

Japs Repulsed In At- tempt to Bottle Harbor

At Port Arthur And Lose Four Vessels in Their Effort to Block Entrance.

EFFORTS TO END WAR

Are Being Made by King Edward—Many Unofficial Rumors A- float as to Damage to Mikado's Vessels—No News Given by Japs.

London, Feb. 23.—Efforts to end the war between Japan and Russia are being made by King Edward, according to a dispatch from Paris today.

The bearer of the proposals from the King to the Czar is said to be Count Benckendorff, Russian ambassador to Great Britain, who left London hurriedly Saturday. It is said that intimations have been received that Russia would accept overtures for peace on a reasonable basis. As England is a friend and ally of Japan, it is believed that no move would be undertaken by the King without an understanding with that power. All Japan demanded before hostilities began was a guarantee of the integrity of Korea and the sovereignty of China in Manchuria.

Berlin, Feb. 23.—The Cologne Gazette says Sweden, Norway and Denmark are making negotiations to decide what to do if the Japanese-Russian war is extended. These governments are desirous of adopting a common policy to protect their great coast lines.

Tien Tsin, Feb. 23.—A Chinese military movement toward the Manchurian border has begun. Five thousand Chinese cavalry left today for Shan-Hai-Kwan, at the end of the Great Wall.

Berlin, Feb. 23.—A dispatch from Tokio says 500 Russian cavalry have destroyed the telegraph lines at Anju, seventy miles south of the Yalu River. A clash with Japanese on land is expected any time.

Tokio, Feb. 23.—The Empress has aroused great enthusiasm by reducing her body guard and ordering them to the army. It is said Russian scouts are advancing from Yalu. Six hundred have reached Sun Chin and others are marching toward Wonson.

Wei-Hai-Wei, Feb. 23.—The British Steamer Chin Ping from Dalny reports being fired upon by Russians and hit seven times. A Russian pilot boat coming out of Dalny hit a mine and blew up.

Chifu, Wednesday Noon—Passengers on the German ship Gouverneur which arrived from Chin-Wang-Tao heard continuous firing between one and four o'clock this morning off Port Arthur. The captain saw the red flashes of guns from the posts. The night was moonless and no ships sighted. However, it is likely that an attempt was made by the Japanese to steal up to the entrance of the port. The weather favored the enterprise.

4 P. M.—The Russian consul here has received a report stating that Port Arthur was attacked after midnight February 23 and that four Japanese vessels were destroyed.

7 P. M.—The bombardment this morning by the Japanese appears to have been ineffective. They lost three or four ships. It is reported that Port Arthur was undamaged, and the Russian fleet remained in the harbor. Five thousand Russian troops have been moved from Mukden to Hsin Minting. In the villages along the west side of the Liautung peninsula preparations are being made to cut off any small bodies of Russian troops.

There is plenty ammunition and plenty of volunteers. Money is being supplied by the rich. Ten thousand people have already been enrolled and the movement is spreading and the bandits who have been disorganized by Russian influence for two years are reorganizing with the intention of carrying on a guerrilla war. It is clear that the Jap-

anese expect a considerable amount of assistance from the natives. Japanese predict that a battle will be fought in Corea within a week.

London, Wednesday.—A dispatch to Reuter's telegram company from St. Petersburg, sent at 11 o'clock tonight, says that on February 23, the Japanese attempted to send four steamers filled with explosives among the fleet in Port Arthur harbor. These "fire ships" did no damage and were themselves destroyed, two being sunk and two going ashore. Two Japanese boats escorting the fire ships were destroyed by the Russian guns.

St. Petersburg, Thursday, 12:10 A.M.—The wildest rumors are afloat here regarding the reported Japanese repulse at Port Arthur, but up to midnight nothing official could be learned. An official bulletin is expected soon. It is reported unofficially that the Japanese, while attempting to land at Pigeon Bay, lost two cruisers and two transports.

Berlin, Feb. 24.—Private advices from St. Petersburg state that the government has decided to issue an international loan of three hundred million roubles.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.—It is officially announced from Port Arthur that four Japanese battleships and two Japanese transports have been sunk in a fresh attack on Port Arthur. The attack was repulsed.

London, Feb. 24.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg says that an official message received there reports that four Japanese battleships and three transports were sunk in a battle off Port Arthur.

Passengers who arrived on the German steamship Jaeschi announce that they heard continuous firing off Port Arthur between 1 and 4 o'clock in the morning. The night was moonless. There is no doubt that the Japanese tried to steal an entrance into the harbor and were repulsed.

Ghefoo, Feb. 24.—The steamer Gouverneur Jaeschi, while passing Port Arthur at 3 o'clock this morning, heard heavy firing in that direction. There is a persistent rumor abroad that several Japanese warships have been disabled, but so far it is unconfirmed. Another steamer, passing Dalny about the same time that the Jaeschi was off Port Arthur, reports that she heard no firing. Thirteen Japanese warships are said to have passed Wei-Hai-Wei today, heading east. There were sixteen ships in the original fleet.

Paris, Feb. 24.—A dispatch from Seoul says that two and one-half divisions of the Japanese army, a total of 40,000 men, have landed at Chemulpo. The Japanese have fortified Ping Yang and are throwing out scouting parties toward the Yalu River.

Seoul, Feb. 24.—The Russians are keeping open the communications between Wije and Anju. Beyond this they have not advanced southward. Russian spies are known to be in the vicinity of Ping Yang. The inhabitants are in a panic.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24.—Public feeling has been relieved by the appointment of General Kudpatkin and Admiral Makaroff in command in the far east. The newspapers are publishing glowing eulogues of them and they enjoy high esteem and full confidence in all quarters.

The Czar, in thanking the St. Petersburg Zemstov for a loyal address presented to his majesty at the winter palace today, said: "The expressions of patriotism from all parts of Russia greatly console me in this difficult time. Trusting in God's help and convinced of the justice of our cause, I am persuaded that the army and fleet will do all that is becoming to the valiant arms of Russia to maintain the honor and the glory of the empire."

London, Feb. 24.—The Japanese legation has no confirmation of the report that three Japanese officers were hanged by the Russians for an attempt to blow up the Sangari Railway bridge in Manchuria. The report is not believed. The authorities consider it more likely that the men were really coolies, and not officers disguised. A careful search of the Japanese army list fails to discover the identity of the alleged officers.

(Continued on 4th page.)

MEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

It is our purpose to give from time to time, under the above caption, a brief sketch of men prominent in official and political circles, both state and national. We may be unable to secure data and photographs for every issue, but shall endeavor to give our readers something of the kind at frequent intervals. To-day we are pleased to present Hon. H. B. Varner, our efficient Commissioner of Labor and Printing and President of the North Carolina Press Association.

Hon. H. B. Varner.

Responsibility is always commensurate with power and influence, and since the influence of a man in a public position is so great, his responsibility must be equally so. Henry B. Varner is a man who never shirked a responsibility, nor wielded an influence that he did not believe was good and right. There are men who boast that they are familiar with all the tricks of the political game, but Mr. Varner never made any such boast. He has accomplished what he has through deserved merit. Solely and alone he has made the fight, open handed and above board, and has won.

Mr. Varner was born on April 12th,



HON. H. B. VARNER.

1870, and received his nomination to the position to which he has been elected on his birthday. Mr. Varner was born and reared on a farm, and consequently did not have any educational advantages other than those offered by the public schools of the neighborhood. He worked on the farm and attended school for some weeks or months at a time until he was almost grown. He then became an agent for the Pomona Nurseries, and travelled extensively all over Western North Carolina in that capacity. During President Cleveland's second administration Mr. Varner held a position in the revenue service.

On May 4th, 1896, Mr. Varner resigned his position to become editor of the Lexington Dispatch, which he has conducted with great success. When Mr. Varner took charge the paper had a circulation of about 625 subscribers, which under Mr. Varner's able and enterprising management, has run up to 7,800.

Mr. Varner has been Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of his county since 1897, and held that position during the memorable campaign of 1898 when the majority in the county was changed from 900 Republican to 600 Democratic. Mr. Varner was also at one time a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee.

Mr. Varner is a Mason, a Knight of Pythias, and a member of the Junior Order of American Mechanics. Although not a member of any church, he attends the services of the Presbyterians. He is held in high regard by members of the newspaper profession and has twice been a delegate to the National Editorial Association, and is a member of the Executive Committee of that body. He was married on the 26th day of December, 1900, to Miss Florence Comstock. He was elected Commissioner of Labor and Printing at the August election, receiving 186,493 votes against 128,480 for J. T. Hamrick, his competitor. Mr. Varner was just 30 years old the day he was nominated for Commissioner of Labor and Printing on April 13, 1900.

Mr. Varner is a devoted Democrat and one of the most honorable men in North Carolina. His record in the position to which he has been elected and in the performance of the duties thereof have been commensurate with his past life, which has been conducted on the highest fixed principles and which has ever won for him the respect and confidence of the people; and his unaffected politeness, his courtesy and frankness have made him a host of strong personal friends wherever he

IT IS RATIFIED AT LAST

Canal Treaty Approved by a Vote of 66 to 14.

DEMOCRATS WERE DIVIDED

Sixteen For and Seventeen Against —Simmons and Overman on Opposite Sides.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The Senate at 12:30 went into executive session to dispose of the Panama canal treaty. Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, made a speech in support of his amendment, which was voted upon by roll call and defeated—24 to 49—divided on party lines.

Mr. Morgan, of Alabama, offered four amendments upon which he did not demand a ye and nay vote, saying he knew very well that they would be defeated. His first amendment enlarged Article 1, guaranteeing and maintaining the independence of the republic of Panama. His second was intended to strengthen the article providing that in case of any change of form of the government of Panama, or in case of the absorption of Panama by another power, or in case of Panama joining any confederation, the rights of the United States acquired under the treaty should not be affected. A third amendment remodeled the language of Article 2, relating to the "contemplated purchase by the United States from the New Panama Canal Company" of its franchise and property. The fourth amendment was a minor change in another article. Mr. Morgan made a speech advocating the adoption of his amendments. They were all rejected by a viva voce vote.

Mr. Cuthbert, of Texas, made a speech declaring that the president had not acted within a reasonable time in obtaining the rights from Colombia for the Panama canal, and argued therefore that the Nicaragua route should have been taken up. He quoted from confidential documents sent to the Senate by the president bearing on the state of affairs at Bogota before the ratification of the treaty.

After disposing of the amendments the Senate then ratified the treaty by a vote of 66 to 14. The death of Mr. Hanna leaves the membership of the Senate at 89. Nine senators were paired, two on the affirmative being required to effect one on the negative, a two-thirds majority being required to ratify. If every senator had been present, the vote would have stood: Ayes 72; noes 17.

The vote for ratification stood:
Yeas—Republicans: Aldrich, Alger, Allee, Allison, Ankey, Ball, Bard, Beveridge, Burham, Burrows, Clapp, Clark, (Wyoming,) Cullom, Dewey, Deitrick, Dillingham, Dooliver, Dryden, Elkins, Fairbanks, Foraker, Frye, Fulton, Gallinger, Gamble, Hale, Hansbrough, Heyburn, Hoar, Hopkins, Kean, Kearns, Kittridge, Lodge, Long, McComas, McCumber, Millard, Mitchell, Nelson, Penrose, Perkins, Platt, (Connecticut,) Platt, (New York,) Proctor, Quarles, Scott, Smoot, Spooner, Stewart, Warren, Wetmore—52.

Democrats—Bacon, Berry, Clarke, (Arkansas,) Clay, Cockrell, Foster, (Louisiana,) Gibson, Latimer, McCreary, McEnery, Mallory, Money, Simmons, Tallaferro—14.

Total 66.
Yeas. Democrats—Bailey, Bate, Blackburn, Carmack, Culberson, Daniel, Dubois, Gorman, Morgan, Newlands, Patterson, Pettus, Teller and Tillman—14.

Paired in favor of the treaty—Republicans—Foster, [Washington,] Hawley, Burton and Quarles—4. Democrats—Clark and Stone—2. Total 6.

Paired against the treaty—Democrats—Overman, McLaurin and Martin—3.

has been. Prominent among Mr. Varner's personal traits is his sound and discriminating judgment and his fearless and impartial discharge of official and private duties. He is a man of spotless integrity and quick apprehension, accuracy, method and faithfulness in business. These qualities make him an acknowledged leader. Decisions of character, tact and sagacity are indicated in every line of his strong earnest face, and when united with his strong physique, the picture is complete of a man born to achieve success and to command the confidence of his associates.

At the July meeting of the North Carolina Press association held at Wrightsville Beach last summer Mr. Varner was unanimously elected president of that organization, which position he has filled with ability and courtesy. His friends will ask for a re-nomination for the office of Commissioner of Labor and Printing when the democratic State convention meets. That he has made a capable official is admitted by all.

Congressman Gudger On Improvements

SHOOTS HIS OWN DAUGHTER

And In Turn is Killed by Her En- raged Husband.

Asheville, Feb. 24.—Information reached here this morning from Marshall, that a terrible tragedy was enacted on California Creek, in Madison county, last night.

According to the story as told by the gentleman from Marshall, a young man named Hensley, son of N. Hensley, and a daughter of Tom Kess, eloped Monday or Sunday night, and were married. Learning of the elopement and marriage the father of the bride sent a message to the young couple, telling them to come home. The bride and groom believing that Mr. Kess wished them to return to receive his blessing, immediately turned about and went to the girl's former home. When the bride and groom of a few hours entered the Kess home the father of the bride drew his pistol and shot his daughter, inflicting, it is said, wounds that will prove fatal. Young Hensley then turned upon his father-in-law, wrenched the pistol from him and shot him dead. To the writer it is not known whether Mr. Hensley has been arrested.—Charlotte News.

MORTGAGE ON THE BIG SHOW

Uncle Sam Holds Grip on St. Louis Exposition.

Washington, February 24.—A mortgage has been executed by the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company to the United States government to cover the loan of \$4,600,000 authorized by congress to be made to the company. Secretary Shaw now has the mortgage in his possession. One million dollars will be paid over to the company in a few days' \$2,000,000 will be paid in March, \$1,000,000 in April and \$600,000 in May. The mortgage covers the gate receipts of the fair and repayment of the amount loaned will be made in June. The government agent in the collection of the money is Robert A. Fullerton, of Iowa. He will see that the government promptly gets its quota of the sum taken in at the gates. He will receive one-tenth of one per cent of the sum collected for his services.

NEGRO GILES LOSES HIS SUIT.

Supreme Court Holds That No Federal Question is Involved.

Washington, Feb. 23.—In the supreme court of the United States today an opinion was handed down by Justice Day in the case of Jackson Giles against the board of registration of Montgomery county, Alabama, dismissing the case for want of jurisdiction, no federal question being involved. The case involved the suffrage clause of the new constitution of Alabama. The proposition was an attack on the discrimination against the colored race, of which Giles is a member. In effect the decision is against Giles.

SENATOR MARK HANNA'S WILL

3,000,000 Dollars Left to His Family.

Cleveland, February 23.—By the will of the late Senator M. A. Hanna, probated today, an estate valued at about \$3,000,000 is left to the family. There are no public bequests.

The principal beneficiaries are the widow, Mrs. Charlotte Augusta Hanna; the son, Daniel Rhodes Hanna; the two daughters, Mabel Augusta Hanna Parsons and Mrs. Ruth McCormick, wife of Medill McCormick, of Chicago. A sister, Lillian C. Hanna Baldwin, is given \$10,000. An aunt, Mrs. Helen Converse is given \$1,000 and each of the grandchildren \$5,000. The widow is given the homestead property, all its furnishings, the stables and the library in lieu of one year's support.

Mr. Whitney's Will.

Minola, La., Feb. 24.—The will of the late William C. Whitney was filed here for probate today. Harry Payne Whitney, his eldest son, is made sole executor and trustee. The amount and value of the estate are not given. It bequeaths five tenths to my son Harry Payne Whitney, one-tenth to my daughter, Pauline Whitney, one tenth to my son Payne, and three tenths to my daughter Dorothy.

Our Congressman Addresses the House Upon This Im- portant Subject.

HIS CONSTITUENTS

He Says, Are An Agri- cultural People—He Cites Many Reasons Why We Should Be Granted an Appropri- ation—Other News.

Washington, Feb. 23.—While the naval appropriation bill was under consideration, Congressman Gudger took advantage of the latitude allowed in debate to say, in part:

Mr. Chairman, for the last half century the laboring people of this nation have toiled and struggled under the burden of heavy taxes, direct or indirect, and the result of this is that millions of dollars have been and are now stored in the national treasury. This money is to be spent for defraying the current expenses of the government or for appropriations for public purposes. These appropriations cover a wide range of objects, but there is one, however, which always carries millions of dollars—it is for rivers and harbors, to improve the waterways of this country. Hand in hand with this should be like appropriation for the improvement of the public highways of this country, and today, in the name of the farmers of the United States, I ask and urge that an annual appropriation be made to assist in opening up and building public highways for the use and benefit of the agricultural and every class of our population.

"I have the honor of representing one of the most, if not the most, beautiful and picturesque mountain districts in the whole country. Our streams burst from the mountain glens and trickle into the sylvan valleys; they unite and, finally, form the Swannanoa, French Broad, Tuckaseegee, Hiwassee and other rivers, but none of these have been improved by an appropriation from the national government; in fact, any effort would subtract from the handiwork of nature. Mine is an inland district where mountains lift their gigantic heads to such altitude that from Mitchell's Peak and Pisgah's dome a view may be had of four different States.

"My people are an agricultural people. They belong to that class who have borne their burden of taxation without a murmur. They have witnessed the appropriation of the money paid by them as taxes for any purpose that a majority in this Congress might decide to appropriate the same for, and never yet have they protested. My district has been a political as well as a geographic part of this country since the days of the thirteen original colonies. Her quota of men in arms were at King's Mountain, Cowpens, New Orleans, and in Mexico. During the civil war she had more men under Lee, Jackson, Johnston, and Pettigrew than she had voters. In every great crisis of our country's history she has bled for the right, as God gives her light to see it.

"During all this time my district has not had, as I now recall, one single dollar as an appropriation for any public purpose, except one small item for erecting a Federal court house and postoffice building for Asheville, N. C., and this same building is now in need of repairs, and I am asking for the present Congress an appropriation to cover the expense of same.

A number of New York papers have of late published editorial allusions to the bill introduced by Senator Simmons to establish an immigrant bureau on Ellis Island, with a view to making an exhibit of the products of the various states and thus induce a more general distribution of desirable immigrants. These expressions have been in the nature of commendation, and it is hoped that Mr. Simmons will have the active assistance of the New York senators in urging the passage of his bill, which recently received the formal endorsement of the commissioner of immigration.