

# TWENTY-TWO LIVES ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE STORM WHICH RAGED WITH UNPARALLELED FURY ALONG THE NORTHWEST COAST

## LORD KITCHENER REPORTS THE BRITISH LOSS IN ZEEFONTEIN ENGAGEMENT TO BE MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED KILLED AND WOUNDED

Boer Force Under General Dewet Surprises Firman's Camp and Its Suddenly Awakened Defenders Are Shot Down as They Rush Out of Their Tents to Resist the Fierce Attack of the Enemy



"BOER FOX" WHO HAS REPEATEDLY OUTMANEUVERED THE BRITISH IN SOUTH AFRICA.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The War Office this afternoon issued a list of the British casualties at Zeefontein on December 24, when Colonel Firman's camp, consisting of three companies of yeomanry and two guns, was successfully rushed by a Boer commando under General Dewet. The list indicates the entire success of Dewet's attack. Six officers and fifty men were killed, eight officers were wounded and four are missing. It is presumed that the missing officers were taken along with the guns. The number of the non-commissioned officers and men wounded and missing has not yet been received, but the aggregate promises to make the Zeefontein affair a memorable disaster to the British.

Simultaneously with the foregoing news the War Office gave out a dispatch from Lord Kitchener noting a minor success of the South African constabulary, who raided the Bothaville and captured thirty-six Boers.

Boers Surprise the Camp.

In a subsequent message Lord Kitchener sends a stirring account of the fighting at Zeefontein, showing that the wounded and prisoners must number about 150. He says that in the absence of Colonel Firman, Major Williams, who was killed, was in command. The column was encamped on the slope of a kopje, the southern side of which was precipitous. Outposts held the edge of the precipice.

The northern slope, on which the camp was pitched, was gentle. The outposts were well pushed out and the position, naturally strong, had been entrenched.

It was a moonlight night. The Boers appear to have climbed the precipice, and, mustering near the top at 2 a. m., suddenly attacked the picket on the summit. Before the men could get clear of

their tents the Boers swooped through the camp, shooting the soldiers as they came out. Most of the British officers were shot while trying to stem the rush. Lieutenant Harwich himself opened fire with the "pompoms" and was shot through the heart while fighting. Lieutenant Watney was killed while leading a charge.

There was no panic and all engaged did their best; but once the picket was overwhelmed the superior force of the Boers had all the advantage.

Gun's Defenders All slain.

Including the killed and wounded, about half the column is now at Elands River bridge. The remainder are prisoners. A fifteen-pounder after two rounds became jammed. The men composing the detachment stood by the gun and were shot down around it.

Lieutenant Scarlett, who was wounded, was overlooked by the Boers and left behind. He saw two wagon loads of dead and wounded Boers carried off. Most of them were hit during the first attack on the picket.

The Boers, who apparently numbered about 1200, under General Dewet, behaved well, leaving men to look after the wounded.

The Imperial Light Horse were fourteen miles distant. They heard of the fighting at 4:30 o'clock and arrived on the scene at 6:30 o'clock. After breathing their horses they galloped after the Boers, who, however, succeeded in reaching the broken country, where the Light Horse were useless against superior numbers.

ADMITS KILLING OF A SPY.

Captive Boer Commandant Scheepers Testifies in His Own Behalf.

GRAAFF REINET, Cape Colony, Dec. 28.—Commandant Scheepers, who is probably the most hated of all the prisoners now in the hands of the British and whose trial was recently suspended owing to his physical collapse, testified in his own behalf to-day. He made a vigorous defense and denied six of the seven murders with which he is charged. He declared that in the seventh case the man killed was a native spy who had been regularly tried and convicted.

Scheepers admitted having whipped natives who had been found guilty of conveying information to the enemy, so-called unarmed native scouts being, in his opinion, simply spies. He said that he had had them whipped frequently, and justified their being shot. He declared that the looting and burning of Government buildings were reprisals in accordance with Dewet's proclamation. Scheepers asserted that he always fed and treated his prisoners as well as he was able.

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### CARNEGIE'S TEN-MILLION GIFT TO BE ACCEPTED

Government Is to Receive Cash or Securities Drawing Annual Interest.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—President Roosevelt has received information from Andrew Carnegie that is expected to enable him to submit to Congress a form of gift of \$10,000,000 to the United States for higher education. This offer will not be in bonds of the United States Steel Corporation, as formerly proposed, but will be in a form expected to be generally satisfactory. The gift is likely to be in cash or in securities drawing annual interest.

### RUSSIANS BATTLE WITH MANCHURIAN BANDITTS

Lose Three Men in the Fighting and Slay Forty-One of the Natives.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 28.—General Grodekoff reports that a Tongueless chief, with thirty-six men, surrendered at Jansuu, Eastern Manchuria, on December 15. Other bands, on refusing to surrender, were attacked by the Russians and forty-one of the natives were killed. Three Russians were killed during the fighting.

### POPE LEO IS TOO ILL TO GIVE RECEPTION

New Year's Function in Honor of the Diplomatic Corps Is Postponed.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—A dispatch from Rome says the Pope is ill. The New Year's reception to the diplomatic corps has therefore been postponed.

Counterfeit Gold Certificates.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Chief Wilkie of the secret service has issued a circular stating that a counterfeit \$20 gold certificate is in circulation. He says it is an untinted photograph and would not deceive any one who is accustomed to handling money.

## GRIM DEATH RULES OVER WRECKAGE

Numerous Disasters the Result of the Violent Gale.

Many Japanese Supposed to Have Perished in the Flood.

Indian Village Is Swept Out Into the Shipwrecking Sea and Another Vessel Has Disappeared Suddenly.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 28.—Twenty Japanese were drowned or buried inextricably under a mass of debris, one man was killed in the logging woods up the coast, while a Lulu Island farmer died from exposure.

These are additional fatalities recorded to-day as the result of one of the greatest storms in the history of the coast. A reckoning of the Japanese residents of Steveston was taken to-day to estimate the number who must have perished in the wreck of a large boarding-house at the mouth of the Fraser River near the Cleve Company's fishing station. It is certain that there were at least twenty men in the building and perhaps more and not one escaped.

The boarding-house in which the men were was built on high piles a mile and a half from shore. One by one the supports were knocked from under it and at 8 o'clock Thursday morning the building went down and entirely collapsed. The waves were running very high over the flats at that time and the house, when it dropped, was engulfed.

### Japanese Surely Lost.

The falling of the house was observed from Point Roberts, to which place telephonic communication was established to-day. Nothing but kindling wood is left of the main building and there is not a possible chance of one of the score or more of inmates reaching shore.

The only fatality up the coast was the killing of George Clark, a logger. He was in a small cabin in the woods with two men named Crockford and Cooper. The fury of the gale at 2 o'clock in the morning caused Cooper to leave the shack for higher ground, out of the reach of the trees, but the others stayed behind. After he had gone Clark arose and commenced to lay a fire in the stove. At the time Crockford still remained in bed. While Clark was on his knees before the fire there was a tremendous crash and without a moment's warning the roof of the cabin fell in.

Others in the camp heard the noise, and when they reached the scene they found the cabin smashed to kindling wood and Clark dead, while Crockford was pinned down in his bed by a limb of a tree which had fallen on the hut. The tree was a monster and it had two forks. One of these had crushed Clark to death and the other had pinned Crockford down, but, luckily for him, he was uninjured. It took some time to extricate Crockford, and those who rescued him state that it is a miracle that he, too, was not killed. Had the fork of the tree gone another three inches lower his body would have been crushed to a pulp.

### Caught by the Tide.

This morning the body of a farmer named Theodore Hewitt of Lulu Island was found in a pool of water half a mile away from the river. He had evidently been going home when he found that the incoming tide which broke over the dykes had surrounded him with water. He probably laid down, and becoming numb went to sleep and died either from exposure or from drowning by the foot or two of water which surrounded him.

An entire Indian village and the buildings and plant adjacent to the Haddington Island stone quarry were blown into the gulf, according to news brought by the steamship Tees. The island is a mile in extent and was formerly covered with a growth of fir trees clinging to the rocky sides. There is not now even a tree remaining and everything above the face of the rock was stripped clean. Fifty natives who lived in a little village all camped under the lee side of the island and saw their tepees carried away and some of them blown bodily a hundred yards from the shore. The quarry buildings were on the exposed side and they were demolished. The whole vicinity is strewn with lumber and uncut logs and navigation is difficult for that reason.

The Tees put into Alert Bay, a short distance away, and there found the steamer Edith of Seattle. The Edith tried to tie up at the cannery wharf, but only succeeded in tearing off a corner of the building with a few piles and was finally compelled to start away for Seattle.

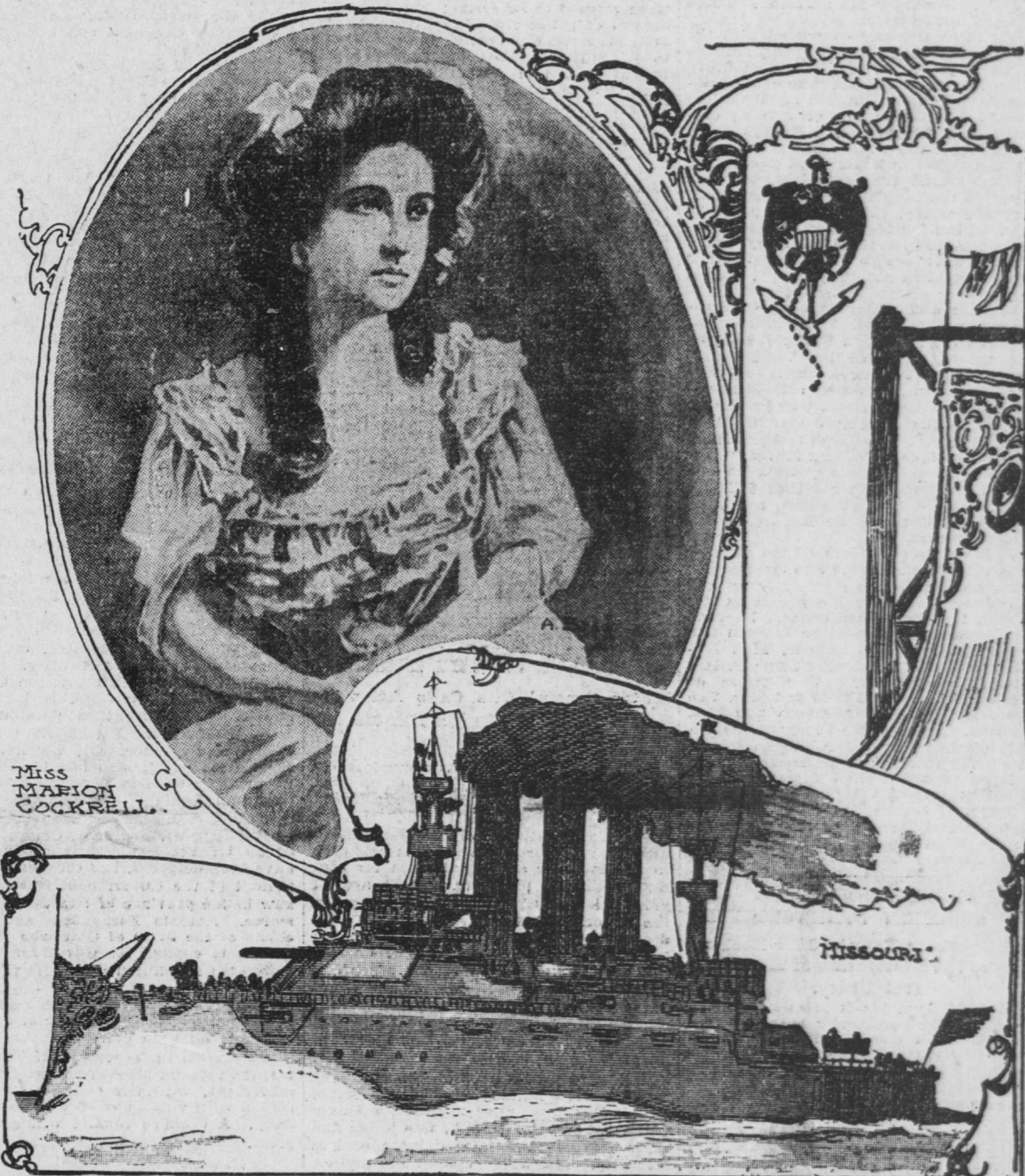
### Smashing of Log Booms.

Captain Moosy, master of the steamer Cassiar, stated to-day that a great deal of damage was caused up the coast by the gale. The float and standing boom at Bear River belonging to the Hastings Mill camp were carried away and have not been found yet. There are many reports at different places that booms of logs were smashed, and many logs are to

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## BATTLESHIP MISSOURI SLIDES FROM WAYS AT NEWPORT NEWS SHIPYARD WHILE CHEERS OF FIFTEEN THOUSAND SPECTATORS RESOUND

Miss Marion Cockrell Breaks the Traditional Bottle of Champagne and at the Post-Launching Banquet Secretary Long Urges the Need of Increasing the Navy of the United States



NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Dec. 28.—The battleship Missouri was launched at the shipyard here to-day at 11:12 o'clock. Fifteen thousand persons, it is estimated, saw the defender go into the water. The launching passed off without a hitch and none prettier or more successful was ever accomplished here. Miss Marion Cockrell, daughter of Senator F. M. Cockrell of Missouri, was sponsor for the ship and she performed the duty assigned her with the traditional bottle of champagne, using a bottle of Missouri product for the purpose.

The number of distinguished guests gathered around the sponsor on the christening platform was larger than ever seen here before. Among them were Secretary of the Navy Long, Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock; Rear Admiral Melville, U. S. N., chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering; Rear Admiral O'Neill, U. S. N., chief of ordnance; Judge Advocate Lemly, U. S. N.; Lieutenant Governor J. A. Lee of Missouri, acting for Governor Dockery; Governor Tyler of Virginia; Corwin H. Spencer of St. Louis, representing the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company; Congressman Rixey, representing the House Committee on Naval Affairs; Senator Cockrell, and a number of army and navy officers.

Mrs. Roosevelt, wife of President Roosevelt, came up from Old Point Comfort on the United States dispatch boat Dolphin, with her guests, and viewed the launching from the steamer's deck.

### Cheers for Battleship's Sponsor.

When the big ship had glided off the ways into the water the crowd on the guests' platform gave three cheers for Miss Cockrell, three for the army and navy, three for Secretary Long and three for the shipyard.

After inspecting the various departments of the plant the guests repaired to the shipyard wharf, where they boarded the steamer Washington, going to Old Point Comfort. At the Chamberlain Hotel this afternoon the customary post-launching banquet was given, the guests heretofore mentioned being on the programme as the principal speakers. Hon. John D. Long spoke in part as follows:

"I have been interested in the circular signed by many eminent citizens, my beloved friend E. E. Hale at the head, in which they regret the estimate of \$100,000,000 for the increase of the navy. The size of the navy, if there is to be a navy at all, is a question, like the tariff, of adjustment rather than of principle. Of course, it is rather a taking thing to say as a matter of theory, as this circular says, that \$100,000,000 for the navy means a tax of \$6 on every family in the United States. And yet, on the other hand, as a matter of fact, if that sum is spent there is probably not a family in the United States whose future income could be shown to be \$6 less, and there are a

good many families whose income would be \$6 more, and still more families whose income would be many times \$6 less if it were not spent. It is also rather a taking thing to say that \$100,000,000 could be better spent for education or charity. And yet, on the other hand, \$100,000,000 spent in the employment of labor is the very best use to which it could be put.

### Tax Returns to the People.

"The great question of the day as to wealth is its distribution. While few would say that the community should be taxed for the sole purpose of distributing the proceeds of taxation, yet it is some comfort to know of a tax which, when it is laid on the community, all returns again to it. If \$100,000,000 should be appropriated for the navy by the present Congress a small part will go for the purchase of raw material and something for salaries, but the great bulk of it for labor in every part of the Union.

"Somehow it just now happens that with larger revenues than we have ever had before in time of peace, and therefore with more direct and indirect taxation, there is more prosperity and more money in the pocket of the citizen than ever before. Students may speculate over the economic causes, but this is the 'demolition total'.

"Undoubtedly Uncle Sam ought to reduce taxation wherever he can. On the other hand, it is shrewd and wise in him to run things so as to keep business good, and if as a result his income is large he confers much more benefit by spending it than he would by hiding it. Whenever the interests of the country require he should reduce his receipts, but as they are now excessive, the great question seems to be how he shall get the proceeds back among the people. But if this year, having a surplus, he spends \$100,000,000 for the navy, let us remember that while it is spent under that name it is really spent, as I said before, in the employment of the people's labor and in the purchase of the material they have to sell, and the people get rather more out of it than the navy does, for they get it all back again.

"Nor is it true, as suggested in the circular, that a great navy necessarily inflames the fighting spirit and leads to war. If my recollection serves me right, while Great Britain has had troubles in Egypt and Africa and elsewhere, she has had no conflict on sea for many years, and yet her navy has been twice as large as that of any other power. The recent increase in our navy did not induce the war with Spain, which seems to have been inevitable. On the other hand, it is more than likely that if in the beginning of 1898 we had even as large a navy as we have now, certainly as large as one as now proposed, there would have been no war with Spain and that country would have come to terms, as she was very near coming without battle. At that time, how-



NEW FIGHTING CRAFT AND THE SPONSOR AT HER LAUNCHING.

ever, it was the general impression among foreign powers, and probably in Spain, that her navy would blow us out of the water.

"In determining the question what shall be the size of our navy there are a great many things to be considered, some of which I have referred to.

"For instance, our world relations have expanded vastly in the last three years in territorial extent, and vastly more in international extent. It has not been an expansion upon the continent, but upon the ocean itself and the islands of the sea in both hemispheres. Our commerce has greatly increased in volume and area and our American marine is likely to follow suit. As on land, so on ocean, as you extend your commerce so you must expand your police force. If there is to be a navy at all it should be commensurate with all these extended relations and demands.

"We are the richest nation in the world, with a larger income than any other. If, then, the size of our navy should correspond to our national and international size, and we have the cash on hand, it would seem the simplest good business sense, the simplest good business care of our own interests, to increase our navy, and whether this shall cost \$20,000,000 or \$75,000,000 or \$100,000,000, it is not an extravagance to cut our garment according to our cloth, especially as last year there was no appropriation for such an increase. It is like the rich man grading his expenditures to his income and thus making it serve the general welfare as well as his own. It is like having policemen enough instead of having a number so limited that the rough are tempted to riot."

A toast to the President was drunk standing. It was responded to by Secretary Hitchcock, who bore to the gathering the greetings of President Roosevelt and his regrets at not being present. Applause greeted Senator Francis M. Cockrell as he arose to respond to the toast, "Missouri." The Senator said Missouri's rank in the Union entitled the State to have a battleship named after her.