

EVACUATE NIUCHWANG

Continued Retreat of the Russian Forces.

ALL OF THE FORTS ARE DISMANTLED.

Russians Evacuating Western Side of the Liaotung Peninsula—Blow Up the Magazine at Feng Wang Chang Before the Arrival of the Japs—Sharp Fighting Precedes Japanese Occupation of That Place.

Niuchwang, (By Cable).—There is every indication that the Russians have decided to evacuate Niuchwang. Forts have been dismantled and all artillery have been placed on board trains. All the local transportation has been commandeered by the Russian authorities. There is current here a native rumor that Japanese troops are in Foochow Bay, on the west side of the Liaotung Peninsula, and about 60 miles north of Port Arthur, but this report lacks confirmation.

The fear is held here that if the Russians leave and the Japanese do not at once take possession of Niuchwang the brigands, who are now across the river near Yinkow, will pillage the place. The foreign residents are prepared to resist the brigands should they come over. The British consul has requested that a gunboat be sent to Niuchwang.

The Russians probably will destroy the gunboat Sivotch before leaving. The vessel is at Niuchwang.

Japanese troops fired on what probably was the last train out of Port Arthur as it passed near Port Adams. They used artillery and small arms and killed or wounded several Chinese.

It is reported here that Viceroy Alexieff was slightly wounded prior to his departure from Port Arthur. He barely escaped from there before the Japanese closed the lines of communication.

The Russian general staff have moved from Liaoyang to Mukden. Russians here will not talk of the situation for fear that they may impart some information. They do not consider that their forces here are sufficient to hold this section of the country. It is probable that the Russian troops will withdraw to Harbin.

The Russian civilians at Niuchwang are leaving hurriedly and many natives are fleeing the city in fear that they will be subjected to maltreatment at the hands of the brigands.

The Russians are retreating toward Haicheng, 32 miles east-by-north of Niuchwang, and are evacuating the western side of the Liaotung peninsula.

On Thursday and Saturday of last week the Japanese landed 10,000 men at Kinchau Bay and 7,000 at Pitsewo. They occupied the towns of Wa-Fung-Tien and Pulantien and destroyed several miles of the railroad.

Heavy firing has been heard in the direction of Kaichau, where Japanese troops have been seen recently.

The isolation of Port Arthur is complete. Sixteen Japanese warships protected the landing of troops at Kinchau Bay, directing a sweeping fire over the narrow isthmus before the soldiers disembarked. Seventy-five Russians, who were wounded in this fighting were brought on the last train to arrive here.

Food is scarce at Mukden; the troops there are eating bread cakes.

Key to Liao Valley.

Niuchwang is the key to the Liao Valley. Kinkow, at the mouth of the Liao, is the port of Niuchwang, which is about 30 miles distant up the river. Kinkow is connected by rail with the Port Arthur branch of the Siberian Railway.

Evacuation of Niuchwang by the Russians will certainly mean its occupation by the Japs. Kinkow and Niuchwang will give the Japanese another important base and a tighter grip on the railroad.

Some idea of distances in the present theater of operations may be gathered from the following figures: From Port Arthur to Niuchwang is 175 miles; from Port Arthur to Harbin is 650 miles; from Harbin to Vladivostok is 350 miles; from Chemulpo Bay to Pingyang is 150 miles.

BODY OF E. L. WENTZ FOUND.

The Young Philadelphia Man Mysteriously Disappeared Last October.

Richmond, Va., (Special).—A special from Big Stone Gap, Wise county, says:

"The body of E. L. Wentz, who so mysteriously disappeared October 14, 1903, was found near Kelly View, within a mile of the place where he was last seen alive.

"The body, which was lying on the ground in plain view, was in a state of preservation sufficient for identification."

Young Wentz was the son of a Philadelphia millionaire and was in charge of his father's mines in Wise county. Since his disappearance more than \$50,000 has been offered for news of him.

The case has attracted a great deal of attention, and various theories have been advanced from time to time as to the cause of the young man's sudden and complete disappearance.

Several persons reported having seen young Wentz after the search for him began, but in each instance the reports have proven untrue.

Mr. Wentz, the father of the unfortunate man, exhausted every means to locate him and spent thousands of dollars in the search, to which was given the entire time of a brother of the lost man.

Fire Wipes Out Village.

Utica, Mich., (Special).—Seventeen business places and ten dwellings were destroyed in a fire which wiped out half of this village. Practically nothing could be done in the way of fighting the fire until the arrival of an engine and company of firemen from Detroit, as Utica has scarcely any fire-fighting apparatus. The fire started in a barn of the Exchange Hotel. William Upton, a capitalist, is one of the heaviest losers by the destruction of property.

NEWS IN SHORT ORDER.

The Latest Happenings Condensed for Rapid Reading.

Domestic.

Charles S. Reber, formerly a book-keeper for McNeely Company, manufacturer of kid, in Philadelphia, was committed to prison in default of \$6,000 bail, charged with forging aggregating \$25,000.

Bishop Stephen N. Merrill, of Chicago, senior member of the board of bishops, presented a petition to the Methodist General Conference, in Los Angeles, asking to be retired from active service.

The executive committee of the National Civic Federation at a meeting in New York adopted resolutions eulogizing the late president of the Federation, Senator Hanna.

Rev. Dr. Emanuel Vogel Gerhart, president of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church of the United States, died at his home, in Lancaster, Pa.

Capt. John Hallam, veteran of 12 years' fighting in the Black Hawk, Seminole and Mexican Wars, died in Oshkosh, Wis. He was 89 years old.

Three more New York brokerage firms were expelled from the Consolidated Stock Exchange for shady practices.

Homesteaders at Mineral Lake, Wis., were obliged to flee in their night garments to escape from the forest fires.

Secretary Shaw had a conference with New York financiers and arranged for the payment of the forty millions to the Panama Canal Company through J. P. Morgan & Co.

Two men were killed and seven injured by an explosion of gas in the No. 11 Colliery of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company, at Plymouth, Pa.

Charles Cunningham, the Oregon sheep king, pleaded guilty to the charge of conspiring to defraud the United States government of public lands.

Judge Adams, in the United States Circuit Court in New York, ordered the deportation of 20 Italians involved in the naturalization frauds.

A gas explosion demolished the house of James McDaniel, in Marion, Ind., injuring fatally Mrs. McDaniel and her two children.

Five thousand boot and shoe makers were locked out of the six largest factories in Chicago. The factories will run as open shops.

William L. Hartley, white, and James Edwards, colored, were executed in Pittsburg for murder.

The German and French Buildings at the World's Fair were dedicated yesterday.

The United States cruiser Denver was put in commission.

Plans have been drafted for a re-organization of the Red Cross Society, which will probably be accepted by both sides to the controversy.

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CONFESSED TO FRAUDS

Charles Cunningham and Associates Guilty in Land Cases.

ALL ESCAPE A PRISON SENTENCE.

Oregon Sheep King, Who Was Leader of Conspiracy, Must Pay \$5,000, While His Tools Escape for \$100 Each—Convictions the Outcome of the Trial of Land Office Receiver Thompson—The Benson Case Will Follow.

Portland, Oreg., (Special).—The cases of Charles Cunningham, the Eastern Oregon sheep king; Glen H. V. Sailing, Shelby Jones, and Dallas O'Hara, charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States government of public lands, were brought to an abrupt and unexpected conclusion by pleas of guilty being made when these defendants were arraigned in the United States District Court here.

Mark Shackelford was the only one to plead not guilty, and his trial was commenced later. Kate James was discharged for want of probable cause.

Cunningham, as the ringleader, was immediately sentenced to pay a fine of \$5,000. The others, being considered only tools of Cunningham, were let off with a fine of \$100 in each case. None of them was sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

These convictions are the direct outcome of the trial of Asa Thompson, receiver of the La Grande, Oreg., land office, last fall. During his trial the defendants in the present case, who were witnesses in the Thompson case, made admission on the stand which placed Inspector A. R. Greene, of the Interior Department, in possession of evidence necessary to convict. A few weeks subsequent to the Thompson trial Cunningham and the others were arrested.

Interior Department Notified.

The Secretary of the Interior received the telegram from Portland, Oreg., regarding the action in the land fraud cases.

This information was gratifying to the Interior Department, where the policy has been to vigorously prosecute offenders against the land laws. Secretary Hitchcock has followed the precedents closely, seeing to it that the department and its employees afforded every possible facility to the law officers.

It is the understanding of the department that other Oregon land cases will be brought to trial soon. The case of Mary Ware and others will probably be taken up about May 16.

Good progress is also being made with the hearings before the commissioner in San Francisco in the case of F. A. Hyde and others, who are wanted to answer to indictments here.

John A. Benson, whose indictment here caused a sensation last winter, has recently returned to New York. The hearing there for his removal to this jurisdiction on one of the indictments pending was concluded recently, resulting in an order favorable to the government. It was met with habeas corpus proceedings, which are to be heard May 19, before Judge LaCombe. The case is said in many particulars to resemble that of George W. Beavers, indicted for alleged violations of the postal laws. As the government has won in its efforts to have Beavers taken to the jurisdiction where he has been indicted, the government is anticipating any serious difficulty, except in delay, with the case of Benson.

CASTRO MADE DICTATOR.

Unusual Powers Conferred on the Venezuelan President.

Caracas, Venezuela (By Cable).—The Venezuelan Congress, after having declared itself a constitutional assembly, conferred on General Castro full dictatorial powers for a year, with the title of provisional president.

General Valle was appointed second vice president.

General Castro was elected President of Venezuela in October, 1901, after having acted as president for a year. According to a decision of Congress, he was to hold office for a term of six years from February 20, 1902. It was announced from Caracas, May 2, that the Constitutional Assembly had approved the new constitution, dividing the republic into 13 states, and giving the president a term of six years, instead of four.

Dictatorial powers were probably conferred on General Castro in order that he may put the new constitution in force.

Minister From Panama.

Mr. Russell, the American diplomat, representative at Panama, cabled Secretary Hay that the Panamanian government has decided to appoint Don Jose Domingo de Obaldia as minister of Panama to the United States. Mr. Russell added that Senor and wife and child of the minister Obaldia was a senator from the Department of Panama in the Colombian Congress which rejected the Hay-Herran Treaty; that he was governor of Panama at the time of the independence movement last November, and is now second vice president of the Republic. The new minister expects to leave Panama for Washington on the first steamer in June.

Tibetans Attacked British Column.

London, (Special).—The Daily Mail's Simla correspondent says that 800 Tibetans, coming from the direction of Shigatse, attacked the British mission at Gyantso at dawn on April 5. The Tibetans were repulsed with heavy loss and fled. The British had only two Sepoys wounded.

Portland Exposition Raises Money.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—Satisfactory evidence has been presented to the treasury department by the directors of the Lewis and Clarke Exposition of Portland, Oreg., to the effect that they have complied with the law and have \$600,000 cash, subscriptions and appropriations. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Taylor accordingly has issued orders for the preparation of plans for the government exhibit.

LIVE WASHINGTON AFFAIRS.

We Now Own Panama Canal.

The President has received the following report from the Attorney General on the Panama Canal transfer: "Department of Justice, May 4, 1904. The President:

"I have the honor to report that I have made an arrangement with the new Panama Canal Company and Morgan & Co. whereby Morgan & Co. have been designated agents to make the transfer of the money due by the United States to the canal company.

"The \$40,000,000 is to be deposited with Morgan & Co. at once, upon the delivery by the canal company to the United States of all the property included in the purchase. So that the deposit of \$40,000,000 with Morgan & Co. by the United States is accepted by the canal company as equivalent to a payment for the purpose of a delivery of the property to the United States.

"Owing to the fact that a part of this money is due to the liquidator of the old company under an arbitration authorized and subsequently confirmed by the French courts, all parties entitled to the money agreed that Morgan & Co. would bind themselves to make the distribution of the funds that delivery of the property need not await actual payment by the canal company. Morgan & Co. will make the distribution as follows:

"The will place 20,000,000 francs in the Bank of France to the credit of Jean Pierre Gautron, the liquidator of the old Panama Canal Company. This represents the value of the Panama Railroad shares, the title to which was not passed to the new company until the completion of the canal. The 20,000,000 francs were paid therefor by the liquidator of the old company. Five million francs will be paid to the Bank of France to the credit of the new Panama Canal Company, which, under the award of the arbitrators, is due to the new company to reimburse it for the 5,000,000 francs paid in April, 1900, for the extension of the concession. Of the remainder of the \$20,000,000 40 per cent. thereof is to be paid into the Bank of France to the credit of the new company and 60 per cent. to the credit of the liquidator of the old company, as provided by the decree of the French courts confirming the award of the arbitrators.

"As this arrangement was made for the accommodation of the French parties, all expenses incident thereto are borne by the United States, the States is protected from all costs whatever.

"Stated concisely, the arrangement is that the French interest accept our deposit with Morgan & Co. as equivalent to payment for all purposes of delivery of the property."

"The new Panama Canal Company in liquidation has given a mandate to power of attorney to Benandrin, their representative upon the isthmus, with complete instructions concerning the delivery of the property. This department has cabled similarly to Major Brooke, who was designated by the Honorable Secretary of War for that purpose to act for the government in accepting delivery.

"The canal company has likewise placed at the disposition of the United States the personnel of its organization upon the isthmus for the purpose of temporary service in the preservation of the works and property pending the preparations by the canal commission to undertake active operations.

"I have notified the commission of the situation, and nothing now remains to be done except to take possession of the property and direct the deposit of the same in accordance with the terms of the contract."

In connection with these payments it is said at the Treasury Department that Morgan & Co. will be designated as disbursing agents of the government and following the invariable rule in such cases they will be required to deposit \$40,000,000 in bonds as security to the government. The payments will be made as soon as the bonds have been received, which probably will be in a day or two.

Consular Appointments.

The following consular appointments were made by the President:

William F. Wright, Pennsylvania, consul general at Munich; James H. Worman, now at Munich to be consul at Three Rivers, Canada; Leo Bergholz, now at Three Rivers, to be consul at Dawson City.

L. A. Dent, recently appointed consul at Dawson City, has tendered his resignation and it has been accepted. Mr. Wright is a resident of Philadelphia and was for some years private secretary to Senator Quay.

Dr. Herran to Return.

Through Mr. Andrews, the Colombian consul general in New York, the State Department has learned that Dr. Herran, the Colombian charge, who formally withdrew from Washington about two months ago, will soon return to this city in the same capacity, indicating a complete restoration of friendly relations between the United States and Colombia.

Secretary of New Commission.

Mr. Winthrop L. Marvin, of Boston, has been appointed secretary of the Merchant Marine Commission, appointed at the last session of Congress. Mr. Marvin is a newspaper man, and is considered to be especially adapted to the work.

Congressional and Departments.

Maryland G. A. R. men are indignant at Corporal Tanner, now register of wills in the District of Columbia, for removing Col. John R. Rouzer, of Frederick, from the office of deputy register.

The trial of former Assistant Attorney General Tyler and his assistant, Harrison Barrett, was continued before Judge Pritchard.

The Navy Department has declined to grant a third trial for the cruiser Denver, which was delivered to the government.

PORT ARTHUR BESIEGED

The Japanese Cut Off All Russian Communication.

THEIR SECOND ARMY IS LANDED.

Now Occupy Railroad Which Connects Port Arthur with the Russian Military Base, Having seized it at Points About Forty Miles From the Port—About 30,000 Japanese Landed and more to follow.

St. Petersburg, (By Cable).—Japanese troops swarming across the narrow neck of the Liaotung Peninsula, the railroad and telegraph communications cut, and Port Arthur, the Russian Gibraltar, isolated and left to its own resources. All this the Russians seem to accept with great stoicism.

Vice Admiral Skrydloff, who is en route to Port Arthur to take command of the naval forces in the Far East, will be unable to reach his destination.

Viceroy Alexieff and the Grand Duke Boris, who left Port Arthur Friday, just got away in time. The Viceroy has joined General Kuropatkin near Mukden.

At the Russian War Office it is stated that no strong opposition was made to the Japanese landing at Pitsewo, on the east coast of the Liaotung Peninsula, about 40 miles from Port Arthur. Pitsewo is a suburb of Kinchau.

It is supposed that there was a sharp engagement at the railroad before the Japanese succeeded in cutting off communication and seizing the railroad, which runs from Port Arthur to Mukden and Harbin. The Russian military base in Manchuria. The seizure of the railroad is a most important gain for the Japanese. According to official information, the landing of troops from 60 transports began simultaneously at Pitsewo and Cape Terminal.

Not much seems to be known of another reported successful landing of the Japanese at Port Adams, which is situated on an arm of Society Bay, on the west coast of the peninsula, directly opposite and about 20 miles from Pitsewo. The railroad also passes close to Port Adams.

It is understood that 60 transports disembarked two divisions of Japanese troops, part of that mysterious second army concerning the whereabouts of which there has been so much speculation. Ten thousand men were landed in the evening and some 20,000 more next morning.

Vice Admiral Togo has undoubtedly sealed the harbor of Port Arthur, and the seige of the great Russian fortress both by land and sea forces has practically begun.

The Russian military authorities seem reconciled to the cutting off of their stronghold, but they are convinced that the fortress is impregnable against attack by land or sea. Though the enemy may invest the place, the authorities here do not believe the Japanese will undertake to storm the position. It is believed that the greater number of the troops have been withdrawn and that Lieutenant General Stoessel's forces, including the garrison of Port Arthur, numbers about 10,000 men. Some estimates place them at only 5,000.

Further operations on the peninsula on a large scale are dependent upon the development of the campaign on the mainland.

It is understood that the landing at Pitsewo was preceded by a bombardment of the shore and was effected under the guns of Japanese warships, but it was practically unopposed by the Russians.

The Ministry of War received the following telegram from Major General Pflug, chief of the military staff: "According to the information I have received, seven of the enemy's transports, and afterwards about 40, appeared opposite Pitsewo on the evening of May 4."

"On the morning of May 5, the Japanese began to land at Pitsewo and on the coast near Cape Terminal (about 15 miles southwest of Pitsewo) under cover of artillery fire.

"At this moment about 60 transports were observed bearing down upon the whole front and our posts retired from the shore.

"All papers in the postoffice at Pitsewo were removed and the Russian inhabitants abandoned the town."

"According to Chinese reports, by the evening of May 5 about 10,000 of the enemy's troops had landed and taken up quarters in the Chinese villages near the point of debarkation."

DOWNFALL OF NOTED ITALIAN.

A Former Prominent Cabinet Minister Guilty of Theft.

Rome (By Cable).—There was a great sensation in the Chamber of Deputies at the conclusion of the parliamentary inquiry into the administration of Signor Nasi, former minister of public instruction. The inquiry proved Nasi guilty of the misappropriation of large sums of money, the falsification of documents, the suppression of evidence and continuous peculation.

The law courts presented to the chamber a demand that they be allowed to proceed against Nasi and arrest him, but under the rules of the chamber the discussion of this demand was postponed.

Meanwhile the news that Nasi had been declared guilty of the charges against him spread, and the former minister, believing all to be lost, fled.

Nasi was a strong politician, and it was believed he was destined to become premier. The result of the parliamentary inquiry into his conduct has caused great excitement.

A Horrible Death.

Chicago (Special).—Making a misstep while walking on the edge of a vast cauldron of boiling metal, Hainey Anderson, an employe of the Illinois Steel Company at South Chicago, clung for life to the end, while his feet burned off. Then, his strength gone, he slipped with a shriek into the seething mass below. In a few moments his body was literally consumed. One of his fellow-workmen fainted with horror at the spectacle.

DEATH BENEATH AUTOMOBILE.

Chicago Man Drowned in Ditch While His Finances Witnessed Tragedy.

Chicago, Ill. (Special).—While his fiancée and another young woman vainly tried to lift the heavy vehicle, H. S. Ringi, of Chicago Heights, was crushed to death in the mire of a ditch beneath his overturned automobile.

The accident occurred in the North Chicago road, nearly a mile from the village of Chicago Heights. The occupants of the automobile besides Mr. Ringi were Miss Florence Bornholdt, his fiancée, and Miss Elizabeth Cately.

On approaching the village Mr. Ringi attempted to turn out to pass a farmer's wagon. The heavy machine swerved into a ditch at the roadside, and the occupants were thrown from their seats.

Miss Bornholdt was severely injured by striking the further bank of the ditch, and was made unconscious. Miss Cately was thrown into the water and escaped uninjured.

When Miss Bornholdt regained consciousness the young women began a search for their companion, and saw him struggling in the water and move beneath the overturned machine.

PERU WILL RESIST.

Foreign Minister Pardo States Position of His Country.

Lima, Peru, (By Cable).—Regarding the existing troubles between Brazil and Peru, Foreign Minister Pardo states that his government was preparing to resist the "unjust aggression" of Brazil.

It was Senor Pardo asserted, a political whim of Baron Rio Branco, Brazil's foreign minister, to annex the territories of Alto-Juru and Alto-Purus, inventing as a basis for such action stories of Peruvian invasions; and Brazil, Minister Pardo said, had now sent troops to occupy the coveted regions.

The truth, said Senor Pardo, is that Peru has never moved from points she has occupied for many years, and in proof of this he asserted that when Brazil opposed the formation of the Acre syndicate her foreign office urged as the principal argument against the concession the rights of Peru to the very same territory.

"Yet a few months later," concluded Minister Pardo, "Baron Rio Branco forgot Brazil's words and decided to occupy this territory, which had previously been declared to be Peruvian—but is very rich in caoutchouc."

Caused By Flame Back.

Washington, D. C. (Special).—That no further proceedings are to be taken is the recommendation of the court of inquiry appointed to investigate the explosion in the after turret of the Missouri on April 13. The court finds the explosion was due to a "flare back" caused by an inexplicable combination of oxygen with certain unusually latent gases in smolderous powder. The officers and crew of the Missouri not only are relieved from all responsibility for the accident, but are warmly commended for the bravery they showed after its occurrence in rescuing the victims.

Four Perish in Flames.

Council Bluffs, Iowa, (Special).—Three men and a boy were burned to death in a boxcar in the Northwestern yards here. They are believed to have been tramps trying to steal a ride. The car was discovered to be on fire while being switched, and cries for help were heard by the trainmen, but all four succumbed before they could be reached. The car was filled with bedding, and it is supposed the fire was started by the men smoking.

Dynamite Used in Bank.

Washington (Special).—Five men attempted in true Western style to rob the savings bank at Sandy Springs, Md., a short distance from Washington. Dynamite was used to effect an entrance to the building. The explosion awakened the citizens, who turned out armed with shotguns and other weapons. The posse and the bandits exchanged many shots, but no one was killed on either side. The bandits finally separated and the pursuit was abandoned.

Edgar Fawcett Dead.

London, (By Cable).—Edgar Fawcett, the American author, died here after having been unconscious for several days. Death was due to cirrhosis of the liver. Mr. Fawcett was born in New York in May, 1847, and was a graduate of Columbia College, New York. He had lived in England for several years.

FACTS WORTH REMEMBERING.

The radium salts closely resemble quinine.

Japan produces one-twelfth of the world's raw silk.

The Romans had no hinges; their doors turned on pivots.