

## THE NORTH SEA INQUIRY

Semi-Official Statement of Court of Inquiry.

### ADMIRAL'S ACT JUSTIFIED

Believed Squadron Was Endangered and Had Right to Fire—Torpedo Boats Quickly Evident.

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 commission refers 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 commission does not wish the powers interested to simply learn through the press of the last public sitting and the conclusions arrived at.

### CHARGES WITHDRAWN

Investigating Committee of West Virginia Senate Adjourns.

The Senate investigating committee adjourned without substantiating any of the charges made against Gov. A. B. White or any other State official. The committee, consisting of Senators W. H. McGinnis, C. E. Carrigan and Oliver S. Marshall, was appointed to probe the charges against Gov. White made by Senator Caldwell on the floor of the Senate, accusing the Governor of malfeasance in office. It also fell within the scope of the committee to inquire into newspaper stories and other charges against members of the Senate accepting bribes to enact certain legislation.

Senator Caldwell in refutation of the corruption charges made against him in Gov. White's message, read the affidavits of doctors interested in the pending medical legislation, clearing him of any charge of accepting money to champion the bill. Gov. White made a statement that he had never shared in the fees of any beneficiary or appointee.

Gov.-elect W. M. O. Dawson, who was charged with being involved in a scheme to secure a decrease in the fees of foreign corporations in consideration of a division of the decrease by the legislature, also denied any knowledge of the alleged scheme. Senator Caldwell then withdrew the charges and apologized for making the corruption charges against Gov. White or Gov.-elect Dawson.

### SIEGE OF VLADIVOSTOK

Japs With 75,000 Men Advancing, 150,000 in Reserves.

The movement to invest Vladivostok has begun in earnest. A strong Japanese force is en route toward Niguita with the purpose not only of cutting off Vladivostok from communication either by rail or wire from the Russian base at Harbin, but also of establishing a Japanese base from which the retreat of Gen. Kurapatkin from Mukden may be constantly threatened.

Japan has in the movement 75,000 men, a number of whom were with Nogi at Port Arthur. Ready for transport to Possiet bay and Gensan are 150,000 more men, who will be pushed forward to support this movement as rapidly as possible.

It is the purpose of the general staff to cut off Vladivostok from the sea as well as from the land. For this purpose a squadron, consisting of three armored cruisers and a number of smaller craft has been sent to Hakodate and will see that port as a base for the blockading operations.

### 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@35½; X, 30@31; No. 1, 28@28½; No. 2, 28@29; fine unwashed, 24@25; unmerchantable, 27@28; ¼-blood unwashed, 21@22; ½-blood, 20@21; unwashed delaine, 27@28c.

### ALL ON TRAINS ARE KILLED

Derailed by Armenian Revolutionists and Hurled 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 was not known.

### 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.

## Washington Notes.

### Naval Bill Passed.

The House took up the naval appropriation bill and passed the measure, which carries an appropriation of \$99,911,332. The provision for two battleships, as reported by the Committee on Naval Affairs, was retained. Both the majority and minority were badly divided over the proposition, at least 30 members of the latter going over to the Republicans, while about an equal number of Republicans voted in opposition. Several important changes in the bill were made. The proposed increase of 1,200 men and officers for the marine corps was stricken out, as was also the provision authorizing the construction of a collier somewhere else than at the Mare Island navy yard, in California. In order to do the work better an item of \$175,000 was inserted for the proper equipment of the Mare Island yard. For contingent expenses of the marine corps the appropriation was reduced from \$215,000 to \$185,000.

### Colored Troops at Inaugural.

In order to increase the cavalry representation in the inaugural parade and at the same time recognize the colored troops of the regular army, Lieut. Gen. A. R. Chaffee, chief of staff, has directed that the First squadron of the Ninth cavalry at Ft. Riley, Kan., proceed here to take part in the parade. The Ninth cavalry served in Cuba during the Spanish war, and subsequently in the Philippine insurrection. It is one of the four colored regiments in the army, and it was because of the President's recollection of its gallant work at El Caney and San Juan Hill that the Ninth cavalry is to be in the parade. The Tenth also will participate.

### Smoot Investigation to Continue.

No report will be made in the Senate Smoot case during the present Congress. This has been agreed upon by several members of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, for the reason that time does not remain for consideration of the Senate of such report as the committee might make. Members of the committee have practically determined to continue the investigation during the summer. When another meeting of the committee is called Chairman Burrows intends to bring up the question of asking the Senate to grant the committee authority to go to Utah and take testimony.

### Eulogies on Quay.

An extra session of the house of representatives Sunday was devoted to eulogies on the life and character of the late Matthew Stanley Quay. Owing to a misunderstanding regarding the arrangements for the exercises, the attendance was light.

### TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

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 Middle 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 Elkins declares there will be no railway rate legislation this session.

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

Two passengers were killed and one seriously injured in a wreck of a Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad train near Wlota, Iowa.

President Roosevelt declares that the whole power of the administration will be used in the investigation of the Standard Oil Company.

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.

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

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.

Another examination of President William R. Harper, of the University of Chicago, resulted in the announcement that he has cancer of the colon.

## MINE HORROR IN SOUTH

Bodies Recovered Are Mangled Beyond Recognition.

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 unfortunate. 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 dead probably will reach 160 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 by bringing 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 open 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.

### 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, Padi and Kutais, at the eastern end of the Black sea, under the leadership 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 added 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.

### THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

By the president: JOHN HAY, Secretary of State.

### 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 \$2,040,000 for the sinking fund on the first mortgage bonds. June 1 next this will amount to \$12,160,000.

### 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 assailants 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.

### ANOTHER WEST VIRGINIA ROAD.

A charter has been granted to the Grass 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.

### \$258,000 in Securities Stolen.

The securities announced by a Boston law firm thought to have been lost by a client are the property of Herman Stanley Cheney, a capitalist, of South Bridge, Mass. Mr. Cheney made a statement in which he said the lost paper had a face value of \$258,000, instead of \$258,000, as first announced. Of these papers only \$10,000 worth are negotiable. No clue to the missing papers has been found.

## 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.

### 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:

America—A proclamation: 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.

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## 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 minkado 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.

### 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 repaired from the injuries by Kamimura, to take the sea.

### FATAL WRECK.

Two freight trains on the Chautauque division of the Pennsylvania railroad collided head-on seven miles north of Oil City, Pa. Engineer Michael S. Tobin was killed and three injured.

### 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 retirement from the Shakhov river, but taken in connection with the Tsinchitchen 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 out 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 line. The latest dispatches prophesied heavy fighting Friday.

A dispatch from Sachetun dated February 24, says: "The Japanese in superior numbers forced the Russian detachment at Tsinchitchen to abandon their base at Beresnev 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 east flank. 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.

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

## PRONOUNCED PROGRESS

Liberal Pig Iron Tonnage Purchased With Business Well Distributed.

Quotations Are Holding Firm.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade" says: Better weather has greatly improved trade in many sections of the country, spring merchandise being distributed freely by jobbers, while retail business and merchandise collections are more normal. Interior buyers are placing liberal orders in the large cities, and preparations for structural work are hurried. Manufacturing lines have made splendid progress since the opening of the year, especially the various divisions of the steel industry, and textile mills are well engaged.

Shops have ample spring business, but orders for fall delivery are delayed by the recent advance in prices that was necessitated by higher cost of production—particularly as to the raw material. In almost every branch of business there is confidence in active trade with the appearance of settled weather. Winter wheat is in good condition, but cotton planting will average much later than last year.

Prices of commodities are still firm. Railway earnings for the month of February thus far were 6.2 per cent. smaller than last year, and foreign commerce at this port for the last week made another phenomenal record as to imports, exceeding the same week last year by \$9,347,234, while exports were \$2,321,406 larger. Progress is most pronounced in the iron and steel industry. A very liberal tonnage of pig iron has been purchased, indicating that confidence is increasing, and the business is well distributed, while quotations are firmly held, but not advanced as yet.

Steel mills are now running at nearer full capacity than at any recent date, orders coming forward continually. Railway companies seek all forms of equipment, particularly rolling stock and steel rails. There is enough of this business in sight to insure full activity for several months at the leading mills, and in many instances orders cover deliveries up to the end of the year. Evidence of conservatism in the markets for finished steel is considered the best indication of continued prosperity. Leather is irregular, owing to special sales at slightly lower prices, although list quotations are not altered. It is believed that reasonable orders at shoe factories would restore normal conditions.

Failures this week numbered 252 in the United States against 240 last year and 29 in Canada, captured with 22 a year ago.

### CAPITAL NOTES.

The President sent to the Senate nominations of the following Ohio postmasters: Miner T. Vandeventer, 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.

### 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 Walcker-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.

### NEWS NOTES.

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

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.

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 Sena, a former employe. Sena was captured by several citizens who witnessed the shooting. Sena 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 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.

### 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.

## KEYSTONE STATE COLLINGS

MURDER ENDS CAROUSAL.

Trouble Over a Woman, It Is Said, Results in the Killing of a Slav.

In a fight between intoxicated Slavs at the plant of the Brier Hill Coke Co., six miles from Brownsville, John Hudok was killed by a revolver bullet fired, it is alleged, by John Boles, his cousin. Trouble over a woman, it is said, was the cause of the shooting. County Detective Alexander McBeth went to Brier Hill to-day. The murderer fled and has not been arrested.

Under suspicion of having murdered a fellow-miner, Joseph Molnot and Frank Wargo, of the Vesta Coal Company's No. 2 mine at California, were arrested. The alleged victim, Joseph Zember, a foreigner, was killed yesterday while working in No. 4 mine. Molnot and Wargo were working in a room, separated from Zember's room by a narrow rib of coal. Molnot and Wargo set off a blast and did not warn Zember, the latter being killed.

A successful revival