

## PORT ARTHUR HAS FALLEN

Reports That Admiral Togo's Attacks Have Been Successful.

### CAUSED DAMAGE IN THE CITY.

Russians Said to Have Lost Sixty-Five Men During the Fight—Japs Lose Some Men.

An unconfirmed report has reached Tien Tsin that Port Arthur has fallen. A dispatch to the London Central News from Tokyo says: "It is asserted here that the Russians virtually have abandoned Port Arthur."

The official and private reports both indicate that Admiral Togo's fourth attack on Port Arthur on Thursday last was the most effective since the first assault of a month ago. One Russian torpedo boat destroyer was sunk and several Russian torpedo boats seriously damaged. The fortifications and city were subjected to a heavy bombardment lasting nearly four hours. The naval bombardments of the land works have generally been ineffective, yet the peculiar topographical conditions of Port Arthur make immunity from serious loss from bombardment almost impossible.

Admiral Togo's torpedo flotilla opened the action by boldly steaming in under the batteries and successfully placing a number of mechanical mines at the mouth of the harbor. Following that there was a desperate bow to bow encounter between the torpedo boat destroyers, in which the Japanese appear to have scored a clear victory. Then followed a long-range duel between the cruisers, ending in the retirement of the Novik and Bayan, the only Russians engaged.

**Inner Harbor Bombarded.**  
The closing action was the bombardment of the inner harbor by the Japanese battleships. The latter took a position southwest of Port Arthur and used only their 12-inch guns. There were 24 12-inch guns in the squadron of six battleships, and each gun was fired five rounds making a total of 120 heavy projectiles that were fired at the city. The bombardment was deliberate and carefully planned. In order to aid in perfecting the firing, Admiral Togo stationed the cruisers in a position due east of the entrance to the harbor, and at a right angle to the battleships. The cruisers observed the range and effect of the firing and signaled the results and suggestions by wireless telegraphy. These observations and reports greatly aided the gunners in their efforts to make every shot count.

Admiral Togo was unable to definitely learn the results of the bombardment, but later private reports indicate that much destruction was caused in the city, where a series of fires broke out. There was also damage to batteries.

Capt. Shokiro Asai, commanding the flotilla of torpedo boat destroyers, which engaged the Russian destroyers, is the hero of the attack. He had only three destroyers, but attacked the six Russian destroyers, ordering his craft to close in with the enemy. He steamed so close to the enemy's destroyers that they almost touched, and a most desperate conflict ensued from which the Russians retired badly disabled.

### CHICAGO BANDIT CONFESSES.

Aided in Killing Five Men and Holding Up Express Train.

Gustav Marx, one of the three car barn bandits now under sentence of death in Chicago, declared in a confession that he was one of the three men who held up the Chicago and Northwestern express train at Tower, W. near DeKalb, four years ago. The crime has passed into history as one of the most desperate ever committed in or about Chicago. Marx says both his confederates in the crime are dead and refuses to give their names. One of them, he declares, died with his boots on. The railway authorities admitted a loss of \$102,000 by the robbery. Marx says the robbers secured only \$8,000, the rest of the money having been destroyed by the explosion of dynamite used to crack the safe.

Marx admits the killing of five men in his career of crime. "Besides John E. Johnson, killed at the car barns, Detective Quinn, killed at the time of my arrest, and Otton Bauder, whom Roosevelt is generally supposed to have killed. I have killed two other men. Eight years ago Neidermeier and I went to Janesville, Wis., to rob a train. A track waker came upon us. I shot him and we threw his body into the Rock river. The other man whom I killed I had done criminal work with in Michigan.

"Neidermeier and I were there last fall. He knew too much about me, and I killed him and left his body lying in the suburbs of the camp. Both these crimes can be verified by the police."

### Ethiopian Treaty Ratified.

The Senate in executive ratified the treaty between the United States and Ethiopia, which was negotiated by Menelik II, "King of Kings of Ethiopia," and Robert P. Skinner, consul general and plenipotentiary. The treaty is to last 10 years and provides for trading posts and telegraphs and other means of transportation in Menelik's provinces.

**St. Louis Exposition Opening.**  
The program for the inauguration ceremonies opening the Louisiana Purchase exposition on Saturday, April 30, probably will be officially announced this week. The greater portion of the program has been completed by Col. E. C. Culp, chairman of the committee on ceremonies. The celebration will be exclusively an exposition affair as to participants and will be confined to the grounds. The program, it is estimated, will have been completed by noon, at which time the exposition will be formally declared open.

## FARMERS HOLD GRAIN.

Report by Department of Agriculture for Month of March.

The March report of the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture shows the amount of wheat in farmers' hands on March 1 to have been about 132,600,000 bushels or 20.3 per cent of last year's crop as compared with 24.5 per cent of the crop of 1902 on hand on March 1, 1903, and 23.2 per cent of the crop of 1901 on hand March 1, 1902.

The corn in farmers' hands is estimated at about \$39,000,000 bushels or 37.4 per cent of last year's crop, against 41.4 per cent of the crop of 1902 on hand on March 1, 1903, against 41.6 per cent of the crop of 1902, on hand on March 1, 1903, and 29.2 per cent of the crop of 1901 on hand on March 1, 1902.

Of oats there are reported to be about 273,700,000 bushels or 34.9 per cent of last year's crop still in farmers' hands, as compared with 36.9 per cent of the crop of 1902 on hand on March 1, 1903, and 30.6 per cent of the crop of 1901 on hand on March 1, 1902.

### THRASHED BY JUDGE.

**Fines for Contempt of Court Failed to Quell Disturber.**  
After twice fining Arthur Hirsch, president of the Independent Steel Company, for contempt of court, and the offender showing no indication of mending his ways, Justice John R. McDonnell, of Chicago, left the bench and assaulted Hirsch.

The justice did not bother to adjourn court. Constables, policemen and witnesses were paralyzed for a few moments. Meanwhile Mr. Hirsch was in keen distress.

He had been "hooked" on the jaw and smashed in the eye, and was almost "out." Then two policemen seized the justice and escorted him back on the bench.

"Call the Neel case," he said to his clerk. McDonnell once fought three rounds with John L. Sullivan.

**FOUR MILLION ACRES BOUGHT.**  
E. H. Harriman Said to Be Interested in Mexico's Biggest Land Deal.

The largest land deal ever made in Mexico is reported from Lower California, where a solid tract of 4,000,000 acres of grazing and agricultural land, comprising the Flores Hala estate, has just been sold to a syndicate of New York men. E. H. Harriman, president of the Southern Pacific Railroad, is said to be interested.

The new owners have made application to the Mexican Government for concessions for the establishment of large irrigation and other industrial works on the land.

**Ask \$5,000 for Hurt Feelings.**  
Miss Edith Hanna, of Beaver Falls, Pa., has brought suit against James Paw, of Pittsburgh, a widower, to recover damages, sustained to her feelings by the refusal of Paw to carry out an alleged promise of marriage.

Miss Hanna thinks that as Paw is a man of moderate means she should have \$5,000. Paw is a street car conductor and is now in the Beaver jail. Paw confesses innocence of any matrimonial intentions. He says that he has three small children, which after his wife's death about 18 months ago, were placed in the Protestant Children's Home, in Allegheny, where Miss Hanna was a nurse.

### TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

A 2-year-old son of Theodore Wallis was burned to death at his home, near Hebron, O.

Foster Bauers, 13 years old, died at South Fork, Pa., from a rifle shot wound accidentally inflicted by a companion.

Over a million dollars worth of property has been destroyed in the Wyoming valley, Eastern Pennsylvania, and 2,000 families rendered homeless.

An unknown colored tramp, sleeping on the coke ovens at Redox, near Uniontown, Pa., was run over by a dummy car and killed.

## GREAT DAMAGE BY FLOODS

Dwellings and Stores are Swept Away Along Susquehanna.

### ONE MILLION DOLLARS LOSS.

Bridges Destroyed—Ice Piled 20 Feet High on Railroad Tracks and Traffic Almost Stopped.

From all points along the Susquehanna river reports of damage by floods and ice gorges are coming in. There can as yet be no real estimate of damage done, though it is safe to say that the loss to railroad companies, mines and other industries in the Wyoming valley alone will reach \$1,000,000. On the west side of the river at Kingston, Dorranceston, West Pittston and Wyoming the aftermath shows a condition of affairs that has never been surpassed by any previous flood.

The Northumberland bridge at Sunbury was destroyed. The Pennsylvania railroad put a force of 3,000 men at work to clear the tracks of ice from Bainbridge to Fallmouth. The road from Columbia to Port Deposit will not be open for several days. From the upper end of Washington borough to Safe Harbor there are from 10 to 50 feet of ice on the tracks, and the situation below Safe Harbor is but little better.

The Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company posted notices at its collieries suspending operations. Dr. Paul A. Hartman, representative of the state board of health in Harrisburg, has been commissioned by Dr. Benjamin H. Hartman, secretary of the board, to investigate conditions in the flooded portions of Middletown and to report promptly to the state board. Precautions will be taken to prevent an outbreak of smallpox among the flood sufferers in the lowlands.

The reports from Catawissa, Bloomsburg and Berwick report the conditions slowly improving. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has a force of 300 men removing the ice from the tracks of its branch road between Wolverton and South Danville. Very little progress was made and traffic will not be resumed over this branch for some time.

At Safe Harbor nine dwellings were demolished and a number of others damaged by the flood. The general stores of John Tripple and William Rowe, with stocks valued at \$4,000, each, were swept away and everything lost.

The big four-arch stone bridge of the Port Deposit Railway at the mouth of the Conestoga creek crumbled before the ice. The large county bridge at the upper end of Safe Harbor was demolished, as was also the bridge over the mouth of Pequea creek.

### TORPEDO BOATS FIGHT.

Russians Attack Japs Off Port Arthur and Each Side Loses.

The Russian torpedo boat flotilla left Port Arthur at daylight on Friday morning and attacked the Japanese fleet. One Japanese torpedo boat was sunk and one Russian torpedo boat destroyed. The Russian torpedo boat was sunk. The fate of the latter's crew is not known.

Viceroy Alexieff has sent the following message to the Emperor: "In the fight between our torpedo boats and the Japanese cruisers on March 11 Capt. Matussevitich, Ensign Alexieff and Mechanical Engineer Billich received slight wounds, and Ensign Zaefff was severely wounded in the head losing his right eye.

"The commandant at Port Arthur reports the following details of the bombardment of the fortress there on March 10. As soon as the enemy opened fire our batteries replied. Six of our heavy guns remained behind the Liao-Tsich promontory and opened fire on the fortress over that shelter. They ceased bombarding at 1:15 p. m. The enemy fired about 200 projectiles. One shell from battery No. 15, on Electric cliff, damaged a Japanese cruiser seriously. The results of the bombardment were insignificant; six soldiers were wounded. Three inhabitants of the town were killed and one seriously wounded. According to Gen. Stoessel's report, the officers and soldiers in the shore batteries displayed exemplary courage and fired their guns in perfect order."

### TWO TO BE HANGED.

Double Execution is Fixed to Take Place on May 5.  
Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker has fixed May 5 as the date of the execution of William Hartley and James Edwards. Should no further respite be granted either man their execution will be the first public hanging in Allegheny county since 1876. Hartley was convicted of the murder of Ernest O. Johnston, a railroad, by shooting him in the barber shop of Henry Jouver, March 28, 1903. Edwards, who is a negro, pleaded guilty to a charge of murder for the killing of Clinton Banks near Bridgeville July 4, 1903.

**Says Indian Ate Wife and Child.**  
Gustave Brandon, who has been cruising between Tower and Kooniching, concerns a report cannibalism on the Nett Lake reservation. Brandon was near Pelican Lake when he was told that an Indian had killed and eaten his wife and child to avert starvation. He says his information is unquestionably authentic. A party was sent to the Indian's cabin and will bring him to Nett Lake if possible.

**Sixty-Five Russians Killed.**  
Information from an official who was an eye witness of the bombardment of Port Arthur on Wednesday and Thursday is to the effect that the Russians had 25 killed on the Battleship Sevastopol, 20 on the Retvizan and 20 in the town. The Russians claim to have sunk a Japanese cruiser. The Russians are preparing for the defense of New Chwang, finding it impossible to stop the landing of the Japanese.

## MANCHURIAN LINE MINED?

Japs Intend Destroying Whole Railway, Says American.

"The Russian trans-Siberian railroad from Port Arthur to Lake Baikal has been honeycombed with mines for more than a year," declared Charles Klein, assistant inspector of customs at Shanghai, who has arrived in New York on the Cunard liner Ivernia.

"What the bribing of the Russian foreman did not do the Japanese did through their best engineers, working as common coolies in the construction gangs.

"As a result it would be folly to call it a railroad. Its rails are so light that they will not support more than five cars; its cars are so light that they will not carry a heavy gun; its engines are so light that they will not draw five cars more than 15 miles an hour. The sleepers, logs and saplings, unseasoned, cut along the line of the route, untrimmed and unbarbed, are thrown under the 20-foot rails three (more often two) to every 20 feet of rail; and the rails are barely held together by single rivets, without fish plates.

"Not only have the disguised engineers worked at the wrecking of the enemy's road, but they have formed espionage corps among the mandarins and peasantry of Manchuria and have surrounded the Russians in Port Arthur. Russia can safely send troops to Port Arthur, but the Port Arthur troops cannot utilize the road to retreat. For as soon as they embark the line will be blown up by the Chinese allies of the Japanese and the Russians will find themselves attacked front and rear without a line of communication.

"Even if they are allowed to reach the Baikal lake they will be driven to it before assistance can reach them.

"Five cars, holding 500 men altogether, traveling at the rate of 20 miles an hour, could never escape from such a mobile force as the Japanese. Even in the event of the mines not operating, such trains could be smashed by shell before they got out of range.

"The mining of the road is nothing more than Russia could have expected. But with colossal stupidity she thought herself wonderfully clever in pushing her line, in time of peace, to her war camp at Port Arthur.

"From the time of the starting of that road, the Japanese were alert awaiting its approach to the danger line. Then they threw their corps of engineers, educated at the schools of Yale, Harvard and Columbia Universities, into the gangs of laborers and began to build up the head-on collision tracks and plan the mines along the lines. Every military plan of the Russians became known to the Japanese. They were everywhere as servants, coolies, slaves, humble and obedient. The coolie frequently was the son of an honored member of the Mikado's Council.

"Already the effectiveness of the mining has been tested at Dainy where a bridge was blown up mysteriously.

**SIX KILLED IN COLLISION.**  
Head-On Collision on the Alabama Great Southern.

Six persons killed, three fatally hurt, two less seriously injured, and a limited express train and a freight train partially destroyed by fire, comprise the results of a head-on collision on the Alabama Great Southern railway near Kewanee, 17 miles north of Meridian, Miss.

The dead are: Engineer P. H. Lar kin, of the express train, Birmingham; Robinson Riggs, mail clerk, Chattanooga; Henry Banks, colored fireman on express train, Birmingham; Mall Weigher Davidson, Chattanooga; colored fireman on freight train, name not given.

The trains involved were the south-bound limited on the Queen & Crescent system, and a north-bound Southern railway freight, both headed for Birmingham, between Meridian and York. The express train was late and running 60 miles an hour. The wreckage took fire, the mail car, combination baggage and express car, smothered and six freight cars being destroyed. Both engines were totally wrecked.

### NEWS NOTES.

Mrs. Gustave Stanson, of Elgin, Ill., shot her husband and son and then killed herself.

The Grand Trunk railroad shareholders ratified the agreement with the Canadian Government for the construction of a grand trunk line to the Pacific.

## JAPS SAID TO BE VICTORS

Reported Defeat of Russians on Korean Soil.

### PORT ARTHUR SHELLED AGAIN.

Disabled Russian Warship Retvizan Repaired and Said to Be in Fighting Trim Again.

A dispatch from Wei-Hai-Wei, dated March 9, says: "It is reported on good authority that a collision between Japanese and Russian troops has occurred near Hai-Ju, Korea, 54 miles northwest of Chemulpo, which resulted in the defeat of the Russians."

The Japanese are now reported in Manchuria, where they are said to have taken Feng-Wang-Cheng, 50 miles north of the Yalu. The news comes from several sources, and the Russians are reported falling back, with some loss in the skirmishing.

Washington hears of the Japanese advance from the commander of the United States gunboat Helena, at Yingkow, the port of Newchwang. He adds the information that the Japanese landed at Takushan, west of the mouth of the Yalu river.

Heavier fighting is expected when the invaders get closer to Liao-Yang, where several thousand Russian troops are concentrated.

There is an unconfirmed report of a renewal of the bombardment of Port Arthur and Dainy on Talienshan bay by Admiral Togo's squadron. Tokio has no definite news of the movements of Admiral Uru's ships and the Czar's Vladivostok squadron.

The hole in the hull of the Russian battleship Retvizan, which was made during the first attack by the Japanese, has been repaired and the battleship has been refloated. She is now anchored in the inner roadstead alongside the Czarevitch. The garrison at Port Arthur is 40,000 strong, and there are provisions enough to last two years. Trains on the Manchurian line are running regularly in triple sections, at 20 minute intervals.

### SAFEBLOWERS' RICH HAUL.

Postoffice Safe Robbed of \$1,000 in Cash and Valuable Papers.

Safeflowers made a rich haul in the town of Chester, W. Va., opposite East Liverpool, O., gaining entrance to the postoffice undetected. The safe, containing over \$1,000 in cash was completely shattered with dynamite. Postmaster W. C. Johnston made an estimate of the losses and gave them as follows:

Stamps, \$737; money order department, \$95.24; postal fund, \$132; money held for Mrs. Russell Williamson, \$19.18; funds of the Ben Hur lodge, \$25. Added to these amounts were 200 money order blanks upon which \$20,000 could be realized, it being possible to convert each blank into an order for \$100.

The postmaster also lost many valuable papers, being a justice of the peace and having in his possession numerous legal documents. The door of the First National bank, of Chester, was found open next morning, giving rise to the suspicion that an attempt was made to loot it.

### Naval Bill Becomes a Law.

The Senate passed the naval appropriation bill and then took up the army bill. The principal question debated in connection with the naval bill related to the price and method of supplying armor plate for battleships, and it grew out of an amendment suggested by Mr. Patterson, Democrat, Colorado, providing for a government armor plant.

### Steamer Sunshine Burned.

The steamer Sunshine, plying between Memphis and Cincinnati, was destroyed by fire near Tiponville, Penn. The crew escaped, but both boat and cargo were lost. The boat was the property of the Memphis and Cincinnati Packet company and was valued at \$20,000. The Sunshine was built eight years ago at Pittsburgh and was one of the staunchest boats in the packet trade.

### CURRENT NEWS EVENTS.

A soft-coal strike, involving 200,000 men, is expected to begin about April 1.

## REED SMOOT TRIAL.

Testimony Brought Out by Senate Investigating Committee.

One of the most interesting and important features of the investigation of the Senator Reed Smoot case before the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections was brought out in the testimony of E. B. Critchlow, formerly an assistant United States attorney in Utah, who told the story of the Moses Thatcher episode. According to his version, which was borne out by official records, Apostle Thatcher persisted in continuing as a candidate for the United States Senate against the wishes of a quorum of the apostles and on that account was held to be "not in harmony with his quorum."

The history of the campaign he made against the wishes of his fellow Mormons, of his defeat and his subsequent trial before a commission of church officials, was given in detail, and then Thatcher's submission to the will of the church was read and put in the record of the Smoot investigation. This recantation showed Thatcher totally broken in spirit and bowing absolutely to the mandates of the church in that the consent of an officers' quorum must be obtained in order that he may continue in good standing.

The purpose of the testimony was to show that it was necessary, according to the rules of the church, for Reed Smoot to have obtained the consent of the church before he could have become a candidate for the Senate.

The testimony, of which the most sensational was given by Francis M. Lyman, president of the Twelve Apostles of the Mormon Church and the man chosen to be the successor of President Smith. His admissions were similar to those previously made by Mr. Smith pertaining to the church government. He is more free of speech than the president of the church and his testimony, though not materially differing, caused several of the apostles present to shake their heads at the witness for the purpose of compelling more discretion in answering questions.

Charles E. Merrill, a son of Apostle Merrill was called to the stand. He said he was the son of his father's third plural wife and is himself a polygamist. He said he was married first in 1857 to a wife that died in 1859 and that he had a "legal wife," Chloe Hendricks, in 1891, and had five children by her. He married another wife in 1888, the ceremony being performed in the Logan Temple by M. C. Edmondson. He has had four children by that wife, the oldest of which is 9 years and the youngest 2 1/2 years. Their mother's name was Anna B. Stoddard.

Several officials of the Mormon church testified in the Smoot case before the Senate committee on Privileges and Elections that they had plural wives and had continued to practice polygamous cohabitation since the manifesto of 1890. Just before adjournment the committee held an executive session for the purpose of having read the unprintable testimony in the Teasdale divorce case.

### COSSACKS COMMIT OUTRAGES.

Women Are Assaulted and Then Murdered by Russians in Northern Korea.

The London Daily Telegraph publishes a dispatch from Tokyo dated March 7, saying:

"It is reported that the Japanese fleet engaged the Russian Vladivostok squadron at sea yesterday. The result of the engagement is not announced, but it is believed that the Russian ships were destroyed or captured. News has reached Osaka of an engagement between Russians and Japanese a hundred miles from Vladivostok. The Russians fled, abandoning arms and stores.

A telegram was received at the imperial Korean palace, Seoul, stating that several hundred Cossacks plundered the small North Korean town of Kang-Kae, seized all the grain, hay and provisions they could find and assaulted and murdered a number of women. The local Korean solitary exchanged shots with the marauders, then retired. Several Koreans were wounded.

H. C. Price, a Baltimore and Ohio railroad engineer, is dead at his home in Cumberland, Md., from injuries received in jumping from an engine which was running away.

### Boston Wool Market.

There is a firm tone in the wool market, with a fairly steady demand in progress. The market for territory wools is steady, with old values held. Pulled wools are quiet but firm. Foreign wools have a large call. The leading quotations follow: Ohio and Pennsylvania, XX and above, 34c; X, 30c@31c; No. 1, 33c; No. 2, 32c@33c; fine unwashed, 23c@24c; 1/2-blood, unwashed, 25c@26c; 3/4-blood, unwashed, 25c@26c; fine washed delaine, 35c@36c; Michigan X and above nominal; No. 1, 29c@30c; No. 2, 28c@29c; fine unwashed, 21c@22c.

### Trust Company Closes Doors.

The doors of the Standard Trust company of Butler, Pa., were closed and a typewritten statement was posted to the effect that by order of the board of directors the institution was closed temporarily and that all depositors would be paid in full. The Standard Trust company is capitalized at \$125,000, the stock being held by Butler and Pittsburgh parties. Clinton D. Crockett is president and Charles A. Bailey is cashier of the concern.

### Wireless Tests in the Navy.

The Navy Department has made arrangements for the trial of several wireless telegraph systems between the New York Navy Yard and the station at Navesink Highlands, N. J. The system which produces the best results will later be tested between shore stations and ships and between ship and ship. The other day the Minneapolis, at Guantanamo, made connections with the Yankee, 80 miles away.

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