MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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The Bemidji Daily Pioneer

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Historical Society

SITUATION IS SERIOUS

FOREST FIRES RAGING IN PRINCIPAL TIMBER SECTIONS OF NORTH CALIFORNIA.

CITY OF SANTA CRUZ THREATENED

FLAMES SWEEPING EVERYTHING BEFORE THEM FROM MOUNTAINS TO THE COAST.

San Francisco, Sept. 12.—Forest fires are now raging in many of the principal timber sections in the northern district of California and in the immediate vicinity of this city. In the Santa Cruz mountains the situation is serious in the extreme and it is believed at present that the state park in the Big basin, which contains some of the finest redwood timber in the state, is doomed.

Down the mountains to the coast line the flames are now sweeping everything before them—ranches and property of all kinds, and it is only hoped that the conflagration may not extend to the city of Santa Cruz. The fire in Marin county is now checked, it is believed, after devastating an area of 14,000 acres.

From Tehama, Butte and other points up north come reports of loss by flames, which have swept the mountains. So far no loss of human life has been reported, but it is feared that in many instances it must have been impossible for people to escape.

ALL TRAINS DELAYED.

Snowsheds on the Central Pacific Railroad Burning.

Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 12.—There is a most disastrous fire in the snowsheds of the Central Pacific railway on the Blue canyon track, which are burned for four miles. The loss is estimated at $25,000.

The situation is serious as almost the entire country in the vicinity of the sheds is ablaze. Forest fires threaten to sweep away the remaining sheds.

Overland trains are delayed. Many eastbound Knights Templar are stalled and wires are down.

POISONED BY TOADSTOOLS.

Minneapolis Minister Mistook Them for Mushrooms.

Minneapolis, Sept. 12.—Rev. William Francis, for five years assistant pastor of the First Baptist church, is dead of ptomaine poisoning and the entire family, consisting of his wife and three children, are seriously ill.

The family had what they supposed were mushrooms prepared for dinner and shortly after eating them they were taken ill. It now develops that the supposed mushrooms were toadstools of the most poisonous variety. They were gathered by a friend of the family.

Mr. Francis was state secretary of the Y. M. C. A. for nine years previous to his accepting the assistant pastorate at the First Baptist church.

FATAL TRAIN WRECK.

Two Men Killed and Another Seriously Injured.

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 12.—Two men were killed and another seriously injured in a wreck on the Southern railway between Dogwood and Wilton on the Birmingham and Selma division Friday. The dead are W. H. Cherry, engineer; Will Ivey, negro brakeman.

Fireman N. L. Snow, white, was dangerously injured.

The train was running thirty miles an hour when the engine jumped the track, turning completely over, crushing the engineer beneath it. Several other employes of the road are said to have been bruised but not seriously injured.

CRUSHED BY FALLING BRIDGE.

One Man Killed and Another Receives Fatal Injuries.

Crookston, Minn., Sept. 12.—A threshing outfit crossing a culvert near the Rush schoolhouse, six miles southeast of the city, crashed through a bridge. The outfit was owned by Rockestad & Estenson. Rockestad was caught under the wreck. One leg was severed from the body; the other was badly fractured. John Holum, one of the crew, was caught between the flywheel and a large drivewheel and killed instantly. One other man was hurt. It was several hours before help from the city came to the rescue of the men.

SALMON PACK LIGHT.

Alaskan Canneries Turn Out Smaller Quantity Than Last Year.

Seattle, Sept. 12.—The pack of all varieties of salmon in Southeastern Alaska up to Sept. 1, according to information received by local houses, aggregated 393,000 cases. Very few of the canneries have equaled their pack of last year.

Treasure From Southern Alaska.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 12.—One hundred and fifty passengers, including heavy operators from every important mining and oil district throughout the Northland, and Klondike treasure valued at $500,000 came on the steamers Dolphin and Cottage City, which have just arrived from Southeastern Alaska. The Cottage City brought a gold shipment of $225,000 and the Dolphin brought $275,000.

Lived Nearly a Century.

St. Paul, Sept. 12.—Hezekiah Parker, probably the oldest colored man in the city and possibly in the state, died during the morning at the age of ninety-five at the home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, where he had been for the past two months. He was the father of Frederick D. Parker of the Western Appeal.

QUIET AT THE FRONT

Heavy Rains Prevent Extended Movement of Russian or Jap Troops.

WAR SITUATION SUMMARIZED.

Reports are still current that the Russian army is making a retrograde movement from Mukden, though St. Petersburg officials say they are unable to confirm them. Only brief dispatches have been received during the day from the seat of war and they leave the situation rather vague. No fighting has occurred beyond occasional contacts of outposts, a condition probably due largely to the heavy rains, which dispatches say now prevail, preventing any extended movements of either army.

No official figures on the losses of the battle of Liaoyang have been given, but estimates still place the casualties on both sides at not far from 50,000 to 60,000.

The news silence continues unbroken from Tokio, no advices bearing directly on the operations having been received from that source for several days.

PREPARATIONS INCOMPLETE.

Japanese Postpone Proposed Assault on Port Arthur.

Chefoo, Sept. 12.—Japanese who left Dalny Friday say that the grand assault on Port Arthur, which it was rumored was planned by the Japanese for Saturday, has been postponed until Tuesday next, Sept. 13, and that a further postponement is possible, as the Japanese intend to make every possible preparation before again hurling themselves upon the worn out garrison. A Chinaman who left Port Arthur on the evening of Sept. 5 confirms the reports of heavy fighting from Aug. 27 to Aug. 31, when he and many others worked night and day burying the dead, which included Chinese, Russians and Japanese indiscriminately. He says that during this fight four forts in the vicinity of Rihlungshan were captured. The Russians signalled the garrisons of these forts to retire, whereupon the Japanese occupied them, but were compelled to retire later under a heavy bombardment. Previous reports said that the Japanese had only entered one fort during this attack. Since Aug. 31 fighting has been comparatively unimportant. The Russians have since remounted guns upon the four forts above mentioned.

The Chinaman also confirms the report of a three hours' attack upon Fort Itzshan on the morning of Sept. 2. When he left the Russians were preparing vigorously to resist the next assault for which their spies said the Japanese are making elaborate preparations.

J. J. REGAN,
Republican Candidate for Nomination Superintendent of Schools.

WILL BE SENT NORTHWARD

RUSSIAN TRANSPORT AND BAGGAGE AND A PORTION OF KUROPATKIN'S FORCE.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 12.—There was no specific news from the front during the morning, but it continues to be reported that the Russian army is moving northward from Mukden. General Kuropatkin is said to be at Tie pass. The evacuation of Mukden, however, is not officially admitted.

The general staff has no news confirming the report of a retrograde movement from Mukden, though it is frankly admitted that whether General Kuropatkin intends to remain at Mukden or not the transport and baggage and a portion of the troops will be sent north.

The report that Kuropatkin himself has gone to Tie pass is positively denied, as also is the current rumor that Major General Orloff will be courtmartialed for disobedience of orders.

EPIDEMIC IS FEARED.

Russians and Japs Sleep in Mire by the Roadside.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 12.—The Red Cross officers fear an epidemic of disease will break out in both armies, the torrents of rain which fell after the ten days' battle at Liaoyang having compelled the worn out and hungry troops to sleep without shelter in mire by the roadsides. In any case it is believed to be certain that the hardships endured by the soldiers will result in a great increase in sickness.

ACCIDENT UPSET THE MOVE.

Kuropatkin's Attempt to Isolate Kuroki Beautifully Planned.

Tie Pass, Manchuria, Sept. 12.—The breakdown of General Kuropatkin's strategy, when he had withdrawn his main army to the right bank of the Taitse river, after General Kuroki had crossed the stream above Liaoyang, is explained as follows:

The movement was beautifully planned. Kuropatkin intended to engage Kuroki, push a column up the right bank and completely isolate him from Generals Oku and Nodzu on the other side of the river. Only an accident upset this plan. General Stakelberg's corps, which was still on the left bank, at the extreme right, failed to stand up against the superior force of the Japanese. When Stakelberg reported that he was retreating it seemed to Kuropatkin that a portion of his army, which he had faced eastward, with the right resting on the river and the left unprotected, might be enveloped by the Japanese in pursuing Stakelberg. He therefore drew off and reformed his front and the retreat from Yentai began and continued the rest of Sept. 3, the Russians reaching Shakhe Sept. 4.

The losses on both sides from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 are estimated at from 60,000 to 70,000 killed or wounded. Many of the killed and wounded were left behind in the Chinese corn.

The Japanese are experiencing great difficulty in bringing up supplies of ammunition.

WILL VISIT UNITED STATES.

Japanese Prince Who Commanded Division at Nanshan Hill.

Tokio, Sept. 12.—Lieutenant General Prince Fushimi will sail for America on the steamship Manchuria in October. Prince Fushimi will visit the St. Louis fair and Washington as the special representative of the emperor of Japan. Prince Fushimi commanded the First division at the battle of Nanshan hill. He has returned to Tokio to make the trip to America at the request of the emperor. He will remain in America one month and he will be accompanied by a numerous suite.

It is probable that Lieutenant General Hast Gawa, commander-in-chief of the imperial guards division, will be promoted to a generalship and appointed military governor of that portion of Manchuria occupied by the Japanese.

Crews Will Remain on Board.

Shanghai, Sept. 12.—The Russian protected cruiser Askold has been taken from her dock and moored alongside the Russian gunboat Mandjur and the torpedo boat destroyer Grozovoi. It has been decided that the crews of these Russian ships will remain on board under the supervision of the local customs authorities and a Chinese gunboat.

FEW ARE TAKEN BACK

THOUSANDS OF OLD EMPLOYES SEEK WORK AT CHICAGO PACKINGHOUSES.

POLICE MASSED AT STOCK YARDS

CLASH BETWEEN UNION AND NONUNION MEN FEARED BY AUTHORITIES.

Chicago, Sept. 12.—Thousands of old employes applied at the stock yards during the morning for their old places. Fearing a clash with the strike breakers police were massed at the yards in an effort to maintain order among the workers.

At one plant eighteen former employes were put to work. At the Armour and Morris plants old men were taken back slowly.

Members of the Sheep Butchers' union said they would not go back unless all the members were taken back at once.

Four teamsters went to work, but were called out again. It is the intention of the leaders to get all the teamsters taken back at once.

IMPORTING NONUNION MEN.

Special Train Carries Small Party to Youngstown, O.

Youngstown, O., Sept. 12.—Sixty-five men in charge of Captain Smith of a Pittsburg detective agency arrived here on a special train from Pittsburg, having been engaged by the Carnegie company to work in their steel hoop mills here. About one-third of the number were negroes. Later ten of the new men deserted.

Three colored strike breakers were caught early in the day outside the Carnegie mills and severely beaten.

An important announcement was made during the day by the officials of the Carnegie Steel company to the effect that regardless of any fluctuations in the iron market they would pay the present rate of puddling, $5.25 per ton, for the next sixteen months to all puddlers in their employ.

HELD BY BRIGANDS.

Texas Banker Has Sensational Experience in Mexico.

Fort Worth, Tex., Sept. 12.—After twenty-four days' imprisonment in the Mexican mountains John Eiland, president of the Bank of Portales, who disappeared suddenly from his home a month ago and held in Mexico by brigands for ransom, has arrived home.

During all that time he was held a prisoner, bound with ropes, by the Mexican outlaws.

The outlaws were constantly on the move and the prisoner was fed solely on meal in the twenty-four days of his captivity. As a result he lost between forty and fifty pounds in weight.

Eiland finally effected his escape from his captors at night, after spending hours in rubbing his hands against the sharp rocks till the thongs were worn, when he managed to break them by exerting all his force. Procuring weapons from the sleeping outlaws he mounted a horse and made his escape.

KILLED ELEVEN MEN.

Young Negro of Louisiana Confesses to Having Bloody Record.

Shreveport, La., Sept. 12.—Within nine years Jim Lee, a negro, thirty years old, has committed not less than eleven murders. He confesses his crimes and can give no other excuse than that he cannot refrain from seeking human blood.

He has been arrested upon complaints of having during the past year committed four murders as follows: James Johnson, a white camp foreman, in Concordia, Parish, La.; Tice Lyons, a negro, at the same place; Bud de Witt, a negro of Boscier Parish, and May Seabrooke, a negro woman, near Donaldsonville. Although these deaths occurred within a radius of 100 miles Lee was not before suspected.

So cleverly did he conceal his identity that it was only when he murdered Johnson in daylight before several workmen that he was charged with other crimes.

BILLS OF LADING FORGED.

Nearly Half Million Dollars Worth Floated in Larger Cities.

St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 12.—Forged bills of lading for an amount aggregating nearly $500,000 have been issued from St. Joseph in the last six months and disposed of in many banks and trust companies of Chicago, St. Joseph, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis and New York.

Boy Returns Stolen Cash.

Waterbury, Conn., Sept. 12.—Albert H. Norther, aged fifteen, the son of the superintendent of a brass foundry, who stole $800 in cash and notes and departed with them to St. Louis, has returned the money and is now on the way to his home in Waterbury to face the man he robbed and suffer the consequences. Norther gave himself up and returns voluntarily.

No Definite Clew Obtained.

Pomeroy, O., Sept. 12.—The authorities are still hard at work in connection with the robbery of the county treasurer's office here, but up to this time nothing in the way of a definite clew has been obtained. Treasurer Chase is greatly prostrated as a result of the robbery.

Steamer Discovery at Plymouth.

Plymouth, Eng., Sept. 12.—The British Antarctic expedition steamer Discovery arrived at 3:30 p. m. She was heartily cheered by the crews of the warships in the harbor. The officers and men of the Discovery all appear to be well.

IS OFFICIALLY DENIED.

Report That Judge Parker Would Personally Manage Campaign.

Esopus, N. Y., Sept. 12.—Judge Parker has no intention of going to New York to personally take charge of the campaign, as reported from New York. It is true that after his letter of acceptance has been made public he may visit New York frequently for the purpose of meeting delegations and conferring with political managers, though no definite plans have been adopted. If such an arrangement is made it will be because of the inaccessibility of Rosemount for the entertainment of large delegations. The following authentic statement was issued at Rosemount by Arthur McCausland, Judge Parker's private secretary. He said:

"The stories to the effect that Judge Parker is to go to New York to take personal charge of the canvass or to assist the committee in its conduct, or that he is dissatisfied with the work of either the national or state committee are untrue. He is gratified with the efforts of both committees. He believes the members of all of them are working intelligently, harmoniously and effectively and that they are wise in not telling about it. The judge has thought of going to New York for a day or two after the publication of his letter of acceptance, but he may not even do that."

THE MILWAUKEE LAUNCHED

MISS JANET MITCHELL CHRISTENS LATEST ADDITION TO AMERICAN NAVY.

San Francisco, Sept. 12.—The new cruiser Milwaukee was launched successfully from the ways of the Union iron works in this city at 11:50 a. m. A large flotilla of small craft, steam and sail, had taken up position to greet the latest addition to the American navy when she took her maiden plunge and the yard was packed with an immense crowd to witness the ceremony, including a large number of Knights Templar and visitors attracted to the city by the grand triennial encampment of that body. The christening ceremony was performed by Miss Janet Mitchell of Milwaukee, daughter of the late United States Senator Mitchell, who was surrounded by a party of visitors from Milwaukee. Not a hitch occurred in the proceedings and the Milwaukee gracefully moved down the ways and into the waters of San Francisco bay as the customary bottle of champagne released by Miss Mitchell broke on her bow.

The keel of the Milwaukee was laid on July 30, 1902. She is a protected cruiser and with the exception of her two sister ships, the new Charleston and the St. Louis, is the largest vessel of her class in the United States navy. Her length is 424 feet, extreme breadth 66 feet, mean draft 22.6, displacement 9,700 tons. She is designed to maintain a maximum sea speed of 22 knots, with 21,000 indicated horsepower. She will carry 40 officers and 631 men. The cost of the Milwaukee's hull and machinery is $2,885,000.

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