

THE WEATHER.
Forecast made at San Francisco for thirty hours ending midnight March 18: San Francisco and vicinity—Cloudy Saturday; light west winds.
A. G. McADIE,
District Forecaster.

to be taken from the Library.***
Call
The City of San Francisco

STATE CALL
THE THEATERS.
ALCAZAR—"Alce of Old Vincennes."
CALIFORNIA—"Mons. Beucaire."
COLUMBIA—English Grand Opera.
CENTRAL—"Faust."
CHUTES—Vaudeville.
FISCHER'S—Vaudeville.
GRAND—"T. O. U."
ORPHEUM—Vaudeville.
TIVOLI—Comic Opera.
ALHAMBRA—D'Albert concert. Mat.inee only.
Matinees at all theaters.

FATE OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY IS IN DOUBT

No News of Military Developments in Manchuria Received at St. Petersburg During the Last Three Days

PEABODY GIVES UP THE OFFICE
Carries Out Bargain Made in Gubernatorial Fight.
Presents His Resignation and Retires to Private Life.
Lieutenant Governor Is Sworn In and at Once Assumes Reins of Government in Colorado.

VENEZUELAN SITUATION IS NEAR CRISIS
France Asks America to Define Her Attitude.
States That Her Patience Has Been Almost Exhausted.
Regards the Action of Castro as Unwarranted and Has Nearly Reached the Limit of Diplomacy.

JAPANESE GIVE FOES NO REST
Moving Northward to Surround Slav Forces.
Linevitch Faces Difficult Task

ST. PETERSBURG, March 17.—A commission has been appointed under the presidency of General Roop, a member of the Council of the empire, to investigate the surrender of Port Arthur and act as a court to determine the responsibility of General Stoessel.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 18, 1:50 a. m.—Decided anxiety is felt regarding the fate of the army in Manchuria under its new commander, no news of military developments during the last three days having been received. The only dispatches from the front are the brief announcements yesterday that General Linevitch had assumed command and that Kuropatkin was departing for St. Petersburg, disposing of a rumor that Kuropatkin had committed suicide, and the press Changtufu dispatch filed the morning of March 16, and written at the station of Kaiyuan, which was then held by the Russians.

news regarding the situation in Manchuria or the whereabouts of Vice Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron has reached London.
The greatest sympathy is expressed by the British press and public for General Kuropatkin and there is strong criticism of the manner of his dismissal without a word of thanks for his past services. General Kuropatkin is held to have been to a large extent a victim throughout the campaign of the interference of Alexieff and the grand ducal party and never had a free hand or proper support in men and means. Little or nothing is expected from the appointment of General Linevitch, whose task is admitted to be almost superhuman.

All the St. Petersburg correspondents to pause in the Russian advance is probable for some time. The Russians are losing heavily in the rear-guard actions, and Japanese columns are reported to be pushing northward as fast as possible to complete the enveloping movement of the Russians.
General Linevitch will have a considerable accession of fresh troops in a day or two, the Fourth European corps being now at Harbin and departing southward. Military officers desire that there are now 38,000 men at General Linevitch's disposal in Manchuria and it is believed that this force will be sufficient to cause the Japanese to exercise greater caution in their pursuit.
Prince Khilkoff, who will leave St. Petersburg soon to prepare the Siberian railway for forwarding the new levies which have been determined on, said that there had been no breakdown as yet and that he hoped as soon as navigation opened it would be possible to transport one-fourth of the outgoing soldiers by the rivers and relieve the railroad to that extent.
Although General Kuropatkin's downfall was inevitable from a military standpoint, it arouses sympathy in circles familiar with the long campaign that has been waged against him by the general staff. General Sakharoff has his open enemy and General Dragomiroff his most severe critic and many of his own subordinates were jealous. Many epigrams about General Kuropatkin's shortcomings are attributed to General Dragomiroff and the suppression of the former at such a critical moment is directly attributed to General Dragomiroff's advice, Emperor Nicholas not giving ear to the veteran strategist in military affairs.
General Linevitch is distinctively a line officer with a long record as a fighter. He is almost as cordially disliked by the general staff as is his predecessor, and there is also bad blood between Kuropatkin and Linevitch dating from a personal quarrel in the days when Kuropatkin was commander of the Trans-Baikal army, which Linevitch demanded satisfaction. Kuropatkin assumed the position that he could not fight an officer of inferior rank. The succession of this officer will naturally increase General Kuropatkin's discomfiture.
There is a persistent report that railroad communications have been cut by the Russians from their base. It is awaited with intense anxiety.
A dispatch from Changtufu reports that General Kuropatkin left there tonight for St. Petersburg.

OFFER BRAVE RESISTANCE.
Russians Engage in Constant Fighting While Withdrawing.
CHANGTUFU, March 16. (Delayed in transmission.)—The rear-guard action is continuing almost uninterruptedly. Soldiers wounded in the last fight to the number of 1700 were dispatched north from Tie Pass on March 15.
On the morning of March 15 the Japanese made the principal attack on the Russian left and in the evening attacked the right also. It is reported that several columns of Japanese infantry, with cavalry, are moving north a considerable distance west of the railway with the intention of cutting the Russians from their base. It seems evident that the advance movement of the Japanese has continued for a long time and perhaps uninterruptedly. The Russians, though fatigued with three weeks of constant fighting, are offering a stubborn resistance in their withdrawal, although not attempting to hold a position which is naturally open to a turning movement.
The wagon trains are gradually assuming order, but many carts are missing, including those carrying private supplies of food.
The distributing department, which has done much good work at Kaiyuan, will leave to-day for the north.

SYMPATHY FOR KUROPATKIN.
British Press and Public Criticizes Manner of His Dismissal.
LONDON, March 18.—No further

Advices from Changtufu are to the effect that the rear guard fighting is continuing almost uninterruptedly. Hundreds of wounded are being sent north from Tie Pass. St. Petersburg is anxiously awaiting news from General Linevitch, although it is thought that he has sufficient troops to beat off attacks by pursuing Japanese.



DISTINGUISHED OFFICER WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE CZAR TO SUCCEED GENERAL KUROPATKIN, AND NOTED NAVAL COMMANDER, WHO IS DEPENDENT UPON TO EXTEND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE RUSSIAN FORCES THAT ARE BATTLING WITH THE SOLDIERS OF THE MIKADO.

DENVER, March 17.—The bargain made by leaders of the opposing Republican factions of Colorado to take the Governor's chair from Alva Adams and to seat in it Lieutenant Governor Jesse F. McDonald, after permitting James H. Peabody to hold it for one day, was carried to a conclusion late this afternoon.
In fulfillment of the agreement which he made before the General Assembly decided the gubernatorial contest in his favor, James H. Peabody resigned the office in which he was inaugurated late yesterday afternoon.
His resignation, of which W. S. Boynton of Colorado Springs had been custodian since Wednesday, when it was written, was filed in the Secretary of State's office at 4:20 p. m. to-day. James Cowie, Secretary of State, immediately certified Governor Peabody's resignation, and Lieutenant Governor McDonald was then sworn in as Governor by Chief Justice Gabbert.
There was no further ceremony.

MCDONALD SWORN IN.
Governor Adams was ousted and Governor Peabody installed by the General Assembly at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and Governor McDonald was sworn in before 5 p. m. to-day. Thus in the space of less than twenty-four hours Colorado has had three Governors.
Governor Peabody transacted practically no business of state while in the office of Governor. He received many callers, who urged him not to resign, and also many messages of the same import by telegraph and telephone. To all these he replied that he did not care to hold the chair. He said that he was tired of the worry and excitement of his contest and wished to go back to his bank in Canyon City.

BITTER FIGHT IS ENDED.
Half a dozen members of the National Guard patrolled the corridors about the executive chamber during the day as a guard for Governor Peabody.
Lieutenant Governor McDonald reluctantly takes the chair which Governor Peabody resigned after forcing Governor Adams out. The Lieutenant Governor has taken no part in the bitter fight over the Governorship, which has been waged ever since the election on November 8. He absolutely refused to aid his friends in the Legislature in their efforts to have him made Governor and as presiding officer in the joint assembly he made several rulings against the movement in his behalf.
Senator Arthur N. Cornforth, president pro tem of the Senate, becomes acting Lieutenant Governor then the elevation of the Lieutenant Governor to the office of chief executive.

ADAMS FEELS AGGRIEVED.
"I am going back to my home and my business in Pueblo," said Alva Adams, who was deposed by the General Assembly from the Governorship after having served sixty-six days of the biennial term, for which he was inaugurated on January 10 last. "I am president of a savings bank and I have a hardware establishment, so I have no fear about the bread-and-butter proposition."
"At the same time," he added, "I am by no means in a jocular frame of mind. I have been outraged and I feel the resentment that is natural. However, if the people can endure it, I can. My friends, many of them in the opposite party, have stood by me stanchly. I shall never forget their devotion to the cause of right and simple justice. I was advised by some friends whose loyalty was supreme to hold the office by force, but I never for a moment had an idea of accepting such advice. I am for law and order in the real sense of the phrase, and self-sacrifice is a part of my duty in adherence to that principle. I simply submit to the outrage that could not peaceably be prevented."
In his letter of resignation, addressed to Secretary of State Cowie, Governor Peabody stated that he contested the gubernatorial chair, "believing then and fully convinced now" that he received a plurality of the lawful votes cast for the office. It was a matter of duty to the people of Colorado and the Republican party that the contest should be held. He considered the decision of the Legislature seating him a complete vindication of his course. Continuing, the letter reads:
"To my surprise and regret, I discovered toward the latter stages of the contest that certain members of the Legislature elected as Republicans en-

WASHINGTON, March 17.—France has officially informed the United States of the action of the Venezuelan Government against the French cable company, which she regards as high-handed and unwarranted. While insisting that diplomatic means will be exhausted in an effort to relieve the situation, it is declared that President Castro is rapidly exhausting French patience and thereby forcing France toward the limit of diplomacy.
France has invited the attention of the American Government to the Venezuelan situation because of America's interest in all South American affairs and in order that it may ascertain the probable course of action which this Government will take against Venezuela. It is the wish of the French Government to act along parallel lines so far as practicable.
The developments in the Venezuelan situation to-day are regarded as the preliminary step toward the relief of the situation in Caracas, which Europe as well as the United States has for some time regarded with dissatisfaction. Early to-day M. Jusserand, the French Ambassador, sent his first secretary to the State Department to inform the officers there of the suit of the Venezuelan Government against the French cable company and of the concern which the action has caused the French cable company. The first secretary, M. Tera, gave to Acting Secretary of State Taft the substance of the cable dispatch from Paris, and asked him about the probable line of action which this Government contemplated in connection with the asphalt case.

It was impossible for Adeé to commit the Government on this point until the Venezuelan courts had acted, but he thanked the secretary for advising this Government in the matter and promised information as soon as the Government was prepared to make an announcement. As the French secretary left Adeé called at the War Department, where he had a long conference with Secretary Taft.
It is pointed out that it is the wish of the French Government to settle as quietly as possible its differences with Venezuela, and in case a French ultimatum is followed by no relief in the situation France will have well nigh reached the limit of diplomacy.
In view of the unfavorable conditions in Venezuela at this moment, the French armored cruiser Duplex and the protected cruiser Jurien de la Cravère, which are now in the Caribbean Sea, will be retained in the vicinity indefinitely.
Although the greater part of the North Atlantic fleet is soon to come north as far as Pensacola, the fleet practice, an adequate contingent will remain in Dominican waters to guard American interests there, and in case of an emergency in Venezuela the fleet at Pensacola will be in easy cruising distance.

ANTI-CIGARETTE BILL PASSED IN WISCONSIN
Measure to Which the Tobacco Trust Objects Goes to the Governor.
MADISON, Wis., March 17.—A drastic anti-cigarette bill passed the Senate to-day. It had previously been passed by the Assembly. It makes unlawful the sale, gift or importation into Wisconsin of cigarettes or cigarette materials. The action followed a spirited debate, in which the tobacco trust, officially known as the American Tobacco Company, was charged with being the sole objector to the bill.
"I have always been and will ever continue to be a faithful adherent of Republican principles and doctrines, and I conceive it to be the duty of every true citizen to make personal sacrifices, if need be, for the welfare of the political organization to which he may belong.
"Imbued with these sentiments, I am constrained to the conclusion that the best interests of the Republican party of this State will be subserved if I am now to retire to private life, hoping thereby that my present effacement as a political factor in Colorado will restore peace and harmony, now so sorely needed, in the Republican party of this State."

SCHOONER AND THIRTY MEN LOST
San Francisco Vessel Wrecked in Alaska.

RUSSIANS RETIRE NORTH.
First Set Fire to Railroad Station and Supplies at Tie Pass.
WITH THE JAPANESE LEFT ARMIES, Thursday, March 16, 10 a. m., via Fusan, March 16. The pursuing armies fully occupied Tie Pass at midnight after a fierce fight. The Russians retired north in confusion after setting fire to the railroad station and supplies.
The successful conclusion of the army's mission makes the movement the greatest of modern history. The armies covered about ninety miles in a fortnight, fighting practically every inch of the way. It is not probable that the Russians will make another stand south of Harbin.
TOKIO, March 17.—A telegram received to-day from army headquarters in the field says:
"The railway station at Tieling (Tie Pass) is a splendid structure and its arrangements equal those of the station at Liaoyang.
"The enemy's provisions and fodder piled around the station were set on fire and two-thirds of the material were destroyed.
"We have captured numerous spoils, but have had no time to investigate them.
"A great number of prisoners have been taken in the direction of the right wing, but the details of their capture have not yet been received."
MANY PRISONERS TAKEN.
Japanese Legation at Washington Receives News From Tokio.
WASHINGTON, March 17.—The Japanese legation has received the following from the Foreign Office at Tokio:
"The railway station and other facilities for communication at Tieling (Tie Pass) are still in existence and nearly in as good shape as at Liaoyang after its fall. Of the Russian provisions and fodder stored near by, two-thirds have been burned by the

BEEF TRUST WITNESSES DISAPPEAR
Federal Grand Jury May Indict the Missing Men.

CHICAGO, March 17.—Indictments are to be brought Monday, it is believed, against six prominent witnesses who have been sought for weeks in the "beef trust" investigation.
These men, who are employed by the National Packing Company and Swift & Co., are said to have been given "vacations" if no trace of the men is found by to-morrow evening by the Deputy United States Marshals, who have subpoenas for them, preparations will be made by Assistant Attorney General Oliver Pagan and Deputy United States Marshal Edward St. Clair to draw up indictments against the men on charges similar to those that are to be brought against the packers, should the evidence before the Grand Jury warrant it. Three of the six men against whom the indictments may be returned, should they fail to appear, and who, the Federal officials declare, have been evading the service of subpoenas, are: F. A. Spink, traffic manager of the National Packing Company; James Brennan, department manager for Swift & Co., and Irving A. Vant, assistant treasurer for Swift & Co.
California Postal Changes.
WASHINGTON, March 17.—A post-office has been established at Colony Center, Merced County, California. James R. Ostler, postmaster. Mary A. Stanton has been commissioned fourth class postmaster at Repression, Cal.

PREFERS DEATH TO STUDYING
Omaha School Girl Tries to Commit Suicide.

OMAHA, Neb., March 17.—Unable to master her Latin lesson, Grace Wood, who came to Omaha from Denver in January, attempted to take her life by drinking carbolic acid at the High School to-day. She is of a very nervous and timid disposition and her studies, the teachers say, preyed upon her mind. Miss Wood's father died three years ago and the Colorado courts, it is said, decided her mother should not have the care of her. Although giving her age as 19, Miss Wood is a mere child in appearance. She is recovering from the effects of the acid.
PRINCESS LEAVES RUSSIA FOR LONDON
Victoria of Battenberg Accompanied to the Station by Czar and Czarina.
ST. PETERSBURG, March 17.—Princess Victoria of Battenberg left tonight for London. Emperor Nicholas and the Empress accompanied her to the station.
AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN ARRIVE AT PORTO RICO
SAN JUAN, P. R., March 17.—The United States transport Sumner from New York, March 11, arrived to-day with American Congressmen, mostly members of the River and Harbor Committee.