

LITTLE FIGHTING OF A SERIOUS NATURE

Situation in Far East Settles Down to Exciting Foot Race to Harbin.

NEGLECT NO PRECAUTIONS

Russians Leave Nothing Undone to Impede Pursuit and Hamper Construction of Permanent Japanese Lines of Supply—General Linevitch's Forces Proceeding in Two Columns.

(By Associated Press.)
ST. PETERSBURG, March 21.—2:17 a. m.—The latest dispatches from Manchuria indicate that the retreat of the Russian army is being conducted uneventfully. The last few days were unmarked by any fighting of a serious nature. Both the Russians and the Japanese at this stage probably consider that marching is more important than fighting. The Russians, however, are neglecting no precautions to impede pursuit and hamper the construction of permanent Japanese lines of supply.

Chinese Deserting Russians.

GUNSHU PASS, March 20.—Morning—The last two days have been utterly without incident. The Russian rearguard is retreating slowly and engaging in occasional skirmishes. It has now reached a position twenty-seven miles north of Tie Pass.

Reports of a wide turning movement by the Japanese are no longer being received. There is increasing difficulty in securing reliable information beyond the limits in which scouting parties are active, on account of the defection of many Chinese to the Japanese side. Many natives who have been employed as servants by Russian officers have run away and other consequences of the evacuation of Mukden are noticeable in the attitude of the Chinese.

DOING 'HOT FOOT' IN A DOUBLE COLUMN

Russians Divide Their Forces and Rush Toward Harbin, Ahead of Victorious Japs.

(By Associated Press.)
ST. PETERSBURG, March 20.—1:20 p. m.—Anxiety regarding the fate of General Linevitch's force continues, the main danger to them being the Japanese columns which are hurrying northward along the great trade route twenty miles west of and parallel with the line of retreat.

The heads of these columns were officially reported to be passing Fakoman, thirty miles northwest of Tie Pass, on Friday. Their appearance doubtless hastened the Russian retirement, which may now have become literally a race northward, as once the Russians are headed off it would be easy for the Japanese, by a short cut, to throw themselves across the line of retreat.

After leaving Kalyuan Linevitch is believed to have divided his army, the main portion clinging to the railroad and the other falling back along the Mandarin road, which runs to Kirin, it being impossible to leave the latter open to the Japanese lest they then be able to creep up on the left flank.

At the same time it is recognized that a separation of forces is always attended with the danger of giving the enemy an opportunity to concentrate and fight the army in detail. Some military men here believe that Linevitch will try to hold the line from Kirin to Clangoun, 120 miles north of Tie Pass. The first corps composed of steady troops from St. Petersburg and formerly commanded by General Meyendorff, is covering the retreat, which the war office declares is proceeding in an orderly fashion. Complete details of the losses at the battle of Mukden are not yet available at the war office, but the reports thus far received indicate that 120,000 men were killed, wounded or made prisoners and that about eighty field guns were captured.

Almost every siege gun, it is affirmed, was removed.

Second Army Has Easy Time.
ST. PETERSBURG, March 20.—A

dispatch from General Linevitch, dated March 19, 9 p. m., says:

"The commander of the Second army reports that he has had no further fighting. No reports have been received from the First or Third armies. I have inspected the troops which have arrived from Russia. They are in excellent spirits and good health."

Japs Uncarth Russian Guns.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 20.—The Japanese legation today received the following cablegram from Tokio: "At 4 a. m. on March 19 our detachment occupied Kalyuan, twenty miles north of Tie Pass. The enemy afterward attempted a counter attack but were repulsed."

"The enemy burned bridges on the main road south of Kalyuan and also destroyed part of a railway bridge. A number of Russian guns were found buried near Mukden."

Dragoons to Put Down Disorder.

BERGHOFF, EUROPEAN RUSSIA, March 20.—Three squadrons of dragoons have started for Bergzina, where armed Jews are reported to have killed the chief of police and a number of his assistants.

TOBACCO TRUST MERGER ILLEGAL

In Violation of Federal Constitution Says Richard T. Dana, Administrator of Richard S. Dana's Estate.

(By Associated Press.)
TRENTON, N. J., March 20.—Richard T. Dana, administrator of the recently deceased Richard S. Dana, today filed in the court of chancery a bill to have set aside as illegal the merger of the American Tobacco Company and the Continental Tobacco Company into the American Tobacco Company.

Mr. Dana holds 5,000 shares of stock of the original American Tobacco Company. He claims that the merger was effected without the consent of himself or Richard S. Dana and that the merger is in violation of the State and Federal constitution. He further claims that the merger violates the federal constitution in that it is an impairment of the contract. Dana names not only the company, but the directors as defendants in his suit, and among others names James B. Duke, Thomas Dolan and Thomas F. Ryan as party defendants.

THINKS CALISCH WAS MISQUOTED

Norfolk Rabbi Believes Views of Famous Jewish Orator Were Garbled and Misunderstood.

(Special to the Daily Press.)
NORFOLK, VA., March 20.—The Rev. Dr. Simon R. Cohen, of the Ohel Sholem congregation, in an interview here today, says he thinks the Rev. Dr. Calisch, of Richmond, must have been misquoted in the matter of advocating that the Jewish Sabbath celebration on Saturday be abandoned altogether for a celebration on Sunday.

He thinks that Dr. Calisch advocated a supplemental observance on Sunday, and not a complete discontinuance of the Saturday observance. Dr. Cohen says that both he and Dr. Calisch are members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, who advocate a supplemental Sabbath observance on Sunday, but do not advocate the discontinuance of the Saturday observance.

A BOY ASSASSIN WOUNDS GOVERNOR

Secured Entrance to Office and Fired Three Times—Wounded Man's Condition is Critical.

(By Associated Press.)
VIBORG, EUROPEAN RUSSIA, March 20.—Governor Miasorodoff was shot and seriously wounded today by a boy, whose identity has not been ascertained. The assassin, who is about fifteen years old, obtained an entrance to the governor's office and fired three times at him, only one bullet inflicting a serious wound and the others slightly wounding the governor's legs.

The governor's clerks and secretary were unable to stop the would-be assassin who reached the street, where, however, he was arrested without a struggle.

The governor's condition is critical.

SIXTY LIVES SNUFFED OUT

Boiler Explosion Demolishes Large Shoe Factory and Incidental Fire Literally Roasts Pinioned Victims.

DEEDS OF HEROISM AND SELF-SACRIFICE

One Man Hopelessly Caught Beneath Heavy Timber, Calls on Rescuers to Save Others and Lifts Several Girls to Safety Before the Fire Reaches Him. Brave Priest Leads in Work of Rescue.

(By Associated Press.)
BROCKTON, MASS., March 20.—This city is in mourning tonight for at least three score people, whose lives were blotted out early today by the explosion of a boiler in a large shoe manufacturing establishment in the Campello district, conducted by R. Grover & Co.

The explosion was immediately followed by a flash of flame, which consumed the factory, a long four-story structure, as if it were a house of cards, and incinerated an unknown number of men and women, who were unable to extricate themselves from a mass of tangled wreckage, formed by the terrific upheaval in the boiler room. More than half a hundred of the employees in the building were maimed, burned or bruised by the time they reached safe ground.

Heat of a Veritable Inferno.

Some had jumped from the roof, some from windows and others had been injured in the mad rush to escape from the doomed factory, which from all parts emitted the intense, awful heat of an inferno, driving back the band of heroic rescuers who, in few brief moments, had performed gallant service.

The fire extended from the factory to seven other buildings in the vicinity and destroyed them. One of the buildings was a three-story wooden block owned by Charles F. Dahlborg, the others being cottages of small value, and a blacksmith shop.

Two wooden dwellings near the engine room were practically demolished by the flying boiler, but none of the occupants was seriously injured. The total financial loss is estimated at a quarter of a million dollars, \$200,000 of which falls on R. B. Grover & Co. The monetary losses are nearly offset by insurance.

Fifty Bodies Recovered.

It may never be known just how many persons perished in the wreckage. No one knows exactly how many persons were in the factory. The number has been estimated at four hundred, but Treasurer Charles O. Emerson, said tonight he doubted whether there were so many at work. Two hundred and fifty survivors have been accounted for and at midnight tonight the remains of fifty bodies had been recovered from the ruins, the search being continued all night. Fragments of human frames which possibly might belong to bodies other than those enumerated, have also been found. Few of the remains have been identified. The head in nearly every case is missing and except in rare instances it was impossible even to distinguish the sex.

An inspection of the wrecked boiler by the State boiler inspector showed that there was a sufficient supply of water in it. The cause of the explosion is at present a mystery. The disaster will be further investigated by the State authorities.

EXPLOSION CAME WITHOUT WARNING

Catastrophe Occurred Shortly After the Operatives Had Begun Work for the Day.

(By Associated Press.)
BROCKTON, MASS., March 20.—The explosion occurred shortly after the operatives had settled down to work for the day had been begun and came without any warning. Suddenly the air vibrated with the

assist the employes who escaped in the rescue of their fellows.

This task became momentarily more difficult and perilous, for the heat from the fire was almost unbearable. By the use of long pieces of timber the rescuers were able to raise parts of the wreckage and thereby release some of the imprisoned men and women and then, by rushing into the smoke, pull them from the ruins.

Heroism and Self-Sacrifice.

Then it was that acts of self-sacrifice and heroism were seen. One man whose legs were caught under an iron beam, cried to the rescuers that they could not extricate him, and to help the girls behind him. Stretching out his arms he lifted several girls, one by one and passed them to the rescuers. Then the fire reached him and he died.

A woman, who was entangled in a shoe machine, cried out that she was dying and commanded the rescuers to attend to others who might live. She begged to be shot. Soon the flames enveloped her.

Brave Priest's Heroic Work.

Among the first to arrive on the scene was Rev. James O'Rourke, curate at St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Church, nearby. At the risk of his life, he removed seven persons from the ruins before the fire had reached them and was returning for the eighth time when he fainted from the effects of the smoke and the shock. Father O'Rourke administered the last rites of the church to many Catholics, both to those who were saved and some who later perished.

FATHER O'ROURKE'S THRILLING STORY

Priest Gives Heart-Rending Account of the Horrible Scenes Following the Boiler Explosion.

Father O'Rourke said tonight: "Pinned beneath heavy pieces of machinery, timbers and twisted coils of pipe, were many of our men and women, suffering terrible agonies."

"In order to reach these imprisoned sufferers we had to crawl through the debris and, with the aid of a large timber, we raised the wreckage which held fast several men and women. In this manner and by brute strength we pulled out seven employes."

"By this time the flames were almost upon us and we were about to flee for safety, when one poor fellow begged that a last effort be made to save him."

Pulled Off His Leg.

Three of us grasped the man by his shoulders and arms and tugged and pulled until suddenly he cried: "My God, my leg is pulled off."

"It was terrible, especially so because a moment later, with our clothing scorched, we were ordered away by the chief of the fire department and were reluctantly compelled to leave the poor man to his fate."

"Just before leaving I saw fifteen of the imprisoned operatives, some already suffering untold agonies from the flames, which were actually roasting their flesh, and others watching with terror-stricken eyes the fate of their companions, knowing that a moment or two would bring to them similar suffering and then death."

Relatives Ask For Information.

With tear-stained and haggard faces women and children besieged the rectory of St. Margaret's Roman Catholic church, during the day, pleading with the priests for information about husband, father, sister or brother who failed to return home. Little comfort could be given to these people.

At the Campello police station a similar scene was enacted.

Early in the day Mayor Keith, foreseeing the confusion which would ensue, posted notices in conspicuous places, requesting all employes who had escaped to go at once to the police station and give their names.

Names Posted.

These names were immediately posted, and around this list of names hovered a throng of women—many hysterical with grief because the list did not include a relative. Back and forth from the ruins to the station house and from station house to the ruins, these grief-stricken women fled, in a never ending procession, looking at the fragments of flesh and bone as they were placed in pine boxes and hurried away to the morgue. Only in extremely rare cases was there the slightest chance of identification.

Twenty-Nine Missing.

At midnight a list of twenty-nine missing persons was given out at the Campello police station. There is good

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SAYS CHANGANG IS FORM OF PEONAGE

Judge Emory Speer Denounces "Involuntary Servitude" for Trivial Local Offenses.

ROUGH ON SLAVE CATCHERS

Thinks Principle Enunciated by Supreme Court in Ciyatt Case Salutary for Black Man, But Infinitely More So for White—No Regard for Rights of Fellow Men.

(By Associated Press.)
SAVANNAH, GA., March 20.—Judge Emory Speer, in the United States court today confined his charge to the grand jury almost exclusively to a discussion of the peonage decision handed down last week by the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Ciyatt, from Florida. Judge Speer said it may be long before that court will have the opportunity to render another opinion so vital to the future of our country.

"It is salutary to the black man, but to the white man it is infinitely more so. As to the labor and liberty of every citizen it nullifies that vicious principle 'let him take who has the power, and let him keep who can.' It is true that it spares members of the negro race from a slavery to the reckless and lawless, to the generally unscrupulous; a slavery which, compared with that of our fathers, differs as widely as our conceptions of our first parents. But its emancipation of the white man is not less significant."

No Principles of Justice.

"The man guilty of peonage, like other slave catchers, is not stopped by any principle of justice to his fellow man, whether white or black."

"It is noticeably true that in a number of cases of peonage ready and willing witnesses for the government are white men who have been deprived of their servants because the modern slave catcher, usually a man of influence, and determination, himself armed and with armed followers, would invade the domain of the small farmer and, by violence the most cruel and intimidation the most reckless, take them from the laborers whose services the witness had engaged."

Judge Speer expressed the opinion that petty municipal offenses like walking on the grass, spitting on the sidewalk or going to sleep in a depot, or loitering on the streets and multitudes of other similar offenses are not crimes for which involuntary servitude can be imposed.

Peonage Statute Applicable.

He held that for such an offense to constitute and hold a man or child for involuntary servitude is peonage and that the penalty of the peonage statute is applicable to the person engaged in the imposition of such sentences.

Judge Speer concluded: "For myself I do not hesitate to declare that enforced labor on a local changang for any offense, not amounting to crime, is involuntary servitude and peonage in the light of the decision of the Supreme Court, no matter what the State law or municipal ordinance on the subject may be."

"Should the Sultan of Morocco or Abdul Hamid at Constantinople, consign to an Oriental chalang American citizens for such trivialities as are thus daily punished here before the sun went down the steel clad battlements of the Union would be speeding over the ocean to demand redress for the injury or to avenge the wrong."

Peonage Pathway to Slavery.

"Let but peonage be fastened on our system and all may soon, with Rienzi, exclaim: 'We are slaves; the bright sun rises to its course and lights a race of slaves; it sets and its last beam falls on a slave.'"

OPENED CAMPAIGN.

Swanson and Ellyson Well Received at Harrisonburg.

(Special to the Daily Press.)
HARRISONBURG, VA., March 20.—At Harrisonburg today Congressman Swanson opened his campaign for governor, and Hon. J. Taylor Ellyson began his canvass for lieutenant governor.

Both were well received. The Parksday pure election law received Swanson's hearty endorsement.