

ROJESTVENSKY IS BLAMED

"Opening of Fire Not Justified" Says Commission.

WAS RIGHT IN BEING CAUTIOUS.

No Torpedo Boats in the Vicinity of the Hull Fishing Fleet When Rojestvensky's Warships Opened Fire Upon the Trawlers—All the Conclusions From the British Presentation of Facts Are Sustained.

(By Cable).—The North Sea inquiry commission, which has been taking evidence to place the responsibility for the firing on English fishing boats off Dogger Bank, at its final session Saturday announced that the evidence adduced showed that Admiral Rojestvensky's act in firing on the fishing boats when there were no torpedo boats present was unjustifiable.

This opinion was signed by a majority of the commissioners, the only dissenting voice being that of Admiral Doubasoff, the Russian member of the commission. He held that the action of the unknown vessels was responsible for what happened.

The commission convened in solemn assemblage at the Foreign Office at 3:30 o'clock P. M. The room was crowded with deeply interested spectators. Immediately upon the opening of the sessions the findings of the session were read aloud. The findings consist of thirteen typewritten pages and seventeen paragraphs.

The decision opened with a declaration that all facts adduced by the commission make plain the causes and consequences of the affair.

There follows a resume of the facts in the case:

It appears that Admiral Rojestvensky, on leaving Revel, took the utmost precautions against attacks, and was justified in doing so by the reports of imperial agents. At Skagen, Rojestvensky received a report that four torpedo boats without lights had been sighted and this induced him to advance his departure twenty-four hours. The English steamer *Zero* passed different sections of the squadron, the last vessel passing before the *Kamtschatka*, which was ten miles behind the rest, owing to an accident to her engines.

"This," says the report, "was perhaps incidentally the cause of the events which followed."

The opinion of the majority of the commissioners is that the act and its consequences fall on Rojestvensky. The majority of the commissioners realize that specific details are lacking that are necessary to decide as to what was fired at, but they unanimously recognize that the fishermen had committed no hostile act.

The majority are of the opinion that there were no torpedo boats present, and hence Admiral Rojestvensky was not justified in firing.

The majority of the commissioners are of the opinion that the Aurora and perhaps other Russian ships were retarded and provoked the fire, which was thus the result of an optical delusion.

The majority think the fire lasted longer than was necessary, but that Rojestvensky did his utmost to protect the boats known to be fishing craft. They decided that, under the circumstances, there was sufficient uncertainty to justify Rojestvensky in continuing on his way. Nevertheless, they regret that he did not inform the naval powers in the channel of the fishermen's proximity to the firing and that the fishermen might require help.

On that same night, continues the decision, the Russian cruiser *Kamtschatka* fired on the Swedish ship *Aldabaran* unknown to the other vessels of the squadron. This fact was probably due to the fact that the other vessels' commanders were preoccupied and also to the isolation of the *Kamtschatka*. The officers of the *Kamtschatka* wired to Admiral Rojestvensky of the damage to her engines and also advised him that she had been attacked by torpedo boats. Rojestvensky consequently ordered a re-doubling of the vigilance.

The fact was brought out that there was no unanimous evidence by the English witnesses at the hearing that the fifteen Hull fishing boats had the regulation lights; that Admiral Folkerks had passed them and recognized them as inoffensive, and that as Rojestvensky's division arrived the fishermen fired rockets, the accepted signal.

The commissioners made no statements regarding the indemnity, which will be settled by direct negotiations between England and Russia.

The report was read by Admiral Fourrier, the French member of the commission.

No Consul at Ninghsiang.

Ninghsiang (By Cable).—The American Consulate at Ninghsiang is in charge of a local English merchant, who is also representing Germany and the Netherlands. In view of American interests in Manchuria, local residents regard it as a mistake to have no consul at the only treaty port. A repetition of the Russian raids might at any time bring the fighting to Yinkow at a time when it is felt that a strong man's presence would be necessary.

Few Burned to Death.

Parkersburg, W. Va. (Special).—Four lives were lost in two fires near Parkersburg. Samuel White, his wife and children and Jacob Feeney were sleeping in Mr. White's home at Parkersburg when fire was discovered at 3 o'clock. Mr. Feeney and two of the White children were sleeping upstairs and were burned to death. The rest of the family escaped.

Murderous Yaquis Caught.

La Colorado, Mexico (Special).—The Mexican forces under General Torrijos, numbering about 400, have killed 100 Yaquis and taken 167 prisoners in two days' battle with the savages in the mountains east of this camp.

It is said 300 warriors were surrounded by Torrijos in the Mazatlan Mountains. About 100 of these broke the Alacranes lines and escaped, but the main force was driven back with heavy loss and finally surrendered.

Value Loss at \$3,500,000.

Pittsburg (Special).—The sales of Northern and Southern foundry iron, bessemer pig iron and basic iron in this section during the last 15 days is said to total over 260,000 tons, with a valuation exceeding \$3,500,000. Saturday the United States Steel Corporation bought 25,000 tons of bessemer from the Bessemer Pig Iron Association, of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys, and 15,000 tons from Pittsburg concerns, for March delivery. The price was \$45.50 a ton.

NEWS IN SHORT ORDER.

The Latest Happenings Condensed for Rapid Reading.

Domestic.

MANY ARE HOMELESS

One Square Mile of Hot Springs Swept By Conflagration.

The police of Montclair, N. J., are trying to find Robert Harris, said to have come from Atherton, Mass., in the hope that he can identify the coachman who has been missing since Mrs. Hannah Ross was found dead in her burned house.

J. C. Hoffman, Frank Shepley, George Young, James Young and Wm. Hume, all of Lebanon, Pa., were arrested, charged with making and passing counterfeited dollars and half dollars.

The body of Daniel Mills, Jr., press agent for Keith's Theater, in New York, was found lying on the tracks of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, in Brooklyn.

Judge Edward P. Dunne was unanimously nominated by the Democrats of Chicago for mayor, and "Pop" Anson, the former baseball player, for city clerk.

For the third time in two years the entire business section of Lawrenceville, Pa., was destroyed by fire. The estimated loss is \$50,000.

No trace has been found of Miss Mary Agnes Flynn, who mysteriously disappeared while on her way in a ferry in New York.

Dr. Albert Benjamin Prentiss, director of the chemical laboratories of the University of Michigan, died at Ann Arbor.

Frank Burke and his wife, of Chicago, were sentenced in Chicago to 18 years in the penitentiary for murder.

A young man shot and killed himself during a vaudeville performance in Chicago.

Former Governor Boutwell, of Massachusetts, is critically ill in Groton, Mass.

Mrs. Chadwick was placed on the grand jury in bankruptcy proceedings in Cleveland, but refused to testify, claiming that her testimony might injure her in criminal proceedings.

Trustees of Princeton University have asked alumnus of the institution to add \$2,000,000 to the endowment fund with which to extend the tutorial system.

Emperor William has presented to Harcourt that part of the German exhibit at the St. Louis Exposition which represents social ethics of Germany.

Mrs. Thomas F. Ryan, of New York, will establish three hospitals at different points on the Seaboard Air Line for employees of that railroad.

At Butler, Mo., Charles Kratz, on trial for alleged bootlegging while a member of the St. Louis City Council, was acquitted by a jury.

According to a report from San Francisco, the *Huntington*, and not the *Goniat*, is breaking up the Western Pacific Railroad project.

The special grand jury ordered by Federal Judge Kohnau, at Chicago, has been drawn for trial of the Meat Trust.

Major James C. Carlton, president of the National Mexican War Veterans, is dead at Bedford, Ind.

Very Rev. William Russell McKim, dean of Christ Episcopal Cathedral, at Salina, Kan., was married at Little Falls, N. Y., to Miss Sarah L. Wheeler.

Eighty guests had a narrow escape from death in the Hotel Penn, in Reading, Pa., several being taken from the story window of the burning building.

The Park Hotel, owing to a favorable shift in the wind, escaped destruction. The guests were hurriedly summoned from their rooms and many of them packed trunks and valises and made their way to the streets. The Arlington and Eastern Hotels were not in the threatened district.

Dr. Darlington presented the conclusion of the Advisory Committee of the New York City Board of Health: "That it is desirable in the interest of public health that soiled bills be withdrawn from circulation as soon as practicable."

The hearing was before a subcommittee, which has under consideration several "clean-money bills." No action was taken.

THREE CHARGED BODIES FOUND.

Hotel Guests Driven Out By the Flames—Failure of Water Pressure and a High Wind Caused the Blaze to Get Beyond Control—Major Building Leads Work of Sacring the Destitute.

Hot Springs, Ark. (Special).—Fire swept the southern portion of this city, doing immense damage and causing the death of at least three persons. The losses are variously estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

Three charred bodies have been found among the ruins, and as several persons are reported missing, the death list may increase. The identity of the victims has not been established. One of the bodies is supposed to be that of a female guest of the Grand Central Hotel.

The fire, which started at 3:30 o'clock A. M. was the worst this State has ever experienced, and in five hours had burned over an area of one square mile.

Block after block of residences, business houses, hotels and other buildings were swept away, and the entire town became panic-stricken. Streetcar wires and telegraph and telephone poles were destroyed, and these services were temporarily demoralized.

The fire-swept area includes every house on Chapel street, all of Market street from Central avenue west, Orange street to Grand avenue and a portion of Oak street.

Among the buildings destroyed are the Grand Central Hotel, the Lee House, Moody Hotel, Plateau Hotel, Columbia Hotel, the County Court House, jail, First Methodist Church, the Jewish Synagogue and a large number of residences and stores conservatively estimated at 240 to 250.

The blaze started in the Grand Central Hotel, and its origin is a mystery. All of the guests had retired and only the night clerk and watchman were on duty.

A strong north wind was blowing, and before the Fire Department could reach the scene the flames spread rapidly to adjoining buildings.

Bucket brigades were then formed, citizens and visitors alike volunteering their services. Exchequer was general when the flames got beyond control. Many lodgings houses and cheap restaurants were directly in the path of the fire, and the occupants were hurriedly apprised of their danger. Many, in their anxiety, jumped from windows and sustained severe bruises and shock.

At daybreak the wind increased in force and fanned the flames into a seething glare, which lit up the country for miles around.

The fire swept along Central avenue south, enveloping building after building before the occupants could recover their valuable, and many persons barely escaped with their lives.

On the west side of Central avenue a strip of woods covering about 10 acres arrested the progress of the fire in that direction.

The Park Hotel, owing to a favorable shift in the wind, escaped destruction.

The guests were hurriedly summoned from their rooms and many of them packed trunks and valises and made their way to the streets. The Arlington and Eastern Hotels were not in the threatened district.

Major George Belding took personal charge of the fire and police forces and directed their efforts. With the assistance of Sheriff Williams patrols were established and the crowds kept back to the danger line.

As the result of a gas explosion in the Shamrock Coal Mine, near Providence, Ky., three men have been fatally wounded.

James Sene, a wealthy Italian contractor, was shot to death in Newark, N. J., by Frank Sene, a former employee.

Governor Hoch of Kansas, signed a bill providing for separate schools for whites and blacks in Kansas.

Rev. Joshua Godfrey of the Southern Methodist Church died in Bethel Ridge, Ky., at the age of 62 years.

Ninety-two bodies have thus far been recovered from the Virginia Mines, near Birmingham, Ala.

Foreign.

The American delegates to the coronation of the Evangelical Lutheran Cathedral, in Berlin, arrived. The Emperor desires to make this cathedral the Westminster Abbey of Germany and is to be crowned for all Protestants.

The Tribunal of the Seine has failed to effect a reconciliation between Mainz, the Irish John of Arg, and his half-brother Major Alfonso, whom she has aided to divorce.

Ambassador Pearce is personally directing the search for the body of John Paul Jones, founder of the American Navy, in the old St. Louis Cemetery, St. Louis.

On a valuation of about \$100,000 "La Bellone" would be compelled to give a tribute of \$1,000 before she could be permitted to enter.

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