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RUSSIAN FLEET DESTROYED.

Japs Have About Completed Destruction of Russian Fleet.

Mukden, Dec. 14.—Late dispatches received at headquarters from Port Arthur by way of Che Foo declares that situation there is by no means as desperate as it is reported by foreign newspaper dispatches. The line of main defense forts is unbroken and there is plenty of ammunition and food.

Tokio, Dec. 14.—Vice Admiral Togo reports a series of torpedo attacks on the Russian battleship Sevastopol, beginning at midnight on Monday last, December 12. The Russians, the admiral says, vigorously resisted the attacks.

The results of the explosions of the torpedoes have not been ascertained. The Sevastopol was the only battleship at Port Arthur to escape damage by the Japanese bombardment from 203-Metre Official Japanese dispatches say that she appeared to be lying in the east harbor, that only the tops of her masts were visible to the Japanese gunners and that her hull was completely hidden by a hill.

An unofficial report circulated at Tokio said that on December 9 Japanese torpedo boat destroyers had attacked the Sevastopol at the mouth of the harbor but that the result of the attack was unknown.

A dispatch from Tokio on December 11, conveying an official report, said

that the Sevastopol continued to anchor outside the harbor possibly returning at night. Her anchorage, according to the dispatch at that time was inside the outer boom which protected her against torpedo attacks. In this connection it may be interesting to recall the fact that according to the same dispatch the whereabouts of the Russian torpedo boat destroyers continued to be doubtful and that it was thought they had taken shelter outside.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The Japanese delegation has received the following telegram from Tokio today: "Commander of naval artillery reports that bombardment on the 13th was principally aimed at arsenal and torpedo depot at Tiger's Tail and at a steamboat in its vicinity. Torpedo depot ablaze one hour. Three ships were destroyed and one was sunk, besides buildings greatly damaged.

"An indirect bombardment upon the Sevastopol staying outside the harbor was suspended, owing to the bad weather which prevented observation. Admiral Togo reports that the torpedo boat flotillas twice attacked the Sevastopol on the night of the 12th, and thrice on the night of the 13th. The result is uncertain. Each time they met the enemy's fierce fire and one of our torpedo boats were disabled, but towed back; while three received one shot each. Our total casualties were only three wounded."

Headquarters of the third Japanese Army, via Fusan, Dec. 14.—The Russian battleship Sevastopol, the only Russian warship that escaped destruction, being docked when the other vessels were sunk, after the Japanese captured 203-Metre hill, escaped from the dock and harbor last night, and is now anchored under a protecting mountain. Some torpedo craft are also outside the harbor.

The tremendous price in life paid by the Japanese for the capture of 203-Metre hill has been redeemed by this utter destruction of the Russian fleet.

The Japanese fleet will now go into dock.

WANT TO INCREASE MAJORITY

Republicans Will Contest Seat of Democrat From Broadwater Co.

Townsend, Dec. 14.—A contest has been entered by Louis Rotwitt, republican candidate for representative, against B. F. Bembrick, Bembrick was declared elected by the board of canvassers, by eight votes. The contest is a flimsy one. Rotwitt alleges that at Canton, where he received 13 votes and Bembrick 39, the election booth was not properly constructed. Another allegation is that the judges in making the returns from one precinct failed to certify them on the poll book. The contest has been set for hearing December 29 before Justices C. P. Abbot and W. E. Fisher.

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WYNNE FILES ANNUAL REPORT

Big Figures Required to Tell of the Business of the Postoffice Department.

MILLIONS OF MILES COVERED

Much Traveling Required for the Distribution of the Mails—Deficit in the Department.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The annual report of Postmaster General R. J. Wynne shows that the business of this department of the government has grown to tremendous proportions. Regardless of the great expense of the service Mr. Wynne says that postal revenues have increased. At home and abroad postal facilities have been extended.

"Economy and strict accountability have been enforced in all branches of the service," says the report. "While the so-called deficit of \$8,779,492—that is to say, the excess of expenditures over receipts—is greater by \$4,219,447 than for the fiscal year 1903, it must be borne in mind that the expenditure authorized for the extension and maintenance of the rural free delivery service during the past fiscal year was \$4,902,237 greater than the preceding year."

The total receipts for the year were \$143,582,624.34 and the expenditures were \$152,107,537.30.

DOMESTIC MAIL ROUTES.

In reference to domestic routes of all classes the report says:

"On June 30, 1904, the total number of domestic routes of all classes was 31,513, their length 496,818 miles, and the annual travel 595,585,526 miles. Compared with the preceding year, this was a decrease in length of routes of 9,459 miles, but an increase in annual travel of 12,392,166 miles. The annual rate of expenditure for such service at the end of the last fiscal year was \$65,531,429.61, an increase of \$4,336,887.29.

"At the close of the last fiscal year there were 68,753 star routes, the length of which was 233,392 miles, the annual travel 119,181,464 miles, and the cost \$6,834,023.26."

"On June 30, 1904, there were 3,008 railroad routes, the total length of which was 196,907 miles, with an annual travel of 353,038,397 miles, costing \$39,177,376.52 per annum," continues the report. "The increase in length of routes was 4,055 miles, in annual travel 19,546,713 miles, and in annual expenditure \$2,569,852.72.

"Last year the mails were weighed on all of the railroad lines in the second contract section, embracing eight Southern States and the island of Porto Rico, and the result of the regular quadrennial readjustment of pay for railroad transportation in those states for four years beginning July 1, last, based on such weighing, was an increase in annual cost of \$50,284.36, or 12.32 per cent, which represents an average increase of about 3 per cent a year for the four years intervening between this and the previous weighing. The increase in the volume of mail matter carried by railroad companies is indicated by the increase in postal revenue. The average increase in postal revenue for the four fiscal years ended with 1901 was 25 per cent, and for the next following four years (the remainder of 1905 being estimated) 40 per cent, whereas the average increase in the cost of railroad transportation and of railway postoffice combined in the first named period was 19 per cent and in the next following period 17 per cent."

Postmaster General Wynne makes the following recommendations.

"That proper legislation be enacted to acquire the title of block No. 324 in the city of Washington, for the purpose of erecting an annex to the postoffice department building.

"An amendment to existing laws so as to provide for the termination of official bonds of postoffice officials.

"That third and fourth class mail matter be consolidated at the rate of postage now paid on third class mail matter—1 cent for each 2 ounces.

"That consideration be given to the recommendation that congress fix a rate of 3 cents per pound, or any fractional part thereof, on packages not exceeding 5 pounds mailed at the distributing postoffice of any rural free delivery route for delivery to a patron on said route. This to apply only to packages deposited at the local postoffice for delivery to patrons on routes emanating from that office, and not to mail transmitted from one office to another.

"That the interstate commerce law be amended to prohibit telegraph and express companies, or any of their employees, from aiding and abetting in

the green goods or lottery swindles or any other scheme carried on partly by mail and partly by common carrier, in violation of the postal laws.

"That the office of the assistant attorney general for the postoffice department be made presidential, and the salary attached thereto increased to \$5,000 per annum.

"That the appropriation of \$5,000, provided for the publication of the opinions of the assistant attorney general for the postoffice department be increased to \$15,000.

GAME WARDEN'S REPORT.

Thirty-One Arrests During the Past Six Months.

Helena, Dec. 13.—State Game Warden Scott has transmitted to Governor Toole his report for the six months ending November 30, this showing that during the period mentioned 31 arrests have been made by the game warden and his deputies. Of these arrests five were for killing ducks out of season, five for seining; three each for killing sage hens, prairie chickens, antelope and beaver out of season; one each for killing elk, deer and grouse; one for selling grayling; one for selling venison, one for dynamiting fish, one for hunting without license, one for offering game for sale, and one for dumping sawdust in streams.

These complaints were instituted in the courts of the following counties: Deer Lodge 6, Beaverhead 5, Granite, Gallatin, Meagher, Fergus, Ravalli, Valley, Silver Bow and Park, 2 each; Flathead, Madison, Missoula and Choteau, 1 each.

Out of these cases there were 23 convictions, two acquittals, five dismissals and one defendant "jumped bail."

The receipts of the office during the term mentioned were \$1,787.

In the past six months 107 shipping permits have been granted for the shipping of parts of game out of the state by residents.

KENDALL NEWS.

Frank Tallock, the deputy sheriff of Lewistown made a couple of trips to Kendall last week.

W. S. Smith, the Lewistown pianoman, was in Kendall Thursday.

J. E. Wasson came over from Gilt Edge on Saturday.

N. J. Littlejohn and W. M. McLean were Kendall visitors last week.

J. H. McCormick registered at the Shaules Thursday.

John L. Bright of Lewistown, accompanied by his brother, C. E. Bright were in Kendall Wednesday.

R. A. Dawson of Helena who represents the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, Pa., was in Kendall on early last week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Stough of Stanford were Kendall visitors last Tuesday.

Messrs. Sutter, Lehman and Wilson were among the Lewistown business men who were looking after interests in Kendall pay day.

N. J. Brittain of Kismet was in town Wednesday.

Victor Langdoe, the Malden merchant came to Kendall on business, pay day.

Dr. A. R. Robertson of Boulder, Montana, is practicing dentistry in Kendall and will be here for several days.

Messrs. Paul Smith and Algernon Redford left Wednesday for the brakes of the bad lands, where they will spend a couple of weeks hunting deer.

The "Singing School" under the direction of Mrs. John Jackson, Jr., and Miss King, met on Friday night. There were about twenty persons.

A social hop was given Friday night in honor of the Misses Myersick and Newell of Lewistown. Dr. Gaylord McCoy and William Shaules had charge of the affair, and every one had a most enjoyable time.

Messrs. McDonald and King professors at the Butte School of Mines arrived in Kendall Thursday, bringing with them the young men who will graduate from that institution next June. The class is composed of Paul D. Pratt, O. F. Brinton, Louis Mackel, George Archibald, Jay Van Gundy, J. M. Dutcher, Basil Elford, L. C. Stevenson and C. R. Corey. The class is now making trips to the larger mines of the state, in order to gain all the practical knowledge and experience, possible, before graduation.

Notice of Dissolution of Partnership.

M. L. Woodman and J. H. Charters, doing business under the firm name of Woodman & Charters, have dissolved partnership, the dissolution dating from Dec. 1, 1904. All bills due said firm are payable at the First National Bank.

M. L. WOODMAN,
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