

WESTERN TOWN WRECKED

Remains of 23 Victims Scattered Over a Large Area.

PROPERTY DAMAGE IS HEAVY.

Two Cars of Powder Let Go With Appalling Force Near a Little Utah Town.

Two cars of dynamite attached to a work train on the Ogden-Lucien cut-off of the Southern Pacific railroad exploded with terrific force Friday afternoon at Jackson Station, 88 miles west of Ogden, killing at least 23 persons, injuring as many more and destroying a large amount of property.

The list of the dead and injured had not been received up to midnight, but it is thought a large proportion of the victims were Greek laborers. Among the known dead are Conductor George Dermody of Ogden and his train crew.

It is also reported that a fireman named Burt, with his wife and three children were killed.

The explosion wrecked everything within a radius of half a mile.

Jackson station was used principally as a telegraph station, but a number of outfit cars were sidetracked at the place for the accommodation of the workmen and their families.

Some of these cars, it is stated, were close to where the explosion occurred.

The telegraph operator's house was badly damaged and Operator Taylor and his wife injured.

The accident was caused by a water train running into the two cars loaded with powder. Five locomotives were reduced to scrap iron, and the big steam shovel at Jackson station was completely demolished. As soon as news of the explosion reached Ogden a special with physicians, nurses and stretchers was hurried to the scene.

ALBANIANS LOSE 800.

Routed by a Force of Turks Which Was Being Besieged.

The 20,000 Albanians who were besieging Shensi Pasha, have been routed, losing 800 men killed and wounded. The Turkish losses are said to be heavy.

The situation in the Balkans, especially since the revolt of the Albanians in the district of Diakova, province of Ipek, is considered here to be serious. It is declared that Austria has 30,000 men ready to invade Albania.

The Albanians are a fierce and warlike people, and while nominally subject to Turkey, they are even more fanatical Moslems than the Turks. When the Sultan announced his approval of the Austro-Russian scheme of reform in Macedonia, by which the Christians were guaranteed some measure of protection from Moslem outrages, the Albanians rose up in revolt against any concessions to the demands of the European powers for guardianship of the Macedonians from plunder and outrage.

The Sultan sent a large number of troops into Albania to suppress the insurrection, and several engagements have occurred between them and the insurgents.

FIRE CAUSES \$125,000 LOSS.

Two Towns Sent Assistance to Ashtabula During a Blaze.

A fire which started in the drygoods store of M. L. Morrison's Sons, Ashtabula, and which destroyed the dry goods store of that concern, caused a loss of \$125,000. Morrison's loss is placed at \$55,000; insurance one-half. In the same block, the Globe company, clothiers, suffered a loss of probably \$20,000, with partial insurance. The postoffice building was destroyed, with a loss of \$20,000. No mail was destroyed, however. The remaining losses are divided among a dozen tenants of the two buildings and are under \$2,000. The fire departments of Geneva and Conneaut sent assistance.

Churches Unite.

Official announcement that the union of the Presbyterian and Cumberland churches had been effected after the labors of the committees representing the two churches for the past two days, was made in St. Louis, Mo.

Seven Men Wounded.

In an effort to close up a poolroom that has for a long time operated in the outskirts of Madison, Ill., across the river from St. Louis, three constables, augmented by a posse of citizens, all bearing warrants for the arrest of six men connected with the poolroom, precipitated a riot which resulted in the shooting of seven men. Two may die.

May Wheat at \$1.07 in Chicago.

Not in many years has the Chicago Board of Trade witnessed so exciting a scene as took place in the wheat pit Saturday. From the moment the market opened to the time of the sounding of the gong at 12 o'clock the crowd of brokers seemed to have gone wild. They pushed and jostled one another until the scene resembled a riot. The market seemed to have gone beyond the control of anyone. Out of the human maelstrom there came first a small rise in price, then what looked like the beginning of a serious break, and then a wild upward burst which carried the price of May wheat to \$1.07 a bushel. This was followed by a reaction to a fairly steady close.

Denied by the Japs.

The Japanese legation in London received an official dispatch from Tokio, saying it was not true that any Japanese vessels had been destroyed so far in any of the various naval engagements. The message also says that the Japanese forces have, up to the present time, made no attempt to land at any point where they could come in contact with the Russians, and that consequently all reports of land action and Japanese losses are untrue.

LOSS OF TWO GREAT SHIPS.

Survivor Tells of Destruction of the Yenesel and Boyarin.

A correspondent wires from Tien Tsin, as follows: "At New Chwang I obtained from an officer who survived the catastrophe to the Yenesel the full details of the explosion which destroyed her and of the subsequent loss of the Boyarin in Dalny bay.

"The Yenesel was engaged on February 11, in the task of laying 400 mines and had planted 398. The three hundred and ninety-ninth floated instead of sinking. On this the Yenesel drew off and fired at it with her light guns, attempting to sink or explode it. While thus occupied, the lookout man discovered the ship had drifted close to another mine.

"He gave the alarm and jumped overboard. Immediately there was a terrific explosion, 190 officers and men, including the captain, were killed, while 90 more were picked up by boats and saved.

"The officer laying the mines, who was the only man in the Russian fleet having knowledge of exactly how the mines were disposed, was among the killed.

"A violent storm followed, when the mines came to the surface and floated about in all directions. The next day the Boyarin was sent to assist in securing them. She was caught in the storm, however, and driven ashore on the rocks, where she became a total wreck.

"The loss of Russian fleet up to date is 11 large ships wrecked or burned, 100 killed and 190 injured. Rumors that Dalny has been occupied by the Japanese are quite untrue. Trains are running all ways from Port Arthur to Harbin, but they are greatly delayed, though the line is strictly guarded."

RUSSIANS REPORTED DROWNED.

The Ice on Lake Baikal Gave Way Under Trains.

A cable message from Prague, says: An official paper, the "Narodni Listy," published at St. Petersburg telegraphically announcing that three Russian regiments, numbering 3,000 men, have been drowned while crossing the ice railway over Lake Baikal.

The regiments comprise two corps of engineers (pioneers) and one corps of heavy machinery and supplies.

The telegram says that while almost in the center of the lake the ice suddenly gave way for a distance of 200 yards and the train plunged downward. The handful of survivors succeeded in making their way to the nearest station.

Such a catastrophe has been expected by the engineers in St. Petersburg, because sudden openings even in the cold weather in the center of the lake have been frequent, and the crossing is always dangerous on account of the varying thickness of the ice.

The three regiments reported lost had been building the ice railway across the lake.

CONSUL DAVIS CHANGED.

Has Been Transferred From Turkey to the West Indies.

William Ross Davis, of Jefferson county, O., United States consul at Alexandretta, who had a stirring fight with the Turkish police there several weeks ago, has been ordered transferred to Martinique, West Indies. John F. Jewell, of Illinois, now consul at Martinique, will take Mr. Davis' place.

Mr. Davis' report to the state department at the time of the trouble with the Turkish authorities was that he was grievously assaulted by Turkish gendarmes while looking after the interests of a naturalized American citizen. An American warship was promptly sent to Alexandretta from Beirut and an expression of regret and an apology was demanded from the Turkish government. It was forthcoming when Mr. Davis returned to his post, but his usefulness there had evidently been impaired.

Messages Intercepted.

An Italian officer in charge of the wireless telegraph station at Tien Tsin says that Russia is having great deal of difficulty in transmitting marconigrams. The Japanese, he declares, have intercepted nearly every wireless message the Russian commanders have sent since the war broke out.

Radium in Nature.

Richard Guenther, consul general at Frankfurt, Germany, has reported to the State department, Washington, that a professor of the University of Freiberg, who has been investigating as to the existence of radium in nature, has come to the conclusion that all natural springs of water and also the petroleum wells possess a heavy gas whose radiations are similar to and probably identical with radium.

Great War Activity in England.

It is estimated that the manufacturers of fixed ammunition have been working night shifts since Christmas, and that all the surplus obsolete war material on vessels at home and abroad is being replaced as rapidly as possible. Especial interest attaches to the equipment of sixty battleships with the new 12-inch wire steel guns, 450 of which were ordered by the admiralty four years ago at an expense of \$22,500,000. These are said to be the most modern and most powerful guns in existence in any navy, and they are capable of throwing an aimed shot accurately a distance of 16,000 yards.

Commander W. P. Randall Dead.

Commander William P. Randall, United States navy, retired, died at his home in New Bedford, Mass., aged 71. Assigned as acting master on the frigate Cumberland during the Civil war, he participated in the battle with the Merrimack and was credited with having fired the last shot from the frigate before she was sent to the bottom. After the war he entered the navy as ensign and served in various capacities until 1882, when he was retired.

RUSSIANS MEET REVERSE

Engagement With Japanese Outposts on Yalu River.

RUSSIAN LOSS REPORTED 2,500.

Investigation of Conduct of Naval Officers at Port Arthur May Cause Removals.

It is reported in Newchwang that the Russian and Japanese outposts on the Yalu have been engaged, the former suffering considerable loss. No details are obtainable.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London "Telegraph" mentions a report that, despite official assurances that everything is quiet, an outpost engagement has occurred on the Yalu river, resulting in the Russian advance guard being driven back. The losses are estimated at 2,500.

It is not clear whether this figure means those who fell on the Yalu or the entire Russian losses since the commencement of the war. There have been for days rumors of Russian mishaps on land.

There are also rumors of the Czar's extreme displeasure at the incidents of the night torpedo attack on the ships at Port Arthur, concerning which much futile abuse against Japan has been expanded in the newspapers and by the public. It appears that the Czar has ordered a full inquiry.

It is believed in St. Petersburg that on the night in question the entire staff of fleet officers were celebrating the birthday of Mme. Stark, wife of Admiral Stark. It is thought that the inquiry will result in many dismissals and degradations.

Russian warships have appeared off the southern coast of Japan in the probable course of transports carrying the Mikado's big army to Korea. One Japanese steamer was chased, but got away, and another reports hearing firing at sea.

Russia reports the capture of a Japanese Major and five men in Korea, but the precise information concerning the Japanese army is conflicting and scanty.

Movements of Chinese troops along the Manchurian border are being carefully watched by Russia.

REBELS PUT TO FLIGHT.

Dominican Government Forces Triumph and Siege is Raised.

The State Washington department received a cablegram from Minister Powell, dated at San Domingo, February 16, saying that a decisive battle has been fought between the government forces and the insurgents. It extended over two days and resulted in a victory for the Morales government. The siege has been raised and the insurgents are in retreat.

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RUSSIAN RAILWAY BLOCKED.

Trans-Siberian Route in Bad Condition and Practically Useless for Transporting Troops.

Advices from Siberia confirm the reports of demoralization in the railway service on the Trans-Balkan section of the Trans-Siberian railway. There is great suffering and mortality among men and horses. The government does not choose to suppress the main facts in the case, because it looks largely to philanthropic Russia for relief.

The breakdown of the railway is complete at those points where the grades are steep and curves sharp, and the cuttings narrow. In some places the snow has drifted on the track to the depth of from 10 to 15 feet. The cold is so intense that railway men are pursuing the work of clearing the line under conditions of immense difficulty and hardship.

Ordinarily the time required for a troop train to cover the 6,000 miles between Moscow and Port Arthur is 20 days. Several trains now blocked to the east of Lake Baikal have already been en route for three weeks. The stock of provisions in Siberia is low and urgent telegrams are reaching St. Petersburg calling for assistance.

The Russian railway and military officials are dealing with the situation with the utmost vigor and assert that all obstacles will eventually be overcome. Their courage is admirable, but not easily understood, since it is well known that even in ordinary times eastern Siberia, beginning at Irkutsk, and ending at the Pacific, draws all the necessities of life from central and southern Siberia or from European Russia.

Now the military requirement almost entirely monopolizes the railway and the price of food has increased in Irkutsk, Chita and Khabarovsk.

The municipality of Irkutsk has petitioned the governor general, Prince Mansuroff, to allow at least 20 trains to bring corn and other food to Irkutsk. In every town and village all the available establishments for the preparation of food have been seized by the military authorities.

JAPANESE LINING UP.

Over 100,000 Soldiers Said to Have Been Landed in Korea.

The correspondent at Chemulpo of the London "Daily Express" makes the astonishing statement that Japan has already landed 120,000 troops in Korea, 80,000 of whom are extended along the fighting front, south of the Yalu river.

The press attaches the greatest significance to the departure of Viceroy Alexieff from Port Arthur and comments upon the sudden throwing of Russian troops into New Chwang, as indicating Russian apprehension that Port Arthur is in danger and that the Japanese attack may not after all be made where it is expected, on the Yalu river. All the reports tend to confirm the impression that Russia has little or nothing to expect from sea operations.

No Foreigners in Jap Army.

Goro Takahira, the Japanese minister at Washington, has officially advised his government that he is receiving numerous offers of large contributions to the war fund from Americans and requests instructions as to the policy of the government in the matter. It is considered probable that Japan will refuse to accept this proffered aid. The Cabinet will consider the question and formally instruct Minister Takahira shortly. Many applications for permission to enlist in the Japanese army and navy are coming from various parts of the world. All of these applications have been politely, but firmly refused. No foreigners will be allowed to participate in the military or naval operations of Japan, except as spectators.

Russian Torpedoes Destroyed.

According to a dispatch to the Paris edition of the New York "Herald" 400 torpedoes, being two-thirds of Russia's entire available supply of these articles, were destroyed on board the Russian cruiser Varyag at Chemulpo.

A message to the London "Times" says: Russia has seized Newchwang fifteen hundred infantry entered the native city Monday. Bands are playing and banners flying. Panic and confusion prevail among the native population.

The Tokio correspondent of the "Daily Mail" says in a dispatch that two Russian warships appeared off Okio island, in the southern part of the Japanese sea, on Sunday.

The Russian squadron has returned to Vladivostok.

SENATOR HANNA'S ESTATE.

Estimate of Its Value Is \$8,000,000.

Interests in Many Institutions. The value of the estate left by the late Senator Hanna is estimated at from \$7,000,000 to \$8,000,000. It is stated that he owned at least 15 per cent of the stock of the Cleveland Electric Railway company, capitalized at \$23,500,000. In addition to being largely interested in vessel and iron mining properties he was a director in the Union National bank, Guardian Trust company, the Peoples Savings and Loan company, of Cleveland and Cleveland and Pittsburgh railway. He was a large stockholder in the American Shipbuilding company, and Pittsburgh coal company. He owned the Euclid avenue opera house.

Japs Are in Manchuria.

The reports that the Japanese have concentrated about 50,000 troops at Wonsou, on the east coast of Korea, with the object of entering Manchuria are confirmed.

Mine of Pure Glass in Mexico.

What is believed to be a mine of pure glass has been found in the neighborhood of Tampico. The formation was found in a mound of earth, and tests have demonstrated that with simple melting and running into molds the product comes out as clear as the best manufactured glass in factories. The component parts of the glass the same as enter into commercial glass.

KOVOVICK WAS CONVICTED

Jury Returns Verdict of Murder in the First Degree.

PRISONER SEEMED INDIFFERENT.

Judge Taylor's Charge Considered Fair and Impartial by Prosecution and Defense.

After deliberating less than two hours, the jury in the case of Milovar Kovovick, the Croatian, charged with killing Samuel T. Ferguson, near West Middletown, Washington county, Pa., September 25, last, returned a verdict Saturday evening of murder in the first degree.

Judge Taylor in the course of his charge said that it was plain that perjury had been resorted to in a few instances, but it was left to the jury to decide as to who told the truth and who lied.

George Thomas, one of the bosses on the Wabash work, said Kovovick had worked under him in dynamite work. He testified that he saw Kovovick the day before the murder was committed, as well as his partner, Patrovick. He also identified the wire found with the battery as part of a quantity stolen from the Ferguson company.

Richard Winkler of First National bank of Pittsburgh identified Kovovick as one of the two men who had money changed through him on October 12. He said the men came at an unusual hour, secured passage on the first vessel at a high rate and seemed anxious to get out of the country.

Detective McQuaide told of securing Kovovick and Patrovick in England and he identified money taken from them. A bloody hat, a pair of shoes and a grip, all identified as Kovovick's were displayed also. He told of the conversation he had with the two men on board ship and gave the details in connection with their return to America.

The prosecution succeeded in locating Milovar Kovovick on the road where the explosion took place, on September 25, when Samuel T. Ferguson was killed, but they failed to connect him directly with the ownership of the gun which was found on the hillside near the battery. It was claimed by the attorneys for the Commonwealth that the failure of the witnesses called to testify to the ownership of the gun was a surprise to them, and that they had every reason to believe that they would testify otherwise.

Michael Rubick, a boss at the Ferguson work, testified to seeing Kovovick in the camp on the morning of September 24, but had not seen him on September 25. He heard Kovovick and another man talking in front of his shanty and the man asked Kovovick if he was going to treat and Kovovick replied that he had no money.

George Kuzmark said that he had been working at the Ferguson camp at the time Mr. Ferguson was killed. He knew Kovovick there and had seen him around the camp. He identified the gun as having belonged to Kovovick and said the prisoner had bought it from another man in the camp for \$6. When he left the camp the gun was still there. He was at the Ferguson camp when the prisoner came back and took the gun away. This was about a month before the time that Mr. Ferguson was killed and he had not seen the gun since. He said the gun in court looked like the one, but would not say positively.

All the witnesses for the defense testified to seeing Kovovick in Steubenville, O., on the afternoon of September 25, at the time the crime was supposed to have been committed. The alibi, as outlined by the witnesses who testified, was a very pretty one; the Commonwealth attorneys say it is too pretty to be true. It started with a man on the South Side, in Pittsburgh, who had been in Steubenville trying to rent a house, and was carried along by three men from Steubenville. An alleged gambler also testified at the afternoon session and said he had lost a lot of money to Kovovick.

Milovar Patrovick will not be tried for his alleged part in the killing of Samuel T. Ferguson until the May term of court in Washington county. It was found impossible to finish the trial of Kovovick in time to commence the other trial in the limits of time set out by the statute and for this reason the case went over.

600 Killed and Wounded.

Another battle occurred between the insurgent Albanians in North Albany and the Turkish troops, February 18. The Albanians were beaten, losing 600 men killed or wounded. The Turks also lost heavily.

RUSSIA AGAINST ENGLAND.

Preparations to Meet British Advances in India.

Lieutenant General Ivanoff, Governor General and commander of the Russian troops in Turkestan, has gone to Tashkied with General Sakharoff, chief of staff of the military district of Turkestan.

It is said in high military circles that General Ivanoff has been instructed to prepare for the contingency of military action in the direction of India. In the event of Great Britain adopting an attitude openly hostile to Russia or attempting to prejudice Russian interests in Persia and Tibet.

Michigan Miners' Strike.

The striking miners of Champagne, Mich., marched two miles to Baltic and brought up the miners there who had already gone under ground. The miners are very bitter and say wages have been cut without any notice whatever. The stamp mills have scarcely any rock on hand for crushing and will have to close, making about 1,700 men idle.

Through the establishment of free rural mail delivery in Mercer county, Pa., 26 postoffices will be abandoned.

INSURGENTS BOMBARDED.

Admiral Wise's Ships Retaliate for Outrages on Our Flag.

A private message has been received at San Juan, Porto Rico, from San Domingo city, dated February 17, saying an American warship bombarded the insurgents at Pajarito, near San Domingo, and then landed marines. These men, however, subsequently reembarked.

The bombardment was in retaliation for the two outrages committed on Americans. Ten days ago a launch from the cruiser Prairie and fired upon by the troops of one of the Dominican governments and an engineer named Johnson was killed. More recently troops entered the American consulate at Samana and forcibly removed two refugees who were under the protection of the flag. Rear Admiral Wise, commanding the United States training squadron, now in the waters of Santo Domingo, was instructed from Washington that if reparation could be obtained in no other way he was to enforce it by his shells.

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GAS CLAIMS THREE VICTIMS.

Low Pressure Cause of Two Fatal Accidents.

Three people died in Youngstown, O., on account of the fact that the natural gas supply had gone down in pressure and then suddenly came up while they were asleep.

The dead are: Mrs. Lottie Garwood; Alva Garwood, aged 7 years; Miss Ethel Clarke. The injured are: Miss Kate Stafford, hands cut and burned; W. T. Melvin, cut by glass and bruised.

Miss Clarke had gone to bed with the gas burning. The low pressure during the night caused the gas to go out, and when it suddenly came on stronger, she was suffocated. She was found dead in bed this morning. In the other house the gas fire had gone down and the increased pressure later in the morning caused a superheated stove to set the house afire.

The Nagasaki correspondent of the Daily Telegraph expresses the conviction that Russia is quite unable to hold the Liao-Tung peninsula, and that Port Arthur is bound to fall by the expiration of time, even without an assault.

JAPANESE LOST SHIPS.

Russians Admit That Japan Has Foot-hold in Manchuria.

The London Post prints a dispatch from its special correspondent at Port Arthur, saying four Japanese warships were lost in that port last Tuesday night. New men went from Port Arthur to Yen Kow on a special train to file his dispatch, arrived Thursday and sent his story by dispatch boat to Tien-Tsin to be cabled.

It is officially admitted by the Russian government that the Japanese have succeeded in obtaining a foothold in Manchuria and that the Russian force opposed to them has been unable to keep them back. The admission caused a profound sensation throughout St. Petersburg.

A dispatch from Port Arthur states that the Vladivostok Russian squadron which is reported to have been partly destroyed in the channel between Yezo island and Nippon while trying to attack Hakodate, has not been damaged, but evaded the Japanese at every point.

INDICTED FOR LAND FRAUDS.

Grand Jury Returns True Bills Against Western Promoters.

As a result of the investigation of alleged wholesale public land frauds in many Western States, the Grand Jury of the District of Columbia reported a joint indictment for conspiracy against John A. Benson, a wealthy real estate operator of San Francisco; Frederick A. Hyde, of San Francisco; Henry C. Dimond, of California, an attorney representing Benson & Hyde, and Joost H. Schneider, of Tucson, Ariz., an agent of Benson & Hyde. Schneider was arrested here this afternoon. The indictment sets forth a number of transactions by which land is said to have been fraudulently acquired by forgery from the government in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, and elsewhere.

CURRENT NEWS EVENTS.

At Edwardsville, Ill. William Grange shot and killed John E. Lewis, the foster father of his wife.

Commissioner General Alexandrovsky officially announced the abandonment of the proposed participation of Russia in the St. Louis exposition.

A treaty of arbitration between Denmark and Holland was signed February 12, to become effective when the ratifications are exchanged. It contains no limitations in regard to questions which can be decided by The Hague Arbitration Court.

One of the first large manufacturing plants to signify its intention of locating permanently in Baltimore as a result of the recent fire is the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, which has already secured an option on a site for a plant.

Twelve Hurt in a Wreck.

The Florida limited on the Western & Atlantic railroad, southbound, was wrecked eight miles from Atlanta. The cars were overturned and 12 persons were injured, two of whom may die. The wreck was caused by a broken axle.

600 Russian Soldiers Frozen.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Berlin Tagliche Rundschau says that 600 Russian soldiers have been frozen to death while marching across Lake Baikal, Eastern Siberia. The correspondent adds that the temporary railroad across the lake is not yet completed, that a large detachment of troops was sent on a 22-mile march over the ice-covered lake and that it is presumed