

BALTIMORE A SCENE OF DESOLATION WAR REARS ITS HORRID FRONT

Thirty Blocks in the Business Centre of the City Swept by Devouring Flames

THE LOSS IS ENORMOUS

After Thirty-Six Hours of Battling With Fire the Conflagration Is Subdued--Three Lives are Lost and Two Thousand Buildings Laid in Ashes

Baltimore, Feb. 8.—The business center of Baltimore is a scene of desolation. The fire, which devastated the business section of the city yesterday, was early this evening sweeping the water front with terrible effect, but the end after nearly thirty-six hours of flame was in sight. The fire was then officially declared under control. All is chaos in the section swept by flames and dynamite. Bare walls, gutted buildings and towering ruins now mark where only forty-eight hours ago skyscrapers and magnificent office buildings stood. What the loss will be the future only can tell. One hundred million dollars in considered to be a conservative estimate. Some estimates go as high as two hundred and fifty millions. More than one thousand buildings have been destroyed in the district bounded by Howard, Gay, Fayette and Pratt streets.

Flames Under Partial Control

After traveling to the water front the flames about two o'clock were gotten under control. The progress of the fire was stopped at the foot of Union dock and kept from leaping to the Canton side of Jones Falls, a narrow stream separating the burned section from the shipping district. From Pratt street down, on the west side, the flames destroyed the J. Meyer Fruit and Packing Company, the latter facing West Falls Avenue and running back to Union dock. The fire then continued until it reached the Maryland Ice Company plant, which was quickly swept away. This plant included a huge frame building adjoining the Union dock depot and the American Ice Company. This latter, with a large lumber yard at the south, was the last to burn.

The fire boat Caradit did great service in checking the fire, and she was well aided by numerous tugs and launches on West Falls Avenue. Two of the New York engines backed up against this wall and played on the American Ice Company's plant to prevent the fire spreading to Denmead's malt house. This is one of the largest of the kind in the country and was stocked with malt which, had it caught, the last barriers would have gone and nothing would have saved East Baltimore.

Big Electric Plant Goes

At 4:30 o'clock this morning there was a terrible crash in the neighborhood of Pratt street, near Jones Falls, and from every section huge bolts of iron and sheets of flame shot out. It was the tremendous power house of the Union Railway Company and United Electric Light and Power Company. In fifteen minutes the gigantic structure was a mass of ruins, and the expensive machinery, recently installed, was a total wreck. This was the largest and one of the most expensive plants for generating electricity in the country. All night a number of men were guarding the gas main across Jones Falls. It supplies the business section of the city with gas from the Canton side. The main kept intact and the city's gas supply was preserved.

The tremendous business, storage and warehouse section in this vicinity between South street and Jones Falls, from Fayette to Pratt is a mass of ruins. Where once were the Sun and American offices and the entire brokerage commission and banking communities is now a mass of debris almost impossible to get at.

The Wilson and Lowery Distilling Companies were destroyed about five blocks this morning, the whiskey and alcohol exploding with terrific force. Both were situated at Lombard and Frederick streets, and with this explosion many of the old buildings along

ply their immediate needs that the \$250,000 would be asked for.

The Burned District

In about as many hours the fire had burned thirty blocks out of the very heart of the business section of the town, destroying nearly two thousand buildings and causing an estimated money loss of more than \$200,000,000. The area of the fire swept district is estimated by the topographical department of the city at 140 acres, bounded on the north by Lexington, St. Paul, and Fayette streets, on the east by the creek called Jones Falls; on the west by Liberty street, on the south by Chesapeake Bay.

When the fire started, a few minutes before eleven o'clock yesterday morning, the wind was blowing from the southwest. From Hurlst & Company's money where the fire started, it swept rapidly toward the northeast, consuming one great mercantile house after another, and when it had reached Lexington street there was a sudden shift of the wind, which careened to the northeast, and the fire chased itself back to St. Paul street and down across intervening and parallel thoroughfares until every building within an area of nearly ten blocks, except the City Hall, court house and post office had been either licked up by the flames or been dynamited in the hope of preventing their spread.

Then came another shift of the wind from the northeast to northwest, following soon on a storm warning from the weather bureau in Washington. It was undoubtedly owing to this last shift of the wind that, to the fearful destruction of property, was not added a fearful loss of life. And it was in fact that the loss of life was insignificant, and although thirty blocks of buildings were destroyed and millions of dollars of property lost, the fire was attended by the loss, so far as can be definitely known, of but three lives. Two of the dead were firemen and the other the faithful watchman in the First National Bank, who refused to leave his post until he knew the bank's books were safe. He was burned to death at his post.

With the last shift of the wind about midnight the course of the fire was toward the southeast, and in its path were the warehouses and stores of the commission houses which supply the city with food. There are no green grocers and butchers, scattered about the city, as the people get their supplies from a central market. The wares in this market are brought from the warehouse men and commission merchants. When the warehouses were threatened the cry went up that the tortures of famine would follow the calamity of the fire, but the wind happily steered the course of the flames toward the sea. Had the wind continued from the northeast there is probably nothing that could have saved the resident section of the city, the warehouses and the stores of the commission merchants went up in smoke, but it is easier to replace blocks of food stuffs than it is to restore human life. There would have been a second fire among Baltimore's tenement houses, like tenements of the east side of New York are packed close together beyond the east shore of Jones Falls. But the New York fire fighters were on the other shore of the creek and the tenements, and those who people them were saved.

New York Fire Fighters to the Rescue

The firemen from the city of New York are tonight the heroes of Baltimore. As soon as the New York fire-fighters arrived at the scene of the fire, they were in command, put one question to the acting chief of Baltimore: "What is the exact situation and where can we fight for you hardest?"

The wind was then blowing strongly from the northwest and the flames were rapidly eating their way to the sea. To the question from New York the Baltimore chief made answer: "Our supply of fresh water has given out and our engines can take the salt water from the bay. Our men are about played out and the fire is sweeping toward the warehouse district and the docks. If those go, God help us."

"Send us there," said Chief Howe, "and we will do what we can for you."

To the warehouse district in the southeastern part of the city and the water front the New Yorkers went racing. Even the horses apparently realized that it was New York to the rescue; and they raced, and the flames raged after them. Chief Howe took a good look at the warehouses, gauged the force of the wind and looked back at the outreaching flames. "The warehouses are doomed," he exclaimed.

"But we will save the docks and the shipping and the lumber yards or burst," and so he stationed his men and his apparatus around the big houses of the American Ice Company and the Main Lake Ice Company, got his engineers and engine quickly into action, and when the flames leaped from the last warehouse to the nearest ice house, the New York firemen were at them. The ice houses are pretty well done for, but the great lumber yards and the places where the merchandise of the world lands and is laid at Baltimore's feet is saved, and the vessels that lay by them are intact.

Just at sunset Chief Howe hunted the acting chief of Baltimore and said (Continued on page 2.)

Overman Will Vote Against the Treaty

He Will Make a Speech in the Senate Today--A Tar Heel Appointed to Office in Indian Territory with a Good Salary

By THOMAS J. PENCE

Washington, Feb. 8.—Special.—Senator Overman has decided finally that he will oppose the ratification of the Panama canal treaty. This course the junior senator has finally decided to follow, after looking into every phase of the matter, and he will tomorrow express his opposition on the floor of the Senate by way of explanation of his vote. Senator Overman regrets his inability to vote for the treaty, as he earnestly desires to see the work of constructing the canal begun, but he can not get the consent of his conscience to vote for the ratification of the Hay-Banau-Varilla treaty. It will be the junior senator's maiden effort as a United States senator.

Judge Frank I. Osborne of Charlotte, who is a member of the private land claims court, was here today on his return from New York and visited the capitol, where he was the guest of members of the North Carolina delegation. It developed today that Judge Osborne's judicial position will cease to exist after July first, when the statute creating the court will cease by limitation. The appropriation for the court, which is always carried in the judicial, legislative and executive appropriation bill, was not included this year.

Among nominations sent to the Senate today was that of George K. Pritchard, to be marshal of the central district of the Indian Territory. This position is an important one and carries a salary of \$4,500. It is a position which has caused the president no little concern, as there have been several changes of officials in the territory and much consequent confusion. The president had been told about Mr. Pritchard's method of dealing with the bad men in the mountains of western North Carolina, when moonshiners

were more numerous and desperate than at the present time, and the conclusion was reached that Mitchell's former sheriff would be the right man to deal with the Indians and half breeds, which sometimes becomes necessary.

Other nominations sent to the senate today were those of William H. Holt to succeed himself as postmaster at Graham, and Past Assistant Surgeon James C. Perry to be surgeon of public health of the marine hospital service.

SLEPT ON A TRESTLE

An Unknown Tramp Killed by a Locomotive

Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 8.—Special.—When the Southern's north bound train No. 35 arrived in Charlotte this morning the front of the engine was bespattered with human blood and portions of a man's brain, while strips of clothing hung to the running gear of the locomotive. The train ran over and killed an unknown man at what is called the second trestle at South Forks, about 16 miles south of this city. The man was lying on the trestle apparently in an insensible condition. Although the identity of the unfortunate man is unknown, it is supposed that he was a tramp, who while under the influence of liquor lay down on the trestle and went to sleep.

Club in New Quarters

Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 8.—Special.—The Merchants and Manufacturers' Association have moved into their comfortable new temporary quarters in the large hotel room back of the office of the Hotel Guilford. There are two apartments, a reading room and a combination card and writing room. The rooms have been attractively repainted and overhauled and the place presents a cozy, inviting appearance. It will be used until new and more commodious quarters can be secured to take the place of the club room burned in the Katz building fire two weeks ago.

Speeches in the Senate on the Panama Canal

Washington, Feb. 8.—After the transaction of morning business in the Senate today Mr. Hopkins of Illinois was recognized on one of the hold-over Panama resolutions to make a general speech on the Panama question. Senator Hopkins delivered a somewhat brief but carefully prepared argument in support of the administration's policy, and inferentially urging ratification of the Panama treaty.

Mr. Clay of Georgia, one of the Democrats who will vote for ratification of the treaty, followed Mr. Hopkins. He has been from the beginning of his public career, he said, extremely anxious for an isthmian canal, but he did not want it unless it could be secured with clean hands. He expressed the view: "When our warships landed troops at Colon they had a right to prevent the armed forces of Colombia

from obstructing the open free course of commerce in the pathway across the isthmus."

After discussing further the part played by this government in connection with the revolution, Mr. Clay said: "I can not vote to convict my own government of an act of dishonesty without positive and unimpeachable testimony. Such a charge against the integrity of our government must be condemned in the absence of unquestionable proof. I deplore the fact that the circumstances surrounding this transaction are of such a nature as even to cast suspicion upon our conduct. I am unwilling to say that the president in his message has not told us the truth so far as the executive branch of the government is concerned. He may be impulsive, but I do not believe that he is dishonest."

Weldon Hit Hard by Wind and Rain Storm

Weldon, N. C., Feb. 8.—Special.—The worst wind and rain storm in forty years struck Weldon Sunday afternoon at four o'clock, leaving wreck and ruin in its path.

The Weldon Cotton Manufacturing Company suffered most. The wind tore up the southwest corner of their knitting mill, rolled the tin like paper, and landed it some forty or fifty feet away. The great rafter were torn from the brick, twisted and broken and scattered over the yard in front of the mill.

President Shaw, when seen this morning, said his company had suffered considerable. The goods on the top floor were badly soaked and the fine machinery was damaged, but he could not make an estimate at this time.

The Carolina Peanut Company was also damaged. The tin was torn from the roof of their four-story brick factory and was carried a distance of seventy-five feet. The peanut stock was also damaged by water.

The Judkins building in Washington Avenue was also unroofed. The Roanoke News is located on the second floor. The fixtures and forms were given a good soaking, but fortunately the presses and paper stock escaped. In the country great trees in the

Heavy Wind at Sanford

Sanford, N. C., Feb. 8.—Special.—A severe wind and rain storm struck Sanford at 5 p. m. Sunday. For an hour the wind blew a gale, and a violent rain storm followed. Several barns and unfinished dwellings were blown down. Much damage was done to telephone poles. No loss of life has been reported.

Greensboro Visited by a Thunder Storm

Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 8.—Special.—This city was visited by a regular old time summer thunder storm yesterday afternoon, and from 2 o'clock until 5 it raged. Heavy clouds gathered after a forenoon of strong wind, then distant thunder was heard, followed by rain and a very high wind for some time. There was no damage in the city, but the large new barn of J. R. Hughes, a few miles in the country, was blown from its foundations.

Clash of Arms Between Japan and Russia Is Expected Hourly--Diplomatic Relations Broken Off and Both Hastening to the Inevitable Conflict

London, Feb. 8.—War in the far east has definitely begun. Japan regarded the withdrawal of all her diplomatic representatives from Russia, which she notified St. Petersburg Friday evening, as being equivalent to a formal declaration of war. She then waited forty-eight hours before making a hostile move. She considered this decent interval all that courtesy and precedent required. Then, Sunday evening, she sent her war ships to sea with orders to attack the Russian flag wherever it was found.

It is believed that the Japanese legation here that the first blow has been struck, although there is no definite information on the subject. It was reported today from Paris and one or two other points that a faint hope remained that war might yet be averted and it was asserted that M. Delcasse, the French foreign minister, with the moral support of two or three of the powers, was making a last strenuous effort, both at St. Petersburg and Tokio, to save the situation. The Japanese authorities have openly declared that any attempt at intervention will be absolutely hopeless, a state of war already existing. Japan, moreover, has no intention of issuing a formal declaration of war. She will probably regularize the situation by sending a notification to the powers that a state of war exists, as was the case in the war between the United States and Spain.

The feature of the situation that is attracting most attention is the apparent drifting apart of Russia and France in the present crisis. It is noticed that Russian interests at Tokio, upon the withdrawal of the Russian minister, were not entrusted to the French, but to the Austrian legation, whereas Japanese interests at St. Petersburg were left in the hands of the British ambassador.

Paris reports agree in declaring that no event could be received with greater abhorrence by the French public than the conflict now precipitated, and the French people are by no means unanimous in placing the blame on Japan.

Russia Commits the First Act of War

London, Feb. 8.—According to newspaper reports the first act of war has been committed. This is thus described by the Telegraphs Nagasaki correspondent under date of February 6, the dispatch having been delayed by the censor:

"Russia has deliberately precipitated the crisis. She procured transports, and then secretly dispatching her fleet from Port Arthur some days ago, escorted them, loaded with a full division of troops, to a point near the Yalu river, where the men landed, thus occupying northern Korea. Japanese patience then became exhausted, and today Japan also moved her ships (to Masampho), where during the morning files of marines took possession of certain Russian merchant vessels.

"The Japanese met with no resistance and the steamers are now under way. It is reported that two Russian vessels were taken outside and escorted to Saseho."

There is no confirmation of the correspondent's statements, official or otherwise, although the English correspondents in Japan contributed numerous items. Among these are such reports as the following, none of which can be vouched for:

A Russian squadron has left Port Arthur and laid torpedoes off Tallenwan, after which it sailed for Formosa. A naval fleet is expected. Sixty Japanese transports are at sea for the purpose of landing troops at various points in Korea from Masampho to Chemulpo. Their landing is being covered by a torpedo division. Seoul is to be occupied.

The Russian steamer Argon, due at Nagasaki today from Dalny, has not arrived. The agents say that of twelve large Japanese steamers engaged in the European trade only two are unaccounted for. It is reported from Paris that France, in agreement with other powers, has decided to land troops in China immediately to insure Chinese neutrality.

A Declaration May Not Be Issued

London, Feb. 8.—Baron Hayashi said this morning that a state of war now exists between Japan and Russia. He said it was possible that no formal declaration would be issued. It was reported today that the Japanese fleet was sailing in the direction of Chemulpo, the port of Seoul, the capital of Korea. There was a further report that the Japanese had seized several Russian trading steamships. Neither of these reports was confirmed.

The Pall Mall Gazette's Paris correspondent says he has it on good authority that France and England are

perfectly agreed on the line of conduct they will adopt with regard to Russia and Japan. After the first engagement of a decisive character they will both offer their good offices as mediators.

According to a dispatch from Paris, the French government has agreed with other powers to land troops in China in order to insure the neutrality of the Chinese government.

In the House of Commons today, in replying to a question by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Akers Douglas, the home secretary, said: "We have been officially informed that diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan have been broken off. We have no details so far."

Ministers Ordered Home

Tokio, Feb. 8.—Baron De Rosen, the Russian minister to Japan, and the members of the Russian legation will sail from Yokohama Friday. Russian interests have been entrusted by the retiring minister to the Austrian minister, the Italian minister declining to accept the duty.

The government estimates that the sale of bonds under the war loan will bring in \$250,000,000.

The Japanese government has instructed Mr. Kurino, its minister at St. Petersburg to withdraw from the Russian capital by Wednesday next. The British legation will assume charge of Japanese interests.

Russian Cavalry Advance

St. Petersburg, Feb. 8.—An advance detachment of Russian cavalry is leaving Mukden for Korea. The telegram from Mukden announcing the departure of the cavalry adds:

"Russia's love of peace has been exhausted by Japan's demands. Troops, therefore, have been concentrated at the Yalu river. The Russian troops are in the best of spirits. The Japanese everywhere are hurrying homeward."

The Mukden dispatch repeats the rumor that a Japanese squadron is off Wei-Hai-Wei, on the north coast of the Shan-Tung peninsula, with the object of intercepting the Russian ships coming from Europe.

Japanese Ships Sail for Chemulpo

Washington, Feb. 8.—The navy department has received a telegram from Lieutenant Commander Marsh, American naval attaché at Tokio, that a Japanese naval division has gone to Chemulpo, Korea.

Rear Admiral Evans, now at Olgapore with the fighting portion of his fleet, has been directed by the secretary of the navy to preserve strict neutrality. In the same telegram he was told to make recommendation as to the disposition of his fleet during hostilities. If he suggests that American warships be sent to Korea and Manchurian waters this government will ask Russia and Japan if the presence of Admiral Evans' vessels will be agreeable. If either belligerent does not wish it no American vessel will be sent to the probable theatre of naval hostilities.

When the existence of war is formally recognized this government will ask Japan and Russia to permit four American officers each to accompany its armies. In view of the refusal of the United States to permit any foreign officers to serve as attaches on United States naval vessels in the war with Spain, the navy department is satisfied that Japan and Russia will pursue a similar policy in regard to American naval officers in the forthcoming conflict.

Russian Trading Steamers Seized

London, Feb. 8.—A special dispatch from Berlin says that a strong fleet of Japanese warships, reported to be on its way to Chemulpo, Korea, has seized several Russian trading steamers.

Blame Placed on Japan

St. Petersburg, Feb. 8.—The rupture of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan was discussed with tolerable calmness in the morning papers here today, the blame being unanimously placed on Japan for severing relations the day the Russian reply was to reach Tokio.

Japanese Hurry Home

Port Arthur, Feb. 8.—In response to instructions from the Japanese government, many Japanese sailed from here for Nagasaki today. The Chinese in Manchuria are greatly excited, and numbers of them are preparing to leave for Chee-Foo.

Japanese Cut the Korea Cable

Paris, Feb. 8.—The French foreign office was advised this afternoon that (Continued on page 2.)