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PORT ARTHUR SURRENDERED TO JAPS

Russian Garrison, Decimated by Disease, and in Sorrowful Plight, Unable to Continue the Struggle.

Port Arthur, after a siege lasting nearly eleven months, during which time fighting has been almost incessant, surrendered to the Japanese Sunday. Conditions in the besieged city were horrible. Of the original 30,000 defenders, only 8,000 were available for defense at the time of surrender. Eight thousand had been killed or died from disease, and 14,000 were in hospitals. The severity of the fighting may be judged from the statement that 237 per cent of the defenders were killed or wounded. Some of the Russian soldiers had been in the hospital six or seven times, and recovering returned to the trenches. The Russians made a gallant defense, and held the port until their fleet was destroyed and no hope of securing relief from the sea was possible, ammunitions for their big guns all gone, provisions short, and only 30 per cent of the original garrison available for defense.

With the capture of 203-Meter Hill two weeks ago, the Japanese secured a position which made them masters of the situation, and large guns soon destroyed the Russian fleet, and rained shells on all parts of the town, spreading death and destruction everywhere. In the capture of Port Arthur, the Japanese expended about \$100,000,000, and probably 30,000 soldiers. It was necessary to success, however, and the surrender was celebrated throughout the empire.

General Nogi's army may now be used to reinforce the Japanese forces near Mukden, and through Port Arthur and the railroad have a good base of supplies.

As a tribute to the gallant defense made by Gen. Stoessel, the Russian officers will be paroled and allowed to return to Russia. The soldiers will be taken to Japan as prisoners until the war is ended.

The news of the surrender of the garrison was sorrowfully received in Russia. The public was not prepared for the news.

A launch which left Port Arthur Monday night at 8 o'clock brings the following news which shows the desperate conditions that prevailed there.

The commanding officer of the launch said:

"No shot has been fired at Port Arthur for two days. That which Chinese heard Sunday night was the Russians blowing up forts, ships, magazines, warehouses,

docks and everything valuable. When I left Port Arthur the fortress and town were almost completely wrecked. The warships died hard. Several explosions were necessary to complete the wrecking of them. The Sevastopol, after catching fire, exploded and turned turtle. The harbor entrance is blocked with sunken ships. The only navigable craft now at Port Arthur are the hospital ships Kassa and Mongolia.

"You need expect no more ships from Port Arthur as these are unable to leave on account of the blocking of the harbor.

"Colonel Reiss represented General Stoessel in the negotiations for surrender. A table was spread with wine and food at the Eagle's Nest and the envoys treated each other with great courtesy, which quickly melted into informal good fellowship. Each complimented the other on the bravery of their forces.

"The statement that there remained 5,000 fighting men at Port Arthur is misleading because a majority of these are sick or slightly wounded. There has been for some time no proper bandages, and wounds have been dressed with hemp. The news that General Stoessel was prepared to treat for surrender was received by the soldiers with a feeling of utmost relief. For the past month severe wounds have been gladly received by the soldiers because they were allowed to rest. When the men were not fighting they were tunneling on half rations.

"The bombardment of the last day or so was terrific. Everybody remarked that even General Stoessel must see the futility of further resistance when our guns were unable to reply.

"We might have surrendered a month ago with the highest honor. That resistance has continued effectively since is scarcely less than a miracle.

"It is a mere handful of broken men who surrender and a debris-strewn desert which the Japanese gain.

"Not one of Port Arthur's magnificent public works remain.

"The feeling created when General Stoessel took the unwelcome step was generally one of relief.

"The soldiers, for whom one month's service has counted as one year, are rejoicing because they will soon see their families."

aid, the consumers being well satisfied. The fuel problem has developed into such a serious one in this state that the coal developments will arouse the liveliest interest. It is only a matter of a short time until the Lemhi coal deposits, and others, too, will be reached by a railroad. This will stimulate development that, it is expected, will eventuate in the opening up of vast deposits from which the greater portion of western Idaho and eastern Oregon will be supplied at prices far below those exacted at the present time.

Coal of excellent quality is also found in Fremont and Cassia counties.—Pocatello Tribune.

FOR RELIEF OF HOMESTEADERS.

Senator Heyburn has been assured of the early consideration by the general land office of his plans for the relief of settlers on lands embraced in proposed irrigation projects, says a Washington dispatch. Many of these people are at present incommenced and discomforted by the absence of water from their lands and find it exceedingly difficult to eke out an existence under present existing conditions. The senator proposes to give them leave of absence from their land until the lands are under water. Commissioner Richards has expressed the belief that such relief could be provided by a departmental order and said he would give the matter his immediate attention. If no relief can be obtained from the department the senator says he will seek to accomplish the ends by legislation.

During 1903-4 3,893.21 acres of school lands were sold in Fremont county, for which was realized \$50,456.37, an average of about \$13 per acre.

To Enlarge State House.

It is understood that one of the matters which Governor Gooding will recommend in his forthcoming message to the legislature will be a liberal appropriation for enlarging the state capitol building. It is conceded by every one familiar with the conditions at the state house that the building is entirely too small to accommodate the officers and that some of them have to secure office rooms in the downtown district. This is notably true of the state engineer, who has offices in the Sonna block. The state sheep inspector has no room in the state house and has to conduct the affairs of his office from his residence.

Since the last legislature adjourned adjutant general and the state immigration commissioner have occupied one of the committee rooms adjoining the hall of the house of representatives. Now that the legislature is about to meet they have been moved into a small cubby hole in the attic. The superintendent of public instruction, who has been occupying the room of the speaker of the house, has been compelled to move into one of the rooms occupied by the attorney general, which not only discommodates that official, but causes confusion to the people having business in the school department by the office being moved around from pillar to post to accommodate existing circumstances.

In other offices which are permanently located the business of the state has become so great that they are entirely inadequate for their needs. This is notably true with the state land board department, which has grown to be one of the most important branches of the state government. With thousands of dollars worth of securities in its keeping there is no vault in which these can be placed for safe keeping, and should there be a fire the securities would undoubtedly be lost.

One might take up every office in the state house and a similar condition would be found to exist. The attention of Governor Gooding has been called to this condition of affairs and it is said by those who have conversed with him on the subject that he is not unmindful of the situation, and they believe he will recommend the appropriation of a considerable sum for the enlargement and improvement of the building.

It is not unlikely, however, that a bill will be introduced for the appropriation of the money to purchase more ground with the view of erecting a new state house, one which will be commensurate with the importance of the state and one which will accommodate the business of the state for many years to come.

Anti-Imperialists Displeased.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—The anti-imperialists are not at all happy over the bill for the administration of the Philippines, which was adopted by the Senate by a vote of 44 to 23, for the bill provides for the building of railroads in the island, and anything like the building of railroads, which requires American capital, is certainly not a very promising sign for the early abandonment of the territory.

Senator Foraker undertook to amend the Philippine bill by admitting free of duty in this country all Philippine products except tobacco and sugar, and reducing rates on these articles to 25 per cent. of the Dingley duties. The existing rate is 75 per cent. Objection was immediately raised from democratic senators, and Foraker withdrew his motion.

Benefactor to His Race.

California's wizard botanist, Luther Burbank, has produced an everlasting flower of exquisite perfume and color. Its beauty and fragrance will last many months after being plucked. This is not all. He has developed stoneless plums, seedless apples, sourless gooseberries and a spineless cactus, which he says is half as nutritious as alfalfa and will yield more forage to the acre than that great staple of the arid west. The spineless cactus, it is claimed, will grow luxuriantly on the bleakest and driest desert. Its leaves and fruit are food for man and beast, and a San Francisco correspondent insists that it may mean to some districts what the introduction of the potato meant to Europe. This wonderful wizard has also produced a California poppy of a brilliant scarlet.

Deserve Commendation.

The new county officers will be installed next Tuesday. There will not be enough change to make the court house unhome-like, the assessor and sheriff being the only members not being re-elected. The legislature in its wisdom legislated these men out of office. So far as known no arrangements for an inaugural ball have been made. An oyster supper is said to be on the boards, but this can not be verified because no complimentary tickets have been received. Regarding the two outgoing officers, it may be said that both deserved re-election, but the statutes prohibited it. The county has been well and wisely governed, and the officers deserve commendations for the manner in which their duties have been performed.

To Raise Crops Without Irrigation.

J. P. Pomeroy, who has been engaged in reclamation projects for years, has determined to interest railroad companies traversing Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah and Texas in soil reclamation. He hopes hereby to reclaim fifty million acres of land.

Mr. Pomeroy is a millionaire mine owner, and also owns 80,000 acres of land in western Kansas. He owns the Pomeroy Model farm at Hill City, Kansas, where he has spent thousands of dollars experimenting, employing the Campbell soil culture method introduced by Prof. H. W. Campbell, under the latter's direction.

It is, in brief, a method of conserving moisture by treatment of the soil and has been so successful that the larger project is to be undertaken.

Boise-Butte Railroad Incorporated.

Articles of incorporation of the San Francisco, Idaho & Montana Railway company, which proposes to construct a line of standard gauge railroad from San Francisco to Butte, via Boise, were filed with the proper officials Saturday afternoon, says the Statesman. Prominent financial men of Minneapolis, officials of the Western Surety & Adjustment company and Judge John A. McGinty, who has been engaged in preliminary work for the proposed road, are the incorporators. Boise is to be the headquarters of the proposed line, according to the articles of incorporation. The company is organized for a term of fifty years, with a capital stock of \$500,000. This capital is divided in 500,000 shares of the par value of \$100 each. Of the capitalization \$200,000 is preferred stock and \$300,000 common. Stock to the amount of \$1,100,000 is subscribed for, each of the directors taking 2,200 shares.

Colorado Democrats Taking Water.

The supreme court of Colorado has taken under consideration the application of Alva Adams for a modification of the order of the supreme court ordering an investigation into the recent election and Chief Justice Gabbert declared that the decision would be given "later."

Ex-Governor C. S. Thomas for Mr. Adams, urged that the order of the court be made applicable to the ballot boxes only, and do not include poll books or registration lists, as asked by the republicans. The expense of a general investigation, he said, would be too great for Mr. Adams.

H. J. Hersey, an attorney for the republicans, resisted the application for a modification of the order declaring that the investigation of the boxes only would not reveal the extent of the frauds. He said if the expense of the investigation would be too great for Mr. Adams to bear, he would say for his client that they would gladly bear the entire expense.

To this, Mr. Thomas replied that he did not wish any other order than the one for which he had asked, and if the court saw fit to grant an order directing an investigation of all poll books, registration lists, and ballot boxes, there would be nothing left for his client to do but withdraw his application for an investigation, be the consequences what they might.

District court will convene in special session at Rexburg next Tuesday, to try the Rexburg-Teton water case. This case promises to be hotly contested, and affects the interests of a large number of people. The case will probably occupy the court for several days.

EXTENSIVE LAND FRAUDS IN IDAHO.

Evidence Placed in the President's Hands and a Thorough Investigation is Now in Progress.

Reports from Washington are that frauds in timber lands in Idaho are as extensive as those now under investigation in Oregon. Special agents have apparently been making investigations, and have made their reports. The evidence has been placed in the hands of the president, and those guilty of wrong-doing will be held to a strict accounting, so it is said.

There is no intimation given as to those implicated, but from the information given out, it is judged the frauds have been extensive, and a dragnet has been thrown out which will implicate a great many people. So far as known these frauds are confined to timber lands, and northern and central Idaho is probably the field of operations. The following Washington special to the Salt Lake Tribune is one of a number of similar dispatches that have recently come from the capital: When the time signals at midnight tonight are flashed from the United States naval observatory to all points of the civilized world announcing the exact beginning of the new year, a number of Idahoans will close the book, and, opening a new page, will make this entry:

"Resolved, That having dabbled in timber lands the past year, and

with having done many things connected therewith that were not only shady, but criminal, and having escaped, I will continue the same during the new year, but will be careful."

Tomorrow, however, when they read this brief story, they will wish that not only the entry could be effaced, but also those of previous years.

In the executive office at the White House tonight are several complaints, accompanied by affidavits, which will cause an inquiry. These documents detail timber land frauds in Idaho of extraordinary magnitude.

Involved in these frauds are prominent men in the State, officials and laymen, and a number of ex-officials. Both political parties are involved. The documents have been handed the President. The story which they tell makes the recital now being told in Portland of frauds in Oregon pale.

The alleged frauds are far-reaching, covering a large portion of the State. Republican administrations never deal lightly with those who attempt to defraud the Government and a searching investigation is certain to follow. Results of the inquiry will, it is said, cause a great upheaval in the State.

St. Anthony B. and M. Co.

The St. Anthony Building and Manufacturing Company held their regular annual meeting of the stock holders last Tuesday morning, and elected their board of directors for the ensuing year. J. E. Fogg, John L. Jacobs, Geo. N. Swartz, N. Vaylentine and John D. C. Kruger compose the new board of directors. Mr. Fogg was elected president and Mr. Jacobs vice president; Mr. Vaylentine, secretary and Mr. Swartz treasurer and manager.

J. E. Warner who for the past three years has been manager of the company has sold his stock to Messrs. Fogg and Jacobs.

The B & M Company is one of St. Anthony's oldest institutions, although not under that name. It was established a number of years ago by Fogg & Jacobs, who struggled against many adversities and discouragements, accommodated settlers in the early days and thus enabled them to build homes which otherwise would have been impossible, and done their full share toward developing the country. They have grown from a small establishment to an important business concern, and merit the confidence and patronage they receive.

The company owns several saw mills in the hills, of large capacity for this country, a planing mill at this place equipped for turning out all classes of work and have yards at St. Anthony, Sugar City and Rexburg. John D. C. Kruger of the Commercial National Bank, is a new member of the company. Mr. Warner, the retiring member, is an able business man, and enjoyed the confidence of the public. Mr. Swartz, who succeeds Mr. Warner as manager has been connected with the company for a long time, and needs no introduction to the public.

Public Lands Restored

to Settlement.

Prior to a year ago many additions to the forest reserves of Idaho were proposed and lands withdrawn in contemplation of the creation of those additions and also for some new forest reserves. These proceedings were seriously contested by Senator Heyburn, and the contest has continued throughout the year and the senator has had a number of interviews and many communications with the officers of the government in regard to the matter. He has just been furnished with a map showing the result of this controversy.

Included in the above is the forest reserves in Fremont county, lying between the third standard parallel, and the Montana line.

The Capital News states that one of the first measures to pass the legislature will be one providing for the punishment of polygamy and unlawful cohabitation. It states that speaker Hunt is pledged to the measure.

To Increase President's Salary.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Senator Stewart of Nevada, has introduced a bill in the senate increasing the salary of the president of the United States from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per annum, that of the vice-president from \$8,000 to \$20,000 per annum, the salary of the speaker of the house from \$8,000 to \$20,000 per annum and the salaries of senators, representatives and delegates from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per annum. The bill provides that the law shall become operative on March 4, 1909. It has been a notorious fact for years that the salaries paid to members of congress and senators were insufficient to even meet their ordinary expenses. As a result of this many valuable men have been compelled to retire from congress in order to properly provide for their families. A notable illustration of this occurred only a few years ago when Speaker Thomas B. Reed, the brainiest and ablest man of the republican party voluntarily laid down the gavel as speaker of the house and retired to private life in order to properly care for his family.

There is scarcely a member of either house who is able to live on the salary he receives. Those who attempt to do this are compelled to live in a way unbecoming to a man holding so high a public position. Many of the states have been seriously considering the advisability of purchasing residences here to be occupied by their senators and representatives. Of all the presidents of the United States only three have been able to save anything from their salaries of \$50,000 per annum. All the rest have been compelled to encroach their private income in order to meet the necessary expenses of the office.

As compared with the heads of other great nations of the world the salary of \$50,000 per annum now paid to the president of the United States is paltry and insignificant. \$100,000 per annum would be insignificant as compared with the allowances of European nations to their rulers.

The bill proposed is accepted with much favor by the members of the house and senate, who are beginning to realize that their constituents are not averse to the government properly compensating them for their services.

Montana After Packing, . . .ust.

Attorney-General Donovan, of Montana, has made a new move against the beef trust cases by filing an information against the agents of the Cudahy, Swift, Hammond and Armour Packing companies operating in Montana, charging them with conspiracy, in that they, as agents for the concerns, fix the prices by agreement, of the products they handle. The men were arrested in Butte and were released on their own recognizances. They will appear in court January 9.