

RUMORS THAT TWO SQUADRONS ARE ENGAGED

It Was Known That the Port Arthur Squadron was Seeking to Make a Sortie and Join the Vladivostock Fleet.

The Sound of Firing Indicates That the Fleets Have Met. News From the Sunken Transports. Chinese forced from Port Arthur.

(By Associated Press)

Tokio, June 17.—A report has been received from Sagan that sounds of cannonading have been heard off the coast. It is possible that the Japanese fleet has met the Russians.

The Vladivostock Squadron. London, June 17.—The Japanese legation received a dispatch from Tokio that the Russian Vladivostock squadron was sighted off Oki Island yesterday.

The Two Russian Squadrons. St. Petersburg, June 7.—A dispatch received today from Vladivostock, showing that the commander there is getting rid of the remaining civilian population strengthens the belief here that preparations are being made there for the reception of Admiral Wittsoff's squadron when it comes out of Port Arthur and that active preparations against the city are imminent. The Admiralty denies knowledge of the whereabouts of the Vladivostock squadron.

Chinese Must Keep Away. Tokio, June 17.—It is reported the Russians have ordered the Chinese to keep outside a radius of seven miles from Port Arthur. Many Chinese arriving here say they are unable to obtain supplies in Port Arthur, but that the Russians have full rations for six months. It is stated that during the bombardment of Shaoping Tao, June 13, the Japanese destroyed a light house.

Sinking of the Transports. Tokio, June 17.—Details of the sinking of the transport Hitachi by a Russian battleship are being furnished by the survivors. The Russian ships were sighted at seven o'clock in the morning, and obeying signals the Hitachi stopped. At ten she got under way and attempted to escape. The Russians followed and opened a heavy fire directed about the water line with the evident intention of destroying the troops on board. The fire was terrific and in a few moments the decks were covered with bodies and awash with blood. One shot struck the engine room, killing two hundred men. The ship began to fill and gradually sank by the stern. At six in the evening it was completely submerged. Captain Campbell the English master of transport, jumped overboard at two in the afternoon, and is among the missing. The chief engineer killed himself. The second mate ordered the flag burned and committed suicide. Many of the crew escaped in boats. The transport Sado is still afloat, but badly damaged, and is being towed into the nearest port. She was sighted by the Russians thirty-five miles west of Shiro Island. Signals to stop were heeded, so the Russians opened fire and signalled those aboard the Sado to leave the ship. The crew then took to boats and thus escaped when the ship was eventually fired by the enemy. A number of men were on the transports, and the list of casualties is not yet obtainable.

No Cause for the Killing. New Chung, June 17.—The investigation of the death of Lewis Etzel, correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, who was killed by Chinese soldiers off the Liao Tung Peninsula June 7, has been finished. The jury finds no cause for attacking the correspondent and makes several recommendations which United States Consul General Miller wishes not to make public now. Miller is expected to make a report to Minister Conger, at Peking, where he will arrive today.

American Correspondent Jailed. Indianapolis, Ind., June 17.—A cablegram to The News from Stanley Washburn, special correspondent of The Chicago Daily News at Che-Foo, says that Hector Fuller, correspondent of The Indianapolis News, had been captured by the Russians and taken to Port Arthur. He was blindfolded and put in prison. The State Department at Washington was notified Wednesday that Fuller, who started from Che-Foo in an open boat with two Chinese oarsmen for Port Arthur, had landed in the vicinity of that city June 12th.

Sado Safe. Tokio, June 17.—The steamer Sado has arrived at Kokura, bringing more of the crew and troops from the transport Sado. The Sado is safe and is being towed into port by the Hino.

Ransom Ready. Tangier, June 17.—Mohammed El Torres has caused the arrest of Shells Benime and Sahuer, as commanded by Raisuili. The amount of the ransom demanded by Raisuili for the release of Perdicaris and Varley is ready. Raisuili's answer is expected at the end of this week.

Collision of Japanese Vessels. Nagasaki, June 17.—The transport Katsuno, entering Moji last night, collided with the Yamatoken. The latter sank. The transport Sado, damaged by Russian shells, is ashore at Okino Island. The steamer Hino has gone from Moji to assist the Sado. None of the maritime registers give the vessel, whose name is Yamatoken.

Chinese Refugees. Chee Foo, June 17.—Two thousand Chinese, mostly small merchants, have arrived here in junks from Port Arthur. After the Chinese were ordered out of Port Arthur, the Russians confiscated all provisions and cattle. The fighting on both land and sea continues. The result is not known to the Chinese. The latter believe that the Russians are able to hold out no longer, and are preparing to destroy the place. There are arrivals also from Dahn today. They are likewise ignorant of the result of recent fighting. They say that there are fully a hundred and fifty thousand Japanese, including collier carriers, landed on the Liao Tung Peninsula.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRATS.

They Adopt a Platform That Rings of True Democracy.

Hot Springs, Ark., June 17.—After discussing for three hours the platform committee's report, the Democratic State convention has adjourned, after adopting the platform as recommended.

The platform says in part: "The Democracy of Arkansas, in convention assembled, renews its allegiance to the fundamental principles of government as expressed in Democratic platforms throughout the existence of the party and accepted the platform of principles adopted by the last Democratic national convention as binding upon us as Democrats until changed by succeeding national conventions. In view of the near approach of the national convention of the Democratic party at St. Louis, we defer to that body a more specific declaration of principles upon national questions, and pledge the Democratic party of Arkansas to an acceptance and cordial endorsement of the same."

Among the declarations of national questions, the platform says: "We condemn President Roosevelt, among other things, especially for his public and private conduct tending to stir up bitterness between the different sections of the country and to make the negro believe that he is the social and otherwise equal of the white man."

The convention reaffirms the declaration of former national and State conventions against trusts, pools, combinations and conspiracies against trade, whereby prices or rates are fixed in restraint in any wise of the free open competition in any line of business. A plank was adopted to the effect that hereafter the candidate for United States Senator who receives the highest vote in the primary election shall be declared the party nominee for that office. The course of the two United States Senators from Arkansas is approved in connection with the ratification of the treaty with Panama, "that makes possible at this time the construction of the Isthmian waterway."

RAISULI'S DEMANDS. They Are Too Unreasonable to be Granted—His Life Will be Forfeited if Anything Happens to Perdicaris.

Washington, June 17.—In a cablegram to the State Department today Consul General Gummare at Tangier indicates that Raisuili has exaggerated his demands to a point to where they have become ridiculous. It is quite certain that this government cannot comply with any demands relating to itself, and cannot consistently require the Sultan to meet Raisuili's demands. It is admitted that if the bandit means to carry out his threats, the captives are in great danger.

Their lives are regarded as an insufficient stake to warrant the government's establishing the dangerous precedent that would follow granting Raisuili's demands, for with strong temptation offered the lawless tribesmen of Morocco, no foreigners would be there. All that can be done now is to await the outcome of the present negotiations, hoping that Raisuili will abate his demands and make sure that he learns this government will demand his life if he executes the captives.

CORBIN PROMOTED. Succeeds General Wade in Command of the Philippine Division.

Washington, June 17.—Major General Henry C. Corbin has been ordered to command the division of the Philippines succeeding Major General Wade, the order to take effect in October. General Corbin at present commands the division of the Atlantic and Department of the East with headquarters at Governor's Island, N. Y. He will have had about a year and a half of service in the Philippines when Lieutenant General Chaffee reaches the retiring age.

Passenger Train Held Up. Missoula, Mont., June 17.—North Pacific passenger train No. 2, east-bound has been held up at Bear Mouth. No particulars as yet. This is the spot where Engineer O'Neill was killed in a hold-up two years ago.



A WHITE ELEPHANT ON HIS HANDS.

NORTH CAROLINA BUILDING AND LOAN

The Final Session Last Night. Three Strong Papers, one by Mr. D. A. Tompkins. Officers Elected for the Coming Year.

Wilmington, June 17.—The final session of the North Carolina Building and Loan League was held last night at the Seashore Hotel with a larger attendance than at any previous meeting. Three very strong papers were read and each was generally discussed.

The following officers were elected: President, S. Wittkowsky, of Charlotte. Vice President, T. A. Marshall, of Wadesboro. Secretary and Treasurer, E. L. Keesler, of Charlotte.

INTERNATIONAL MOTOR RACE. A Cosmopolitan Gathering—The Course 350 Miles—The Race is for the James Gordon Bennett Cup.

Saalburg, Germany, June 17.—A great event in the international motoring world was witnessed this morning by a cosmopolitan gathering including Emperor William, Empress Princess Henry and others of the royal family. The course was 87 1/2 miles, necessitating four turns to complete the distance of 350 miles. The course was in excellent condition, though many sharp curves and sudden falls and rises and steep embankments presented many dangers. The race was for the James Gordon Bennett cup, Janitzky, the winner of the contest last year, started first followed seven minutes later by Edge, of England, and by others at regular intervals.

They Wins. Saalburg, Germany, June 17.—They, the French representative, won the race. Janitzky was second.

GOVERNOR NASH IN EXTREMIS. The Former Governor of Ohio Has Been Told He Cannot Recover.

Columbus, Ohio, June 17.—Former Governor Nash is at death's door, being kept alive only by stimulants. He is conscious at intervals. Physicians have informed him that he cannot recover.

Florida Editors on a Jaunt. Chattanooga, Tenn., June 17.—More than a hundred of the Florida Press Association are here today on the way to the St. Louis Exposition.

CORPORATIONS CHARTERED.

The News From the Capital City With the News of Capital Folks.

Raleigh, N. C., June 17.—The Pitt County Oil Co., of Winterville is chartered with \$10,000 capital for the purpose of operating a cotton seed oil mill and knitting mill. H. A. White and A. G. Cox, being the principal incorporators.

Another charter was to the Lexington House Furnishing Co., \$25,000 capital. S. H. Tomlinson, D. M. Wilber and L. J. Peacock are the principal incorporators.

During the ceremonial session of the Oasis Temple last night, thirty-six candidates were initiated, the new nobles being well known citizens from every part of this and adjacent States. They were: J. L. Cobb, Columbia, S. C.; R. E. Buck, Greensboro; H. L. Hopkins, Greensboro; M. C. S. Noble and J. R. Rountree, Chapel Hill; John R. Barron, Rock Hill, S. C.; John H. Anderson, Pittsboro, N. C.; John H. Witherspoon, Rock Hill, S. C.; L. A. Brown, Concord; John L. Dobs, Charlotte; Clarence E. Fairbanks, Thomasville; Edw. L. Armstrong, Jamestown; Oscar C. Durland, High Point; Leo D. Heatt, Raleigh; H. L. Fowler, Wilson A. F. Duff, Darlington, S. C.; H. B. Smith, New Bern; John C. Stuart, Wilson; C. B. Barber, S. C.; H. Hinsdale, Raleigh; L. G. Roper, Roper, N. C.; W. T. Hundley, High Point; John P. McNeill, Lumberton; Thos. W. Russell, Weldon; B. A. Hawkins, Columbia, S. C.; John McMyre and Edward McCreight, Camden, S. C.; Arthur R. Law, Durham; W. M. Yearby, Durham; Chas. C. Thomas, Durham; Geo. H. Davidson, Asheville; Wilber Jones, High Point; W. C. Jones, High Point; Rev. F. A. Bishop, Raleigh; P. B. Fleming, Raleigh; Rev. J. J. Carden, Lurham.

Insurance Commissioner Young issues a statement warning lumbermen and wood working companies against insuring with the Lumber Mutual Insurance Co. of Boston, Mass. They are trying to avoid the payment of the State license tax by having those who take out policies to name a certain trust company of Boston as their attorney and in this way the North Carolina courts would lose jurisdiction in any case growing out of the terms of the policy.

The North Carolina Code Commission today awarded the contract for the printing of the code to E. M. Uzell of Raleigh, his bid being \$2,104. Other bidders were Edwards & Broughton, Raleigh, \$2,165.87; Queen City Printing Co., Charlotte, \$2,183.88; Nash Bros., Goldsboro, \$2,254. The type metal will be purchased by the State and held for the permanent edition and probably for a second edition after changes by three or four legislatures have been incorporated.

Mr. Alex J. Fields, secretary to the Democratic State Executive Committee has prepared and will have introduced in the approaching State Convention, a resolution for legalized primaries. It will declare that "in order that we may have a government of the people, for the people and by the people in its highest and best sense, we are in favor of legalizing all political primaries; and of enacting a mild compulsory law, not burdening, but sufficient to secure a general participation not only in the elections but also in the political primaries by those entitled to exercise the elective franchise." Mr. Fields says that the attendance on the Democratic primaries is so alarmingly small that some steps must be taken to increase the attendance and ascertain the will of the people.

Florida Editors on a Jaunt. Chattanooga, Tenn., June 17.—More than a hundred of the Florida Press Association are here today on the way to the St. Louis Exposition.

FEDERAL COURT ADJOURNS TODAY

Only Trivial Cases Have Been Tried. The Bonds of Breese, Penland and Dickerson Have Been Filed. Notified to Appear July 12.

Federal Court will adjourn this afternoon. Judge Boyd leaves for his home in Greensboro at 7:10 o'clock this evening and the other court officials will leave either tonight or in the morning.

This term of the Federal Court has not been marked by the trial of any special cases. The re-sentence of Lawrence Pulliam was about the most interesting procedure during the four days' term.

This morning the bonds of Breese, Penland and Dickerson, the Asheville bank officers, were approved and these men were ordered to appear in Charlotte at the special term, which will convene in Charlotte July 12, which is on Tuesday.

The criminal docket was called over this morning and with the cases continued and those heard, the docket was well nigh exhausted.

Only one sentence was changed, Tom Mauney, colored, who was sentenced to one month and to pay a fine of \$100, was allowed to go. The prayer for judgment was continued and Judge Boyd took the negro's recognition for his appearance at the next regular term, which will convene next December.

At the noon hour, District Attorney Holton called the civil docket and a number of cases involving distiller's bonds were tried and settled.

During the present term of court District Attorney Holton was very anxious to bring up several cases known as the whiskey fraud cases. He had issued several bills of indictment and one, especially, he was anxious that the grand jury pass upon. Owing to the fact that he was unable to get his witnesses, he was compelled to continue, sending the bill until the Statesville term of court.

The news stated Tuesday, there are some real sensations brewing in these cases. Some indictments will be sent that will carry consternation, because of the prominence of the parties suspected. The news has been in possession of some facts but at the request of District Attorney Holton, who is always exceedingly kind to the writer, these facts have been withheld.

HEAD-ON COLLISION.

Two. Freights Meet Near Flowery Branch, Ga. There was a head-on collision between two freight trains at Flowery Branch, Ga., some time early this morning. Both engines were badly damaged and the track was blocked for many hours. Neither of the engineers or their firemen sustained any serious injury. The track was reported clear this afternoon.

READY FOR ADJOURNMENT.

Superior Court Will Adjourn This Afternoon—Divorce Cases Today.

The Superior Court has about completed its work and will adjourn this afternoon.

The only case tried today was that of Pink Smith against the A. and C. A. L. Railway Co. Smith, an employe of the road, was badly scalded while cleaning an engine. He sued for \$5,000. The jury now has the case. The plaintiff is represented by A. B. Justice and the railroad company by Bason and Pope.

Capt. Bason, attorney for the N. C. Railroad Co., this afternoon made a motion to set aside the verdict in the People's case. Motion was denied and an appeal to the Supreme Court was taken.

Mattias Boulware, colored, was this morning granted a divorce from Hattie Boulware. Two other cases for divorce will be heard this afternoon. They are J. H. Jones against Myra B. Jones, white, and John Crawford against Mary Crawford, colored. No opposition will be made in either case and the divorces will likely be granted.

RAT POISON ON STEAK. Durham Negro Attempts to Kill His Wife and Children.

Durham, June 17.—Luke Sparkman, colored, of this city, was bound over to court in the sum of \$100 for attempting to poison his wife and children by putting rat poison on some steak.

Sparkman is a notorious character and has served many terms on the county roads.

His wife states that Sparkman did the act charged and that he wanted to kill her and her children.

Sparkman was unable to give bond, so he went to jail.

MR. W. H. CHICK DEAD. He Was Formerly a Resident of Charlotte.

Winston-Salem, June 17.—Mr. W. H. Chick who was a resident of Charlotte for many years before moving here fifteen years ago, died at 8:10 o'clock this morning, aged fifty years.

TEN OUT OF TEN. Good Shooting by the Wann Scorers at Columbus—Anthony Scores.

Columbus, Ga., June 17.—The third day of the Warm Springs Inter-State tournament was devoted to live pigeons shooting. The first event was ten birds, entrance ten dollars. In this event eleven men tied for the high average, making ten out of ten shot at. They were Kaughan, McClosky, Livingston, J. Arnold, Dunn, Pierce, Wilson, Needham, Anthony, Hall and Money.

There were 33 entries. In the second event, fifteen birds, \$12 entrance handicap, the following made the full score of fifteen. McClosky 31 yards, Vaughan 30 yards, Pierce 32 yards, Money 33 yards, J. Arnold, 30 yards, Mills 29 yards, Foster 28 yards. There were twenty-four entries in this event.

BOBRICKOFF IS DEAD. The Governor-General of Finland, Shot Yesterday, Dies Today.

Helsingfors, Finland, June 17.—General Bobrickoff, Governor General of Finland, who was shot yesterday, died at one o'clock this morning. The people are calm and there is no excitement.

MEMPHIS ARRIVES. The Overdue Steamer Whose Wreckage, it was Feared, Had Been Discovered, Turns up Safe and Sound.

Savannah, June 17.—The steamship City of Memphis arrived from New York at 8:30 this morning.

IMPRISONED FOR LIFE. The Negro Boy of Kansas City Who Murdered a White Boy Sentenced.

Kansas City, June 17.—Louis Gregory, aged 19, the negro boy who shot and killed Robert Martin, a white boy, last April and narrowly escaped lynching, has been found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced to imprisonment for life.

River Steamer Destroyed. Columbia, S. C., June 17.—News was received at midnight tonight of the burning of the river steamer Highlander at a point 25 miles from Georgetown. The boat was totally destroyed. It was valued at \$12,000, with \$3,000 insurance.

Americans Buy Decks. Mexico, June 17.—Word has reached here that the dock yards at Laredo, Lower California, have been sold to an American company for \$300,000 gold. They were the property of a rich Mexican, and contained a large number of lighters and small launches which make trips between different points on the coast of the territory.

Strike Against Elevator Co. New York, June 17.—The executive committee of the Elevator Constructors' International Union has ordered a strike against the Otis Elevator Co. Notifications were sent to all local concerns through the country. The strike is effective today and tomorrow will affect seven thousand men.

Death of Miss Starnes. Miss Daisy Starnes died at Villa Heights Wednesday evening, and was buried at Elmwood yesterday afternoon. She had been sick for about a year. She is survived by her aged father and mother, but no other near relatives. She was a good woman, and it is well with her now.

SEC. CORTELYOU TO INVESTIGATE SLOCUM DISASTER

Will Make the Matter of Investigation a Personal Matter and Will Probe it to the Very Bottom Trying to Fix Responsibility.

Every Hour Adds New Horrors to the Account. Identification of Many Impossible Bodies Choke the Paddle-Wheel.

New York, June 17.—Forty-eight hours after the burning of the steamer Slocum the exact number of victims is still unknown. The total number of bodies in the morgue is 532. The number of missing is somewhere between 400 and 500. Officials still adhere to the belief that from 900 to 1,000 persons perished. The task of burying the dead began today. A meeting of the German Lutheran ministers in the city was held this morning and arrangements made for the services. Preliminary steps are being taken for three distinct investigations. These by the Federal government through the Department of Commerce and Labor by the coroner and by the district attorney. The coroner's inquest will begin Monday. Captain Van Schaick and six of the crew lie in hospitals with a policeman at the side of each, detained as witnesses at present. First Officer Flanagan, of the Slocum, is quoted as saying the steamer's fire hose was rotten and burst in a dozen places when it tried to use it. A deck-hand also corroborated this. It is reported that some life-boats were made fast by wires, making it impossible for them to be loosened and lowered.

Sec. Cortelyou in New York. New York, June 17.—Secretary Cortelyou, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, was in New York today and had a conference with Inspector Rodie regarding an inquiry to be made by the government into the Slocum disaster. Cortelyou said he would give personal attention to the inquiry and will probe it to the bottom. The investigation will not be left to subordinates in the department, but will be directed personally by Secretary Cortelyou and he will have the assistance of the most efficient members of the department.

New Horrors Hourly. New York, June 17.—Every hour adds to the horror of the excursion steamer disaster of Wednesday. Divers explored the wreck of the steamer yesterday and reported that no more bodies were found there, but today a diver at work on the sunken hull found a large number of bodies packed tightly inside one of the paddle wheels. How many is not known yet, but it was planned to remove them as soon as the coroner reached the scene. The coroners arranged to visit the wreck today to ascertain if possible what evidence of culpability exists on the part of the steamship company or the officers of the boat. At various hospitals it is said today the condition of the victims is satisfactory. A new horror has been added by the changing or removal of a number of the bodies at the morgue so that valuables taken from bodies no longer serve as a means of identification. Some bodies were bruised or burned beyond recognition, but it was hoped that all might be claimed by friends by means of papers or jewelry taken from each and now in possession of the coroner.

MRS. BISHOP ARRIVES. She Has a Talk With Mr. Thomas C. Guthrie. As The News stated yesterday, Mrs. Arthur L. Bishop arrived last night and is the guest of Mrs. W. Wallace at his home on North Poplar street.

While Mrs. Bishop is here, she will consult with the attorneys who appeared for her husband at the trial last February a year ago, as to the advisability of presenting a petition to Charlotte people asking for her husband's pardon.

Mrs. Bishop consulted with Mr. Thomas C. Guthrie this afternoon. He with Jones and Tillett, appeared for Eishop at the time of his trial. Just what conclusion, if any, they reached, is not known.

It has been suggested to Mrs. Bishop that she first ascertain the sentiment of the community before she presents the petition for pardon. This might save her some trouble and certainly some worry.

Death of Miss Starnes. Miss Daisy Starnes died at Villa Heights Wednesday evening, and was buried at Elmwood yesterday afternoon. She had been sick for about a year. She is survived by her aged father and mother, but no other near relatives. She was a good woman, and it is well with her now.

Col. A. A. Springs, formerly proprietor of the Arlington Hotel, but who is now running a hotel in Washington, N. C., stopped over in Charlotte today on his return from Nashville, where he took in the reunion.

Col. Springs was given a hearty welcome by his many friends.