

FIRE CAUSES HEAVY LOSS

New Orleans Docks Swept and Loss is \$5,000,000.

WILL CRIPPLE EXPORT TRADE.

A Number of Persons Were Injured and Homes of Many Poor Families Destroyed.

Fire involving millions of dollars loss in property and one that strikes a serious, if temporary, blow at the immense export trade of New Orleans swept the river front Sunday night and wiped out the vast freight terminals of the Illinois Central, known as the Stuyvesant docks.

Nearly a dozen squares of modern wharves and freight sheds, two magnificent grain elevators, hundreds of loaded cars and vast quantities of freight, including 20,000 bales of cotton, were destroyed, with a large number of small residences.

The fire was still raging furiously at midnight, at which time it had almost reached the upper end of the Illinois Central property. It has not been determined whether there has been any loss of life. The ocean-going shipping seems to have escaped serious damage. A number of firemen and employees of the docks were injured.

Actual estimates of the losses are impossible, though they may exceed \$5,000,000.

The Stuyvesant docks extend from Louisiana avenue almost to Napoleon avenue, 12 squares. The wharves between these two points were covered with miles of track and a steel and iron shed ran the whole distance. The two grain elevators were of the most modern construction, the upper one having a capacity of 1,000,000 bushels. Thousands of bales of cotton, several hundred thousand packages of sugar, great quantities of cottonseed oil and oil cake, lumber and every conceivable variety of freight filled the warehouse and sheds.

Buildings Were Expensive.

Practically all the export business handled by the Illinois Central was put aboard ships at these docks. The docks and improvements have been under construction for 10 years past, elaborate extensions and immense investments having been made after the constitutional convention of 1898 made it possible for the road to invest permanently at this point.

The fire was discovered shortly after 7 o'clock. It was said to have resulted from a journal that had not been sufficiently oiled.

DECREASING ITS BONDS

Steel Combine Buying Them for Sinking Fund Purposes.

The forthcoming annual report of the United States Steel Corporation will show decreases in the outstanding first and second mortgage bonds, due to purchases for sinking fund purposes.

October 1 last \$8,652,000 of the first mortgage 5s had been purchased and held alive in the sinking fund under that provision of the indenture which provides that \$154,000,000 of the total issue of first 5s, aggregating \$304,000,000, may be purchased, all or in part, if obtainable, at not to exceed 115 and interest.

After April 1, 1911, they are subject to call through issues A, O and E, by lot.

Every year since its formation, beginning June 1, 1902, the steel corporation has set aside \$3,040,000 for the sinking fund on the first mortgage bonds. June 1 next this will amount to \$12,160,000.

Another West Virginia Road.

A charter has been granted to the Grassy Creek Railroad Company, with headquarters at Diana, Webster county, W. Va. The road is capitalized at \$25,000, and will be constructed from a point in the eastern part of Webster county to Pickens, Randolph county, a distance of 15 or 20 miles. Its route will be along the divide between the Elk and Holly rivers. The line is to be for a coal-carrier.

NEW B. & O. EQUIPMENT

250 Locomotives and 10,000 Freight Cars Contracted for 1905

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad company has authorized the purchase of 175 consolidation freight locomotives, 35 passenger locomotives, 40 six-wheel switching locomotives and 10,000 freight cars. This will be the new equipment for the present year, and will be by far the largest purchase made in recent years by the company. The contracts will soon be awarded, and the aggregate cost will range between \$12,000,000 and \$13,000,000. The delivery of cars will commence in April and in time for navigation business. It is expected the first locomotive will be delivered in June, and all deliveries of cars and locomotives completed by November 1, 1905, in order to take care of next winter's business requirements.

Anti-Semitic Riots.

A dispatch to a news agency from Odessa says it is reported there that 10 Jews have been killed and 30 wounded in an anti-Jewish riot at Theodosia.

Japan Intends to Fight.

Japan, through her minister at Washington, Kogoro Takahira, has categorically and absolutely denied all rumors and reports that she was suing for peace or that any act of the Mikado's representative here can be possibly so construed. The minister added that the "peace talk of the last few days you can surely believe is not created in Japan, but emanates from some other land." Japan, it was declared, has made all arrangements to continue the war for at least another year.

EXTRA SESSION CALLED

Proclamation Convening the Senate on March 4.

The President issued a proclamation convening the senate in special session at 12 o'clock noon on March 4, next. The proclamation follows:

Whereas public interests require that the United States senate be convened at 12 o'clock on the fourth day of March next to receive such communications as may be made by the executive.

Now, therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the senate of the United States to convene at the capitol in the city of Washington on the fourth day of March next at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members of that body are hereby required to take notice.

Given under my hand and the seal of the United States, at Washington, the twenty-third day of February, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and five, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-ninth.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.
By the president:
JOHN HAY, Secretary of State.

CAPITAL NOTES.

The President sent to the Senate nominations of the following Ohio postmasters: Miner T. Vandervort, Loveland; Francis M. McKay, Logan; Charles H. Ellis, Yellow Springs; G. C. Davis, Shawnee, and of A. R. Houck, Lebanon, Pa.

All the officers of General Fitzhugh Lee's corps in the Spanish-American War who can be in Washington March 6 will give their commander a complimentary dinner on that date.

Many charges have been made in the stations of the warships engaged in patrolling the waters of San Domingo in anticipation of the final ratification of the treaty under which the United States agrees to administer the financial affairs of San Domingo.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The United States armored cruiser West Virginia has been formerly delivered to the Government.

The students of Russia have left the schools as a protest against the present system of government.

Investigation of the Iroquois Theater fire has been begun anew by the grand jury.

Charles S. Arnal, one of the best-known insurance men in the South, committed suicide by shooting.

A meeting of representatives of the oil producers of West Virginia, West-Central Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio was held here to-night to take action on the fight against the Standard in the west.

The Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad has announced an increase in firemen's wages of from 5 to 20 cents a hundred-mile run. The pay for passenger runs is \$2.10 and for the hardest freight runs \$2.50.

At an auction at Christy's in London an Elizabethan ewer of rock crystal, mounted on silver, only 2 1/2 inches high, belonging to the Marquise of Anglesy, was sold to a London dealer for \$20,000.

Governor Hoch has signed the bill providing for separate high schools for whites and blacks at Kansas City, Kan. The Governor explained that while the bill appeared to be a step backward, local conditions make the law advisable.

James Seme, a wealthy Italian contractor, of Newark, N. J., was shot to death on a principal street by Frank Sina, a former employe. Seme was captured by several citizens who witnessed the shooting. Seme had demanded payment of a small sum of money which he claimed was due him in wages.

Floyd S. Harper, of Detroit, has been found guilty of killing Patrolman John Daley in an alley on the night of November 17. William Z. Harper, his brother, is under arrest on the charge of complicity in the murder. Patrolman Daley had discovered two burglars at work in the alley.

The Montgomery (Ala.) Traction company has been placed in the hands of a receiver.

For the third time in two years the business section of Lawrenceville, Pa., was destroyed by fire, causing a loss of \$50,000.

The betrothal is officially announced of Princess Victoria, of Connaught, niece of King Edward, to Prince Oscar, eldest son of the crown prince of Norway and Sweden. King Edward, it is said, has given his approval of the betrothal.

Dr. F. H. Rouillard, representing a Pennsylvania publishing house, leaped from a third story window of a hotel at Manchester, N. H., while suffering from nightmare and was killed.

Battle flags captured by the Pennsylvania troops during the civil war are to be returned to southern states and the flags of the Keystone soldiers lost to confederates are to be sent to this state.

By a resolution introduced in the house of representatives an investigation into the methods of the Carnegie and Bethlehem Steel companies in securing government contracts for furnishing armor plate is demanded.

The West Virginia legislature adjourned and reconvened in extra session to consider two appropriation bills.

The West Virginia senate adopts the majority report of the Elliott letter investigating committee. Gov. White sent a message to the house asking that a committee be appointed to investigate charges against him. A resolution so providing passed. The governor will call a special session of the legislature to consider two appropriation bills.

MANY PERISHED IN MINE

Explosion in West Virginia Mine Kills Workmen.

WORK OF RESCUE WAS PROMPT.

Cause of Accident Not Known. United States Steel Company Is Owner of the Mine.

As a result of an explosion in shaft No. 1 of the United States Coal and Coke Company at Wilcox, W. Va., 23 miners are supposed to have lost their lives, and it is possible that the number will exceed this. 15 dead bodies have been taken from the shaft. A large rescuing party is in the mines. It is barely possible but not likely that some of the remaining entombed miners will be rescued alive.

The explosion was of terrific force and shattered glass windows a mile distant.

Immediately after the shock great numbers of miners, who were off duty to-day, it being Sunday, rushed to the shaft, to find great clouds of smoke and dust gushing from its mouth. Mothers, children and other relatives soon were weeping and pleading for the rescue of those dear to them entombed in the mine.

The officials of the mines, including General Manager Reis, were soon on the ground, and the work of rescuing miners was directed by Mr. Reis. The dead miners thus far recovered are all Italians and Hungarians.

The company usually works in this shaft about 75 miners, but as it was Sunday the men were not all in and the small loss of life can be attributed only to this fact.

The United States Coal & Coke Company, with principal offices in Pittsburgh, Pa., is a part of the United States Steel corporation.

THE CZAR OBDURATE

War Will Be Continued With the Utmost Energy.

A message from Berlin says: The Emperor of Russia has elected to continue the war. His position is absolutely firm, and the German court has been advised in that sense. The war will be pressed with the utmost energy, the domestic situation being now within the control of the authorities. Those who have advised peace and suggested inquiries for Japanese terms, the French and British governments, are for the present silent and are likely to remain so unless events of an extraordinary character shake the Russian Emperor's resolution.

The considerations that led to the Emperor's decision as understood are: The judgment of the chiefs of the army that Field Marshal Oyama not only cannot defeat Gen. Kuropatkin, but stands in danger of defeat himself. How cowardly, therefore, for Russians to ask for mercy with all the men and money essential to a successful war. All the forces of criticism now directed against the government for having fought, rather than yielded to legitimate interests and for having failed to win victories would be continued with added fury against the government that accepted war and then betrayed the country. A government that would crave peace of Russia's enemy while still capable of winning victory, would be giving enemies of the government grounds for a revolution.

FIRE AT HOT SPRINGS

Arkansas Town Suffers a Loss of \$2,000,000.

The most appalling fire in the history of Hot Springs broke out Saturday and destroyed 100 business houses and 200 homes.

More than forty blocks were eaten away by the flames, and the most conservative estimate places the loss at \$1,500,000, and several insurance men state the figures will reach \$2,000,000.

The citizens' relief committee has the situation in hand. The amount subscribed for relief totals \$12,000, but it is being steadily increased. Voluntary subscriptions from the outside are being accepted.

Mayor Belding ordered all saloons closed, and it was a "tight" Sunday in Hot Springs.

FORTY YAQUIS KILLED

Savages Defeated by Mexicans in Two-Days' Battle.

Mexican forces under General Torres, numbering about 400, have killed 40 Yaquis and taken 167 prisoners in a two-days' battle with the savages in the mountains east of La Colorado. Mexican officers refused to make any statement of their own losses.

It is said there were 300 warriors in the band surrounded by Torres. About 100 of these broke through the Mexican lines and escaped, but the main force was hurled at a detachment commanded by Captain Luis Barven, an old Yaqui fighter, who was guarding one of the mountain passes. He held the savages in check until the arrival of reinforcements, when they were driven back with heavy loss and finally surrendered.

Standard Buys Oil Field.

Advices from Mexico state that the Standard Oil Company has acquired control of the Ebanco oil fields, including the producing wells, oil refinery and pipe lines of the Mexican Petroleum company. These holdings also include more than 500,000 acres of land situated adjacent to the port of Tampico. The Standard Oil Company is also interested in other fields in Mexico.

ADMIRAL'S ACT JUSTIFIED

Believed Squadron Was Endangered and Had Right to Fire—Torpedo Boats Question Evaded.

A semi-official statement has appeared relative to the work of the international commission which has been considering the North Sea incident. It is as follows:

The commission gives no opinion on the question of the presence or absence of Japanese torpedo boats in the North Sea, declaring merely that the Russian admiral quite legitimately believed that his squadron was endangered and that he had the right under the circumstances, to act as he did. The commissioners refer to the Russian government's engagements to indemnify the victims of the deplorable incident. The report will be sent by special messengers to the Russian and British governments, not because it is liable to modifications at the instance of one or other of the governments, the commission's decision being without appeal, but the commissioners do not wish the power to be simply taken through the press of the last public sitting and the conclusions arrived at.

WAR MOVEMENTS

Operations of Important Nature are in Progress in Manchuria.

Gen. Kuropatkin, in a dispatch dated February 23, sends a report that 20 Japanese torpedo boats and a large warship are on their way to Vladivostok.

The dispatch disposes of the rumor of Gen. Kuropatkin's return from the Shakhe River, but taken in connection with the Tsalikhetov dispatch, shows that operations of an important nature are in progress in the mountain region to the eastward. The movement was precipitated by the Russians, who last week sent two divisions and occupied well-advanced positions. The Japanese attacked these positions in force. The Russians retired slowly, fighting and Thursday evening were driven within their fortified lines. The Japanese dispatched a heavy force to Friday.

A dispatch from Sachetun dated February 24, says: "The Japanese in superior numbers forced the Russian detachment at Tsalikhetin to abandon their base at Beresneff hill. The battle has been desperate on both sides. The result is not yet known."

It is reported that the Japanese are closing in on the Russian camp flanking it is possible there will be either a general engagement or at least a counter-movement by the Russians along some part of the line, especially if, as is thought, the Japanese have returned to their original tactics of making flanking movements from the mountains. The early advent of spring now makes possible operations in and from the mountainous districts.

BY LAND AND SEA

Japanese Will Make Investment of Vladivostok Complete.

Preparations for the complete investment of Vladivostok by land and sea have been completed. The blockading squadron has been strengthened so that all approaches to the port can be easily guarded, and it will be almost as difficult for supplies to be sent in by sea as it was into Port Arthur.

The main body of the blockading squadron consists of small craft which can take care of the merchantmen; but it includes two heavy cruisers capable of handling the Russian warships locked in the harbor. In the event they have been sufficiently repaid from the injuries by Kamimura, to take the sea.

HOLD HOCH AS PRISONER

Coroner's Jury Believes Bluebeard Gave Wife Arsenic.

Johann Hoch was held to the grand jury without bail. The coroner's jury which investigated the death of Mrs. Marie Walker-Hoch found that she came to her death from the effects of arsenic poisoning, and it was the expressed belief of the jury that Hoch administered the poison.

Hoch is said to have had 27 wives. He admitted in jail, the police say, that he married most of them for their money.

FOUR MEN KILLED

Boiler of Hoisting Machinery at a Mine Explodes.

The explosion of the boiler of the hoisting machinery at the works of the Providence Coal company, near St. Clairsville, O., killed four men. Five men were seriously injured, while 15 other persons suffered slight hurts. At the time of the explosion 200 men were gathered in the vicinity of the boiler. The dead are: Eli Minty, of St. Clairsville, formerly of Bridgeville, Pa., engineer; Michael Mell, of Glencoe, O., miner; married; Unknown Hungarian, blown to pieces; William Adams, of St. Clairsville, president of the miners' local union; died at North Wheeling hospital to-night.

FIVE FIREMEN HURT

Asbestos Curtain Kept Flames in Opera House from Auditorium.

Fire which broke out on the stage of the Akron Grand Opera house gutted the building, doing about \$50,000 and also \$20,000 damage to the plant of the Commercial Printing company. Five firemen were seriously injured.

ALL ON TRAINS ARE KILLED

Derailed by Armenian Revolutionists and Hurlled Over Precipice.

It is reported that Armenian revolutionists near Baku have derailed a number of trains on the Caucasian railway, and have hurled them over a precipice.

All the occupants of the trains were killed. The number of victims is not known.

PROSPECTS OF PEACE

The Question Has Been Discussed and Terms Outlined.

CONCESSIONS ARE OFFERED

They Include Nearly Everything That the Victorious Japanese Have Taken by Force.

A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from St. Petersburg says:

"The question of peace has not only been formally discussed, but the conditions on which Russia is prepared to make peace have practically been agreed upon. These are as follows:

"Korea to be placed under Japanese suzerainty.

"Port Arthur and the Liao-Tung peninsula to be ceded to Japan.

"Vladivostok to be declared a neutral port with an open door.

"The Eastern Chinese railroad to be placed under neutral international administration.

"Manchuria as far north as Harbin to be restored as an integral part of the Chinese empire.

"The difficulty lies in settling the question of indemnity, upon which it is known Japan insists, but it is thought that this difficulty is not insuperable.

Peace May Soon Come.

"The most trustworthy opinion at St. Petersburg is that in view of the internal situation and the enormous difficulty in carrying on the war, peace on the terms outlined will be concluded within a comparatively short time, if the indemnity question can be arranged, but it is quite possible Russia will risk another battle before a decision is reached."

A comparison of these terms with the Japanese offer indicates that Russia is practically willing to yield everything for which the war has been fought, and only balks at the indemnity. So complete an acknowledgment of defeat has rarely been made by a nation of the first class.

Concessions 1, 2 and 3 on this list are exactly in accordance with what the Mikado has indicated to the government of the United States and Europe as what he would insist on.

Concessions 4 and 5 form an alternative suggestion to Japan's proposition that the railroad as far as Harbin should be vested in Japan, with a strip one verst wide on each side of this line.

It is believed that the terms are so worded to give a margin by which Russia can ultimately yield in the matter of Saghalien on condition of Japan's foregoing the indemnity, which it is believed is a possible compromise.

While peace reports are circulating the information reaches here that Gen. Kuropatkin is industriously preparing to try final conclusions with Field Marshal Oyama, and that a decisive battle may be expected within a fortnight.

REAL REVOLUTION THERE

Armenians of Black Sea Region Form Provisional Government.

According to reports from Batoum racial disorders in the Caucasus have developed into actual revolution in the cities of Batoum, Pati and Kutais, at the eastern end of the Black sea, under the lead of Armenians, who have set up a form of provisional government. Telegraphic communication has been cut off for several days.

The Armenian faction a few days ago made prisoners of most of the officials, shutting up the officers and some of the troops in the barracks, and, aided to some extent by reservists, took the reins of government into their own hands. The semi-weekly steamer service between Batoum and Odessa has been interrupted.

Plead Guilty.

William Druckenbrod of New Berlin received a sentence of six years to the Ohio penitentiary for manslaughter. Druckenbrod pleaded guilty to killing his wife.

ATTEMPT TO KILL MORALES

Would-Be Assassins of Dominican President Are Captured.

United States Minister Dawson at Santo Domingo City cabled the State Department that an attempt was made there to assassinate President Morales; that the attempt failed; that five of his assassins were captured and that the remainder escaped.

The affair is supposed to have grown out of an attempt on the part of the revolutionary element in Santo Domingo to prevent the consummation of the financial agreement between that Government and the United States.

Validity of Steel Patents.

The naval appropriation bill as agreed upon by the senate committee today carries \$100,336,579, an increase of \$422,520 over the house bill. A provision was inserted authorizing the secretary of the navy to bring suit to obtain judicial determination of the validity of United States patents covering the Harvey process for treating armor plates.

Chinese Integrity.

Secretary Hay received from the Portuguese government firm approval of the secretary's note inviting the adherence of the powers to the principle of the integrity of China. All of the powers addressed by the secretary now have their assent to the note.

President Roosevelt, the German Emperor, Senator Knox and D. T. Watson of Pittsburgh, received degrees from the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia.

NO HOPE THAT ANY ARE ALIVE

Recovery of Bodies Proceeds Slowly—Subscriptions to Aid Families of Those Who Perished.

Of the 160 miners of Virginia City, Ala., who entered the mines Monday afternoon only 50 bodies have been recovered. The recovery of so many dead precludes any idea that life may still remain among the unfortunates. The corpses brought from the mine were frightfully mangled and disfigured, and identification is almost impossible.

One hundred families and 300 children are left destitute and without means of support.

Since the list of the dead probably will reach 100 the local undertakers have wired to adjoining cities for coffins, as it was found there were not enough suitable coffins in the district to bury the victims.

Out of the 50 bodies recovered, one was found in which were signs of life. Heroic methods were resorted to to bring the man to consciousness.

At 8 o'clock Wednesday night 75 bodies had been recovered from the Virginia mines in which the explosion occurred Monday afternoon.

Rescuers are still at work in the slope and as the diggers advance the bodies farther in the mine are found to be worse burned and mutilated than those nearer the exterior. No hope is now held out that any of the men can be alive. Only three men were found whose hearts were still beating and they expired immediately on reaching the outer air.

Hundreds of dollars have been subscribed in the suburbs and the Birmingham Commercial Club has raised more than \$3,000 for the sufferers. Alabama District No. 20, United Mine Workers of America, voted \$5,000 to be distributed among the families. Among the notable contributions was one of \$20 by Jacob Riis, who lectured in Birmingham.

It is possible some of the miners were drowned, as several bodies have been seen floating around in the flooded rooms.

Boston Wool Market.

Interest in the local wool market is divided between the foreign grades which are now from necessity in the principal demand, and in the domestic wools, which are nearly exhausted. There is some talk of lower prices, the market now being steady, but it is considered doubtful if these will develop. The leading quotations follow: Ohio and Pennsylvania, XX and above, 35@35 1/2; X, 30@31; No. 1, 28@28 1/2; No. 2, 33@33 1/2; fine unwashed, 24@25; unmerchantable, 27@28; 1/4-blood unwashed, 31@32; 3/4-blood, 31@32; 1/2-blood, 30@31; unwashed delaine, 27@28c.

NEWS NOTES.

The southern iron companies are preparing to enter a merger.

The Steamboat bill before congress provides for an extension of the authority of local inspectors.

The Midvale Steel Company appeals to President Roosevelt for reopening of the bids on armor plate.

Thomas W. Lawson declares he will return the billion dollars of John D. Rockefeller to the people.

The house passed the Philippine tariff bill and the senate the military academy bill.

Senator Ellkins declares there will be no railway rate legislation this season.

The Nickel Plate and other roads running through Cleveland are suffering for lack of water in Northern Ohio.

Louisville, Ky., is at present agitated by a remarkable religious revival movement. Thus far 4,000 converts have been announced.

A federal grand jury returns two more indictments against Mrs. Chadwick and indicts five bankers in connection with the case.

The attorney general will proceed to the prosecution of the beef trust under the provisions of the Sherman law. The serving of subpoenas continues in Chicago.

President Roosevelt will uphold the renewal of the Ogea oil lands lease, despite the protest of the Kansas legislature, the Indiana and others.

The Irish members of parliament made an onslaught on the British ministry in the house of commons.

A special grand jury has been called in Chicago to investigate alleged violations of the Sherman anti-trust law.

The secretary of the navy reconsidered his action and makes a conditional contract for armor plate with the Midvale Steel Company.

The meeting of the students of the University of St. Petersburg was revolutionary in character, strong resolutions being adopted.

Pennsylvania will have bigger representation than any other state in the inaugural parade at Washington.

The Pennsylvania lines construction department has let the contract for a bridge at Hubbard, near Columbus, to cost \$21,000.

The West Virginia house of delegates adopted a vote of confidence in Speaker Grossup as a reward of sensational charges.

Bubonic Plague in Chile. Bubonic plague has appeared at the port of Pisagua, 44 miles north of Iquique. The discovery has caused a panic amongst the inhabitants.

Auditor is Ousted.

The Ohio Supreme court handed down a decision to-day, ousting C. C. Bauer from the office of auditor of Springfield, O. The decision is in favor of M. L. Harris, who was elected last fall. Shortly before the previous term of Mr. Bauer expired he resigned, and being a Democrat, was reappointed by the Democratic mayor of the city to the office and he claimed it was for a full term. The decision throws this aside and installs Mr. Harris.