

GRIM WAR A REALITY IN THE FAR EAST.

Japanese Torpedo Boats Attack the Russian Squadron Off Port Arthur—Many of the Czar's Vessels Disabled—Troops Are Captured.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—An official dispatch received here says that Japanese torpedo boats have attacked the Russian squadron in the outer roads at Port Arthur, and that three Russian ships were damaged.

In addition to torpedoing the Russian battleships at Port Arthur, the Japanese have destroyed two others of the czar's ships, one of these being the American built Varag.

Confounded.
London, Feb. 11.—Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister here, has received official confirmation from Tokio of the destruction at Chemulpo of the Russian first-class cruiser Varag and the third-class Cruiser Korietz.

Three Torpedoes Captured.
A special dispatch from Tokio says that the Japanese have captured three Russian torpedoes having on board 2,000 troops.

Bombardment Renewed.
A dispatch from Port Arthur says the Japanese fleet returned there Tuesday afternoon and again bombarded the Russian fleet and forts, but that it soon withdrew. The losses to the Russians, the dispatch says, were small. During the firing a Japanese cruiser grounded.

Bridge Blown Up.
London, Feb. 11.—Japanese engineers, disguised as Chinese, are reported to have blown up a railroad

fire from the czar's men. This was done in an effort to drive, if possible, part of the Russian fleet into the open sea, where a battle could be fought away from the protection given by the forts on both sides of the Russian stronghold.

While the two cruisers attacked from the inside, the rest of the Japanese fleet, with torpedoes and shells, attacked from the outside. Several of these torpedoes took effect, and it is thought they were responsible for the sinking of the seven ships.

The Russians refused to send any of their ships into the open, and at last Admiral Togo signaled the two Japanese cruisers to rejoin the fleet. This they did, but they are reported to have been seriously damaged while running the Russian gauntlet.

While in details of the fight the reports differ, none is received without the specification that a majority of the Russian fleet has been put out of commission, either wholly or temporarily, by the heavy fire of the mikado's gunners.

China May Help.
Tientsin, Feb. 12.—China is organizing a force of 200,000 Boxers, which is to be poured into Manchuria to harass the Russians in the rear.

Japanese Port Bombarded.
London, Feb. 12.—The Tientsin correspondent of the Standard cables it

GOSSIP FROM SKANDINAVIA

Verdens Gang, the great Norwegian daily, contains a significant editorial under the caption, Armament or Disarmament. The defenceless condition of Korea is used as a warning to the peoples of the Scandinavian peninsula to be prepared to defend their independence by force of arms.

The introductory and the closing remarks will suffice to give a clear idea of the character of the whole article: "The extreme advocates of the cause of peace in our country may be able to learn something from the events in East Asia. In that section of the globe there is a country which, without intending to do so, is exhibiting to the world a spectacle of disarmament and impotence the counterpart of which would have been furnished by Norway and the Scandinavian peninsula if the plan of disarming the small states had been realized. . . . The position of the Scandinavian peninsula with relation to Russia and Great Britain is highly similar to that of Korea with reference to Russia and Japan. Our peninsula, indeed, is less exposed to an invasion by land; but in that respect, Russia can make more effective use of her force in Europe. At sea, England is far superior to Japan; but in place of a powerful China there is a powerful Germany to the south. A well armed Scandinavian peninsula may mean a great deal to the conservation of the peace of the world. But if the 200,000 square miles of territory lying between the fifty-fifth and seventy-first degrees north latitude were left to the mercy of any armed power it would be difficult to see the importance of this territory to an everlasting peace."

The Scandinavian and German papers are paying considerable attention to a plea for an alliance between Scandinavia and Germany, made by Henslandet, a Swedish paper published in Chicago.

The Russians are evidently annoyed by the fact that there is a better feeling between Sweden and Norway at the present moment than ever before in the histories of the two countries. This annoyance on the part of Russia is no secret, for it is embodied in newspaper editorials that any one may read.

Stockholm, Feb. 10.—The governments of Sweden and Norway yesterday decided to observe strict neutrality during the war between Russia and Japan.

DENMARK.
The Danish cabinet has assigned \$500,000 to be loaned out to small farmers for the purchase of land during the year 1904-1905. Only persons that applied for loans before Dec. 1, 1903, will be entitled to aid from the above amount.

The Silesia Steamship Company is going to sell bonds amounting to \$1,250,000. The price will be 98 1/2 cents on the dollar, and the rate of interest 4 1/2 per cent. The bonds will be redeemed in 20 annual installments.

Stockholm, Feb. 12.—The ministry of marine declares there is absolutely no foundation for the report that the Japanese made several attempts to land at Port Arthur. It is officially announced that no news has been received here of the fight at Chemulpo or the blowing up of a bridge on the Manchurian railroad.

Japanese Losses.
London, Feb. 12.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of Reuters Telegram company cables that the naval headquarters staff there announces that in the fight at Port Arthur six Japanese ships were slightly damaged and 50 Japanese were killed and 150 wounded.

Signs Neutrality Proclamation.
Washington, Feb. 12.—President Roosevelt signed the proclamation declaring the neutrality of this government in the Russo-Japanese war Thursday afternoon.

Edward Declares Neutrality.
London, Feb. 12.—King Edward, at a council held at Buckingham palace Thursday afternoon, signed a proclamation declaring Great Britain's neutrality during the war between Russia and Japan.

Picks Men to Build Canal.
Washington, Feb. 10.—At least four members of the Isthmian Canal commission are believed to have been selected already by President Roosevelt. These are Rear Admiral John G. Walker, Gen. Peter C. Haines, Gen. George C. Davis and Isham Randolph, of Chicago.

Fourteen Dead.
Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 10.—Fourteen persons were killed and more than a score injured in a collision between two passenger trains on the Canadian Pacific near Sand Point Tuesday.

Assigned.
Cincinnati, Feb. 11.—Stating he was ruined by backing a theatrical company which stranded recently in Texas, Edwin B. Corcoran, doing business as the Crescent Buggy company, made an assignment to Attorney John Gavin. Assets, \$10,000; liabilities, \$80,000.

Editor Dies at His Desk.
Evansville, Ind., Feb. 11.—Charles F. Gould, editor of the Evening Bulletin, fell dead while sitting at his desk Wednesday. Death was due to strangulation by a bronchial tumor. He was 55 years of age.

MINNESOTA NEWS.

Moose and Deer.

The deep snows of the present winter make it one of the hardest for years on deer and moose. The deer are beginning to yard in the north and will come out of the rigors of the winter weak and emaciated. The same thing applies to moose, but, if anything, they will be even poorer than the deer. Moose feed on swamp grass, now buried beneath two feet of snow in most places, and on poplar sprouts and willow. Before they can get at this food it is necessary for them to paw away the snow. In the spring they are often so weak they can walk only with difficulty, and many will die from the unusual exposure, just as the range cattle of the west.

Both deer and moose are falling a frequent prey to bands of timber wolves. Deer are comparatively an easy prey, but the hungry timber bands encounter an enemy worthy their mettle when they assail a moose or bull moose. They are well aware of this fact, and when they find one that is weak from hunger they dog his footsteps day and night until he falls a prey to their constancy. In open battle they will kill a wolf with a single stroke of their hoofs.

A cruiser of the Beltrami Timber company recently came upon a moose standing in the middle of a small slough, knee deep in the snow. At a safe and convenient distance around him was stationed a pack of eight wolves. How long the moose had been surrounded by the wolves is not known by the woodman's Winchester disintegrated the band. The moose was so weak that it gained the shelter of the underbrush nearby with difficulty.

Reminiscence.
Many articles reminiscence of the pioneer days when Fort Snelling was an outpost of civilization have been discovered by the workmen remodeling the old tower and removing old buildings preparatory to erecting new structures.

Among these articles is an old hammer, evidently used in laying the floor of the tower when that structure was used as a prison. It is the kind formerly used to hold whiffletrees on ox-wagons, and has a sharp-pointed handle to be used for prying purposes.

Other articles found under the floor were anagate and an arrow head, and fragments of old military clothing worn a century ago, which crumbled to the touch. Two old tin lanterns, such as London watchmen carried in the old days, were also found, and the iron doors of the tower prison have been preserved by Capt. C. M. Schofield, the present quartermaster, as relics of dead and gone generations. A brass key, stamped "1870," was also among the "finds."

Close Call.
Dan Patch, record 1:56 1/4, the \$60,000 champion pacer, was narrowly escaped death by fire in Mr. Savage's stable at 2,600 Portland avenue, Minneapolis.

Blinded by the dense smoke and showered with water from the hose directed by the firemen the king of the track was led to his stall by Judge C. B. Elliott, Mr. Savage and Charles Plummer, the caretaker.

The famous horse did not seem to be injured in the least by his exposure to fire and water and also excited and nervous after the ordeal.

After Ore.
Six drills are working on lands belonging to the Longyear Mesaba Iron and Land company, in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of township 58, range 15. This is the largest body of iron ore yet discovered under way in Lake Superior region. These drills are finding an excellent ore body. Two holes are already in iron and others may find it.

Rough House.
It was a strenuous life for the university sophomores at the "U" when they attempted to hold their class party in the armory despite the frantic efforts of a mob of 150 freshmen to break up the party. The battle that resulted from the attempt lasted over an hour and proved one of the hottest ever held at the institution.

Blood and water flowed freely. Snowballs and chairs filled the air and clothing was torn in shreds. Hats, caps and collars went to ruin and it is believed that in at least two cases bones were broken.

Wolfer Resigns.
Henry Wolfer sent to the state board of control his resignation as warden of the state penitentiary, and N. F. Boucher, warden of the state penitentiary of North Dakota, was appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Wolfer's resignation will take effect March 1, and the new warden will enter on his duties on that date.

News Notes.
Great Northern surveyors are working on the Pelican Rapids line, which was abandoned long ago after considerable work had been done.

It is learned that the Wright & Davis interests of Michigan are to return to Minnesota to operate more extensively than ever in the pine timber industry.

An exhibit of the handicraft of inmates of the state insane hospitals and other state institutions is being planned by the state board of control for the Louisiana purchase exposition.

A fire in the Dale exchange of the Northwestern Telephone company at St. Paul caused a loss estimated at \$2,000.

Two more students have been suspended from the university for cribbing.

R. W. Dering believes he is the pioneer of Itasca county pioneers. Fourteen years ago he shot two caribou on the present townsite of Little Fork.

Otto Olson, 17 years of age, was arrested on the charge of stealing about \$10 worth of casings which belonged to the C. A. Beecher Lumber company, Red Wing. He confessed and was bound over.

An explosion of gas at Rice street and University avenue, St. Paul, tears up the pavement.

The sash and door factory of L. C. Berg, St. Anthony Park, was damaged by a fire which originated in the boiler room. The factory is located at 2370 Hampden avenue. The loss is placed at \$300.

BALTIMORE IS BRAVE.

Her Strike Citizens Courageously Take Up the Work of Rebuilding the Burned District.

Baltimore, Feb. 10.—Amid ruins still hot and smoking, Baltimore has begun its resurrection. With the dawn of a clear winter day whose brightness was in itself an inspiration, the apathy of Monday gave way to energy, and from the governor of the state to the least private citizen the people of this distressed city aroused themselves to meet the appalling conditions that confront them.

It was a day of conferences. The governor, the mayor and various municipal officials, met and thrashed out the problems that are theirs by virtue of public office. From this conference came a decision that Baltimore for the present needs no outside help but will endeavor with her own resources and those of the state to meet the emergency. At this conference also was developed the machinery for an advisory legislative commission to act in conjunction with the legislature.

As yet no figures on loss and insurance that can be regarded as official are obtainable. A careful canvass of insurance experts, builders and business men placed the loss in round figures at \$125,000,000 and the insurance at \$80,000,000 to \$90,000,000. It is probable that these estimates will stand with slight changes when the final figures are written up.

A great cloud was lifted Tuesday afternoon when it was discovered that practically all of the vaults, safe rooms and safes of the financial concerns whose buildings were destroyed are unharmed. From one trust company's safes alone papers to the amount of more than \$200,000,000 were recovered. They encouraged the whole city and encouraged immediate and thorough investigation.

Baltimore, Feb. 11.—The situation in stricken Baltimore began to visibly clear Wednesday after a conference at the Beldyde hotel between Mayor McLane, a special joint committee of the legislature and a delegation of representative business men. This conference was arranged with a view of meeting in a practical way the awful exigency which this community now faces.

At this meeting, besides the mayor, there were present influential members of the state law-making body, the board of public works, a dozen bank presidents, former Gov. Smith, United States Senator-elect Rayner and several of the leading citizens.

The supreme question to be decided was that of calling upon the national government for soldiers to take the places of the two state militia regiments now doing police duty in the burned district. The constitution of Maryland requires that no such request can be made of the president except by authority of the state legislature.

IS NOT A VALID LAW.
New York Statute on Desecration of the National Flag is Declared Unconstitutional.

New York, Feb. 6.—The law forbidding the desecration, mutilation or improper use of the national flag, passed by the state legislature last year, was declared unconstitutional Friday in the appellate division of the supreme court insofar as it relates to the use of the flag in advertising devices and on trade labels. The case grew out of the sale of cigars in boxes bearing labels which included the national flag in design. The majority opinion holds that while it was competent under the police power for the legislature to make it a misdemeanor publicly to mutilate, deface, defile, trample on or cast contempt on the national or state flag, either by words or act, there is nothing in the use of the flag as a trade-mark that suggests the idea that it is degraded or belittled. To prohibit its decorous use in such connection must be regarded as an unauthorized interference with the liberty of the citizen and with the property of owners such trade-marks of their property without due process of law.

IS UNDER ARREST.
Teamster Charged with Murder of Sarah Schaefer in Custody at Bedford, Ind.

Bedford, Ind., Feb. 10.—James McDonald, a teamster, was arrested Tuesday night on a warrant charging him with the murder of Sarah Catherine Schaefer, in the cab shaft of a street car on the night of January 21. The warrant on which McDonald was arrested was sworn out by Detective Reed before Mayor J. Jackson Smith and Prosecutor Miller. The arrest was made by Detectives Smith and Reed, Policemen Myers and Sheriff Smith, and prisoner McDonald was arrested at his home and taken to the office of S. B. Lowe, where he was confined until taken to the Jeffersonville reformatory by Detectives Reed and Smith.

Plague Appears in Peru.
Guayaquil, Ecuador, Feb. 11.—It is announced here that bubonic plague has appeared in Peru.

Fatal Flames.
New York, Feb. 10.—As the result of a trifling fire in the lower part of a tenement house in West Hoboken Tuesday night, Mrs. Anna Durstyn and her two children were killed and six other persons were seriously burned while attempting to escape from the building.

Former Champion Demy.
San Francisco, Feb. 11.—Tommy Warren, once the champion featherweight pugilist of America, is dead in this city of pneumonia. For several years he had been in the army transport service, and recently returned from Manila.

Found Guilty.
Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 8.—The jury found Alderman James Molguly of having accepted a bribe of \$350 in connection with the Lake Michigan water scandal. Sentence was deferred till March 1 and the defendant was released on \$3,000 bail.

Public Speaker Stricken.
La Crosse, Wis., Feb. 8.—While delivering an address in the Presbyterian church at Galesville, this county, Friday evening, Rev. H. T. Miller, of Detroit, Mich., was stricken by paralysis, and is in a serious condition.

A NEW MISSISSIPPI

Renewed Effort to Secure a Deep Water Channel from St. Paul.

PANAMA CANAL REVIVES TOPIC
Money Which the Government Has Already Expended in Improving the Waterway—Insignificant Nature of Traffic of To-Day.

HE commercial possibilities of the mighty Mississippi river as it threads its way from the great flour making city of the north-west to the Gulf port of New Orleans is ever a fascinating subject of contemplation. The hope of recovering from the staggering blow which the railroads dealt river navigation years ago has never been abandoned. And now that the Panama canal is a practical certainty of the near future, it has stirred to renewed activities those interested in the improvement of the Mississippi, for the interoceanic canal will make more accessible the vast markets of the east, and with a six-foot channel in the Mississippi from St. Paul and Minneapolis, ocean-going steamers could load at these points and an immense saving be made in shipping rates.

An association known as the Upper Mississippi Improvement association, representing the five states bordering on the upper Mississippi, has been organized for the purpose of carrying out the project. A delegation representative of the association, headed by Gov. Van

St. Louis, has just paid a visit to Washington, and laid the matter before the house committee on rivers and harbors. The committee was informed that 50 cities were directly interested in the project and that 15,000,000 people would be benefited through an assurance of river competition in transportation. The plan called for an expenditure of something like \$15,000,000, which amount, it is estimated, would provide a six-foot channel at low water from St. Paul and Minneapolis to Cairo, a distance of 1,000 miles, and it is proposed to have the work completed by the time the Panama canal is up to river operation.

Should these hopes be realized ships could clear at port river points for foreign ports and congressmen might be able to again tell stories similar to that which Henry Clay told in congress a century ago about a sailing master who left Pittsburg with his brig, sailing down the Ohio and Mississippi and at last reaching Leghorn, Italy. The captain presented his papers to the custom officer there, but he would not credit them, and said to the master: "Sir, your papers are forged, there is no such place as Pittsburg in the world; your vessel must be confiscated." The remaining captain asked if he had a map of the United States, which he fortunately happened to have, and produced. The captain, taking the officer's finger, put it down at the mouth of the Mississippi, then led it 1,000 miles up the river, thence another 1,000 miles to Pittsburg, and said: "The river is the most important waterway of the world, and with the Panama canal for vessels to slip through into the Pacific, the ports of the far east may have to search the map of the United States to learn the inland point from which the vessel shall sail.

Up to the present time the government has been pretty liberal with the Mississippi, for over \$5,000,000 has been appropriated by congress for the improvement of the river above St. Louis. This total includes the canal constructed at the lower rapids at Keokuk, Ia., at a cost of \$4,000,000. This canal is eight miles long, 300 feet wide and five feet deep, and is by far the most important improvement which has been made on the upper Mississippi. In 1877 a river improvement convention was held at St. Paul and a committee appointed to prepare a memorial to congress urging the deepening of the river channel and the removal of obstructions. And the arguments advanced then in support of the proposed improvements hold good to-day, in fact, are strengthened in view of the coming isthmian canal. With the deepening of the river channel adequate ocean tonnage would be possible and full freights of wheat, obtained at St. Paul for Liverpool and for the far eastern ports, effecting a saving of from eight to ten cents a bushel from the present cost of shipment by way of New York. But grain would not be the only cargoes. When it is remembered that the Mississippi forms the border line for ten of the most productive states in the union, with Kansas and Nebraska rendered naturally tributary to the river by their

1,500 mile run in eight days, stopping at none but important landings, and they only to touch and go, promises a grand deck hands chanting down-south songs on the forecastle, a troop of white-jacketed waiters flitting about the cabin; trim Burlington night boats black with passengers, and asking no favors of any railroad; rival fleets of steam-bowed raft-boats pushing forests of wet, glistening logs, and sometimes a tow of sweet-smelling sawed lumber; raft boats and consort bowboats, lashed abreast, hurrying north after fresh loads; new-painted, gaudy excursion boats with brass bands and dancing barges; heavy-laden mull-trailers; main deck guards in the water; millionaires' house-boats, gorgeously furnished, dainty gas and steam launches, bright with brass work and blazing awnings. This is the upper Mississippi in summer time, a wonderful sight of steam-bowed and great sweeps of gilded awnings, of warm sunshine and lazy breezes, a happy highway of gala pleasure traffic and rollicking commerce."

But with the river improved in accordance with the latest plans and hopes of those who have never abandoned the Mississippi to its seeming fate, the traffic on the river would assume a more dignified and serious and important aspect. In 1864 the Mississippi touched the lowest mark in its known history. Taking this as a basis, it was decided with an easy nonchalance, a wonderful gift of fortune, and great sweeps of gilded awnings, of warm sunshine and lazy breezes, a happy highway of gala pleasure traffic and rollicking commerce."

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HE WEDDED IN LONDON.

President Roosevelt's Marriage Register at St. George's Attracts Many Curious American Tourists.

President Roosevelt's marriage register is in London, at St. George's, Hanover square, and so many American tourists have flocked to see it that, for convenience sake, it has been placed by itself in an accessible alcove of the old church building, says the New York Tribune.

President Roosevelt's marriage to Miss Corcoran took place so long ago—17 years ago, to be exact—that few persons remember that the American president was married in a foreign land. He

is, it is said, the only American president whose wedding was not celebrated under the Stars and Stripes.

Tourists take great interest in the certificate, in Mr. Roosevelt's occupation of "ranchman," and in Miss Corcoran's signature. They study the autographs of the witnesses, and they wonder why these persons were. They observe with pride that the canon of York, and not a simple "reverend," performed the ceremony.

Ought to Be Satisfied.
"And is this the way you repay all my kindness?"
"You ought to be thankful to get paid at all