

Mrs. Maybrick, it is said, being an American citizen, will return soon to the United States.

The three thousand schoolteachers in the city of Chicago, have had a salary raise of \$50 per year.

Work has been commenced on a gas plant at Cleburne. The plant will be modern in every feature.

W. N. McLeod and B. F. Bonner have qualified as receivers of the Kirby Lumber Company, giving \$50,000 bond.

Over nine hundred book and job printers in Boston and vicinity went on a strike Monday demanding increased pay.

Miss N. E. Sumner, cashier in a Chicago woman's restaurant, resisted a hold-up until help came and saved \$209 by her bravery.

Charles Spivey, who lived ten miles from Checotah, I. T., was murdered, robbed of \$2000 in money and his body burned in his house.

It is reported that the Mexican Government will increase the garrison at New Laredo to 300 men and station with them a military band.

A brick building, three stories high, to cost \$3500 is to be built at Texarkana to be used by J. B. Ames & Co. for an ice cream factory.

Nellie, the 6-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hazle of Sherman, died from blood poison, the result of a nail wound in the foot.

The contract has been let for the erection of the new Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Mineral Wells and work on the same has already been commenced.

It is announced that beginning the first of March five rural free delivery routes will be put on out of Cleburne and all arrangements are now being perfected for that purpose.

At Council Bluffs the residence of Peter Christensen was burned early Tuesday morning and his five children perished in the building and his wife was so badly burned that she will die.

William Burgess, who brought the Marcellus oil to this country, is dead from pneumonia. His greenhouses on Long Island were among the largest in the United States.

Mrs. Melinda Ahnson, aged eighty-two years, a resident of Collin county for over fifty years, died at her home near Chambersville, after an illness of several months duration.

Two freight trains on the Kansas City Southern collided near Minden, La., smashing both engines and crushing Engineer Craig and scalding Fireman Macklin, both of Shreveport.

Canada's railroad commission, which began its official life Friday, is composed of three judges, or commissioners, a chief commissioner and two associates, and will possess functions and exercise powers of far-reaching character.

The last vestige of the American occupation of Cuba disappeared Thursday when the flag was lowered from the barracks and the last battalion of American soldiers marched to the Triscornia pier and boarded the United States army transport Sumner.

In a fight at Whiton, a Kentucky mining town, Deputy Matthew T. Melton shot and killed David Thomas Pleacet and fatally wounded a man named Brock. The trouble was over serving a writ, Melton led.

The three-year-old child of John Barber of Norman, Ok., and the three-year-old child of Edward Reuter of Ingalls, Ok., were burned to death. The former was playing with matches, and the latter was with children about a bonfire.

Roma Christian, a negro, was shot and killed two miles south of Campbell, a shotgun being the weapon used. Sam Vintus, colored, surrendered.

The government will issue the cotton ginning report, February 9.

Wilson Frederick of Dunellen, N. Y., it is said, has been paid \$5,000 as a compromise to a damage suit for injuries in a railway accident. His life was saved only by skin grafting his scalded body, in which process 4500 pieces of cuticle were used.

The passenger rates for children on Texas railways have been set at one half full fare, except that in no case shall a rate of more than 11-2 cents be charged for children between five and twelve years old.

Stamford town hall, one of the finest buildings of its class in Connecticut, and most of its contents were destroyed by fire. The building cost \$150,000, and the additional loss is estimated at \$30,000. The fire started and several stores occupied the ground floor.

Devoe Crook, charged with the homicide of Joe Morgan, below Howland, waived an examining trial before Justice of the Peace Long, and his bond was placed at \$4000. Both of the parties are negroes.

Miss Kate McLiarty died at Springfield, Mass., from heart failure which was caused, according to the doctors, by pressure from corset stays. She fainted while dancing, was removed from the ball room, and died within a few minutes.

BALTIMORE IS FIRE SWEPT.

The Most Disastrous Property Loss in the History of this Country.

MAY REACH THE ENORMOUS SUM OF TWO HUNDRED MILLIONS DOLLARS.

The Only Silver Lining to the Cloud of Dark Disaster that Has Pauperized Hundreds and Thrown Thousands out of Employment, is That that the Homes Escaped Destruction.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 9.—Baltimore is staggering under fire loss which no one has the temerity to put in figures. The important commercial district is blackened ruins, laid bare by a conflagration which raged without a momentary check from 10:45 a. m. Sunday until late in the afternoon Monday. At 3 o'clock the city officials again breathed. It was agreed the flames were under control. They had raged twenty-eight hours in spite of almost superhuman efforts put forth by the best fighting forces which more than half a dozen cities were able to muster.

The city is overcast with gloom. The only lights in the burned district are those from the smoldering ruins. The only lights in that section which escaped destruction are from corner lamps. The stores are closed in nearly every street. The darkened avenues are full of jostling people talking of one subject. Apparently there is but one cause for gladness, and this is that there are no homeless. The residence section of the city escaped. This phase of the situation relieved the officials from any thought other than property.

The fire which broke out a few minutes before 11 o'clock Sunday morning in the wholesale dry goods house of John E. Hurst & Co., has raged with unrestrained fury continuously until Monday until 3 p. m. steadily consuming its way eastward, after having destroyed almost all of the large stores and warehouses in the wholesale district around Hopkins Place and all the buildings on both sides of Baltimore to Charles and Lexington, and on Fayette street from Charles to Holliday, including a total of about seventy-five blocks of the most modern and substantial buildings in Baltimore, involving a loss which can not be estimated, but which has certainly reached \$175,000,000 to \$200,000,000.

Tremendous efforts were made to block it. Dynamite was used freely. The fire apparatus was centered and all the skill of the fire fighters called into play to defeat the element that had eaten up millions of dollars' worth of property. And human skill and pluck and grit and unflinching courage won. The fire was checked. But behind it lay a great gutted waste of more than 140 acres in extent.

Last night the city was under the strictest of military control. All around

the burned area was stretched a cordon of soldiers, who held up all comers at the point of the bayonet. Police brought from the neighboring towns to patrol the districts are patrolling the streets.

Notwithstanding the magnitude of the catastrophe the absence of disorder and confusion was remarkable. This was due to the prompt action of State and city authorities. Who, as soon as they realized that they had a calamity to deal with, took a tight grip on the situation and never for an instant let go. During the confusion of Sunday night detachments of regulars from near-by forts were sent to the fire district and assisted the police in maintaining order and restraining the great crowds from encroaching upon the firemen.

The Fourth and Fifth Regiments of Baltimore, ordered out by Governor Warfield, came on duty before daybreak under the command of Brig. Gen. Briggs. The men, who numbered 1200, were distributed about the fire district, and no one, no matter who he was, could get beyond the line established unless he held a military pass. These were issued personally by the Brigadier General at his headquarters in the court house.

Summarized, the situation is as follows: Loss estimated at from \$175,000,000 to \$225,000,000. Effect will be felt in all financial circles when insurance companies commence to settle losses. Area destroyed covers about 75 blocks, or about 142 acres. Fifty thousand will be thrown out of employment. Inspector Preston places building loss alone at \$150,000,000. Troops in control of situation and best of order prevails. Lower house of Congress votes \$2,000,000 for purpose of cleaning up debris and relieving immediate distress.

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The War Has Darkened the Orient.

Paris, Feb. 9.—Two reports have been received telling of the seizure of Russian merchantmen by Japanese war vessels. The place of seizure is generally understood to be Masampo, but as all dispatches are closely censored, the place has not been definitely stated. The report is strengthened by the fact that Japanese war vessels have crossed over to that port.

A dispatch dated at Nagasaki Feb. 6, says: Russia procured transports and secretly dispatched her fleet from Port Arthur some days ago, escorted vessels loaded with full divisions of troops and landed them near the Yalu River, thus occupying Northern Korea.

The Japanese also moved their ships to Masampo, where during the morning files of marines took possession of certain Russian merchant vessels, including the Shilka and the Manchuria and one ship which had been chartered by the Russian Government and was engaged in loading up with a cargo of coal and stores for Port Arthur. The Japanese encountered no resistance and the steamers have now been placed under a guard. It is reported that two other Russian vessels have been taken outside and escorted to Rasecho.

Berlin. The Japanese Legation here yesterday added to the obscurity of Japan's immediate intentions as viewed here by saying it was not believed that war will result immediately, adding, however, that the legation is not informed as to the Japanese Government's purposes, and has no news of what is happening at home. It is not considered improbable that the present situation may be prolonged for several days.

The German Government is prepared to issue a proclamation of severe neutrality should hostilities begin. The popular German feeling is divided between a certain admiration for the little people of Japan and the necessarily greater community of interests in international politics and trade with a big neighbor. Germany's neutral attitude is a complex condition of vague territorial hopes in China, with long standing intolerance of Japan's ambitions, dislike of Russia and a desire to separate Russia from France by winning Russia's good will.

Washington, Feb. 9.—State Department officials deny that any agreement has been made to the effect that the United States and Great Britain would intervene after Russia had crushed Japan and insist that Manchuria remain a part of China. Ever since the Russo-Japanese War it has been customary for the great neutral powers to hold some sort of conference at the conclusion of the way to assure the vanquished nation in the struggle against undue exactions and punishments. This was notably the case in the Russo-Japanese War and attention is called to the fact that although Japan was the victor in her last war with China, the neutral powers, especially Russia and England, brought pressure to bear upon Japan to prevent her from pressing her advantage beyond reasonable limits. Incidentally it was also pointed out that the two nations named profited themselves by the acquisition of most im-

portant strategic points which had been the object of Japan's operations. Therefore it is said to be within the probabilities that some kind of conference will follow a Russo-Japanese War.

The United States has always held aloof from such combinations, but in the case of the negotiations which terminated the Boxer troubles the policy has been to work on parallel lines when such a cause is for the common good.

The State Department is pushing preparations for the early dispatch to their posts in Manchuria of United States Consuls Cheshire, Davidson and Morgan, who are to be posted respectively at Mukden, Antung and Dainy. This is regardless of the impending outbreak of war, and it is said there is no reason to apprehend that actual hostilities will be allowed to prevent a consul of a friendly nation from going to his post.

Mr. Fowler, who has been in this country on leave of absence, has departed in haste to Chefoo, which in the event of hostilities is expected to be a point of the greatest importance for the collection of news and rendezvous of merchant shipping, being the nearest great neutral port to the prospective seat of war.

The Navy Department will make no effort to place United States naval attaches on vessels of either the Russian or Japanese fleets. It is believed that consent could not be had from either party, and in refusing Russia and Japan would be simply following the example set by the United States in the Spanish War.

Epileptic Asylum Nearly Ready.

Austin: The State Building Board, consisting of the Governor, State Treasurer, Controller and superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum, has just made an inspection of the epileptic colony at Abilene, and reports that, with the exception of the water tower, everything is in readiness for the opening of the colony, which will occur by March 1, unless bad weather retards the work on the standpipe.

Manor Fire Scourged.

Austin: A destructive conflagration occurred Sunday morning at 4 o'clock in the little town of Manor, situated twelve miles east of Austin, on the Houston and Texas Central Railway, in this county, in which two large mercantile houses were reduced to ashes, involving a total loss of about \$35,000. The fire was entirely beyond the control of the local fire department and the scarcity of water accounted for the heavy loss.

A Ticklish Situation.

Austin: Since the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeals in the Heyman case from Cooke County, in which it was held that a local option election where several precincts were bunched was void, the Attorney General has been receiving a great many letters asking what should be done in counties where elections had been held under similar circumstances. He is bound, however, by the decision.

To Develop Montague's Oil.

Saint Jo.: A. L. Scott, of St. Jo., Montague county, has been in Austin for the purpose of consulting with Austin stockholders in a company which is exploiting in the asphalt and oil fields of Montague County. He says there is a world of asphalt there and the best kind of oil indications, with some oil. He states that his company is making arrangements to put down a rotary drill for oil.

Chappell Refused Bond.

Dallas: Judge Muse of the Criminal District Court refused to grant bond to J. M. Chappell, who is charged with killing W. C. McCahan several weeks ago. The habeas corpus proceedings began in the Criminal District Court Friday, and concluded late Saturday afternoon. Judge Muse took the application under advisement, rendering his decision which remanded the relator to jail without bail.

Territory Lady Burned to Death.

Vinita, I. T.: At her home near Peoria, I. T., Sunday afternoon Mrs. Vandegriff was sitting near the fire alone at her home when her skirt caught fire. She ran to the water bucket and found no water; she then went into the yard to the water barrel, and it was frozen so that she could not get water, and the flames raged in her clothing so she fell by the side of the water barrel, where she was burned to death.

JAPAN STARTS THE GREAT CONFLICT

Russia's Squadron Surprised---Three of Her Battleships Out of Commission--Japs Active.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—The following bulletin has just been issued in the form of a telegram from Admiral Alexieff, dated Feb. 9:

"By order of the viceroy, I beg to report that, Tuesday, about 11 o'clock in the morning, a Japanese squadron consisting of about fifteen battleships and cruisers approached Port Arthur and opened fire. The enemy was received with cannonading of shore batteries and the guns of our squadron, which also participated in the engagement.

"At about midday the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and left, proceeding south.

"Our loss was two officers wounded. On the shore batteries one man was killed and three wounded. The battleship Poltava and the cruiser Novik each had a hole knocked in the side below the water line. The forts were slightly damaged.

"Major General Flug."

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—Admiral Alexieff's report of the attack at Port Arthur by the Japanese is as follows:

"I most respectfully inform your majesty that at or about midnight on Feb. 8, Japanese torpedo boats made a sudden attack by means of mines upon the Russian squadron in the outer roads of the fortress of Port Arthur, in which the battleships Ruvina

and Czarevitch and the cruiser Palada were damaged. An inspection is being made to ascertain the character of the damage. Details are following for your majesty."

A second telegram received from Viceroy Alexieff, dated Feb. 9, says: "Japanese squadron of fifteen battleships and cruisers today began to bombard Port Arthur. The fortress replied and the squadron weighed anchor in order to participate in the battle."

A third telegram from the viceroy says that after a bombardment, lasting one hour, the Japanese squadron ceased its firing and steamed southward. "Our losses," the viceroy continues, "are two naval officers and fifty-one men wounded and nine killed, and on the coast batteries, one man killed and three wounded."

"During the engagement the battleship Poltava and the cruisers Dian, Askold and Novik were each damaged on the water line. The damage to the fortress was not important."

China to Be Neutral.

Paris: China, it is understood, has given official assurances that she will immediately issue a declaration of neutrality. This is considered highly important in view of the possibility of the Chinese, impressed by the Japanese, joining the Japanese.

BABY THROWN FROM TRAIN.

Body of Newly Born Infant Picked Up Beside the Track.

San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 10.—There was a paper funeral of an unknown new born girl in Floresville yesterday morning, and Sheriff W. L. Wright of Wilson county is hunting far and near for the parents.

The infant was born on a swiftly speeding San Antonio and Aransas Pass passenger train, probably bound for San Antonio, but not a trainman can be found who knows anything about the affair which probably took place on a Davy Crockett train Saturday night.

The infant, either alive or dead, was packed in a pasteboard box and thrown from the car window. The track for 300 feet was littered with garments and articles that indicated that the parties concerned were prepared for the event.

The body of the infant, which had an untimely advent, was found by Sheriff Wright on Monday a few miles south of Floresville. An inquest was held and the body was interred. Mr. Wright was in San Antonio on business and said that he will be thankful to the officers of San Antonio or Houston for any information that will give a clue to the persons who participated in the inhuman affair.

Wreck at Wyuta.

Evanson, Wyo.: The eastbound limited on the Union Pacific was wrecked near Wyuta, six miles east of here on Monday night. The three rear cars left the track, one of them turning completely over. So far as known no one was fatally hurt. Surgeons have gone from Evanson to the scene of the wreck.

Mill Burned at Memphis.

Memphis, Tenn.: The large roller flouring mill and grain elevator of Cannon, Yates & Co., in the southern portion of the city, was totally destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$60,000, partly insured. The fire originated in the cooperage factory from an unknown cause.

Wreck at Raymond.

St. Louis, Mo.: A long distance telephone message from Raymond, Ill., is to the effect that the Washburn Continental limited train, due here at 7:15 p. m., ran into another train there, resulting in both engines being badly damaged and two lady passengers being severely bruised. The engineers escaped by jumping.

Freight Derailed by Cow.

Little Rock, Ark.: A report has reached here of the wrecking of an extra freight train on the Iron Mountain road near Reedville, Ark., and the killing of two of the crew. The train collided with a cow, derailing the engine and a number of cars. Engineer Sam Leatham of Little Rock and Fireman Briggs of Pine Bluff were killed.

Masonic Committee at Work.

Marlin, Texas: Mr. W. W. Hunicutt of Marlin is in receipt of a letter from the chairman of the committee on work of the Masonic Grand Lodge, in which an invitation was accepted that was lately extended by the Marlin lodge to the committee to hold the midsummer meeting here. The date of the meeting is to be fixed by the Marlin lodge, which will be about June 1.

Hockley Postoffice.

Hockley, Texas: The postoffice here changed hands Monday night, Mr. J. F. Barwick having been appointed in the place of Mr. J. W. McDade, resigned.

Belton, Texas: The corner stone of the new high school building was laid with appropriate ceremonies.

Fayetteville, Texas: Ed Fields, a negro living about five miles north of this place, was shot and instantly killed.

Kerrville, Texas: At a negro dance near here Jim Ashley was shot and killed, and his daughter seriously wounded in

Louisiana News

QUARANTINE THE PEST.

Louisiana Commission Declares Weevils Barred from That State.

Baton Rouge, La., Feb. 6.—The Louisiana Crop Pest commission met and organized yesterday and adopted a set of rules preliminary to its systematic campaign against the introduction of the boll weevil from Texas. All members were present, Governor Heard coming from New Orleans on a train which had been held an hour for him. The governor presided and H. A. Morgan, state entomologist, made secretary.

Shreveport was selected as the headquarters, though the domicile will remain in Baton Rouge. An executive committee, consisting of Messrs. Morgan, Frierson and Marston, was appointed and empowered with practically all the authority of the commission, which, under the act creating it, is quite sweeping.

The rules were then taken up and adopted serially. The first declares the Mexican boll weevil and the San Jose scale as dangerous to crops and fruit.

The second rule declares a quarantine against a number of counties in Texas, to be determined later by investigation, as well as those counties where the boll weevil is generally known to exist. No cotton seed, hulls, seed cotton, hay, straw, oats or corn produced in any of these counties shall be brought into the state by any common carrier, person, firm or corporation under severe penalties.

No person shall have in his possession a live weevil, under penalty of a fine or imprisonment, except a duly authorized state or federal entomologist. It is made the duty of the state entomologist, and his inspectors to be appointed later, to carry out the rules and enforce the act creating the commission. He is given the power to denunciate infected fields and prohibit the exportation of cotton on any ground he sees fit.

Provision is made for compensation for property destroyed by the commission.

New Orleans, Feb. 5.—Cotton here and slumped off in a most sensational way yesterday, amid scenes of indescribable excitement at the exchange.

Wild pandemonium reigned for minutes at a time when the market went to pieces. The day's drop amounted to \$5 per bale. July went down 10 points, or \$9 per bale. It is positively known that several handsome fortunes were swept away and wiped out of existence around the pit at the New Orleans Exchange yesterday.

At one time the prices dropped so fast that the bulls were compelled to take drastic measures. Brown started in buying and bid the price up again. Sully and his agents are said to have purchased some 10,000 bales of May options. There was evidently a strong effort on the part of the New York and Liverpool bears, supported by war rumors, to drive the bull clique into a panic.

The wisdom of the brokers during the last few days in demanding \$10 to \$15 a bale margin on all contracts was apparent. Soon after noon the rumor was spread that war had been declared between Japan and Russia, and a moment the ring was in a panic. Cotton was offered regardless of price, and values sank 10 and 20 points at a time.

Before the decline hesitated at cotton was \$5 a bale cheaper than it was before the rumors were received. Brown and other bulls spread buying orders around the ring and checked the decline, but the market had a weak feeling until the close.

At the bottom of the decline March was 168 points lower than the close of Wednesday. May was 168 points lower and July was 180 points lower, or \$9 a bale cheaper than at the close of Wednesday. The close was called weak and irregular. March was 147 points lower than the close of Wednesday, at 152; May was 162 points, at 15.61, and July was 168 points lower, at 15.92c.

New Orleans Rice Market.

New Orleans, La.: The rice market was quiet in both rough and clean on Monday. In rough the demand was fair, but offerings were light. Prices were steady. In clean demand was only moderate. Early receipts were 1,740 sacks and 1,824 pockets.

Lake Charles, La.: James Garfield, an employe of the Industrial Lumber Company, while trying to board a moving freight train, slipped under the wheel and lost his left leg. Garfield's home is in Waterloo, Iowa.

Lake Charles, La.: A negro, who lives in the woods near Bancroft, was assaulted Mrs. Thompson, and the woman hovers between life and death. Henderson Ashworth was lodged in jail here.

Smallpox at Smithville. Smithville, Texas: A case of smallpox was discovered here Saturday in the person of a man who lives here but had just returned from Mineral Wells. It is not known where he contracted the case. The house where he lives has been strictly quarantined.

Hockley, Texas: J. F. Barwick has taken charge of the postoffice at that point, vice J. W. McDade, resigned, Feb. 8.