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POLITICAL REFORM AND THE GENERAL UPBUILDING OF MADISON COUNTY.

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NO. 13.

## PEACE NOW IN HANDS OF CZAR

### The More Conservative of the Russian Ministers Said to Favor Making Terms

#### RETREAT TO HARBIN IS AGAIN

Russian Ministers Argue That Nothing Could be Lost and Sympathy Would be Gained if Japan Should Prove Unreasonable—Minister of War Says Fair Terms Would be to Japan's Advantage by Giving Her a Good Neighbor—Linevitch Can Be Given an Army of 400,000 Men Without a New Mobilization.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—While Emperor Nicholas, whose word is final, still declines to abandon the prosecution of the war, and the government maintains its ability to continue the conflict, it can be authoritatively stated that powerful influences, including several of the Emperor's own ministers, are now strongly urging that the time has come to indicate to Japan Russia's desire for peace upon a reasonable basis. Should Japan then attempt to impose too onerous conditions, these influences argue that in view of the universal wish to see the bloody conflict ended, Russia's position will be strengthened abroad by the alienation of sympathy from Japan, and the situation improved at home when the nation is made to understand that the Emperor's pacific proposals have been met with impossible terms. The Minister of War says:

"Russia has a hard task, fighting the war against such adversaries, 6,000 miles from home, and I contend that she can make a dignified peace, without glory, but not without honor. As the victor on land and sea, Japan can afford to remember, as Bismarck did at the conclusion of the Austro-Prussian war, that two countries which must live through the long future as neighbors may need each other's friendship. Japan may consider the time propitious, on account of the situation in European Russia, to try and crush us. Suppose, for the sake of argument, she succeeded in finally forcing a humiliating peace, it would not be more than an armed truce. Russia is too big and powerful to retire permanently from the field. The clouds at home eventually will roll away. With the army and navy reorganized, in five, ten or fifteen years, there will come inevitably our revenge. No permanent peace is possible now or later unless Japan is established.

To the suggestion of the possibility of an alliance between Russia and Japan, the Minister said:

"A reasonable peace must first be established. Broadly speaking, Russia's renunciation of her entire Manchurian policy should satisfy Japan's claim. She could have her protectorate over Korea, such privileges on the Kowontong Peninsula and at Port Arthur as the powers would not oppose, and the Chinese Eastern Railway be placed under international control, Russia maintaining her rights to a railway line through Northern Manchuria to Vladivostok."

#### Has Handed Over Command.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—A telegram from General Kuropatkin to Emperor Nicholas, dated March 17, says: "In accordance with the orders of your majesty received March 16, I handed over to General Linevitch today the command of the land and sea forces operating against the Japanese."

General Linevitch, in a telegram to the Emperor under the same date, says: "In pursuance of the orders of your majesty of March 16, I assumed command of all our forces, military and naval, operating against the Japanese."

#### Adams Ousted.

Denver, Col., Special.—James H. Pesbody won his contest for the office of Governor of Colorado, from which he retired on January 10, after serving a term of two years, but his victory was achieved only after he had given his pledge to resign and surrender the chair to Lieutenant Governor Jesse F. McDonald, Republican.

#### The News of the Day.

The Marquis of Anglessey, who was known as "the Clothes and Jewel Man," died at Monte Carlo, aged 30 years.

A new intrigue forced three of the Sultan's trusted to flee from the palace at Constantinople.

The Russian defeat at Mukden was a great disaster, but St. Petersburg states the "war will go on to the bitter end."

Walter Hume Long has been appointed to succeed George Wyndham as Chief Secretary for Ireland.

A heavy gale prevails along the British coast.

## FLOOD AT PITTSBURG

### One of the Worst Experiences the Iron City Has Had in Years Threatens as a Result of Torrents Pouring Down the Monongahela.

Pittsburg, Special.—Pittsburg is threatened with one of the worst floods in years. At 10 o'clock Fore-caster Frankridge predicts over 30 feet. He does not expect over 35 feet, if that much. During the early hours Tuesday, the water began to recede from the rise in the Allegheny, but a fresh impetus was given to the rush torrents by a rainfall of nearly two inches over the entire water-shed of the Monongahela river. Tuesday night about 50 miles above Pittsburg the Monongahela was rising eight inches an hour, and at the harbor here the gauges show a rise of nearly three inches per hour.

Should the river reach the predicted height, street car traffic between this city and surrounding towns will be almost suspended, while the railroads up the Monongahela valley will have to suspend traffic. Already a number of mills have shut down, as a result of the water putting out the fires. From three to five feet more of water is expected up the valley, and a total of 20,000 men are likely to be idle. Hundreds of houses in Allegheny, on the south side, and in McKeesport and other suburbs, are surrounded by from two to eight feet of water, the occupants living in the second stories. In some places the water has entered the upper rooms, and homes are being abandoned for the time being. No fatalities have been reported today. Scores of business houses have their basements flooded, and the loss will be heavy. The crest of the flood is expected about 9 p. m. Wednesday.

On To Harbin. Tokyo, By Cable.—Beyond the general retirement of the Russian along the railway northward, little is known here of the details of the past three days' events in Manchuria. Various reports of the number of additional Russian prisoners captured are in circulation. One estimate is 20,000. It is impossible to confirm the reports.

There is much speculation over the extent of the Russian retirement. Harbin is regarded as a logical base, but it is suggested that they may attempt to hold that Kirin line. The country between Klayaun and Sungari is inhospitable.

Formerly the conservative element in high councils of Japan favored settling a limit to the Manchurian advance. It opened advancing to Harbin, but the results of the victory at Mukden are removing opposite and the bulk of opposition and conservative judgment now favors pressing advantages and carrying the war to the utmost limits possible.

Tokio Celebrates Victory. Tokio, By Cable.—Thirty thousand persons went to Mibiya Pass to attend exercises commemorative of the Japanese victory at Mukden. Members of the cabinet, the elder statesmen, many officers of the army and navy and members of the Diet were present. Mayor Ozaki read a congratulatory telegram to be sent Field Marshal Oyama, on behalf of the municipality, the crowd cheering its approval.

Lieutenant General Terauchi, Minister of War, and Admiral Yamamoto, Minister of the Navy, spoke on behalf of the army and navy, respectively, thanking the people for the support they had given the government during the war.

Battery Officers Negligent. St. Petersburg, By Cable.—The verdict of the court-martial which tried the officers and men of several batteries of artillery, from one of which a shell was fired during the blessing of the waters of the Neva on January 19, scattering missiles in the vicinity of the Imperial Palace, was announced by Captain Davidoff and sub-Lieutenant Kurzeff, of the Seventh Battery, First Regiment, Horse Artillery of the Guard, were found guilty of neglect of duty and sentenced to be dismissed from the army and to imprisonment in a fortress; Davidoff to one year and a half and Kurzeff to a year and five months. Sub-Lieutenant Roth, Jr., was sentenced to imprisonment to a year and four months; Lieutenant Roth, Sr., to detention in quarters for three months, and two gunners to detention with disciplinary battalions for two years.

The court found there was no connection on the part of any of those on trial with a plot to assassinate the Emperor.

#### Kuropatkin at Tie Pass.

Tokio, By Cable.—A dispatch from the headquarters of the Japanese armies in the field dated Sunday says: "According to statements made by prisoners, the force of the enemy retiring south of Tie Pass Wednesday, March 15, consisted of three divisions. General Kuropatkin personally commanded during the battle in the neighborhood of Tie Pass, Tuesday, March 14."

#### Cracksman Get Good Haul.

Petersburg, Tenn., March 16.—The vault in the bank of Petersburg was blown open and all the cash taken. The amount stolen is reported to be \$4,000. The bank of Petersburg is a state institution. The officials say the thieves secured \$7,000. The steel vault was blown with nitroglycerine and the strong box emptied. The burglars escaped.

#### Spoke Men Meet.

Nashville, Tenn., Special.—The Association of Spoke and Hub Manufacturers of the South met here Thursday. Peter Leach, of Memphis, is president. The object of the meeting is to combine all spoke manufacturers of finished and slab-head spokes in the South and Southwest, and establish a system of uniform grade and price, and to amalgamate with the Northern association.

#### Telegraphic Briefs.

Mr. J. P. Dawley, senior counsel for Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick, criticised the verdict and said there were too many farmers on the jury.

## THE FINAL DEMAND

### Venezuela Must Get Ready to Make Full Settlement

#### OUR MINISTER DELIVERS NOTE

It Demands to Know Whether the Government of Venezuela Proposes to Arbitrate the Questions Pending—in Case of Refusal, Necessary Steps to Secure Justice Will be Taken by This Action of America Seems Certain—Holland to Use Coercive Measures to Secure Release of Her Subjects in Prison.

Willemstadt, Island of Curacao, By Cable.—The Venezuelan government, it is announced from Caracas, has received a note from the American minister, Mr. Bowen, requiring an answer as to whether Venezuela will arbitrate the questions pending, and saying that in case of a refusal the United States will feel free to take steps which may be necessary to secure justice.

The charge d'affairs of the Netherlands has advised the Venezuelan government that Holland will use coercive measures in view of the fact that she has been unable to secure the release from imprisonment in Venezuela of five Dutch sailors who have been illegally kept in prison for seven months.

Washington, Special.—In calling upon President Castro for an answer to his proposition to submit to arbitration the issues between the United States and Venezuela, Minister Bowen is acting in accordance with specific instructions, from the State Department, which have recently been placed in his hands.

If President Castro rejects this last offer of Mr. Bowen to arbitrate these cases, it is expected that he will promptly report that fact to the State Department, and it will be determined what course to pursue. The minister's presentation of this matter therefore is not an actual ultimatum, for the way is still open for further negotiations if the Department decides that the time has not yet arrived to withdraw its ministers and adopt some coercive measures. There is great reluctance on the part of the officials to the adoption of the latter course, but the situation is believed to be such that unless the Department is willing to submit to the complete abandonment of the American claims some action must be taken very soon. Reports have been arriving here for some time that many of the people of Venezuela are penniless and in need of food. One foreign diplomat there recently reported that the conditions were indescribable and that the strict censorship upon everything sent out prevented the world from knowing the actual condition of affairs. All foreigners are closely watched.

Report on Boll Weevil. Washington, Special.—The Department of Agriculture has issued a report on the results of recent investigation by Special Agent Hunter, of the Bureau of Entomology, giving recommendations looking to minimizing damage done by the boll weevil. The report says: "Although the very large yields of cotton of former times no longer may be possible in the region now infested by the boll weevil, it is entirely feasible to produce cotton at a margin of profit that will compare favorably with that resulting from the production of most of the staple crops of the United States, by following what is known as the cultural methods. This consists of changes and modifications of the system of cotton-raising, including the destruction of the plants in the fall, early planting, through cultivation of the fields, planting the rows as far apart as feasible, and using certain fertilizers."

#### Car of Dynamite Explodes.

New Orleans, Special.—A car loaded with dynamite in an Illinois Central freight train exploded near Kenner, 13 miles north of New Orleans. Two men are missing. One dead man has been found but he is an unrecognizable mass. Considerable damage was done in Kenner, where buildings were wrecked and glass and kitchenware smashed. Houses near-by were demolished.

#### Japanese Losses 100,000.

Gunshu Pass, By Cable.—The Japanese losses are estimated at the Russian headquarters to be 100,000. Some of the troops employed to cover the retreat from Mukden were badly demoralized losing their way in the hills eastward and only now rejoining their own divisions. So certain was General Kuropatkin of being able to hold Mukden that maps of the country northward were not even distributed. Kuropatkin, however, resolved to accept battle against his better judgment, owing to the impatience of St. Petersburg for victory and he was confirmed in this direction by false calculations of Field Marshal Oyama's strength.

#### Commission is Too Large.

Washington, Special.—Secretary Taft made public a letter which he has written to the President concerning complaints made by Dr. C. A. L. Reed regarding the work of the Isthmian canal commission. In the course of his letter, Secretary Taft said that many of the things complained of would be remedied by placing the control of the canal under one head, or at least under a commission composed of not more than three members. He adds that he will submit to the President, in a short time, a plan for the re-arrangement of the commission.

#### Fear He Has Been Surrounded.

London, By Cable.—Russian official circles in London, although without official news, are inclined to credit a Harbin story published in Paris connecting the firing reported to have been heard Tuesday morning about seven miles south of Tie Pass with General Renenhampp's Division. The dispatch from Harbin, points out that the only explanation of a cannonade in that locality is that Renenhampp has at length arrived at Tie Pass, where the Russian armies were ordered to rendezvous, in case of retreat, but only to find the place occupied by the Japanese. Consequently it is feared that Renenhampp is surrounded.

## GOVERNOR LOOKING AFTER BONDS

### Made Trip to New York to See About Bond Matter.

#### OUR MINISTER DELIVERS NOTE

Raleigh, Special.—Governor R. E. Glenn and Attorney General R. D. Gilmer have returned from New York, where they have been to confer with Wheeler Y. Beckham, a New York attorney who represents South Dakota in the bond suit, in which South Dakota holds judgment against North Carolina for \$27,000. The Governor's mission was to bring about the best possible settlement on the part of North Carolina.

Nothing definite as to the success of the mission is given out, the Governor merely saying that they had an interview with Beckham, and he is confident that a satisfactory settlement of all differences will be reached. It is understood that the Governor has made a proposition for a settlement that he and the Council of State would consider fair, and they are very hopeful that South Dakota will accept it.

#### Ex-Moonshiner With a Conscience.

Greensboro, Special.—A Federal official here received a letter Monday morning something out of the ordinary. The writer signed his full name and postoffice address, and asked for an immediate answer. He lives in an adjoining county, and is well known. The man stated that about ten years ago he "frauded" the government out of a lot of whiskey and a still, and deserved to be in the penitentiary. A blockade outfit and some whiskey had been captured and placed in the depot for shipment, and that night he broke in the depot and stole the whole outfit, selling the whiskey and using the still to make more blockade. That while the original blockader was suspected of doing this bold deed and re-captured his own, the writer was the man who did it. The man stated that he had got religion, and desired to know if the government would permit him to make restitution by paying the value of the goods "frauded."

He said he would do this or if the government demanded it, he would come to Greensboro any day named, and give himself up. Some of the old revenue officers here, being questioned as to the facts of the narration concerning the breaking in of the depot ten years ago, say that they remember it well and the matter was always a most mysterious one, and that the party confessing had never been suspected, it being generally believed, as he stated, that the person from whom the whiskey and still were seized had a hand in the robbery.

#### Farmer's Neck Broken.

Asheville, Special.—News was received here Monday of the tragic death of H. L. Hice Saturday night, near Bethel church, in the Hominy section of Buncombe county. Mr. Hice, in company with his son, had been to Asheville, driving a team of mules. Returning in the afternoon the father and son stopped at a store in West Asheville, where several purchases were made and near dusk the start for their home on Pole Creek was made. Reaching a point on the road near Bethel church, the mules became frightened and started to run. The elder Hice, who held the reins, was unable to check the animals and a turn in the road he was thrown from the wagon on his head. The fall was of sufficient force to break the neck and Mr. Hice was killed instantly. Mr. Hice was a prosperous farmer on Pole Creek, in Buncombe county, and had many friends who will be shocked to learn of his untimely and tragic going. He was about 54 years of age and a native of this section.

#### Farmer Killed by Train.

The Southern train, westbound from Goldsboro to Raleigh, Monday afternoon killed Thomas Mitchell, an esteemed, deaf and dumb farmer near Pine Level, the body being horribly mangled. He was walking on the track with his back to the approaching train so that it was impossible to catch his attention and warn him of his danger. The engineer applied the emergency brakes, but the train could not be stopped until the engine and all but one car had passed over the body, which was rolled in a ball and every bone crushed. He was the second husband of the widow he leaves and it is a remarkable fact that the first husband, a Mr. Wilkins, was stabbed to death on nearly the same spot at which the train ran over the second husband.

#### North State News.

Raleigh, Special.—The Corporation Commissioners have returned from their inspection trip over the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad. They report that they found large forces of laborers putting in new cross ties, heavier rails and making other improvements in the road bed. There may be some order later for the improvement of the depot facilities at some of the smaller stations.

#### The directors of the Raleigh-Durham Power and Passenger Co. announce

that they will accept the amended franchise granted them by the Raleigh Board of Aldermen and say that they will immediately put in the field two surveying crews, one to survey a line from Raleigh to Durham via Leesville, and the other via Cary, the purpose being to adopt the best of the two. They announce that they will get construction forces to work with the least possible delay and hope to have electric cars running between the two cities within the year. Mr. W. J. Neima, of New Port News, is one of the principal promoters of the enterprise.

## SCORES ARE KILLED

### Boiler in Shoe Factory Explodes and Wrecks Building

#### DEATH LIST A VERY LARGE ONE

Brockton, Mass., Special.—This city is in mourning for at least three score-people, whose lives were blotted out early Monday by the explosion of a boiler in a large shoe manufacturing establishment in the Campobello district, conducted by the R. B. Grover Company.

The explosion was immediately followed by a flash of flame, which consumed the factory, a long, four-story structure, as if it were a house of cards, and incinerated an unknown number of men and women, who were unable to extricate themselves from a mass of tangled wreckage formed by the terrific upheaval in the boiler room. More than half a hundred of the employees were maimed, burned or bruised by the time they reached safe ground. Some had jumped from the roof, some from windows, and others had been injured in the mad rush to escape from the doomed factory, which from all parts emitted the intense, awful heat of an inferno, driving back the head of heroic rescuers who in a few brief moments had performed gallant service.

The fire extended from the factory to seven other buildings in the vicinity and destroyed them. One of these buildings was a three-story wooden block, owned by Charles F. Dahlborg, the others being cottages of small value and a blacksmith shop. Two wooden dwellings near the engine room were practically demolished by the flying boiler, but none of the occupants was seriously injured. The total financial loss is estimated at a quarter of a million dollars, \$300,000 of which falls on the R. B. Grover Company. The monetary losses are nearly offset by insurance.

It may never be known just how many persons perished in the wreckage. No one knows exactly how many persons were in the factory. The number has been estimated at 400, but Treasurer Charles O. Emerson said he doubted whether there were so many at work. Two hundred and fifty survivors have been accounted for, and at midnight the remains of 50 bodies had been recovered from the ruins, the search being continued all night. Fragments of human frames, which might belong to bodies other than those enumerated, have also been found. Few of the remains have been identified. The head in nearly every case is missing, and, except in rare instances, it was impossible even to distinguish the sex.

Chief of Police Boyden at a late hour expressed the opinion that some of the employees had not reached the factory at the time of the explosion, and that undoubtedly a number of those living in nearby places were injured, and had gone home without reporting their injuries. He thought that many of those not accounted for, upwards of 100 in number, were among those.

An inspection of the wrecked boiler by the State boiler inspector showed that there was a sufficient supply of water in it. The cause of the explosion is at present a mystery. The disaster will be further investigated by the State authorities.

#### Inspector to Investigate.

Boston, Special.—Chief Shaw, of the State police, has detailed Inspector Kaiser to proceed to ascertain the cause of the accident.

"If criminal negligence is shown, I shall take immediate steps," said the chief tonight.

#### New to Succeed Cortelyou.

Washington, Special.—Chairman Cortelyou has announced that he had appointed Mr. New, vice chairman of the Republican national committee, and that by reason of this appointment Mr. New would become acting chairman on Cortelyou's retirement, which will take place in a very few days. Mr. New's appointment, it is said, is entirely satisfactory to Republican leaders throughout the country.

#### Provincial Governor Shot.

Viborg, European Russia, By Cable.—Governor Misarodoff was shot and seriously wounded by a boy whose identity has not been ascertained. The assassin, who is about 15 years of age, obtained an entrance to the Governor's office and fired three times at him, one bullet inflicting a serious wound, and the others slightly wounding the Governor's legs. The Governor's clerk and secretary were unable to stop the would-be assassin, who reached the street, where, however, he was arrested without a struggle. The Governor's condition is critical.