

**THE WEATHER.**  
Forecast made at San Francisco for thirty hours ending midnight, October 13:  
Northern California—Fair Thursday, except cloudy along the northern coast; light northwest wind.  
San Francisco and vicinity—Fair Thursday; light northwest wind.  
G. H. WILLSON,  
Local Forecaster (temporarily in charge).

# THE CALL

San Francisco

**THE THEATERS.**  
ALCAZAR—"Lard and Lady Aig." CALIFORNIA—"The Tenderfoot." CENTRAL—"She." CHUTES—"Vaudeville." COLUMBIA—"The Office Boy." FISHER—"Down the Line." GRAND—"The Burgomaster." LYRIC HALL—"Watch Night." MAJESTIC—"A Japanese Nightingale." MATINEE to-day. OPERA—"Vaudeville; matinee to-day." TIVOLI—"Der Hasebinder."

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## FURIOUSLY the Russian and Japanese Armies Are FIGHTING

MUKDEN, Oct. 12, 2:40 p. m.—Stubborn fighting is still in progress, this being the third day of the engagement. It is impossible at this time to say what has been accomplished. Hospital trains are continually arriving from the south. The wounded are being sent farther north. A dressing station has been established on the railway platform here, where nurses and surgeons give prompt attention to the most urgent cases before the trains proceed.

### CHILDREN BURNED IN EXPLOSION

**Bursting of Gasoline Blower Injures Twenty-One.**  
Hospitals Filled With Moaning Victims of the Accident.  
Police Rescue Little Ones From Flames and Eleven Are Under Care of Emergency Surgeons.

A blazing gasoline furnace, thrown into the street by Spiro Gionai at 717 Montgomery avenue yesterday, exploded in the midst of a group of children. The blazing fluid flew in all directions. Eleven of the little ones were terribly burned on their faces, necks and arms. Ten others received slighter injuries.

The names of the severely injured are: George Fusco, 5 years old, 5 Graham place; Joe Maestretti, 10 years old, 112 Kearny street; Lawrence Bacigalupi, 10 years old, 2 Telegraph place; Julia Le Roy, 10 years old, 718 Greenwich street; Freda Bahmberg, 13 years old, 225 Valmar street; Sophie Tiedeman, 10 years old, 700 Montgomery avenue; Luida Tiedeman, 8 years old, 700 Montgomery avenue; Edie Descenzi, 8 years old, 7 Hinkley alley; Germaine Anderson, 7 years old, 718 Green street; Henrietta Anderson, 8 years old, 718 Green street; J. Orlando, 7 years old, 117 Montgomery avenue.

Gionai, who owns a restaurant at 717 Montgomery avenue, was engaged in making repairs about the place. A crowd of children on their way home from school tarried to peep through the windows.

Suddenly the gasoline blower used by Gionai began to splutter. He became frightened, rushed to the doorway and hurled it into the street.

In less than a minute it was surrounded by a circle of small boys and girls. Then there was a muffled explosion, followed by shrieks. The blazing gasoline splattered into the faces of the children and Gionai escaped.

Sergeant Brophy, Patrolman P. J. McManus and J. Brott hurried to the rescue of the little ones, some of whom were aflame.

Calls were sent to the Emergency Hospital and to the Central police station. Three of the children were taken to the Harbor Hospital and eight to the Central Emergency Hospital.

Those taken to the hospitals were suffering from severe burns about the face, arms and necks. Some may die from the complications incident to their wounds.

At the Central Emergency Hospital parents arriving to claim their little ones became hysterical at the sight of their darlings covered with bandages and moaning in pain.

Edie Descenzi of 7 Hinkley alley suffered the most severe injuries. All of the sufferers were removed to their homes after their wounds were dressed.

Joe Maestretti, who is a nephew of Public Works Commissioner Maestretti, said: "We were watching the thing burn. Of a sudden there was a noise and, oh, how my face hurt. I put up my hands to save my eyes and the burning stuff seemed to run all over me."

That was the plaint of all the children. "We were just watching and the explosion came. It hurt, oh, it hurt awfully."

Gionai was arrested by Detectives Ryan and O'Connell four hours after the explosion and his name was placed on the detinue book. He will be held until it is ascertained whether the injuries of any of the children result fatally. He is a Greek.

He made the following statement to the police: "I borrowed a plumber's furnace from a man living across the street. The thing began to splutter and I laid it in the street while I went for help. A crowd of children gathered around it and it exploded."

### HUGE SPOTS DISCOVERED ON THE SUN

**Each of Them Much Larger Than the Earth.**  
Father Ricardo of Santa Clara College the Columbus.  
Director of Meteorological Observatory Believes Blurs on Sol's Face the Cause of Recent Storms.

Special Dispatch to The Call.  
SAN JOSE, Oct. 12.—Three large spots were discovered upon the sun this afternoon by Father Ricardo, director of the meteorological observatory at Santa Clara College. One of the spots is several times larger than the earth, and the other two are of still greater magnitude. These spots were discovered about 2:30 o'clock and observed several times by the senior class and Father Bell, who pronounced them true sun spots. The observations were made through the 8-inch equatorial.

The larger of the spots is a slight distance below the sun equator, and the two smaller ones ten degrees above the equator. The size of the larger spot is very great in comparison with the earth. One of the small spots is a double one, being composed of two smaller ones, and, compared with the earth, is very large. These spots this afternoon appeared to grow in size, and the discoverer believes they will further increase.

Father Ricardo says it is likely that the late electrical storm and general meteorological disturbance witnessed upon the coast were in a large measure due to the formation of the sun spots. He can give no reason for the formation of the spots.

### MILLIONS IN FOOD FOR ARMY

**Commissary General Makes Annual Report.**  
WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—The annual report of Brigadier General J. F. Weston, commissary general of the army, says the total cost of feeding the army during the past fiscal year was \$5,821,750. During the year the losses were \$418,650 in the Philippines, \$7467 on the transports and \$129,853 in the United States, Alaska, Porto Rico and elsewhere. From the total amount of losses is to be deducted \$85,930, the proceeds of sales at auctions of damaged and deteriorated stores.

General Weston says that it is difficult and often impossible to prevent losses of perishable stores. Losses are due principally to long and difficult water and inland transportation and to trying climatic conditions. The rapid abandonment of posts also resulted in large losses, particularly in the Philippines.

General Weston urgently recommends the passage of a bill by Congress to give authority to all officers intrusted with the disbursement of subsistence funds to hold restricted amounts of such funds in their personal possession. He says the exigencies of the public service require an open disregard of the restrictions of the existing law in cities where the treasurer or an assistant treasurer is located. He urges legislation authorizing the sale at public auction of accumulated subsistence stores in good condition, which cannot advantageously be transported to other points for issue or sale to troops.

General Weston says the problem of feeding the army in the Philippines was a very difficult one, but "it has

### DIRT WILL SOON FLY AT PANAMA

**President Tells the Commissioners to Dig.**  
Experiments to Be Made to Determine Most Economical Method.  
Will Enable Board to Decide Whether Contract System or Government Construction Is Cheaper.

Special Dispatch to The Call.  
WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—"Get together and dig." This was President Roosevelt's advice to the Panama Canal Commissioners to-day, all of whom called at the White House with the exception of General Wilson. The conference lasted more than an hour. But how to "dig," whether by contract or under Government construction, was the principal feature of the canal question discussed. With a view to expediting the work in accordance with the President's wishes, the commission favors the purchase and operation of steam shovels in order to form an estimation of what the work will actually cost in the event that it is finally decided to do it by contract. The board left with the President a memorandum of what has been done to date.

Soon after the members of the commission left the White House John Barrett, United States Minister to Panama, conferred with the President. The President gave to Barrett some "get together" advice. On coming away Barrett made a qualified denial that differences exist between himself and Admiral Walker.

"When I left Panama," he said, "I had a perfect understanding with the Panama authorities and I am here now working out the agreement I made with them."

The President called the commission into conference for the purpose of finding out at first hand what progress has been made in beginning the work of construction. The question of whether the work can be more economically performed by contract or under the direction of the Government was discussed and it seemed to be the general opinion that before it was decided finally the Government should make experiments in the line of actual work.

The proposition now is to purchase fourteen of the largest and most powerful steam shovels and make a beginning under Government supervision in order to form some basis of the cost. If bids are then called for from contractors the commission can determine the question of economy.

The President advised against building up too heavy a clerical force or any other extravagances, and plainly indicated that the commission itself would be held responsible.

### ACID HURLED IN HER FACE BY WOMAN FOR REVENGE

**Mrs. Mary Bunel Victim of Mrs. Snow, Who Claims She Stole Husband's Love.**  
SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Oct. 12.—Mrs. Hoilet Snow to-day dashed a glassful of carbolic acid into the face of Mrs. Mary Bunel. Mrs. Bunel's face, neck and chest were burned black and she probably will lose her eyesight. Mrs. Snow was arrested.

Both women are young. Mrs. Bunel was one of the heirs of the famous Bunel estate, which was in litigation in the courts of this country and France for twenty years. Mrs. Snow recently filed suit for damages against Mrs. Bunel, alleging that the defendant had alienated her husband's affections.

It has been successfully solved, and subsistence affairs in the archipelago are now run with system and economy. The subsistence department, it is stated, was able to make a contract for fresh beef for the fiscal year 1905 by which an annual saving of over \$140,000 was effected as compared with the contract for the previous fiscal year. The running expenses gradually have been reduced to a minimum, the report says, and a saving of more than \$40,000 made in wages of civilian employes alone. Credit for these results is given to Colonel Henry G. Sharpe, chief commissary of the Philippines division.

### FIERCE BATTLE RAGING

**Japanese Resist Kuropatkin's Advance.**  
Terrific Engagement Takes Place South of Mukden.  
Artillery Duel Being Fought in the Direction of Tumentzu Pass.

TOKIO, Oct. 13, 9:30 a. m.—Field Marshal Oyama, telegraphing from the field yesterday, says that operations are progressing favorably.

TOKIO, Oct. 12, 8 p. m.—Reports dispatched last night from the scene of the great battle now raging along an extended front from a central point north of Yental, westward across the railroad southeast to Bensihu, on the Taitse River, say that the struggle continued undecidedly throughout the day. The Japanese commander's avowed purpose was to continue the assault throughout the night and the following day. The Russians have a great force down close to the Taitse River.

Apparently Field Marshal Oyama's attack was nicely timed to interrupt a strong turning movement that was threatening Liaoyang itself. The right army, reporting last night, says: "The enemy's artillery opened a severe attack at 10 o'clock Tuesday against our forces at Bensihu. The enemy with one regiment from his right and five battalions from his center assumed the aggressive. Fighting is now progressing. He is bombarding between Ta pass and Bensihu. In the direction of Tumentzu pass another artillery duel is progressing. Our detachment, sent to the left bank of the Taitse River, returned after driving the enemy back. The enemy has some guns near Tayupo, on an upper stream of the Taitse River. The enemy is holding a line from Tumentzu pass to Bensihu, and east of the roadway he has eighty guns and fully two divisions of infantry. The enemy opposing the main strength of the right army and holding a line from Sanchiatzu to Patiatzu numbers four divisions. The right column of the right wing and the left column continued severe fighting until sundown. The left wing of the left column, co-operating with the right column and the center army, tried to attack the enemy, posted at Sanchiatzu, but was unable to effect this purpose before sundown, but the progress of the front center and left wing is very favorable. The commander of the army was still keeping up the attack on the enemy even after dark."

The center army reports that its right column, which has been occupying the heights north of Yuamentzu since yesterday, is co-operating with the left column of the right army and began advancing toward Ouchiatzu, which place it attacked. In the meanwhile the left wing advanced and attacked Wanuluntum and Samkwashishan. The result of the attack in those directions is unknown. The enemy opposing the left column holds a line from Fanchiatan, on the Schill River, to Reutakouk and makes a stubborn resistance. "It was sundown," says the report, "before we could effect our intended advance. The enemy opposing this column is slightly less in number than one division."

The left army reports as follows: "The advance effected by us to-day has been comparatively favorable. We are continuing the attack against a line extending from Patchlapo to Luitunkow. The right column took possession of Yangcheuang and is advancing toward Lussachou. The left column was advanced to a line extending from Tayuchwangapo to Litaitentun, through Chigtutzu, and with its main strength is menacing the right flank



JAPANESE TROOPS CAUGHT IN A BARBED WIRE ENTANGLEMENT ERECTED BY THE RUSSIANS.

### Situation in the Far East.

General Kuropatkin's advance has been met with a counter advance of the forces under Field Marshal Oyama. According to advices received at Tokio, a general engagement is in progress between Liaoyang and Mukden, but reports from Russian sources describe the fighting there as merely in the nature of advance guard actions. General Kuropatkin is reported to be aiming to strike simultaneously at two widely separated points on the Japanese left.

There has been hard fighting a short distance north of Bensihu, in which a Russian loss of 150 killed or wounded is admitted. The Japanese say they have cut off a Russian column south of the Taitse River. No official reports from the front were received at the Russian War Office last night, and the fact is regarded in some quarters as indicating the non-success thus far of General Kuropatkin's forward movement. Military authorities, however, point out that owing to the magnitude of the movement planned it is too early to expect news of decisive results.

of the enemy holding Chanotvitzu and Yuchiatientzu and their vicinities. Should the commander be unable to accomplish his purpose before sundown he will continue the attack during the night and the following day. The enemy opposing numbers at least two divisions."

**FIGHT NIGHT AND DAY.**  
Japanese Receive Reinforcements and Dislodge Russian Batteries.  
ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 12.—The Russians made a rush for Bensihu after their victory at Benlapwtz. There they found a strong Japanese force holding the right bank of the Taitse River.

Brisk fighting is proceeding there and around Yental. In the latter vicinity there was a force of artillery.

The battle is continuing night and day. It commenced by the Russians getting to within three versts (two miles) of Yental.

The Japanese, receiving strong reinforcements, rapidly located and dislodged the Russian batteries. The battle ended in a desperate fight in a blinding sandstorm, the Russians eventually retreating across the Schill River.

Admiral Alexieff, after taking leave of Kuropatkin, telegraphed to St. Petersburg, saying that the programme of campaign had been carefully explained to him by the commanding general. As a result he was convinced of its feasibility and success.

In accounting for General Kuropatkin's sudden decision to advance, which surprised the world, a clew to the true reason is that Count Radziwill arrived

bearing important dispatches from General Stoessel, at Mukden, September 29. General Kuropatkin stopped his retreating movement and four days later he issued the order to advance. This is taken as showing that Port Arthur needed relief without delay.

Japanese ships are hovering about Vladivostok on the lookout for contraband.

**ST. PETERSBURG ANXIOUS.**  
Absence of Official News Concerning Battle Causes Uneasiness.  
ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 13, 3:30 a. m. No official news of the result of to-day's battle south of Mukden is available at this hour. General Kuropatkin doubtless has communicated his regular report to Emperor Nicholas, but the dispatch was not sent back to the general staff to-night. So the latest word from Russian sources is contained in the press dispatch from Mukden. As is natural, the absence of official news is pessimistically interpreted in many quarters, but the general staff, though reticent, counsels patience, pointing out that the offensive movement was planned on a large scale, and has not yet reached a stage where a decisive result could have been attained.

The frontal attack on the Yental mines developed a desperate battle, in which probably 100,000 men are engaged, but, though the dispatches so far deal almost exclusively with this feature of the battle, it is pointed out that there is a much wider field involved. A fight on the Russian left flank has not yet developed, and possibly here General Kuropatkin intends to deliver his main blow. What force

is pushing forward in this direction behind the screen containing the column at Shaktintaidze is unknown, but the appearance to-night of a Russian column at Tzanchan, thirty miles southeast, striking at Field Marshal Oyama's communications with the Yalu, and the knowledge that another column is already across the Taitse River, gives evidence of the wide nature of the turning movement. It is possible that the attack on the Yental mines may simply be intended to hold the main Japanese force stationary, and that the outcome of the Yental fight may have little bearing on the result of the general engagement.

While it is now asserted that General Kuropatkin enjoys a considerable numerical superior force, the main fear expressed is that this superiority is insufficient to enable him to carry out the big operations he has undertaken.

Apprehension is caused by the Tokio dispatch saying that Field Marshal Oyama reports that he is gaining ground and has cut off a Russian column below the Taitse River. It is only natural, after the repeated reverses already suffered, that Russians fully realize how much General Kuropatkin has staked on the assumption of the offensive.

The battle now in progress undoubtedly will outweigh in importance the hard fighting at Liaoyang, for Kuropatkin's victory, partial or complete, is necessary. Defeat would certainly spell ruin for his military reputation, and probably prove a disaster of the first magnitude to the Russian army. If the Japanese should roll up Kuropatkin's advance now, all hope of an