LAST EDITION.

ROCK ISLAND ARGUS.

4:30 O'CLOCK.

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FIRING AT SEA HEARD

Fleets Believed to Have Met Off New Chwang.

PRISONERS RELEASED

Russians Free Japanese, Ending a Controversy.

New Chwang, March 22.—Firing was heard this morning. It has been officially explained it was from guns at the fort engaged in practice.

Two Japanese merchants and five women refugees, who have been imprisoned since Feb. 7 at Port Arthur, left today en route for Tien Tsin, thus satisfying the American official inquiry and negotiations covering several weeks.

Firing Heard at Sea.

Yin-Kow, March 22.—Firing was heard off the coast, apparently about six miles to the southward, fourteen shots having been heard between 7 and 7:30 this morning. The morning was hazy and it was impossible to distinguish objects at sea. A credible report has reached here that two cruisers and five gunboats were off Kinchow yesterday.

Cronstadt, March 22.—The Vestnik, the leading service organ here, surmises that the Russian Vladivostok squadron has gone to attack Mororan (in Valcano bay) and Otarunai (in Ishikari bay), both in the Japanese island of Yorzo.

Russian General Reports.

St. Petersburg, March 22. — The following official dispatch, dated Mukden, March 20, has been received: "General Zhilinski reports as follows: 'According to reports received from the frontier guards on the Eastern Chinese railway everything is in order there. At Udyini station Captain Uksenoff, with seventy cavalrymen, has driven off a band of 100 Chunchuses (Chinese bandits). The occupation of the towns of Anju and Ping Yang by the enemy's infantry and artillery is confirmed.

Reports of Landing Contradicted.

"Thirteen of the enemy's transports recently unloaded at Chinampho. According to reports there have been no preparations for landing on the coast of Caoljao or opposite Kinchow. All reports appearing in foreign newspapers of the landing of Japanese troops at different points on the coast are inventions.'"

Russia Worries Over China.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—In government circles there exists a strong belief that the question as to whether China will observe her neutrality undertakings will depend largely on the result of the first heavy land fighting. A big victory by the Russian army, it is believed, will insure the quiescence of the Celestial empire, but there are grave fears as to what might happen in the event of a signal Japanese success in the early stages of the land operations.

SENATOR BURTON PLACED ON TRIAL

Hearing for Exerting Improper Influence in Postal Department Begun.

St. Louis, March 22.—The trial of United States Senator Burton, of Kansas, charged with having accepted $2,500 from the Rialto Grain & Securities company to use his influence with the postoffice department to prevent the issuance of a fraud order against the company, was begun in the federal court here today.

MISSOURI TOWN SUFFERS IN STORM

Higginsville Struck by Wind, Fifty Buildings Wrecked and Man Killed.

Higginsville, Mo., March 22.—Fifty buildings are partly wrecked, one man is mortally wounded and several others hurt; the town is in darkness and the streets strewn with debris, as the result of a tornado and hail storm which struck this place. The hail on the streets was a foot deep within five minutes after the storm came and some of the stones were as large as hen eggs. Dozens of trees in the town were blown down and several horses

The grocery store of J. W. Enzley, in the business part of this place, was one building wrecked. John Holzen, a clerk, was mortally injured. It is estimated that 2,000 windows were broken by the force of the storm. More than fifty houses have been unroofed.

SENATE CONSIDERING THE ERECTION OF NEW OFFICES

Washington, March 22.—Consideration in the senate of the bill providing for the purchase of a site and the erection of a building for the departments of state, justice and commerce and labor was made the occasion for adverse criticism of the architect who planned the White House offices. A number of bills was passed.

After being in session an hour and twenty minutes the house adjourned out of respect to the memory of the late Representative Charles W. Thompson, of Alabama, who died in this city. No business of importance was done.

MEMORIAL GYMNASIUM FOR DEAD STUDENTS OF PURDUE

Lafayette, Ind., March 22. — The board of trustees of Purdue university has adopted resolutions approving of the erection of a memorial gymnasium, and a committee composed of William V. Stuart, Charles E. Major and President W. E. Stone was appointed to handle the university end of the fund.

RABBI DEFENDS RELIGION

Says That the Ingersollian Type Has Almost Disappeared from Public Society.

New York, March 22.—Replying to articles published recently in London raising a question as to the success of the ministers of the world in spreading the Gospel, Rabbi Silverman, of the Temple Emanuel, declares that atheism and agnosticism are now generally looked upon as intellectual weakness.

"The Ingersollian type," he asserted, "has almost disappeared from polite society. There is a tacit understanding that religion is an evidence of culture and refinement and that it has a wholesome effect upon the development of man. There never was a time," he continued, "when men of all shades of belief were as interested in religious study, in worship and practice as today."

Wholesale Chicken Stealing.

Petersburg, Ind., March 22.—Chicken thieves are doing a wholesale business in the vicinity of Petersburg. In one night they stole forty-two from Rev. John Demunbrum, one mile east of town. The night before they took twenty from Mrs. Marsee, widow, and smaller numbers have been taken from other farms in the neighborhood.

Looted the Place with a Wagon.

St. Louis, March 22.—It has been discovered that between closing time Saturday and opening time Monday robbers boldly looted the office and plant of the Pilly Packing and Flue Brush Manufacturing company, and had hauled over $1,000 worth of loot away in a wagon.

Fourth Nomination for Rose.

Milwaukee, March 22.—Mayor David S. Rose has been for a fourth time nominated to head the city ticket by the Democratic convention. The platform, among other things, declares for a municipal lighting plant and denounces "grafting."

Runaway Accident Killed Her.

Owosso, Mich., March 22.—Mrs. Hattie Johnson, wife of T. A. Johnson, of the new National hotel, is dead as the result of an accident received while out driving. A runaway which passed her buried Mrs. Johnson from her carriage.

CHINESE AT FAIR BREAK IMAGES TO SHOW THAT THEY ARE NOT THIEVES

St. Louis, March 22.—Enforcement of the recent rule that under no circumstances will persons be permitted to carry packages from the World's fair without a special permit resulted in four Chinese artisans destroying four valuable carved wooden images before an astonished gatekeeper. The four Celestial artisans had been instructed to take the images from the Chinese pavilion to the Chinese commissioners, residing in the city, who had arragned to have them gilded and painted to be presented to distinguished World's fair people as souvenirs. Through error no written permits to take the images from the grounds had been provided.

A gatekeeper stopped the four Chinamen and investigated their packages. The Celestials could not understand English, but they perceived that they were not going to be permitted to carry the images through the gates. Thereupon each broke his image into pieces. An interpreter was summoned and quickly made it plain that the Chinamen had broken the images to prove their innocence of theft. "In China when a man is accused of stealing anything found in his posession he immediately destroys it to show that he is no thief," said the interpreter.

DEFEAT CENSURE

With Nationalists Against Him and Mutiny in His Own Ranks Balfour Wins.

LIBERAL MOTION IS REJECTED

Government Majority Being Fifty-Seven on the Transvaal Labor Question.

London, March 22.—The whips of all parties in the house of commons were busy yesterday seeing that their forces were on hand, for the first real vote involving the life of the government was to take place at the end of the debate on Campbell-Bannermann's motion censuring the cabinet for consenting to the Chinese labor scheme for the Transvaal. The vote was 259 to 242 in favor of the government — a majority over all the opposition of 57. Campbell-Bannermann opened the debate. He said the Transvaal proposition had sorely tried the people of the country; that Europeans in South Africa were all apposed to the Chinese labor scheme; that it was the greatest departure Great Britain had ever made from her principles, and that it was slavery and nothing else.

Seely Deserts the Government.

Lytton, colonial secretary, made a reply, declaring that public sentiment in the Transvaal was overwhelming in favor of the measure, and that the Liberal leader's remarks were a series of gross misrepresentations. Major John Edward Seely was the next speaker. He had hitherto been a consistent supporter of the government. He said he believed the importation of Chinese labor would render the Transvaal impossible as a white man's country. He announced that, therefore, he had tendered his resignation to his constituents, because he did not think it fair that he should vote against the government without giving his constituents an opportunity of turning him out if they did not approve of his action.

Irishmen Object to Uproar.

The conclusion of Major Seely's speech was lost amid a tremendous outburst of disapproval from the ministerial side. Premier Balfour, who followed Major Seely, was unable to secure a hearing, the Irish members protesting against the treatment of the major. William Redmond said that Balfour should have insisted upon a respectful hearing for Major Seely, and when the premier said he had appealed for such a hearing Redmond withdrew his opposition and the house quieted down again to listen to Balfour, who in opposing the resolution said it was a question whether the Transvaal should be allowed to go through a grave commercial crisis rather than admit Chinese labor.

BALFOUR ACCUSES THE LIBERALS

Says They Have Done What They Are Now Vigorously Opposing.

Liberal governments, he said, had in the past legalized the importation of such labor for British colonies and the opposition was now reaping the benefits of the evils which their own party had produced. In conclusion Balfour said that he sympathized with the views of Australia and New Zealand because they were white men's colonies. In South Africa the prospect of a great preponderance of blacks would present a difficult problem, but the difficulty would not be increased by the government's present crisis.

If the leader of the opposition came into power, said Balfour, he would do exactly as the government was doing, and would not indulge in vague and inappropriate speeches about slavery. Should Sir Henry Campbell-Bannermann's motion be carried it would tend to destroy or to indefinitely retard the prosperity of the Transvaal.

Herbert H. Asquith, in closing the debate, denied that any clear or overwhelming opinion in the Transvaal demanded Chinese labor, and he maintained that practicable and less objectionable alternatives had been suggested. He agreed that the economic position of the Transvaal was serious, but asserted that if healing forces were allowed to operate and fair wages and good conditions were secured to white and black laborers alike the serious features would be removed.

Many of the Irish members had hurried from Dublin, where they voted in the bye-election for St. Stephens Green, in order to vote for the motion. In the division thirteen Unionist members, including Winston Churchill, abstained from voting. Sixty-five Nationalist members voted against the government, the majority for which was larger than any in the several recent critical divisions. The result was received with cheers.

A similar motion was defeated in the house of lords by a vote of 97 to 25.

TAFT FAVORS FREE TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Washington, March 22.—In his talk to the house merchant marine committee Secretary Taft said his great object is to reduce the tariff at least to 25 per cent. of the Dingley rate, though personally he favored free trade.

AT MERCY OF THE FLOOD

Beloit, Wisconsin, is in a Serious Plight.

CUT OFF FROM WORLD

Factory Burns While Water Holds Back Firemen.

Beloit, Wis., March 22.—Flood and fire have caused damage of more than $250,000 in this city during the past 12 hours. With Rock river flooding everything on one side and Turtle creek on the other, the city is entirely cut off.

Business is suspended and the schools closed. The people stand helpless while the waters carry everything before them.

South Beloit Also.

South Beloit is entirely under water. Five hundred people are caught in their homes surrounded by the flood.

John Thompson & Sons' gas engine shops burned today. The loss is $60,000. The flood prevented the firemen from getting within half a mile of the fire.

STRIFE IN CHURCH

Younger Mormons Trying to Do Away With Polygamous Practices.

ORGANIZING FOR THE PURPOSE

Fear Publicity Lest They Lose in Efforts to Uphold the Law.

Salt Lake City, March 22.—Young Mormons are being organized into a movement to quit the church at the general conference next month unless President Joseph F. Smith and the other leaders cease living in polygamy. Great secrecy is being maintained, and it is impossible to learn just how far the movement has gone. One of its promoters declares 500 already have agreed to the compact. The church leaders are seeking to head off the movement. The plan is for the young men in the agreement to make a formal demand at the conference that the leaders keep, in spirit and letter, the promises made to the people of the United States to cease polygamous marriages and polygamous cohabitation and to keep the church out of politics.

Those active in the movement take the ground that the young Mormons should assert themselves on the side of good faith with the people of the nation. For all that, none of them will allow the use of their names publicly. The reason given is the fear that the church authorities will whip those in the agrement back into line separately if any names are given.

Victim of Deception.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kompe, a German immigrant, recently arrived here, has set forth in an affidavit what she alleges is the treachery of the Mormon elders. She says in her sworn statement that she was induced by Mormon elders to leave her husband and come to Utah and that since coming here she has been in dire straits which the Mormon people have not tried to alleviate. She avers she was offered polygamous marriage by two Mormon elders, Hottendorf and Huefner, after arriving in Salt Lake City.

The woman has been ill at a hospital for some time. She declares that these two Mormon elders told her that she need not mind the fact that she had a husband in Germany, as when she was baptized into the Mormon church the baptism water acted a divorce. Her statement has been reduced to writing, and if she lives she will be a witness before the Smoot investigating committee.

DEVELOPMENTS IN BIG LAND FRAUDS

Charles Cunningham, Millionaire Stockman, One of Number Indicted.

Washington, March 22.—The interior department today received the following dispatch from Portland, Ore., reporting the latest development in the investigation of the public land frauds in the west: "Charles Cunningham, a millionaire stockman of eastern Oregon, and six homesteaders procured by him, were indicted today for conspiracy."

BRISTOW'S STORY

Before the "Congressional Pull" Committee Is Not So Very Exciting.

HE ACCUSED NO STATESMEN

He Says; Was Not on Their Trail, but Looking Up the Record of Beavers.

Washington, March 22.—The McCall committee resumed consideration of the report from the postoffice department concerning members of congress, Assistant Postmaster General Bristow continuing his testimony. Assistant Postmaster General Wynee also was present. Burton asked Bristow if the clerk-hire allowances were not made according to secret regualtions in the postoffice department. "There is a schedule, I understand," replied Bristow, "in the first assistant's office that is confidential, upon which these allowances are based.

Did Congressmen Know the Rule?

McCall asked if any congressman knew what that secret rule was. "I don't know anything about that," was Bristow's response. "It is not in my own bureau, and I could not say. I was informed by the first assistant Friday that it was accessible to members of congress." Bristow did not know whether in actual practice members of congress ever had been informed about this secret test. He suggested that the first assistant would be able to give a more satisfactory answer.

Corrects His Questioners.

Rent of fourth-class offices, it was explained by Bristow, was limited by law to a maximum of $400 a year and an allowance of $60 for fuel and light. Asked if certain allowances for additional rent were suspicious Bristow said it would depend on the circumstances. McCall said: "In the brief that you make ——"

"I beg your pardon," interrupted Bristow. "I did not make that brief."

"Well, you have said you were acquainted with it?"

"No. I never read it and have no knowledge of it except the first seven pages."

DID NOT ACUSSE STATESMEN

Bristow Says the Facts Came Out While He Was on Another Trail.

"Do you know whether this report, after it was compiled, was submitted to any other person than officials of the postoffice department?" "I have no knowledge," was the reply. Bristow explained further that in his report of the postal investigation, dated Oct. 24, he was not endeavoring to ascertain whether a member of congress had done a proper or improper act. Continuing Bristow said:

"What I was endeavoring to investigate was Mr. Beavers. That report refers to the methods of his administration and in discussing that it necessitated bringing in instances where members of congress had made recommendations that he had allowed where I considered such allowance improper. I did not consider it incumbent on me to state whether a member of congress had done anything improper or not.

"I simply set forth the facts and drew my conclusion with reference to Mr. Beavers' administration. I think I clearly said on page 145 of my report"—"Congressmen as a rule want their constituents to have what they are justly entitled to and no more.' There seems to be a misapprehension that I have made an assault on members of congress," continued Bristow.

"Did you have any suspicion about Mr. Heath?" asked McDermott. "I do not think I could say that I suspected Mr. Heath's integrity," answered Bristow.

"You did suspect Mr. Beavers?" "Well, I do not know that I suspected his integrity. After the investigation began I became very clearly convinced that he was dishonest."

McDermott — You had a fund of $600,000, had you not? The inspectors were under your direction. Having this suspicion why did you not take steps to ascertain whether or not public funds were being wasted?

Bristow started to answer this question by explaining the methods of conducting an inspection, but McDermott demanded a categorical reply. Bristow maintained that his answer would bring out the facts and further explained that although the inspectors were under him it was not his place to institute an investigation of another branch of the service without orders from his superiors.

"My judgment is," commented McDermott, "that your whole postal system is rotten and I think there are instances in your department."

UNION PACIFIC AND "Q" ROADS CHANGE RATES

Omaha, March 22.—The Union Pacific and Burlington roads has announced a joint rate on grain from Nebraska points to St. Louis and East St. Louis raising the rate 1 cent. The same roads in conjunction with the Northwestern, Milwaukee and Great Western roads also announce newrates from Nebraska points to intermediate stations between the Missouri river and Chicago, raising the tariff to those points.

ITALIANS IN RIOT IN NEW YORK

Police Drawn Into a Battle That Lasts Half an Hour.

New York, March 22.—During a riot in an Italian settlement at One Hundred and Fourteenth street and First avenue one man was killed, several wounded and the police were drawn into a battle which lasted half an hour. They succeeded in arresting three men suspected of complicity in the murder. The trouble started when Alexander Fico and Vincenzio Maresco got into a fight over a woman. Knives were drawn, and friends of the men hastened to the spot.

Soon a hundred were fighting. Several pistol shots were heard, and then the crowd made way for the escape of three, who ran into a house. Fico lay dead on the paving. The police were endeavoring to beat their way through the mob, and finally reached the murdered man. A weeping girl at his side pointed to the house where three men had taken refuge. Then the police had another fight, but finally dragged the men from their hiding place and carried them away.

MISSING MISS HAMILTON

Chicago Police Can Find Nothing of the Saginaw Girl Who Left There with Barney Rose.

Saginaw, Mich., March 22.—A dispatch from Chicago says: "After searching for three days for 15-year-old Carrie Hamilton, who is said to have been abducted from her home in Saginaw, Mich., the police at Central station admit that they are far from a solution of the mystery. The conflicting stories told by Barney Rose, her alleged abductor, have given the police many clues, but none that has led to a single trace of the girl. Detectives De Roche and Qualey are searching Evanston for her.

"'Look for her in Evanston,' was the latest 'confession' made by the prisoner. Saturday he declared that she had been sent to Detroit, but investigation there was fruitless. 'His conflicting stories only prove what I have already said, that the man has killed my sister. If that is true, I will have his life,' said Herman Hamilton, the brother of the missing girl. The investigation regarding the girl in Evanston has so far proved fruitless."

WILL ACCEPT A REDUCTION

Whereupon a Long Idle Mill Resumes Operations—Stipulation That the Acceptance Is Only Temporary.

Muncie, Ind., March 22.—The Midland mill, the local plant of the American Sheet Steel company, which has been closed since August last will probably resume operations within two weeks. The 600 idle employes met and appointed a committee of four to inform Superintendent Mark McDonough that they would accept temporarily the reduction of 20 per cent. which the steel company has demanded of its employes.

This action was recommended by the officials of the A. A. of I. S. and T. W., pending a referendum vote on the acceptance or rejection of the reduced scale, which will be taken by the employes' organization.

Club Woman Commits Suicide.

Lexington, Ky., March 22. — Mrs. Matthew T. Scott, widow of Dr. M. T. Scott, of this city, and daughter of 'Squire Bassett, president of the Fayette National bank, committed suicide at her residence by shooting. Mrs. Scott had been subject to spells of depression since the death of her husband, about ten years ago. She was president of the Women's club of central Kentucky and one of the most prominent women in the state.

Democratic Date Postponed.

St. Louis, March 22.—The meeting of the sub-committee of the national Democratic executive committee, which was to have been held here yesterday to further arrangements for holding the national convention here in July, has been postponed until April 4; when the executive committee will hold a meeting.

Death Caught Him in a Well.

Negaunee, Mich., March 22.—Alex Peterson descended into a well to clean the bottom. The sides gave way and he was buried twenty-five feet below the surface, and no doubt instantly killed.

Hart Failed to Appear.

Philadelphia, March 22. — The six-round bout scheduled at the Lenox Athletic club between Gus Ruhlin and Marvin Hart has been declared off, owing to the non-appearance of Hart.

HONOR DONE AT FUNERAL

Obsequies of Cambridge Second Only to Those of Wellington

ATTENDED BY ROYALTY

Military Display Rivals That for Queen Victoria.

London, March 22.—The Duke of Cambridge was buried today after a funeral such as has been accorded to no English soldier since the death of the Duke of Wellington. King Edward, Queen Alexandria and nearly all members of the royal family, representatives of foreign monarchs, a majority of the nobility, diplomatic corps, and representatives of the British subjects of all walks in life attended the impressive national service at Westminster abbey.

Rivals Funeral of Queen.

Thereafter the body was taken to Kensel Green cemetery and buried beside that of the wife. The military spectacle rivaled the funeral of Queen Victoria.

WRECK ON GREAT NORTHERN ROAD

Many Passengers Hurt, But None Believed to be Dead.

Kalispell, Mont., March 22.—A westbound Great Northern passenger train was wrecked near Fisher River station, near here. All the cars left the track. The day coach was turned upside down. Many passengers were hurt, but none killed. A relief train with physicians was sent to the scene.

Parkersburg, W. Va., March 22.—A Baltimore & Ohio train, known as the New York and St. Louis express, is reported wrecked at Cornwallis. There are no details.

FORMALLY SIGN NEW COAL SCALE

Sub-Committee of Miners Meets Operators and Seals Two-Year Contract.

Indianapolis, March 22.—The meeting of the scale sub-committee of the United Mine Workers and the operators went into session at the Claypool hotel, and proceeded to consider the new scale of wages for mine workers voted on last week by the miners.

The scale was signed by the joint scale sub-committee, consisting of two miners and two operators of each of the four states forming the central competitive district yesterday afternoon at 3:30. No change was made from the original proposition of the operators. The next joint conference will be held at Indianapolis, Jan 25, 1906.

MILLER AND TAFT APPOINTED RECEIVERS FOR SULLY & CO.

New York, March 22.—David Miller and Henry W. Taft were today appointed receivers for D. J. Sully & Co., suspended cotton brokers, succeeding J. H. Headley, the assignee to whom exception had been taken by some of the creditors.

Bill to Aid Settlers.

Washington, March 22.—To create a colonization bureau and to provide for advances to actual settlers on the public domain is the purpose of a bill introduced in the senate by request by Senator Hoar. It is the colonization scheme of the Salvation Army.

Notified of a Reduction.

Lawrence, Mass., March 22. — Two thousand operatives employed in the Arlington cotton mills in this city have been notified that a reduction varying from 5 to 10 per cent. in wages would go into effect on March 28.

SPOOK OF EXECUTED WIFE MURDERER FAILS TO COME FOR PROMISED MEETING

Washington, March 22. — Louis H. Mott, the Montana wife murderer, who was hanged in Missoula, did not call on Representative Dixon at 10 o'clock Sunday night, as he promised to do before his execution. Dixon waited up for him at his house until well past 10 o'clock, although from the beginning he did not believe Mott would put in an appearance.

Ever since Mott's promise the negro cook, bellmen, and others have been excited and it was with difficulty that the landlady of the house could persuade her employes to remain in the house after dark.