

THE WEATHER. Forecast made at San Francisco for thirty hours ending midnight, April 13: San Francisco and vicinity—Cloudy Wednesday; probably light showers; continued cool; fresh southerly winds. A. G. McADIE, District Forecaster.

THE THEATERS. Alcazar—"Aristocracy." California—"McFadden's Flats." Central—"In the Hands of the Enemy." Chutes—Vaudeville. Columbia—"Mam'selle Napoleon." Fischer's—"Kismet." Grand—"A Doll's House." Orpheum—Vaudeville. Matinee To-Day. Tivoli—"The Beggar Student."

NAVAL BATTLE BEING FOUGHT OFF PORT ARTHUR; RUSSIAN AND JAPANESE FLEETS IN SEA COMBAT

CHEFU, April 13.—A correspondent of the Associated Press at Tengchow, forty miles northwest of here, telegraphs as follows: Sounds of very heavy firing were heard at half-past 6 o'clock this (Wednesday) morning. The firing evidently was being done between here and Port Arthur. It is believed at Tengchow that the long-expected sea fight among the Miaotao Islands has taken place. The Japanese battle-ship Asahi, flying an admiral's flag, was seen off Chefu yesterday going west, and there is no doubt the remainder of the Japanese fleet was in the vicinity of Port Arthur. The Russian fleet was also seen outside Port Arthur yesterday.

ON VERGE OF WAR IN VENEZUELA

Recall of Hernandez the Signal for Revolution. Castro Accuses His Minister to the United States of Conspiracy. Charges That "El Mocho" Has Been Plotting an Attack Upon the Caracas Government.

Special Dispatch to The Call. CALL BUREAU, HOTEL BARTON, WASHINGTON, April 12.—Behind the recent recall from Washington of General Hernandez (El Mocho), there is a tangle of South American intrigue. The suspension of the Minister's pay, the orders for him to return to Caracas and the abandonment of the legation in Washington, were the result of correspondence between President Castro and General Hernandez. The general is now regarded as an enemy by President Castro and another revolution would not be surprising. El Mocho (the maimed one) was released from prison by President Castro during the period when the allied powers were blockading the Venezuelan coast. He had been incarcerated for political reasons. While the Venezuelan Minister was here he received on February 6 a letter from President Castro in regard to the subject of the relations between Venezuela and Colombia and certain reforms. General Hernandez had taken President Castro to task for not officially declaring peace in Venezuela, although it had remained unbroken for seven months. He declared Castro was under obligation now to release certain political prisoners who belonged to the Nationalist party, of which General Hernandez was a recognized leader. He complained that his mail was daily examined in all postoffices of Venezuela, which, he said, was an evidence that the Venezuelan Government distrusted Nationalism. President Castro's answer was thoroughly impetuous. He declared that Hernandez's life had been dedicated to failure and that it was impossible to extend the hand of friendship to Colombia unless there was assurance of a sincere purpose. President Castro's letter said: "You took advantage of an international conflict and the liberty which, with exalted views, I then conferred on you, pardoning you your well merited chastisement, to approach me with a lie on your lips, feigning friendship and confidence which I reposed in you, and to raise again the standard of discord. Consequently, up to the present time you have not been an ally of the Government, being its employe, and on careful analysis you prove that you were lying in wait for a moment to hurl yourself against the restoration and its chief. "As you say that the war in preparation is not a secret to you, this is equivalent to saying that you are in the secret of the conspiracy and know the conspirators, and believing the occasion propitious for obtaining advantages and realizing your dreams, you have observed silence with the Government which you were serving." The Minister's recall closely followed this letter. Old Friend of Lincoln Dies. MARYSVILLE, Ohio, April 12.—Charles Albert Becher, of Cincinnati, died here suddenly today of heart disease while visiting his niece. Becher was a close friend and confidential adviser of Abraham Lincoln and was a delegate from Illinois to the National Convention that nominated Lincoln in 1860. It was he who in 1861 assisted in obtaining for Ulysses S. Grant a commission as captain in the Illinois volunteer service. Revenue Measure Denounced. MANILA, April 12.—Thousands of men employed in cigar factories and in brewing establishments here united in a demonstration today against the proposed measures to secure internal revenue. Governor Wright was present and a protest against the proposed system of taxation was handed to him.

HARRIMAN FINDS KNOX AIDING HILL

The Attorney General Causes Stir in St. Paul. Takes a Hand in Railroad Suit as an Opponent of Plaintiffs. Government Objects to Proposed Intervention in the Northern Securities Company Settlement.

ST. PAUL, April 12.—A great legal battle by corporation lawyers whose names are familiar throughout the United States is being waged in the United States District Court before Judges Sanborn, Vandeventer, Hook and Thayer, the action being based on a motion presented to the court by E. H. Harriman et al. for leave to file an intervening petition for the purpose of showing why the Northern Securities Company's officials should not carry out a plan of distribution of the assets of the recently declared illegal Northern Securities Company in a manner alleged to be inimical to the interests of Harriman and Pierce. The attorneys representing the plaintiffs are W. D. Guthrie, R. S. Lovett, general counsel of the Southern Pacific Railroad; Judge J. M. Baldwin of Omaha and Maxwell Everts of Ohio. The defendants are represented by Elihu Root, former Secretary of War; John G. Johnson of Philadelphia; Francis Lynde Stetson, counsel for J. P. Morgan & Co.; George Young, Frank B. Kellogg and C. A. Severance; also C. W. Bann, general counsel for the Northern Pacific, and M. D. Grover, general counsel for the Great Northern. Besides this array of talent the United States Government was represented by District Attorney C. C. Houpt, who presented an objection to the intervention under the direction of United States Attorney General Knox. SURPRISE FOR HARRIMAN. This intervention was something of a surprise to the petitioners, who were not aware of it until after Everts had opened the case for the plaintiffs, when Judge Sanborn asked him if he was aware that the United States Government objected to the intervening petition. The court then directed Houpt to read the objection of Knox, which is as follows: "I respectfully submit to the court that notice had been served upon me that Edward H. Harriman, Winslow S. Pierce and the Oregon Short Line Railroad Company will apply to the Judges of this court for leave to intervene in this case and to proceed and to be heard in respect of the final decree of this court, entered on April 9, 1903, as affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States, and for such other or further or different orders or relief as to the court may seem fit. "The United States neither admits nor denies the allegations of the petition, but objects to the proposed intervention. The case was heard by this court on bill, answer and testimony, and a final decree was entered enjoining the defendants as therein recited. Upon appeal by the defendants to the Supreme Court of the United States the decree of this court was affirmed in every particular, the effect of which was to end and close the case. The United States stands on the decree as affirmed and submits that the court is only concerned to see that it is faithfully observed by the defendants according to its terms. P. C. KNOX, "Attorney General." CONTENTION OF COUNSEL. Everts, in his statement, contended that the Securities Company, in its final distribution of the assets, intended to take a course which would continue the common control of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads to the detriment of the plaintiff and the continued violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. Root contended that there was no warrant in the general rules of practice, in the decrees of the courts or in the statutes for this intervention. He said the decree of this court was limited to the simple command "Thou shalt not," and nothing was expected but absolute obedience. The arguments of both Everts and Root continued on Page 5, Column 4.

LANSDOWNE NEGOTIATES WITH CZAR

Britain Seeks an Entente With Russia. King Edward Plans Settlement of All Quarrels Between the Nations. Hopes to Repeat Success He Achieved in Arranging Colonial Treaty With France.

LONDON, April 12.—With the sanction and the support of King Edward, Lord Lansdowne has begun negotiations that contemplate an understanding with Russia covering the great political and territorial questions that divide the British and Russian empires. The proposed agreement, according to the views of its promoters in both countries, would be as satisfactory as the Anglo-French treaty just concluded and would open the way for practical plans for limiting the military and naval burdens of Europe. Downing street has long earnestly desired an Anglo-Russian understanding. Lord Salisbury recognized the relations of Great Britain and Russia contained elements of war and wanted to work out an agreement, but the statesmen of St. Petersburg did not seem to encourage the idea. They appeared to think that Great Britain was moved by a sense of weakness and danger, and announced Russian pretensions that Lord Salisbury would not entertain. ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN. At the outset the British Foreign Office, to strengthen Great Britain's position, concluded a war alliance with Japan; but Russia continued obdurate. Then Lansdowne declared—aiming the statement, as everybody knew, at Russia—that Great Britain would resist by force of arms any nation that should seek a foothold on the Persian Gulf. This also failed to influence Russia and the British Foreign Secretary, following the lead and personal work of the King, proceeded to seek an Anglo-French rapprochement and still closer relations with Italy. The King and the Foreign Secretary together succeeded in effecting a strong sentimental bond between Britain, France and Italy, fortified by a series of arbitration treaties and crowned by an arrangement for adjusting Anglo-French disputes throughout the world. Moreover, the King worked assiduously to win the good will of Germany and Austro-Hungary, thus bringing the triple alliance bodily over to the side of the vast body of political and moral force Great Britain had been organizing for the purpose of increasing her influence with Russia in the cause of universal peace. RUSSIA MUST MAKE TERMS. King Edward and Lord Lansdowne feel that their work is almost accomplished and that there is no chance that Russia can appeal successfully to any great nation to help her in evading arrangements which circumscribe her ambitions. Hence the King and the Foreign Secretary believe that the time is ripe for a renewal of the attempt to conclude an Anglo-Russian entente that will allay the irritation between the two nations and arrest the tendencies that seem to be hurrying them to a catastrophe. Lord Lansdowne's methods in this matter bring to mind his proposal with regard to the fiscal question, when he recommended Great Britain to provide herself with a revolver to compel other nations to reciprocate tariff favors. Apparently he thinks now that he has a diplomatic revolver that he can level at the head of Russia to induce a reasonable frame of mind on the part of that country. Death of Explorer Heath. KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 12.—Ivon D. Heath, who gained note years ago through his explorations of South and Central America, died today at his home at Kansas City, Kans., aged 67 years. He was a brother of Dr. Edwin R. Heath, also a well-known traveler and explorer.

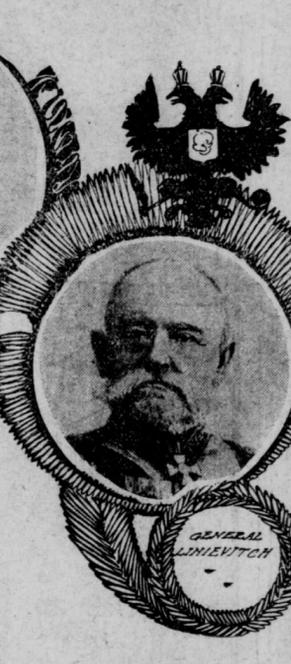


POPE'S LIFE THREATENED IN LETTERS

Pius X Is Made Ill by Strain of Worry. ROME, April 12.—The Pope spent a bad night, and was so much agitated today that Dr. Lappini, who had to be called to the Vatican, prescribed a soothing lotion. The Pope's illness is thought to be due to his long ceremony in St. Peter's, where he had to fast until after 1 p. m. when he was celebrating mass. Some of the prelates of Vatican circles, however, say Pius X has been much affected of late by reported anarchistic plots against his life. As he allows no one to open his private correspondence, he has read within a few weeks several anonymous letters threatening his life. The reported plot of South American anarchists a few days ago increased his anxiety, although he tried to make little of the case and laughed about it with the prelates. Yesterday's congregation in St. Peter's noticed the Pontiff's extraordinary paleness and his haggard appearance, and many were the comments made about his health. In view of the rumored plots the Italian Government took extraordinary precautions to protect the Pope's person, and swarms of detectives in civilian clothes or in priestly garb were stationed throughout the church during yesterday's ceremony. On the plaza, where thousands were clamoring for admission, the police arrested several persons thought to be anarchists, who were too insistent in their demands for admission. When the Pope was informed of the arrests, after returning to his apartments, he broke down, and it was then that the reaction set in after the strain of the last few days of anarchy.

PRESIDENT AND DAUGHTER CARICATURED IN A FARCE. Berlin Police Interfere and Prevent Introduction of Name of American Executive. BERLIN, April 12.—Stage representations of President Roosevelt and Miss Alice Roosevelt were introduced to a Berlin audience last night in a roaring farce entitled "A Mad Year" at the Metropolitan Theater. The President was reproduced in a rough rider costume. Miss Alice, with a decided American twang, excited much amusement, but the police interfered and prevented the use of the name Roosevelt. The management therefore substituted the names of Mr. and Miss Washington.

INDIANS FIND WHEAT IN THE CAPTURED FISH. Discovery Is Thought to Furnish Confirmation of Reported Loss of the Lamorna. PORT TOWNSEND, Wash., April 12.—A somewhat unusual verification of the fear that the British ship Lamorna was dashed to pieces on the western rocky shores of Vancouver Island during the fierce gales of March is presented in the fact that all the fish caught by the neighboring Indians for food are found upon being opened to contain wheat. As the vessel was laden with that commodity and is supposed to have met her fate in the immediate locality, even the most confident are losing hope.



DIVER HELD AT BOTTOM BY SUCTION

Vain Efforts to Rescue Man From Reservoir. NEW YORK, April 12.—All devices known to engineers and submarine experts have been employed to rescue William J. Hoar, a diver who is pinned fast at the mouth of a four-foot sluice pipe beneath seventy feet of water at the reservoir at Bounton, but after twenty-one hours of submersion Hoar's last signal on the life line was given and answered. Since shortly after noon to-day no sign has come from the man, and John Myers, another diver, who was one of Hoar's best friends, said when he emerged exhausted from depth at about 11 o'clock this morning that he did not believe there was more than a spark of life left in the prisoner then. Hoar may possibly be alive, but too weak to make signals. On this bare chance air pumps are working unceasingly and early to-morrow a fresh band of divers and gear will go from this city. The engineers will use some desperate means to shut off the current of water which is rushing through the four-foot pipe, which has the diver's foot caught in the suction at its mouth. So powerful is this suction that a four-horse team hauling on a rope tied around the diver's body was unable to stir him this morning.

ASKS FOR REMOVAL OF EXECUTOR BRYAN. Mrs. Bennett Alleges That Nebraska Is Dissipating Estate's Funds in Litigation. NEW HAVEN, Conn., April 12.—Counsel for Mrs. Grace Imogene Bennett appeared before Probate Judge Cleveland today with a petition that W. J. Bryan be removed as executor of the estate of the late Philo S. Bennett, the chief allegation being that he was dissipating the funds of the estate in his legal actions in attempting to cause the probating of the "sealed letter" as a part of the will. The "sealed letter" gives Bryan \$50,000. The court will set a date for a hearing. VESSEL RUNS AGROUND AND THREE ARE LOST. Tug Frank Canfield Is Sunk and Captain, Engineer and Helper Are Drowned. MANISTEE, Mich., April 12.—The tug Frank Canfield, owned by the Canfield line, ran aground at the outer bar at Point Stuble and sank last night. Captain Henry Smith, Engineer Charles Kopfer and Helper William Justmann were lost. Charles Smith and Gus Szustitsky, mate and fireman, were saved by the use of the life raft.



PROMINENT OFFICERS OF THE RUSSIAN LAND FORCES IN THE FAR EAST.

Firing of Big Guns Is Continuous.

CHEFU, April 13.—The captain of the steamship Lockshan, which arrived today from Newchwang, reports that he heard heavy firing between 5 and 7 o'clock this (Wednesday) morning in the direction of Port Arthur. The firing was continuous, but no ships were visible. From the direction of the sound he judged that there was fighting at the entrance to Port Arthur. The Lockshan was the last foreign merchant vessel to leave Newchwang, sailing at the same time as the British gunboat Espiegle, at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Port Arthur is about sixty-five miles to the north from Tengchow. The Miaotao islands are on a line between the two points and about twenty-five miles north of Tengchow. Dispatches received from the Far East during the past five days have reported both the Japanese fleet and the Russian Port Arthur fleet to be cruising at sea in the vicinity of Port Arthur. Six Japanese warships were reported off Weihaiwei on April 9 and on the 10th Inst. Japanese warships were seen on the horizon from Port Arthur. On April 10 the Russian warships at Port Arthur were reported to be patrolling actively and on the 11th Inst. eight Russian warships were reported to have been seen ten miles outside of Port Arthur. STRONG FORCE AT ANTUNG. Twenty Thousand Russians to Oppose Advance of Japanese. SEOUL, Korea, April 12.—Japanese advices from Northern Korea state that the Russians have strongly fortified Chiu-tien-chang, a walled town on the Manchurian side of the Yalu River, about ten miles north of Antung. It is estimated that there are 20,000 Russians of all arms at Antung ready to oppose the Japanese crossing. Webb Hay, an American traveler, has returned here from a journey to Anju, thence to the American mines at Unsen and thence north to the Yalu River. Parker Wins in New Jersey. CAMDEN, N. J., April 12.—Democratic primaries were held to-night in the Third Congressional District to elect delegates to the State convention. Eighty delegates chosen are for Parker, fifty for Hearst.

SHARP NOTE FROM PORTE TO POWERS

Sultan Puts Limit Upon Balkan Reforms. CONSTANTINOPLE, April 12.—The gendarmerie detailed for the Macedonian reforms has entered upon a new phase. At last one side of the controversy has taken a firm stand, and this side is not that of the powers, more or less united, but the Sublime Porte. It will be remembered that at the beginning a demand was made for 260 commissioned and non-commissioned foreign officers to serve in the Macedonian police, more or less under Hilma Pasha. The Sultan acceded in principle to this demand—unwisely, as many of his advisers think—but curtailed the number of foreign officers considerably. The Porte announced that Hilma Pasha could find employment for five officers, one from each of the interested powers. The Embassadors again returned to the charge. In a conciliatory spirit they demanded, not 260, but sixty foreign officers, and, not to be outdone in the matter of concessions, the Sultan agreed to employ twenty-five. In accepting this compromise the Embassadors, in a note which they sent in on March 20, stated that the twenty-five officers would proceed to Macedonia, and when it became apparent that more were required they would again approach his Imperial Majesty on the subject. This attitude on the part of Embassadors elicited from the palace the most prompt and spirited note that has come through the Sublime Porte in many a long day. It stated with quite Western frankness and without any Oriental verbiage whatsoever that the number of twenty-five represents the limit of endurance in the matter of the enrollment of foreign officers to serve a country of whose languages and customs and topography the officers in question can but be and are absolutely ignorant. As a result, there is much rushing around and numberless strange rumors in circulation to explain the new and decidedly stiffer attitude of the Porte. I do not reproduce them, because I think the explanation is not far to seek. Macedonia is pacified, but it is not yet in an ideal state—far from it. There are at large a few bands of Bulgarian committeemen and a few Albanians and about half the usual quota of local bandits. To-day the city is full of rumors. At one club you hear that the officers will leave for Salonica on the next steamship and in another that they will not leave at all. The Levantine tailors are rushing about with new uniforms which no one else has seen. War News Continued on Page 3.