

RIGHT WING THREATENED

Japanese Attempt to Cut Russian Communications.

GREAT ANXIETY IS FELT.

Russian Army in Manchuria Is Threatened with Being Cut Off Completely From Communication With Russia.

London, April 12.—From a dispatch to the Exchange Telegram company it is evident that the naval operations of the two belligerents will not be allowed to monopolize public attention entirely for many days.

RUSSIAN FLEET IS NOT DIVIDED.

Lloyd's Has Information that the Fleet Which Passed Singapore Saturday Consisted of Seven Battleships.

London, April 12.—A despatch to Lloyd's from Singapore states that Russian fleet which passed there on Saturday consisted of seven battleships, two armored cruisers, five unarmored cruisers, seven destroyers, 17 steamers, one hospital ship and one tug.

REPORT OF BATTLE.

Amsterdam Gets a Telegram Announcing a Collision.

Amsterdam, April 12.—A telegram has been received from Batavia, Java, saying that a fight is now in progress between Russian and Japanese vessels, near the Anamba islands.

No Confirmation of Report.

London, April 12.—There has been no confirmation of the reported naval engagement of Anamba Islands. The message came from Batavia, Java, and as there is no cable connection with those islands near which the fighting is supposed to have taken place, it is hard to understand how Batavia should have received the news ahead of Singapore.

MAY BE FORMOSA.

Russians Think Big Meeting of Fleets May Be Meeting.

St. Petersburg, April 12.—Whether Vice Admiral Rojstvensky's battleship division has passed through the Straits of Sunda or the Straits of Malacca, it is practically certain now that he is moving to effect a junction with the division which passed Singapore April 8.

COUNTY BASE BALL LEAGUE.

Five Towns in Franklin County Are Planning for It.

St. Albans, April 12.—An effort will be made this evening for the organization of a county base ball league and a meeting has been called at the city court room at 7:30 o'clock for that purpose.

It is expected and hoped that a five-team league, to be made up of clubs from Swanton, Enosburg Falls, Richmond, St. Albans and Rouses Point, may be formed.

Arbor Day April 28.

St. Johnsbury, April 12.—Governor Bell has named Friday, April 28, as Arbor day.

STRONG DEFENCE PUT UP.

Thirteen Witnesses Take Stand for Reuben Bronson.

Guthrie, April 12.—Thirteen witnesses were put on the stand in Essex county court yesterday for the defence in the trial of Reuben Bronson who is charged with the murder of Charles Lyon.

Harry Aney, an attorney at Island Pond, appeared at the preliminary hearing for the defendant and he has since been elected state's attorney. He testified that Frank Lyons appeared as a witness at the preliminary hearing and was asked if Lyons at that time testified in the words following:

"About 5:30 o'clock, I was at my brother's house. I heard a noise out in the road. There were five or six men out in front of the Bronson house, chewing the rag. Two of them were clinked. I went out to part them and as I was doing so Bronson said, 'You fellows get out of here or I will blow your head off.' Reuben and Edson both had guns. I was not afraid to go toward the Bronson, although they were armed. I was going to make peace."

The witness also testified that Frank Lyons did not state at the first hearing that he heard Reuben say he would go down and fill those full of shot. The witness had visited Bronson's house three or four times since the shooting. The holes in the exhibits shown were the same size as to slant and size as then. On cross-examination, the witness stated that he had refreshed his memory by looking over the minutes he had taken at the preliminary hearing and reading a newspaper account of it, and that there was no stenographer at that hearing.

Abraham Bailey, a woodman, testified that he was on his way to see the girls at the Lyons house the night of the shooting. He got down near the house when he saw several men out near the road, talking, and Edson and Reuben Bronson, who were on the steps of their house. Frank Lyons came out from the Lyons house and stood on the steps. Then Charles Lyons came out. Reuben Bronson and Frank Lyons were talking and Reuben told Frank he did not want him to come near his house, and he would see in the morning if the law could not keep him away. Frank answered: "You — you can find out before morning if you will come over here." Then Charles Lyons started towards the Bronson house. The witness did not see anything in his hand then, but Charles soon raised his arm and a shot was fired and in a short time another shot followed. Then Reuben Bronson fired a shot from a shotgun he held and Charles fell. The witness then turned and ran away and did not tell of what he had seen until about two months ago, when he related the above to Deputy Sheriff Stevens of Island Pond.

WILL SETTLE DOWN.

Trouble-Makers at Fort Ethan Allen Realize They Have Overreached.

Burlington, April 12.—Colonel Wallace issued the following order yesterday: "A board of officers is hereby appointed to meet at one o'clock p. m., the 11th instant, for the purpose of investigating the truthfulness of certain statements published in several newspapers as to the discipline in Troops B and I, 15th cavalry, and as to the management of these troops by the respective troop commanders. Detail for the board, Major John C. Gresham, 15th cavalry, Capt. John Conklin, artillery corps, and Capt. F. J. Koester, 15th cavalry. They will make a full report in writing with as little delay as possible." Pursuant to this order the board went into session at one o'clock yesterday.

The greatest regret is expressed on all sides, especially among the enlisted men, that this trouble should have arisen, especially on account of Colonel Wallace, as they hold him in highest esteem. The men know that Colonel Wallace will do all in his power to sift the matter to the bottom and state that when it is cleared up satisfactorily they will settle down and perform their duties.

NOW HAVE \$50,000.

Not Enough to Warrant Opening of Bishop Hopkins' Hall.

Burlington, April 12.—It is probable that the school at Bishop Hopkins' hall will not be reopened the coming fall as had been anticipated, but will be opened by another year. Rt. Rev. Bishop Hall has made the following statement in reference to the endowment fund: The fund has made distinct progress. We have now over \$75,000 in money and pledges; and of this \$55,000 is in the hands of the trustees and earning interest. It is clear that this would not warrant us in reopening the school next fall. Engagements with teachers are commonly made by Easter, and the principal when chosen would have to gather a staff.

HIT BY TRAIN.

George Farnsworth Fortunately Escaped With Only Broken Arm.

Swanton, April 12.—George Farnsworth was struck by the passenger train on the Central Vermont railway yesterday morning and was fortunate enough to escape with only a broken arm. He was returning from fishing at Charcoal Creek, on the track. When he stepped aside for the train to pass he miscalculated the distance and received the injury.

"Put 'Em Over, Vickers."

Cincinnati, April 12.—The national base ball commission has made formal announcement that Player Nadeau of the Portland club and Pitcher Vickers of the Holyoke club will be ineligible to play with a national agreement club until money due from them to the Brooklyn club shall be paid. Vickers ended last year's season by working with an independent team at Burlington, Vt.

TEMPEST SUBSIDES.

Dancing Breeze in South Royalton Blows Over.

SCHOLARS TO RETURN.

Will Not Apologize to Principal But Cannot Hold Their Commencement Dance—Supt. of Education Called in as Referee.

South Royalton, April 12.—The tempest aroused by the disobedience of some of the high school in holding a dance, resulting in their being suspended from school, has been adjusted temporarily at least by the state superintendent of education, Walter E. Ranger.

The scholars return to school without making an apology and they will be debarred from holding their commencement ball. It is understood that they will be allowed to hold dances. Supt. Ranger was invited by the school authorities to come here, and endeavor to settle the trouble. The principal, Mr. Howe, does not believe in dancing and sought to prohibit the scholars from holding a dance after the presentation of a drama recently. The scholars insisted, and the principal told them they could have a commencement ball if they would give up their drama dance. The night of the presentation of the drama a dance was held, although it is claimed that it was given by disinterested parties. The high school scholars attended and found themselves suspended. They went to school but the principal wouldn't allow them to continue. At this time the trustees were called in. They couldn't adjust the trouble and as a last resort the superintendent of education was called upon.

Yesterday afternoon Supt. Ranger met the scholars, the parents, the trustees and the principal. As a result it was agreed that the scholars should return to school unconditionally, but that they must have no commencement ball. They will not have to apologize to the principal. A special school meeting which was called for last evening for the purpose of acting on the tangle met and affirmed what had been decided at the afternoon session. And the thing is whitewashed over.

MAN, HORSE AND SLEIGH.

Rolled Twenty Feet Down a Mountain—Bruises the Only Injury.

Bethel, April 12.—While coming across the mountain from Rochester to Bethel Monday afternoon the Rev. Homer W. Hildreth met with a bad accident. His horse slipped on some ice while coming down the mountain and horse, sleigh and man then rolled down an embankment for twenty feet. Although they landed in a heap the Rev. Mr. Hildreth was able to extricate himself. He went back to a farmhouse and secured aid, so that they got the horse and sleigh righted.

JEWEL CASSET FOR CARNEGIE.

People of Northampton, Mass. Honored the Man of Steel Today.

Northampton, Mass., April 12.—Carnegie House, the latest addition to the group of buildings devoted to the work of the Home Culture club here, and toward the building of which Andrew Carnegie contributed \$50,000, was formally opened today. Mr. and Mrs. Carnegie arrived this afternoon and were greeted by all the former mayors of the city and a number of others interested in the club's work.

Mr. Carnegie was presented with a jewel casket. A reception in the Academy of Music will follow, at which Mr. Carnegie, George Cable, the founder of the Home Culture clubs and others will speak.

WILL EXAMINE ACCOUNTS.

Fair Haven Citizens May Also Ask for Expert Accountant.

Fair Haven, April 12.—The annual village meeting held in the Powell Opera House last night was one of the liveliest ever held here, many of the points in the warning causing warm and interesting discussions. On the motion of Jacob Warner a committee of three was appointed to examine the accounts of the village trustees and the water and sewer commissioners and if necessary to employ an expert accountant and report at a meeting on April 25. It was voted to refer the matter of appropriating an additional \$8,000 for completing and paying for the construction of sewers to a committee who will report at an adjourned meeting.

Orthodox Nerves Shocked.

The nerves of the orthodox received a bad shock this morning, says the Montpelier Argus, as the branch train was coming in front of the Junction. On the train was a poker game in full swing with the varied colored chips and money on the board, one man standing over as the apparent cashier. There were several road commissioners from the outlying towns on board and the sight of such a thing almost gave them a bad attack of heart failure.

Dead at Age of 94.

Rutland, April 12.—Mrs. Nancy A. Ross, one of the oldest women of this city, died last night, aged 94 years. She lost a daughter a few weeks ago, whose age was 75. Mrs. Ross was born in Surry, N. H., but spent the most of her life in Weston.

LARCENY CASE ON

Roy Smith, Respondent in a Barre Case.

ONE WITNESS IS HEARD.

T. J. Mercer Who Lost \$30 at Performance of "A Hero in Khaki" Was on the Stand Today—The Make-up of the Jury.

Montpelier, April 12.—The trial of Roy Smith of Barre, who is charged with the larceny of \$30, a \$20 and a \$10 bill from Thomas J. Mercer on the night of February 24 last, is now on in Washington county court. The respondent was employed as a stage hand at the Barre opera house where "A Hero in Khaki" was presented by local amateurs of which T. J. Mercer was one. The latter's coat hung in a dressing room and there was thirty dollars in it when he went onto the stage to do a funny part. When the comedian went back to the coat the coat was bare of the \$30. The following day Smith was arrested, although he protested his innocence.

The jury is as follows: B. H. Benjamin of Woodbury, Ira Benjamin of Berlin, S. W. Benjamin of Montpelier, Charles Houghton of Northfield, Fred Long of Warren, T. C. McCarthy of Fayston, J. C. Mullen of Duxbury, A. C. Murray of Warren, N. D. Page of Plainfield, L. W. Sibley of East Montpelier, Frank Tracey of Northfield and W. N. Ward of Moretown.

The first witness on the stand was Mr. Mercer. The efforts of the cross-examination was to show that there were plenty of chances for others to have taken the money.

WON FROM BRITISHER.

But Bickum Found Barre Checker Proposition Too Much for Him.

The Manchester Union of yesterday, in giving an outline of a proposed checker tourney at Concord, N. H., to be held soon, says:

"An interesting feature of the meeting this year will be a blindfold exhibition of checker playing in the evening by H. W. Bickum of Haverhill, Mass., and also an exhibition of simultaneous play by Mr. Bickum and W. G. Hill of Manchester. These two gentlemen have reputations as skillful players. Mr. Hill distinguished himself by winning the most games of any player on the American team in the recent international match. Mr. Bickum in a personal contest with a member of the British team came off victor three games to none for his opponent."

Bickum is well known to the checker players of Barre, he having played against several of our local players only a few months ago. Bickum also played in Burlington and Rutland and is reported to have said that Barre was the hardest proposition he had run up against. He scored only once in all the games he played in this city.

A COURAGEOUS WOMAN.

Miss Emma Clafin of Bethel Stops Three Runaway Horses.

Bethel, April 12.—Don Hutchinson of East Braintree, driving one and leading two large western horses through this village yesterday afternoon fortunately escaped an apparently serious accident. In leading the span he had the rope around his shoulders and when about to drive under a railroad bridge an express train approached.

The lead horses settled back and pulled the driver backwards out of the open buggy. He landed in the mud, but luckily became freed from the horses without being dragged very far. All three horses ran, from fright, up River street. Miss Emma Clafin courageously headed off the span and turned them into a dooryard and then caught the one hitched to the vehicle.

Aside from a good shaking up and a mud bath, Mr. Hutchinson resumed his journey determined not to again get fastened in that position.

NOW IN NEW YORK.

The Smiths, Long Sought, Are Where They Are Wanted.

New York, April 12.—J. Morgan Smith and Julia Smith, his wife, who have been indicted together with Nan Patterson on the charge of conspiring to obtain money from "Caesar" Young, the bookmaker, in connection with whose death the Patterson girl is about to be tried a third time, arrived here last night.

They were locked up. Assistant District Attorney Rand said: "No agreement or stipulation was made as to their prosecution on any other charge than that contained in the indictment of extortion."

He intimated that the Smiths would be called as witnesses in the Patterson case.

On the way to this city Mrs. Smith declared that she and her husband were coming east anyway. She avowed that at the time Miss Patterson was arrested their mother was sick in Washington and that she needed her more than did her accused sister.

Preparations for M. E. Conference.

Enosburg Falls, April 12.—Preparations are being made for the sixty-first session of the Vermont Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church which will meet here Wednesday, April 19.

TO RIPE OLD AGE.

Ransom S. Slack Died Yesterday at Randolph, Aged 93 Years.

Randolph, April 12.—Ransom S. Slack died yesterday at his home on the Center road at the age of 93 years. Mr. Slack was born in Plainfield, N. H., but moved to Washington, this state, with his parents when about four years old. There he grew to manhood and was honored with several town offices by his townsmen, including that of justice of the peace. He lived in Northfield several years, but came to Randolph about 35 years ago, and had since resided on his hill farm about two miles from this village. He was a shrewd sturdy farmer and accumulated his thousands while others were wrestling with Vermont mortgages. Mr. Slack was thrice married. His first wife was Hannah George of Washington, by whom he had one son, Royal P., deceased. His second wife died six weeks after the wedding day. His last marriage was to Lucinda R. Bannister of this town, who died about three years ago. Of his eight children five are living, George H. Slack, Mrs. W. P. Flint, Mrs. R. W. Allen of Randolph, Mrs. J. J. Leavy and Mrs. K. P. Leach of Marshall, Mich.

In his long life Mr. Slack has known little of doctors, being blessed with remarkable robust health. He was a quick witted man, gifted with a keenness of perception and his quaint sayings have been appreciated and quoted by many. He used tobacco since he was 12 years old and was reared in the days before prohibition was the thing in Vermont. He considered himself a temperate man, but has used liquor since his early youth and used to say with a twinkle in his eye, "Rum was better in those days."

The funeral was held at the house this afternoon at 1:30.

WILLIAM MORTON'S FUNERAL.

Clan Gordon and Manchester Unity Attended in Body.

The funeral of William Morton was held at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon from the house on Blackwell street. The Rev. George A. Humphries of Fall River, Mass., who preached at the Presbyterian church last Sunday, was the officiating clergyman. The house was filled with friends and relatives of the deceased and the Clan Gordon and Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodges of which the deceased was a member, attended in a body. The floral tributes were magnificent. The pall bearers were six young friends, John Emalie, John Rae, Duncan McMillan, George Lake, William Fraser and Richard Attridge. The interment was in the Hope cemetery.

The floral tributes were as follows: Parents, pillow; Mrs. R. J. Brown, carnations, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Synnott, calla lilies; Clan Gordon, wreath; I. O. O. F. M. U., pillow; cross from friends; wreath; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Gilbertson, Mr. and Mrs. John Gilbertson, Miss George Gilbertson, Mrs. Annie Hall, David Gilbertson, heart of roses and pinks; Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Day, Mrs. Kesson, Mrs. Carrol, Mrs. Fraser, bouquet of roses; Margaret Fraser, Chrissie Ray, Nellie Johnson, Maggie Beattie, Annie Brown, Miss Spooner, Mr. and Mrs. R. Burgess, carnations; Mr. and Mrs. John Stewart, roses; Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Graham, carnations, Mr. and Mrs. D. McNight, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Murphy, Mrs. Emma Gilmore, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Dobie, Mr. and Mrs. P. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. James McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. James Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. D. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Bergeon, Mrs. Donald Smith, Mrs. Carswell, Mr. and Mrs. John Carson, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Knight, Mrs. Wm Emalie and family, Mr. Alex Emalie, carnations.

GOOD BUSINESS STANDS.

Six License Applications in Northfield Designate Same Building.

Northfield, April 12.—Of the eight applicants for a liquor license of the first class, six have designated their place for a saloon in a room in a one story building situated east of the Mayo block and on the south side of East street. The two applicants for a second class have both applied for a license to do business at the same stand, on the corner of Main and East streets. Both buildings are temporary structures owned at present by Dr. Mayo but will be wholly remodeled before being occupied.

ENTERS BUSINESS AGAIN.

W. D. Smith Buys Into Firm of O. C. Russell & Co.

W. D. Smith has bought a half interest in the firm of O. C. Russell & Co. and will enter into the conduct of the business with Mr. Russell. The firm name will be Russell & Smith. They now do plumbing and heating and will later put in a stock of hardware. Mr. Smith recently disposed of his interest in the store of Smith Bros.

TRIAL WAS STOPPED.

Juror in the McKane vs. Marr & Gordon Suit Was Unable to Attend.

The trial of the Barre case of Terrence McKane against Marr & Gordon was stopped in county court when it was found that one of the jurors, A. N. Pollard of Waitsfield, was ill with the grip and unable to be in attendance at court. Court was adjourned from yesterday morning to the afternoon.

Left \$230 for Funeral.

Wilmingon, Del., April 12.—A man about 55 years of age who registered at a hotel here on Monday at H. Mills of Buffalo, committed suicide yesterday in a city park by shooting himself through the head. He left \$230 in cash and a sealed envelope which opened was found to contain a note stating the money was to be used to pay the expenses of his burial.

AGREEMENT NOT KEPT

The Telephone Company Frequently Overloads Lines.

ITS STATEMENT TO CITY.

Provides That Business and Residence Lines Should Have Same Number of Parties on Each—How Service Is Abused.

The matter of overloaded telephone lines in Barre, which was raised at the meeting of the Merchants' Association the other evening, recalls the fact that the Vermont Telephone Co., through its president, filed a written statement with the city April 25, 1901, as to what rates and service were to be maintained in Barre for the succeeding five years. This statement is as follows:

"Complying with the request of your Finance Committee, that this company file with the clerk of your city a written statement relative to future rates for telephone exchange service to be maintained in Barre, this company agrees that all existing regularly established rates for exchange service at the Barre exchange will not be increased during the term of five years from the date thereof, including: The business rate of \$25 per annum with unlimited service, long distance transmitters, and metallic circuit, and a residence rate of \$18 per annum, with like service and equipment. Neither will any of the free service privileges now existing in said exchange be abridged, during the period of five years from date hereof. And that service at the present state of efficiency will be maintained at said exchange."

This is signed by Joseph N. Kider as president of the Vermont Telephone Co., and also as general manager of the New England Telephone Co., and dated April 25, 1901.

This statement was accepted by the city council, making it an agreement. The company made the offer for the purpose of heading off the Washington County Telephone company, which had previously secured a charter from the legislature and was preparing to do business in Barre. The business rate of \$25 was then and is now for a six-party line, and it was understood and talked by both telephone and city officials that the residence rate of \$18 was also for a six-party line and to provide for this the telephone company put in the agreement, "and residence rate of \$18 per annum, with like service and equipment."

That this agreement has been violated by the telephone company is clearly evident. In many cases where complaint has been made to the company that lines were being overloaded a change has been made, and the Times knows of one case where a party complained that the line was overloaded and the trouble was not remedied for three months after, he refused to pay for the service for that period and the bill was cancelled by the company. If the company did not know it had violated its agreement why didn't it collect?

If the merchants call the company's attention to this agreement it will undoubtedly repair the overloading of lines as quickly as possible by reducing the number on each to six subscribers.

There is another side to the story that makes matter of telephone communication in Barre so difficult at the present time. Many persons use so much more than the customary three minutes on a call that business men are often compelled to wait from 15 to 30 minutes. A prominent granite manufacturer and quarry owner, talking to a Times' reporter today, told of an accident that happened to him about ten days ago. He was at the quarries and from 27-11 tried to ring up central. Two ladies were visiting over the line. He tried again a little later, and kept trying at intervals for 25 minutes. Each time the same two were talking. Once when he called he was told by one of the ladies to keep off the line, they were paying for it. Finally, after 35 minutes' effort the manufacturer secured telephone connection with his office in Barre.

Another citizen once this spring waited 45 minutes to get another man's house, each time he called central being informed the "line was busy." Finally he gave it up and went out and called at the man's house.

FORM A NEW CAMP.

Montpelier Veterans of Spanish American War Form an Organization.

A meeting of the men who served with Company H, V. N. G., of Montpelier in the Spanish-American War, was held last evening for the purpose of forming a camp of Spanish war veterans. A temporary organization was effected by the election of ex-Capt. W. A. Pattee, chairman, and W. N. Theriault, secretary. The 23 men present voted unanimously to apply for a charter. The application will at once be forwarded to E. H. Prouty at Burlington and if approved by him will be sent to headquarters at Indianapolis.

Committees on hall and by-laws were appointed, they to report to a future meeting. It was voted unanimously to name the new camp Oliver J. Gibson Camp in honor of Lieut. Gibson who died two years ago. It is expected the charter will be received in about two weeks.