

JAP FLEET ENTERS CHEFOO.

SEARCH FOR RUSSIAN SHIPS FROM PORT ARTHUR.

Consul Fowler Reports the Capture of Merchant Steamer—May Be a Violation of a Neutral Harbor—Arrives in Touch East of Liaoyang—Battle Expected.

CHEFOO, Aug. 19.—Seven Japanese torpedo boats entered the harbor at 6:30 o'clock this morning. They divided, and after scouting round the harbor they left at 7 o'clock.

The Captain of the Chinese flagship here, after exchanging signals with the Japanese, stated that it was believed that the Russian vessels had again left Port Arthur and that the Japanese were searching for them.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19.—United States Consul Fowler at Chefoo notified the State Department by cable to-day that several Japanese destroyers entered the harbor of Chefoo this morning, while two Japanese cruisers remained outside.

The Consul also said that when the Japanese fleet was leaving the harbor entrance it captured a merchant steamship of unknown nationality.

The officials are inclined to believe that this may have been a repetition to some extent of the Retschely affair, but as Mr. Fowler's despatch was meagre as to details they are not at all certain that the reported capture did not occur outside of the three mile limit from the harbor entrance. Until further advice, giving the nationality of the merchant vessel captured, are received, American shippers will probably suffer considerable anxiety, as several American vessels from Pacific Coast ports are just about due in the vicinity of Chefoo.

EXPECT BATTLE NEAR LIAOYANG. Russians in Touch With Kuroki's Army East of That Place.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 19.—A despatch from Mukden reports that all is quiet at the seat of war. The south front of the Japanese has retired to Haicheng. On the east the Japanese are 20 1/2 miles from Liaoyang.

The Russian and the Japanese advance posts are separated by not more than four miles. Small skirmishes occur daily. A battle is expected every day at Liaoyang.

There has been a complete change in the relative positions of the armies during the last fifteen days. The change involves the fate of Liaoyang. There is reason to believe that the Japanese have changed their original objective, Liaoyang, to Mukden.

BESIEGING ARMY CLOSER.

Japanese Right Wing Only Mile and a Quarter From Port Arthur.

CHEFOO, Aug. 19.—The right wing of the Japanese besieging force has retreated within a mile and a quarter of Port Arthur.

It is reported that when the Japanese terms of surrender were submitted to him, Gen. Stoessel, the Russian commander in Port Arthur, burst into a storm of invective. Afterward he said that if the proposal was a joke he considered it in bad taste.

RUSSIAN GUNBOAT SUNK.

One of the Oltavny Type Hits a Mine Off Liaotian.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 19.—A Russian gunboat of the Oltavny type struck a mine and sank off Liaotian. Promontory near Port Arthur, at 8 o'clock last night.

The Oltavny had been attached to the Port Arthur squadron since the beginning of the war. She was a vessel of 1,492 tons, 223 feet 6 inches in length and 41 feet 7 inches in beam. She could make 13 1/2 knots and was armed with one 6-inch and one 4-inch gun, ten small quick-firers and two torpedo tubes. Her complement was 120 men.

GERMANS TO CHECK JAPS.

Reported Attempt to Establish Wireless Station Near Tsingtau.

CHEFOO, Aug. 19.—The German authorities here are reported to be endeavoring to establish a wireless station near Tsingtau, a distance of 150 miles from the city to prevent an expected attempt by the Japanese to establish a wireless telegraph station.

RUSSIAN FIGHT BRAVELY.

Admirals Praise the Men in Reports on the Recent Engagements.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 19.—Long despatches from Admiral Alexioff and Admiral Rozhanski, the latter commanding the Russian fleet, describe the recent naval engagements of the Port Arthur and Vladivostok squadrons have been issued. Abridged versions of the same despatches, with descriptions from Port Arthur, were published, leaving little that is new to extract from the full texts of the official reports.

HUNG THROATERS ON GAS JET.

John Selerabend, Jr., Found Dead From Asphyxiation in Brooklyn Home.

John Selerabend, Jr., 28 years old, a flour merchant, was found dead from gas asphyxiation Thursday morning in his home at 623 Second street Brooklyn. The dead man's wife and two children were at Asbury Park at the time. A maid found the body when she came to make up the beds.

INCENDIARY FIRE IN AMITY.

Utter's General Store Burned—The Family Had Barely Time to Escape.

MIDDLEBURY, N.Y., Aug. 19.—The general store of Albert Utter in Amity, Orange county, was destroyed by fire, with all its contents, early this morning. It is believed to have been the work of members of the notorious Redneck Mountain gang, a number of whom are in State prison. Mr. Utter and his wife had barely time to escape from the burning building, getting in their haste to save some money that was under a pillow. The loss on the building and contents over and above the insured amount is estimated at \$10,000.

KIDNAPPING Baffles Police.

THREE ARRESTS FOLLOW RETURN OF ANTONIO MANNINO.

Suspect Released When Boy Failed to Identify Them as His Jailers—Others Who Were in Custody Still Held—Family Not Inclined to Aid Prosecution.

When Tony Mannino, the kidnaped Brooklyn boy, appeared at his home early yesterday morning the final touch of mystery was added to this most mysterious case. Yesterday the boy, young but well drilled in his part, told sixteen different stories to his many police and sent the police chasing to all parts of the city.

The chase ended in the arrest of three respectable Italians, plainly innocent, in a house at 214 East 106th street. They were not identified by the boy as the people who had held him and were released.

When little Tony appeared at home, just after midnight yesterday morning, in company with his cousin, Salvatore Mannino, he was nabbed immediately by the police. At the station he told his first story. Briefly, it was as follows:

Angelo Cuccozza lured him away on Tuesday evening, Aug. 9, and took him to the top floor of a house in Manhattan. In that apartment were a man and a woman. The man wore chin whiskers. There was another man in the house. He also had a beard. The woman had a "just old enough to talk" expression on her face. They told Tony they were his father and mother, but Tony didn't believe them because when any one knocked he was sent into a back room.

He was treated well. Whenever he asked to be sent home, they promised to bring his father and mother to-morrow. Finally, on Thursday night, the man with the chin beard took him to an elevated station where he saw the figures 106. They went to the Atlantic avenue ferry. The man paid his fare, and left him. Near the ferry landing he met his cousin and came home. That sounded all right, but he didn't stick to the tale. Papa Mannino kept coaching him, and whispering "no response," when the questions got too leading. He soon switched the boy from the 106th street story. There was good reason for this, for early this evening a police "stool pigeon" had tracked down the boy's evening callers to a house at 214 East 106th street.

Soon the boy was telling that he had been at a house somewhere in the country. By and by, to make things fit, the boy said that they had taken him from one house to another, but he didn't know anything about 106th street.

Capt. Rooney, when he showed up at 4 A. M. yesterday, got a revised version, and Assistant District Attorney Courtney, who took a statement yesterday morning, a nice little fairy tale.

By a strange coincidence the Mannino boy came home the night before the five prisoners in the case were to be arraigned in the Butler street court. When they were brought up little Tony was there to identify them. Mrs. Cornejo was pined among a group of other women. Tony was brought in. He said that he had never seen any of them before. Galati, Cornejo and Altadonna were grouped off with other men. Tony cast his eyes over the gallery, after the fashion of Sam Weller, and said that he didn't know them. But when the hard-faced little Cuccozza boy was brought out Tony ran to his father in fear and cried:

"That's the boy that took me away!"

The case against the prisoners was laid over for a week.

Then the police took descriptions of the two men and the woman in Tony's prison house. Acting on this, they raided the place at 214 East 106th street and took in a woman and two men—Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bella and Alfred Cornejo, or Horn. All three prisoners went along as they were lined up before Tony in the Amity street station.

"Do you know this woman, Tony?" asked Capt. Rooney.

Tony stood up, his little, fat legs trembling and shook his head. He didn't know any of them. They weren't the people. So they were discharged and Tony was allowed to go home and have some rest. Even if he was playing a part, as the police believe he is, he had been through emotions enough in eighteen hours to kill the energies of any growing boy.

Meantime the police had plugged a hole in another point of the story. They found a reliable witness who told them that he had seen Tony on the Atlantic avenue ferry Thursday night. He was not alone. His companion was a young Italian, who seemed to be quieting the boy's nerves. A description of this man tallies with that of the Italian found in Mannino's house to 106th street.

With all this in sight, Salvatore Mannino was held yesterday in \$2,000 bail for kidnaping. Tony's father went on his bond.

Now why, ask the police, was the boy released so suddenly? The conspirators were not being pressed by the police. Nothing had even been pointed to the location before. Unless the "stool pigeon" did some pretty awkward sleuthing, there was no reason for immediate alarm. The police have several theories, none of them entirely complimentary to the Manninos.

"I think it very likely that some ransom was paid," said Captain Rooney last night. Mannino has never been quite frank with us early in the game, we were sure that he was dickering with the kidnapers on his own hook. "I didn't feel like closing down on him. This was a case where a man couldn't have his head on his shoulders, seeing that his son's life might be at stake. But we had him showed you. He had the ransom money, and he had those Sicilian criminals take what they can get."

A woman of mystery, who described herself as the wife of one of the boys, said that she had been at a conference between the kidnapers and one of Mannino's agents. There it was decided to deliver the boy last Sunday night for \$500 and a promise not to prosecute. The Sunday night arrangement fell through, she said, owing to a slip. There were rumors up and down Amity street on Sunday that the boy was coming home that night, which may have given her the idea.

"I didn't know there were so many cranks in the world until I tackled this case. The conviction of the man who got the kidnaping is very doubtful. Against Galati and Mr. and Mrs. Cornejo there is no evidence except the confession of Cuccozza, and the unimpeachable testimony of a stool pigeon will not secure a conviction. Against Altadonna the only damning fact is that he is a cousin of a suspect and that he stepped on a detectable stool pigeon. Cuccozza, the stupid tool of the gang and probably the least guilty of them all, stands in greatest danger."

There is nothing to show that the Manninos will do anything to help in punishing the criminals. Still, Mannino raised his hand toward heaven yesterday and swore that he had paid no ransom and hoped that they would convict them all, from Vito Laduca, down. Under pressure he admitted that he was going to leave the hard work of hunting to the police.

There was a regular wake going on at the Mannino house last night. All the Italian neighbors and relatives were there making merry.

Certain police theorists think that Mannino himself may have had a hand in kidnaping the boy for business or personal reasons. Those who have observed the family through the last ten days do not believe it.

Starving Rodgers Reveals Edward Rodgers' Suicide in Lonely House.

Comotion in the Stable in the rear of Edward Rodgers' residence, at Second street and Fifth avenue, Williamsbridge, yesterday afternoon, attracted the neighbors' attention.

Some of them opened the door and saw a man lying on the ground, apparently dead from hunger and thirst. The animal had almost completely wrecked the interior of the stable.

The neighbors knew that Rodgers, who is 54 years old, and a retired druggist, had been living alone in the house for two months while his wife and daughter were summering in a "country" place. He had not been seen since the night of the 10th inst. A neighbor of the Wakefield station was called from his post and he broke open the front door of the house.

On the second floor he found Rodgers dead on a couch, with an empty bottle that had contained carbolic acid by his side. From the condition of the body it was apparent that the man had been dead for several days.

Coroner O'Gorman was notified and accompanied by his physician, hurried to the scene. The body was found in a room which was apparently written as "I will fight this matter to the end. You people are not going to get me out of here. I am not going to let you see me here. I am not going to let you see me here. I am not going to let you see me here."

At this point the pen had penetrated the paper and a streak of ink ran downward from the top of the page. The ink was on the floor beside the corpse and the ink bottle had been overturned and stained a chair that was close by. Coroner O'Gorman was notified and accompanied by his physician, hurried to the scene. The body was found in a room which was apparently written as "I will fight this matter to the end. You people are not going to get me out of here. I am not going to let you see me here. I am not going to let you see me here."

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STOPPED CARS, CLIMBED TREE.

Young Man Gives Bronx Crowd and Cop a Lively Time—Believes for Him.

A young man, apparently about 26 years old, amused a large crowd at 220th street and White Plains avenue last night by standing on the tracks and causing motor-men, north and southbound, to bring their cars to a stop. The crowd, thinking that the man was drunk, rather enjoyed the proceeding, which lasted for an hour.

Finally, one of the motor-men, near Mount Vernon, some miles away, notified Mounted Policeman Webb, who hurried to the scene of the disturbance. The young man was seen climbing a tree and he made himself comfortable among the high branches. The cop was too fat to climb and the young man wouldn't come down. The mounted policeman nabbed him and a lively fight followed. The young man was a well known character and was taken to the Wakefield station.

There he refused to answer questions. He was searched and a number of letters were found in his pockets. The police of Mount Vernon were notified and reported that Thomas Hill, who was arrested at the same place and that he hadn't returned home.

An ambulance was summoned from Fordham Hospital, and Dr. McGowan, who was called to the scene, found the man insane and took him to Bellevue.

WOMAN WRITER INSANE.

Caroline Rogers of Chicago Sent to Bellevue After Acting queerly.

Caroline Rogers, a young Chicago newspaper woman, who had come to New York to describe the opening of the subway and to do some other special work, was taken to Bellevue Hospital last night as an insane patient.

She had been in New York about three weeks, living at 108 East Eighty-ninth street. She came to this city from St. Louis, where she had been working at the Democratic national convention. The physician who attended her said that her condition is very bad. They believe that overwork is the cause of her insanity.

She began to act strangely two days ago, and last night she became violent at the supper table and the folks with whom she was staying called in a policeman. The young woman imagined that she is the head of a sect established in opposition to Mrs. Eddy and her church, and rants about it continually.

Brennan Back in McCarran Fold.

Deputy Tenement House Commissioner William Brennan, the Democratic leader in the Thirtieth Assembly district, Brooklyn, who several weeks ago deserted Senator McCarran and joined his foes, has switched back again.

"I have decided," he said, "to go with the Brooklyn organization, because the majority of my friends in Greenpoint who have fought with me are in favor of Senator McCarran. I stand for the autonomy of the Brooklyn organization."

OBITUARY.

Capt. William D. Gregory died at his home in Marblehead, Mass., yesterday morning, after a long illness, aged 70. He did excellent service in the navy during the war of 1862, while cruising off the coast of Louisiana. He discovered a schooner sailing from New Orleans to Cuba, and on overtaking the vessel found it to be a suspiciously armed schooner. He captured it, and the schooner was taken to the English Bay. Capt. Gregory received permission to go in pursuit and an exciting chase followed. He captured the schooner, and several of the crew were placed upon the deck and upon these about twenty stowaways were fastened for a smokstack.

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If they assumed the grief and anxiety and strain which the greatest actors in the world. Just now the police are sure of only one thing, and that is, that the man who kidnaped Mannino or his precocious nine-year-old.

"It's a wise boy," says Rooney. "I gave him the best deal in words, one syllable for two hours, but he beat me. And you could turn his father inside out and get nothing but 'I don't know.'"

Rooney, so tired that he can hardly talk, went to bed last night for the first rest he has had in ten days. The detectives, too, are worn out. It has been a most dreary piece of work. The route about 214 East 106th street is still being shadowed.

WROTE TILL HE DIED.

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Both table d'hote and a la carte at The Martinique.

A "course" dinner, or a simple supper, as you choose when you choose.

Apartments of 2, 3, 4 or 6 rooms.

The Martinique, 54-58 West 33rd street.

PARTY FIGHT ON JUDICIARY.

HILL DOESN'T PROPOSE TO HELP PROMOTE JUDGE CULLEN.

There's an Old Grudge Dating Back to the Contested Election Cases and the Maynard Election—Herriek for Chief Judge; Cunneen, Associate.

The principal topic of conversation among Democrats both at the national and State headquarters yesterday continued to be the implacable feud between Leader Murphy of Tammany Hall and Senator McCarran of Kings county. It was said very candidly, though, by some Democrats that certain Democrats from the upcountry districts are more than intent to have attention called to the shabby conduct of Murphy and McCarran, for the reason that it hides for the time being the bitter factional disputes in their own districts.

Senator McCarran was on guard at Democratic State headquarters at the Hoffman House, and all day he conferred with Cord Meyer, chairman of the State committee; Hugh J. Grant, a member of the executive committee; and with William S. Rodie, also a member of the executive committee, and only recently selected to head what is known as a bureau of organization for the State outside of New York city.

Not until yesterday was it known exactly what Mr. Rodie's duties were to be. When he was first selected to head the bureau of organization all sorts of reports were principally based on the fact that at the proper time he was to succeed Mr. McCarran as chairman of the executive committee. Yesterday it developed that Mr. Rodie had been appointed for the purpose of making two or three canvasses of the State by election districts. Mr. Rodie is to send representatives of the Democratic organization all over the State for the purpose of making these canvasses and Mr. Rodie was spoken of as about the right man for the job.

Senator McCarran's leader, Murphy of Tammany, "I will not resign my place as chairman of the executive committee. I am at the right where I am. I am here for my going to Police Headquarters for a bill of character, as Murphy suggests. I have only to say that if Mr. Murphy will be explicit as to what he has to say about me I will be able to answer him."

Mr. Meyer, Norman E. Mack, Democratic State committee man, and others, who are right at the head of the executive committee. David B. Hill and others contemplate having a confab in New York city over the State situation.

It was learned yesterday that Mr. Hill and other Democrats close to him are not at all partial to the scheme proposed by the Democrats to have the State divided into districts in nominating Edgar M. Cullen of Brooklyn as Chief Judge Parker's successor, and William J. Werner of Rochester as Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals.

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