

RUSSIA CENSURES AMERICA

PRINCIPAL ST. PETERSBURG PAPER CRITICISES PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT.

THE JAPANESE "DEFEAT"

Tokio Dispatch Says Ships Were Purposely Sunk in Port Arthur Harbor Without Damage to Mikado's Fleet—Russian Fleet Near Suez.

London, Feb. 26.—The Japanese legation today gave out the following official dispatch from Tokio:

"Early in the morning of February 24, four old vessels escorted by some torpedo boats, were run into the entrance to Port Arthur for the purpose of blocking the mouth of the harbor. The object of the sinking of these vessels was attained and the officers and crews returned safely. As this report regarding our fleet is direct from Admiral Togo, no doubt can be entertained as to its safety."

St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.—The Novoe Vremya this morning publishes a long leading article regarding the relations existing between the United States and Russia. In considering the unfriendly manifestations against Russia in the United States, the paper argues, a distinction must be made between the people and the government and it attributes the agitation in the press to a campaign engineered by the Jews, who, it has been said, even talk of building a battleship for the mikado.

Cites Nations' Friendship. The paper insists however, that the traditional friendship for Russia occupies a firm position in the American mind and heart and that the people cannot really prefer the Japanese to the Russians, who never have harmed them.

The Other Side. The Novoe Vremya on the other hand contends that without reason, the Washington government has been unfriendly to Russia and it compares the most recent feat of the state department, the telegraphic ratification of the Chinese open port treaty, to telegraphic marriages, which it says are sometimes practiced in America.

Discuss Hay's Proposition. "But it is idle," the article goes on, "to talk now of sending United States consuls to Manchuria. Unsatisfied with the success of his efforts, Secretary Hay undertook to secure the neutralization, inviolability of administration and entirety of China, diplomats and publicists being in doubt as to what all this meant, Hay kindly announced that he did not care to have his proposal defined in detail."

Naval Demonstration. The article concludes that the American government has taken a position which accords with the former good relations with Russia and the paper is convinced that the conduct of the United States gunboat Vicksburg "in refusing to protect and receive the drowning Russians will not meet with wide sympathy in America nor will Americans sympathize with the naval demonstration at the mouth of the Yalu river of which the telegraph brought a report yesterday."

As it was cabled from London, Feb. 25, by the Nagasaki correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, that "the American squadron of vessels which is variously reported at Chefoo and Shanghai is going to make a demonstration at the mouth of the Yalu river." It is possible this is the report to which the Novoe Vremya refers.

Russians Report a Victory. St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.—A long official telegram giving the details of the attack on Port Arthur February 25 was received this afternoon and is now in the hands of the military censorship committee. The Associated Press learns that the attack developed into a general engagement between the Japanese squadron and the Russian squadron for three hours, and resulted in the repulse of the Japanese.

France Not in War. Paris, Feb. 26.—The French foreign office categorically denies the report published in London, England, that Korea having become an ally of Japan under the new Japanese-Corean treaty, France is thereby requested to become an active ally of Russia.

Treaty Makes No Change. The officials say the situation does not warrant such a conclusion and adds that the new treaty does not make the slightest change in the position of France.

Russian Squadron Near Suez. Suez, Feb. 26.—The Russian squadron from Jibuti is reported to be anchored in the Gulf of Suez, twenty-five miles south of Suez. A torpedo boat destroyer which has already entered the canal bound north has sailed south again to rejoin the squadron.

Russians Stop English Steamer. Aden, Arabia, Feb. 26.—A Russian torpedo boat destroyer stopped and

IOWA WRECK KILLS FOUR

ANOTHER MAY DIE AS RESULT OF COLLISION OF FREIGHT TRAINS.

THREE BODIES CREMATED

Fireman C. W. Griswold of Barnesville, and Three Passengers on the Train Were Killed Instantly—The Wreckage Catches Fire.

Dubuque, Feb. 26.—Four men were killed and one fatally injured in a rear end collision between two Great Western fast stock trains near Dyersville last night. The bodies of the stockmen were cremated in the caboose in which they were riding.

The Dead. The dead as the result of last night's wreck at Dyersville are: C. W. Griswold, fireman, Barnesville. A. C. Thomas, stockman, Blocton. J. W. Rhyne, stockman, Lorimer. Thomas Cavanaugh, Milwaukee, Wis. F. L. Pouche, who was enroute to Wellington, Ill., will probably die from his injuries.

Collision on Hill. The first section of the train from Minnesota had just left Dyersville with a push engine to help it up the grade when the second section came down the hill into the town at full speed and before it could be stopped, crashed into the "pusher." The push engine telescoped the caboose of the first section in which were riding the stockmen who were killed. Fireman Griswold was on the engine of the second train. The crew of the "pusher" saw that a collision was inevitable and jumped before the crash came.

Wreckage Catches Fire. Immediately after the crash the wreckage took fire and thousands of dollars worth of property was destroyed.

boarded the British India company's steamer Mombassa in the Red Sea February 25. The destroyer fired a gun which the Mombassa disregarded, but a second shot caused the liner to stop. The Russian officer boarded the Mombassa and examined her papers, after which she was allowed to proceed.

Frenchmen With Russia. Cannes, France, Feb. 26.—Grand Duke George of Russia and his wife arrived here today. There were loud cheers for Russia as they passed through the streets.

CZAR TO THE ARMY.

Issues a Stirring Manifesto in Form of Message to Commander.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.—A stirring manifesto to the army was issued by the czar today in the form of a message to General Kuropatkin, the commander in chief of the Russian army in the far east. In part it is as follows:

"The hour has come when I must summon you to the head of my valiant army to defend the honor and dignity of Russia and her sovereign rights in the far east. Knowing your brilliant gifts and the imminent preparations for battle, I am glad to entrust to you the responsible command of my Manchurian army against the Japanese on your leaving your work as minister. God help you in your difficult task which you with such self denial have assumed and I confer upon you the order, 'St. Alexander-Neviski,' in brilliant colors."

BLOW TO SHOOTERS

SENATE PASSES BILL MAKING LIVE BIRD SHOOTING A CRIME.

(BY LEON BROWN.)

Des Moines Bureau of Courier.

Des Moines, Feb. 26.

The senate today passed the bill already passed by the house, making it a criminal offense to shoot live birds as targets from traps. This bill, when signed by the governor, will put a stop to one of the most popular sports followed in the state.

Buchanan Bill Passes House. The house today passed the Buchanan bill making the theft of chickens from an enclosure at night a penitentiary offense.

Favors Child Labor Bill. The house committee on labor, through its chairman, Representative Calderwood, reported in favor of the passage of the child labor bill.

The senate today passed a bill requiring the auditor to keep an account of the mulct tax.

ROCHESTER IN FLAMES

BEAUTIFUL CITY IN NEW YORK SUFFERS FROM DISASTROUS FIRE.

FIRE AT WAPELLO, IOWA

Damage Aggregating \$20,000 Done in Louisa County Capital Last Night—Believed to Be Work of Incendiaries—No Arrests Made.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 26.—This afternoon the fire is under complete control. Insurance men estimate the loss at \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 and the loss at about \$2,500,000.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 26.—The worst conflagration in the history of Rochester, broke out about 5 o'clock this morning in the basement of the Rochester Dry Goods company's store at 156-166 Main street East. The fire spread with such rapidity that by the time the alarm had been turned in the entire front of the store was a mass of flames. Soon the building occupied by the Beadle & Sherburne Co. was ablaze and Chief Little appealed to the Buffalo and Syracuse departments for help. Nearly five hours later four steamers arrived from Syracuse.

Flames Spread Rapidly. Within an hour after being discovered the fire had spread to the big granite building occupied by the firm of Sibley, Lindsay & Curr and hundreds of business and professional men. The flames also spread to the buildings in the rear of the Granite block.

Loss is Heavy. The loss is estimated at between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000, which fell on Sibley, Lindsay & Curr and Beadle & Sherburne Co., the Rochester Dry Goods Co. and the Walker Shoe Co.

The entire tenth floor of the Granite building was occupied by the Vacuum Oil Co., a branch of the Standard Oil Co. The Bradstreet mercantile agency had offices in the building.

Under Control at 11 O'clock. Several engines from the Buffalo fire department arrived at 11 o'clock. At that hour the fire was still burning fiercely but Chief Little believed the flames could be kept under control as there was no wind blowing. The firemen used dynamite early in the morning, but the use of explosives was abandoned.

Fire at Wapello.

Wapello, Feb. 26.—One of the most destructive fires that has visited this city in years, broke out in the business portion of the town shortly before midnight last night and completely gutted two of the finest mercantile buildings and part of another before it was got under control. The loss will reach about \$20,000, mostly covered by insurance. It is believed the blaze was of incendiary origin.

A few minutes after 11 o'clock flames were seen issuing from the rear of the J. E. Garrett building on Second street, and before the department could be summoned had spread over the entire structure and rapidly worked its way to the W. L. Sweeney property adjoining. The G. A. R. building alongside for a time was seriously in danger. Flames having broken out on the roof, but by hard work the fire workers succeeded in subduing the blaze and confined it to the two first mentioned buildings.

Burned Four Hours. It was not until after 3 o'clock this morning that the conflagration was under control, and had it not been that all the structure was of brick, it is thought the whole block would have been doomed.

The Heaviest Losers. The entire mercantile stock of J. E. Garrett, together with the building, was consumed. The loss is total and is placed at \$10,000. The insurance is \$4,000 on the building and \$6,500 on the stock.

The K. of P. hall regalia on the second floor is a total loss, with insurance of \$450.

The W. L. Sweeney property was empty and the damage, which was total, is \$4,000.

The G. A. R. building is valued at \$8,000 and contained the large rooms of the order on the second floor, with the postoffice beneath. Most of the contents were removed and the damage to the building and fixtures will not exceed \$1,000. Druse's photograph gallery is also located in this structure; his loss is small.

Work of Incendiaries. It is suspected that the fire is the work of incendiaries. A broken window was discovered in the Garrett building, and it is believed that an entrance was effected and a blaze started. This report cannot be verified and no arrests have been made.

The burned buildings were in the heart of the business district on the main street of the town, and were of brick and but recently constructed. It is the worst blow Wapello has suffered in years.

Troops for Orient. Cherbourg, France, Feb. 26.—A strong contingent of French colonial troops is being organized for service in Indo-China.

THE WEATHER

THE WEATHER Iowa—Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday with possibly snow flurries in the east portion tonight. Warmer in the west Saturday.

Local Weather. 9 o'clock last night . . . . .18 7 o'clock this morning . . . . .16 2 o'clock this afternoon . . . . .26

BANQUET IS BIG SUCCESS

FIRST ANNUAL EVENT IS GIVEN BY OTTUMWA RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION.

BUSINESS MEN TALK

Growth of Retail Business in Ottumwa Theme of Interesting and Excellent Addresses by Business Men of City—Story of Wonderful Progress.

The first annual banquet given by the Ottumwa Retail Dealers' association in the basement of the Market street theatre last evening was by common consent one of the most brilliant successes of the season. One hundred of the representative business men of this city, who have helped to make Ottumwa the important commercial center that it is today, enjoyed the splendid repast and the excellent program which followed.

The affair was perfect in its appointments and this annual event will be looked forward to with pleasure by all who attended last night. After Dr. F. F. Stoltz, pastor of the First Presbyterian church invoked the divine blessing the banquet was served by the ladies of the First Congregational church. Mayor Flicker voiced the sentiments of all present when he stated that the ladies deserved a vote of thanks for the sumptuous repast and the excellent manner in which it was served and his motion to that effect was carried by a unanimous vote.

The committee on arrangements had spared no effort to make the evening a most enjoyable one. During the evening music was furnished by the Schuberts and several of the selections including a vocal solo "The World is Full of Sunshine," by Harry Swenson, were heartily enjoyed. The addresses were by practical men on subjects of vital interest and received the closest attention from all present.

The Association. The Retail Dealers' association was organized only a few months ago. The first meeting looking toward the perfecting of such an organization was called by J. F. Kerfoot and C. O. Arnold. The plan met with general favor and already the association has been of much benefit to the members and has grown rapidly until nearly every retail merchant in the city is included in its membership.

J. B. Sax, president of the association, who was selected to preside as toastmaster proved himself especially adapted for that position and by his timely remarks and witty sallies in introducing the several speakers added much to the enjoyment of the evening. In his opening remarks Mr. Sax said:

"I have been told that a good toastmaster, not alone should everybody understand, but he should be able to talk in a way that is interesting and helpful to the audience. The facts are that we are all engaged in kindred pursuits, not alone in our own business, but in our efforts to help one another. We are all engaged in kindred pursuits, not alone in our own business, but in our efforts to help one another. We are all engaged in kindred pursuits, not alone in our own business, but in our efforts to help one another."

HART COMES OUT FOR BLYTHE.

Iowa National Committeeman Favors His Selection.

Council Bluffs, Feb. 26.—Republican National Committeeman Ernest E. Hart, when interviewed as to the candidacy of J. W. Blythe of Burlington to succeed Senator Hanna as chairman of the national committee, said: "The announcement that Mr. Blythe is being considered for the position is no news to me, though I have made no public statement before. The facts are that over a week ago I wrote Senator Allison, expressing my sorrow over the death of Senator Hanna, and at the same time suggested the name of Mr. Blythe for the position. Since then the matter has been under advisement and has grown in favor wherever it has been mentioned. It now seems that President Roosevelt has taken kindly to the suggestion and will probably express his preference for Mr. Blythe. Mr. Blythe is in many respects like Senator Hanna and will be able to do more for the harmonization of the various elements of the party than any other person in the country."

NEW BOWLING CHAMPION.

Homer Elliott of Denver, Colorado, Rolls a Score of 712.

Denver, Colo., Feb. 26.—The world's record for individual bowling has been broken by Homer Elliott of this city. In the state tournament now on, he rolled 712, the previous record being 676.

AT HOME WITH HER CHILDREN

MRS. BELLE LEWIS, FREED OF MURDER CHARGE, WILL LIVE IN OTTUMWA.

SHE TALKS OF HER TRIAL

Does Not Think She Was Treated Fairly at Sigourney and Says Prosecution Was Most Severe—Rejoices in Her Freedom.

"No, I will not leave Ottumwa. I know a great many people here and they have all been so kind to me. My mother wants me to go to Villisca and live there with her but I believe I can do better here than anywhere else. I will have to make my living and a living for my children, and I must do it by taking in washing and doing other work of that kind. So I think that I will have a better chance here than at any place where I am not acquainted."

Thus did Mrs. Belle Lewis, who was yesterday acquitted of the charge of murdering her husband, sum up her prospect for the future. Sitting with hands folded, her face calm but showing the marks of more trouble than usually falls to the lot of one woman, she told her story to a Courier reporter this morning. She returned last night from Sigourney where she had been since her arrest on the night of January 1, and where yesterday she was released under circumstances which probably have no precedent in the legal annals of Iowa. Her release on motion of the attorneys for the prosecution is an indisputable indication of her entire innocence and her joy over the outcome of her trial is clouded only by one consideration.

Courier's Report Was Fair. Attorney A. C. Steck of this city, who, assisted by Attorneys D. W. Hamilton of Sigourney and George G. Hedrick of Hedrick, conducted the defense, returned home last night from Sigourney. Both he and Mrs. Lewis spoke today of the fairness with which the Courts reported the trial of the case, and Mrs. Lewis expressed her thanks for the support given her by the people of Ottumwa.

Was Treated Well At Jail. "What can you say of your treatment at the hands of the Keokuk county officials, Mrs. Lewis," asked the reporter this morning.

"I was treated very nicely at the jail," was the reply. "Mr. Baly is a splendid man and Mrs. Baly is a good woman. They gave me every comfort I could require and made my time of imprisonment easy to bear. I do think, though, that the prosecution was unfair and that it was a great injustice for the state's attorneys to continue the prosecution and the attempts to prove me guilty of killing my husband when they knew that Dr. Dean had said that my husband's death was certain to come within a short time from inflammation of the brain. This was the testimony which was given by Dr. Dean and which cleared me and it could have been introduced on Monday instead of Thursday because the doctor sent his report to the prosecuting attorneys last Monday."

Had a Hard Task. "It seemed to me," said Mrs. Lewis, "that it was necessary for me to prove that I was not guilty instead of the state's proving that I was guilty. The evidence against me was not strong enough to make the people of Sigourney believe I was guilty and throughout the time of the trial many women among them some of the most prominent ones in Sigourney, came to me several times in the court room and at the jail and told me that they believed me innocent. I do not see how any one could believe that I killed WILL (Mr. Lewis) after hearing the testimony given by the state's witnesses, even before Dr. Dean was put on the stand."

Dr. Dean's Testimony. "My attorneys intended to have the body taken from the grave and the head examined, but the state's attorneys did this before we had a chance. The head was given to Dr. Dean and taken out of the county. He made a report on Monday of this week but it was impossible for Mr. Steck to find out what that was. So we had to subpoena Dr. Dean yesterday. As soon as he came to Sigourney and found out that the case was still going on he went on the stand and his testimony brought the trial to a close at once. The state, by agreement with the court, was allowed to call him as a witness for the prosecution but his evidence was all in my favor."

Sigourney People Glad. "The people of Sigourney, or many of them at least, have been with me all the time and yesterday, when the jury brought a verdict of 'not guilty' men and women crowded about me in the court room and shook hands with me and congratulated me. On the way down to the jail people ran along on both sides of the street and women came from their houses and asked me to come in. Everyone seemed glad that I was free and I feel so

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CRUSHED TO DEATH

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER ON VISIT TO CAPITOL KILLED BY ELEVATOR.

MEN MEET AWFUL FATE

WORKMEN IN CHICAGO POSTOFFICE BUILDING FALL 250 FEET TODAY.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 26.—A scaffold in the dome of the new postoffice building suddenly collapsed this afternoon carrying fifteen men into the first floor of the building and killing at least two of them. Policemen and firemen were quickly summoned to clear away the debris and permit the recovery of the bodies. The victims had a sheer descent of 250 feet through space.

The men were at work on the big scaffold finishing up the decorations on the interior of the dome. There is a space beneath extending to the first floor and it was down this hole, through all the floors that the long splinters of wood surrounding the men fell with a crash.

Died Instantly. The men were literally buried and after the sound of the fall had died away no cries or moans of pain were heard. The platform was constructed largely of two by four timbers, in some places nailed together lengthwise. It was constructed under the direction of the Lennox Haldeman Co., subcontractors for the John Petro Co., who have charge of the interior decorations.

A Monster Scaffold. About 100 plasterers and laborers were at work in and about the dome when the accident occurred. The scaffolding which fell, was one of the largest of its kind ever built in Chicago. It is said to have contained 100,000 square feet of lumber.

Work of Recovery Slow. Although ten companies of firemen were soon at work with axes on the mass of smashed and splintered timber the work of recovering the bodies is necessarily slow. The first corpse recovered was that of James Gallagher aged 38 years. His head was crushed to a jelly.

Say Two Are Dead. The police late this afternoon announce that but two workmen were killed by the fall of the scaffold.

MARSHALL OFFERED AID. Report That American Captain Refused Russians Help Is Denied.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 26.—Three days ago the navy department cabled to Captain Marshall of the United States steamer Vicksburg at Chemulpo, requesting an explanation of the reported refusal on his part to take aboard of his ship a sailor from the Russian warships sunk by the Japanese. Today the department received a cablegram from Marshall saying he was among the first to offer assistance to the Russian sailors. The cablegram was badly garbled and the officials have not been able to fully translate it.

LEVIN MUST SERVE. St. Louis Man's Sentence Affirmed by Federal Judge.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 26.—Federal Judge Sanborn handed down an opinion today which affirms the sentence of Nathan Levin of St. Louis to confinement in the penitentiary for a term of five years for procuring aliens, who were not entitled to naturalization, to obtain certificates of citizenship from the St. Louis court of appeals by means of fraud and false statements.

RAILWAY NEARLY FINISHED. German Shan Tung Line May be Opened June 1.

Berlin, Feb. 26.—The German Shan Tung railway, extending from Tsing-Tau to Si-Nan-Foo is approaching completion. The first construction train has just been run from Si-Nan-Foo east. It is estimated the west terminus of the railway will be opened to traffic June 1.

HEARST DEMOCRATS BANQUET. Two Hundred Surround Festive Board at Creston.

Creston, Feb. 26.—The Jackson club gave a banquet last evening, plates being laid for about 200. S. A. Brewster of Ottumwa, G. F. Rinehart of Newton, and Tom Maxwell of Corning, J. E. Sullivan of Creston Attorney Miller of Chicago, J. B. Weaver of Colfax and C. A. Windle of Chicago responded to toasts. The banquet was in the interest of Hearst's candidacy for president.