

EMPEROR SPURNS ALL OFFERS OF MEDIATION

SAYS HE WILL FIGHT UNTIL VICTORIOUS AND THEN MAKE PEACE.

VLADIVOSTOK FLEET GETS INTO ACTION

Appears At Small Korean Port and Sinks Japanese Steamer—Thought To Have Been Out For Unprotected Troop Ships.

Tokio, April 25.—The Russian Vladivostok squadron has appeared at Gensan, Korea, where it sunk a Japanese merchant steamer of 600 tons. A brief telegram from Gensan today says three Russian cruisers had entered the harbor and that they were still there when the telegram was sent. Their arrival created consternation in the unprotected Japanese colony at Gensan.

It is thought here in Tokio that this Russian naval movement was made in the hope of intercepting some unprotected Japanese troop ships. It is not believed the squadron will remain at Gensan long. The Vladivostok squadron consists of the armored cruisers Russia, Gromobol and Rue Rurik, and the protected cruiser Bogatyr, being among the most powerful in the Russian navy. Gensan is about 350 miles southwest of Vladivostok.

St. Petersburg, April 25.—It is said that the emperor, replying to Viceroy Alexieff's application for leave, has telegraphed his refusal adding that he hoped the viceroy would be able to send some good news soon.

St. Petersburg, April 25.—The Associated Press is enabled to announce authoritatively that the talk of mediation in the Russo-Japanese war was founded upon the personal desires of King Edward and King Christian of Denmark to avoid further bloodshed and to end the conflict, but that the steps which were initiated have utterly failed.

Fight to a Finish. The emperor, with the full concurrence of the imperial family and his advisers, has firmly decided not only to reject all proposals looking to intervention but to prosecute the war with all the resources of the empire until victory crowns the Russian arms.

No Berlin Congress. And when the time comes for peace, to make terms directly with the enemy. Interference of outside powers will not be tolerated. There is to be no repetition of the Berlin congress.

Propositions Are Void. Furthermore, the Associated Press is authorized to state Russia will in no wise consider herself bound by the propositions made to Japan prior to war. The hostilities have wiped out the arrangements Russia offered to make with Japan regarding Korea and Manchuria. Russia will consider herself free to impose such terms as she desires.

Port Arthur Feels Secure. Port Arthur, April 25.—(Delayed.)—All weak points on both land and sea sides here have been so strengthened in the last two months that the impregnability of Port Arthur is now regarded as absolutely assured. The garrison has been considerably strengthened and the forts provided with all the necessities for more than a year.

People Are Confident. Complete confidence prevails with the troops, sailors and inhabitants in the ability of the Russians to defeat any Japanese attack.

Says Story is Untrue. St. Petersburg, April 25.—General Pflug in a telegram from Port Arthur formally denies the reports that the Japanese have crossed the Yalu river.

HOPES FOR PEACE.

Outside Interference May Bring About A Cessation of Fighting. Washington, D. C., April 25.—There is a buzz of peaceable intervention among diplomatic people, and the result of more than one whispered conference is the expression of the opinion that forces are being set in motion among the chancelleries of Europe which mean the termination of the war between Japan and Russia without much bloodshed. It is believed even now that the czar and the king of England hold in their hands the threads which are to be woven into an agreement for permanent peace.

From diplomatic points of view it is said that the time for friendly intervention actually has arrived. No one believes that Japan could whip Russia in the long run. The disparity between the resources of the two countries is much too great. On the other hand, Russia cannot invade Japan, nor even regain Korea, without a navy and twelve years ago and for which Frank Shercliff is now serving an eighteen year sentence in the state penitentiary of Iowa.

The evidence, a great part of which was submitted before the grand jury here, which recently indicted Dennison, was removed from Logan to Omaha for safe keeping for fear that Dennison, rendered possibly desperate might adopt some dare devil method of getting possession of it.

May Involve Politicians. This evidence is said to be highly sensational in character and may involve many politicians of Omaha. A part of it is an alleged itemized statement made by Dennison of the money expended by him in securing the parole of Shercliff a few years ago, who was released by Governor Shaw. It is claimed that Dennison maintains he expended the sum of \$14,450.50 in bringing about this result and that most

NOT AFRAID OF PARKER

REPUBLICANS IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE GLAD OF HIS NOMINATION.

D. B. HILL IS HIS SPONSOR

Hill is Rather Unpopular Especially in the West—Parker Not a Man Who Inspires Enthusiasm Among the Masses of the People.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—If the impression exists to any great extent that the republican leaders look with apprehension upon the prospective nomination of Judge Parker of New York for the presidency by the democratic national convention, that impression is entirely erroneous. As a matter of fact the republicans are not apprehensive on account of any candidate the democrats may nominate. They are willing to admit that some men mentioned would be more formidable opponents than others who have been named, but well informed republicans or democrats for that matter, are well satisfied that the democrats have not within their party a man who can defeat President Roosevelt in November 1904.

Judge Parker is considered by the republicans to be a stronger man and a better vote-getter than Mr. Hearst; but Parker is not the strongest man in the democratic party. In the first place Parker is the candidate of Hill of New York and Hill's standing especially in the west is of such a nature as to constitute a handicap for any man who is sponsored by the sage of Woolford's Roost.

Parker is Not Virile. Parker is not regarded as representing anything virile and active in the national life of the country. He is regarded as a man willing to be manipulated and handled; to be content to permit somebody else to plan his program and meekly execute it. It is pointed out that the American people above all things admire a man of ideas convictions and action even though the public may not at all times agree with all of these ideas and convictions. The people cannot enthuse over a man whose backbone is of the angle-worm type. They found much to admire in Grover Cleveland because of the enemies he made; because he had his own ideas and convictions and was strenuous in pressing them.

Judge Parker is not the man who is calculated to inspire enthusiasm on the part of the masses of the people. His only strong point, so-called, is his utter passiveness; the fact that he has never said or done anything one way or the other.

Would Be "Safe." It is claimed Parker would be a "safe" man. Even stronger claims than this are made; in fact, it is boldly charged that Judge Parker's nomination would be an out-and-out sale of the democratic party to the so-called trusts and money interests of the Morgan type. More than one great paper has flatly made this charge and it is not being denied. While it is undoubtedly true that certain Wall street and other eastern interests would support Parker, in case of his nomination, the probable line-up of the masses of business men, farmers and laboring men throughout the country, either on the side of Roosevelt or Parker, does not leave a great field for prophecy.

Would Flat Flat With Farmers. It is freely predicted that the candidacy of Parker would fall flat with the farmers and working men and the statement is made upon authority of one of the best informed politicians of New York that Roosevelt would defeat Parker in his own state by, at the lowest calculation, 50,000 votes.

The Hearst Papers. While the democrats in congress professed to be greatly elated over the

RAILROAD'S FATE HANGS IN BALANCE

DES MOINES & FORT DODGE MAY BE ABSORBED BY ROCK ISLAND.

Des Moines, April 25.—The approach of the date of the annual meeting of the Des Moines & Fort Dodge railway is awaited with considerable interest by railroad men, as it will then be definitely known whether the Rock Island or Edwin S. Hooley, of New York, is the owner of the line. The annual meeting will be held in this city about June 5. The annual meeting was held here last year June 11, one week later than scheduled. To the surprise of many railroad men and especially to the Rock Island officials, the latter did not dominate the meeting as they had done for several years prior. Instead, Edwin S. Hooley, a New York stock broker, stepped in and ousted the Rock Island officials who held directorships and other positions. Mr. Hooley had quietly gathered in the control of the common stock of the road and did not show his hand until the annual election when he secured official control, electing his own men to directorships. Then there was grief in the Rock Island circles. The lease of the company on the line expires in 1905, and their anticipation had been that they would "fall heir" to it. They did not expect to secure the line for nothing, but had hopes of paying a very trivial sum for it. Hooley's coup blasted their hopes.

The road which extends from Des Moines to Ruthven, 138 miles, is a valuable acquisition for the Rock Island, as it gives the main line a connection with the Dakota lines, and also taps a valuable coal country.

EXTRA

TORNADO IN THE SOUTH.

Strikes Towns With Fatal Results in Three States.

Houston, Texas, April 25.—A tornado passed three miles east of Mexico, Texas today, demolishing four houses. Miss Jennie Shanks was fatally injured and all the members of the Shanks family were hurt. W. E. Bonner and his daughter were seriously hurt. Much minor damage was done.

Children Killed at Pine Bluff. Pine Bluff, Ark., April 25.—A tornado passed over Jefferson county, killing two children and doing heavy property damage. At the town of Sherrill many buildings were blown down.

Six Deaths in Indian Territory. Pryor Creek, I. T., April 25.—Six people were killed by a tornado which swept through this county about four miles south of here last night.

MAN BURNED TO DEATH. Marion Morgan of Oskaloosa, The Victim of Horrible Accident.

Oskaloosa, April 25.—(Special.)—Marion Morgan, aged 33 years, was seized with a fit this morning when burning a pile of corn stalks, fell into the fire and was burned to death.

Parker victory in New York, they are not so wildly enthusiastic now that the facts have had time to soak in and some other features have developed. Mr. Hearst is printing in his papers some things that are giving the democrats great uneasiness. He is throwing the lime-light upon matters that are calculated to place the democratic nomination, with the probable result of alienating the almost solid vote of the working men and farmers and business men of the country. Mr. Hearst has printed matter and charges of such a nature that is not considered possible for the Hearst papers under any circumstances to render any aid to Parker in the event of his nomination. The attitude of Mr. Bryan is also a deep thorn in the flesh of the democracy. While the leaders are not fearful of Bryan's power, measured by delegates in the national convention, the prospect of Bryan's going up and down the country making speeches on the line suggested by the Nebraska statesman after reading the New York platform is not contemplated with equanimity.

Victim of Automobile Accident. Trenton, N. J., April 25.—Captain E. Y. Breen, of the New Jersey National Guard, is still unconscious as the result of an automobile accident which occurred at about midnight.

THE WEATHER

Iowa—Threatening and cooler tonight with probably showers in the east portion. Tuesday fair and slowly rising temperature. Illinois—Rain tonight, followed by fair weather Tuesday. Cooler in the west and south portions tonight. Local Weather. Last night at 9 o'clock... 42 Seven o'clock this morning... 43 Two o'clock this afternoon... 42

DAVENPORT BILL PASSES

SENATE AGREES TO MEASURE ESTABLISHING NEW BRANCH OF FEDERAL COURT.

AGREE ON THE NAVY BILL

Senate and House Reach Understanding Regarding Appropriations—Recommendation Favoring Disagreement on River Bill Approved.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—The senate today passed the bill to create a division of the southern district of Iowa federal court at Davenport.

Navy Bill Agreed Upon. The senate also adopted the conference report upon the navy appropriation bill, which eliminates all differences between the house and the senate on this matter.

River Bill Meets Defeat. Washington, April 25.—The house committee on rivers and harbors today recommended a disagreement as to the emergency river and harbor bill. The disagreement was approved by the house, but no conference was asked. The effort will be to defeat the bill unless the senate recalls the measure and eliminates the amendments.

Taft Goes to St. Louis. Secretary Taft will leave here tomorrow for St. Louis to represent the President at the opening ceremony of the Louisiana Purchase exposition.

Cullom to Talk Tomorrow. Washington, April 25.—When the senate convened today Cullom gave notice that he would address the senate tomorrow on the subject of the foreign relations of the United States.

Chinese Warship Ashore. Shanghai, April 25.—The Chinese warship Haitien is ashore on Elliott rocks. Assistance has been sent to her.

GETS FIVE YEARS. Martin Wescott, Accused of Manslaughter, Must Serve Time.

Mason City, April 25.—(Special.)—Martin Wescott was today sentenced to serve five years in the state penitentiary on the charge of manslaughter. Wescott was originally charged with murder and the case, which was hard fought, attracted much attention throughout the county and the northern part of the state.

FOR STEALING CHICKENS. Whether He Did or Didn't, Fitzke Must Serve Eight Months.

Mason City, April 25.—(Special.)—Richard Fitzke was this morning given a penitentiary sentence of eight months and fined \$100 for stealing chickens. The charge was a hard one to prove and the county officials feel that they have done much toward stopping chicken stealing in the county.

CORNER STONE LAID. Mason City Is Erecting High School Building Worth \$75,000.

Mason City, April 25.—(Special.)—The corner stone of the new \$75,000 high school building which is being erected in this city was laid today. Appropriate ceremonies were carried out and the most prominent people of the city took part.

WILL VISIT IRELAND. King and Queen of England and Princess Victoria, Leave London.

London, April 25.—King Edward, Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria and their suites, started today on a visit to Ireland.

Stallion Foxhall is Dead. London, April 25.—The death is announced today of the famous American stallion Foxhall, at Lord Rosebery's farm.

DES MOINES RIVER IS ON RISE AND RAIN CONTINUES

TO END STRIKE. Committee Fears Government May Adopt More Stringent Tactics.

Budapest, April 25.—The strike committee has issued a proclamation to the strikers on the state railroads instructing them to resume work immediately and so avert further and more stringent action by the government against them.

SENATE AGREES TO MEASURE ESTABLISHING NEW BRANCH OF FEDERAL COURT.

EXTRA

ANOTHER WAR POSSIBLE. Turkish Gendarmes Kill Secretary of Greek Consulate at Smyrna.

Athens, April 25.—An affray between Turkish gendarmes and Greeks is reported from Smyrna, in which M. Delyannis, secretary of the Greek consulate, was slightly wounded. Serious complications may ensue. A Greek squadron has sailed for Smyrna.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL BALKS. Refuses to Use Union Station at St. Louis City and Will Build.

St. Louis, April 25.—(Special.)—The Illinois Central railroad refuses to use the union terminal station in this city any longer because of the rental charged for the lease by the company controlling it. The Central this morning started the construction of a new freight depot and will build a passenger depot later.

CUMMINS FORCES WILL HELP FUNK

FORMER STATE SENATOR MAY LAND CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION IN ELEVENTH.

Des Moines, April 25.—An alignment of the forces friendly to and opposed to Governor Cummins may settle the congressional contest in the eleventh district. This culmination is looked forward to by the Des Moines politicians who are in close touch with events in the big eleventh. With this possibility is correlated the probable alignment of the east and west side.

Should the east and west side combination prevail and the west side swing the nomination, Roach, Hubbard or Hogue would probably be the beneficiary, with the chances favoring Hubbard. Should the combination of the Cummins forces enter into the solving of the problem, Senator A. B. Funk would seem to be the most probable choice of the convention, which will meet at Cherokee on May 4.

Lineup of Candidates. There are five candidates in the eleventh who are friendly to Governor Cummins and there are two who are not. The two who are not are Former Congressman Struble and Senator Hogue of Blencoe. The talk of a Cummins nomination is not being made openly, but it is whispered under cover and the five Cummins supporters may unite in favor of a Cummins candidate.

State politics have all along been playing a part in the eleventh district situation and may do so to an even greater extent. The county conventions have now been held in all the counties of the district. Osceola being the last one to pull off the preliminaries. From now on it will be a contest of the political manipulators. The men with the post-offices in their pockets, or any other available form of political asset will endeavor to do a line of trading which may land the congressional plum for one or the other.

DEPARTMENT OF SOILS AT STATE COLLEGE AT WORK

Ames, April 25.—The department of soils at the Iowa State college, which has just equipped its laboratory for research work, has completed arrangements for a series of field experiments that will cover several years and will be of the greatest practical value. A plot of ground including about thirteen acres has been set apart for this purpose.

The field is divided off into plots of a permanent nature, each definitely staked off with iron stakes, which will be permanent locations. Four plots are set aside for tests of the ability of grain raised on the ground to furnish fertilizer for the soil. One plot is to be planted to corn, one to oats, a third to corn and the fourth to clover. The grain from all four will be fed and will be the sole support of certain stock, all the manure from the four plots being used on the four plots, each being treated once each four years. This experiment will determine the ability of the farmer by keeping stock enough to use up the grain raised on the farm to furnish sufficient fertilizer for the farm.

Will Make Tests on Corn. Two plots are to be planted to corn, one plowed to the usual depth and the other three inches deeper than usual. This test is to find the truth of the claim that changing the depth of plowing is disastrous to the soil for that year. Six plots are to be set apart to determine the most profitable catch crop to be sowed in corn fields when the crop is laid by. Red clover, crimson clover, soy beans, cow peas and vetch are the catch crops used, and will be compared with corn checked in without a catch crop. Eleven plots are selected on which corn is to be raised continuously for a series of years. For the first year one is to receive no fertilizer, catch crops are to be planted in one, special form of preparation of the soil combined with late cultivation is to be carried out in one, and the rest are to be treated with various fertilizers, including different proportions of manure, bone meal, lime, potash and the use of catch crops. Each year the treatment will be shifted from one plot along the list and the results noted. In other plots the test of fertilizers and various means of maintaining the fertility of the soil will be tested, the same plot being used for a series of years for each method.

A STEADY DOWNPOUR AT DES MOINES CAUSES MUCH APPREHENSION.

LOW DISTRICTS ARE OVERFLOWED

Water Backs Up Today From Water Company Race into Central Addition—Railroads Experience Little Trouble Though Washouts Are Reported.

Des Moines, April 25.—(Special.)—Both the Des Moines and Racon rivers are rising here at a surprising rate. The Des Moines has risen six feet and is still coming up. Steady rains for the past twenty-four hours here and to the north have swollen all the streams and much anxiety is felt here.

Two and ninety-four hundredths inches of rain fell between 9 o'clock last night and 7 o'clock this morning according to the observations at the city weather station and although little damage resulted it caused the river to rise rapidly and the streets were flooded for a few hours. This is the heaviest rainfall of the year in Ottumwa.

At noon today the river was about five feet higher than Saturday and the gauge at the Market street bridge registered a rise over ten feet. The heaviest rise occurred last night when the water went up about three feet and during the morning the rise averaged about two and a half inches an hour. In Central Addition, one of the lowest residence portions of the city, there is reported to be considerable backwater from the race but it is thought that a rise of several feet will be necessary to make the situation serious. The business men are watching the stage of the river closely and are preparing for an emergency.

The people of South Ottumwa, becoming alarmed about the sewer on Richmond avenue. If the river keeps on raising it is feared that it will give way and much damage will be done to the property of the residents. It is impossible to get on Gladstone street now from Richmond avenue.

Railroad Washouts. Several washouts are reported along the railroads but none of them are serious. The Rock Island had a small washout near Des Moines and ran its trains over the Burlington tracks to Avon. The Burlington had a small washout near Thayer and the Milwaukee one in Missouri but traffic was not blocked and the trains are running close to schedule time.

Lower Than Last Year. Last year at this time the river was several feet higher than at present but thus far this year the rainfall exceeds that during the same period last year by 5.22 inches. It is said also that in the northern part of the state there is less moisture in the ground than a year ago and there is not as much water in the sloughs and lakes. In April of last year the rainfall was 2.23 inches as compared with 4.27 inches thus far in April of this year. The heaviest rains of last year, however, came in May the precipitation during that month being 7.90 inches. The following table shows the amount of rainfall during each month this year and the same period of last year:

Table with 2 columns: Month, 1904 and 1903. Rows: January (.205 vs .37), February (.200 vs 2.6), March (.315 vs .95), April (to date) 4.27 vs 2.23.

Conditions at Des Moines. In Des Moines Saturday there was an unusually heavy rainfall and a fifth of an inch of rain is reported to have fallen in a trifle less than five minutes, establishing a record for the year in that city. Regarding the stage of the river the Des Moines Register and Leader says: "Yesterday morning the river measured an even 5 feet on the government gauge on the Locust street bridge. A year ago, at the same time the river was 6.3 higher."

The chances for another flood are not necessarily increased by the rainfall of yesterday though the total for the month thus far exceeds that of a year ago by 2.36 inches. Thus far during the year the rainfall exceeds that of the same period in 1903 by 1.50 inches. The river is lower and there is not as much moisture in the ground as a year ago. Less snow fell during the winter and throughout the northern part of the state there is less water in the sloughs, lakes and creeks than a year ago. At the weather bureau the officials do not expect another flood, though unexpected quantities of rain during the remainder of the month and in May might make the situation serious again.

SOLDIERS IN WRECK. One Man Killed When Trains Collide in California.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 25.—A west bound special train carrying several carloads of soldiers bound for San Francisco was wrecked at Harbourn station on the Santa Fe railroad yesterday evening. One soldier, James M. Bowers, was killed and about a dozen others injured. The wreck was caused by the colliding of a light engine, eastbound, with the troop train.