

**THE WEATHER.**  
Forecast made at San Francisco for thirty hours ending midnight, February 23:  
San Francisco and vicinity—Fair Thursday, except foggy in the morning; light northwest wind.  
G. H. WILSON,  
Local Forecaster.

# THE CALL

VOLUME XXVII—NO. 85. SAN FRANCISCO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1905. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

**THE THEATERS.**  
ALCAZAR—"The Merchant of Venice."  
CALIFORNIA—"Uncle Tom's Cabin."  
COLUMBIA—"The Earl of Pawtucket."  
CENTRAL—"A Ride for Life."  
CHUTES—Vaudeville.  
GRAND—"Mother Goose."  
LYRIC HALL—Bispham Concert.  
ORPHEUM—Vaudeville. Matinee to-day.  
TIVOLI—Grand Opera.

## JAPAN NEGOTIATING FOR PEACE DIRECTLY WITH RUSSIA.

### NAMES HER TERMS Warring Nations May Become Allies.

**Special Dispatch to The Call.**  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—It was learned to-night that Japan has sent a suggestion as to peace terms direct to St. Petersburg, without calling upon the friendly services of any neutral power. The significance of this is apparent. The warring powers, by negotiating directly with each other, will be enabled to arrive at an agreement under the terms of which they will divide the present war territory in whatever way they choose. Thus the partition of China will have been effected in spite of the earnest endeavors of the American State Department to prevent it. An alliance of the present foes to prevent interference with the terms of their peace compact is one of the probabilities of the situation.

**CALL BUREAU, POST BUILDING, WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.**—It can be said on very high authority that the State Department here has received official information that Japan has indicated that she desires peace in the Far East, and while this country has not been approached through diplomatic agencies, it is believed that negotiations have already commenced. Japan's attitude puts the matter entirely up to Russia. The recent events of a revolutionary character in Russia have brought about a feeling in Washington that Russia's own course is to accept whatever Japan will offer. As one government officer said to-day:

"It is simply up to Russia now, and peace can be had if Russia is willing to use good sound judgment and exhibit a manly attitude."

For months it has been the opinion among the officers of the Government and diplomats in Washington that Russia can do no better than to declare peace sooner or later. Japan's latest move is considered Russia's great opportunity to end the war with some degree of honor.

Japan has indicated, it can be said officially, that the cardinal points of the treaty of peace with Russia would be the evacuation of Korea and the integrity of Manchuria. There will be, of course, many minor details in the terms of peace, but these two points will be the main features.

The Port Arthur question remains in the hands of the Japanese, together with the whole of the Liaotung Peninsula; that the open door prevail at the port of Vladivostok and that the Chinese Eastern Railway be placed under a neutral international administration also will be points to be agreed upon in the terms of the treaty.

**TRAVERSE CHINESE SOIL.**  
**Russian Raiders Accused of Violation of Neutrality.**  
NEWCHWANG, Feb. 22.—About 300 Russian raiders succeeded in reaching and slightly damaging the railroad between Hsicheng and Tatchekia on the night of February 20. It is alleged by the Japanese that the Russians, as they claim was the case in previous raids, again violated the neutrality of Chinese territory west of the Liao River.

It is evident that the villagers keep the Russians well informed as to the disposition of the Japanese forces. It was expected that the raiders would repeat their attempt of January 11 to destroy the stores at Niuchiatun. They retired, however, without so doing and without engaging the Japanese. The damage to the railroad was immediately repaired.

The raiders mentioned in the foregoing dispatches probably belong to Lieutenant General Mischenko's Cossacks, a body of whom, numbering some 2000, raided the old town of Newchwang, Niuchiatun and other places in the vicinity of the Liao River early in January.

**RAIDERS ALMOST ENTRAPPED.**  
**Chinese Guide Saves Cossack Company From Capture.**  
MUKDEN, Feb. 22.—A company of Cossacks, which has returned from a long and perilous reconnaissance in the direction of Korea, penetrated by mountain paths as far as Agoumin, eighteen miles northwest of the Yalu, where they found and burned a large depot of Japanese provisions. Turning southward, the Russians captured, a few miles distant, a transport of supplies, of which the small command was in great need.

During the course of the night Japanese surrounded the command on three sides. The position of the Russians was desperate, but happily for them a Chinese guide found a mountain pass, by which they escaped to Kuaizhen Mountain, 100 miles due north of the mouth of the Yalu River, whence they rejoined the army by way of little known trails.

**GRIPPENBERG DENOUNCED.**  
**Attack Upon Kuropatkin Angers the Manchurian Army.**  
MUKDEN, Feb. 22.—The news of General Grippenberg's attack upon General Kuropatkin has caused great indignation at the Russian headquarters here and in army circles. General Grippenberg's departure was a surprise, as he had received no orders from General Kuropatkin to quit his post. He left Manchuria unceremoniously, without taking leave of the commander in chief. Even General Grippenberg's friends say that no matter what grievances he may have had, the present is not a fit time for venting

## REDMOND SCORES IN COMMONS

### Irish Statesman Entraps Secretary Wyndham.

**Compels Him to Read the MacDonnell Correspondence to House.**

**Letter Reveals Acceptance of Stipulation Which Afterward Was Repudiated.**

**Special Dispatch to The Call.**  
LONDON, Feb. 22.—Encouraged by the reduced Government majority in the division of the House of Commons last night, the Irish party unexpectedly returned to the attack to-day more fiercely than ever. Immediately after the opening of the day's session John Redmond gave notice of a motion to adjourn in order to discuss the condition under which Sir Anthony MacDonnell holds the post of under-secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. This move came as a surprise and caught the Government off its guard. The Speaker set the debate on the motion for the commencement of the night session.

The debate lasted until midnight, when a motion to adjourn was defeated by a vote of 255 to 223; but Redmond scored a point by compelling Wyndham, Chief Secretary for Ireland, to read the correspondence between himself and Sir Anthony MacDonnell, by which it was shown that the under-secretary was given extraordinary powers and authorized to arrange for co-ordination in the control and direction of boards and administrative agencies. It was shown also that Premier Balfour had concurred in this arrangement.

The reading of the correspondence between MacDonnell and Wyndham revealed that in September, 1902, after having been offered the under-secretaryship, MacDonnell replied stipulating for an adequate opportunity of influencing the policy of the acts of the Irish administration subject to your control and your freedom of action in legislative matters. MacDonnell specified the points on which he wished to take action, namely: Maintenance of order, co-operation of departments and education on the general spirit of Balfour's views.

The reading of this sentence was greeted with prolonged Irish cheers. Wyndham read his reply, which began: "Your letter was most welcome to me," and went on to say: "I accept your offer of help on the lines of the conditions laid down in your letter."

## CZAR WINS NORTH SEA DECISION

### Commission's Ruling Is in Russia's Favor.

**PARIS, Feb. 22.**—A semi-official statement appeared to-night relative to the work of the International Commission which has been considering the North Sea incident. It announces that the commission, in its conclusions, gives no opinion on the question of the presence or absence of Japanese torpedo boats in the North Sea, merely declaring that the Russian admiral quite legitimately believed that his squadron was endangered and that he had the right, under the circumstances, to act as he did.

**LONDON, Feb. 22.**—A strong note of indignation is sounded by the London daily newspapers this morning over the semi-official statement relative to the decision of the North Sea Commission giving to Russia the victory. The Daily Mail goes so far as to declare the commission has dealt a death blow to arbitration. Some of the newspapers blame the Government strongly for ever having consented to subject such a matter to arbitration, while some of the Government organs find cold comfort in the fact that the country by doing so avoided war with Russia.

## FIRE IN LONDON DESTROYS HUNDRED OF AUTOMOBILES

**Longacre, Center of Motor Car Industry in British Capital, Has \$1,250,000 Blaze.**  
LONDON, Feb. 22.—Longacre, the center of the motor car and carriage industry of this city, was the scene of a disastrous fire resulting in damage estimated at \$1,250,000 to-day. Hundreds of automobiles which had just been returned from the exposition which closed Monday were destroyed. There were some exciting escapes of tenants who occupied flats above the warehouses.

## OIL INQUIRY IS CAUSING UNEASINESS

### Certain Members of Congress Are Troubled.

**Said to Be Interested in Sub-Leases of Osage Indian Tract.**

**Revelations of the Postoffice and Land Fraud Investigations May Be Surpassed.**

**Special Dispatch to The Call.**  
CALL BUREAU, POST BUILDING, WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—There is a growing feeling of uneasiness in Congressional circles over the investigation ordered by President Roosevelt of the affairs of the Standard Oil Company. It is believed this investigation will bear as hard on Congress as it will on the Standard Oil Company and that the revelations of the Postoffice Department investigation will be surpassed by those of the oil fields. The postoffice scandal resulted in the indictment of two United States Senators and the smothering of a large number of Representatives.

It is said that there are members of Congress who are interested in the sub-leases which have been made of the Osage lands by the oil company, whose lease is now before the Senate in the Indian appropriation bill. There are at least 150 of these minor companies, and if members of Congress hold an interest in them the disclosure will create more than an unpleasant impression.

Statements telegraphed from Kansas that prominent politicians and Senators are interested in the Osage lease are understood to refer to companies which are sub-leases. Whether the holders of the stock could be held to be interested in the original lease is a question for the courts. No one doubts that if the investigation by Commissioner Stanford should show that members of Congress are interested in the sub-leases the fact will be made public.

This phase of the inquiry is causing a great deal of talk in Washington, especially in view of the fact that in the land fraud inquiry one Senator and one Representative and one former Representative have been indicted in Oregon. The leasing of Osage lands has been an object of political spoil for many years. The mining concession on the Uintah reservation has already disclosed that there were many politicians in that deal. The same thing is said to be true of the sub-leases in Indian Territory.

## ASKS HITCHCOCK TO EXPLAIN.

### Texas Brings Up the Osage Oil Lease in House Resolutions.

**WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.**—Another chapter in the Osage oil lease incident developed to-day when Representative Stevens of Texas introduced two resolutions in the House, addressing inquiries to the Secretary of the Interior regarding the Foster lease of the oil and gas lands belonging to the Osage Indians. One resolution calls upon the Secretary to supply the House with a copy of the Foster lease and of all sub-leases under that parent lease, giving the dates of the approval or rejection of the parties who were the subject. The other resolution asks under what act of Congress the Foster lease was made, and under what authority of law the sub-leases were approved. The Secretary is asked whether he did not ratify the sub-lease to the Alameda Company and whether this was not the first sub-lease so ratified and whether he had not previously refused to ratify sub-leases.

The resolution asks not only for the date of the ratification of the Alameda sub-lease, but also calls for a list of the officers, directors and stockholders of the Alameda Company, with information as to whether any of these persons are personally known or in any way related to him (the Secretary) and, if so, the name of such person and how related.

The resolution directs the Secretary to say whether he did or did not, on February 13 last, in a letter addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, write that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs "also shows that there is no necessity for the proposed legislation in order to protect the existing rights of the parties who hold under the said Foster lease, and it is not deemed advisable, nor indeed would it be just, to renew and extend the said lease for a period of ten years or any other period, without the knowledge or consent of the Indians." The resolution continues:

"And if you did write this letter, please state to the House what information you have since received that has caused you to recommend the adoption of the Senate amendment to the Indian appropriation bill extending said lease for ten years on 80,000 acres of said Osage Indian lands without first securing the consent of the Indians."

The statement recently given out by Secretary Hitchcock is cited, in which he said that "the original Foster lease was an unheard-of monopoly and nothing short of a public scandal," and the resolution asks the Secretary if he was thus correctly quoted, and if so to state why he now recommends an extension of the lease.

## CHARGES AGAINST RAILROAD.

**Missouri, Kansas and Texas Company Accused of Collusion.**  
CHANUTE, Kans., Feb. 22.—W. E. Connelly, for the advisory board of the Kansas Oil Producers' Association, to-day telegraphed Congressman Camp-

## WEBER FOUND GUILTY ON SEVENTH BALLOT

### HE MUST HANG FOR HIS CRIME

#### Auburn Jury Convicts Him of First-Degree Murder and Makes No Recommendations to the Court



ADOLPH WEBER, WHO WAS CONVICTED YESTERDAY BY A JURY IN AUBURN OF HAVING MURDERED HIS MOTHER. WEBER TURNED PALE WHEN HE HEARD THE VERDICT, BUT SOON AFTER REGAINED THE CALM DEMEANOR HE HAS WORN THROUGHOUT THE TRIAL.

## DECLINES \$100 BILL AS BRIBE

### Indiana Legislator Exposes Work of Lobbyist.

**Special Dispatch to The Call.**  
INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 22.—The special investigating committee appointed by Speaker Sydney Cantwell of the House of Representatives, following the declaration of Representative Ananias Baker of Fulton and Cass counties, who in explaining his vote on the anti-cigarette bill in the House to-day produced a letter containing a \$100 bill which, he charged, was sent to him by those interested in defeating such legislation, to-night issued an affidavit for the arrest of O. A. Baker of Marion, a former State Senator, charging him with having attempted to corrupt Representative Baker.

The investigating committee, with the assistance of Attorney General Charles W. Miller, who did the questioning, wrung from Representative Baker the name of the ex-State Senator only after a half hour of persistent and cleverly planned questioning. Baker said he had had to promise the alleged briber not to divulge his name in order to draw him out. Detectives are searching for the accused man.

The effect of Representative Baker's disclosure was apparent in the immediate overwhelming vote in favor of the Curtis anti-cigarette bill, which passed by a vote of 74 to 17.

## Strike Riot in Sweden.

**LONDON, Feb. 23.**—A dispatch from Copenhagen to the Daily Telegraph reports that a serious strike riot has taken place at Helsingborg, Sweden; that cavalry charged the rioters and that thirty persons were injured.

## BELL SOUNDS WARNING.

**Special Dispatch to The Call.**  
AUBURN, Feb. 22.—"We, the jury, hereby find Julius Adolph Weber guilty of murder in the first degree."  
This was the verdict rendered this afternoon after seven ballots by the jury which has weighed the evidence in support and against the charge that Adolph Weber murdered his own mother. The verdict means that the boy must hang for the crime. He now stands branded as the person who killed his father, mother, sister and brother and then sought to hide his crime by burning the home wherein their bodies lay.

"I am greatly disappointed but not discouraged," were the words Adolph Weber uttered in his cell after the jury had brought in the verdict. He took the matter calmly, as he sat in the court and heard the clerk read the words that make the gallows his end.

The delay of the jury in bringing in a verdict led to the belief that there would be a disagreement as to the degree of the crime. Ever since the case went to the jury the people of this town have been in an excited state, waiting for the great bell on the courthouse to ring, which was to be the warning note that a verdict had been reached.

To-day at 5 minutes after 2, when the bell rang out in solemn tones, people from all parts of the community hurried toward the courthouse. As the first touch of the bell sounded, Weber, in his prison, said to his guardian, John Adams: "Well, I suppose that means they have come to a verdict."

"We, the jury, hereby find Julius Adolph Weber guilty of murder in the first degree."  
"DEWITT PORTER, Foreman."  
WEBER'S FACE TURNS PALE.  
During the reading of the verdict Weber's eyes were cast down and his face assumed an ashy paleness. However, he at once resumed his usual demeanor, and with a pale, ghastly smile turned around and spoke to Attorney Johnson. Judge Prewett then announced that he would pass sentence on March 13.

## BABE LEFT BY MOTHER IN A CAR

### Blockade on St. Paul Street Railroad Results.

**Special Dispatch to The Call.**  
ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 22.—Traffic on Merriam Park car line was badly disorganized for a half-hour this morning, all because an absentminded mother forgot to take her baby with her when she left a car. The woman, whose name is withheld, had been shopping and at 11 o'clock took a Merriam Park car, accompanied by her four-year-old baby and a number of packages of bargains. She placed the baby on a seat beside her and became so absorbed in problems of dress that when she arrived at her corner she forgot to take the baby with her. There were several other ladies in the car, and before the mistake was discovered the car had turned a corner and the mother was out of sight.

The child appeared to be happy and contented, but when the car reached the end of the line and the passengers all left, the baby set up a wall which proved very embarrassing to the conductor and motorman.

Meanwhile the mother had gone to the Selby avenue station and demanded the return of her baby. She was so excited that the men were unable to learn the circumstances of the case and she left the office in a high temper. She went to the corner and began to stop every car bound in either direction and with the assistance of a few boys the street was blocked with cars. The blockade was finally lifted by the arrival of the right car, and the woman left with her baby and strong words of denunciation against the street car company.

**Russian Crown Prince Ill.**  
ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 22.—The infant heir to the throne was reported several days ago to be suffering from the grip. His condition is not serious.

**NO POSTAGE STAMPS IN FAIRBANKS**

**Special Dispatch to The Call.**  
TACOMA, Feb. 22.—A dispatch from Fairbanks, Alaska, says that a common United States two-cent postage stamp sold for \$1 there yesterday and it was the last one to be procured at that price. There is not a stamp to be had in town and all sorts of wild offers are being made for them by persons desirous of sending away mail matter. This is the first absolute famine of postage stamps ever experienced there.

The last lemon at Fairbanks has now been consumed. It sold for \$2 and the purchaser was glad to get it at this price. Many of the lesser commodities are entirely out of stock, causing much discomfort.

**Agra Diamond Brings \$25,500.**  
LONDON, Feb. 22.—The Agra diamond, weighing 31 karats, sold to-day for \$25,500.

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