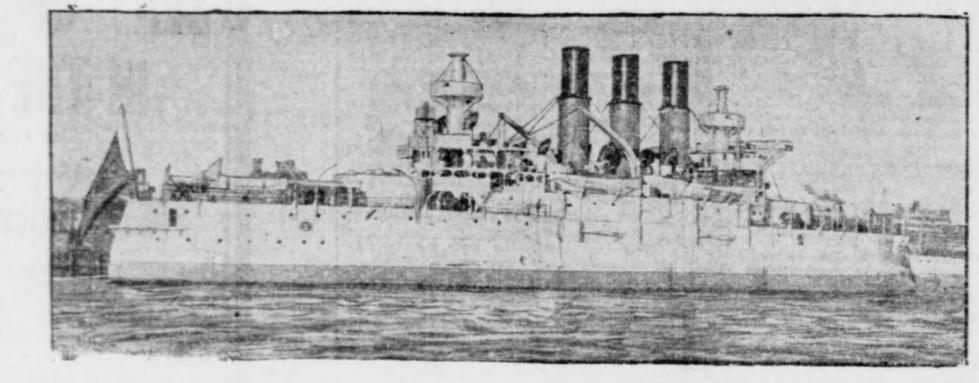




WILL PUSH CANAL WORK THE PRESIDENT'S PLANS.

Appointments Accepted by Five of the Commissioners. [FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.] Washington, Feb. 24.—President Roosevelt has received definite acceptances from five of his appointees on the new Isthmian Canal Commission, as follows:...



Yesterday's reports said that the American built Retvizan had covered herself with glory in a fight with the Japanese. This picture was made by a TRIBUNE photographer while the Retvizan lay at the Brooklyn Navy Yard after her arrival from Cramps' Shipbuilding Yard.

DIDN'T WANT ISMAY. FOUGHT AGAINST HIM.

Baker's Friends Urged Him on Morgan as a Money Maker.

It is said downtown that the election of J. Bruce Ismay as successor to Clement A. Griscom in the presidency of the International Mercantile Marine Company was effected against the determined opposition of the principal interests in the Atlantic Transport Company, whose choice for the presidency of the combination was Bernard N. Baker, who had directed with conspicuous success the Atlantic Transport Company prior to its entrance into the International Mercantile Marine Company. Under Mr. Baker's management his company was so prosperous that its stock was quoted at around 250. This stock was exchanged for Mercantile Marine shares, which at present quotations represent a heavy loss to the Atlantic Transport interests who hold them; and these interests, it is understood, urged upon the member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. who has had most to do with the organization of the Mercantile Marine Company that Mr. Baker might so manage the latter corporation that its affairs would be greatly improved. Their recommendations, however, were without avail.

FLEE FIRE ON PLANKS. Tenants of Central Park West Apartment House Thus Saved.

Planks placed across a fifteen-foot courtyard saved several tenants from suffocation yesterday in a fire that burned an hour in the seven-story apartment house, No. 383 Central Park West. It was the thoughtfulness of several workmen employed in the construction of a new apartment house at Nos. 384 and 385 Central Park West that made the bridge possible, and the workmen guided the frightened people across. Several rescues were made by firemen, some of the tenants went down the fire escapes and one invalid woman was carried across an airshaft into the apartment at No. 282 by nurses who were attending her.

TO MAKE SUBWAY OFFER TRANSFERS, LOW FARES.

M. S. R. Independent Route from Battery to Harlem.

The Metropolitan Street Railway Company will to-day make a tentative proposition to the Rapid Transit Commission for an independent subway route from the Battery to the Harlem. It is understood that the Metropolitan's "big card" will be a proposal, in case it is allowed to build the subway, to give free transfers to all its lines in Manhattan and a reduced fare over the Union lines in the Bronx.

JAPANESE ATTACK REPULSED.

ATTEMPT TO BLOCK PORT ARTHUR CHANNEL AND DESTROY THE RETVIZAN FAILS.

Two Steamers Loaded with Inflammables Sunk by Russian Fire—Torpedo Boats Driven Off—Japanese Fleet in Offing.

Viceroy Alexieff reported that the Japanese were repulsed in an attempt to sink steamers in the channel at Port Arthur and to destroy the Retvizan by a torpedo boat attack. Two of the steamers were sunk by the Retvizan's fire, and the torpedo boats were driven off. The Japanese fleet remained in the offing. The coast batteries took part in the action. Reports of the sinking of Japanese warships were not confirmed.

Viceroy Alexieff issued a proclamation ordering all Manchurians to aid the Russian forces, and threatening the natives with extermination in case of failure to comply with the requirements.

Advance guards of the Japanese army corps recently landed at Chemulpo were reported north of Ping-Yang.

RUSSIA'S WAR ON PAPER. RUSSIANS DEFEND PORT.

Diplomatists Hard at Work to Stir Up Sympathy.

(Special to The New-York Tribune by French Cable.) (Copyright, 1904, by The Tribune Association.) London, Feb. 24.—The Russian diplomatists are more active and aggressive than either their armies or their fleets. They are making a deliberate effort to gain the moral support of Germany and the co-operation of France by framing an indictment against the Japanese government on various counts of flagrant breaches of international law. Meanwhile, a campaign of what Bismarck used to call "blood and iron" comes on slowly. Northern Korea seems destined to be the first great battleground of the land forces, as the Japanese are steadily advancing along the road to the mouth of the Yalu, and the Russians have sent a considerable force across the river. Dispatches about the last battle at Port Arthur are still conflicting. The Japanese Embassy rejects Reuter's dispatch announcing that four of the Japanese battleships and two transports have been sunk, and several of the best informed naval experts declined to accept it to-night, although it was earmarked as official.

NO HOPE FOR MANCHURIA.

Alexieff Orders All Inhabitants to Aid Russian Forces.

Ying-Kau, Feb. 24.—Viceroy Alexieff has caused a proclamation to be issued through Manchuria, notifying to the Chinese that Russia is at war with Japan on account of Japan's treacherous attack on the Russian fleet. The proclamation is in six sections, as follows: First—The inhabitants are warned that they must prevent the encroachment of Chinese on Russian territory. Second—Russian and Chinese interests are declared to be identical, but as China wishes to maintain neutrality, all officials in Manchuria, instead of hindering, must assist the Russian Army. Third—The people shall continue their occupations, and shall treat the Russian troops with confidence. Fourth—The railroad telegraphs are left to the protection of the people, who will be held responsible in case they are injured. Fifth—The people are warned not to obey the threats of the chunchus (bandits), who are the curse of Manchuria, but must assist the troops to exterminate them. If they do not aid in this they also will be treated as robbers. Sixth—If the people antagonize the troops or show them hatred, they will be exterminated without mercy. The government is taking all steps, in any event, to protect its interests.

JAPAN'S REPORTED LOSS.

Early Dispatches Tell of Several Warships' Destruction.

London, Feb. 24.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from St. Petersburg says that on February 23 the Japanese attempted to send four steamers filled with explosives among the Russian fleet in Port Arthur Harbor. These fire ships did no damage and were themselves destroyed, two being sunk and two going ashore. Two Japanese boats escorting the fire ships were destroyed by Russian guns. Paris, Feb. 24.—The Russian Embassy here has received a communication to the effect that a Japanese squadron on the night of February 24 tried to block the entrance of Port Arthur Harbor, at the same time attacking Russian warships there with torpedo boats and trying to set them on fire. The battleship Retvizan, supported by the coast batteries, repelled this attack, forced the Japanese to retire and succeeded in sinking four of their vessels. The news of this Russian victory was posted in the lobbies of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, and caused great enthusiasm. The Foreign Office received late this afternoon the following dispatch from the French Consul at Che-Foo: The Russians have repulsed a Japanese attack upon Port Arthur. Four Japanese battleships were damaged and run aground. A dispatch to the Havas Agency from Port Arthur says that four Japanese cruisers and two Japanese transports have been sunk in a fresh attack on Port Arthur. The dispatch adds that the attack was repulsed, and that the Russian battleship Retvizan covered herself with glory.

LEAVING PORT ARTHUR?

Thirteen of Japan's Fleet Moving East Off Wei-Hai-Wei.

Wei-Hai-Wei, Feb. 24.—Four Japanese battleships and nine cruisers passed this port to-day, bound eastward. London, Feb. 24.—The fleet which passed Wei-Hai-Wei to-day is supposed to have been Admiral Togo's fleet leaving Port Arthur.

SENATOR QUAY VERY ILL.

His Friends in Florida Much Alarmed.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Philadelphia, Feb. 24.—From advices received to-day from Philadelphia, who recently journeyed to St. Luke, Fla., it was officially learned that United States Senator M. S. Quay is a very sick man. Friends who are with him at present say that the demands on his physical and mental strength at his Southern rendezvous are so great that it has been in contemplation to induce him to return North. The eager search for game by land and water is telling on him. It was only a month ago that Senator Quay came to this city to see his physician. He was then far from well, and complained greatly of insomnia and stomach trouble. He remained in the city several days, during which he secured little sleep.

KILLED BY A BEAR ON HUNTING TRIP.

Ex-Officer in German Army Carried Receipts for More Than \$100,000.

Port Angeles, Wash., Feb. 24.—The body of Baron Martin von Schlosser, formerly an officer in the German Army, who had lived in this city for many years, has been found on the range south of the Hot Springs, near the body of a bear. The baron undoubtedly was killed by the bear while hunting. He started on a hunt Monday morning. On his body were found receipts from banks in Portland, Ore., Chicago and New-York for more than \$100,000. A letter found on the body directed that Judge Hatch should administer his affairs. The body will be brought here to-morrow.

NO PATTI CONCERT; NO MONEY BACK.

'Cellist Gets an Attachment Against the Receipts in Philadelphia.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Philadelphia, Feb. 24.—Several hundred people who had anticipated hearing Mme. Patti sing this afternoon suffered a double disappointment when the announcement was made that no concert would be given, and that no money could be refunded at present. There was a general protest. Groups formed present. There was a general protest. Groups formed present. There was a general protest. Groups formed present.

SAW THE BIRTH OF THE UNION.

Chicago, Feb. 24.—Sofa Gab, whose birth antedated the Revolutionary War, if her assertions were correct, and who was supposed to have been the oldest woman in Chicago, is dead at the Home for Aged and Infirm Colored People. She was 120 years old. According to the woman's statement, she was born in Virginia in 1778, before the Declaration of Independence. She lived on the plantation where she was born until freed by the proclamation of President Lincoln.

CAME TO KILL PRELATE.

Failing That, Insane Man Assaulted a Woman and Sexton.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Philadelphia, Feb. 24.—Failing in an attempt to secure an audience with Archbishop Ryan, whom he declared he had come to assassinate, a demented man, whose identity is unknown, entered the Roman Catholic Cathedral, at Eighteenth and Race sts., this morning, assaulted a worshipper, knocked down the sexton and walked off with the keys of the church. Mrs. Annie Lyford, of No. 219 North Hicks-st., who was attacked by the madman, sustained serious injury, and is confined to her bed. The precautions taken to guard Archbishop Ryan from annoyance at the hands of promiscuous visitors probably saved the prelate from serious injury, if not death. Failing to gain admission to the Archbishop's residence, the man turned his attention to the cathedral, and caught her by the throat, and dragged her the length of the church to the street. McCarthy, the sexton, ran to her assistance, and was felled by the maniac. Noticing the keys of the cathedral in the door, the man grabbed them and ran across Long Square, disappearing in Vine-st.

LOCAL EXPERT GOES TO WATERTOWN.

Waterbury, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The Common Council last night provided for ways and means for fighting the typhoid fever epidemic here. The Board of Health will at once enter into a contract with Dr. George A. Soper, of New-York, the sanitary expert, who assisted in stamping out the disease at Ithaca and Butler, Penn. He is expected here to-morrow.

CALL EARLY.

And make your sleeping car reservation on Seaboard Florida Limited, the only daily limited train to Florida resorts. Office, 113 Broadway.—Adv.

DEWEY'S PORT WINE AND GRAPE JUICE.

Are superior for your sick ones. H. T. Dewey & Sons Co., 135 Fulton St., New York.—Adv.

THANKS FROM PANAMA.

President Amador Expresses Gratitude for Ratification of Treaty.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Dr. Amador, the President of the Republic of Panama, has replied as follows to the cable dispatch sent to him yesterday by Mr. Bunau-Varilla, informing him of the ratification of the Panama Canal treaty: I beg you to convey to the noble American Government and to the great and generous American people the expression of our sentiment of deep gratitude in the name of the government and of the people of our new born Republic. The inestimable services rendered by you to this nation will live always in the hearts of its citizens, and will be held even longer than the bronze of the statue of the great Frenchman to the erection of which you contribute so generously.

NO OBSTACLE AT PARIS.

Transfer of Canal Company Practically Assured.

Paris, Feb. 24.—No obstacle will be placed by the Panama Canal Company in the way of the consummation of the agreement with the United States for the sale of its concession, now that the canal treaty has been ratified by the Senate at Washington. The Foreign Office said to-day that there was no reason to anticipate that the court would grant any injunction which might be sought.