

JAPANESE CAPTURE ANOTHER FORT

General Nogi Captures Important Position on East Keekwan Mountain.

Tokio: After a heroic struggle General Nogi's forces have wrested another important position from the defenders of North Fort, on East Keekwan Mountain. The Russians were driven out by storm upon the successful explosion of an immense mine under the fortifications.

It is reported that the Japanese have seized a strong position about 1,000 yards southeast of 203-Meter Hill, preparatory to assaulting the new town and pushing between Liail Mountain and the Russian headquarters at Port Arthur.

The fighting against Sungshu mountain continues.

The following report of the capture of North Fort was telegraphed from General Nogi's headquarters Monday:

"At 2:15 o'clock on the afternoon of December 18, part of our army blew up the parapets of the north fort of East Keekwan Mountain and then charged.

"A fierce battle with hand grenades ensued.

"Owing to the stubborn resistance of the enemy with his machine guns, our operations were temporarily suspended."

"Subsequently at 7 o'clock in the evening, General Semezima, commanding the supports, advanced into the caemates and, encouraging his men, threw his supports into the fighting line in a last brave charge.

"At 11:50 o'clock at night we completely occupied the fort and immediately engaged in the construction of defensive works. Our occupation became assured to-day.

"Before retiring the enemy exploded four mines in the neighborhood of the neck of the fort.

"We captured five nine-centimeter field guns and two machine guns, as well as plenty of ammunition.

"The enemy left forty or fifty dead. Our casualties have not been investigated, but are not heavy."

KAISER SENDS ULTIMATUM TO GREAT BRITAIN

War to Be the Price of the Continued Bitter Attacks.

Berlin: Sensational correspondence has passed between the German and British governments during the past four weeks with reference to the warlike and provocative attitude adopted toward Germany by the semi-official British press, especially the Army and Navy Gazette. The Kaiser took a vigorous hand in the negotiations and made his personality felt in a positive way. He instructed that the British cabinet should be informed, in effect, that if England wanted war it could have it immediately; if it was not desirous of such an event, the talk which Germany considered an affront must stop.

Both Count Wolff-Metternich, German ambassador in London, and Sir F. C. Lascelles, British ambassador at Berlin, were called home by their respective governments to discuss the situation, which the correspondents claim, reached a most delicate point. The publications which induced the German government to assume its strong attitude were a series of articles in the Army and Navy Gazette, culminating in the declaration that the Kaiser's navy was so rapidly becoming a menace to Great Britain that war would be better declared now in order that the German fleet might be destroyed before it should become still a greater danger. Both Premier Balfour and Lord Lansdowne have now been told that Germany is impatient of this distrust of its naval policy, which it accuses the National Review, the Army and Navy Gazette and other papers of generating among the British people. The fatherland wishes the British to understand, once for all, that it has not the slightest intention of abandoning the developments of its navy and its merchant marine at British behest, no matter how much of a bogey they constitute.

Russians Drive Japanese Back.

London: According to the Chefoo correspondent of the Telegraph, it is reported there that the flanking fire from other forts and the explosion of the Russian mines have forced the Japanese to evacuate the fresh forts, northward of 203-Meter hill, with serious losses. It is already stated that Gen. Nogi, the Japanese commander at Port Arthur, has asked for 60,000 reinforcements.

May Get Federal Judgeship.

Washington: Luke E. Wright, Governor of the Philippines, can be appointed United States District Judge, Western District of Tennessee, if he so desires, to succeed E. S. Hammond, who died recently in New York. Mentioned also for the place are John E. McCall, Internal Revenue Collector for Tennessee, and Judge Randolph of Memphis.

Mrs. E. P. Townsend Is Dead.

Sycamore, Ill.: Mrs. E. P. Townsend, 67 years old, died here Wednesday. She was one of the most prominent women of the State and was trustee of Lombard College at Galesburg. "The Townsend prize for oratory" was established at that school by her. Mrs. Townsend was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Women's Association of the Universalist Church, and contributed considerable money each year toward the salaries of missionaries in Japan. She leaves a large estate.

FEDERAL FRANCHISE FOR INTERSTATE COMMERCE

Commissioner of Corporations Garfield Submits Annual Report.

Washington: The first annual report of the commissioner of corporations was submitted to Congress Wednesday by Commissioner Garfield, through Secretary Metcalf. He says no satisfactory reform is to be expected under the state system of incorporation; that the federal government has at its command sufficient power to remedy existing conditions in its control of interstate commerce. He therefore suggests that Congress consider the advisability of enacting a law for the legislative regulation of interstate and foreign commerce under a license or franchise, which in general should provide as follows:

The granting of federal franchises or licenses to engage in interstate commerce.

The imposition of all necessary requirements as to corporate organization and management as a condition precedent to the grant of such franchise or license.

The requirement of such reports and returns as may be desired as a condition of the retention of such franchise or license.

The prohibition of all corporations and corporate agencies from engaging in interstate and foreign commerce without such federal franchise or license.

The full protection of the grantees of such franchise or license who obey the laws applicable thereto.

The right to refuse or withdraw such franchise or license in case of violation of law, with appropriate right of judicial appeal to prevent abuse of power by the administrative officers.

Commissioner Garfield says the bureau, under the direction of the secretary of commerce and labor, affords appropriate machinery for the administration of such law.

Congress Adjourns Until January 4.

Washington: An objection by Mr. Mann of Illinois to unanimous consent to take up the inaugural resolution in the House of Representatives, postponed the whole matter until after the holidays.

Mr. Merrill of Pennsylvania, on behalf of the committee on the District of Columbia, was directed to move the passage of the Senate resolution, which, among other things, provided for holding the inaugural ball in the Pension building as heretofore, but Messrs. Underwood of Alabama and Mann of Illinois insisted that a quorum of the House should be present to consider the matter, immediately after Mr. Mann's objection, the House adjourned until January 4.

After a session of four minutes' duration the Senate adjourned Wednesday until January 4 next. The proceedings consisted of a prayer by Chaplain Hale, the reading of the journal of Monday's brief session and the receipt of a number of nominations from the President.

LEVEE BLAZE DELAYS TRAINS ON ELEVATED

Fire in Machine Works Proves to Be a Hard One to Fight.

St. Louis: Fire in the five-story brick building at 15 South Commercial street, occupied by the St. Louis steam engine and machine company, at 8 o'clock Tuesday night, for a time threatened the destruction of an entire block of Levee structures.

Two alarms were sent in for the fire owing to the difficulty encountered in getting to the flames. The fire is believed to have originated in a pile of oily waste on the second floor of the machine shops. Heavy iron gratings and shutters which covered all windows on the Commercial street side of the building seriously impeded the work of the firemen, who were obliged to hoist hose up on the Terminal's elevated road, which passes in front of the Levee side of the building. The "Continental Limited" over the Wabash railroad from New York, due in the city at 7:15 o'clock, was blocked by the fire on the elevated just north of Market street. Other trains were delayed in departing from the city on account of the fire.

The fire burned fiercely for nearly three-quarters of an hour, despite the torrents of water which were thrown into the building from eight pipe lines. The police had their hands full with one of the largest crowds that ever witnessed a Levee fire.

Fire Chief Swingley estimated the loss to the engine and machine company's plant at \$2,500 and to the building \$1,500. Water thrown into the machine shops seeped through the walls into the store of Charles E. Prunty seed company, 14 South Commercial street, damaging stock to the extent of about \$400.

Coffeen National Bank Organized.

Coffeen, Ill.: The Coffeen National Bank was organized here Monday and will succeed the Bank of Coffeen.

Cotton Men to Arbitrate.

Fall River, Mass.: The Fall River cotton manufacturers have recommended the proposition for arbitration by the National civic federation, submitted by the textile council and ratified Tuesday by mass meetings of five unions.

Marines Arrive at Colon.

Colon: The United States auxiliary cruiser Yankee arrived Tuesday afternoon with 500 marines on board to relieve the battalion which has been stationed at Empire camp.

CHARGE RUSSIA HAS BRIBED HULL FISHERMEN TO TESTIFY

London: London was stirred Thursday by the publication in several of the leading papers of charges to the effect that agents of the Russian government have bribed Hull fishermen to testify that foreign trawlers when the Russian squadron fired on the fishing fleet off Dogger Bank.

It would certainly appear to be true that some men of the Gamecock fleet have made statements before the Russian Consul. The name of only one of these, however, has been revealed. He is the boatswain of the trawler Iva, and he said Thursday that he was induced to make the statement while he was intoxicated. He admitted he received a certain amount of money, but now says the statement is untrue.

The tenor of his statement or any others has not been revealed.

All published reports from Hull say

HELD IN COLOMBIAN PRISON FOURTEEN YEARS

Letter Explains Silence of American Long Mourned As Dead.

Port Jarvis, N. Y.: Like a message from the dead was a letter received by Mrs. S. I. Holley of Oisville, from her son, F. C. Holley, whom she had long mourned. Fifteen years ago he entered the employ of the Ingersoll drill company to sell their machines in South America. A year later he completed a \$25,000 contract in the city of Colombia and sent word he was about to start for home. He did not arrive and his family began making inquiry. His employers could learn nothing definitely about the cause of his delay, and no word came from him until the letter was received Wednesday by his mother.

Mr. Holley writes from Bucaramanga, department of Santanda, republic of Colombia, saying that a revolution broke out while he was filling his contract there and on the eve of his departure he was arrested and thrown into prison, where he had remained in close confinement for fourteen years. He is so happy at his release that the long and dreary incarceration seems a horrible nightmare, and he does not discuss it in his letter. He makes inquiry concerning his wife and children and members of his family, and expresses his earnest desire to return home. He left the prison without money or decent clothing, he writes, but not discouraged. He began work at his trade to earn money for his return, which will be a sad one. He had a cozy home at Homewick, Ulster county, but his wife died, mourning his supposed death, and two of his sons have been killed in accidents. His father, S. J. Holley, a veteran of the Mexican and civil wars has also passed away.

Meeting of Commission Delayed.

Washington: The proposed meeting of the British-American joint high commission to consider reciprocity between the United States and Canada, with about eleven old matters in dispute between the two countries, will probably not be held in the immediate future. The Canadian commissioners are angry and hold out no encouragement for a reassembling of the commission. Senator Fairbanks, urged by the President and many public men in various sections of the country, has written a number of letters to Sir Wilfred Laurier, chairman of the British membership, but all the replies have been to the effect that Canada does not desire a meeting of the commission and has no propositions for submission.

Entertainment at Mansion.

Jefferson City, Mo.: Governor Dockery Tuesday evening entertained all of the officers, clerks, penitentiary guards and heads of the various departments of the State administration. No other invitations were issued. The annual military ball and public reception at the Mansion will occur on Wednesday evening, January 4, the day on which the Legislature meets. This will be the last important social function at the Mansion under the present administration.

Falling Wall Crushes Hotel.

Mnneapolis, Minn.: The east wall of the O. H. Peck building, which was destroyed by fire last week, fell at 1:30 o'clock Monday morning, crushing the Croker hotel. Twelve inmates of the hotel have not been seen since the wall fell, and it is believed they are buried in the ruins. The wrecked building took fire probably from the gaslights.

Is Clinton County Judge.

Jefferson City, Mo.: Governor Dockery Monday appointed Shelby F. Thurman of Plattsburg Judge of the County Court of Clinton county, vice George Hall, deceased.

McCormick Returns to Russia.

New York: Robert S. McCormick, American Ambassador to Russia, who has been on a two months' vacation trip to his home in the United States, started Thursday on his return to St. Petersburg on the steamer Moltke, which sailed for Hamburg.

St. Louis Man Appointed.

Washington: Henry Obershan of St. Louis, Thursday received an appointment from the Indian Bureau as gardener and dairyman at the Pine Ridge Agency in South Dakota.

positively that these statements were secured by two agents of the Russian government; but the Russian embassy in London Thursday night repeated the denial communicated to the Associated Press on December 21, saying that there is absolutely no truth in the statement that the Russian government or anyone designated by Russia has been endeavoring to secure statements from the Gamecock fishermen in support of Russia's position before the Paris Commission.

It was pointed out, however, that although Russia had offered a reward for information, the Russian government was not responsible for course taken by any person desiring to secure the reward, which would only be paid in the event that the information and the method in which it was secured were approved by the Russian government and shown to have been received from irreproachable sources.

ZEIGLER CLAIMS \$126,000 FROM McVICKER ESTATE

Bill Filed by Physician Includes Copies of Contracts.

Chicago: Doctor L. C. H. E. Zeigler, in the Probate Court Thursday, filed a bill of particulars in connection with a bill of claims filed two weeks ago against the estate of the late Mrs. Harriet G. McVicker, who died recently in California.

Mrs. McVicker was the widow of the widely-known theatrical manager, J. H. McVicker. Zeigler's claim in full amounts to \$126,000.

The bill just filed includes copies of contracts, which Zeigler claims existed between himself and Mrs. McVicker. The bill shows two contracts bearing on the \$100,000 which Zeigler asserts is due him as part of his claims against the estates.

The first contract is dated December 19, 1899, and provides that after the death of Mrs. McVicker, that the sum of \$100,000 shall be paid to Doctor Zeigler as soon after her demise as possible.

This money, according to the contract, was to be given for services as medical adviser.

The second contract is practically a duplicate of the first one, the exception being a change in signature from "Mrs. J. H. McVicker" to "Mrs. Harriet G. McVicker."

The reason given in the change in signature was a desire to avoid a possible legal technicality.

Last Dietrich Case Dismissed.

Omaha, Neb.: Judge Munger in the United States district court Thursday dismissed the last of the conspiracy cases included in the indictment that was brought in connection with the trial of United States Senator Dietrich. It was that of Elliott Lowe, a former member of the legislature, who was charged with acting as intermediary in the appointment of Jerry P. Billings as postmaster at Alma, Neb. The case was nolle prosequi on motion of District Attorney Baxter, who informed the court that the evidence was insufficient to warrant a trial of the case.

Hamlin Sells Bank Stock.

Pana, Ill.: Attorney General H. J. Hamlin, who has been owner of a one-fourth interest in the Tower Hill Bank, has disposed of his holdings to F. G. Foster, the cashier. The Tower Hill Bank was instituted in 1902 with \$200,000 capital.

Des Moines Suburb Burns.

Des Moines, Ia.: Eight business houses at Mitchellville, a suburb of Des Moines, burned Thursday, entailing a loss of \$30,000, partially covered by insurance. The fire was caused by the explosion of a gas stove.

Reports Escape of Eight Destroyers.

London: The Daily Telegraph's Chefoo correspondent reports that eight torpedo-boat destroyers have escaped from Port Arthur, where, for twenty-four hours, he says, a severe snow-storm has raged.

City Marshal Shoots Man.

Ridgeway, Ill.: City Marshal William Mathes shot and seriously wounded W. W. Abbot, Thursday evening. Abbot resisted the Marshal when he tried to arrest him, which led to the shooting.

Judge Early Appointed Trustee.

Springfield, Ill.: Gov. Yates Friday appointed Judge William F. Early of Edwardsville, former circuit judge, on the board of trustees of the Illinois training school for girls at Geneva, vice Alla R. Dow of Geneva.

Col. Robertson Recovering.

Monterey, Mexico: Colonel A. J. Robertson, formerly of St. Louis, and a prominent man in Mexico, is convalescing from injuries received recently in a runaway accident here.

John I. Stewart Is Dead.

Pittsburg, Pa.: John I. Stewart, a member of the constructing firm of James Stewart & Co., with offices in Europe, New York, Baltimore and St. Louis, died Monday at his home here after an illness of several months.

Peace Again in Paraguay.

Washington: A cablegram has been received at the State Department from the acting American Consul at Asuncion, Paraguay, stating that the revolution has been successful and that peace has been proclaimed.

SENATORS PREDICT OUSTING OF SMOOT

Republicans As Well As Democrats Ready to Condemn Practices.

Washington: The protestants opposed to the seating of Senator Smoot of Utah closed their case before the Senate committee on privileges and elections Tuesday afternoon. Until the holidays have passed there is little prospect that there will be any attempt to line up the defense. It will be given as much time as it wants, and it is understood that Senator Smoot and the attorneys he has retained will summon many witnesses from Utah as well as from other states.

The preponderance of opinion is against any final action by the Senate on the Smoot case by the adjournment of the session of Congress. It is barely possible that the committee which has spent so much time making the investigations will make its report to the Senate this session, but it is even possible that this will not be done. There is no disposition to hurry those who have attempted the unseating of Smoot. So, by the same token there will be a disposition to give the accused man as much time as he may want.

The opinion of many senators who have watched the hearings from day to day, and who have talked with their colleagues who are members of the committee having the matter in hand, is that the report will be unfavorable to Senator Smoot.

The evidence which has been given since the hearings were resumed at the present session of the Congress are responsible for this feeling. Until the last month when the new witnesses were examined there was a feeling that the evidence had in no way shaken the seat occupied by Senator Smoot.

Now, whatever may be the personal prejudices of the senators who will finally pass upon the question of retaining Smoot in membership, no one is able to successfully deny that a deplorable condition has been developed in the examination of the witnesses.

It has been developed that since the admission of the state to the Union and the passing of laws absolutely prohibiting polygamy, there have been plural marriages and that the church authorities have repeatedly set at naught the laws of the land.

It has been established that the church is supreme with its members, and that civil as well as religious affairs are ruled by the council of the church, which consists of thirteen members and of which Smoot is one.

Of this council seven have been shown to have more than one wife and several to have contracted plural marriages since the passage of the laws prohibiting the practice.

In the eyes of many of the senators an even worse condition is that shown in the disclosures relative to the vows taken in connection with the church ceremonies, as they clearly and plainly arrayed those who subscribed to them against the existing government and swore vengeance against those responsible for the death of the church's first prophet.

The oaths as described and repeated before the Senate committee, are reasonable in the extreme.

The effort to make the case partisan has failed entirely. It will be found when the report is made and the case comes before the Senate that Republicans as well as Democrats will be found ready to condemn the practices in Smoot's state and who will not defend him, though it is proposed to deprive the dominant party of a member of its majority.

The case of the respondent will be reopened January 10, to which date the hearings have been postponed.

Judge Howell Is Acquitted.

Linn, Mo.: Judge D. C. Howell, who was charged with killing Vernon Brown, a small boy, was acquitted in the Circuit Court here Monday. It was alleged by the prosecution that Judge Howell, who is a prominent citizen of this county, killed the Brown boy for trespassing on his land. The trial of the case aroused much interest because of the prominence of the defendant and the peculiar circumstances of the crime with which he was charged. Persons crowded the Court-house during the trial.

Dr. Chadwick Coming Home.

New York: A World cable from Paris says that Dr. Leroy S. Chadwick and his daughter Mary left Paris Sunday morning for London, whence they will probably sail on Saturday next on the Cedric for New York. The doctor was intensely nervous and could not be persuaded to talk. In paying his bills he exhibited a big roll of money.

William A. Jackson.

Virde, Ill.: William A. Jackson, aged 73 years, prominent in business circles of Macoupin county, died on Monday night. He had resided in Illinois for the past fifty years.

Noted Horticulturist Dead.

Des Moines, Iowa: A telegram was received here Wednesday from San Antonio, Tex., announcing the death of Professor J. L. Budd, for twenty-two years at the head of the horticultural department at the Iowa State Agricultural College, and one of the most widely known pomologists in the world. He visited Russia in 1887 for the United States government and spent two years in studying the fruit trees of Siberia and introducing many new varieties into the United States.

LEGISLATORS IN SPARRING MATCH

Senate Wins in a Maneuver Involving Holiday Adjournment.

Washington: The leaders of the Senate have had their way. So have the leaders of the House. Neither have their way. It is in the matter of adjournment.

Recently, when certain legislators decided that it was time to decide upon the time for the Christmas vacation and its length, the Senate leaders said that the 17th day of December was about the time for adjournment, and let some of their journalistic friends know of their decision. But this was without consulting Speaker Cannon, who does not incline to the opinion that the Senate should rule in everything. He suggested that when it came time for adjournment the House would have its say, for the adjournment resolution must come from the lower body, it being a joint resolution. The House leaders prepared a resolution, which fixed adjournment day at December 21, and sent it to the Senate after the House had stamped it with its approval.

There were suggestions of a revolt, but wiser counsel prevailed, with the understanding that the matter was entirely too trivial to make a protracted fight over, and the Senate could well reserve its ammunition for something more important. The Senate nodded wisely, as though there was something deep and significant behind its seeming compliance. What that something was developed Monday, when the Senate met with less than a score of its members present, and without even the President pro tempore to preside. The senator from California wielded the gavel for the two minutes of the constructive session, occupied with the hearing of a message from the White House, and with the receiving of the announcement of presidential appointments by Mr. Barnes, assistant secretary to the President. Then the Senate solemnly adjourned until Wednesday and left the House undisputed possession of the great stone pile.

The House then decreed that the session should not close until the middle of the week, and gave its time to the handling of business of interest to the District of Columbia and to legislation under the unanimous consent agreement.

TRANSFER FARRIS AND SMITH CASES

Judge Graves Grants Change of Venue in Bribery Cases to Maries County.

Jefferson City, Mo.: Judge W. W. Graves Monday granted a change of venue in the cases of State vs. Senator Frank H. Farris of Crawford county and State vs. Senator C. A. Smith of St. Louis. Both cases are transferred to Maries County for trial.

The attorneys were unable to agree upon the county to which the cases should be sent, and Judge Graves named Maries county.

There were no proceedings before the court Monday, except the hearing of the argument for the change of venue. The hearing occupied the entire day.

About forty witnesses were examined, there being about twenty on each side. The general trend of the testimony was to the effect that the Farris case had been discussed throughout Cole county very generally, and that no one had ever been heard to give his opinion that Farris was innocent, while many had stated their belief that he was guilty.

Upon the showing the change of venue was granted, it being the opinion of the Judge that Farris could not receive a fair and impartial trial in his county.

Upon granting the change of venue, Judge Graves took the recognition of Senator Farris in open court, in the sum of \$3,000, his sureties being Jesse W. Henry and C. A. Fischer of this city. Senator Smith's bond was fixed in the same amount with the same sureties.

When the court had concluded the Farris and Smith cases, Senator James Orchard was called to the bar to answer the charge of contempt lodged against him because of his failure to appear at the last time the Farris case was called, when the case had to be continued because of his absence. Judge Graves called upon him for a statement and upon Mr. Orchard assuring the court that no contempt was meant he was excused. In his statement to the court he said that he was not subpoenaed to appear at the last term of court.

Voto to Arbitrate Textile Strike.

Fall River, Mass.: At meetings held Tuesday five textile unions voted in favor of the proposition to submit the labor troubles involved in the long pending strike to arbitration.

Oak Park Post Office Contract.

Washington: The Charles W. Gindels company of Chicago, Ill., has been awarded the contract for constructing the Oak Park (Ill.) post office, at \$33,450.

Funeral Before His Death.

Portsmouth, O.: Lorenzo Dow McKinney, aged 85 years, who had his funeral sermon preached in 1896, died here Monday. Ten thousand persons attended the funeral services, which were held eight years ago in a grove near here.

Russians Take Village.

Mukden: The village of Dapandu has been occupied after a sharp fight by a detachment of Russian infantry, Cossacks and borderers. Otherwise all has been quiet along the front.