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## UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT BATTLE RAGES

### Hostile Fleets May Have Met in China Sea, But it is Doubtful

### Admiral Dewey Says Naval Battle Will Settle the War in the Far East.

Amsterdam, April 12.—The Blandesblad has a telegram from Batavia, which says that a fight is in progress between the Japanese and Russian vessels near Anambas islands. There is no confirmation of the reported fight. Five Dutch war vessels are reported watching the fighting. The Anambas islands are located on the southern part of the China sea, two hundred miles northeast of Singapore. A portion, at least, of the Russian fleet was reported yesterday still at anchor in the vicinity of Putomanki, one of the Anambas group. If Togo's entire fleet has attacked the Russians it will probably be the greatest naval battle of modern times. There is a belief among naval experts, however, that the attack may be one by destroyers on stragglers from the Russian fleet. If the attack is general it is believed the battle will be decisive.

#### ST. PETERSBURG DISCREDITS.

St. Petersburg, April 12.—The admiralty has no information in regard to the alleged naval battle in progress off the Anambas as reported to an Amsterdam newspaper from Batavia. It does not credit the possibility of a general naval battle yet. Officials concede that the Japanese may have attempted a torpedo boat attack on convoy during the night.

#### LONDON DISBELIEVES IT.

London, April 12.—No information has been received here of a naval battle off Anambas. As there is no cable connection with these islands it is difficult to understand how Batavia got the news before Singapore.

#### WHAT A CHANCE THE RUSSIAN ADMIRAL HAS!

Washington, D. C., April 12.—Admiral Dewey said today that in his opinion the victory in the Russo-Japanese war now depends upon the result of the battle between the fleets of Rojstvensky and Togo. "If Togo is beaten," he said, "all the money and lives spent by his country in Manchuria go for nothing. The Russians in command of the sea, would cut off communication between Japan and the main land, and the Japanese army in Manchuria would be powerless." Admiral Dewey advocates forty-eight new battleships for the United States.

#### To Cut Off Vladivostok.

Gunshu Pass, Manchuria, April 12.—Chinese state with great positiveness that General Kawamura's army, supported by Nogi's army, is moving northeasterly, aiming to cut Russian communications with Vladivostok. According to the same sources, 30,000 Japanese landed at Dalny March 28, and it is reported six additional divisions are forming in Japan to operate against Vladivostok and Sakharin. Manchurian Chinese have adopted an attitude of positive hostility to Russians. A body of 500 native horsemen fired on Russian troops at the village of Chendi and Manchurian militia is said to be taking the field on the side of the Japanese on Hun river. Japanese now occupying the line of Sytzyatji, Changtufu and Katpangonu, and the impression prevails here south has halted for the present at that line. There were a number of skirmishes last week between Russians and

Japanese scouting parties, but no action of serious consequences. Japanese are building depots at Simintin and Fakoman, and are said to be surveying a road from Fakoman southward and bringing the Liao river to Kaupinsan and Szintyatun, where their commissariat is also located.

#### May Have Slipped By.

London, April 12.—The mystery of Vice-Admiral Rojstvensky's whereabouts is still unsolved and speculation is of the keenest. The favorite hypothesis of the newspapers this morning is that his six battleships slipped past Singapore some night with lights out. The Daily Telegraph's Singapore correspondent, cabling under date of April 11, says: "All reports to the contrary notwithstanding, only one battleship, the Sissoi Veliky, passed here Saturday. No ships of the Tzarevitch type were with the squadron."

#### Waiting For Reinforcements.

London, April 12.—A dispatch from Jibuti, on the Gulf of Aden, to the Daily Mail says: "Vice-Admiral Nebogatoff's squadron, has been seen cruising near Socotra. It is reported to be awaiting reinforcements from the Black sea."

#### Japs Watching for Russians.

Saigon, April 12.—The French cruiser Descartes and five torpedo boats, are keeping watch near Cape St. Jacques. Japanese warships are cruising along the coast of Cochinchina, to prevent the Russians from provisioning and securing coal.

#### The Russian Fleet.

London, April 12.—A dispatch from Singapore to Lloyds, states that the Russian fleet which passed here Saturday consisted of seven battleships, two armored cruisers and five unarmored cruisers, three converted cruisers and seven destroyers, seventeen steamers, one hospital ship, and one tug.

## Uncle Sam's Department of Justice to Prosecute Peonage Cases.

Washington, D. C., April 12.—The department of justice has set its face squarely toward the vigorous prosecution of peonage cases in the south, a number of which now are pending in the courts. Discussing the peonage cases today, a prominent official of the department of justice said that "another and more dangerous result to be feared as a consequence of the practice of this system than the individual harm which may be suffered by those who are held to such service, and that is its effect on free labor. Experience has shown that free labor is at a discount when confronted with any form of a slave system. That free labor cannot compete with the peonage system any more than it can

with the Chinese coolie system is not open to dispute." The decision of the United States supreme court in the case against Clyatt & Titt, turpentine distillers of Georgia, was cited as removing the greatest obstacle in the way of convictions. Continuing, he said: "The importance of this decision is more clearly understood when we take into consideration the cases now pending in the southern courts. The highest court of the land having declared that the laws against holding persons in a condition of peonage or involuntary servitude are constitutional and valid, and operate directly upon individuals, it is not difficult to perceive that the greatest obstacle heretofore in the way of convictions is now removed."

## CAPITALISTS BUY BOAT FOR THE MINES

### Jessie B., to be Used to Tow Barges of Ore.

Fairview Mines Are Doing Well and Illinois Central is Building Small Line to Them.

#### COMPANY NOW HAS TWO BOATS.

Messrs. John Mulholland, of New York, J. L. Murphy, of Atlanta, Ga., P. L. McBride, of Kansas City, and J. M. Jackson, of Fairview, Ill., are at the Palmer House today, having come to Paducah to purchase a boat. Before noon Mr. Mulholland had closed a deal with Capt. A. V. Pickler for the towboat Jessie B., and she will be taken at once to Fairview, Illinois, to run between Fairview and Golconda, Ill., for the Fairview Transportation company. The consideration was private. The Jessie B. has been doing harbor work about here for some time past. The little boat is to be used in towing barges between a point on the Ohio river near Fairview and Golconda. The Illinois Central is now preparing to build a line from Fairview mines down to the river, a distance of about a mile. The cars of ore after being taken from the mine will be loaded onto cars, taken to the river's edge over the new line being built, and there loaded onto a large barge the company owns. This barge will then be towed to Golconda, a distance of ten or a dozen miles, and there unloaded on the Illinois Central incline and be ready for transportation over the company's lines. The towing of these cars from the mine to Golconda is what the Jessie B. is for. The company already owns one small boat, the Ruth.

The Fairview mines are getting to be quite large and important. They are owned principally by Mr. Mulholland, who will be remembered in Paducah as the man who put up the first money that established the Seacoast Mineral company here. He and L. C. Garrett had a misunderstanding and the affairs of the concern were taken into the courts. Mr. Mulholland finally forced the other crowd to buy him out. Mr. Murphy, the man who is with him, is the engineer who is building the I. C. branch from the mine to the river and Mr. Jackson is the superintendent of the mines at Fairview. They will probably leave some time today with their boat.

#### 13,000 KILLED.

Disaster in India More Serious Than at First Reported.

Lahore, India, April 12.—Commissioner Jullundur reports that as a result of his investigations he estimates the fatalities resulting from the recent earthquake in the Kangra district at 10,000, and in the Palampur district at 3,000. The total number of persons killed at Dharmasala was 424, besides the Gurkhas, who were crushed to death by the falling of the stone barracks.

#### AGED MAN

Struck By a Train Near Bardwell and Killed.

Bardwell, Ky., April 12.—G. W. Crawford, aged about 60 years, was run over and killed here by the 7:35 south bound passenger. He had been out west of town and on returning had to wait for a north bound freight to pull off the crossing, near the depot, and while waiting stepped into the west track and was struck by the south bound passenger. His body was badly mutilated.

#### DIED ON DUTY.

Sheriff in Mississippi Killed While Grappling With Mob.

Senatobia, Miss., April 12.—A mob of masked men entered the jail here early today to release a prisoner. In an encounter with Sheriff Poag, he shot that officer dead.

#### No News From Camp.

Fort Worth, Tex., April 12.—The president's train will leave Frederick at 10 o'clock tomorrow. No news has come from the hunting camp today.

#### GOOD OLD BAPTISTS.

Don't Spurn John D. Rockefeller's Lucre.

New York, April 12.—Dr. H. L. Moorehouse, corresponding secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society in this city, made the following announcement: "Mr. John D. Rockefeller has just given \$100,000 to the American Baptist Home Mission Society of this city, which makes a total of more than \$1,000,000 that society has received from him during the last 20 years." Mr. Moorehouse said that this gift was separate from the two gifts by Mr. Rockefeller to the American Baptist Missionary Union recently announced in Boston.

#### CARTER'S COUP.

He Will Get Credit For City Ownership.

Chicago, April 12.—Ex-Mayor Harrison executed his last traction coup just before leaving office by appointing Bion J. Arnold, the civil engineer to construct the new Chicago passenger railway lines which are to be owned by the city. This appointment will prevent Judge Dunne from carrying out his own plans with his own appointments and ex-Mayor Harrison expects to secure the honor of having started the first municipal railway line in Chicago.

#### DRY SUNDAY.

St. Louis is Experiencing Her Own Troubles From Blue Laws.

St. Louis, April 12.—Announcement is made by President Stewart of the board of police commissioners that the Sunday closing law, commonly termed the "blue law," would be enforced in St. Louis and that its enforcement is expected to begin next Sunday. Judge Marshall of the supreme court decided that Sunday baseball is a recreation and not prohibited.

#### FINED \$250.

Attorney Adjudged Guilty of Contempt in Cincinnati Court.

Cincinnati, April 12.—Attorney Thomas F. Shay was found guilty of contempt of court, and fined \$250 in the United States district court. The case grew out of the grand jury investigation of a shortage in a local bank, one of whose clerks had confessed to speculation. Shay was the clerk's attorney and refused to produce certain books.

#### ALL OFF NOW.

The Teamsters' Strike Will Not Be Arbitrated.

Chicago, April 12.—Negotiations for a settlement of the teamsters' strike were declared off at noon after a failure of the employes and labor leaders to come to an agreement. The employers refused to grant arbitration.

#### Sergius' Slayer.

Moscow, April 12.—A report is in circulation here that the assassination of Grand Duke Sergius was planned by several prominent persons in the palace. It is stated the government does not intend to place the actual assassin of Sergius on trial for fear there might be a public revelation of the whole plot.

#### May Be Land Battle.

London, April 12.—Reports from the armies in Manchuria have given rise to the fear that the Russian right wing is seriously threatened by the enemy. The disappearance of the Japanese which, is reported, is looked upon with the greatest suspicion and it is said important developments are pending.

## TODAY'S MARKETS

Wheat—	Open.	Close.
May	1.15 1/4	1.15 1/2
July	87 3/4	87 3/4
Corn—		
May	48 3/4	48 3/4
July	48 3/4	48 3/4
Oats—		
May	30 3/4	30 3/4
July	29 3/4	30
Pork—		
July	13.10	13.10
Cotton—		
May	7.61	7.56
July	7.56	7.51
Aug	7.60	7.53
Oct.	7.71	7.66
Stocks—		
I. C.	1.68	1.67 1/2
L. & N.	1.42	1.42

## THIRD STREET WORK CANNOT BE DONE

### Street Car Company Will File an Injunction Suit.

A Construction of the Franchise to Be Secured in All the Courts—Third Street to Wait.

#### ACTION OF COUNCIL TO BLAME.

The thousands of people who have been anticipating with pleasure the reconstruction of South Third street from Kentucky avenue to Broad street will be disappointed to learn that the improvement is to be indefinitely delayed. The people must still and wait while the city and street car company are contending in the various courts through the vicissitudes of demurrers, rejoinders, sur-rejoinders, affidavits for continuances, trials, motions for new trials, the possible granting of new trials, appeals and possible reversals, the case possibly at last only to be sent back to go through the same things again. The fact that Third street will not be paved at present was determined by a meeting of the officers and directors of the Paducah City Railway company this morning to take action in regard to the general council's instructions to the city engineer to prepare plans for the reconstruction of the street leaving out any provision whatever for car tracks. The street car company, according to its officials, expects to pay for whatever their franchise requires them to pay for, but they propose to have the street beneath and between their tracks just as it has been on other streets that have been paved, no matter whether the company has to pay for it or the city. The intention of the city to prepare plans for the construction of the street leaving out the car track would cause incalculable injury to the car line, and if it is simply a bluff to force the company into paying something that it does not believe the law requires it to pay, the bluff will be called.

The street car company will file an injunction suit as soon as possible and prevent any work being done under the present plans of the city. There is plenty of time to file it, as it will take several days for City Engineer Washington to alter the plans so as to leave out the street car tracks and then two or three weeks to advertise for bids and let the contract. In the meantime the street car company will have its attorney prepare a suit which will prevent any work on Third street until the franchise of the company has been construed by all the courts up to the highest. After that the city and the company will have no cause to disagree over such matters. General Manager George C. Wallace this morning, after the meeting of directors, authorized the following statement:

"Heretofore we agreed with the board of public works, on which occasion the mayor was present, to submit our differences relating to the improvement of Third street, to the circuit court for a decision in a friendly suit, but the general council has refused to abide by this agreement, and has therefore left but one course open to us, and we will adopt it, namely: the filing of a suit in the circuit court to ascertain our rights under our franchise. "We think it wise for us as well as the city to have a full construction as to what our rights are under this franchise in view of the extensive improvements contemplated, and we do this, not only to ascertain our rights under the present construction of Third street, but also any new improvements which may be made on the streets over which our lines operate under this franchise."

#### THE RED MEN

Now Have a New Great Inchoonee, John W. Cherry.

Chicago, April 12.—At a great chief's council of the Improved Order of Red Men, John W. Cherry, of Norfolk, Va., was chosen Great Inchoonee, to succeed the late Thomas H. Watts, of Montgomery, Ala. Other officers chosen are: W. A. S. Baird, Topeka, Kan., Great Senior Sagamore. Joseph Farrar, Philadelphia, Pa., Great Junior Sagamore.

#### CONFESSED MURDER

For Which Another Man Had Been Hung.

Springfield, Ark., April 12.—It was reported here Sunday that Marcus Meadem, on his deathbed, confessed to have killed Dr. Chamless at Center Ridge a few years ago, for which Alexander Brinkley was hanged at Morrilton. Meadem lived in Perry county. He was Chamless' brother-in-law and Chamless, he stated was accustomed to whipping his wife Meadem's sister, and he told Chamless if he repeated the act he would kill him. The act was repeated and Meadem took Chamless' own gun and shot his brains out while he slept on a cot on the porch.

#### GATLIN CASE.

Noted Insurance Suit Reversed By Appellate Court.

Frankfort, Ky., April 12.—The court of appeals reversed the judgment of the Calloway circuit court in the case of the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society of New York against S. H. Deen and others, and remanded it for a new trial. The action is on a policy of insurance for \$10,000 on the life of W. P. Gatlin, of Murray. He changed the beneficiary's name in his will. The reversal is on instructions of the court regarding the questions put in the application for the policy.

#### OUT THIRTY MINUTES.

And Man Was Acquitted at Jackson, Tenn., for Murder.

Jackson, Tenn., April 12.—The jury after being out thirty minutes, returned a verdict of acquittal for Chester B. Mason, an M. and O. brakeman, who was charged with killing William Yarbrough, of Bethel Springs, Tenn., a strikebreaker, during the M. and O. strike in May 1903. Widespread interest was felt in the outcome of this case, particularly among the railroad men. Yarbrough was the only man killed during the strike, though there were several encounters of a very serious nature.

#### NEW LEADER

For the Noted Theodore Thomas Orchestra.

Chicago, April 12.—Frederick A. Stock, was appointed director of the Chicago orchestra to succeed Theodore Thomas, founder of the organization who died several months ago. Stock was assistant to Thomas for five years before the noted musician's death. In order to perpetuate the name of Mr. Thomas, the name of the orchestra has been changed from the Chicago orchestra to the Theodore Thomas orchestra.

## Castro Still Striding About Seeking Whom He May Devour.

Caracas, Venezuela, April 12.—"President Castro will not withdraw the New York and Bermudez Asphalt company case from the Venezuelan courts and will not resubmit Olcott case to arbitration if the whole American army and navy come to Venezuela."

This is the emphatic statement of General Alejandro Ybarra, the Venezuelan secretary of foreign affairs, and reflects the spirits of the reply which Castro made to the recent proposal of the American state department for arbitration of the Bermudez and Olcott cases.

It was generally rumored through out Venezuela that the demand of the United States was little less than ultimatum to Castro and the reply of the Venezuelan president was awaited with interest. Predictions of intervention following the refusal of Castro to yield were freely made and there was much uneasiness when it was announced that Venezuela had not only refused the demand to arbitrate the case, but had supplemented its refusal with a request that the United States declare whether it has any respect for the sovereignty and courts of Venezuela.

It is emphatically denied in Castro's reply that there are any claims pending between the United States and Venezuela. Castro and his cabinet take the ground that while the government stands for the general principle of arbitration, it will not have a case wrested from its courts to be carried before a board or arbitration.

## A HORSE SHOW TO BE HELD HERE SOON

### Commercial Club Decides to Give One June 10th.

Excursions to Be Brought in From All Directions—Basket Company to Extend Factory.

#### THE BUGGY FACTORY NEWS

The membership committee of the commercial club met and decided to have a big horse and dog show on June 10 and have railroads run big excursions into the city. The roads will be asked to run excursions from Cairo, Dyersburg, Jackson, Tenn., up the Louisville division and in fact from every branch of the road. The club will take this means of advertising the city and hope to bring thousands of people in on that day. Everything will be free and there will be plenty of music at the show. The place for holding the show has not been decided on but will probably be at the fair ground.

The Mergenthaler-Horton Basket company will enlarge its plant in Mechanicsburg and has awarded the contract to the Paducah Construction company for the erection of a new two-story building to cost about \$4,000. Fine new machinery will be installed in the building as soon as it is completed.

Mr. Tom C. Leech leaves today for Cincinnati in regard to securing a practical man for the proposed new buggy factory for Paducah. He will be absent until Saturday.

#### In Court 75 Years.

Jacksonville, Ala., April 12.—Judge Locke, of the United States district court, has confirmed the report of the special commissioner appointed to investigate the validity of the grant of 1,200,000 acres of land in West Florida, along the Apalachicola river, made by the Spanish crown to John Forbes. The case has been in the courts since 1830, when suit was instituted against the government by Theodore Dalcour for the recovery of the lands.

#### KILLED THIRTY

Bloody Work of Greek Band in Albanian Village.

Salonica, April 12.—A Greek band attacked and burned an Albanian village near Killissura Friday, killing thirty and wounding and capturing many more.

## Castro Still Striding About Seeking Whom He May Devour.

Willemstad, Island of Curacao, April 12.—The presence in Curacao of J. H. De Dous, Netherland's charge at Caracas has revived rumors of probable Dutch interference in Venezuela to force Castro to release Dutch sailors who are said to be imprisoned unjustly at Puerto Cabello and Maracaibo. Rous has been in conference with officers of the Dutch warship Kortenaar, stationed here, and it is reported that within a month Dutch warships will reach Curacao.

Repeated demands have been made by Holland for the release of the sailors, and coercive action was recommended by the charge some weeks ago. At that time it was said the Dutch government was prevented from taking any action because of possible interference of the United States.

The Venezuelan army is under constant drill, and it is reported that there is much recruiting since the delivery of the Hay note.

President Castro of Venezuela has published an edict announcing that interest on the interior debt of Venezuela for seven years has been cancelled and that scrip bearing interest at three per cent will be issued to replace 6 per cent scrip which now represents the indebtedness. Much of the Venezuelan interior debt, which amounts to about \$16,700,000 is held by Frenchmen and this edict will doubtless intensify the strained relations between France and Venezuela as a result of the action against French cable.