



WAR CLOUDS ARE GATHERING IN THE FAR EAST

Russia Notifies Japan of the Temporary Occupation of Port Arthur, and a Japanese Squadron Suddenly Leaves Nagasaki.

JAPAN'S FLEET SAILS.

YOKOHAMA, Dec. 20.—Russia has notified Japan of the temporary occupation of Port Arthur, and a large Japanese squadron has left Nagasaki.

ENGLAND TO THE FRONT.

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—The rumor is current here that the British East Asiatic squadron has been ordered to sail for Quelpaert Island, at the entrance of the Yellow Sea, presumably to occupy it.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The newspapers are still busily discussing the "partition of China."

night and visited the German embassy. It was supposed he intended to visit the Prince of Wales, but he did not.

GERMANY IS UNFRIENDLY.

But the Minister at Washington Smiles at the Weird Story About Henry's Fleet.

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—The Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, in the course of another article on the attitude of non-European powers toward Germany, especially with reference to Hayt's action, under the mistaken idea that she would be supported by America, says:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The assertions that the German fleet, under Prince Henry, will go to Samoa and Hawaii, thus creating a menacing situation for the United States, are ridiculed in all official quarters here.

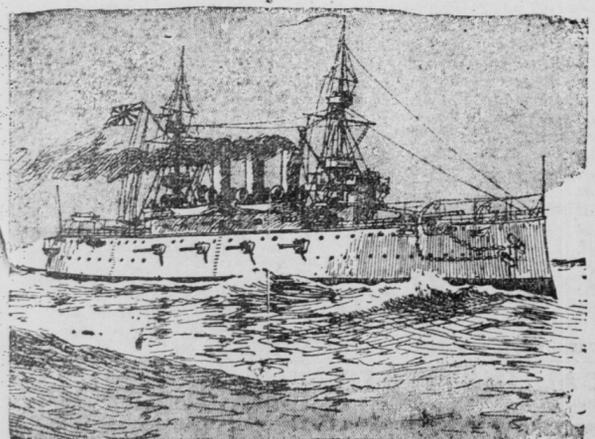
The German fleet will go to China, via the Suez canal, and its destination is Kiaoo Chau Bay. Germany, the United States and Great Britain are parties to a tri-partite Government of Samoa, and although the plan has not proved satisfactory, there has been no recent friction, and at no time a condition which would call for a naval demand.

SIGNS OF WAR IN THE ORIENT.

Russia and Japan May Be Fighting on Land and Sea Before Midsummer.

In mercantile circles of San Francisco much attention is paid to news from the Orient. The intelligence that a Russian fleet has occupied Port Arthur, following so closely on the news that Russia had obtained a firm grip on Korea, leads to the belief that active hostilities between the Mikado and the Czar cannot be long deferred.

Japanese Battle-Ship Shikishima.



NICHOLAS OF RUSSIA.

A leading merchant who keeps well advised in the affairs of the Orient remarked yesterday: "Russia and Japan will be fighting before midsummer. I do not see how the conflict can be longer delayed."

Thought the steamer will be floated, as assistance was refused from the steamer Capilano. The captain of the steamer Capilano says the Santa Cruz is lying on the sandy beach and can probably be floated if lightered.

as ships are at hand for transporting the troops. Wide-awake merchants of San Francisco perceive that there will be a great demand for supplies to maintain the fleets and armies now assembling in the Orient.

SANGUINARY CONFLICTS AT BARRACKS IN PRAGUE.

Twenty-Five Men Severely Wounded During Conflicts Between Czechs and German Soldiers.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—A dispatch from Vienna to the Daily Telegraph reports that there have been sanguinary conflicts at several barracks in Prague during the last few days between Czechs and German soldiers.

NICARAGUA CANAL COMMISSION HAS ARRIVED AT GREYTOWN.

Members on the United States Gunboat Newport Are All Well and Ready for Work.

PANAMA, Dec. 20.—The Herald's correspondent in Greytown, Nicaragua, sends word that the United States gunboat Newport has reached that port with members of the Nicaragua Canal Commission on board.

ASHORE AT BELLE COOLA.

Pacific Coast Steamship Santa Cruz Fast on the Sandy Beach.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 20.—The Pacific Coast steamer Santa Cruz, en route to Alaska, is ashore at Bella Coola. The passengers are camped, and it is

PROTESTING AGAINST THE SEALING ACT

Merchants Oppose the Bill Passed by Congress.

Great Influence Brought to Bear Upon President McKinley.

But the Chances Are That He Will Finally Approve the Measure.

RESTRICTS FUR INDUSTRY.

Efforts to Prevent the Enforcement of the Provision to Stop the Importation of Skins.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—A Washington special to the Herald says: Protests made by influential merchants against the approval of the sealing act, which passed Congress on Friday, have caused the President to hesitate in attaching his signature to the measure, but it is the general opinion to-night that he will finally approve it.

Special Seal Ambassador Foster was with the President this morning explaining the provisions of the act and their effect, and, as he prepared the measure in conjunction with the Secretary of the Treasury, he, of course, urged that it be approved.

An official of the Treasury Department told me that the department had, as yet, taken no steps looking to the preparation of regulations under which the reimportation of seal skins into the United States will be allowed.

It is not generally known, he said, but it is a fact, that every seal skin taken by the Alaskan Commercial Company on the Pribyloff Islands is given a number, and that number is retained through the various stages through which it passes to the finished material.

Each number, with a description of the skin, is kept by Collectors of Customs. The company was allowed to take 30,000 skins during last season, and in the spring the President will announce in the spring the number it will be allowed to take during the following season.

The effect of the prohibition of the importation of skins taken elsewhere will be appreciated when it is remembered that the United States is the largest seal skin market in the world and that 200,000 skins have been annually treated by London furriers.

BADEN MURDER SUSPECTS TO BE TRIED IN JANUARY.

Raymond and Winters Plead Not Guilty of the Killing of C. A. Andrews.

REDWOOD CITY, Dec. 20.—C. H. Raymond and Harry Winters, two of the men accused of the robbery at Baden and the murder of C. A. Andrews, were brought before the Superior Court this morning to plead to the charge of murder preferred against them by the District Attorney, P. B. Nagle, the attorney retained to defend Winters, made an effort to have the information against his client dismissed, but the court denied his motion and ordered the defendant to plead.

IMPETUS TO BE GIVEN RIVER IMPROVEMENTS.

Much Good Expected to Result From Today's Convention at the Capital.

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 20.—Much interest is taken in to-morrow's meeting of the river convention. While some good results have been achieved by that body in the way of procuring national aid, never before in the history of the State has there been such a movement in river affairs as was begun last winter when an appropriation of \$300,000 was made to carry out the suggestions and plans embodied in the report of Commissioner Leake to the Legislature of 1897.

While much time and money has been spent in memorializing Congress to give some attention to the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers, but little progress had been made, and the greatest encouragement ever received by the river people has come in the

enactment of the law which provides for an Auditing Board to carry out the plans of the Commissioner of Public Works and made the appropriation heretofore referred to. The meeting to-morrow promises to be by far the most effectual one ever called.

FUNERAL OF DAUDET, THE FRENCH NOVELIST.

Many Prominent Men Attend, and an Oration is Delivered at the Graveside by Zola.

PARIS, Dec. 20.—The funeral of Alphonse Daudet, who died suddenly Thursday, was largely attended to-day. Emile Zola, who was present, was hoisted, owing to his support of the efforts made by the friends of Alexander Dreyfus to bring about a reopening of his case.

Daudet's remains were followed by his sons Leon and Lucien, his brother Ernest, M. Hanotaux, Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Rambaud, Minister of Public Instruction, M. Roujon, Director of Fine Arts; deputations from the municipality, the French Institute and from the societies of authors, composers and journalists, in addition to an immense crowd of people.

POPE LEO REMAINS IN EXCELLENT HEALTH.

Bishop Emard of Valley Field Tells of His Visit to the Holy Father at Rome.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Bishop Emard of Valley Field, province of Quebec, who arrived here on La Normandie from Havre to-day, described his visit to Pope Leo.

"The Pope is in excellent health," he said. "I had an audience of an hour and ten minutes with him, and his vivacity was as great as ever. He asked questions incessantly. He seems to know everybody everywhere, and follows the events of the world with avidity."

If the Pope discussed with Bishop Emard the Manitoba school question and other questions affecting the state and church in Canada, the Bishop was careful not to reveal the fact.

LYNCHERS NOT YET INDICTED

Judge Mack Delays Grand Jury Action in the Uber Case.

Sends Word That He is Not Able to Give the Affair Immediate Attention.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

CARSON, Dec. 20.—Judge Mack did not appear in Genoa to-day to charge the Grand Jury in the Uber lynching case. He sent word that he would not be able to attend to the matter until next week. As he had ordered the Grand Jury to be drawn and ready by to-day his postponement of the consideration of the case has caused considerable comment here, and he is charged by some with a disposition to shirk his official duties. He has, however, acquired a reputation for fearlessness in the discharge of his duties in all cases, and the public is disposed to suspend judgment until his real reasons for delay are better known.

George Brown, a resident of Gardnerville, who was a few days ago charged by the News of this city with having said that its editor would get a letter with a rope at the end of it, denies ever having said anything of the kind and has engaged a lawyer with the intention of suing for slander.

The Lyon County Times, published at Dayton, says that a few days ago two Danish teamsters came to town from the valley and discussed the lynching with the air of men who had positive knowledge of it through having been present. Several persons claim to have lists of the people engaged in the lynching, but no credence is placed in these reports.

The petition calling for a reward has not yet reached the Governor, who is absent from Carson, attending the asylum investigation at Reno.

WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLEAD GUILTY OF MANSLAUGHTER.

The Evidence is Not Sufficient to Convict Mrs. Mack on the Charge of Murder.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—It is understood that District Attorney Vaux has finally decided to allow Mrs. Mack to plead guilty to manslaughter in the first degree. It is asserted that the prosecuting officer has gone over carefully the evidence against the woman, and has reached the conclusion that it would be impossible to convict her of murder in the first or second degree. Her confession made on the 17th of January, which opens at Long Island City on Monday, January 23, and is allowed to plead.

MEANNESS IN THE NAME OF WILLIAM ROCKEFELLER.

Widow Yessen Promises to Pay for the Pasture of Her Cow and Costs of the Suit.

GREENWICH, Conn., Dec. 20.—The case of William Rockefeller vs. Mrs. Mary Yessen came up before Justice Brush this morning, and as Mrs. Yessen was absent, the case was adjourned for a week. It was a suit for \$1750 brought in the millionaire's name by his agent for the pasture of a cow. Mrs. Yessen appeared later and conferred with Judge McNeil, Rockefeller's lawyer, and as a result promised to pay the amount with \$5 costs added. Mrs. Yessen will receive \$1500 from an estate in a few days, and an order for the amount of the bill, with costs, has been executed on the administrator.

SAM WALL'S PEN STIRS THE NATION

Klondike Relief Expedition Due to His Letters.

Congress Moved to Action by Accounts Published in The Call.

Supplied the Only Argument Available in Urging the Appeal.

FACTS FROM DAWSON CITY.

Lawmakers Enlightened by the Intrepid Correspondent Who Ascended the Yukon.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

TELEGRAM THAT SAVED THE DAY

"Procure a copy of the San Francisco Call of November 29 containing authentic statements from the famous correspondent, Sam W. Wall, at Dawson City. See also the stories of Thomas Magee, Jack Dalton and twenty-three others in the same issue."

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 20.—H. R. Lewis, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Klondike Relief Committee, took delight in giving the following statement to the Call correspondent this evening:

"The agitation for the relief of the starving miners on the Yukon undertaken by the Portland Chamber of Commerce and carried to a successful issue, was not only materially aided by the graphic description furnished by the Call's intrepid correspondent, Sam W. Wall, but when the relief resolution came up for action it was the only thing at hand to use in making the argument before Congress. Seeing the need of prompt action if the bill were to be pushed through before the holiday recess, the committee in charge of the work at Portland wired its representatives in Congress to introduce the resolution at once, which was done the following day.

"It was supposed that the wide publicity given to the stories brought out by Washington and were familiar to every one, so no effort had been made to supply the material necessary for a proper presentation of the case. Following the introduction of the resolution, Senator McBride wired that he had nothing to support it, and requested specific information. Immediate steps were taken to secure interviews with members of the Dalton party, but none could be located. As a last resort the following telegram was hurried to Washington:

"Procure copy of San Francisco Call of November 29, containing authentic statements from the famous correspondent, Sam W. Wall, at Dawson City. See also stories of Thomas Magee, Jack Dalton and twenty-three others in the same issue."

"The day was saved. An answering telegram conveyed to the anxious committee at Portland the profuse thanks of the then thoroughly posted Congressmen, and it is known that their information was absolutely the only munitions of war for the combat, and with which one of the great victories of legislation was won.

"(Signed) H. R. LEWIS. "Chairman Klondike Relief Committee."

RICHEST MAN ON THE YUKON.

McDonald Owns Claims That Will Yield Ten Millions in a Year.

TACOMA, Dec. 20.—"Big" Alexander McDonald is not only one of the richest men in the world, but a year from now he will probably have a greater amount of gold in his possession than any other man on this continent. His claims in the Klondike district are expected to produce \$10,000,000 during the next year. If labor becomes plentiful on the Yukon it is possible his claims will produce enough so that McDonald's share will approximate \$10,000,000. Edward Hern, who left Dawson on October 15, is here, en route to Colorado to spend the holidays. He says that forty-four claims, owned wholly or partially by McDonald, are being worked this winter. As evidence of the great wealth to be derived from these claims, Hern says that McDonald disposed of several of them on the following basis: For a fifty-foot lay he received \$10,000 bonus, and in addition, 50 per cent royalty, or exactly half of the total gross output. The net proceeds to the men working each lay will amount to from \$20,000 to \$40,000. Edward Hern, who left Dawson on October 15, is here, en route to Colorado to spend the holidays. He says that forty-four claims, owned wholly or partially by McDonald, are being worked this winter. As evidence of the great wealth to be derived from these claims, Hern says that McDonald disposed of several of them on the following basis: For a fifty-foot lay he received \$10,000 bonus, and in addition, 50 per cent royalty, or exactly half of the total gross output. The net proceeds to the men working each lay will amount to from \$20,000 to \$40,000. Hern says McDonald's wealth is