

The First Land Encounter Took Place on Yesterday

A Picket of Cossacks Attack a Small Detachment of Japanese Troops in Korean Territory--The Cossacks Capture Prisoners--The Official Russian Messenger Publishes an Account of Events Immediately Preceding the Rupture.

(By Associated Press) St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.--A dispatch from Port Arthur today says the first land encounter occurred yesterday. A picket of Cossacks attacked a small detachment of Japanese troops in Korean territory. The Cossack captured some Japanese prisoners, on whom they found some maps and papers. The collision was presumably between reconnoitering parties. An engagement is not expected immediately. A Port Arthur dispatch says the Japanese fleet was observed last Tuesday evening off that port. Reports from North Korea says Cossacks are showing a decided friendly attitude towards the Russians. The Manchurian Railroad is conveying the troops without difficulty to the various points of concentration. Native reports say that Chinese parties, since the outbreak of hostilities have been playing actively in Eastern Asiatic waters.

Russian Account of Events. St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.--The Russian account of events immediately preceding the rupture with Japan is published in the Official Messenger today with the object of rectifying certain statements that have emanated from Japanese sources. It is stated that on the receipt of the last report of Japan's proposals January 16, the Government immediately proceeded to examine the Japanese demands and on January 25 M. Kurino, the Japanese minister, was informed that the Czar had entrusted the proposals to a special conference, the members of which should meet January 28 and His Majesty's decision would probably not be given before February 2.

On the last named day Emperor Nicholas ordered for preparation a draft of definite instructions to Baron De Rosen, the Russian minister to Japan, based on the deliberations of this conference. February 3 the identical telegrams were sent Viceroy Alexieff and De Rosen containing the text of the draft of the proposed Russo-Japanese agreement with a full statement of the reasons prompting the modifying of the Japanese proposals. Forty-eight hours before the receipt of the news of the rupture Foreign Minister Lamsdorff notified M. Kurino of the dispatch and of the Russian reply.

February 5 Viceroy Alexieff notified the foreign office of De Rosen's receipt of the reply. February 6, 4 p. m., M. Kurino quite unexpectedly handed Count Lamsdorff two notes notifying him of the rupture of negotiations and diplomatic relations, adding that he and staff would leave St. Petersburg.

February 10, the same day Alexieff, De Rosen and all the Russian representatives at Peking and Tokyo and the capitals of the great powers, were informed by urgent telegrams of the rupture and the issuing of imperial order withdrawing the Russian legation at Tokyo, laying on Japan the responsibility of all consequences.

Breaking the Record. St. Petersburg, Feb. 19.--War Minister Kurovskii, who is going to the Far East, will be appointed commander-in-chief of the army operations there, and Vice Admiral Makaroff, who is now on his way east on a train which is expected to reach Port Arthur in ten days, breaking all previous records, is to be commander-in-chief of the navy.

Rear Admiral Jensen has been appointed to succeed Rear Admiral Ewald Von Stackelberg, commander of the Vladivostok squadron. Rear Admiral Jensen has the reputation of being a bold sailor who does not hesitate in an emergency. He will leave St. Petersburg immediately. Although Viceroy Alexieff has been criticized in some quarters, there is no intimation that he will not retain the Viceroyalty in the Far East. It is possible, however, that the active direction of field movements may pass out of his hands.

Japan's Response. Tokyo, Feb. 19.--The response of Japan to the request of China for a statement of its position in regard to the neutrality of the latter country was made public today. It says Japan will respect the neutrality of China so long as Russia does the same and that the

musoleums and palaces at Mukden and Hsing Kiang and other public buildings in China everywhere will be secure from any injury not attributable to the action of Russia. Furthermore the rights of Chinese officials and inhabitants within the zone of military operations will, in their persons and property, be fully respected and protected by the imperial forces, so far as military necessity permits. The imperial government have no intention to acquire territory at the expense of China as a result of the conflict.

It was declared that whatever action Japan may take as a result of military necessity will not impair Chinese sovereignty. Formally Received at Tokio. Tokio, Feb. 19.--The crews of the Nishin and Kasuga, the two cruisers purchased by the Japanese government from Italy, were formally received today in Tokio. There was an enormous crowd of spectators. The spectators were welcomed by Mayor Ozaki, who said they had done more than undertake a perilous journey. They were the bearers and embodiment of the sympathy for Japan and of the enlightened West.

Principles Acceptable. Berlin, Feb. 20.--The Foreign Office several days ago instructed the German Ambassador at St. Petersburg and the Minister of Germany at Tokio to communicate to those governments Germany's adherence to the principles contained in Secretary Hay's note on the neutrality of China. Both powers gave a general assurance that those principles were acceptable to them.

Russia's Reply. Paris, Feb. 20.--It is announced that the Russian Foreign Minister, Count Lamsdorff, today received from Washington stating that the Russian policy is considered responsible to the American note on China, and would be communicated to the governments of China and Japan. This favorable response to the United States by Russia is highly gratifying to the officials here, as it counteracts the mischievous reports to the effect that the Russian answer was equivalent to a rejection. As a matter of fact the Russian reply is exactly the same as the other powers, recognizing the neutrality of China, with the exception of Manchuria. The terms of the Russian reply are substantially as follows: "Russia will be glad to join the other powers in recognizing China's neutrality, on three conditions. "First, That China shall maintain neutrality. "Second, That Japan shall loyally support this neutrality. "Third, That Manchuria, being the field of military operations, shall not be included."

Situation at Port Arthur Unchanged. St. Petersburg, Feb. 20.--Major General Pfung, Chief Staff of Viceroy Alexieff, telegraphed from Port Arthur as follows: "The situation at Port Arthur is unchanged. A sortie of Cossacks, marching from Wiju, have captured a Japanese Major, five soldiers and two civilians. The reports regarding the enemy are generally contradictory and scarce." It is confirmed that troops of Yuan Shai Kai, Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese army are being dispatched to Tsin Hon and Kihautz. All is quiet in Manchuria.

MR. HEATH RESIGNS. As Secretary of the National Republican Committee. Cleveland, Feb. 20.--Perry S. Heath, former Assistant Postmaster-General and secretary of the Republican National Committee, wired his resignation of the latter position from here today to Acting Chairman Payne, at Washington, as follows: "Due to the death of our chairman, Mr. Hanna, I tender to you my resignation as secretary of the Republican National Committee, effective immediately." Mr. Heath states that the telegram told the whole story and he had nothing to add.

Way Now Clear for Congressman Dick, Dead Man's Most Intimate Friend. Cleveland, Feb. 20.--Prominent Republicans held an important conference here today, the result of which may foreshadow the selection of Senator Hanna's successor. At the conclusion of the conference Governor Herrick said: "I am not and will not be a candidate for the place." It is generally admitted that the action of Governor Herrick leaves the way clear for Congressman Dick to become a candidate for the vacant place. It is said that Dick will have practically the entire Republican organization in his favor.

State Weather Forecasts. For North Carolina: Fair tonight, Sunday rain or snow. Pres to brisk northeast to east winds.

remain with colors, except those whose service is about to terminate. These measures have caused much excitement, which is added to by the rumors that this military activity is due to the fact that in the event of a continental war, Great Britain intends to seize all points on the Spanish coast.

MAY WHEAT \$1.07.

Sensational Advance in Grain Market Today.

(By Associated Press) Chicago, Feb. 20.--May wheat today sold at \$1.07 per bushel. The grain is four cents over last night's close. The market was extremely active and the volume of trading enormous. The sensational advance was due largely to the anxiety of speculators who were afraid to maintain open trades over the two days recess of board trade.

FOR BREACH OF PROMISE.

Miss Lilly Combs, of Charlotte, Wants \$5,000 Alleged Damage.

A phone message from Statesville this afternoon says that Chas. A. Dulin was arrested there yesterday on a capias issued in Mecklenburg county and forwarded by Sheriff Wallace to Statesville, charging Dulin with breach of promise, the complainant being Miss Lilly Combs, of Charlotte, who sues for \$5,000, alleged damages. Dulin is a son of Mr. W. M. Dulin, a prominent citizen of Iredell county. Dulin was arrested in Statesville, but was released upon a bond of \$2,000 for his appearance at the March term of civil court in Charlotte.

EXTRA EXCITING SCENES IN PARIS

(By Associated Press) Paris, Feb. 20.--Wild excitement prevailed on the Bourse today as the result of the startling and contradictory reports concerning possible world complications growing out of the war. The rumors included the mobilization of the German and French armies. The evening papers also said that a serious influence was exercised by the report of difficulties between the United States and Russia in consequence of the refusal of Russia to grant ex-equator to Mr. Morgan as United States consul at Dabny. The financiers have asserted that the market is in such a sensational condition that the wildest rumors are taken up, which may lead to serious complications. They say that not since the eighties have there been such scenes on the Bourse. Leading securities began to fall, and during the hours heavy depreciations occurred on all sides, leading to brutal sacrifices of values. Foreign officers denied the report on the Bourse of the mobilization of the French army, and that such steps have also been taken by Germany. The foreign officials also declared the panic utterly without reason.

IMPORTANT DECISION

By the Supreme Court of South Carolina.

Columbia, Feb. 20.--The Supreme Court of South Carolina has rendered a decision in the case of the First National Bank of Charlotte against T. B. Lee and W. H. Lyles, affirming the order of appeal. The case involves old revenue bonds scrip offered by Lyles for taxes. The above is a test case raised by Mr. W. H. Lyles concerning the validity of the famous Blue Ridge revenue bond scrip which has caused so much trouble since its issue by the State of South Carolina. The case in point is the recovery of a tract of land which had been sold to pay taxes. Mr. Lyles, the defendant, offered to pay taxes with scrip, and was refused by Mr. Hugh S. Wylie, the treasurer of Fairfield county. As there is more than a million dollars worth of the scrip in existence, the case is an interesting and important one.

THE CANAL COMMISSION

The President Has Selected the Members.

(By Associated Press) Washington, Feb. 20.--President Roosevelt has selected the men who are to constitute the new Panama Canal Commission and formal announcement will be made of the personnel of the commission as soon as the treaty with Panama has been ratified. Tuesday, Rear-Admiral John C. Walker, president of the present canal commission, will be a member of the new commission, probably its head, and Gen. George W. Davis also will be a member. In addition Col. Frank C. Hecker, Director Transportation during Spanish war, was chosen for a place on the commission and has indicated his acceptance. The commission will be composed of seven members. The other four have been selected, but no intimation has been given as to who they will be except that one prominent man in Louisiana is understood to be one. Certain it is that former Senator James K. Jones, of Kansas, former Governor Sayers, of Texas, Isham Randolph, of Chicago, former president drainage canal and former Senator Harris, of Kansas, are likely to be considered in connection with the commission.

SENATOR HANNA'S SUCCESSOR

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TWENTY-FIVE ARE KILLED OUTRIGHT IN AN EXPLOSION

Car of Dynamite Explodes With Fatal Results--Accident Occurred on the Southern Pacific Railway Today.

The Explosion was Due to a Collision of Freight Trains at Jackson, Utah--Fifteen Were Severely Injured, Several Fatally.

(By Associated Press) Ogden, Utah, Feb. 20.--Twenty-five killed and fifteen injured, several of them fatally, and a great amount of railroad property destroyed, is the result of an explosion of a car load of dynamite at Jackson, on the western end of the Ogden-Lucien cut of the Southern Pacific railway. The explosion was caused by the collision of freight trains due to the failure of the air brakes to work. Eight of the dead and five of the injured are Americans. The others are Greek laborers. Everything within a half mile of the disaster was wrecked. The town of Terrace, fifteen miles north, was shaken as if by an earthquake. The bodies of the dead were torn to bits, and scattered hundreds of feet away.

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THE WAREHOUSEMEN PETITION FOR AID

Complaint is Made to Corporation Commission That Railroads Charge Too Much on Empty Hogsheads --Mr. Schloss Wins Out.

(Special The News) Raleigh, Feb. 20.--The Corporation Commission has received petitions from the tobacco warehouse of the various tobacco towns in the State asking that the freight classification of empty hogsheads, be lowered. They are now shipped at double first class charges. The warehousemen will fight for at least a reduction to the first class freight. The commission has named Tuesday, February 23rd, as the date for the hearing. Mr. W. B. Clifford, was appointed this morning the receiver for the Bank of Dunn, which was closed by the corporation commission a few days ago. The appointment was made by Judge W. B. Allen at Winston-Salem on the petition of the commission. Mr. Clifford will take charge at once. There was a conference this morning between Dr. P. L. Murphy of the State Hospital at Morganton and Dr. McKee, of the State Hospital at Raleigh regarding the affairs of the two hospitals, number of patients in the respective districts outside institutions and with the view to an equalization of admissions to hospitals and to submitting this information to the boards of directors for any action they may see proper. Daniel McCrackin, of counsel for Jabel Register, who is under sentence to be handed at Whiteville February 25th, applied to Governor Aycock this morning for a stay of execution, on account of the confusion Register has made implicating another man named White. The Governor says he will take no action unless he is asked by the solicitor of that judicial district. Bids for the remodelled Academy of Music were opened by the Raleigh Auditorium Co., today and a five-year lease was awarded to S. A. Schloss, of Wilmington.

WHOLE FAMILY POISONED.

Rowan County Has Sensation--Negro Dies From Burns.

Salisbury, Feb. 20.--The entire family of Henry Sells, six in all, were poisoned yesterday at their home in Rowan county by eating bread made from flour said to contain arsenic. Flour taken from the top of the sack was in good condition but the sack was later emptied out into a wooden bucket and bread made from that which was in the bottom of the sack was found to contain large quantities of arsenic. It is thought the arsenic was carried to the flour by rats which had been nosing about a box of "Rough on Rats" which contains arsenic. At last accounts it was thought that there would be no fatalities in the family although Mrs. Sells was quite ill. Henry Holden, an aged negro, died yesterday as the result of burns received while lying before the fire at the County Home several days ago.

Basket Ball Tonight.

The Buffaloes and the Kangaroos will contest in a game of basket ball tonight at 8:15 o'clock. Much interest is being manifested in the game. All friends of the Association invited.

INGRAM CHARGED WITH OTHER CRIME

Said to Have Stolen \$1,200 Worth of Jewelry From a Resident of York rs, N. Y. --Negro Taken Back to Scene of his Crime.

Claud Ingram, the New York diamond thief was carried to New York this morning in charge of Detective Monohan who arrived in the city last night from the Metropolis. The officer brought with him another warrant charging Ingram with a second jewelry robbery of nearly as large proportions as the first charge. The warrant in the second case charges Ingram with stealing \$1,200 worth of jewelry in Yorkers, New York. The second robbery, according to Detective Monohan, who discussed the matter with Chief Irwin this morning, was very similar to the theft committed by Ingram in New York. The negro entered a room in a house in which he employed and while the occupants were elsewhere, he secured the jewelry. It is likely that Ingram will spend a good many years in prison before he is a free man. Jewelry to the extent of \$2,700 is not to be picked up every day and the case against Ingram is a serious one taken from any standpoint.

COURT ENDING.

Stock Exchange Presentments Continued--The Scamble Case.

There was a flutter of excitement in the grand jury room this morning when witnesses were called to be examined in the presentment cases against three leading stock brokers here. The witnesses were carefully examined, however, and after due deliberation the grand jury decided to continue the cases until the next term of court.

By reason of the dispatch with which Judge McNeill and Solicitor Webb have conducted the court this week it was thought this afternoon that court would adjourn before night, sine die, although it was expected that a two week's term would be held. Little's conviction camp on the Salisbury road. We find 42 convicts at this camp, and everything in order and well kept. We have also visited West's convict camp located on the Pineville road, this likewise is in good condition. There are 42 convicts here. "We also visited the County Home. There are 28 white and 27 colored inmates. These are all comfortably housed and well cared for." Signed, T. J. RENO, Foreman.

The court today put in nearly the entire day on the case of J. W. Scamble, the white man charged with burning his house at the Atherton mills about January 1. Scamble was represented by Mr. Plummer Stewart, the prosecution being conducted by Solicitor Webb. The case was being argued at the hour of going to press. Will Dunlap was given four months on the roads for larceny.

Mormon Elder Attempts Suicide.

(By Associated Press) Kansas City, Feb. 20.--Lorenzo Cross, said to be a Mormon Elder, fatally wounded himself while on the way from Atlanta to Arizona, in a Pullman. He was brought to Kansas City, where it is said he cannot live but a few hours. He was stationed at Richmond, Va., until two years ago and was then transferred to Atlanta. From a letter in his pocket it is believed the tragedy is due to domestic troubles.

Hon. W. J. Bryan in Charlotte; He Talks to the News Man

He Says the Only Thing That Disturbed the Solidity of the South Was the Advent of Clevelandism--As to Who Would Lead the Democratic Hosts in the Coming Election Mr. Bryan Frankly Admits He Has Formed No Idea

William Jennings Bryan, twice the nominee of the Democratic party for the presidency, spent a short while in Charlotte at noon today en route from Spartanburg to Greensboro, where he will speak tonight. Mr. Bryan occupied a seat midway of the rear sleeper on Number 36 and was busily engaged in writing when discovered by a News reporter. Mr. Bryan shook hands cordially and talked interestingly of the future of the Democratic party and other matters of great import to all Democrats. In reply to a request for a statement as to the future of the Democratic party, its chances of success, and who should be put forward as the party's leader Mr. Bryan said: "The chances of the party depend upon the conduct of the party. If Republican policies are bad, as I believe they are, we should get as far from the Republican position as possible, not as near to it as possible." "What about the 'Solid South'?" was asked of Mr. Bryan. "Mr. Cleveland's administration," he replied, "was the only thing that shook it and it would be shaken again by a return to Clevelandism."

Mr. Bryan was asked whom he considered the proper man to assume the leadership of the party at this time. The Nebraskaan however said that he had not made up his mind on this important question and consequently at this time could offer no suggestions. Mr. Bryan spoke in words of praise of the ability of the late Mark Hanna and told the News representative that in his opinion the party had lost one of its strongest men. "Whether Mr. Hanna's place can be filled from the ranks of the party now, I do not know," said Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Bryan is not attempting to conceal his extreme disapproval of Cleveland and Clevelandism. "A recent interview of Mr. Cleveland's is thoroughly scored by Mr. Bryan who says that Cleveland is now speaking in serious terms of the dangers of Imperialism although he seemed indifferent to the issue when his party was trying to prevent the giving up of national ideals after his first administration. Mr. Bryan takes no stock in Cleveland's advice to the party and says that all who know Cleveland should know that he wouldn't vote for any man who had not given himself over to Wall street and that Mr. Cleveland is aware that the men who have reduced the party platform to a mere commercialism are the ones who would support him in his candidacy and be glad to see him elected."

Mr. Bryan today appeared to be in excellent health. His complexion is clear and his eye shows that his keen perception of men and affairs is still as strong as ever. Mr. Bryan was almost buried under a pile of papers, valises and other traveling necessities as he sat in his seat this morning with a writing tablet in front of him and his elbows resting thereon. Mr. Bryan appeared to be in deep thought today with perhaps just a trace of weariness apparent resulting from his hard work of yesterday and Thursday and extensive travelling. Mr. Bryan was unaccompanied. As the train waited here only a few minutes, the interview was soon, out short and Mr. Bryan continued on his way to Greensboro where tonight a big ovation will be given him, and an address will be delivered by him in that city. In regard to Mr. Cleveland's article in the Saturday Evening Post, Mr. Bryan said: "The statements he makes, are in line with his utterances of the last three years. During the campaign of 1900 when imperialism was the paramount issue, and when we were pointing out the dangers of a colonial policy, he was silent. As soon as the election was over, and the trusts firmly installed for the next four years, he came out from his hiding place and began to offer advice to the Democratic party. He has ventured to repeat that advice at intervals ever since, and in his last utterance he spoke gravely of the dangers of imperialism, to which he seemed so indifferent when his party, or rather his former party, hand-picked by the intrigues of his former administration, was laboring to prevent a surrender of national ideals. "He is now predicting success to the



WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

FIRE AT PLATFORM.

Cotton Burns For a Few Minutes, After which Crowd Finds Other Amusement. This morning at about 11 o'clock fire broke out in a lot of cotton on the Seaboard Air Line platform. The department was called and arrived before the fire had made much progress. The cotton was rolled off the platform and a stream of water put into play. The flames were extinguished about ten minutes after the fire was discovered. The loss was slight. After the fire the crowd which had assembled was entertained by the large pile driver which is working on the Seaboard tracks. At each lick of the huge weight somebody in the crowd would laugh as if it was a monkey dancing. The machine is a powerful affair driving the pile eight or ten inches into the ground at each stroke.

AGED LADY DIES.

Passes Away Today at the Home of Her Daughter, Mrs. W. M. Smith. At 1:50 o'clock this afternoon Mrs. J. W. Peckins died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. M. Smith. The deceased was 76 years old at the time of her death and was well known and much beloved by those who came in contact with her during her stay here. The services will be at the home tomorrow and the remains will be taken to Petersburg, Va., for burial.

Mrs. Fore Aids Fire Sufferers.

Mr. J. A. Fore has interested himself in behalf of those who lost all of their possessions in the burned cottages near the batting factory of Jno. B. Ross, Thursday evening. Mr. Fore at once began a canvass for assistance and has raised over \$50. Of this amount \$16 was contributed by the Knights of Pythias here. Monday at the Post Office. There will be no city delivery by carriers. The general delivery and carriers windows will be open from 12 o'clock noon to 1:30 p. m. Stamp window will be open the same hours. Money order department will remain closed during the entire day. Rural Free Delivery carriers will make no trips during the day. Very respectfully, R. W. SMITH, Postmaster.

Bishop Brown's Views Opposed

(By Associated Press) Boston, Feb. 20.--Leading Episcopal Clergymen of the Diocese of Massachusetts deplore the sever criticism of the negro race in the South, recently made here by Right Rev. William M. Brown, or Arkansas. At a special meeting held last night a number of the most prominent clergy-

France Making Ready for War

(By Associated Press) Madrid, Feb. 20.--Two regiments of infantry stationed at San Sebastian and two at Pampeluna are held in readiness to start for Blearic Island. War Minister Linares has also sent a circular ordering the recall of all soldiers on furlough and the men are to