

For N. C. : Fair,
—; for Raleigh:
Fair, colder.

THE MORNING POST.

Temperature for
the past 24 hours:
Max. 60; Min 48.

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No. 95

RUSSIAN DESTROYER BLOWN OUT OF WATER

The Skorri Struck a Mine at the Entrance of Port Arthur--Only Four of Her Crew Saved. Alexieff Confirms Reports of Damage by Japanese Bombardment

Chefoo, March 17.—While entering Port Arthur yesterday, the 16th, the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Skorri struck upon an unplaced mine and was blown up. Four of the crew were saved.

Viceroy Alexieff in a dispatch confirms previous accounts of damage to Port Arthur by the bombardment of the 16th, but says the story of a great fire in Port Arthur is a base fabrication.

HEADQUARTERS ON WHEELS

General Kuropatkin Will Be Prepared to Execute Swift Movements.

St. Petersburg, March 17.—The first headquarters of the Manchurian army after General Kuropatkin's arrival will be at Liao-Yang, the general having selected that point instead of Mukden, whence to direct the operations. Liao-Yang is ten miles west of the railroad being connected with the main road by a special line, which will be completed by the time General Kuropatkin arrives, and has many advantages over Mukden, being a point where both the telegraph line and the Pekin road go to the Yalu river.

Another road, not marked on the maps, leads almost due east to an extinct volcano, Paik-Tou-San, or Long White Mountain, whose crater is a sacred lake. The road was built by the Chinese, whose emperor formerly went there to shoot tigers, with which the region is infested. Two rivers, the Tumen and the Yalu, rise near the mountain. Liao-Yang consequently commands both the roads over which troops will be sent, according to necessities.

Liao-Yang also has the advantage of being nearer to the frontier of China in the event of punitive measures being required against the Chinese. It is also close to the Liao-Tung peninsula, New Chwang and the mouth of the Liao-Ho.

While the Russians are mobilizing for the purpose of working out an offensive military problem, they will be prepared to move heavy forces in any direction to meet the Japanese, whose command of the sea gives them great freedom in selecting their points of attack.

General Kuropatkin will live in a train, with his staff, and be prepared to

Trimming the Postal Appropriation Bill

Some Amendments Go Off on Point of Order--Objectionable Items Cut Down. The House Votes Itself a Holiday

Washington, March 17.—On motion of Mr. Maynard of Virginia it was agreed that when the House adjourns tomorrow it be until Monday.

The House went into committee of the whole to further consider the post office appropriation bill, which was read for amendment. Mr. Maddox of Georgia requested of Mr. Overstreet, chairman of the post office committee, an explanation of an item of \$5,000 for advertising, saying: "As it has been said there are a lot of rascals in the department, we probably would be a little more particular hereafter."

Mr. Overstreet said the department's estimate of \$7,000 had been reduced by the committee, and the amount would be used almost exclusively in the supply division in advertising for bids. The provision was agreed to.

Mr. Maddox, pursuing the same tactics, requested an explanation of the item of \$2,000 "for miscellaneous expenses in the office of the postmaster general."

Mr. Overstreet answered that the committee had deemed it wise to grant the postmaster general \$2,000 as each of the assistants was allowed \$1,000, and that thought the postmaster general certainly should be allowed that much for emergencies.

An amendment to reduce the amount to \$1,000 was lost.

Mr. Cromer of Indiana wanted the appropriation of \$7,500 for compensation and expenses of the United States delegate to the universal postal conference at Rome reduced to \$5,000. The difference in the amounts, he said, was

FOUR MILLIONS

Estimated Annual Cost of the President's Pension Order

Washington, March 17.—In the opinion of Representative Sulloway, chairman of the House committee on invalid pensions, the order promulgated yesterday by Secretary Hitchcock whereby age is to count as part disability in the matter of claims for pensions, will not cost the government to exceed \$3,000,000 annually, and it may not increase the amount paid out in pensions more than \$3,000,000 a year. The rule in effect, by executive decree, enacts the provisions of the first Sulloway bill, but it is pointed out that it is a long way from the service pension proposition of the Grand Army and only a step in the direction of the sort of legislation that organization desires. It is estimated that the service pension bill of the G. A. R. would cost the government between thirty and sixteen million annually. The service pension bill introduced by Representative Sulloway, which is not what the Grand Army desires, may not now be acted upon as a result of the order, although the two propositions are quite different.

Fire in Prison Cell

Asheville, N. C., March 17.—Special. Three white women, Alice and Mary Ann Pritchard and Edith Wilson were arrested last night for being drunk. After they had been locked up the Wilson woman set fire to her cell. The yelling of the prisoners brought the city hall janitor to the scene. The door was unlocked and the woman and burning bed clothes were dragged out and the flames extinguished. The woman was uninjured and little damage was done by the fire.

Negro Enemies of Booker Washington

His Propaganda of Practical Effacement of His Race in Politics Stirs up Resentment and Opposition

Washington, March 17.—The Booker Washington dinner here tonight has brought on a merry war among the colored leaders of the district. There is a strong feeling among prominent members of the race against the "sage of Tuskegee." Many of the most prominent colored men of Washington did not attend the dinner. Some of them are nearly as conspicuous in national political affairs as Booker Washington himself. The list of subscribers to the banquet contained about a hundred negroes of prominence, but among those who took no part were many well known leaders.

A large portion of the extensive colored population of Washington is apparently hostile to Booker Washington. The opposition to Washington began nearly ten years ago at Atlanta, when he said at the southern exposition some things that aroused the resentment of many prominent members of his race.

His propaganda of political effacement for his people in the south appears to have raised a storm of opposition on the part of his race in the north. His enemies within his race have followed him in his lecturing tours, and they have criticized every public utterance which seemed to have had a tendency to compromise what they call the manhood rights of the colored race. This is the way it is put by one of the best known colored men of Washington who did not attend tonight's dinner:

"The opposition to Washington on the part of his own people has developed in direct proportion to the growth of his popularity with white audiences in the north. His people do not deny that he accomplished a great work, but their contention is that he might have done all he has done and much more without appearing to discourage the efforts of many of them who were trying to make toward broader culture and higher education. The opposition to him took definite and even violent shape when he essayed the role of chief politician of his race with Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt. This bothered him. And he made an effort at the recent private conference in New York to treat with his many enemies in his own race. He tried to get them all to smoke with him the calumet."

It is learned that among those present at the conference were many leaders, including Thomas Fortune, former Representative Morris of Chicago and others from various sections of the country.

Washington's Washington critics of his own race say that the intention of this conference was to stifle all opposition. They say that the result can be best ascertained by recalling the fact that one of the leading men at the conference, State Representative Morris of Chicago, on his way home lectured here in Washington before the leading literary society on "Shams" and held Booker Washington up to ridicule as

DEFENCE OF WOOD

Quarles Continues His Speech in the Senate

Washington, March 17.—At the beginning of today's session of the Senate a bill authorizing the secretary of the interior to dispose of timber on public lands chiefly valuable for timber was passed. The committee amendment providing that the proceeds of such sales shall be made a part of the irrigation reclamation fund was accepted.

Mr. McLaurin presented and had read a letter from the Cincinnati firm which supplies the pictures, on account of which arrests recently were made at Indianapolis and Leland, Miss., to which Mr. McLaurin referred last Saturday. The firm denied that it manufactures pictures of an improper character.

The Senate then went into executive session. Senator Quarles continued his speech in defense of General Leonard Wood. He took up the charge of insubordination and asserted that General Wood's conduct in Cuba had the full approval of the war department, as it had also in relation to the various concessions granted by him at Havana after he became military governor.

Railroad Receiver Appointed

Knoxville, Tenn., March 17.—In the federal court here today W. J. Oliver of this city was appointed receiver of the Tennessee Central Railroad. This company operates a railroad 139 miles long, with branch lines. It runs from Nashville, Tenn., to South Harrison, Tenn. The president is Jere Baxter of Nashville. The company has a bonded debt of \$3,306,000 and \$5,000,000 of stock.

Admiral Dewey Returns

Norfolk, Va., March 17.—The converted yacht Mayflower passed in the Virginia capes this morning with Admiral Dewey aboard and went on toward Washington. She should arrive in Washington at midnight. Admiral Dewey has been viewing the maneuvers of the South Atlantic fleet.

Diplomatic Confirmations

Washington, March 17.—The Senate today confirmed the nominations of John Barrett of Oregon to be minister to Panama; W. W. Russell of the District of Columbia to be minister to Colombia; and Arthur M. Beaupree of Illinois to the Argentine Republic.

Working a Gold Mine

Asheville, N. C., March 17.—Special. A gold mine has been discovered near Chandler, in this county, and the people of that section are expecting great things to happen. A company of Asheville men has been organized to operate the mine. Although a shaft has been sunk to a depth of 42 feet the mining is being performed so far in a very crude manner.

Speculating in Claims

Havana, March 17.—A meeting of Cuban veterans has been called to take steps to stop, if possible, the sale of ex-soldiers' claims for payment against the government which are being bought up by speculators at 20 per cent. of their value. The government has been attacked some quarters because it has opened a registry to record the transfer of claims, thus aiding the speculators in their business.

TORNADO DESTROYS LIFE AND PROPERTY

The Town of Weyland Practically Wiped Off of the Face of the Earth

Fort Worth, Tex., March 17.—Passengers who reached here today on a belated Cotton Belt train report that a tornado swept Hunt county at four o'clock this morning, doing great damage to property. The worst of the storm struck Weyland, ninety miles from Fort Worth, practically wiping it off the face of the earth, destroying a cotton gin, school house, several dwellings and business houses. Three miles east of Weyland, the house of John Haney was blown to splinters.

FEAR ABSORPTION

South America Alarmed by the Roosevelt Idea

Chicago, March 17.—A dispatch to the Tribune from New Orleans says: "According to mail advices just received here an alliance has been formed by Brazil, Ecuador, Argentina, Chile and Bolivia to guard against absorption by the United States."

The belief, it is declared, prevails throughout Brazil and Argentina that in the event of a revolution in either republic President Roosevelt will intervene and recognize the revolutionists, thus paving the way for annexation.

The alliance was discussed last year when Peru was believed to be considering the advisability, during the recent revolution, of asking President Roosevelt to establish a protectorate over that country.

The proposal received such strong support that the other republics were frightened, fearing that with the proposed annexation of Peru the United States might absorb the whole of South America.

WANTED TO GIVE UP

Supposed Fugitive From Justice Wants to Go Home for Trial

Winston-Salem, N. C., March 17.—Special.—A white man giving his name as G. W. Valentine walked into the police station here today and informed Chief Crutchfield that he had been a fugitive from justice for more than a year and that he wished to surrender. Valentine claims that while paying tiler in one of the branch offices of the Colonial Bank in New York City, during the winter of 1902, he absconded with several hundred dollars of the bank's money. He says that he was under bond given by the Fidelity Casualty Company which had to make good the stolen funds. Valentine also says that after leaving New York he went west and later to Mexico, where he has been most of the time. His work in Mexico was herding cattle. The man appears to be anxious to return to his native home in New York and stand trial. A telegram was sent to the Fidelity Casualty Company, asking if Valentine was wanted. No reply has yet been received.

VISIT TO JAMESTOWN

Congressman Will Take the Trip Tomorrow

Washington, March 17.—The request of Representative Maynard of Virginia to adjourn the House over from Friday to Monday was done in order to enable the members to visit the site of the Jamestown exposition, where a fair is to be held in 1907 in commemoration of the establishment of the first English settlement in America 300 years ago. Congress is to be asked for an appropriation to help along the exposition. The Virginia delegation and the exposition managers have arranged to take the entire membership of the House, or as many of them as desire to go, to Norfolk Friday night, to remain until Saturday and view the exposition site. About 200 members have arranged to take in the junket. They will visit the place where the English settlers landed three centuries ago and set up the first English speaking colony. An old church tower, erected nearly three hundred years ago and now in ruins, alone marks the spot.

Summers' Head on the Block

Washington, March 17.—As a result of the inquiry into the charges against Senator Dietrich, Williamson S. Summers, United States district attorney of Nebraska, will be removed from office. President Roosevelt today informed Senator Dietrich and Editor Rosewater, of the Omaha Bee, that he would take such action against Mr. Summers. The probabilities are that Chairman Lindsay, of the Republican state committee of Nebraska, will be appointed to succeed him.

RECEIVERSHIP ANNULLED WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Order Signed by Judges Simonton and Purnell-- Governor's Investigation---Capt. McBee Interviewed on Recent Events---Mr. E. C. Smith's Statement

Without a word of discussion or debate Judge Charles H. Simonton and Judge Thos. R. Purnell of the United States circuit court signed the order yesterday vacating the receivership of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad.

With the signing of the order the receivership ceased, Capt. V. E. McBee stepped out, and President J. A. A. Bryan and the board of directors resumed the control of the road which passed from their hands February 24th. United States Marshal H. C. Dockery heralded the arrival of the judges to the two hundred spectators in the federal court room and the audience rose as Judges Simonton and Purnell, wearing their judicial robes, entered the room and assumed their seats on the bench.

After announcing the disposition of two other matters Judge Purnell stated: "In Finch against the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad a decree was tendered last night which I declined to sign as the court did not wish to anticipate the date for hearing. The court will now hear from counsel; has any counsel a motion to make?"

A dead silence reigned, for the decree had been agreed upon by both sides and, as the Post said Thursday, the convening of court was a mere perfunctory matter. Finally Mr. Chas. M. Busbee rose and said: "Counsel for the defendant have no motion to make except to ask the signing of the decree tendered your honor last night." Then Judge Simonton read the decree, Mr. C. M. Busbee suggested the insertion of the name of the surety company on the receiver's bond, this was accordingly done, the judges affixed their names, and after another pause Court Crier J. Rowan Rogers proclaimed that this honorable court had adjourned subject to order.

The program had been carried out and the work was done. The agreement previously reached between the counsel for Receiver McBee and the state had been consummated. Immediately after Chief Justice Clark placed Receiver V. E. McBee under a \$3,000 bond Tuesday afternoon for his appearance at the Wake criminal court to answer the charge of conspiracy with K. S. Finch a conference took place between a counsel for the re-

ceiver and a representative of the prosecution. The ultimate result was the presentation to Judge Purnell Wednesday afternoon of an order, agreed to by both sides, vacating the receivership and taxing the plaintiff with the costs. "This order Judge Purnell, as has been stated, declined to sign until yesterday. No criminal prosecution of Capt. McBee is now expected.

Deep interest attached to the court proceedings yesterday. Receiver V. E. McBee and his counsel, Capt. W. H. Day, Col. John W. Hinesdale, Judge W. S. O'Brien, Robinson of Goldsboro and Mr. W. W. Clark of New Bern were present. The counsel for the state, Attorney General R. D. Gilmer, Mr. Chas. M. Busbee, Mr. W. C. Munroe of Goldsboro, Solicitor A. L. Ward of New Bern, besides a number of officials of the railroad, President J. A. A. Bryan, State Proxy J. W. Grainger, Supt. S. L. Dill, Director C. E. Foy of New Bern and Director E. C. Duncan, and Associate Justice H. G. Connor, State Treasurer B. R. Lacy, Commissioner of the Board of Internal Improvements, B. C. Beckwith, Code Commissioners Womack, Redman and Guley, and many private citizens, including Mr. W. W. Mills and Mr. C. B. Barbee, both of whom have separate propositions pending before the governor for leasing the property, were in the court room.

The Court's Decree
In the circuit court of the United States for the eastern district of North Carolina. Sitting in equity in Raleigh. K. S. Finch, in behalf of himself and of all the other stockholders of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Company, complainant, against the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Company, defendant.
This cause coming on to be heard this 17th day of March, 1904, and it appearing to the court that all parties have agreed that the orders in this suit heretofore issued on the 24th and 26th days of February, 1904, and all other orders herein made, respecting the controversy contained therein may be set aside, it is now, on motion of counsel for the complainant, ordered, adjudged and decreed that all of said orders be vacated and the bill of complaint filed herein be dismissed. It is further ordered that the costs be paid by the defendant.
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Bristow on the Rack Before a Committee

Accuser of Congressman Under Fire--Evidently Embarrassed by Some of the Questions--Tries to Shift the Responsibility

Washington, March 17.—For nearly two hours today Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow was virtually under investigation and cross-examination by the McCall investigating committee in relation to his report of "charges concerning members." It was the first open session which the committee has held. General Bristow was before the committee for two hours this morning, assisting the members in preparing their plan of procedure, and at that time made the statement that the reason why all the records in each of the various cases was not submitted to the committee on post offices was because the publication of all the information might defeat the ends of justice. He further added that the entire record was very voluminous and would "fill a library" if printed.

The first thing Mr. Bristow did this afternoon when he went before the committee was to make an effort to relieve himself from responsibility for the data contained in the "charges concerning members." He declared that he was ill at the time the report was made concerning the "allowance for clerk hire." He shifted it to the first assistant postmaster general, Mr. Wynne.

Mr. Bristow was subjected to a rigid cross-examination by Representative McDermott concerning his own recommendations for allowances for clerk hire in certain offices in Kansas, and

the admissions which he was obliged to make accounted for his evident embarrassment. Mr. McCall of Massachusetts, too, called attention to what appeared to be unwarranted assertions in Mr. Bristow's first report in the light of some of the statements in the charges concerning members.

Just at the close of the hearing Representative Bartlett of Georgia sought to ascertain from Mr. Bristow information as to whether or not the president had seen the data before it had been submitted to the post office committee.

Objections by Representative Burton and Mr. McCall, however, left Mr. Bartlett's question unanswered. Altogether, while the committee did not learn much from Mr. Bristow which throws additional light upon the subject of the investigation, the committee did cause the fourth assistant to spend a bad hour, and the result was an investigation more of Mr. Bristow than of any member of Congress. He began by saying that he had been in the department for several years, Chairman Overstreet's request came in the afternoon of January 25. That night he (Bristow) was taken ill, went home and did not return to his office until last Monday. "I am informed, however," he went on, "by officers in my bureau that the postmaster general had the fourth assistant's office prepared for him the matter relating to the leases asked for in Mr. Overstreet's letter, and that he asked the first assistant to prepare the matter relating to clerk hire. The chief inspector informs me that he had the list prepared by six inspectors who were in the city at the time, that he turned it over to the postmaster general."

Dealing in Hearsay Evidence
Mr. Bristow admitted that he wrote the letters to which his name was signed transmitting the data. He understood that the committee wanted the information in the preparation of the appropriation bill. Mr. McCall asked
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