

FURIOUS FIRE SWEEPS OVER PRAIRIE

Raging Flames, Fanned By Howling Gale, Devastates Seventy-five Thousand Acres in Oklahoma.

Loss of Life Is Reported From Rural Districts, But This Can Not Be Confirmed.

LAWTON CITY JUST ESCAPES

Total Damage Estimated to Be \$200,000—Farm Property Suffers the Most, Houses Being Consumed.

Oklahoma City, O. T., March 2.—Driven by a terrific gale, which at times reached a velocity of 90 miles an hour a prairie fire swept 75,000 acres in Comanche county last night, inflicting damage now estimated at \$200,000. The city of Lawton was saved only by extreme efforts. Many farm houses were consumed.

Kiowa county was also visited by a prairie fire during the storm and damage is reported from all over the southwest. Losses from wind and fire are reported as follows:

Hobart \$4,000; Vinton \$8,000; Lawton \$5,000; small country town aggregate \$50,000; farm property \$100,000. Persistent reports of loss of life come from rural districts but owing to the difficulties of communication have not been confirmed.

FIRE CAUSES SUFFERING.

Late Dispatch From Scene Notes Loss of Life and Property.

Lawton, Okla., March 3.—The prairie fires that swept over large portions of Kiowa and Comanche counties yesterday afternoon and last night destroyed hundreds of farm buildings and much live stock, made 4000 persons homeless, caused death to several persons, threatened a number of towns and swept away scores of buildings in the outskirts of the towns. Two deaths have been verified, three are injured fatally and many others more or less seriously. The county is very dry, no rain having fallen for months. Grass and stubble fires, set by farmers as is customary at this season of the year, were driven beyond control by

a violent gale which rose suddenly. All estimates of the loss exceed \$200,000, 75,000 acres of government and military land, timber and the Indian reserve near Hobart, were swept away with loss of buildings and cattle. In the homestead district near Lawton occurred the loss of life noted above. Late at night the fire began moving southward toward this city. At 12 o'clock 5000 people of the city were up to battle with the flames. The advance line of the fire was fully two miles in length and moving in a semi-circle. As a result of the cool judgment of the fighters, the city's loss was only \$10,000.

Hundreds of people are destitute and are suffering intensely from cold and with excruciating pains occasioned by burns. Clothes, medicine and physicians are being sent out from all cities and towns of the district to relieve the suffering.

TOLEDO BOTTLED UP.

Water Seven Feet Deep in Heart of the City.

Toledo, O., March 3.—Toledo tonight is bottled up between two great ice gorges. The water in the Naumee river, in the heart of the city, is seven feet above the main level and is stationary. At the mouth of the river there is an ice gorge, which it is believed extends for six miles and is backed up by ice three feet thick on Lake Erie. This is holding the water back in the city. There is yet a greater volume of water above the city which is being held by a series of gorges. One is at Cottonwood island and another is at Grand Rapids. The latter extends in both directions from that place as far as the eye can see. The water there is 26 feet above normal and the entire town is inundated.

STANDARD HAS COMPETITOR.

National Oil & Transportation Company Means Business.

Monterey, March 3.—The National Oil & Transportation Company, which is preparing to build an oil pipe line from Coalinga to the tidewater, asked the Monterey city council last night for permission to lay its lines through the city streets and to operate them there for the next 50 years. This means an opposition to the Standard Oil Company's lines to Port Richmond.

The new pipe line will enter the county by way of Priest valley and run past the sugar factory at Spreckels. It was to have terminated at Moss Landing, 15 miles from here, on the opposite side of the bay. All arrangements had been made for locating the terminus line at Monterey. The company several weeks ago obtained from the county supervisors the right of way for its line along the county roads.

PRESIDENT SMITH BRAZENLY ASSERTS HIS PERFDY AND SINS OF CHURCH

Takes Chance at Law Rather Than Desert Families--Springs Sensation at Smoot Hearing.

Head of Mormonism is Chief Witness at Second Day of Committee's Investigation Into the Eligibility of the Utah Senator--Protestants Believe That Confession of Head of the Church Will Aid In Making for Them a Strong Case.

Washington, March 3.—In the Smoot case today attorneys for the protestants in the investigation said that they intended to prove that the defendant is associated with the organization which practices polygamy and connives at violations of the law, and that his very vote as senator of the United States is subject to the command of the Mormon church. President Joseph F. Smith confessed that he himself had continued to cohabit with a plural family since the manifesto of 1890, and that he realized fully that he was violating state laws. President Smith also testified that Reed Smoot tried to get the consent of his associate apostles in the church before he could become a candidate for senator. The confession of President Smith was the sensation of the proceedings today before the senate committee on privileges and elections.

Mr. Smith said that the manifesto of 1890 had left him and others with plural families in the unfortunate position of being compelled to defy the law and to desert their families. For himself he had preferred to "take chances with the law" rather than disgrace himself and degrade his family by abandoning wives and children they had born him, and admitted that he had children by all his five wives since the manifesto.

CLEVELAND ENTERS DENIAL.

Ex-President Writes That Negro Never Dined With Him.

Washington, March 3.—In the house today a letter was read from Grover Cleveland to Representative Webb, of North Carolina, denying that C. H. J. Taylor, a negro, dined with him at the White House while he was president, as charged by Representative Scott, of Kansas, a few days ago. Scott promptly offered an apology to the former president, saying he never before heard the statement, which he had made, denied. A discussion of the race question followed, during which Williams, the minority leader, criticized President Roosevelt for having invited Booker T. Washington to sit at his table.

The house passed the District of Columbia appropriation bill and took up the Indian appropriation bill.

Following is the text of Mr. Cleveland's letter:

"Princeton, N. J., March 1, 1904.—Hon. E. W. Webb, House of Representatives—Dear Sir: It is a matter of small concern to me that a Mr. Scott has seen fit to use my name in a display of his evil propensities on the floor of the house of representatives.

"In answer to your inquiry, however, I have to say of this statement that the colored man, C. H. J. Taylor, took lunch with me at the White House, that it is a deliberate falsification out of the whole cloth.

"As far as Mr. Taylor is concerned, I understand, prior to his appointment as register of deeds at Washington that he had served as an assistant in the office of the city attorney of Kansas City. His nomination as register was confirmed by the senate, and he served in that place with intelligence and with efficiency. He has since died. Some people restrain themselves from abusing the dead.

"My inquiries concerning Mr. Taylor before his appointment, my observation of him during his incumbency and the little I have known of him since convince me that his character is very unjustly attacked in the diatribe of Mr. Scott. One charge is made against Mr. Taylor by Mr. Scott which he doubly clinches with truth when he declares, 'He was a black negro.' I am led, however, to doubt his familiar-

ity with his subject when he adds, 'As black as you ever saw.' Yours very truly,

"GROVER CLEVELAND."

WHO CHAINED HARRY MAKI?

Miners' Union Investigating Outrage to Fellow Striker.

Denver, Colo., March 3.—Governor Peabody said today that although Telluride is still under martial law, the military authorities were not responsible for the pillorying of Harry Maki, the striking union miner who was kept chained to a telegraph pole for an hour and a half because he refused to work in the chain gang after having been convicted of vagrancy.

Willard Runnells, the deputy sheriff, is said to have chained Maki to the pole. The Miners' Union has instituted an investigation.

Attache for Jap Army.

San Francisco, March 3.—Captain P. C. March, of the general staff of one of the United States military attaches to the Japanese army, has arrived from Washington. The other attaches who will accompany the Mikado's troops are Colonel Enoch H. Crowder, judge-advocate of the United States army and member of the general staff; Captain John F. Morrison, Twentieth infantry, now stationed at Manila, and Captain Joseph E. Kuhn, engineer corps, also stationed at Manila. These appointments were made by General Adna R. Chaffee, Colonel Crowder and Captain March will sail for Tokio on the next steamer leaving for the orient.

Russians Place Mine.

New York, March 3.—Russians say they intend to place mines at the mouth of the river at New Chwang and use the Sivouch, a floating fort, but there are no indications, according to a Herald dispatch from Tien Tsin, that they mean to defend New Chwang.

Anti-Russian proclamations in Chinese, posted in New Chwang, have been torn down by Russian soldiers.

Japanese Make Landing.

St. Petersburg, March 3.—The landing of 2500 Japanese at Song Chin, Plakskin bay, Corea, February 19, is reported by Major-General Pfug. It is believed here to be the origin of the recent reports of Japanese landing at Possiet bay, and is considered to be an attempt to outflank the Russian advance from Yalu river.

Pronounce Treaty Fake.

St. Petersburg, March 3.—The government takes the view that the Japanese-Corean treaty is a direct contradiction to the Anglo-Japanese convention, the Russo-French declaration and all preceding international agreements proclaiming Corea's independence, and that it cannot have legal force.

In State of Siege.

New York, March 3.—Port Arthur, Vladivostock and the region traversed by the East Chinese railroad and the Blagovestchensk and Trans-Baikal and Amur territories have, cables the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Herald been formally declared in a state of siege.

Mob Throws Bombs.

Tokio, March 4.—An intrigue on the part of the opposition at Seoul against the conclusion of the Japanese-Corean protocol culminated in the throwing of bombs at the residences of the foreign minister and his secretary Thursday morning. They escaped uninjured.

Equips Field Hospital.

Vita, Russia, March 3.—General

Count Verontzoff-Dashkoff, former minister of foreign affairs, is personally equipping a field hospital, to cost \$60,000.

Martial Law at Seoul.

Tokio, March 3.—General Inouye, the Japanese commander at Seoul, with the consent of the Corean government, has issued an order corresponding to a proclamation of martial law.

Survey Party at Lynden.

Bellingham, March 3.—The presence of the Great Northern survey crew in the vicinity of Lynden leads to the belief that a road is contemplated entering Vancouver, B. C., by the new route to connect with the Great Northern and Kootenai coast line.

CRAZY MAN USES GUN.

Forces His Way Into War Department and Causes Panic.

Washington, March 3.—Armed with a revolver, William J. O'Brien, alias William Duffy, an insane discharged soldier, today entered the war department and going to the mail and record division shot Robert J. Manning, a messenger, and Arthur Wieker, a clerk, and another bullet narrowly missed Miss Emma Sexton, another clerk. The injury to Manning is on the right side and is regarded as dangerous. Wieker was shot in the arm. Before the maniac could fire again he was overpowered by James J. Dawson, a messenger.

It required the combined strength of half a dozen men to finally subdue the man. Prominent among them was Lieutenant General Adna R. Chaffee, chief of staff. The lunatic still held the smoking weapon in his hand when General Chaffee noticed it and with his left hand took the weapon from him and also some papers in his pockets. Majors Kearn and Ireland, of the surgeon-general's staff, were hastily summoned and gave first aid to the injured men before they were taken to the emergency hospital.

O'Brien, or Duffy, came to the war department early and hung around the building for more than an hour. He was escorted to the record division by Charles Brandt, the chief of the division, and expressed dissatisfaction with his discharge papers. Then, without a word of warning, he drew a pistol from his pocket and aimed it directly at Mr. Brandt's head. Brandt ducked and the bullet entered the arm of Mr. Wieker. He then turned the weapon on Miss Saxton and fired. She, too, dodged and the bullet struck Manning. There were five other clerks in the room at the time and but for the quickness of Messenger Dawson the maniac undoubtedly would have shot them all. Dawson, however, grabbed him and held him until assistance came.

JAPS' PROWESS IS TO BE FAR REACHING

Next Step After Present War With Russia Will Be the Conquest of the Philippine Islands, Says Money.

High Authority Quoted to Effect That Russia Will Surely Be Overcome.

DEMOCRATS CRITICISE POLICY

Naval Bill in United States Senate Introduces Wide Range of Subjects That Senators Volubly Discuss.

Washington, March 3.—For four hours today the senate, while technically engaged on the appropriation bill, discussed a wide range of subjects including the policy of the United States in the Philippines and the Russo-Japanese war. The principal participants were Messrs. Hale, Bacon, Lodge, Dewey, Patterson, Perkins and Money. Mr. Hale, in charge of the naval bill, criticized the plans of the naval board contending that the establishment was beyond the needs of the country.

Lodge, Dewey and Perkins defended the naval officers. Lodge declared a large navy to be essential to the maintenance of peace. Money said he did not consider the total appropriation of \$96,000,000 carried by the bill as excessive under the present policy in the orient. He, however, criticized that policy, as did other democratic speakers. Money spoke of the prowess of the Japanese and quoted a high authority as predicting that in a few months the Russian fleet would be over come. Then would soon follow Japanese victories on land. They would secure Corea and probably a part of Manchuria. Next they would go to the Philippines.

At the suggestion of Mr. Hale, an appropriation of \$400,000 for the restoration of the frigate Constitution was inserted.

Prairie Fire Sweeps Town.

Hill City, Kan., March 3.—A prairie fire swept across this city, the damage done amounting to \$40,000. A large number of people narrowly escaped being burned to death.

FINE CLOTHING



We are selling superior grade hand tailored clothing in latest styles and materials at prices any man can afford.

Hart Schaffner & Marx Hand Tailored

Copyright 1903 by Hart Schaffner & Marx

P. A. STOKES

The Bee Hive

We have just opened up an immense stock of New Spring Goods

Consisting of Shoes, Dress Goods, Underwear, Muslins, Sheetings, Table Linen, Percales, Corsets, Shirt Waists, Skirts, Ladies' Suits, and in fact all kinds of new spring goods, and

You can buy them cheaper at The Bee Hive

P. S.—We intend to maintain the high standard already established by this house for Fine Millinery, and have engaged the services of Madame Dillard, of New York, who will have charge of this department.

Carter's Inks, etc.

The show window tells the tale. Come and see. Then its up to you.

J. N. GRIFFIN