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FIVE MILLIONS LOST BY FIRE IN ROCHESTER

PORT ARTHUR CHANNEL BLOCKED BY JAPANESE

Flames in Heart of Business District Sweep Thru Large Wholesale Buildings.

Buffalo and Syracuse Send Fire Apparatus and Dynamite Is Also Used.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 26.—The worst conflagration in the history of Rochester broke out a few minutes before 5 o'clock this morning in the basement of the Rochester Dry Goods company's store at 156-166 Main street East.

The fire, which, according to the night watchman in the store, Thomas Connors, was discovered soon after it started, spread with such rapidity that by the time an alarm was turned in, the entire front of the store was a mass of flames.

The fire department responded promptly. Assistant Chief Jaynes realized at once the dangerous nature of the fire and turned in a general alarm. By this time the flames had spread to the building occupied by the dry goods firm of Beadle & Sherburne Co.

Chief Little realized that the flames were beyond the control of the local department, and appeals for aid were sent to Buffalo and Syracuse. Nearly five hours later, four steamers arrived from Syracuse.

Within an hour after being discovered, the fire had spread to the big Granite building, occupied by the firm of Sibley, Lindsay & Curr, and by hundreds of business and professional men. Flames also spread to the buildings in the rear of the Granite block. The extreme cold made fire fighting difficult and hazardous, as the ladders were coated with ice.

Assistant Chief Frank A. Jaynes was hurt about 9 o'clock and was removed to Hahneman hospital. He was struck on the head by a flying nozzle. This was the only accident reported up to 10:30 o'clock.

The loss is estimated between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000, most of which fell on the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company, the Beadle & Sherburne company, the Rochester Dry Goods company, and the Walk-Over Shoe company.

The loss to the business offices in the Granite building cannot be estimated at this writing.

The plans and estimates for the mammoth new block that the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company contemplated building in the spring, and the original plans and specifications for the new high school, were destroyed.

Almost the entire tenth floor of the Granite building was occupied by the Vacuum Oil company, a branch of the Standard Oil company. The Bradstreet Mercantile agency also had offices in this building.

Several engines from the Buffalo fire department arrived at 11 o'clock. At that hour the fire was still burning fiercely, but Chief Little believed that the flames could be kept under control, as there was no wind blowing.

The firemen used dynamite early in the morning, but the use of explosives was soon abandoned. A portion of the Kirley building, occupied by the Rochester Dry Goods company, and the front of the building occupied by the Beadle & Sherburne company, fell into the street with a dull roar, carrying with them a mass of burning timbers, brick and plaster.

Trolley wires broke, and eight firemen had narrow escapes from injury. The fire zone was guarded by large details of policemen.

SOME OF THE BIG LOSSES.

Insurance men estimate the loss at from \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000. Former Comptroller James Johnston summarizes the losses and the insurance to buildings as follows:

Granite building, loss at present, \$300,000; insurance, \$175,000.

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THE GRANITE BUILDING



Fine "Fire Proof" Structure in the Heart of Rochester's Retail Business District, Gutted by This Morning's Fire.

CORNER OF MAIN AND ST. PAUL STREETS, ROCHESTER



In the Foreground Appears the Dry Goods Store of Burke, Fitz Simons, Hone & Co., Threatened with destruction by the Collapse of Granite Building, a Corner of Which Is Seen at the Right.

LEAP YEAR BLUFF AND A "HURRY UP" WEDDING

M. S. Olson Pays \$300 to Learn That White Rock, S. D., Girls Aren't to Be Bluffed—A Romance of Action and Matrimony.



MRS. EVA LUND-SEE, the bride, who saw the chance. M. S. OLSON, whose bluff was called last night, and Bert See, the bridegroom who wins a standing pat.

Special to The Journal. White Rock, S. D., Feb. 26.—Two souls but a single thought; two hearts that beat as one, have been united in a formal community of interest through the official efforts of Rev. W. T. Williams of Wheaton, Minn., and M. S. Olson of White Rock, S. D., in preparing to wed Mrs. Bert See, formerly Miss Eva Lund of White Rock, three building lots in consequence. Incidentally, Mr. Olson has learned that "White Rock girls are not to be bluffed."

This, in brief, is the tale of a modern leap-year Lochinvar, who, laughing at the legends of Minnesota prairie and seizing the forelock of Time as he simultaneously grasped the reins which guided two twentieth century livery-stable chargers, leaped thru twelve miles of space and into matrimony and the ownership of three building lots—all in the space of three hours.

When Mr. Olson of White Rock, former manager for the S. E. Oscarson company of that thriving South Dakota village, laughingly asked a fellow clerk in the company's store when she was going to get her wedding dress, Miss Eva Lund responded with some commonplace, which did not disclose the fact that she was the fiancée of Bert See of the Cartwright Implement company of the same place. Spurred on by his own wit, Mr. Olson remarked that if Miss Lund would kindly get married within three and a half hours he would gladly present her three building lots valued at some \$300.

Having made sure that the offer was made in earnest, and mindful of the fact that it was leap year, Miss Lund quietly withdrew from the store and repaired to the warehouse where See was employed.

"Say, Bert," she announced abruptly, "we will be married this afternoon."

"What—a—!" ejaculated the astounded See, looking out of his ledger. Miss Lund rapidly explained the remarkable offer of the jocular Mr. Olson. Together they canvassed the situation and decided that he would stand pat.

"This," said Mr. See, "is where we begin to arrive. No such heaven-sent gift shall pass our door-to-be without first having a look-in on us."

And he telephoned an order to Wheaton, Minn., to have a marriage license ready, sent a hurry-up call for the fastest team in White Rock, bade good-by to bachelor joys and was presently tearing over the prairie for wife and home and three lots of native land.

Their time was up at 8 o'clock. At 7:30 the jesting Mr. Olson sat in his White Rock home, preening himself upon the merry quip with which he had occupied a dreary half-hour. He wotted not the effect of leap year.

The young lady at central said he was "wanted at the long distance." Rev. W. T. Williams of Wheaton was the person who would have speech with the happy humorist, and at the end of the conversation the merry jester had learned that where two persons of his acquaintance had been before, but one existed now, and that he was "shy" just three building lots. The course of true love had run with remarkable smoothness and rapidity. And to make the romance complete, Mr. Olson is standing pat, and Mr. and Mrs. See will be three good pieces of real estate to the good as soon as the necessary papers can be drawn.

FIVE YEARS FOR G. S. BRAINERD

Late Head of Defunct Bank at Montgomery Sentenced by Judge Caldwell.

Special to The Journal. Le Sueur Center, Minn., Feb. 26.—George S. Brainerd, late president of the Farmers and Merchants' bank at Montgomery, convicted here before a jury in district court, was sentenced to-day by Judge Caldwell to five years at hard labor in the state penitentiary. The charge against him was for receiving deposits after he knew his bank was insolvent.

W. H. Patten, cashier of the bank in this city, was sentenced to-day to eight years for forging a note for \$5,000. He pleaded insanity. When arraigned for sentence he stated that he had not been in his right mind for years, owing to certain injuries, but that he had suddenly come to his senses and now for the first time realized the position in which he is placed. Other charges of unlawful practices are pending against Patten.

William Rathfin, who shot Lewis Ballman, inflicting painful injuries, was sentenced to ten and a half years.

ARCHBISHOP J. M. FARLEY



New York prelate, who is Archbishop Ireland's principal rival for the cardinal's hat, which the pope is disposed to bestow on some American Catholic leader.

TRAGEDY IN THE IOWA CAPITOL

Mother and Daughter Killed in Elevator Accident—Adjournment of Legislature.

Special to The Journal. Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 26.—An elevator accident in the state capitol, resulting in the instant death of two women, brought about the adjournment of both houses of the legislature forty-five minutes after the session opened this forenoon.

A party of visitors had just left the governor's office and were on their way to the senate chamber. They entered one of the elevators, and two of them—Mrs. Dr. C. B. Fountain of Valley Junction and her mother, Mrs. A. Hogus—were caught between the tram and the floor of the elevator and crushed to death. No one else was injured.

PLANS FAIL FOR CLERGUE PLANT

Pitcairn Withdraws from Syndicate—Reorganization Will Be Delayed.

Special to The Journal. Philadelphia, Feb. 26.—John Pitcairn, president of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass company, has withdrawn from the syndicate formed to underwrite the reorganization plan of the Consolidated Lake Superior company and the whole scheme now reverts back to where the Moffitt committee left off to take the Canadian improvement company idea under consideration.

Mr. Pitcairn's action caused considerable surprise because of the fact that he has been particularly active in the matter of reorganization. His action, it is believed, will not affect the general plan undertaken by the Moffitt committee, except to retard it.

The question of reorganization will be taken up again on the original lines. In financial circles here it is said the Speyers interests are naturally anxious to allow others to reorganize if they can accomplish it, but the fact is becoming constantly more evident that the only effective reorganization will be made by the Speyers themselves.

VOTE TO BE IN FAVOR OF WOOD

Little Delay Expected in Senate—His Opponents' Hold Hanna's Brief.

New York Sun Special Service. Washington, Feb. 26.—The nomination of Leonard Wood to be major general will come before the senate for action next Monday, according to an arrangement between Senators Foreaker and Blackburn. Mr. Blackburn was the only democratic member of the military affairs committee to vote against a favorable report on the nomination.

It is likely the nomination of General Wood will be confirmed with but little delay. Senators Scott, Teller, Blackburn and possibly one or two others will make speeches against it, but a large majority will take the other side.

Senator Scott now has a brief of the Wood case partially prepared by Senator Hanna. This will be completed and presented to the senate.

Accompanying the brief are a number of affidavits against General Wood. These were not given to the military affairs committee when the case was under consideration, but were held in reserve for more effective use in the senate.

Senator Hanna regarded the committee as prejudiced in favor of Wood, and determined he would not waste his best ammunition, but hold it for the actual fight in executive session.

Dispatches from Chi-fu and Tokio Declare This to Be Fact.

Russian Battleships at Least Are Now Unable to Get Out.

Special to The Journal. Chi-fu, Feb. 26.—A report received from a Japanese source to-day states that while the ships sunk at Port Arthur Wednesday do not block the channel sufficiently to impede destroyers and small cruisers, battleships will be unable to pass them. To this extent the ruse was successful. Admiral Togo is said to have an idea of reducing the fortifications by an attack from the sea side of the port.

LONDON BELIEVES THAT ADMIRAL TOGO SUCCEEDED IN CARRYING OUT SCHEME.

London, Feb. 26.—Private telegrams received here report that twenty-three Japanese war vessels appeared opposite Port Arthur yesterday and opened fire on the fortifications and vessels in the harbor.

The report also adds that a furious fire was poured into the land batteries all day, the Japs having evidently determined to capture the stronghold and drive out the enemy.

No further news of an attack has reached London. Almost all the English newspapers, in discussing Viceroy Alexieff's reports, incline to the belief that Admiral Togo succeeded in so far as to make the channel impassable for large battleships, even if it is still free to small craft, and presume that the reported second attack was devoted to an attempt to sink more obstacles to navigation.

OFFICIAL DISPATCH FROM TOKIO SAYS JAPANESE SQUADRON ATTAINED OBJECT

London, Feb. 26.—The Japanese legation to-day gave out the following official dispatch from Tokio, dated Feb. 26: Early in the morning of Feb. 24, four old vessels, escorted by some torpedo boats, were run into the entrance of Port Arthur for the purpose of blocking the mouth of the harbor. The object of sinking these vessels was attained and the officers and crews returned safely. Although there is no report regarding our fleet direct from Admiral Togo, no doubt can be entertained as to its safety.

JAPS LAND FORCE NEAR VLADIVOSTOK

Possiet Bay Occupied and Russians Fall Back on Khabarovka as Base.

New York Sun Special Service. Niu-chuang, Feb. 26.—The Rev. Dr. W. H. Gillespie, a missionary, has arrived from Kwan-cheng-tee, and other missionaries are following. He states that the Japanese have landed at Possiet Bay to the south of Vladivostok and have advanced to Hunchun.

The Russian garrison fled at their approach. The Japanese are marching on Kirin, from which point the women and civilians are leaving in a panic. A Cossack regiment is patrolling the west of the Liao river, and a collision is feared with the imperial Chinese troops, who are guarding the railway. Official notice has been issued to the effect that the administration has been removed from Vladivostok to Khabarovka, the northern terminus of the Trans-Siberian railroad, on the Anur river.

REPORT IS CONFIRMED

English Missionary Refugees Declare Japs Are at Possiet Bay.

Yin-kow, Feb. 26.—Native reports that the Japanese landed at Possiet bay, about seventy-five miles south-west of Vladivostok, and subsequently undertook operations against Hunchun and toward Kirin, Manchuria, have received qualified confirmation from English missionary refugees.

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 west of Possiet bay.

Kirin has a population of 100,000. It is a walled city and the capital of the province of Kirin, Manchuria. Kirin is some 200 miles west of Possiet bay.

Kwan-cheng-tee is about eighty miles west of Kirin. Khabarovka is about 400 miles north of Vladivostok, with which it is connected by railroad.

MENACE TO VLADIVOSTOK

Landing Shows Japanese Intend to Attack Russian Fortress.

London, Feb. 26.—If the report from Yinkow of a Japanese landing near Vladivostok, which at present is based on missionary and native statements, should prove correct, a most important and new development in the Japanese operations will have been revealed, as it points to an attack on Vladivostok, from which Possiet bay is only seventy-five miles distant.

The report that the railroad has been cut between Harbin and Vladivostok possibly may be connected with these operations; but until more reliable information is forthcoming, this report must be received with reserve. It has already been reported from Tokio that certain Russian forces were concentrating at Possiet bay.

PORT ARTHUR SHELLED

Noncombatants Driven from Town in Tuesday's Battle.

Chi-fu, Feb. 26.—Arrivals from Port Arthur report that before the Tuesday attack the Russians received timely warning from three torpedo boat destroyers, which met the Japanese fleet twenty miles outside. The Japanese fleet approached within eight miles of the entrance and commenced the attack.

The first to retaliate were the forts, followed by the Petropavlovsk, the Novik, the Pallada and the Askold. The engagement lasted until nearly daylight, when the Japanese retired. Evidently they attempted to destroy the arsenal.

Many junks at anchor were blown to atoms. The Newsky works and the Engine works were struck three times.

Several shells fell just short of the arsenal, striking the mud wall surrounding it, but doing no damage. Several guards were killed by the bursting shells. Civilians took refuge in the new part of Port Arthur.

Five thousand men are working day and night, strengthening the defenses of the garrison, which is 30,000 strong and well provisioned. Three merchant steamers are still at Port Arthur. A fleet of four Japanese battleships and nine cruisers, going westward, passed the northeast promontory here early yesterday morning.