the water station are 20 feet under water. The Southwestern Wholesale-Grocery company's warehouse is flooded and the water has reached the office. The wholesale district is completely surrounded and merchants are removing their stocks of goods. All the railroads are tied up, bridges being threatened and tracks covered.

Washouts are reported in all directions. In the low farming land the water is from five to ten feet deep and much stock has been drowned and heavy damage to property caused. It is estimated that 300 persons are homeless.

SOLDIER KILLED IN WRECK.

West Bound Santa Fe Train Collides With a Light Engine.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 27.—A west bound special train carrying several carloads of soldiers bound for the presidio, San Francisco, was wrecked at Hartoum Station, the first station west of Needles, Cal., on the Santa Fe railroad. One soldier, James M. Bowers, was killed and about a dozen injured.

According to the meagre information obtainable in this city tonight the wreck occurred sometime during the afternoon Sunday and was caused by the colliding of a light engine east-bound with the troop train. The engine had helped a train over a heavy grade just west of Needles, and was returning to that point, presumably without the knowledge of the special troop train.

Carnival at Portland.

The Federated Trade Council, representing 75 labor unions, and the Lewis and Clark Fraternal Building association, comprising 34 fraternal societies, have arranged to hold a mardi gras and carnival in Portland June 28 to July 12 inclusive. It is intended to make this affair the largest and most complete ever attempted on the Pacific coast. A spectacle employing 300 people will be one of the chief attractions of the amusement features, as well as a circus, balloon ascensions, etc.

The management has promised that the entire two weeks will be full of specialties and one cannot go once and see it all. There will be a monster Fourth of July parade, also an illuminated parade on the night of July 2. Reduced rates have been secured on all transportation lines running into Portland.

Irrigation Investigation at Yakima.

Washington, April 27.—District Engineer T. A. Noble, of the reclamation service, at Spokane, Wash., has been instructed to proceed to make the necessary investigations at the earliest possible date concerning the development of the Yakima valley, to ascertain whether the opportunities for irrigation works there are of such a character as to warrant the beginning of a large government work in this city. The investigation will be for the purpose largely of securing a better knowledge of the physical conditions of this region.

Improvements at Puget Sound Yards.

Washington, April 27.—Bids have been opened at the navy department for a steel storage building at the Puget sound navy yard, the lowest bidder being the St. Paul Foundry company, \$20,736, and for a boatshop at the Puget sound yard, the lowest bidder being T. Ryan, Seattle, \$155,000.

PAPERS ARE SIGNED

TITLE TO PANAMA CANAL NOW RESTS WITH UNITED STATES.

Agreement Transfers Property Without Reservation—Stockholders Will Now Ratify the Act of President and Director of Company—Title Is Perfect—U. S. First to Hear News.

Paris, April 25.—The Associated Press is authorized to announce that the contract by which the Panama canal passes to the United States is signed and sealed. The title to the canal is now vested in the United States. The document by which this transaction is consummated bears the signatures of President Board Director Richman, of the Panama canal company, who signed for the company as its responsible officers. The transfer is complete and without reservation, and the United States secures a perfect title.

This result has been quietly accomplished, and unexpectedly, as the public has been given to understand that the contract would not be executed until after the meeting of the stockholders of the Panama canal company tomorrow, at which the question of ratification would be presented. As a matter of fact, however, when the meeting takes place President Board will announce that the sale has been completed, and, instead of asking for authority to execute a contract, it will only remain to ratify the contract of sale which the officers of the company have formally completed. Only a few of the highest officers of the company are now aware of the secret, which will not be known except by this announcement in the United States up to the time of the meeting.

It is confidently believed that the completion of the sale before this meeting will increase the vote for ratification.

RUSSIA ISSUES PAPER MONEY.

Finance Minister Says It Is Not Forced, and No Loan Is Desired.

St. Petersburg, April 25.—Russia has made a new issue of \$15,000,000 in paper currency against free gold in the State bank. At the ministry of finance it was explained that it was an ordinary issue, and in no sense was forced. Under the law paper is issuable to double the amount of gold up to \$150,000,000 gold, in excess of which paper issued must be covered rouble for rouble. In the State bank there are, in round figures, \$400,000,000 in gold, which would permit of an issue of \$550,000,000 in paper, but the paper issue at present only amounts to \$350,000,000.

All sorts of figures of the cost of the war are printed abroad. The correspondent of the Associated Press is authoritatively informed that the daily expenses are averaging \$750,000, and it is estimated that a year's expenditure for the war will total \$250,000,000. To meet this there existed a free balance of \$50,000,000 by reductions in the ordinary budgets, leaving ostensibly \$135,000,000. But a portion of the latter is made up by the increased earnings of the railroads owned by the government. It being in reality a question of bookkeeping, how the balance is to be raised has not yet been determined.

ALL RETIRE AT SEVENTY YEARS.

House Committee Decides on Reform in the Civil Service.

Washington, April 23.—The house committee on reform in the civil service authorized Chairman Gillett to introduce a bill providing that on June 30, 1907, every office in the classified service of the United States held by a person who is then over 70 years old, shall become vacant, and that thereafter such offices shall become vacant when the incumbent becomes 70 years old.

The committee directed Mr. Gillett to report all pending bills granting pensions to civil employees of the government to the house, with the recommendation that they lie on the table; also that the draft a bill reclassifying the clerical service of the government, with a view to providing for more frequent promotions in the smaller salaried positions.

Alaskan Fishing Season Extended.

Washington, April 25.—The secretary of commerce signed an order today rescinding the regulation which limits the duration of the salmon fishing season in Southeastern Alaska. Under the former regulation, cannerymen were prohibited from taking salmon until July 1, but the order issued today removes this restriction entirely and no date is fixed. The repeal of the old regulation was demanded by the cannerymen's association, and was also recommended by the Jordan commission.

Protects Water Supply of Portland.

Washington, April 25.—Protection to the water supply of the city of Portland was provided by the house today when it passed a bill prohibiting trespassing on the Bull Run forest reserve. The maximum penalty for trespassing was reduced to \$500.

SHADOWED BY JAPANESE.

Spies in France are Trying to Learn Plans of Russians.

St. Petersburg, April 26.—The Ruski Slavo prints a letter from an official in the French secret service which reports the presence of numerous Japanese spies in France, well provided with money. They shadow Russians and watch the shippers. Especially do they endeavor to ascertain the exact date of the departure of the Baltic fleet and the points en route at which it will coal.

The Novosti states that the Russians should feel gratified at the strategical achievement of the naval squadron, which imposed caution upon the Japanese operations and gave Russia time to throw a preponderating military force into Manchuria. The most favorable time, the Novosti continues, for Japanese military operations has passed.

A letter written by Colonel Apagoff, an officer of marines on the Petropavlovsk, who was drowned, describes the routine upon the battleship. We rise, he wrote, at 6 o'clock, learn the news of the night and drink tea. At 8 o'clock we attend colors and then read the papers in hope of obtaining information of the intentions of the enemy. Afterwards we go to a meeting at headquarters and discuss questions of defense. Lunch comes at 1 o'clock. Afterwards we visit the city or transact our own affairs. Dinner at 6 o'clock, when rumors of all kinds circulate.

If reports of the appearance of the enemy are persistent, the letter states, the torpedo boats are sent out, and upon these craft falls the hardest service of the war. When Grand Duke Cyril arrived at Port Arthur, he was given command of a torpedo boat. The ships in the harbor, it is stated, were connected with the others and with the shore by telephone.

NOT TO WATER IT.

Nation Finds Crook County Field Taken by Private Concerns.

Washington, April 26.—The secretary of the interior has received a petition from 300 members of the Farmers' co-operative irrigation association of Oregon asking that a thorough investigation be made by the reclamation service to determine the irrigation possibilities of Crook county. The petition has the indorsement of Senator Mitchell.

It happens that representatives of the reclamation service have made extensive investigations in Crook county, and reached the conclusion that there is no present opportunity for the government to enter this field. There are several attractive irrigation projects along the Deschutes river, but all of these are now covered by segregations made by the state of Oregon under the Carey act, and the government does not desire to interfere with the plans of private companies.

The only other water available for irrigation in Crook county is the Crooked river, and the summer flow of this stream is now fully utilized. As it would be very expensive to divert water of the Deschutes across the Crook river valley onto the distant arable lands, the government has decided it can do nothing in Crook county unless private enterprises under the Carey act are abandoned.

SPECIAL STAMP FOR '05 FAIR.

Postal Department is Expected to Authorize the Issue Soon.

Washington, April 26.—At the suggestion of Senator Mitchell, the post-office department has taken up the matter of preparing a special issue of postage stamps to commemorate the Lewis and Clark centennial. The department can issue such stamps without special authority of congress, and in view of the department's attitude on the occasion of other expositions, it is expected that the postmaster general will soon authorize a special Lewis and Clark issue.

Senator Mitchell has also requested the department to supply the Portland postoffice with a special cancelling stamp bearing some such words as "Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, 1905, Portland, Oregon," or "World's Fair, Portland, Oregon, 1905."

This suggestion has been taken under advisement. Senator Mitchell believes the stamp issue and the special cancellation stamps will be an excellent means of advertising the exposition.

Will Get Boats Ordered by Germany.

New York, April 26.—Some sensation has been caused in Berlin, says a Herald dispatch, by a rumor to the effect that Germany has ceded to Russia certain torpedo boats building in private yards, which are on the point of completion. Eight of these, which are being built by the Schichau yards, are the largest torpedo boats as yet constructed in Germany, being 550 tons, with an average speed of 25. In order to prevent a breach of neutrality it would be necessary that the German government annul its contract.

Japanese Land Near Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, April 26.—A report is current here that the Japanese have landed 20,000 troops at Kin Chau, above Port Arthur. This report, however, cannot be confirmed tonight.