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Member of Congress—Joseph C. Sibley. Member of Senate—J. K. P. Hall. Assembly—C. W. Amisler. President Judge—W. M. Lindsay. Associate Judges—R. M. Crawford, W. H. U. Danner.

Regular Terms of Court. Fourth Monday of February. Third Monday of May. Fourth Monday of September. Third Monday of November.

Presbyterian Sabbath School at 9:45 a. m. M. E. Sabbath School at 10:30 a. m. Preaching in M. E. Church every Sabbath evening by Rev. O. H. Nickle.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

W. NESTA LODGE, No. 369, I. O. O. F. Meets every Tuesday evening, in Old Fellows' Hall, Partridge building. FOREST LODGE, No. 184, A. O. U. W. Meets every Friday evening in I. O. O. F. Hall, Tionesta.

JAPS' RAPID ADVANCE.

Occupied Town of Seng Cheng Without Opposition. Japanese Steamer Sunk—Rideau Hall Partly Burned—Editor Has Another Arrested—Three People Swung Over Falls—Six Deaths in Explosion—Religious Orders Enjoined.

The London Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Shanghai gives an unconfirmed report that a Japanese army of 105,000 men has landed opposite Taku Shan, in Southern Manchuria, and is marching north and westward.

The advance guard of the Japanese army in Northwestern Corea occupied the town of Seng Cheng Saturday afternoon without any opposition. Seng Cheng is on the Pekit road, 18 miles west of Cheng Ju and about 40 miles south of Wiju.

The Japanese advance from Cheng Ju was made very rapidly. It was anticipated the Russians would resist this advance, but they failed to do so and now it is not probable that there will be any further opposition south of the Yalu river.

Engagement North of Ping Yang. The Russian emperor has received a dispatch from General Kuropatkin at New Changung giving a lengthy report from General Mishchenko dated at 10 p. m., March 28, which says that an important engagement took place near the town of Cheng Ju in which the Russians were defeated.

The Japanese suffered heavily but the Russian losses are not stated. Cavalry and infantry on both sides were engaged. The Russians occupied a commanding position. The Japanese fought gallantly, but owing to their heavy losses were unable to occupy the position abandoned by the Russians.

A correspondent at Russian headquarters in Mukden telegraphs that according to reports received there about 10,000 Japanese have crossed the river at Chin Changung and 5,000 have advanced north from Cheng Ju. The Chronicle's Shanghai correspondent asserts that practically the whole Japanese army in Corea, consisting of 100,000 men, is concentrated at Pak Chen and Anju only small detachments being left in Southern Corea to maintain communications.

Japanese Steamer Sunk. The action of Russian warships in sinking the Japanese steamer Hanyei Maru is deeply resented by the Japanese. In official circles the attack upon and the sinking of this vessel near Tachin Island is pronounced to be a clear violation of the neutrality of China, besides being an act of wantonness against a defenceless craft.

After transferring 10 Japanese and seven Chinese from the Hanyei Maru the fire of two vessels was directed upon the steamer and one of the Russian torpedo destroyers sent several shells through her hull. When she appeared to be sinking the Russian ships started at full speed in the direction of Port Arthur.

Three of the crew of the Hanyei Maru concealed themselves on board when the Russians came over to rescue them and later escaped in a launch from the sinking vessel. The Japanese generally pronounce this affair to be a barbarous breach of the law of nations and of humanity.

Japs Say Harbor Is Blocked. Information has been received at Washington from Tokyo under date of March 29 to this effect: "The Japanese fleet has been successful in attempt partially to close the channel of Port Arthur. Four Japanese merchant vessels, escorted by 12 destroyers and six first-class torpedo boats, arrived at 3 a. m. on March 27.

"The Japanese merchant vessels successfully entered the channel inside the lighthouse. Two were destroyed, sunk by Russian destroyers; two of them by their own explosives. Loss in killed, two officers, two men; loss in wounded, one officer, eight men. No casualties on Japanese torpedo vessels. Very small gap in channel.

Should the cablegram from Tokyo prove to be accurate it is believed that it will be difficult for the Russian ships to pass the channel. Survivors of Korietz and Variag. The Russian steamer Malaya from the Far East with the survivors of the crews of the Korietz and Variag on board were accorded an enthusiastic reception at Odessa by the enormous crowds which lined the streets and joined in the procession. The foreign vessels in port dressed ship and their crews cheered as the Malaya entered the harbor, escorted by a flotilla of steamers and other craft with bands of music on board, and crowded with people who had come out to meet her.

Severe Fighting in Tibet. News has been received from Tuna, British India, of some severe fighting, the Tibetans having attacked the British mission under Colonel Younghusband. There were two engagements and the Tibetans were repulsed with heavy loss. The British captured the Tibetan camp at Curu.

Wants to Rename Port Arthur.

The Moscow Gazette urges the rechristening of Port Arthur as For Nicholas, as the English name sounds badly to Russian ears.

Editor Sues Another For Libel. On a warrant sworn out by Democratic National Committeeman Norman E. Mack, proprietor of the Buffalo Times, William J. Connors, proprietor of the Buffalo Courier and Enquirer was arrested Monday night charged with criminal libel.

Mr. Mack resents the charge made by Mr. Connors in the Enquirer that he appropriated \$40,000 of campaign funds. The arrest was the culmination of a bitter personal fight between the two editors in the rival Democratic papers over the control of party organization. Mr. Mack consulted with a few of his intimate friends and his legal adviser before causing Mr. Connors' arrest.

Mr. Connors was not locked up, but agreed to appear in court next morning. In police court on Tuesday Judge Murphy adjourned the case till Friday April 1. On that date the case was again adjourned till April 29, on account of the illness of Mr. Connors' lawyer.

Crop Outlook Favors Large Yield. Bradstreet's summary of the state of trade says: "Low temperatures, heavy rains, bad roads and floods, the latter in the Ohio and tributary valleys, have checked spring trade, delayed collections, discouraged eastern demand, and closed a three months period of backward business in the north, east and west.

There are some redeeming features however. Agricultural implements have done probably the best season's trade on record and the railways are gradually getting out of their transportation difficulties. While nearly all signs point to a smaller turnover in the country's trade than in 1903, feeling is still general that the crop outlook, stimulated by high prices, favors large yields, and warm, dry weather is eagerly awaited as furnishing a true test of the real trade situation.

Swept Over Falls to Death. Miss Marie Willis, Samuel Graham and an unidentified man plunged to death over the brink of the towering Shoshone falls, near Boise, Idaho. The falls, which are 210 feet high—higher than Niagara—are unusually swift, owing to the swollen condition of Snake river.

Miss Willis and Graham were rowing along the cataract, when they found themselves in the grip of the current, their boat filling and sweeping toward the edge of the falls. The unidentified man, who is believed to have been a resident of Rock River, went bravely to the rescue. The two boats were swept over the edge in a storm of blinding spray. The bodies of the victims have not been recovered.

Part of Rideau Hall Burned. The new wing of Rideau Hall, the official residence of the governor general of Canada, was destroyed by fire which broke out at 5 o'clock on Sunday morning. The loss will reach about \$50,000. Some anxiety was at first felt for the safety of Lady Minnie, who was lying in one of the apartments with a fractured leg, but her removal was accomplished without difficulty. Rideau Hall was purchased as the vice royal residence 35 years ago and has cost about \$200,000. The fire originated from a defective fire place in which logs were blazing.

Will Be Instructed For Parker. From a source at Albany so close to former Senator D. B. Hill that it is intended that the New York state delegation to the Democratic national convention at St. Louis shall be positively instructed in favor of Judge Alton B. Parker as New York state's choice for the presidential nomination.

Senator Hill and his friends now believe that they will control at least three-fourths of the state convention, which will be held in Harmanus Bleecker hall on Monday, April 18.

Six Lives Lost in Explosion. Five women and one man were killed and five women fatally injured by an explosion in the factory of the Dickson Squib company at Priceburg, Pa. Twenty girls were employed in the factory. It is said that one of the girls threw a squib into a stove and that the force of the explosion was so great that it wrecked the building and set it on fire. The squibs are used in coal mining.

Agricultural Appropriation Bill. The conference on the agricultural appropriation bill at Washington has reached an agreement. The bill now carries a total appropriation of \$5,902,040. The senate amendment providing for experiments in animal breeding and feeding in co-operation with state agricultural relations is accepted, but the amount appropriated is reduced from \$50,000 to \$25,000.

Religious Orders Forbidden to Teach. By the decisive majority of 316 to 296 the chamber of deputies in France has passed the government bill for the suppression of all forms of teaching by the religious orders. This completes the work begun by former Premier M. Waldeck-Rousseau in 1901.

Decrease in Public Debt. The monthly statement of public debt shows at close of business March 31, 1904, the debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$915,422,191, a decrease for the month of \$2,612,332.

CHARGES OF CRUELTY.

Reply of Brussels Authorities as to Conditions in Congo. One Case of Extreme Cruelty, When Investigated by the Congo Authorities, Was Found to Have Been Based Upon Lies of Interested Natives Humanitarian Work.

Washington, April 5.—By authority of the Congo Free State James G. Whiteley has given a resume of the Brussels note issued in reply to charges made in a recent report of the British consul in the Congo region. The consul's report says Mr. Whiteley contains a number of statements of cruel treatment of natives, but gives no corroborative testimony, and these stories are valueless because they were not investigated. The report, he says, also fails to give times and places. The resume continues:

"One case, however, which the consul investigated and which he gives as a most flagrant example was brought to the knowledge of the Congo authorities and was investigated by them. This is the case of the boy Epondou, who claimed his left hand had been cut off by a native sentry in the service of La Lulonga Rubber company.

The consul, accompanied by two missionaries, went to the village of Bousunguma and proceeded to hold an impromptu court of inquiry. The injured boy accused the sentry Kelengo to his face.

"The consul then questioned the chief and a number of headmen. They replied by accusing the sentry. Most of them declared that they had been eye witnesses of the deed. The consul asked whether there were any more witnesses and 'nearly all those present, about 40 persons, shouted out with one voice that it was Kelengo who did it.' The accused sentry denied the charge.

"Other natives came forward with various charges of robbery and wrong doing against the sentry and finally the consul, considering the evidence conclusive, announced to the assembled multitude that 'Kelengo deserved severe punishment for his illegal and cruel acts' and taking with him the maimed boy, laid the case before the state authorities, saying dramatically that he denounced 'not an individual but a system.'

"It would be unwarrantable to draw such a sweeping conclusion from a single case even if the case were well founded, but as a matter of fact the accusations of Epondou against the sentry were shown to be without any foundation whatever. When the proper state authorities came to investigate the case the boy's evidence broke down. He admitted that he had lied and explained that he had lost his hand in a boar hunt. When asked why he had falsely accused the sentry he said that he had done it at the instigation of the natives of the district who hoped thus to secure the intervention of the British consul and a release from the necessity of gathering rubber."

Most of the other natives who accused the sentry, says Mr. Whiteley, lied, but when captured admitted that they had given false evidence. Mr. Whiteley continues: "The British consul's chief case, investigated by himself and supported by a cloud of witnesses, having thus fallen through, there is little reason to place confidence in the simple declarations of natives unsupported by corroborative evidence and uninvestigated."

He says Epondou was twice photographed by the English and told to put his 'stump' well in the foreground, and adds that adversaries of the Free State have recently circulated photographs of maimed natives who have been held up as victims of the administration.

Anywhere in Africa, says Mr. Whiteley, such natives may be found, the victims of inter-tribal wars. As to the accusations concerning taxes, Mr. Whiteley says the tax is necessary. It compels the native to contribute something toward state expenses and teaches him habits of industry. The labor required of natives is only 40 hours a month.

There is sometimes trouble over the collection of taxes, but this is not confined to the Congo, as reports from British Rhodesia show that natives refused to pay the hut tax.

Mr. Whiteley says the British consul's denunciations are illogical and conclusions: "The Brussels note refutes all the points of the British consul's report and is a most convincing testimony to the humanitarian work which King Leopold has accomplished in Africa."

Flood Situation Improved. Cleveland, April 5.—As a result of the lower temperature which has prevailed over Ohio for the past 48 hours there was a very general improvement in flood conditions at all points. The water in the St. Mary's reservoir has fallen rapidly with the result that all danger of a break there is past. Traffic has been resumed practically on all railroads.

President and Cashier Arrested. Ft. Wayne, Ind., April 5.—Albert Robbins, president, and Edward L. Robbins, his son, cashier of the Indiana Farmers' bank at Auburn, were arrested in that city on warrants charging them with embezzlement. Complaint was filed by men who had deposited in the bank a few days previous to the closing of the institution.

Looking for Opportunity. "The curtain goes up at 8:15, so we'll be just in time." "But if we have a box it really seems a shame to be so punctual."—Brooklyn Life.

CHANCES FAVOR JAPAN.

Siberian Railway a Failure and Russian Administration Honeycombed With Corruption. Victoria, B. C., April 5.—R. L. McGowan, an American business man who has spent many years among the Russians both in Europe and Asia, has arrived by the steamship Agamemnon from Yokohama. He says that nothing but a miracle can save Russia from humiliating and disastrous defeat at the hands of the Japanese. Russia's army, navy and civil services are honeycombed with corruption and misgiving to an extent utterly beyond belief.

The Trans-Siberian railway is a complete failure. The Japanese know to a nicety Russia's strength in East Asia and count upon a six-years' war. They know the Russians have no supplies and cannot get any except by dribbles from Europe.

The Japanese scheme is to drive the Russians out of Manchuria, seize Saghalien island, wrested from them many years ago and forming the Al-Sai-Lorraine of the Far East; take Kamchatka peninsula and so settle the vexed sealing question, with which Russia has grievously interfered, dominate in Corea and have free entry to Pekin as demanded after the war with China and blocked by Russia.

The Japanese count Port Arthur and Vladivostok as mere incidents in the campaign and look upon them as already theirs. The Japanese have made vast preparations and every move has been calculated.

In his opinion the contest is a most unequal one with every advantage on the side of the Japanese. Mr. McGowan when in the Orient had exceptional opportunities of acquiring exclusive information. He says the Japanese would gladly send home every war correspondent now there, but hesitate to adopt so radical a step. They are doing all they can officially to prevent the correspondents' doing mischief with premature reports and at the end of the correspondents' troubles is not yet, he says, by a long odds.

Scenes at Harbin. St. Petersburg, April 4.—A press correspondent en route to the front, writing from Harbin, March 13, describes the scene there as he observed it. From all sides soldiers were poured into Harbin. The uncompleted railroad station there had been transformed into a barracks, and almost every house in the town was occupied by soldiers.

Pristine, a short distance away, which until recently had been a small village on the bank of the Sungari river, had become a city with temporary buildings which were being used by the troops and with stores, a hotel and restaurants.

The snow-filled streets of the two cities, at the time the correspondent wrote, were thronged with pleasure-coaches, bearded Siberians, sharpshooters and galloping ordies, all imbued with the fever to get to the front. Merchants and restaurant-keepers, the correspondent adds, were accused of extortion but money was cheap.

Spring was coming on though violent snowstorms continued to rage.

EASTER EGG ROLLING. White House Grounds Thronged With Children of All Ages. Washington, April 5.—Hundreds of children of all colors and conditions participated in the Easter Monday egg-rolling festival on the White House grounds. Except that the weather was too cool for perfect comfort, the day was ideal. The grounds were thronged with children and a regulation was enforced that no grown-ups should be admitted to the grounds unless they were in charge of children. The youngsters practically had the grounds to themselves and they enjoyed the day immensely.

To add to the pleasure of the egg-rolling party President Roosevelt decreed that the Marine band should give a concert in the grounds between 3 and 5 o'clock. The president's young children and some of their playmates also participated in the egg-rolling fun.

To witness the sport Mrs. Roosevelt invited the women of the cabinet circle and a party of her young friends to the White House during the afternoon. After luncheon the president joined the party, remaining for a time to watch the children.

Prohibe Will Endorse General Miles. Indianapolis, April 5.—The signal point to the endorsement of General Nelson A. Miles for president by the Indiana Constitutional convention which begins today.

President's Boys Return to Croton. Washington, April 5.—Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and his brother Kermit left for Croton, Mass., to resume their studies after the Easter vacation. They will remain at school until the close of the term in June, when it is probable they will go to their summer home at Oyster Bay.

Fishing the Blaine. "The trouble ain't with the ferry," said the old man. "If the ferry didn't have to do anything, but support itself, it could be made to pay, but it can't seem to be able to carry the burden of its livin' on it, so I reckon we're to blame."—Chicago Post.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS.

Pointed Paragraphs Chronicling the Week's Doings. Long Dispatches From Various Parts of the World Shorn of Their Padding and Only Facts Given in as Few Words as Possible For the Benefit of the Hurried Reader.

Documents forwarded by King Leopold refute the statements of missionaries as to cruelties in the Congo Free State. A report reached Seoul that 50 Japanese and 100 Cossacks were killed or wounded in a skirmish between Anju and Tjingju.

Warren B. Wilson of Chicago asked the supreme court of the District of Columbia to enjoin Secretary Shaw from paying out any money for the Panama canal or to the republic of Panama. Senator Joseph R. Burton of Kansas was convicted in St. Louis of having violated the law of the United States by accepting compensation from the Rialto Grain and Securities company.

Thursday. Members of the Panama canal commission sailed for Panama, accompanied by many "bugologists" and representatives of contractors. At the Democratic primaries throughout the state 228 delegates have been instructed to vote for Judge Parker in the state convention.

The captain of the Japanese steamer Hanyei arrived at Chee Foo and reported that his vessel had been fired on and sunk by the Russian fleet near the Miao Tiao Islands. The vessels of the British naval squadron at Victoria, B. C., have received orders to hold themselves in readiness for instant orders to sail for a distant quarter, presumably Chinese waters.

Friday. The Federal Trust company of Cleveland and the Union Trust company of Boston have made assignments. The first civil tribunal of the Seine at Paris decided the case of the republic of Colombia against the Panama Canal company in favor of the defendants.

For sinking Japanese merchantmen in Sungari straits at the opening of the war \$75,000 has been distributed in prize money to the crews of the four cruisers of the Vladivostok squadron. Mr. Bryan's appeal from decision of the probate court denying admission of the sealed letter of the late Philo S. Bennett bequeathing \$50,000 in trust to Mr. Bryan, was rejected in supreme court, New Haven.

Life imprisonment for Herman Holmberger and 20 years at Auburn prison for William E. Trueman was the sentence imposed by Judge Rich at Buffalo on two of the four boys charged with the murder of Bernardo Balsano.

Saturday. David B. Hill was elected a delegate from the Third district of Albany to the state convention and instructed for Judge Parker. Three masked men held up the Oregon express near Keswick, Cal., killed W. J. O'Neil, the express messenger, and carried off the contents of the express box.

A man believed to be Otis White of Ransomville went over the American falls, having been seen to jump into the river from the ice mountain at Prospect Park. While performing a capital operation Dr. Stephen Paul Truex was stricken by heart disease in the Bushwick Central hospital, Brooklyn, and died after surrendering the knife to a brother surgeon.

Monday. Senator Jorge Holguin says Colombia will carry the Panama canal suit to the court of cassation is necessary. Dutch troops operating in Achin engaged a body of warriors and slew 541, the Dutch losing three-killed and 25 wounded.

James Johnson, a nephew of James B. Marcum, was assassinated in the Hargis-Cockrill feud in Kentucky, as was his uncle. The slaughter of 700 Tibetans at Curu was deeply deplored in England, where it was called "one of the worst blot on the history of England."

Tuesday. Deprived of speech by a blow on his head, Martin Thorne of Newark, N. J., is being taught as a baby again to talk. The supreme court has decided that the coal roads must produce certain contracts in the case instituted by W. R. Hearst before the interstate commerce commission.

Negro details have reached London of heavy fighting in Nigeria (British West Africa), and of a reverse sustained by the punitive expedition sent against the Okpoto tribe. St. Petersburg newspapers continue to criticize the British Thibetian affair, saying England took a leaf from Japan's book in attacking the Thibetans without declaration of war.

In the United States circuit court at St. Paul E. H. Harriman filed a petition for intervention in the distribution of the Northern Securities stock. The move is in opposition to the plan of J. J. Hill.

BOOM FOR WATSON.

Pennsylvania Democrats May Present His Name to National Convention. Pittsburg, April 4.—The Democracy of Pennsylvania may have a candidate of its own to present to the national convention for the presidential nomination in the person of D. T. Watson of Pittsburg. While the party leaders in this county believe now that an un-instructed delegation will be sent to the convention the launching of a boom for Mr. Watson is likely to prove dangerous to any such plan.

No definite steps have been taken to have Mr. Watson's name presented to the state convention of April 19, but this is largely due to the uncertainty surrounding his desires in regard to the matter. It was pointed out by Democrats who were interviewed on the subject that the eminent Pittsburg attorney, who was so largely responsible for the success of the government's effort to enforce the Sherman anti-trust law on the Northern Securities company, should be one of the strongest candidates that could be presented.

Local Democrats of all factions who were approached on the subject declared that Mr. Watson was the logical candidate. While the followers of National Committeeman Guffey were chary about being quoted, largely because of his attitude for an un-instructed delegation, the private opinions were decidedly complimentary to "Pittsburg's candidate."

WOMAN FALLS TO DEATH. Steps on New Castle Sidewalk Undermined by Rising Water. New Castle, Pa., April 4.—A woman, whose identity has not yet been learned, was swept to her death in the Neshaunock creek here. She was walking along Water street, within a few feet of Mill street bridge, when the bank gave way, having been undermined by rising water. The woman's screams attracted the attention of several persons, but they were unable to render assistance. The woman was carried over the Raney dam and out of sight.

She was about 30 years old. The tragedy was witnessed by W. J. Brennan, who noticed the woman approaching the undermined walk and called to her, but she did not hear. Joseph, the 11-year-old son of Frank Thornton, also fell into the Neshaunock a short time before, but was rescued after great difficulty by his father.

Two Killed in Collision. Reading, Pa., April 4.—Two persons were killed and a dozen others injured in a collision between an express train and a freight train on the Pennsylvania railroad near Poitstown Saturday night. The dead are: Andrew Fegley of Philadelphia and a man supposed to be Signor Hirsch of Baltimore. The coal train was lying on a siding and the engineer's orders, it is said, were to wait for an accommodation and the express. The accommodation passed when the coal train pulled out on the main track and the express crashed into it.

Woman One of the Burglars. Wilkes-Barre, Pa., April 4.—The number of burglaries committed in this region of late has apparently made them popular. Saturday night two men and a woman robbed the residence of Mrs. John McHale of Pittsburg. She was awakened about 3 o'clock and found them in her room. Despite her screams they ransacked the room and then departed after every room in the house had been searched. Some jewelry, a little money and some clothing were taken.

Carry Thief Three Miles. Irwin, April 4.—A foreigner entered the house of Mike Patrick at Madison and stole \$100, a watch and other articles. He was seen going out of the house and a dozen men gave chase. He ran and was captured at Edna. His hands and feet were tied and his captors carried him three miles to the trolley line. He was turned over to Burgess Rogers.

Braddock After Pure Water. Pittsburg, April 4.—The water committee of the Braddock council held a special meeting and awarded the contract for the sinking of a test well near the river in Braddock to determine whether a purer water supply can be secured. R. H. Black of Braddock was given the contract and work on the well will be started immediately.

Mail Clerk Arrested. Pittsburg, April 4.—Charles S. Timblin, a mail clerk on the Pennsylvania road, whose route was between Pittsburg and New York, was arrested here for tampering with the mails. Elevator letters, all containing money, were found on him. One of the letters was a decoy, and Timblin confessed to his guilt.

Explosion at Meadville. Meadville, Pa., April 4.—An air tank exploded in the machine shop of the Erie railroad shops here Saturday practically wrecking the building and killing John C. Fredericks, foreman and injuring several others. The explosion jarred the entire city.

Ream Declared Elected. Corry, Pa., April 4.—Charles Portes was Saturday ousted from the select council by Judge Walling, who declared G. W. Ream elected. The latter contested when four votes were thrown out.