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CONTROL OF COMMITTEE IN DOUBT; METZGER AND SMITH BOTH CLAIM IT

Many Contests to Be Heard To-Day May Decide the Race—Returns Are Late.

BOTH MEN CONFIDENT

Metzger Claims a Victory Without the Contested Precincts—No Figures.

SMITH SAYS HE HAS WON

Declares He Will Have 163 Votes in the Committee—Chairman Elliott Talks.

The primary for the election of members of the Republican county central committee, held yesterday evening from 4 to 8 o'clock throughout Marion county, was one of the most spirited organization contests in the history of either party. The result of the fight between Robert Metzger and H. B. Smith for the county chairmanship, which hinges on the primary, was generally conceded at midnight last night by the more conservative friends of both candidates to be in doubt, with the chances slightly in favor of Mr. Metzger.

Both candidates claim control of the new county committee, but neither will give the detailed figures upon which his claim is based.

"The returns received up to this hour, and I may say that I have heard from every precinct I expected to carry, give me no occasion to change the figure I made several days ago," said Mr. Metzger at midnight. "I shall have 160 to 165 members of the county committee and my election is assured."

"I have won, absolutely," declared Mr. Smith a few minutes later. "I have won absolutely. I have had sufficient returns to warrant that claim."

Mr. Smith at first would not state the number of committeemen he expected to control. Later he claimed 163 votes.

The feature of the primary was the large number of contests filed by the Smith forces. These contests will be settled by the Board of Primary Election Commissioners to-day. County Chairman C. N. Elliott, in the primary call, called the commissioners to meet last night at 9 o'clock in the Criminal Court room to hear the contests, but, when the board assembled last night, after a spirited preliminary skirmish, a motion prevailed to adjourn to meet at 10 o'clock this forenoon at the same place. No contests were passed upon by the board last night.

MANY CONTESTS FILED.

The exact number of contests filed could not be learned last night, but it was said that there were at least twenty-five or thirty, and possibly as many more. Consequently it is possible that the decision of the chairmanship race will devolve upon the board. Mr. Metzger, however, claims that he has a majority of the members of the precinct committeemen without figuring on any of the contested precincts. There are 253 precincts in the county, consequently 127 votes are necessary for the election as chairman.

The Smith forces were prepared in advance for a large number of contests. They sent out printed forms for contests to their workers in every precinct, and it was said that instructions accompanied the printed slips to file contests on the slightest pretext. This was denied by friends of Mr. Smith last night, but friends of Mr. Metzger, to substantiate their claims, pointed to several precincts where the Smith people had filed contests in which their candidate for committeeman had received but 10 or 15 votes to 40 or 50 cast for the Metzger candidate.

County Chairman Elliott, when asked for a statement last night, at first declined to be quoted. Then he said:

"I will not express an opinion as to the result of the race for chairman, but I will say that, so far as it lay in my power, both candidates were treated fairly, and I believe that the primaries, on the whole, were fair. The number of contests filed by the Smith forces is certainly out of the ordinary, especially when it is considered that Metzger's friends have filed no contests, at least such is my information at this time. The Metzger people may have one or two contests, but the number is decidely limited."

RETURNS ARE LATE.

Returns from the primary were received last night at the offices of the county committee in the Lemcke building, and, in addition, both Mr. Metzger and Mr. Smith received reports from their lieutenants in each precinct. Both sides watched the returns from each precinct with the deepest interest, and in a number of precincts where leaders on either side reside especial interest was shown in the outcome. The Smith people claimed, with manifestations of intense satisfaction, that they had carried the precincts in which former Mayor C. A. Bookwalter, F. A. Joss and Ira Holmes live. Former City Chairman Edwin D. Logsdon carried his precinct, the fifteenth of the Second ward, the only one in that ward carried for Metzger.

The Metzger forces were especially interested in the thirteenth precinct of the First, the one in which Judge Fremont Alford lives. Judge Alford has been vigorous in his opposition to Metzger, but he was unable to carry his own precinct. His candidate for committeeman, Fred Andrews, went down in defeat to the Metzger candidate, Charles Alcon, by the overwhelming vote of 32 to 39. Gaylord Hawkins, who has been one of Smith's closest lieutenants, was defeated by E. Marquette in the thirteenth of the Sixth by five votes. Marquette permitted Hawkins to name the inspectors and to select the voting place. Hawkins admits he was defeated fairly.

In Mr. Bookwalter's precinct, the second of the Fourth, Mr. Bookwalter acted as inspector, and attention was called to the fact that, although the fight there waged with extreme warmth, there was not a complaint from either side, not a challenge and nothing to arouse ill feeling. There are 130 Republican votes in the precinct, and of this number 112 were polled in the primary—a remarkable showing. Fred Akin was elected committeeman by 65 votes to 47 for N. T. Washburn. The Smith forces claim Akin, but it is said that he has not pledged his support to either candidate for the chairmanship.

At a late hour this morning it was learned that the Metzger people claim with absolute certainty 138 of the 253 precinct committeemen. Of this number fifteen are from the out townships and 123 in the city. Mr. Metzger himself would not corroborate these figures, but still insisted that he would not change his original figures of 160 to 165.

ASKS FAIR TREATMENT ONLY.

"I would like to say one thing, however," added Mr. Metzger, "and that is in reference to the contests. There is a large number of contests, just how many I do not know. I have the utmost confidence in the fairness and impartiality of the members of the Board of Primary Commissioners, and I only ask that exact justice be done in deciding the contests. I have endeavored to make a fair fight from the moment I entered the race. I am confident that a substantial majority of the committeemen elected will vote for me for chairman, but if I should be mistaken in my figures and should be defeated in the end no one will hear a complaint or cry of fraud from me."

It was pointed out early this morning that in several precincts there was a tie vote for committeeman, consequently it is possible that the number of committeemen

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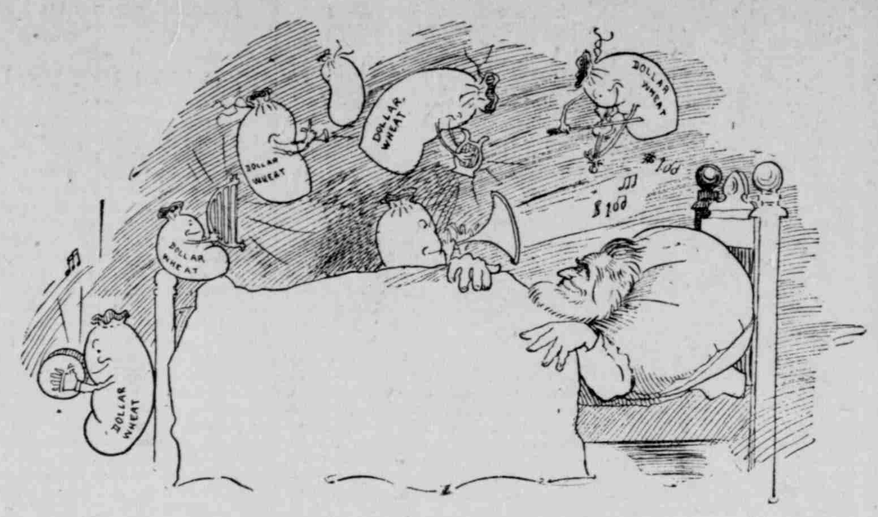

"Gee! I hate to wake up."

"Never will go to sleep again."

TWO MUNCIE POLICEMEN SHOT IN AN ENCOUNTER WITH ALLEGED CROOKS

Latter Were in a Toolhouse and Opened Fire When the Officers Appeared.

OSCAR FURR MAY DIE

But Frank Krause Was Not Badly Wounded—Escape of the Three Assailants.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

MUNCIE, Ind., Feb. 25.—In a desperate encounter with three suspicious characters two Muncie policemen were shot to-night, one of whom probably will die. The assailants escaped, but the entire police force is now scouring the country north of the city. The victims are:

OSCAR FURR, bullet possibly in lung.

FRANK KRAUSE, shot in leg.

At 9:30 o'clock Patrolmen Oscar Furr and Frank Krause were sent to the Illingworth stoneyard to investigate a report of three men prowling about the place. Furr opened the door of the tool shop and flashed his light in. At the same instant there was a shot. Furr fired and then fell wounded by the second shot from the dark toolhouse. Krause, who was on the other side, ran to Furr's assistance. As he ran he was shot in the leg, but his high boot prevented a bad wound.

Krause turned and opened fire on the three men, who were running out Wheeling avenue across White river bridge. The men escaped into the country unhurt.

Patrolman Furr was taken to the hospital. The ball entered just below the left shoulder and is thought to have penetrated a lung. It has not been found, owing to h's weakened condition.

The police believe the assailants were professional crooks, who were in the shop to get tools with which to commit a robbery in the city to-night. They have no clews to the would-be murderers.

Search for Would-Be Murderers.

The Indianapolis police were notified of the Muncie shooting late last night, and all trains and interurban cars from that city were watched closely. No trace of the men could be found.

FAST PASSENGER TRAIN SIDESWIPED BY FREIGHT

Occupants Thrown from Seats and Steps and Railing Stripped Off Cars.

TOLEDO, O., Feb. 25.—Lake Shore limited, while running at a rate of sixty miles an hour, this afternoon, struck the engine of a freight train which had just started to pull on the main track from a siding six miles west of Port Clinton. Both engines were disabled and the steps and railing were stripped from the passenger cars and windows were broken by coming in contact with the freight engine. Passengers were thrown from their seats, but no one was injured.

W. J. BRYAN CONFERS WITH D. B. HILL ET AL.

Five Democratic Leaders Hold a Secert Meeting in a New York Hotel.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—William J. Bryan, Former Governor D. B. Hill, Norman E. Mack of Buffalo, James M. Head of Tennessee, and J. M. Guffey of Pennsylvania, the latter three members of the national Democratic committee, met to-night in a room in the Hoffman House. After they came out Mr. Bryan declared that "There is no politics in this at all."

TORCH APPLIED TO HIDE EVIDENCE OF MURDER

Three Buildings Burned and Girl and Man Cremated in Lodging House.

ANOTHER BODY ON ROOF

COLORADO SPRINGS, Col., Feb. 25.—Two lives were lost in a fire that destroyed three buildings and threatened the entire business section of the city to-day. The dead are: Leta Smith, a seventeen-year-old girl, and a man whose remains were charred beyond recognition. The girl perished in her room at a lodging house from which her mother, Mrs. Mary Smith, escaped by jumping. The remains of the man were found in the debris lodged between the timbers of two buildings that had burned.

It developed to-night that according to a theory upon which the police are now working the fire was started by persons who desired to hide murder. Mike McGuire, a laborer, was found dead on the roof of an adjoining building, and it is believed that during a drunken brawl which preceded the fire McGuire received injuries which scared the others so that they threw him out of the building and then started the fire under him to hide their crime. No arrests have been made.

HERMAN MARTENS DIES AS RESULT OF A FALL

Well-Known Citizen Succumbs to Concussion of Brain at Home of Son.

From injuries received in a fall at the residence of his son, Herman E. Martens, 2335 North Meridian street, last night, Herman Martens, sr., died at 3 o'clock this morning. He was eighty-four years of age and had been a resident of this city since 1864. For many years he was in the carpet and wallpaper business on South Meridian street, retiring about ten years ago.

Last Wednesday night he arose some time during the night, and, tripping over something on the floor, fell, striking his head and suffering concussion of the brain. Arrangements for the funeral have not been completed.

MERCHANTS' BANK TO HAVE A MERIDIAN-STREET HOME

Beautiful Structure to Be Erected at Pearl Street for Banking Purposes Exclusively.

PRICE PAID IS $155,000

A building of modern architecture, to cost thousands of dollars, to be erected on the site of the present Western Union Telegraph building and the old postoffice building on South Meridian street, is to be the new home of the Merchants' National Bank. The deal was completed yesterday through the real-estate department of the Indiana Trust Company and John S. Spann & Co. The consideration for the site was $155,000.

The new bank will have a frontage of seventy-nine feet on Meridian street and a depth of 67½ feet. It will be a building exclusively for bank purposes and although no plans have been submitted it is known that the structure will not exceed sixty feet in height.

The building where the present Western Union offices are located was purchased from William H. Coleman. For the site he received $115,000. Mrs. Charlotte Condit owns the building now occupied by the Hatfield Electric Company and George S. Mayer. For this building and site the bank paid $40,000.

Mr. O. N. Frenzel, president of the Merchants' National Bank, is at present in New York, and the plans of the institution will not be made public until his return. It is known that the work of tearing away the buildings now on the site will commence shortly. It is probable that work on the new structure will begin with the opening of spring.

The matter of style of architecture, materials, etc., is yet to be decided upon. It is understood that the building will be one of the finest bank homes in the West.

The lease of the bank on its present building does not expire until April 1, 1905. It is supposed every effort will be made to complete the new building by that time. The present quarters are owned by L. S. Ayres & Co., but no announcement in addition to that made at the time of the purchase has been made by that company.

The tenants in the Western Union building and the building adjoining have made no arrangements for new quarters, the deal not being announced until last night.

PRETTY LITTLE BABY MAY END LITIGATION

Greggs Almost Willing to Call Legal Battle Off as They See Tot Walk About Courtroom.

STILL LOVES HUSBAND

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind., Feb. 25.—Interest in the June Gregg damage suit against Mrs. Sarah M. Gregg, her ex-mother-in-law, was not so keen to-day as when the plaintiff was on the stand. Mrs. Gregg in her closing testimony said that she still had a kindly feeling toward her former husband. It would not be a surprise to many of their friends if the two would effect a reconciliation, as he seems to have respect for her and it is known he loves their baby, who trots about the courtroom, and is as pretty a child as you ever saw.

This morning the plaintiff rested and the defense introduced Mrs. Mary Brown, who was a close personal friend of the defendant, and who had often visited at the Gregg home, said that she never knew defendant to talk against June, that June helped to do housework, had heard a couple of fusses in the family and knew something about a story which was circulated that Mrs. Minnie Austin, a sister of defendant, had given June a dress, and defendant had been charged with giving the money to Mr. Austin to get the dress, as she did not want to let June know that she had anything to do with it. Witness had a talk with June, who had accused her of circulating the dress report, and witness had told defendant about it because she thought she should do it as a friend. The dates of their several conversations about the dress, witness did not firmly fix. There was no court held this afternoon.

GENERAL WAR ON GRAIN RATES SEEMS PROBABLE

Pennsylvania Road's Cut of 1.8 Cents Per One Hundred Pounds Will Go Into Effect.

WILL BE PROMPTLY MET

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 25.—The Express to-morrow will print an interview with a traffic official of one of the trunk lines in which he predicts that the grain rate war now in progress between Buffalo-New York lines and the Pennsylvania will become a general rate war within six weeks.

The interview says in part: "It is my opinion that unless one side or the other recedes a rate war will shake the peace of the trunk lines within six weeks and will be augmented by the rate war in the West, which is rapidly approaching a crisis. The Pennsylvania's latest cut, which brings the rate on grain between Buffalo and Philadelphia to 1.8 cents a hundred, goes into effect to-morrow and it will be met by the New York Central, Erie and Lackawanna. Pennsylvania officials say they will continue to cut until they establish a differential of .004 in favor of Philadelphia. The New York Central will meet every cut which works against the port of New York and other Buffalo-New York lines will follow as a matter of self-protection."

Pennsylvania freight agents were notified to-night to accept grain for Philadelphia at the following rates: Wheat, 1.8; corn, 1.55, and oats, .08.

Ohioan Killed by a Snowslide.

SANDUSKY, O., Feb. 25.—Capt. Avery Henderson, well known in military circles and former chairman of the Republican executive committee of Ohio, a resident of Sandusky, was killed by a snowslide at Roosevelt, Idaho, yesterday.

ADMIRAL URIU
COMMANDER OF JAPANESE FLEET AT CHEMULPO

DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF COUNTY COUNCIL BLOCK PLAN FOR NEW BRIDGES

Body Split Over Needed Improvements, and Project Is at a Standstill.

COMPROMISE REJECTED

Attitude of Nonresidents Prevents Consideration of Question from Standpoint of Expediency.

Three Democratic members of the County Council have put a complete stop to the movement for supplying the imperative needs of the city for adequate bridge facilities. The three members are Walter S. Johnson, Samuel Pfendler and Charles H. Pierson, the only Democrats in the County Council, and all representing districts outside the city.

By the high water and destructive ice jams of several weks ago, four of the city's bridges across White river were rendered absolutely unsafe for any other than vehicle traffic.

The city has no money with which to build them. The city could only turn to the county for help in the emergency.

The County Commissioners were willing to help, but had no funds, and called a special meeting of the County Council to furnish the funds. This meeting was held yesterday, and a resolution was presented to it providing for the issue of $740,000 of bonds to furnish funds for building new bridges that should be strong, entirely adequate and permanent, across the river at Emrichsville, West Michigan street, Morris street and River avenue, beside one across Fall creek at Delaware street. The four Republican members of the Council voted to pass this resolution, but the three Democratic members opposed it.

As in a special meeting a two-thirds vote of the members is necessary, the resolution failed. As a consequence the bridges cannot be built.

What will be done immediately is not known. The suggestion was made yesterday afternoon that the unsafe bridges be condemned and closed to the public. This would then speedily express public views on the subject so as to compel attention. Other suggestions were for the establishment of ferry routes, for resort to actual navigation to cross the river, or that the people who have to cross it should swim. In any event the Democratic ideals of economy, as interpreted through the actions of the three Democratic county councilmen, would be satisfied.

SUGGESTS PONTOON BRIDGES.

"We might build pontoon bridges," said City Engineer Jeup, who, with almost every other man in the City Hall and the courthouse, expressed his disgust at the action of the minority that had held up public improvements.

The County Council was in session from 10 a. m. to about 1 p. m., and from 2:45 to 3:45 p. m. yesterday. At the end of the afternoon meeting the question was no nearer settlement than at the beginning of the morning session.

In the morning session the Democratic members objected to the proposed bond issue because "they did not want to build bridges for the street car company." They insisted that the Indianapolis Traction and Terminal Company should be compelled to help pay for the bridges. It was explained to them by Mayor Holtzman and by County Attorney Martin Hugg that this, while desirable, was impossible under the company's franchise with the city. This answer, while satisfactory to some members of the board, seemed to make no difference to the Democrats.

The Republican members of the board insisted that the city's interests demanded immediate action and that the taxpayers of the city were in favor of such positive and immediate measures as would insure the most adequate bridge facilities possi-

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DOMINICANS ENGAGED IN LIVELY BATTLE

Insurgents Gave Government Forces Warm Reception—Gunboat Damaged

BOMBARDED THE TOWN

SAN DOMINGO, Monday, Feb. 22.—Government forces attacked San Pedro de Macoris last Saturday. They went in small boats with the intention of landing, but were received with a fusillade from the insurgents, which resulted in many being killed or wounded. The gunboat Presidente then bombarded the town and inflicted much damage. The attack and the bombardment were renewed on Sunday. The rebels fired on the Presidente and damaged her about the water line. This obliged the gunboat to leave and return here. The government gunboat Independencia arrived here this morning. The United States training ship Hartford arrived here yesterday to relieve the cruiser Columbia, which left for St. Thomas, D. W. I. The city is quiet.

EPIDEMIC OF DIPHTHERIA

Outbreak of Disease on Training Ship Monongahela.

SAN JUAN, P. R., Feb. 25.—An outbreak of diphtheria has occurred on board the United States training ship Monongahela. The entire crew has been ordered ashore and the ship will be disinfected. Twenty-two apprentices suffering from sore throat are under observation in the tents of the Marine Hospital.

GHOST STORY REALISM IN A CHURCH RESULTS IN TERRIBLE ACCIDENT

Ten Little Children Seriously Burned and Others Badly or Painfully Injured.

EXPLOSION OF ALCOHOL

Which Was Being Used to Make Weird Fire While the Pastor Was Telling Tale.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 25.—An accident at the Richmond-street Christian Church here to-night resulted in ten children being seriously burned and others painfully injured. Seven of those burned and are in the City Hospital and it is thought many whose names were not learned were badly burned.

The Sunday-school room was crowded for an entertainment given by the pastor, Rev. Vernon Stauffer. The evening had been set apart for the small boys and quite a crowd of girls gathered on the outside. The evening was spent in such games as "tag," "leap frog" and other pranks, after which the pastor was telling fairy stories. One of the stories was to have an air of mystery with ghostly scenes.

In order to make the story more realistic, the pastor provided a kettle which had salt in the bottom of it. This was saturated with alcohol and set afire for the weird lights of the ghost story. When the boys were gathered around the weird fire, suddenly a draft struck the stream of alcohol and an explosion followed, transforming the scene of frivolity into a charnel house. All those seated around the fire were burned.

Besides the seven taken to the hospital three were taken home badly burned and others not seriously injured were bandaged up and taken home. Patrol wagons and physicians were summoned and the injuries of the little ones were bandaged so as to ride through the cold snowstorm safely.

The blame for the draft is charged to the little girls who had been excluded and were opening the doors to look in. Rev. Mr. Stauffer held in his hand at the time a bottle of alcohol, which was not touched or the effects would have been much worse. The pastor is at a loss to know how the accident happened. It was all over in an instant and no one present could tell how it happened.

Those taken to the City Hospital were George Mangelo, aged six years; Carl Bertram, aged six years; Earl Carson, aged twelve years; Waldron Larkby, aged fifteen years, and Walter Merrill, aged twelve years. Among those taken to their homes who were badly burned were Freddie Brennan, aged twelve years; Harry Bertram, aged eleven years, and Freddie Bertram, aged thirteen years.

After midnight it was reported at the City Hospital that George Mangelo could not recover and it was feared that others had inhaled the flames, so that their condition is doubtful.

It was at first announced that the bottle of alcohol which the pastor held in his hand to replenish the weird fire was intact. While the bottle was not broken, later reports are that the explosion happened when he poured its contents into the kettle, after the fire had once burned down. And then the flames burst forth like a red cloud over the boys that surrounded the kettle of salt.

MORE LITIGATION IN BENNETT WILL CASE

Mr. Bryan Informs Court that a Plan Has Been Decided on to Dispose of Personal Estate.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 25.—William J. Bryan came here to-day from Washington on business connected with the will of the late P. S. Bennett, of which he is executor. He was in consultation this afternoon with Judge Cleaveland, of the Probate Court. A new demurrer was filed in the Superior Court to-day by counsel of Mrs. Bennett, widow of P. S. Bennett. The demurrer was to the answer recently entered by Mr. Bryan to the suit for the construction of the Bennett will. Mr. Bryan said he had informed Judge Cleaveland that all parties interested in the will have agreed on a plan for the disposal of the personal estate, which, however, has nothing to do with the matters now in litigation.

CARELESS MINER'S WORK

Caused Death of Wife and Fatal Injuries to Three Men.

BELLAIRE, O., Feb. 25.—One woman is dead and three men fatally burned as a result of a powder explosion south of this city to-day. The dead is Mrs. Michael Tendocovich. Michael Tendocovich is a miner. He had a keg of powder in the kitchen and was stooping over it to fill his can, preparatory to entering the mine. A drop of burning oil from his miner's lamp fell into the powder and a terrific explosion followed, destroying the house and blowing the occupants into the street. Seven shanties occupied by miners were destroyed in the fire.

JAPANESE ADVANCING TO MEET THE RUSSIANS ON THEIR OWN GROUND

Landed at Possiet Bay and Have Begun Operations in the Direction of Kirin.

PANIC ON LINE OF MARCH

Russo-Chinese Bank Hastily Removed to Kwang-Cheng-Tsi for Safety.

RUSSIANS ALSO ACTIVE

Troops Now on West Side of the Yalu—Rumor of Another Fight at Port Arthur

YIN-KOW, Feb. 25.—Native reports that the Japanese have landed at Possiet bay and subsequently undertook operations against Hunchun and towards Kirin have received qualified confirmation from English missionary refugees who have arrived at Nieu-Chwang. The people say the Russo-Chinese Bank has removed from Kirin to Kwang-Cheng-Tsi, where commercial interests are seeking safety and defense.

This reported advance has produced consternation among the European civilians residing along the line of march.

It is reported also that the Russian government bureau at Vladivostok has withdrawn to Khabarovsk.

Foreign engineers on the Shang-hai-Kwang-New-Chwang Railroad say that according to their information there is no Russian force west of Liao river, with the exception of a guard of twenty-five Cossacks at Konpantzou.

[Possiet bay is in Russian Manchuria, about seventy-five miles southwest of Vladivostok. Hunchun is on the left bank of the Tumen river and about forty miles to the west of Possiet bay. Kirin is a big Manchurian town, and lies about 220 miles inland and to the west of Possiet bay. Kwang-Cheng-Tsi is about eighty miles west of Kirin. Khabarovsk is about four hundred miles to the north of Vladivostok, with which port it is connected by a railroad.]

PEKING, Feb. 25.—The director general of Chinese railroads reports that 100 Russian infantrymen, an officer, a gun and a large supply of ammunition are at Yao-Yang-Ho, and that 200 Russian cavairymen and two guns have arrived at Lui-Li-Chang. These towns are both on the west side of the Liao river.

The director general reports that the Manchurian Railroad is guarded by detachments of Cossacks of thirty men each, who occupy high watch towers at intervals of a mile.

SEOUL, Feb. 25.—Russian videttes have advanced south of Anju and cut the telegraphs between Anju and Ping-Yang.

JAPANESE AGAIN TRY TO TAKE PORT ARTHUR

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 25, 6 p. m.—Rumors are in circulation here this afternoon to the effect that a bombardment of Port Arthur is now going on.

Major General Pflug (the chief of staff of Viceroy Alexieff) telegraphs as follows under to-day's date: "The enemy again attacked Port Arthur from 1 to 3 a. m., and was everywhere repulsed. Details follow."

Following the dispatch of Major General Pflug, Viceroy Alexieff has sent in an identical report to the Czar. The fact that the Japanese have renewed the attack is interpreted here to mean that they are determined to bottle up or destroy the Russian fleet at Port Arthur in order to give themselves freedom to land maneuvers to cut off or invest the city, or as a feint to cover.

PARIS, Feb. 26.—In a dispatch from St. Petersburg a correspondent of the Echo De Paris says the last, or reported second Japanese attack at Port Arthur was repulsed brilliantly. He says the Japanese were again obliged to quit the roadstead. It is presumed that the entire squadron joined in the second attack, hoping to avenge the repulse of the preceding day. The Japanese were thought to have incurred further losses during this long fight. Admiral Stark has telegraphed that he expects a third attack.

Continuing the correspondent says that General Kuropatkin has started for his home to take leave of his mother before going to the East and he quoted the general as having said: "This war may last eighteen months, but every arrangement has been made that no Japanese, after having landed, shall return to his country."

AMAZING CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE IN JAPAN

LONDON, Feb. 26.—War correspondents and Europeans in Japan, commenting in amazement upon the success of Japanese officials in preserving secrecy regarding all the operations of war, declare this "conspiracy of silence" is not only confined to government and service circles, but that it extends to every section of the community. All classes of people are submitting with marvelous patience to being deprived of news, which they recognize as imperative to the success of the cause. It is undoubtedly in pursuance of this policy that no Japanese account of the Port Arthur attacks has yet been published and none is expected until Admiral Togo has completed his designs there.

In the meantime, if the report from Yin-Kow of a Japanese landing near Vladivostok, which at present is based on missionary and native statements, should be correct, a most important and new development in the Japanese operations will have been revealed as it points to an attack on Vladivistok, from which Possiet bay is only a little over seventy miles distant.

The report that the railroad has been cut between Harbin and Vladivostok may possibly be connected with these operations; but until more reliable information is forthcoming this report must be received with

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