

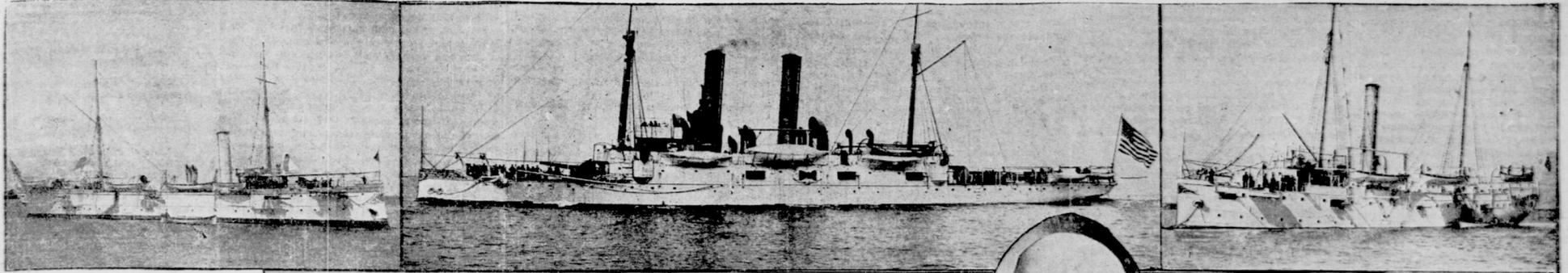


GUNBOAT CASTINE.

THE AMERICAN SQUADRON AT TANGIER, AFRICA.

CRUISER ATLANTA.

GUNBOAT MARIETTA.



FRANCE TAKES A HAND. TO HELP PERDICARIS.

Result of Fleet at Tangier and Diplomatic Representations.

(FROM THE TRIBUNE BUREAU.) Washington, May 31.—President Roosevelt's so-called "hair trigger" diplomacy, exemplified by his hastening to Tangier the largest representation of the American navy that ever visited a foreign port, has once more been vindicated by the assurance of France that she will "use her good offices" to rescue Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

Ambassador Porter was instructed to advise the French government that the United States was prepared to show all due deference to the claim of France of a sphere of influence over Morocco, provided that no danger to an American citizen was occasioned thereby.

Political and strategic conditions in Morocco render the assistance of France of the utmost value. Her relations with Du Hamara, Raisuli's chief, have at least been friendly, and her representations to him at this time are likely to be accorded greater respect by Raisuli than those of the Sultan of Morocco, against whose domination Du Hamara is in revolt.

It is further remarked that, in view of recent diplomatic events in Morocco, the excuse for a military expedition which would be little short of an investment of Southern Morocco might prove most acceptable to the French, although that is a phase of the situation with which the United States need not concern itself.

Pears as to the fate of Mr. Perdicaris and his companion are not entertained in Washington. It is held that the threats of Raisuli are merely "bluffs," which it would be to his own serious disadvantage to put into execution.

As the situation now stands, therefore, it is believed that the prompt appearance of an American fleet of unusual proportions at Tangier has resulted in unusual expedition to the notoriously dilatory methods of European diplomacy, and that the United States has won the gratitude of France by its recognition of her interest in Morocco, which is as cherished a tradition with the French as is the Monroe Doctrine with America.

This cable dispatch has been received at the Navy Department from Rear Admiral Chadwick, commanding the South Atlantic Squadron at Tangier.

The seizure of the American citizen was by a lieutenant, chief, so as to bring pressure on the Sultan of Morocco to secure the demands of the Sultan. Our sense of the gravity of the case is shown by the presence of the American squadron, and will undoubtedly cause the earlier release of the Sultan of Morocco to the demands of the chief, which is the only safe means of releasing captives.

It is said that an attack on Tangier or an expedition against the brigands will be followed by the immediate murder of the captives. At the instance of Secretary Hay no instructions will be sent to Rear Admiral Chadwick for the present, pending the result of the representations of Ambassador Porter to the French government.

Admiral Chadwick is not expected at present to land a party to pursue the brigands, but it is stated positively that the South Atlantic Squadron now at Tangier will be reinforced to-day by the European Squadron, commanded by Rear Admiral Jewell, and consisting of the battleships Iowa, Oregon, and Cleveland, the cruisers Albatross, Maine and Alabama, of Rear Admiral Barker's squadron.

The Perdicaris case was the only subject of general importance taken up at the Cabinet meeting to-day.

FLEET SCARES TANGIER.

The Castine and the Marietta Join the Brooklyn and the Atlanta.

Tangier, May 31.—The United States gunboats Castine and Marietta arrived here during the night, completing, with the cruisers Brooklyn

BUILDINGS LAW PASSED.

ALDERMEN TAKE ACTION.

Tribune's Ordinance Will Prevent Disasters Like the Darlington.

The aldermen yesterday adopted the building ordinance drawn by ex-Justice Mayer, at the request of The Tribune, and introduced by Alderman John R. Davies at the instance of The Tribune and the Republican County Committee. Briefly, it will give the Superintendent of Buildings power to enforce his orders, and it should make impossible a disaster like that of the Darlington Hotel.

Section 151a.—In case there shall be, in the opinion of the Superintendent of Buildings in any borough having jurisdiction, danger to life or property by reason of any defective or illegal work, or work in violation of or not in compliance with any of the provisions or requirements of this code, the said Superintendent of Buildings or such person as may be designated by him shall have the right and he is hereby authorized and empowered to order all further work to be stopped in and about said building forthwith to vacate the same, and to cause such work to be done in or about the building as in his judgment may be necessary to remove any danger therefrom.

Alderman Harburger, chairman of the Buildings Committee, yesterday, in a vigorous speech, in which he told of the defect in the present code, moved the passage of the ordinance. He said that prudence and common sense demanded the passage of the ordinance, and that it had the indorsement of Superintendent Hopper and others in a position to speak with authority.

LAMSDORFF ASSAULTED.

Prince Dolgourovski Attacks Russian Foreign Minister.

Paris, June 1.—The "Echo de Paris" St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs: Count Lamsdorff was assaulted to-day while out walking by Prince Dolgourovski, formerly a pretender to the crown of Bulgaria. The prince was immediately arrested.

KOCH'S THEORY DENIED.

British Commission's Report on Tuberculosis.

London, June 1.—The Royal Commission appointed in August, 1901, to inquire into the relation between human and animal tuberculosis has arrived at a conclusion justifying the issuance of an interim report, according to which the commission finds that human and bovine tuberculosis are practically identical. The commission states that exhaustive experiments proved that the disease produced in animals by tuberculosis material, whether of human or bovine origin, was identical, both in its broad, general features and in the histological details. The commission's records include the results of post-mortem examinations.

TO INVESTIGATE NEW-HAVEN POLICE.

Mayor Studley Appoints Committee as Result of Recent Criticisms.

New-Haven, Conn., May 31.—Mayor Studley has ordered an investigation of the New-Haven Police Department, and has appointed a committee of three disinterested citizens to conduct it. This action is in response to a request from the members of the Police Commission, as a result of criticisms recently passed on the department. The committee is to consist of ex-Judge Lynde Harrison, Professor Henry Wade Rogers, dean of Yale Law School, and George B. Martin, president and treasurer of the Empire Transportation Company. All the members of the committee reside in the part of the city where the recent assaults on women took place. It was from this district that most of the criticisms of the department emanated.

RYDER BLOCKED 42D-ST.

CANCEL HIS CONTRACT.

Street Will Be Restored by Monday Without Curb Cocks.

The Tribune's fight for an abatement of the intolerable obstruction nuisance in Forty-second-st., yesterday killed a "good thing" Tammany contract, but it accomplished a saving of two weeks' time in completing the ditch work between Madison and Sixth aves. in Forty-second-st. There will be Tammany tears over the killing of the "snap."

John T. Oakley, Commissioner of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, yesterday, after consulting Michael J. Degnon, Street Cleaning Commissioner Woodbury and John B. McDonald, cancelled a big plumbing contract in which ex-Councilman Patrick J. Ryder, Tammany leader of the 11th District, is interested. By doing this he enabled the Degnon Contracting Company to hurry its work in Forty-second-st.

Michael J. Degnon and Commissioners Oakley and Woodbury last night united in the prediction that Forty-second-st. would be restored to its normal condition next Monday morning. This would not have been possible if it had not been for the cancellation of the plumbing contract given by Commissioner Oakley's department to O'Brien & Ryder, of No. 154 Spring-st. This particular contract has an old-fashioned look. It looks as if it belonged to the family of "Commercialism in Politics." It looks something like the contract given by Park Commissioner Pallas to Harry C. Hart, Tammany leader of the XXXth, in lieu of a Tammany commission. No one outside of the Water Department knew anything about it until a Tribune reporter, in following up the Forty-second-st. nuisance, ran across the O'Brien & Ryder contract, which was doing more to tie up subway work and make business a nightmare to the merchants of Forty-second-st. than any other thing.

August Belmont bright and early yesterday informed John B. McDonald that something would have to be done at once to make subway work less troublesome in Forty-second-st. between Madison and Sixth aves. Mr. Belmont is one of the big links in the chain. Mr. McDonald is another, and perhaps the biggest, link. Mr. McDonald told Michael J. Degnon, of the Degnon Contracting Company, that something would have to be done at once. Then Mr. Belmont, according to Commissioner Woodbury's statement to a Tribune reporter, asked him to do what he could to raise the embargo in Forty-second-st. At 4 o'clock there was a conference in Commissioner Oakley's office, attended by Messrs. Oakley and Woodbury and Charles H. Bull, an engineer of the Water Department. A Tribune reporter had just told Commissioner Oakley that his department was to blame for obstructing the subway work in the street because department contractors were putting in curb water cocks all along the block. Commissioner Woodbury verified this by saying to Commissioner Oakley:

"Commissioner, I am told by Mr. Degnon, the subway contractor, that he can close up the work there by Monday morning of next week if he does not have to put in twenty-five curb cocks ordered in by your department. This is a new device, and putting them in involves a large amount of work. Mr. Degnon says that it will take fourteen days extra to put in these curb cocks."

COUNTERMANDS THE ORDER.

"If that's the case, then we won't put them in," said Commissioner Oakley. "Chief Engineer Hill of this department ordered the new curb cocks in. I believe with him that they would prove a good thing, as they would make it possible to shut off the water from the sidewalk, and obviate the necessity of digging a trench across the walk whenever anything is the matter with the main connection. But if they are going to delay the subway work to that extent I will issue an order at once to use the old connections."

Mr. Bull, the engineer, was summoned, and said that it was true that putting in the new curb cocks would delay the work a great deal. Mr. Bull was requested by Commissioner Oakley to cancel the order given to O'Brien & Ryder for the new devices. "I will furnish the ashes to fill in the excavation along Forty-second-st.," said Major Woodbury. "After talking with Mr. Degnon, I will say that the street will be put back in good shape by Monday morning of next week."

Michael J. Degnon was directing the work in Forty-second-st. when found by a Tribune reporter. "When I told you a week ago that we would

Continued on fourth page.

BIG COTTON FIRM FAILS.

HEAD CLERK DISAPPEARS.

Announcement of S. Munn, Son & Co.—Resumption Expected.

The suspension of the old and well known house of S. Munn, Son & Co. was announced yesterday on the Cotton Exchange, the reason for the step being explained in the following formal notice from the firm, read from the rostrum of the exchange by Superintendent King:

We hereby announce to the members of the Cotton Exchange that through the unexplained absence of our head and trusted clerk, who has left his books in an involved condition, we are obliged to suspend the firm's business until only by present the same to us, with accounts, and that these balances each other.

Inquirers at the offices of S. Munn, Son & Co. in the Delmonico Building, No. 56 Beaver-st., were referred for further details to the firm's attorney, Augustus H. Skillin, of No. 34 Pine-st. Mr. Skillin said:

The missing employee is Clarence F. Cameron, who has been in Brooklyn. He has not been at the office since a week ago last Saturday. His father came to the office this morning. He said that he had not seen him or heard from him since a week ago yesterday, when he understood his son was starting to go to the office. Cameron telephoned the firm on that day that his child was sick, and that he would not be able to attend to anything. On looking over the books they were found to be in an involved condition, and in at least one case, where the firm thought it owed money, the books showed that the firm was owed money instead. The firm was seriously affected by the failure of Daniel J. Sully & Co., of which Cameron was a partner, and a considerable amount. Following so soon after the Sully failure it was thought best, in order to straighten everything out, to suspend the firm.

All we know now is that the books relating to the business of the firm in stocks and grain are in the hands of Cameron, who acted as cashier and manager, had absolute charge of these books. Another man, however, had charge of the books relating to the cotton end of the business. The chief trouble, so far as we have been able to get at it, appears to be in the grain accounts.

The books were gone over by the office force last week, but so many complications were found that I advised that expert accountants be called in. The unsound creditors, as far as we can judge at present, will not exceed \$5,000 in the aggregate. The firm's assets are worth \$200,000, and the New-York Coffee Exchange, worth about \$2,000, and a Chicago Board of Trade membership.

It will take a week at least to go over the books. At the same time it is my opinion that the amount of something like \$100,000 is involved are not only exaggerated, but preposterous. The members of the firm are unable to straighten everything out, and to resume business shortly.

The house of S. Munn, Son & Co. was established in 1844 by Samuel Munn, grandfather of the present senior partner, and is one of the most conservative and respected in the cotton business. The firm is at present composed of Samuel G. Munn and H. Tilston Munn and the estate of H. Godwin Munn, Jr. It has recently been doing a rather quiet and moderate business. The announcement of the suspension had little effect on the cotton market.

On March 19 S. Munn, Son & Co. obtained an injunction restraining the Corn Exchange Bank from releasing to Daniel J. Sully & Co. the sum of \$30,000, "a margin anticipate." This was the only legal proceeding taken on that day against the Sully firm, which had suspended on the preceding day; and as learned of the move they filed assignment papers before the injunction could be served.

Clarence F. Cameron is about thirty-three years old, and has been married for ten or eleven years. He had been in the employ of the firm for sixteen years. For the last six years he has lived modestly with his wife and little girl, who is now five years old, in a flat at No. 441 Second-st., Brooklyn. John Cameron, his father, lives at No. 1,112 Pacific-st., Brooklyn. Mrs. Cameron, wife of the missing man, is so prostrated that she is unable to see callers. Mrs. John Cameron, speaking to a Tribune reporter yesterday, said:

"We cannot believe that Clarence has done anything wrong. He was not a model young man in every way. He was not in the habit of going to the races, belonged to no clubs or organizations, and had no extravagant habits of any kind. He was a man who devoted all of his time away from his business to his family. The Munn's have assured us that there is nothing to show that Clarence did anything dishonest, and we do not know of any way in which he could have spent a large amount of money."

"We have not heard from Clarence since Monday morning, May 23, when he left the house supposedly to go to the office. Although he had not been in the best of health, he did not appear nervous, and we had not the slightest intimation that he would not return. We have no idea where he is, but shall exert every effort to find him."

RUTLAND R. R. FOR MONTREAL. Brandon, Burlington. Across the Islands of Lake Champlain, Ottawa, Quebec, four trains. Illustrated book, 4c postage. Information, 300 Broadway, 2c. Adv.

Continued on sixteenth page.

GAVE MRS. ELIAS \$685,000.

J. R. PLATT SUES FOR IT.

Says Woman Blackmailed Him—May Explain Green Mystery.

Declaring that she has blackmailed him for years, John R. Platt, an aged white man, reputed to be exceedingly wealthy, is bringing suit in the Supreme Court against Mrs. Hannah Elias, the negro who came into prominence at the time of the murder of Andrew H. Green. Mr. Platt seeks to recover about \$685,000. With this, extorted from him by fraud and threats of bodily violence, the plaintiff alleges, the woman bought the handsome house, No. 236 Central Park West, where she lived when Cornelius Williams shot Mr. Green, several other houses and diamonds and clothes, regarding which he has no particulars. He asks that there be an accounting of all the moneys, that the real estate and accounts in various banks, which he makes co-defendants, be taken from her control, and a receiver be appointed to collect the rents.

Mrs. Hannah Elias could not be found yesterday. A Japanese servant at her home said she was out of town. August C. Nanz, who was her personal counsel at the time of the Green murder, said that he was not acting for her now, and had not heard from her in several months. He did not know how she acquired the property in question, he declared, and knew nothing about John R. Platt and any relations he might have had with Mrs. Elias.

This suit may explain the mystery regarding the man for whom the negro Williams mistook Andrew H. Green. Neighbors of the Elias woman said that a white haired man called on her almost daily, who bore a striking resemblance to Mr. Green. District Attorney Jerome learned considerable about this man. It was said at the time that to some he was known as Green, to others as Platt. The story told in Mr. Platt's complaint leaves little room for doubt that he was the man who inspired the negro's insane jealousy, which ended in the murder of the aged lawyer.

Mr. Platt's attorneys, Warren, Warren & O'Brien, would say nothing about the case, and nothing about Mr. Platt. At his home, No. 7 East Fifty-fourth-st., last night, a friend who declined to give his name said that this "was simply a case of a feeble old man who was blackmailed out of his money." Mr. Platt is not a relative of Senator Platt. In his complaint, he says he is a retired merchant, eighty-four years old. He has an office at No. 14 Church-st., where he attends to business of some kind nearly every day.

The complaint filed by Mr. Platt's lawyers tells how after making his acquaintance the woman played on his credulity and affection, forced herself on him; then, with a Japanese servant, extorted money in vast sums from him, threatening exposure of him as father of her illegitimate children, first to her husband, later to the world at large; finally forcing him to pay money under fear of personal violence. Yet her blandishments must have been potent, for after paying her large sums for years, Mr. Platt in his complaint confesses to having continued his relations with her until last year, and that he paid her money up to May 25 of this year.

PLATT'S MEETING WITH THE WOMAN.

Mr. Platt lives with his two daughters. He met the Elias woman before January, 1896. She represented herself as of Spanish origin, single and virtuous, the complaint says, whereas Mr. Platt soon discovered that she was of bad character, consorting with dissolute persons, and that she was the wife of one Matthew G. Davis, a negro. Notwithstanding all this, the complaint avers, by protestations of love, she induced him to have relations with her, all of which was part of a scheme to coerce him and bleed him of any superfluous cash he had.

This process, the complaint sets forth, went into execution at once. The woman threatened to expose their relations to her husband, who, she said, was a man of violent temper. When he first met her she had no property and no assets of any kind, save a few clothes and a little furniture. After the collections began, the complaint says, Mrs. Elias acquired the real estate habit. In 1896, under fear of exposure, Mr. Platt alleges, he paid to her in January \$1,000; in March, \$1,500; April, \$1,000; May, \$800; June, \$800; July, \$2,500; September, \$6,475; October, \$1,900; November, \$1,600; December, \$1,700, a total of \$19,675. On September 24, 1896, she purchased the house in West Fifty-third-st., for which she paid \$13,500. Out of the balance she purchased furniture and bric-a-brac, which she still has.

In January, 1897, he alleges, he gave her \$11-

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PORT ARTHUR'S PLIGHT.

PROVISIONS RUN SHORT.

Japanese Enter Dalny—Prizes—A Battle on Line of Railroad.

Chinese who reached New-Chwang from Port Arthur said that the situation in the fortress was desperate. Food was scarce and the hospitals were filled with wounded. Work on the damaged warships had ceased, and all civilians had been impressed into service.

Japanese troops occupied Dalny on May 30. The Russians, who evacuated the town in haste after the battle at Nan-Shan, destroyed the big pier, but left intact the jetties and many storehouses. Two hundred railway cars were found uninjured. Brigands who were pillaging the town were repressed by the Japanese.

Official dispatches received in St. Petersburg told of a battle at a point near the Port Arthur-Moukden railway. The Russians, apparently, were compelled to retire, although the Japanese losses were reported heavy.

A Japanese gunboat and two destroyers were reported sunk by the fire from Port Arthur forts while an attempt was being made to block the channel. The report came from Moukden.

General Kuropatkin's alleged march to relieve Port Arthur lacks confirmation, and was denied at St. Petersburg, although there were further rumors of an advance on Kin-Chow.

SUFFERING IN FORTRESS.

Hospitals Said To Be Full—Civilians Impressed—Food Scarce.

London, June 1.—"The Daily Mail's" correspondent at New-Chwang says: Some Chinese fugitives from Port Arthur describe the situation of the inhabitants there as desperate. Famine prices exist. The cost of provisions increases weekly. Many persons are reduced to eating Chinese food, and even that is dear. Millet flour costs \$5 a bag.

Whole streets and several public buildings have been wrecked by Japanese shell fire. The hospitals are packed with wounded. The work of repairing the damaged warships is stopped. All civilians have been assigned to military duties.

The general health of the inhabitants is good, except that the Chinese are dying from starvation. Theft has been made punishable by death. The railway is completely destroyed as far as Kin-Chow, and there are frequent gaps in it between Kin-Chow and Wafang-Tien. At Wafang-Tien there are 15,000 Japanese troops, but no sign of troops further north.

In the fighting at Kin-Chow two hundred Chinese were killed by the Japanese fire directed against positions that the Russians had evacuated.

The Tokio correspondent of "The Chronicle" telegraphs: Russian strategy has undergone another change. Ying-Kow is to be again fortified. Four guns have been brought from New-Chwang, the garrison increased and the harbor mined.

The correspondent of "The Standard" at the Japanese army headquarters, telegraphing May 31, says: Repeated reconnaissances show that none of the enemy's troops are within fifteen miles of Feng-Wang-Cheng or east of the Tsun River for thirty miles in the direction of Shi-Ten. Mao-Tien Pass may delay but it cannot prevent the Japanese advance, as the pass can be turned on either flank.

"The Morning Post's" correspondent at Shanghai learns that the Russians hanged a number of Chinese who had been caught signalling to the Japanese fleet near Vladivostok.

BATTLE ON RAILROAD.

Heavy Japanese Loss Reported, but Russians Retire.

St. Petersburg, May 31.—The following official dispatches, describing a battle near a station on the Port Arthur-Moukden line, in which a Japanese squadron was almost annihilated, and giving details of the I-Yang-Pien-Men battle, were received by the War Office to-day:

Shortly before noon, May 30, our cavalry opened fire near the railroad station of Vagen-Fu-Chu against an advancing Japanese force, consisting of eight companies of infantry, eight squadrons of cavalry and four machine guns. In the ensuing battle our mounted sotnia brilliantly attacked a Japanese squadron on the enemy's left flank and almost completely annihilated it.

The sotnia then attacked the infantry, but retired under the fire of machine guns. The advance of the Japanese infantry, in order to turn our left flank, was stopped by the fire of our battery, which inflicted considerable loss on the enemy.

Our losses have not yet been definitely ascertained, but so far as known one officer and twenty-one men were wounded and twenty-five horses were lost.

From May 29 to May 30 all has been quiet in the neighborhood of Feng-Wang-Cheng. At 10:30 p. m. on May 27 a force of Japanese infantry from Kwan-Tien began a frontal flank attack upon a position occupied by our Cossack troops near Shango, fifteen versts northwest of Kwan-Tien. The Japanese, under cover of the darkness, opened a running, desultory fire, using field searchlights. The Cossacks retired on foot to Chanlin Pass, two versts west of Shango, and subsequently on I-Yang-Pien-Men, sixteen versts west of Chanlin Pass. The firing ceased at 2 a. m. on May 28, when the Japanese ceased the pursuit, at the entrance of Chanlin Pass.

The same day the first section of a Japanese detachment approached I-Yang-Pien-Men, but