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SITUATION IN FAR EAST GRAVE

Japan Pushing War Preparations and Developments Hourly Expected.

London, Jan. 26.—The Tokio correspondent of the Daily Telegraph has sent in the following cablegram:

"The Official Gazette publishes an Imperial ordinance empowering the government to assume control of all private railways, etc., for military purposes. The situation is very grave, and developments are hourly expected."

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Warsaw says arrangements have been made to call out 85,000 reserves in the Karkoff, Kieff and Odessa districts should it become necessary to do so.

Japanese Military Council Meet.

Tokio, Jan. 26.—The first meeting of the recently created supreme military council took place at the palace. Subsequently the ministers had an audience with the emperor, who exhorted them to co-operate in giving effect to the important financial program, which had been drawn up to deal with any contingency that might arise.

The new Korean cabinet is friendly to Japan.

China Suggests Mediation.

Pekin, Jan. 26.—The Chinese authorities have approached the ministers here of several powers with proposals directed towards attempting mediation with Russia and Japan. China is exceedingly anxious that war should be avoided.

LITTLE RELIEF FROM FLOOD

Susquehanna River Still Gorged With Ice For Fifteen Miles.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Jan. 26.—There was little relief from the flood at Bloomsburg, Catawissa and Espy. The water has fallen 30 inches, but remains stationary. The cold weather has added to the discomfort, and all the flooded towns are enveloped in a sheet of ice two to three inches thick.

The ice is still gorged in the river from Catawissa to Creasy, 15 miles. The pack extends to the bottom, and is so tight that the water is flowing across the farm lands instead of the channel. The pack is higher than the bridges at Bloomsburg, Catawissa and Rupert, and if the gorge moves the structures are doomed. At Bloomsburg men and boys were skating about the flooded portion of the town. A gang of thieves is looting the houses, and a posse armed with shotguns is after them.

Catawissa is in bad shape. The town is without light and all the coal yards are flooded. At Espy one-half the houses are uninhabitable. The hotels and residences at Bloomsburg and Berwick have been thrown open to the homeless.

The Pennsylvania railroad's Sunbury division is under six feet of water from Catawissa to South Danville, and the Bloomsburg division is out of service between Bloomsburg and Danville. Ice 10 feet high is piled on the tracks of the latter road.

37 KILLED BY CYCLONE

Moundsville, Ala., Almost Destroyed By Fierce Storm.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., Jan. 23.—The most disastrous cyclone that ever swept over this section visited Moundsville, Ala., a town of 300 inhabitants, 15 miles south of Tuscaloosa, and as a result 37 persons were killed and more than 100 injured, and every business house in the town, with the exception of a small drug store, was completely destroyed. The cyclone struck the town from the southwest. Its path was a quarter of a mile wide right through the town.

By the force of the storm persons were blown hundreds of feet from their beds in the blackness of night. Through terror, a father, mother and three children fled from their home to seek a refuge, and in their excitement left a 5-year-old boy in bed. He was pulled from beneath some timber, and thus far it is impossible to find any other member of the family.

Bedding, carpets and wearing apparel are scattered a distance of 10 miles throughout what was a forest, but which is now as clear as if it had been cut by the woodsman's axe. Freight cars were torn to splinters, the trucks under them being hurled hundreds of feet from the track.

Carroll Wright to Resign.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Conflicting statements having been published as to the plans for the future of Hon. Carroll D. Wright, the commissioner of labor, Mr. Wright has authorized the statement that he intends to resign his present office by the end of 1904 and then to remove to Worcester, Mass. Mr. Wright was elected to the presidency of Clark College, at that place, some time ago, and he expects to reside there permanently. The commissioner will remain at the head of the department of economics and sociology of the Carnegie institute, which has been recently organized, but this work will not interfere with his duties as president of Clark College.

Cleveland Has Nothing to Say.

Princeton, N. J., Jan. 26.—Former President Cleveland, when asked for his opinion on William J. Bryan's statement that no man who voted the Palmer-Buckner ticket can be nominated by the Democrats, smiled and said: "I have not a word to say on the matter, except that Bryan has got the stage, let him go it. I guess that's definite enough."

Major Hoyt Sherman Dead.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 26.—Major Hoyt Sherman, brother of General W. T. Sherman and of Secretary John Sherman, died at his home here. Major Sherman was one of the oldest residents of Des Moines, and the Sherman home on Woodland avenue is one of the finest in the city. He had been in poor health for several years.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Typhoid at Sharon.

More Than Forty Cases and the Water is Suspected as the Cause.

More than forty cases of typhoid fever exist in Sharon and South Sharon, all the cases having developed within the last few weeks. The Sharon health board has begun an investigation and the water used for domestic purposes will be analyzed.

Dangerously Injured by a Letter File.

Former Congressman M. H. Kulp, from the old Seventeenth district, accidentally fell at Shamokin, on a long copper letter file in his office, the file penetrating deep into his right thigh. He was carried home, and the attending physician reports his condition to be extremely grave. Everything possible is being done to relieve his sufferings.

Florida.

Personally-Conducted Tour via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The first Jacksonville tour of the season via the Pennsylvania Railroad, allowing two weeks in Florida, leaves New York, Philadelphia, and Washington by special train February 2nd. Excursion tickets, including railway transportation, Pullman accommodations (one berth), and meals en route in both directions while traveling on the special train, will be sold at the following rates: New York, \$50.00; Buffalo, \$54.25; Rochester, \$54.00; Elmira, \$51.45; Erie, \$54.85; Williamsport, \$50.00; Wilkesbarre, \$50.35; and at proportionate rates from other points.

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