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## PRICE TWO CENTS.

## FLED FROM FIRE OVER PLANK

ERRAND BOY SAVES BABY AT AN APARTMENT HOUSE BLAZE.

Carried It Across a Board From the Sev enth Floor Window to an Unfinished Building Next Door-Others Get From Fire Escape Over a Plank Path.

Boyd Potter, a cool headed sixteen-yearall messenger boy, rescued a baby from a fre in the seven-story apartment house at 383 Central Park West yesterday afternoon, by carrying it in midair over a plank to a building fifteen feet away. Two romen and a young man made their escape from the same floor in the same way, but they had two planks, placed side by side to walk on. The planks were swung across to the burning building by workmen on the unfinished building adjoining. which is to be nine stories high.

The fire was discovered by W. R. Russell the telephone operator in the St. James apartments at 390 Central Park West. Russell telephoned to Fire Headquarters for the engines and about the same time, Charles Boyce, the janitor of 383, saw smoke coming from the cellar.

It is supposed crossing electric light wires started the fire. In a few minutes some timsy stuff stored in the cellar was burning furiously and banks of black smoke poured up the elevator shaft in the front of the building. The smoke was so dense that the elevator boy had to desert his post, and with Boyce he ran through the building warning the tenants.

There are three apartments on each foor, and it was on the top floor that the fire caused the most trouble. Mrs. M. E. East has the north apartment, and with her live her sixteen-year-old son, Lloyd Selden Fast; her daughters, Mrs. W. N. Butte. whose husband is an electrical enigneer Mrs. M. A. Herran and her husband, who is an artist, and Phyllis, Mrs. Herran's two-year-old baby. The adjoining apartment is occupied by Ernest Monkhouse and his mother and sister, and the apartment on the east by Montague Howard, the Fifth avenue jeweler, and his wife.

A few minutes before the fire young Potter, who is an errand boy for Stern's drygoods shop, came into the house with some bundles for Mrs. Butte. She was taking the parcels from him when she smelled smoke and walked out into the main hallway. The smoke was so thick there that she was almost overcome, but she ran through the hall to the Monkhouse apartments and hammered on the door.

Ernest Monkhouse draggedher into his spartments out of the smoke-filled hall, but she struggled with him, crying that her niece Phyllis was asleep and would be killed. Monkhouse told her that he would get the baby, and he started across the hall. The smoke was too much for him, however. and he came back almost blinded and without having reached the East apartments, although they were only a short distance across the hall.

Mrs. Butte entregted him to make another try, and Monkhouse said he would. His sister wrapped a wet towel over his face and he dived through the smoke choked hallsagain. This time he collapsed. and his sister and mother had to drag him out of the hall. He was for making another

sister wouldn't let him. While this was going on things were hap pening in the East apartments. Lloyd East was sitting in the dining room reading when a puff of hot smoke struck him. He ran toward the kitchen and saw flames epouting from the dumbwaiter shaft.

He slammed the shaft door shut and dashed on to the parlor. Mrs. Butte had left the parior door open in her flight to the Monkhouse apartments, and the smoke poured in from the hall. Young East met his mother and sister, who were rushing from the parlor, and he hustled them to the kitchen. There they ran into Errand Boy Potter, who was trying to find some way to get out himself.

There is a fire escape from the kitcher on the north side of the house and, young East was helping his mother and sister out the window when Mrs. Herran remembered her baby.

Mrs. Herran begged her brother to let her go back for the baby and when he told her that if she would stay on the fire escape he would see that the baby was saved she almost broke away from him. While East was arguing with his sister and trying to persuade her not to leave the fire escape young Potter, who had been standing near the window, grabbed Mrs. Herran's arm. "That's all right," he said; "stay where

Mrs. Herran, who was hysterical, told him between sobs and tears that the baby was in a bedroom ten feet from the dining room. The boy had to pass the burning dumbwaiter shaft, but he hurried by and jumped into the baby's room. The door had been closed and the baby was still

The boy wrapped a blanket around the child and carried her to the window. Mrs. Herran and her mother were on the fire-escape on the same side of the house. Potstretched far out the window and held e baby so that her mother could see her "There's the kid!" he shouted. "She's

fine an' dandy.' Next to the apartment house a nine story building is going up. Every workman on the building had rushed to the seventh floor and one of them a bricklayer came floor, and one of them, a bricklayer, came up with a plank and put it across the win-

dow at which Potter stood.

"Keep your head," yelled the bricklayer,
"and we'll save you."

Potter climbed up on the window sill with the child in his arms and started across the plank.

"It's a cinch!" he yelled to the brick-layers with a laugh. "I'd like to be paid for doing this every day." The workmen were not so sure, however

and when the boy and the baby were near enough to them they grabbed them and lifted them into the building.

Meantime, other laborers had strung two planks over to the fire escape, where the two women and young East stood, and they walked safely across. Mrs. Butte and the Monkhouses walked down the fire escape ladders in the back of the house to the yard. Mrs. Butte said that there was yard. Mrs. Butte said that there was ladder from the first floor to the yard,

and they had to drop.

A Mrs. Brown, who was ill on the sixth floor, was carried out by two nurses.

Some of the tenants said that a man climbed out the window of the fourth floor and was about to drop when a couple of workmen on the new building shoved a plank over to him. He couldn't haul himself back to the window and he got across the plank hand over hand.

over hand.
The fire did only about \$2,000 damage.

FAMOUS TRAINS TO FLORIDA. "N. Y. & Pla. Special." 210 P. M. "Pla. & West Indian Ltd.." 928 A. M. Unexcelled service via Penn. & Atlantic Coast Line, 1161 B'way.—Adv. EXPLOSION KILLS FOUR.

Powdered Starch Becomes Ignited-Damage to Factory About \$200,000.

WAUREGAN, Ill., Feb. 24.-The starch plant of the Warner Sugar Refining Company was destroyed by fire following an explosion here to-night. Four men were killed and several others injured, some, it is feared, mortally.

The property loss will reach \$200,000. The explosion was caused by the igniting of a fine dust or powder that arises from the ground starch. The force of the explosion was felt five miles away.

The Warner Sugar Refinery is owned by a stock company of which C. M. Warner of Syracuse, N. Y., is president.

CASSINI DIDN'T MEET TAKAHIRA. State Department Messengers Prevent

Them From Being Brought Face to Face. Washington, Feb. 24.—Through a clever stroke of diplomacy on the part of Edward Savoy, head messenger of the State Department, assisted by Isaac Edwards, another messenger, Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador, and Mr. Takahira, the Japanese Minister, were saved the embarrassment to-day of being brought

face to face. Mr. Takahira reached the State Department while Count Cassini was closeted with Secretary Hay in the diplomatic reception room. When Count Cassini went to the antercom to get his overcoat and hat, Mr. Takahira was there. Quickly grasping the situation and realizing how awkward it would be to have the representatives of the two warring nations meet. Savoy directed Edwards to meet Count

Cassini at the door with his overcoat. As the Ambassador started to enter the antercom he found the doorway was blocked by Edwards, who held the coat spread out for Count Cassini to don. accomplished, the Ambassador looked for his hat. Savoy placed it on his head. The Ambassador bowed his thanks, smiled and walked away. Mr. Takahira breathed a sigh of relief.

SUBWAY METROPOLITAN WANTS Parallels the Belmont Route and Taps Central and Penna. Tunnels-Plans Out.

The Metropolitan Street Railway Company has forwarded to the Rapid Transit Commission for discussion to-day its suggestions for the route which the next city subway should take. The Belmont-MoDonald syndicate had already sent in

Mr. Belmont wants to build from the present subway under Broadway to Twentythird street, thence under Fifth avenue, West Broadway, and Greenwich street to the Battery, with an East Side branch from the junction of the existing subway at Forty-second street and Fourth avenue under Lexington avenue. The Metropolitan's plan practically parallels the Belmont route. It would build from the Battery under Greenwich and Hudson streets and Eighth avenue to a point beween Thirty-second and Thirty-sixth streets and thence across town, continuing up Lexington avenue to the Harlem River, having tapped the new Pennsylvania ter-

minal and the Grand Central station. There will be a strong fight between the companies for the contract to build this new subway. The bids of both companies will be especially favorable to the city and both concerns will hold out many attractive inducements in the effort to get the con-

tract. It is understood that the Metropolitan people will offer to transfer passengers from the subway to all their existing lines and may even agree to make arrangements for carrying passengers over the Union Railway system in The Bronx for a single fare. The interborough company having the extension to Brooklyn and the Queens county trolley system, when the old Steinway tunnel is finished, can transport passengers from The Bronx and through Manhattan to Brooklyn and Queens for a single fare.

NO PATTI AND NO MONEY BACK. 'Same Has Been Attached by the Shertff.' the Philadelphia Notice Read

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24.—Mme. Adelina Patti is still in this city. From the windows of her hotel she looked at the big poster that announced the song she did not sing this afternoon and also saw scores of her admirers turned away from the box office of the Academy of Music minus the dollars they had given up for seats.

Over the box office of the Academy was posted another poster. It said that the money couldn't be refunded to-day on tickets purchased. "Same has been atached by the Sheriff." It continued cheerfully: "Hope to get it released early next week."

A long line of people saw this notice They said harsh things about everybody concerned, but no one got any money. The contributions of the public to the attached box office approximated \$2,700.

Mme. Patti didn't seem at all disturbed over conditions, but her husband, Baron Cederstrom, was disturbed. The Baron, who is thirty-three years younger than his wife, boiled with indignation. He counted up the \$5,000 lost by Mr. Grau cancelling the engagement at Syracuse, the \$5,000 at Scranton and the flasco here was the last straw. He took the first train to New York

to find Mr. Grau. Mme. Patti has a \$5,000 a concert guar intee, and when Mr. Grau sees that the box office receipts don't come up to this sum he puts an injunction on the diva's notes. She doesn't get her guarantee and the Baron gets angry, because he is her

business manager. Anton Hegner, the 'cellist, who attached the receipts because the singer owes him \$2,800, sent her a big bunch of roses to-day. "I attached the money, yes," he said; "but the diva is so much an artiste!"

IN PERRY HEATH'S PLACE. Elmer Dover Appointed Secretary of the

Republican National Committee. WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.-Elmer Dover or many years private secretary to the late Senator Hanna and assistant secretary of the Republican national committee. has been appointed acting secretary by Postmaster-General Payne, acting chairman of the committee, to serve until next June, when the national convention meets in Chicago. Mr. Dover succeeds Perry S. Heath, former First Assistant Postmaster-General, who was prominently mentioned in the postal scandals and who resigned

The Last Florida Tour, via Baltimore & Ol Raliroad, will be run March 3. Only \$50 routrip. Itineraries at Ticket Offices.—Ass.

TAMMANY CLEVELAND BOOM

STARTED IN THE 29TH, WHICH WILL KEEP IT UP.

Leader Rush Says That Charles S. Fairchild. John G. Cartisle and Ashbel P. Fitch, Who Live in the District, Are With Them-Speeches Praising Cleveland.

A boom for Cleveland as the next Democratic Presidential candidate was formally launched last night at a meeting of the Tammany Hall-general committee of the Twenty-ninth Assembly district, of which Thomas E. Rush is leader.

"This is only a committee meeting," said Mr. Rush, "but we are all for Cleveland. We will continue these meetings to create a strong sentiment for him and in the latter part of March will hold a mass meeting of the Democrats of the district to indorse him. Mr. Cleveland is the only Democrat on a State or national ticket who ever carried this Republican stronghold. John G. Carlisle, Ashbel P. Fitch and Charles Fairchild, who live in the district, will attend future meetings and have assured me of their support."

James W. Gerard presided. The principal speaker was Champe S. Andrews. After praising Mayor McClellan's administration

The Panama Canal is not an issue in this campaign. We have too long been a party of obstruction and criticism. The Democratic party has more young men and first voters in its ranks than ever before and we must go forward on new issues. The plat-forms at Kansas City and at Chicago did not present a single issue that we were justifled on going before the people on. The party to rise up by force of character to lead it.

candidate of the party this year will not be named by any boss, any chain of news-papers or any barrel, but he is going to be named by the affections of the Democratic party. The tariff is now a live issue, and we have got with us the only man who ever led the party to victory since the civil war. and he did it on that issue, and thus was Grover Cleveland. His character has been sifted and he comes back to us stronger than ever before and he will not be able to say

'no" to the demand of his party. Dr. H. A. C. Anderson, Thomas W. Churchill and Louis W. Osterweis spoke in the same vein.

PRICE OF ROLLS PUT UP.

Rise of 2 Cents a Dozen Decided On by West Side Bakers-Bread Not Increased.

Master bakers of the West Side at a meetng held last night at L. A. Cushman's home in Morningside avenue decided from next week on to increase the price of rolls from 10 to 12 cents a dozen, on account of the higher price of flour. It was decided to make no change in bread prices and quantities for the present. Among those at the meeting were Bakers Cushman, Fairbanks, Coy, Tompkins, Kendall, Blier, Ware and Wilson.

Out of four other bakeries in different parts of town visited by a Sun reporter yesterday afternoon, the proprietors of all but one said they had made no change in price or in the size of the loaf. An East Side bakery in New Chambers street admitted having reduced the size of its loaves.

The manager of another of the largest East Side bakeries said he had made no change in size or price, although he was paying much more for materials than usual. The foreman of a large West End avenue bakery said that in spite of the advance in loaves would be the same unless flour went much higher.

All of the master bakers said it was manipulation of the flour and wheat markets and not the Russo-Japanese War that had raised the prices of material.

The National Biscuit Company has announced an advance of about 10 per cent. on all its products with the exception of its specialties. The flour market, the company says, is higher than it has been in vears.

BARON KILLED BY A BEAR. Former German Army Officer Loses His Life While Hunting in Washington.

TACOMA, Wash., Feb. 24.-Word has been received from Forest Ranger Bowine of Solduck Hot Springs, in the Olympic peninsula, that the body of Baron Martin von Schlosser was found on the range south of the hot springs on Monday evening. Near the body was a bear. The Baron was undoubtedly killed by a bear. He had started in the morning on a hunt.

On the body were found receipts from banks in Portland, Ore., Chicago and New York for more than \$100,000. A letter found on the body directed that if anything should happen to him Judge Hatch of Port Angeles should administer his affairs.

Von Schlosser was once an officer in the German Army. He had been a resident of Port Angeles for several years and recently took out naturalization papers. His former home was Berlin.

GRAND JURY HAD PRAYERS.

Body That Investigated the Iroquois Fire Held a Religious Service Daily.

CHICAGO, Feb. 24.-Impressed by the eriousness of their task the members of the special Grand Jury that indicted five persons for the Iroquois Theatre disaster and reviewed its causes in a long report opened their session each day with prayer. This fact became known to-day while some of those indicted were giving bonds. Each day Foreman J. E. Field led the members of the Grand Jury in prayer and on Saturday when their work was done they knelt and thanked God that all, in their belief, had exercised their best judgment.

None of the members would say how i came about that prayers were offered, but all agreed that their investigation was of sufficient gravity to merit their asking divine guidance.

ROOSEVELT MEN CHOSEN.

Dr. Crum to Go to Chicago as Delegate-at Large From South Carolina.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 24.—Denied the use of the Hall of the House of Representatives the Republican State convention met in Cooper and Taylor Hall, on Assembly street, at 2 o'clock this afternoon, considerably later than the scheduled time. Resolutions were adopted Indorsing President Roosevelt and instructing the dele gates for him.

There was considerable opposition to Dr. W. D. Crum for delegate-at-large, but he finally won out on the third ballot. The other delegates-at-large elected are John G. Capps, L. W. C. Blalock and Edmund H.

OWES BAILEY \$278,000.

Report of Receivers of Houston Oil Co. Discloses the Debt to the Senator.

AUSTIN, Tex., Feb. 24.-There was much surprise caused in political and business circles by the announcement made in the report of the receivers of the Houston Oil Company, filed in the Federal Court at Houston, showing that the corporation Tried to Bottle Up the Port owes Senator J. W. Bailey \$278,896. The total liabilities of the Houston Oil Company are scheduled at \$41,185,761, and its assets also are placed at that figure. The current liabilities are \$2,294,402 and the surplus is placed at \$1,367,529.

The receivers say that they are now having prepared a list of lands, amounting to 850,000 acres, which will be filed soon.

STOCKINGS WITH POCKETS.

A Novelty of the Season Designed, Say the Promoters, for Rallway Tickets. A wholesale hosiery house in upper Broadway has introduced novelty hostery this season, dedicated to the Louisians

Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. Flags

of all nations in embroidery adorn them, but the most interesting feature of the stockings-which are silk-is that pockets are woven in the fabric, near the top. The firm is authority for the statement that the pockets are intended to accommo date the lady's railroad tickets, but there is

DICK NAMED FOR SENATOR. Ohio Republicans in Caucus Nominate Him

no objection to their being converted into

to Succeed Mr. Hanna. COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 24.-At a caucu of the Republican members of the Ohio Legislature to-day, Gen. Charles Dick was nominated unanimously for both the unexpired and regular terms in the United States Senate to succeed the late Senator

As a nomination is equivalent to an election, the Legislature being strongly Republican in both branches, the selection of Gen. Dick is assured.

The caucus was called a week earlier than was intended because of the refusal of the Cuyahoga delegation to declare for Gen. Dick. His name was presented by Senator Harris, and the 108 Republicans voted for him. The election will take place on March 1.

FAVERSHAM MUST PAY

43 200 Yearly to First Wife, Whatever Julie Opp's Expenses.

Supreme Court Justice Truax refused esterday to reduce the amount of alimony which William Faversham, the actor, has to pay his former wife, Mrs. Marian M. Faversham. The decree of divorce which she obtained carried with it alimony at the rate of \$3,200 a year. Faversham has since married Julie Opp, and he asked the Court to reduce the alimony on the plea that he found it hard to support both women at

YOUNG FARMER BURIED ALIVE. Fell Into a Trench While Digging Carrots and Was Killed.

HEMPSTEAD, N. Y., Feb. 24.-By a most sual accident, Arthur Smith, 21 wealthiest farmers of Rockville Centre was buried alive on his father s farm this the price of flour the size and price of his afternoon while digging carrots from the field where they had been stored during the winter. The vegetables had been buried six feet below the surface to prevent them

Young Smith and a farmhand were digging them out. Smith sent the farmhand to the barn. On the hired man's return he found that young Smith had fallen into the hole and had been buried by falling earth. nothing but his feet showing above the surface. The farmhand gave an alarm and young Smith was dug from the hole. Physicians were called, but although they worked over the young man for some

time, he finally died without regaining consciousness. CRANK AFTER ROOSEVELT.

Violently Insane Man Arrested as He Was About Starting to Washington. DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 24.-Vowing that President Roosevelt promised to furnish him a wife and had failed to do so, August Buriegaestner, a Hollander, was arrested to-day at Cedar Rapids as he was about to take the train for Washington. He was

immediately taken before the Commissisioners for Insane at Marengo and to-day was ordered committed to the State Asylum Buriegaestner is violently insane and once attempted the life of his daughter. with whom he resides at the famous social settlement of Hollanders at South Amana The authorities are convinced that he had designs on the life of the President

LOST! AN EIGHT FOOT INDIAN. Wooden One Gene From In Front Raided Cigar Store.

This alarm was sent out from Police Headquarters yesterday: Look for a wooden Indian that is missing from in front of Charles May's cigar store at

121 Fourth avenue. The Indian is eight feet all and has been missing since late Saturday night. Capt. McDermott of the Fifth street

station on Saturday night raided the place in front of which the Indian stood. captain found a lot of young men playing craps in the oigar store. The police say they didn't take the Indian prisoner. Auto Company Arrests Drivers.

Three drivers for the New York Electric Vehicle Transportation Company were arrested last night on warrants, obtained by the company, charging them with over-

charging patrons of the company. The evi-

dence was obtained, the police said, by

spotters." Six Miners Buried in a Snowslide CRESTED BUTTE, Col., Feb. 24.-Six miners employed at the Augusta mine, nine miles northwest of this place, were caught in a snowslide while coming to town yesterday and swept to death

Latest Marine Intelligence Arrived: Sa. Alliança, Colon, Feb. 18. NOW IS THE TIME to visit Pinehurst, Camden and Florida resorts. Seaboard Florida Limited leaves New York 12:56 P.M. daily and will land you at any of these resorts quicker than other lines. Office, 1188 Broadway.

Dowey's Port Wine and Grape

H. T. Dowey & Sons Co., 185-Fullon St., No.

JAPS BEATEN IN BOLD ATTACK

Arthur Fleet—Russia Claims Victory.

FOUR STEAMERS ARE SUNK

Plan Was to Get Them Across the Mouth of the Harbor.

Russians Declare That Attempt to Repeat Hobson's Trick at Santiago Failed -One Torpedo Boat Reported Sunk With the Bottling-Up Ships She Was Convoying-Others Damaged-Battleship Retvizan, Disabled in First Japanese Attack, Does Good Work in Defending the Harbor-Probable Loss of Life in Japan's Defeat-Steamers Destroyed Said to Have Been Leaded With Cargnes of Explosives.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. ST. PETERSBURG. Feb. 24.-The Czar has received a despatch from Admiral Alexieff announcing a victory at Port Arthur, which was again assaulted by the Japanese on Tuesday.

The despatch is not issued textually, and there is some doubt of its exact purport. The following, however, is the gist of it, according to the most reliable data:

ATTEMPT TO BOTTLE UP THE FLEET. The Japanese sent four torpedo boats as escorts to four old steamers, with the intention of sinking the latter in the fairway, thus blocking the entrance to the harbor. The steamers, it is understood, were loaded with explosives.

the attack failed. The Revitzan, whose repairs have been nearly completed, opened fire on the Japanese flotilla. The forts followed. The Japanese vessels did no damage and

Owing to the vigilance of the Russians

were themselves destroyed, two being sunk and two run ashore. TORPEDO BOAT LOST.

One torpedo boat was sunk, one grounded and two were damaged. The latter were seen in the morning steaming away, evi-

dently in difficulties. Several unexploded torpedoes that were found in the harbor were secured.

TRIED TO REPEAT HOBSE LONDON, Feb. 25 .- Most of the accounts of the Japanese attack on Port Arthur vesterday concur in stating that the Japansee were repulsed with the loss of certain small vessels. There is at present no version from the Japanese side, but from the Russian despatches and those furnished by special correspondents, it is apparent that Admiral Togo tried to repeat, on a larger scale, the feat performed by Lieut. Hobson at Santiago in the Spanish-Ameri-

can War. With the view to sealing up the harbor and bottling the Russian vessels within, he sent some small steamers laden with explosives and escorted by torpedo boats. What happened is not yet accurately known. His object may have been attained notwithstanding his alleged repulse, for it is confidently stated that vessels were sunk and apparently near the mouth of the

harbor. All the known circumstances of the position at Port Arthur point to the extreme daring of the attempt, from which it is easily possible that none of the hardy

adventurers returned. STRANDED RETVIZAN AIDS IN DEFENCE. The Harbin correspondent of the Chronicle, confirming the reports of the attack on Port Arthur, says that the affair was an attempt to repeat the feat of Lieut. Hobson in sinking the collier Merrimac in the entrance to the Bay of Santiago.

He says that the Russian battleship Retvizan, which has remained on the rocks ever since she was disabled, in the first Japanese attack, fired on the aggressors and sank all of them at a distance from the

Paris, Feb. 24.-The Russian Embassy

ssued the following this evening: "On the night of Feb. 23 the Japanese fleet attacked Port Arthur. Their torpedo boats attacked the Russian warships and attempted to set fire to them. The Retvizan, supported by the coast batteries, repulsed the attack and compelled the Japanese to withdraw after four of their ships had been

CHEFOO GETS NEWS OF THE FIGHT. CHEFOO, Feb. 24.-The Russian Consul here has received news that several Japanese vessels attacked Port Arthur yesterday and that four of them were destroyed. The attack failed. Unofficial reports confirm this statement with slight variations. It is stated that the Russian fleet remained in the harbor.

The German steamer Gouverneur Jaeschke has arrived here from Chingwantao. She reports that there was continuous firing at Port Arthur between 1 and 4 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The night was clear and the rays from the searchlights and the gun flashes were visible. No ships were sighted

One version of the engagement says that during the assault the Japanese tried to land in Society Bay, but were repulsed. The German steamer Pronte has arrived

here with fifteen holes in her where she the telegraph between Songchin and Woo was hit by a Russian cruiser that fired at her for twenty minutes off Port Arthur. THREE BRITISH SHIPS TAKEN.

Russian Warships in Red Sea Report Capture of Coni Steamers.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.
SUAKIM, Egypt, Feb. 24.—The British steamer Luristan, from London for Bombay, arrived here to-day. She reports that Russian torpedo boat destrovers stopped and searched her near Daefalus.

The Russians said that they had captured three coal laden British steamers that were bound for Japan.

CZAR TOLD ENGLAND IS READY. Will Line Up With Japan if France Moves to Russia's Aid.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Feb. 25 .- The Daily News, which lately insisted that the departure of Count Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador, last Saturday for St. Petersburg was connected with King Edward's alleged efforts to bring about the restoration of peace, now professes to know the real reason for the Amhassador's sudden visit to the Czar. which, it says, was one of the causes for the panic on the Paris Bourse.

The reason, according to the News, was a question of his position as Russia's legitimate representative in Great Britain. There have been for some time other Russian representatives in London, making Count Benckendorff's task most difficult. These are Mme. de Novikoff, the celebrated writer on Russian politics, and Baron Wessilitsky, formerly in the Russian diplomatic service and now correspondent of the Norce Vrempa. They are ambassadors of M. Pobledonostzeff, Procureur-General of the Holy Russian Synod, whose immense power and influence in Russia are notorious.

Their duty has been to watch Count Benckendorff, whose diplomatic path they have long made thorny. Their reports so conflicted with the Ambassador's that Count Lamsdorff, the Russian Foreign Minister, was ultimately unable to convince the Czar that they were wrong. They insisted that Great Britain would not fulfil her pledges to Japan in the event of war, while their co-agents in Paris concurrently insisted that Japan was bluffing.

Their intrigues led to Prime Minister Balfour's public declaration that Great Britain would observe the terms of her alliance with Japah, which was intended not only to enlighten M. Pobledonostzeff's pan-Slavist agents in London, but their friends in Paris, who, cooperating with Count de Mun, were trying to make impossible the position of Foreign Minister Delcassé, because he declined to abandon an attitude of strict neutrality.

The intrigues were brought to King Edward's notice by a very high French politician. His Majesty, therefore, asked Count Benckendorff to make it thoroughly understood in St. Petersburg that any move of France outside the strictest neuthe empire." field alongside of Japan.

At the moment, adds the News, the success of Count Benckendorff's mission, on which may depend not only the limitation of the war but European complications over the Balkan question, remains doubtful

CHINESE HARASS RUSSIANS. Preparing to Aid the Japanese by Attacks

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUM. LONDON, Feb. 25 .- The Chefoo corre spondent of the Daily Mail confirms the reports that the Chinese are harassing the Russians in southwest Manchuria. He says that 5,000 Russian troops were moved from Mukden to Sinminting. Their methods on the march intensified the public

hatred of them. Preparations are being made in the vilages to cut off small bodies of Russians. There is plenty of ammunition and plenty of volunteers. Rich people are supplying the money necessary. Ten thousand men have already enrolled with the intention of carrying on a guerrilla warfare.

It is clear that the Japanese expect much assistance from the natives. MANDJUR INCIDENT CLOSED.

Agreement to Let Gunboat Stay at Shanghal Again Reported. Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. SHANGHAI, Feb. 24.—It is reported that the Chinese Board of Foreign Affairs has consented that the Russian gunboat Mandjur remain here on condition that her rudder be dismantled and her fires extinguished

The Japanese cruiser Akitsushima, which was waiting at Woosung for the Mandjur to leave, has sailed to the northward. London, Feb. 25 .- A despatch to the Times from Pekin says that M. Lessar, the Russian Minister, having communicated with Admiral Alexieff, has consented to placing the Mandjur's armament in the custody of the Shanghai Muncipal Council He also engages to give a written as surance that she will not leave the port until the conclusion of the war. Japan however, knowing the value of Russian

arranged. JAPANESE AT PING YANG. Reported to Be Fortifying Corean Town

assurances, requires in addition that an

essential part of her machinery be handed

over to China. This will doubtless be

-Russian Scouts' Movements. Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. Paris, Feb. 24.-A despatch from Secu says that two and one-half divisions of the Japanese Army, a total of 40,000 men have landed at Chemulpho.

The Japanese have fortified Ping Yang and are throwing out scouting parties toward the Yalu River. SECUL, Feb. 24 .- The Russians are keeping open the communications between Wiju

and Anju. Beyond this they have not advanced southward. Russian spies are known to be in the vicinity of Ping Yang. The inhabitants are in a panic

LONDON, Feb. 25 .- The Tokio correspondent of the Times says that apparently part of Russia's Ussuri forces are concentrating at Possiet Bay, below Vladivostok, whence scouts moving south-have-out

son. It also appears that troops from north of the Yalu River are reconncitring in force toward Anju.

About 1,200 are already south of Anju. These movements do not seem to be regarded seriously by Japan, which considers Ping Yang safe.

The constant exodus of Chinese coolles from Manchuria is greatly inconveniencing the Russians. Ping Yang is about 125 miles north of

Seoul and somewhat less than fifty miles south of Anju, where Russian cavalry outposts were reported yesterday. The town is about 100 miles south of the Yalu.

RUSSIA'S BACK TO THE WALL. Expression Used in Alexien's Proclama tion to the Chinese

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. NEWCHWANG, Feb. 24.-Admiral Alexeff's proclamation, distributed throughout Manchuria, warns the Chinese against encroaching on Russian territory, declares that Russian and Chinese interests are identical, and that, therefore, Chinese officials in Manchuria must help the Russian army, instructs the people to continue their ordinary occupations and to treat the Russians with confidence, says that the railway and telegraphs will be left to the protection of the people, who will be held responsible for injury to either, warne the Chinese not to heed the threats of the Chunchuses (bandits), and demands that they help the Russian troops to exterminate them, on pain of being themselves treated as robbers, and declaring that if the people are hostile to the Russian troops they will be exterminated without mercy.

The proclamation ends with an earnest appeal for the sympathy of the populace in a crisis when Russia stands with her back to the wall.

event to protect its interests.

the Government being determined in any

BRITISH TARS AID RUSSIANS. Send Presents to the Destitute Prisoner

at Hong Kong. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. HONG KONG, Feb. 24.—The British cruiser Amphitrite arrived to-day from Chemulpl and landed the wounded from the Variage and Korietz and also the crew of the Rus-

released and handed over to the Russian Consul as non-combatants. The refugees are badly off for clothing and other necessaries. The crews of the British warships here are showing practical sympathy by sending numerous pro to the destitute men. The English authorities are providing the prisoners with suit able kits for their journey to Ceylon.

sian transport Sungari. The latter were

CZAR HAS FAITH IN HIS PEOPLE. Show of Patriotism Conseles Him in This Difficult Time.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.—The Czer, in thanking the St. Petersburg Zemstov for a loyal address presented to his Majesty at the Winter Palace to-day, said:

"The expressions of patriotism from all parts of Russia greatly console me in this difficult time. Trusting in God's help and convinced of the justice of our cause, I am persuaded that the army and fleet will do all that is becoming to the valiant arms of Russia to maintain the honor and glory of

Public feeling has been relieved by the appointment of Gen. Kouropatkin and Adniral Makaroff to command in the Par East. The newspapers are publishing glowing eulogies of them, and they enjo high esteem and full confidence in all

quarters. Subscriptions in aid of the victims of the war increase daily and come from all ch and races. The Russophile demonst in France have created a deep im The Navosti declares that hencefort

DOUBT THE SPY STORY. Japanese in London Say Men That De Hanged Were Not Officers. Special Cable Despatch to Tan Sun LONDON. Feb. 24.—The Japanese Leg

can have full confidence in France.

has no confirmation of the report that three Japanese officers were hanged by the Bus-sians for an attempt to blow up the Sungari railway bridge in Manchuria. The report is not believed. The authoriti sider it more likely that the men were really coolies, and not officers disgui A careful search of the Japanese Army that fails to discover the identity of the ellege officers, though the name Assai is extreme common in Japan. It is pointed out that it is unlikely that a torpedo Lieu

would be engaged in duty ashore. LOYAL JAPANESE RESPONSE War Loan Quickly Subscribed Four T

Special Cable Despatch to Tam Son.
Tokio, Feb. 24.—The national war-in of 100,000,000 yen (\$60,000,000) has been covered four times over, even nerven and laborers combining their effects to respond to the Government's appeal for funds.

NO MORE WARSHIPS TO FAR EAST President Emphasizes Our Determination

to Preserve Neutrality. WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 .- More evidence of the determination of the Administrat to hold strictly aloof from the troubles be tween Russia and Japan was furnished to-day by a decision of President Rocesvelt not to send any more battleships to the Far East at this time. The President's action in this matter was based on a suggestion that, as the Kentucky was about o return home from Asia, it might be well to send another armorelad to take her place

in that part of the world. Mr. Roosevelt promptly vetoed the sug gestion. He said that there appeared to be no occasion for strengthening the battleship squadron on the Asiatic station. There was not the slightest prospect that this Government would be drawn into the Russo-Japanese imbroglio, he declared, and nothing would be done by it to give any cause for doubt that it would maintain

the strictest neutrality. The Navy Department had decided some time ago to send the battleship Ohio to join the battleship squadron in the Far East as soon as she was completed. No change will be made in this arrangement unless unforeseen circumstances arise It is expected that she will be ready for service in September, and will go then. The new cruiser Tacoma's orders to join the cruiser squadron of the Asiatic fleet will not be changed, but no vessel not previously selected for Far Eastern duty will

The San Francisco is on her wante h