

JAPANESE GET BUSY

Bombardment With 8-inch Guns on Poutloff Hill.

USED AT PORT ARTHUR

RUSSIAN CENTER NOW CONFRONTED WITH NEW SITUATION.

Czar's Cavalry Near Hun River Forced to Retreat—Attacks on Waitao Mountain Repulsed.

MUKDEN, Wednesday, February 15.—The Japanese fired Tuesday and are firing today on Poutloff hill with eight-inch guns, carrying 250-pound projectiles, indicating that they are siege guns used at Port Arthur, and the first to be mounted in position before the Russian lines below Mukden.

A new situation therefore confronts the Russian center, and the general situation appears to have been rendered more uncertain and complicated by the battle of Sandepas and the arrival of open weather, indicating an early spring.

At some parts of the lines there is unusual familiarity. Russian and Japanese officers in parties entertain each other. At Sincinpu the Japanese cheer the Russian band.

Japanese Repel Russian Attacks.

TOKYO, February 15.—The following dispatch was received today from the headquarters of the Japanese armies in Manchuria:

In the direction of the Sha river our artillery February 14 bombarded Chensunmussopuz and set fire to that village. The enemy's artillery in the neighborhood of Sanchentzu mountain replied.

"During the night of February 14 a section of the enemy's infantry attacked Waitao mountain, and during February 15 a battalion attacked Waitao mountain, but the Russians were entirely repulsed.

"In the direction of Chitaitze in the morning of February 15 200 of the enemy's cavalry advanced into Santaitze from Sheng-tzaimen, three miles northwest of Chitaitze. Another force of 200 advanced from the right bank of the Hun river February 14 and passed the night in the neighborhood of Chenchawatzu, placing outposts in the vicinity of Kavehangtzu.

"Before the arrival of our detachment dispatched to dislodge the enemy his force began to retreat. Our detachment quickly pursuing him toward Helyukou, inflicted some damage.

"The enemy's artillery, taking up a position in the neighborhood of Chenchawatzu, covered his retreat. The enemy's strength was about ten squadrons of cavalry and artillery."

RUMORS OF CHANGES

Gossip at St. Petersburg Over Ministerial and Military Officers.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 16.—Many rumors are current of ministerial and military changes, including a report that War Minister Sakharoff may be sent to relieve Gen. Kuropatkin, and also one to the effect that M. Eoulikan, minister of the interior, is not in sympathy with the situation and may retire in favor of Gen. Treppoff, governor general of St. Petersburg.

The successful candidate for the post of minister of justice appointed ambassador at Rome has not yet been appointed. Almost anything is likely to happen, but nothing definite can be said.

M. Amensky, editor of Russian Wealth, who was arrested simultaneously with Maxim Gorky, and reform leader, was released yesterday. Upon his appearance before a scientific society last night he was received with great enthusiasm.

Russians and Chinese in Fatal Clash.

ST. PETERSBURG, February 16.—A telegram from Sahetun reports that a fatal affair has occurred between Russians and Chinese at a village forty miles northwest of Sahetun, where a party of Russians went on a foraging expedition. The village was seized by the Chinese, and the Russians and a fight ensued, during which a Chinaman was killed. The villagers killed the interpreter and fled.

Non-Combatants From Port Arthur.

CHEEFOW, February 16.—A steamer with 117 non-combatants arrived here today from Port Arthur. Very few non-combatants now remain at Port Arthur.

Convalescent soldiers totaling 2,500 will begin arriving at Chiefow February 20. The local Russians are indignant, claiming that they are unable to get the convalescents, and also invalids. The Japanese say they lack means of transport to take the invalids to Shanghai.

To Escort Squadron.

COPENHAGEN, February 26.—Two Danish torpedo boats are waiting at Gledesby to escort the Russian third Pacific squadron through Danish waters.

BARTON WENT FOR JOY.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.
HAGERSTOWN, Md., February 16.—When aged Charles Barton was told today that his death sentence had been commuted by Governor Warfield to life imprisonment he broke down completely and wept like a child. Barton had been convicted of the murder of Simon Talhelm, a civil war veteran, in Hagerstown on September 12.

He was sentenced to be executed, and it was supposed to be merely a matter of the governor setting the date for the hanging. Barton, who was convicted on strong circumstantial evidence, has claimed all along that he did not commit the crime. He says if he had been allowed to testify during the trial he would have "opened the eyes of the people."

Many prominent citizens signed the petition addressed to Gov. Warfield asking that the death sentence be commuted, although it is said Judge Keeby, who sat in the case, and Prosecuting Attorney Long were not consulted by the governor.

Barton is eighty-one years old, while Talhelm was eighty years old, and the fact that he has been a "dope" for years.

BURNED TO DEATH

Mysterious Fire at Edwards, Ill.—Three Children Dead.

EDWARDS, Ill., February 16.—Fire of mysterious origin in the house of Manning Harris, a coal miner, burned the bodies of Harris' three small children to a crisp early today.

Harris and his wife were rescued, but the flesh hung from Mrs. Harris' body in strips and Harris was horribly burned.

HE MUST TALK JUSTICE

Naval Force May Be Sent Against Castro.

DISPUTE OVER ASPHALT

SEQUESTRATION OF LANDS OF AMERICANS ORDERED.

Mr. Russell's Report on the Matter Submitted to the President, Who is Proceeding With Deliberation.

PARIS, February 16.—A semi-official dispatch from Caracas, Venezuela, says that upon the pressure of President Castro the court has ordered the sequestration of the landed properties of the American Asphalt Company. This decision, the dispatch adds, has caused excitement in the American colony at Caracas.

The Press Dispatch Confirmed.

The State Department today received a cablegram from Caracas, Venezuela, dated at Caracas, confirmatory of the Paris advice on the subject of the Venezuelan supreme court's action in the asphalt case.

Mr. Bowen stated that the supreme court had confirmed its former decree sequestrating the property in Venezuela of the American Asphalt Company. The action of the court brings the asphalt dispute to the critical point, for it is now necessary for this government to make the next move.

Some time last spring the Venezuelan court before which an application had been filed by the Venezuelan government for the sequestration of the franchise of the asphalt company decided that the corporation had forfeited its charter rights by failing to meet certain obligations imposed by the Venezuelan government.

It was also held that the company had invited the forfeiture by financing the Cuban rebellion against the government, which terminated when the latter triumphed. The court granted the government's application and appointed the State Department receiver of the asphalt company, but later its enemy, as receiver for the property.

Mr. Carnar, experienced as he was in the working of the asphalt mines, proceeded to develop the Felicidad Asphalt Lake with great energy, making the asphalt mine a general and open shipping it directly to New York, where it was sold in the open market. The American Asphalt Company, which had been operating in the asphalt mines, was ordered to remove the matter temporarily from the appointment of the receiver, and the court retained its motion to that effect.

It was now decided adversely upon that point.

Minister Bowen's Inquiry.

The decree estopped the asphalt company from further efforts to regain possession of its property by appeals to the Venezuelan courts. But at the same time it lodged the motion now dismissed by the Venezuelan supreme court the asphalt company made a strong appeal to the State Department here, asserting that it had been denied justice by the Venezuelan government.

Mr. Bowen, United States minister, was called upon for several reports by the State Department, and his inquiry appeared to justify the company's main allegations. However, the State Department has always been exceedingly jealous of the reputation of American courts, and has seldom tolerated any challenge by a foreign government. The State Department, therefore, decided in this case to make absolutely sure that the asphalt dispute was removed from the jurisdiction of the Venezuelan courts.

President Castro had interfered with the ordinary judicial processes adversely to it. Therefore he adopted the unusual course of removing the matter temporarily from the State Department and referred it to the Attorney General, the highest judicial authority in the case of procedure, requesting him to report whether or not there had been a miscarriage of justice in this case such as would warrant a formal protest to the government.

Mr. Russell's Opinion.

After considering the subject for several months the Department of Justice prepared an opinion, principally the work of Assistant Attorney General Russell, but so far that has not been formally returned to the President. It is said that the opinion is to the effect that the asphalt company apparently has not been fairly treated, not only according to the principles of English law, but also on a basis of the ordinary Venezuelan legal practice.

However, the President has not yet determined upon the course he shall pursue in this matter. The attorneys for the asphalt company are frequent visitors to the State Department demanding satisfaction, and every asphalt-laden vessel which arrives at New York from Venezuela brings forth another angry and energetic protest against this continued alleged spoliation of the asphalt company's property.

Minister Bowen, meanwhile, is waiting for instructions, his status at Caracas being rather delicate owing to the fidelity with which he has executed the State Department's instructions at various stages in the progress of the asphalt case before he returns to the United States. Final consideration of the attorney general's opinion here, which, if in favor of the company, will undoubtedly force some positive action by this government to secure the alleged rights of an American corporation. Mr. Bowen has been endeavoring to settle the matter diplomatically with President Castro directly. He has been delayed in that in some measure by President Castro's departure from the Venezuelan capital on a tour in the interior, but now that he has returned to Caracas it is expected that efforts will be made to proceed with the case.

The United States government will feel compelled to make a summary demand that the Venezuelan government right itself wrong which it is alleged to have committed in this case.

Force May Have to Be Used.

Although Minister Bowen is said to be personally non grata at Caracas, the State Department declines to recall or transfer him pending a settlement of the questions at issue. Failure to secure satisfaction by diplomatic methods is generally understood that President Roosevelt has determined in the spring, after the adjournment of Congress, a fleet of warships shall be sent to Venezuelan ports to bring Castro to terms.

REJANE SAILED FOR EUROPE.

Declared Her Intention of Returning Next Year.

NEW YORK, February 16.—Mme. Rejane, the French actress, and her daughter, Germaine, were among the passengers who sailed today for Europe on the steamer La Touraine for Havre. Before the steamer sailed Mme. Rejane said it was her intention to return to New York next year.

"By that time," she said, "the plans will all be perfected for a theater in which many pictures of French art and literature in this city are interested."

PERSONAL MENTION.

Ex-Gov. C. M. Barnes of Oklahoma is suffering from an attack of the grip at his apartments in the Ebbitt.

Franklin Murphy of Newark, N. J., is a guest at the Arlington.

T. Dart Walker, a prominent artist of New York, is registered at the Ebbitt.

Former Representative William H. Fleming of Georgia is at the head of a large party of Georgians in the city today. The delegation will have a hearing before the Secretary of War today urging the clearing away of mineral and coal lands within the Savannah river.

TO GOVERN CANAL ZONE.

Following the adoption of the conference report on the omnibus claims bill the House today resumed consideration of the bill to provide a government for the Panama canal zone. The committee amendments were agreed to and the bill was passed.

Senator Kittredge today introduced a bill for the government of the canal zone which will be taken up by the House today. The provision of the Mann bill abolishing the isthmian canal commission is not made a part of the Kittredge bill.

FATAL FALL FROM WINDOW.

Mysterious Death of Attache of Duluth Law Office.

DULUTH, Minn., February 16.—Claude S. Suively, connected with the law office of Washburn, Mitchell and Bailey, fell from a fifth-story window in the Lonsdale building today and was killed.

No one was in the office at the time, and how Mr. Suively happened to fall is a mystery.



SPRING: "DON'T SPOIL A GOOD TURN."
WINTER: "DON'T BUTT IN."

GOLD IN PENNSYLVANIA

RECORDS BROKEN AT EASTON—BELOW ZERO AT MANY POINTS.

EASTON, Pa., February 16.—All temperature records in this city for the winter were broken when, early today, the mercury registered 5 degrees below zero.

Up the Bushkill valley the mercury is reported to have touched 10 degrees below zero.

At Windgap, in the Blue mountain, the temperature was 8 degrees below, while at Bangor and Pen Arzel it was seven and eight degrees below respectively.

Coldest of the Winter.

READING, Pa., February 16.—The weather last night was the coldest experienced this winter. In this city the official record was 4 degrees below zero. In the outlying districts it was 8 degrees below the zero mark.

MINING OPERATIONS CEASE.

Intense Cold in Pennsylvania Shuts Down Collieries.

POTTSVILLE, Pa., February 16.—The Lehigh Valley Coal Company has ordered the suspension of a number of its collieries today, Monday on account of the intense cold. Coal washeries and jig machinery are blocked throughout the region today, operations being impossible on account of the large amount of water they use quickly freezing and blocking the machinery.

In this city it was for its part below zero and in the country districts the mercury reached ten below.

THE STATEHOOD BILL.

Expected to Be in Conference Early Next Week.

No important step was taken by the House of Representatives today in relation to the statehood bill. The resolution of Mr. Tawney of Minnesota providing that the committee on territories be instructed to report the bill to the House and that it at once be sent to conference is now in the hands of Speaker Cannon ready for his consideration of the committee on rules. Under the present condition of legislation in the House it seems quite possible that this resolution will be allowed to go over until next week, so that on Monday or Tuesday it may be returned to the House with a recommendation for its passage.

The passage of the resolution is assured in view of the fact that even representatives who were against this course of procedure and who have not signed the paper indicating that they will support the resolution have stated that they would do so, although they did not care to sign the paper. No one expresses doubt at this time that the resolution will be adopted, and that in a recommissioning bill will be in conference some time early next week.

TO GOVERN CANAL ZONE.

Passage of the Mann Bill by the House of Representatives.

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BRIDGES AT AUGUSTA.

Navigability of the River Above the City to Be Investigated.

Secretary Taft and Gen. Mackenzie, chief of engineers, gave a hearing at the War Department this morning to persons interested in the controversy over the bridges crossing the Savannah river at Augusta. There are three of these bridges, two owned and operated by the city of Augusta and the other owned and operated by the Southern Railway Company. Milling interests on the river above the city contended that these bridges constitute an obstruction to navigation, and they asked the War Department to direct that each bridge be provided with a draw, so as to permit of the free passage of vessels. That plan is opposed by the officials of the city and the railroad company, who represent that the river is not navigable above the bridges, and that one of the city bridges has occupied its present site for nearly sixty years.

The main question for the War Department to decide is as to the navigability of the river above the city as otherwise the War Department has no jurisdiction in the matter. It is expected that Secretary Taft will announce his decision in a short time.

CLERICAL CHANGES.

Recent Promotions in the Interior Department.

The following official changes have been made in the Department of the Interior:

Patent office—Promotions: John J. Darby of District of Columbia, first assistant examiner at \$1,800, to principal examiner at \$2,500; Samuel B. Roane of New York, second assistant examiner at \$1,000, to first assistant examiner at \$1,400; Robert M. Barr of Massachusetts and Roy C. Glass of District of Columbia, fourth assistant examiners at \$1,200, to third assistant examiners at \$1,400. Resignations: William V. Reppert of Nebraska, clerk at \$1,000, and James W. Deffenbaugh of Ohio, copyist at \$800.

Another resignation was V. S. Champ, representative of the Fiala-Ziegler polar copyist at \$900.

Bureau of education—Promotion: William F. Pahren of Ohio, copyist at \$720 to \$800.

A PARCEL POST SYSTEM.

Post Office Officials Returned From London and Paris.

NEW YORK, February 16.—Gen. W. S. Shallenberger, second assistant postmaster general, and Assistant Superintendent J. M. Masten of the railway division of the United States Post Office Department, returned today from a trip to London and Paris, during which they established a parcel post system with Great Britain and France and arranged for sorting mails at sea on three of the big steamship lines.

Gen. Shallenberger said today: "We went abroad to endeavor to settle some postal matters that have been pending a long time. We have succeeded in establishing a parcel post system, and for the seaport system a tentative agreement has been made with the British government whereby the seapost will be established on the White Star and American line and ultimately on the Cunard line."

The agreement depends on the steamship companies arranging terms with the British government similar to those made with the Indians of the Shoshone or Wind River reservation, in Wyoming, was passed by the House today, after eliminating the provision granting a preferential privilege to Amos Baysen to select 800 acres of mineral and coal lands within the reservation.

To Celebrate Lincoln Centennial.

Representative Barthold of Missouri introduced a resolution in the House today providing for the designation of five members of the Senate and five members of the House as a commission to devise some specific way of celebrating the birthday of President Lincoln February 12 of each year, and particularly on that day in 1909, the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth. The commission is to report to Congress on or before December 30 next.

On Trial for Wife Murder.

NEW LONDON, Mo., Feb. 16.—The prosecution today began the introduction of evidence in rebuttal in the case of Dr. T. Jones Watson of Denver, Col., who is charged with the murder of his wife. The defense closed its case by placing Dr. Watson on the stand. He declared the death of his wife, who was killed while driving in a buggy with her husband, was due to an accident.

"Babe" Spencer Dead.

MADISON, Wis., February 16.—Lloyd, better known as "Babe" Spencer, for years the mascot of the University of Wisconsin football team, is dead of paralysis. Not four feet tall, but weighing nearly three hundred pounds, Spencer was a familiar figure at all the big games in which Wisconsin took part. It was his custom to lead on the field a live badger.

Hunt Expects Surety From Friends.

CHICAGO, February 16.—W. H. Hunt, president of the defunct Pan-American Banking Company, was today held in \$14,500 bail. President Hunt stated that he had assurances his friends would come to his assistance and would furnish the necessary surety to secure his release.

EIGHT BADLY INJURED

TWO EXPLOSIONS OF SULPHUR SET FIRE TO BUILDING.

NEW YORK, February 16.—Eight workmen were badly injured by an explosion of sulphur in the Brooklyn sulphur works in Brooklyn today, and were removed to hospitals suffering from burns and from inhaling the fumes of the burning sulphur. Firemen and policemen who brought them out of the building were themselves much affected by breathing the sulphur fumes, and at one time ten firemen were lying on the sidewalk with ambulance surgeons administering restoratives.

The first explosion was quickly followed by a second, and in a minute the whole three-story building was in flames. A number of workmen were caught where there were no fire escapes and had to jump to the ground.

When the firemen arrived men were hanging from windows and were taken down with the aid of scaling ladders.

The explosions are supposed to have been caused by the ignition of the sulphur by a spark caused by the presence of a nail in the mechanism of one of the sulphur-grinding machines. The loss was about \$20,000.

May Be Fatally Burned.

Four of the workmen are believed to be fatally burned. They are Michael Cleary, Patrick Sweeney, William McCullough and Michael Willahan.

SENATORIAL CONTESTS.

Situation Remains Unchanged in Missouri and Delaware.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., February 16.—Only one ballot for United States senator was taken today at the joint session of the legislature. The deadlock remains unbroken. The ballot, the twenty-fifth, resulted as follows: Nierding, 68; Cockrell, 76; Kerens, 12; McKinley, 4; Reihmann, 1.

DOVER, Del., February 16.—Today's ballot for United States senator resulted as follows:

Addicks, 22; Henry A. Dupont, 8; Stalburg, 20. Total vote, 50; necessary to choice, 28. The joint assembly separated until tomorrow.

The Monroe Doctrine.

It has for some time been obvious that those who profit by the Monroe doctrine must accept certain responsibilities along with the rights which it confers; and that the same statement applies to those who uphold the doctrine. It cannot be too often and too emphatically asserted that the United States has not the slightest desire for territorial aggrandizement at the expense of any of its southern neighbors, and will not treat the Monroe doctrine as an excuse for such aggrandizement on its part.

We do not propose to take any part of Santo Domingo, or exercise any other control over the island save what is necessary to its financial rehabilitation in connection with the collection of revenue, and of which the United States has no interest. The government to meet the necessary expenses of running it, and part of which will be distributed to Santo Domingo, will be the republic upon a basis of absolute equity.

The justification for the United States taking this burden and incurring this responsibility is to be found in the fact that it is incompatible with international equity for the United States to refuse to allow other powers to take the only means at their disposal of satisfying the claims of their creditors and yet to refuse, itself, to take any such steps.

Any such action can without interfering with the Monroe doctrine take what action it sees fit in the adjustment of its disputes with American states, provided the action does not take the shape of interference with their form of government or of the despoliation of their territory under any disguise. But, should such action when the question is one of a money claim, the only way which remains, finally, to collect it is a blockade, or bombardment, or the seizure of the custom houses, and this means, as has been said above, what is in effect a possession, even though only a temporary possession of territory. The United States then becomes a party in interest, because under the Monroe doctrine it cannot see any European power, or powers, and permanently occupy the territory of one of these republics; and yet such seizure of territory, if disguised or undisguised, may eventually offer the only way in which the power in question can collect any debts, unless there is interference on the part of the United States.

Violations of Contracts.

One of the difficult and increasingly complicated problems, which often arise in Santo Domingo, grows out of the violations of contracts and concessions, sometimes providently granted, with valuable privileges and exemptions stipulated for upon grossly inadequate considerations which

(Continued on Twelfth page.)

THE MONROE DOCTRINE

Its Responsibilities and Rights Discussed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FORWARDING THE SANTO DOMINGO PROTOCOL

Considered One of the Most Important State Papers of This Congress.

The message of the President transmitting the Santo Domingo protocol to the Senate was made public today. It is considered by many the most important state paper of this Congress in its discussion of the responsibilities as well as the rights of the Monroe doctrine.

In the opinion of senators, President Roosevelt's message accompanying the Santo Domingo protocol made public today is one of the most important state papers of this Congress. The President asserts that the protocol affords a practical test of the efficiency of the United States government in maintaining the Monroe doctrine. The President says that if this nation would profit by the Monroe doctrine it must accept certain responsibilities along with the rights which it confers. The protocol which he submits which this government shall take possession of the customs houses of the island republic, collect the customs, hand over 45 per cent of the proceeds to the Dominican government and apply the remainder to the extinguishment of the \$22,000,000 or more of the Dominican debt.

The President says that the justification for the United States taking this burden and incurring this responsibility is the fact that it is incompatible with international equity for the United States to refuse to allow other powers to take the only means at their disposal of satisfying the claims of their creditors and yet to refuse, itself, to take any such steps. The President says that the conditions in the Dominican republic not only obtain in other foreign nations, but they also concern the prosperity of the people of the island as well as the interests of the United States in the maintenance of diplomacy and international arbitration are absolutely impotent to deal with the situation which the President says, can only be met by organizing its finances on a sound basis and by placing the customs houses beyond the temptation of large American creditors. The ordinary resources of the government to take such steps as it may deem proper to preserve order in the island. An important feature of the President's message is the statement that "it is perhaps unnecessary to state that no step of any kind has been taken by the administration to prevent the execution of the protocol which is herewith submitted."

The President's Message.

The Senate today made public the protocol with Santo Domingo, which was submitted by President Roosevelt late yesterday afternoon.

The President's message accompanying the protocol is as follows: I submit herewith a protocol concluded between the Dominican republic and the United States.

The conditions in the republic of Santo Domingo are growing steadily worse for many years. There have been many disturbances and revolutions, and the American creditors have long felt themselves aggrieved by the manner in which the Dominican government has treated their citizens. The only way by which foreign creditors could ever obtain from the republic itself any guarantee of payment would be through the acquisition of territory outright or temporarily, or else by taking possession of the custom houses, which would give the United States the means of collecting a certain amount of territory.

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(Continued on Twelfth page.)

Before a Whole City.

A store window is good advertising, so is a good sign over the door, but the best of all is the display that goes before a whole city every day—the newspaper advertisement.

PROGRESS REPORTED

Meeting of Inaugural Committee Today.

BRIGADE OF CADETS

ALL THE MONEY SUBSCRIBED FOR GUARANTY FUND PAID.

Gen. Joe Wheeler to Command Second Civic Division—How the Military Will March.

General Chaffee, as grand marshal of the inaugural parade, has decided to organize a brigade of cadets which will march in the military division, and not in the civic division, as had been contemplated.