

HARD FIGHTING IN FAR EAST. Japanese Strike Terror to Armies of Opposing Government. RUSSIAN REVERSE REPORTED. Driven From Pigeon Bay by Guns of the "Yellow Peril"—Condensed War News of the Week.

London, August 17.—A dispatch to the Central News from Tokio says that a big oil warehouse at Port Arthur is blazing furiously and that the position of the besieged is such that the Japanese are urging them to surrender.

Chee Foo, Aug. 16.—The Russian ships at Port Arthur made a sortie early today and are now being pursued by the Japanese. A severe engagement is expected.

Chee Foo, Aug. 16.—A credible report states that the Russian protected cruiser Pallada was sunk by a torpedo during the engagement on the night of August 10.

Chee Foo, Aug. 16.—A telegram just received from Tsing Tau says that the Russian battle ship Czarevitch insists that a Japanese battleship sank within full view during the battle on the night of August 10.

London, Aug. 17.—The Yokohama correspondent of the Port Arthur squadron, has been sighted off the Strait of Vandiemenn, steering Vladivostok.

Shanghai, August, Aug. 18.—M. Odagira, the Japanese consul general has notified the total of Shanghai that a Japanese fleet is coming to seize the Russian cruiser Askold and the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Gvozovoi.

The chief engineer of the customs department reports that the Russian vessels are not seaworthy.

The repairs being made by the Russians Gvozovoi will be completed in about ten days. It is uncertain when the repairs of the Askold will be finished.

There is no uneasiness here, although the position is thought to be acute.

The foreign officers are determined to preserve the neutrality of the port. On the recommendation of the chief of the customs, the total of Shanghai will allow the Russian cruiser Askold and the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Gvozovoi to remain in port until August 23, when one day notice to leave or disarm will be given them. The arrival of Chinese men of war is expected.

When a drunken husband and father staggers in the front door of a home, happiness simultaneously goes out the back door. The smile of the wife is dissipated and her dejected countenance is the index of a heavy heart. The children who laugh so merrily and cheerily at the Christmas tide are at the sight of their bestial father, hushed and still.

Washington August 19.—Counsel General Goodnow has cabled the State department from Shanghai that the Chinese, total there has reported against the claim of the Russian consul general, and decided that the torpedo boat destroyer now at that port must go out or disarm by the 20th instant, and that the cruiser must do likewise by the twenty-first instant.

Tokio, August 19.—Noon.—The Japanese are growing impatient at the delay in the decision as to the decision to the Russian cruiser Askold at Shanghai. The Askold has docked and is refitting to resume its place in the naval campaign. This is declared to be an open violation of neutrality, which the Chinese government evidently is powerless to prevent. Many Japanese openly urge the dispatch of a squadron to Shanghai to seize and remove the Askold. The government is desirous of respecting the neutrality of Shanghai, but it is unwilling to suffer the Askold to escape. It is possible that a Japanese squadron will go up to Shanghai and require that the Askold be disarmed, leaving her thereafter in the possession of the Chinese.

Tokio, August 19.—A Russian gunboat of the Otvajai type, struck a mine

and sank off Kroti promontory, the extreme southern point of the Kwang-Tung peninsula, on which Port Arthur is situated, at 8 o'clock on Thursday night.

The Otvajai is an armored gunboat of 1,500 tons displacement, launched in 1894, and carries one 9-inch gun one 6-inch gun and ten quick fire guns. She has two torpedo tubes, has a speed of 15 knots and carries a crew of 142 men.

Chee Foo, Aug. 21.—(2 a. m.)—A reliable authority declares that yesterday's (Saturday) attack on Port Arthur was unsuccessful, but continued last night and today and will go on for one more day if the Japanese are still repulsed.

Mukden, Aug. 20.—Confirmation has been received here of the report that the Russian Cruiser Novik has entered the harbor of Korsakovsk, island of Sakhalin, and it is announced that the Russian Cruiser Diana, recently sighted off Hong Kong, has arrived at Saigon, capitol of French Indo China.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 20.—The emperor has issued a ukase summoning to the colors all the reserve officers throughout the empire.

Tokio, Aug. 20.—The Japanese troops occupied Anshausan yesterday and the Russians have retreated toward Mukden.

Chee Foo, Aug. 20.—M. H. Ijuen, the London, Aug. 19.—A dispatch to the Central News from Tokio says it has been announced that the Japanese commander in front of Port Arthur has been unable to accede to a Russian request for grace in order to permit the removal of non-combatants from the place.

Nothing has been received from any other source confirming the foregoing.

London, Aug. 18.—Japan has officially notified Great Britain that she does not propose to give up the Russian torpedo boat destroyer Ryeshiteln, captured in the harbor of Che Foo August 12.

Tsing Tau Aug. 18.—All the ammunition of the Russian battleship Czarevitch and three torpedo boat destroyers has been removed and stored in a German magazine. The work of dismantling guns of the Russian vessels has been completed. The terms of parole imposed upon the Russians necessitate their remaining here until the end of the war.

The officers of the Russian warships who are able to be about are being royally entertained by the Germans here.

Japanese counsel-general at Tien Tsing who arrived here today on the British steamer Pechili, and who had a conversation lasting forty minutes with the commander of a Japanese torpedo boat destroyer which overhauled the steamer off Liaotien-shan promontory last night says that to-day's battle which began at daybreak, is directed against the fortress itself. It is taking place along the entire line and it is Japan's supreme effort, to which the recent battles were but preliminary contests. He added:

"I firmly believe that you can safely say that Port Arthur will soon be in our hands. One after the other of the outer defenses have been taken by the Japanese and when the latter had completed their preparations for the grand assault, General Stoessel was asked to surrender. He refused. Now comes the final test."

Chee Foo Aug. 19.—Chinese who embarked from Liaotien-shan promontory at eleven o'clock yesterday morning report the continuance of heavy fighting. They say the Japanese have occupied Pigeon bay and are at a striking distance of the Liaotien-shan forts which are however, still occupied by the Russians. According to the Chinese, the Russians at Port Arthur are making their final stand.

Tokio, Aug. 18.—It is said that the Port Arthur garrison has refused to surrender and is disinclined to send out non-combatants.

London, Aug. 17.—A dispatch to the Central News from Vladivostok dated August 17 says the cruisers Russa and Gromoboi, of the Vladivostok squadron, have returned there.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 17.—Rumors in circulation here last night were to the effect that the cruisers Diana and Pallada had reached Vladivostok and not Port Arthur, as at first reported. It is possible the reports have grown out of the receipt of several telegrams by the families of naval officers.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 17.—A rumor is afloat in circulation here that Port Arthur has fallen, but the source is not traceable and seems to have no more foundation than the previous rumor to the same effect.

As cabled to the Associated Press from Tokio today, the answer of the commander of Port Arthur to the Japanese demand for the surrender of the fortress is only expected today. Consequently it is not possible that news of the fall of Port Arthur can have reached St. Petersburg.

London, Aug. 18.—According to the Daily News at the Che Foo, refugees arriving there bring news of a serious condition of affairs at Port Arthur. They say that Japanese shells have ignited lighters in the docks which contained supplies of coal resulting in a terrific conflagration. Many of the buildings have been demolished and the hospitals are crowded.

Chee Foo, Aug. 21.—It has been officially confirmed here that the Russian cruiser Novik was sunk today off Korsakovsk by the Japanese cruisers Chitose and Tsushima.

Korsakovsk is a portion of the southern coast of Sakhalin off the coast of Siberia and about 550 miles northeast of Vladivostok.

Tokio, Aug. 21 (5 p. m.)—After a severe engagement with the protected cruisers Chitose and Tsushima, the greyhounds of the Japanese navy, the fleet Russian cruiser Novik has been vanquished. The fight occurred today. After it, the Novik, in a sinking condition, was run ashore in Korsakovsk harbor, on the island of Sakhalin. The details of today's fight are not known here, but it is evident that the Chitose and Tsushima caught up with the Novik yesterday and that a running fight ensued. The contest was resumed and terminated early this morning. Capt. Saichiro Takahashi, who is in command of the Chitose, reported the engagement in a brief telegram which reached the navy department here this afternoon. He says he first attacked the Russian cruiser Saturday afternoon and that on Sunday morning he inflicted serious damage upon her. The Novik nearly sank but she was beached at Korsakovsk. Temporary repair, however, rendered the Russian cruiser seaworthy and she continued to fight. The Japanese suffered no casualties.

The Imperial prince Yorhito, of the house of Higashi-Fusimi, is second in command on board the Chitose. Captain Senton commanded the Tsushima.

Chee Foo, Aug. 22 (11 a. m.)—The Japanese have swept the Russians from Pigeon-bay and captured the northernmost fort of the western line of inner defenses at Port Arthur. The Russian artillery prevent the Japanese occupying the fort on Pigeon bay.

WANTS NO SUNDAY EXCURSIONISTS.
Judge Parker Believes in Keeping Sacred The Day of Rest.

Esopus, N. Y., August 21.—Except for a casual visitor, who introduced himself to Judge Parker as "a New Jersey democrat," there was no one at Rosemount today to disturb the Sunday quiet. The usual stream of Sunday sightseers, rather larger than usual, passed Rosemount in carriages and on foot, but did not disturb the Parker family. There was a report early in the day that an excursion was coming from New Jersey, but no excursionists appeared. Judge Parker has caused it to be understood that he does not desire excursions or large parties of visitors to come to Rosemount on Sundays.

Judge and Mrs. Parker and part of the family guests went to Kingston in the Rosemount launch this morning and attended church as usual at the Mission Church of the Holy Cross.

In the absence of Rev. Charles Mercer Hall, who preached today in Saratoga, Rev. J. Edward Cooper, of Hackensack, N. J., preached. Judge Parker, as usual, acted as one of the ushers and passed the collection plate. The church was nearly filled, the congregation including many strangers attracted by the expectation of seeing the democratic presidential candidate.

It was said at Rosemount today that no visitors of political importance were expected during the early hours tomorrow.

Kodol Dyspepsia Cure
Digests what you eat.

EDUCATIONAL RECORD OF DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

Forcible Chapter for Democratic Hand-Book, Soon to be Issued-- Democratic and Fusion Rule Contrasted.

"Its record warrants the democratic party in making the modest but unquestioned claim to earnest advocacy and active and continuous advancement of the cause of education for all the people."

The above is the opening paragraph of the chapter on education as prepared from data taken from the records in the office of the state superintendent of public instruction for the Democratic Hand Book soon to be issued by the State Chairman F. M. Simmens. It is an able, document and comprehensive, making a most gratifying showing of the splendid part the democracy has played in vouchsafing to the people public school advantages. Below are given some of the most notable features of the paper:

Under democratic administration the public school system in North Carolina was first established and brought to such efficiency that it could be truthfully claimed that at the beginning of the civil war North Carolina led all the southern states in its system of public schools. So earnest and so sincere was the democratic party in its desire for the advancement of the public schools that it held and kept in office for thirteen years Calvin H. Wiley, the first superintendent of these schools, notwithstanding he was an avowed Whig, because of his recognized superior fitness for the office. During all the vicissitudes of the war, with all its pressing demands for all available funds for its prosecution, the public school fund of North Carolina was kept in tact, the right of the children to those funds held inviolate and the public schools kept open.

"In 1865, when Sherman's army entered Raleigh, Calvin H. Wiley, the superintendent of common schools, was in his office in the capitol receiving reports from these schools. Then followed under republican administration, a period of revolution, robbery and ruin. The public school fund was squandered, the taxes levied for public school purposes were collected, but only a part of them were used for the public schools. All over the state the schools were closed, or if open at all, open for but a few weeks. The public school system tumbled into decay, the public school system fell into chaos. It was no wonder that public schools under such management lost the confidence, respect and patronage of the people.

"In 1876, when the democratic party came fully into power again, the public schools were one of the first objects of its solicitous attention. Under the Management of the republican administration the University, the oldest, the most honored, and most useful of our public institutions of learning, had forfeited the confidence and support of our people and had been compelled to close its doors for lack of patronage in 1874. It was reorganized and reopened in 1876, and under the democratic administration, has had from that time a continuous career of success, usefulness and growth."

It is then recited how, that under democratic administration, the College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts was established and fostered until it is one of the leading institutions of the kind to be found in the south. How that a similar institution for negroes has been fostered by democratic administration. Also reference is made to the establishment of the State Normal and Industrial College for the higher education of women and their training as teachers for the public schools, and that institution stands out paramount among institutions for women in all the southern states.

In the presentation of the part the democratic party has taken in the providing of schools for the negroes the following is of interest: "For the training of colored teachers, the democratic party with its characteristic justice and liberality, has maintained several colored normal schools in different parts of the state. These colored normals have recently been consolidated into four, and placed under the superintendence of a trained, efficient North Carolina white man, and it will be sought through these schools to install into the negro teachers wise and sane ideals of education for their race, through the public schools, such training and such ideals as will better fit them for the work they must do in the world, for usefulness in their recognized sphere of action. The salary of this superintendent of these normal schools will, of course be paid out of the annual appropriation heretofore made to these schools.

Brightest Page of Educational Record.
The brightest page in the educational record of the democratic party however, is that which records its successful effort, wisely increased expenditures for the improvement of the lower public schools, and especially those in the rural districts. This honorable record is set out at length in the chapter in facts and figures given and taken from the records of the office of the superintendent of public instruction. In this connection it is shown how that in 1871 the

republican administration collected \$115,042.57 and subsequent democratic administrations increased the fund by 1893 to \$751,608.11. Then of the retrograde under the succeeding four years of fusion rule, how that the 1899 legislature made a special appropriation of \$100,000 for making all school terms four months and the bringing of the total school fund in that year up to the enormous sum of \$1,110,327.94; how that the 1901 Assembly made another \$100,000 appropriation for four-months terms and under succeeding democratic administrations the public school fund, not including local taxes levied for special districts amounted to \$1,245,108.48 in 1903 figures are given to show that during the four years of democratic administration—1900 to 1903 as compared with four years of fusion administration immediately preceding, the public school term was increased 12-3-4 weeks, and the average length of the public school term increased 3-1-5 weeks. In other words there was during the four years of fusion 50.66 weeks of public schools and during the four years of democratic rule there have been 63.40 weeks of school term. It is shown that during the four years of fusion rule \$3,461,693.12 was expended for the public schools and the public school terms lengthened only one day so that a calculation will show that under fusion rule one day of school in North Carolina cost the state \$442,289.82.

Figures are given showing that the democratic pledge of four months school has been kept. The declaration is made and facts and figures given to show that while the fusionists, when they came into power, did not dare to cut off the appropriations for the public schools, as established for many years by the democratic party yet, by their laws by which the negro committeemen could control white schools, they effectually checked educational progress and lessened educational interest. On account of this law, and the general lack of confidence in the administration and of respect for it, there was naturally a very decided decrease in the enrollment of, and attendance on the white schools. In 1894, the last year of democratic rule preceding fusion domination 235,486 children were enrolled in the white schools and in 1897 in the midst of fusion rule, with increased population there were only 222,252 children enrolled in the white schools, a decrease of 13,234. Figures are given developing the fact that 83,612 more white children were in average attendance daily on the public schools in 1893 under democratic administration than in 1896 under fusion rule.

In nothing has educational progress under the present administration been more marked, permanent and wise than in the improvement of public school houses and their equipment. Recognizing a decent and comfortable school house as an absolute necessity for a successful school that shall merit and demand the respect and patronage of the people.

The present administration set to work earnestly to help secure such a house in every school district. To prevent the waste of money in inferior and improperly constructed houses, the law was amended so as to place the building of houses under the general supervision of the county board of education and to require all houses to be constructed in accordance with plans approved by the county board of education and the state superintendent of public instruction. A pamphlet containing cuts and plans for public school houses, from one to eight rooms in size, together with full specifications and complete bills of material, was prepared by competent architects in accordance with the best modern principles of school architecture and distributed from the office of the state superintendent. Most of the new school houses have been built in accordance with these plans, or plans slightly modified to meet different conditions. The result has been a marked improvement in the character and comfort and sanitary conditions of public school houses.

The general assembly of 1903 very wisely authorized the use of the public school fund that had gradually accumulated in state treasury from the sale of swamp lands belonging to the state board of education, until it amounted to about \$200,000, and of further accumulations from this source, as a permanent loan fund for building public school houses, placing the fund under the control and direction of the state board of education. These loans are payable in ten annual installments and draw interest at 4 per cent. Under the rules and regulations of the state board of education, preference is given to rural and special tax districts, and only one half the cost of school house and grounds can be lent to any one district. This fund was not available until August, 1903. Since that time, from it \$108,881 have been lent to sixty-six counties, and 272 districts have been aided in securing 272 school houses; valued at \$30,000. In other words, by lending 108,881; public school property has been secured valued at three times that amount. The law secures absolutely the repayment of these loans by a lien on the entire school fund of the county and district.

Through the stimulus and aid of this fund, and through the agitation and cultivation of public sentiment for improvement of school houses, there has been a wonderful

increase in the number of school houses built during the present administration, and a wonderful improvement in the comfort and character of those houses. The following table shows the number of

New Houses Built.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1902, number of new school houses built | 329 |
| 1903, number of new school houses built | 347 |
| 1904, number of new school houses built | not less than..... |
| 400 | |

Total number of new school houses built in three years..... 1,076
Under democratic administration, during the past three years more than one new comfortable school house for every day in the year has been built. At this rate we may reasonably expect the children of every school district in the state to have a decent, comfortable school house in the near future.

Local Taxation.
As another result of awakened interest and increased confidence under democratic administration, the number of school districts levy, by a vote of the people, a special local tax to supplement the state and county fund for a better public school, has increased from thirty in 1900 to two hundred and twenty-one 1904, an increase of one hundred and ninety-one local tax districts in four years. At least one hundred and seventy-seven of these districts are distinctly rural. In territory they are scattered from Dare to Cherokee. The idea of improving public schools by local taxation is rapidly spreading.

Rural Libraries.
The democratic general assembly of 1901 passed an act appropriating \$6,000 to the establishment of rural libraries, the number being limited to six in a county, and the conditions being that the district applying for libraries should raise \$10 by private subscription, and that \$10 should be taken from the school fund and \$80 from the state appropriation, making \$90 in all for each library. The general assembly of 1903 appropriated the same amount for the establishment of new libraries upon the same terms and \$2,500 in addition for supplementing libraries already established, not more than \$15 to be allowed for the supplementary libraries, \$5 from the state appropriation, \$5 from private subscription and \$5 from the district fund.

Under these two acts of the democratic general assembly eight hundred and thirty-three rural libraries, containing about seventy thousand volumes of well selected books, have been established. In addition, a number of supplementary libraries have also been established. No one can measure the value of these well selected rural libraries, quietly and constantly at work among the people of the rural districts, in the dissemination of general information, the formation of literary taste, the cultivation of the habit of reading and the shaping of higher ideals of character, life and action.—Post.

What the Moon Can Tell.

A clear moon indicates frost.
A dull looking moon means rain.
A single star around the moon indicates a storm.

If the moon looks high cold weather may be expected.

If the moon looks low down, warm weather is promised.

The moon on her back always denotes wet weather.

A double halo around the moon means very boisterous weather.

If the moon changes with the wind in east, then shall we have bad weather.

If the moon be bright and clear when three days old, fine weather is promised.

When the moon is visible in the day time, then may we look forward to cool days.

When the points of the crescent of the new moon are very clearly visible, frost may be looked for.

If the new moon appears with its points upward then will the month be dry, but should the points be downward more or less rain must be expected during the next three weeks.

Examinations Fixed For September 28th.

The United States Civil Service Commission is to hold a Departmental Clerk Examination at Asheville, September 28th, and the attention of clerks in railway offices, banks, etc., where employees are required to perform rapid and accurate, is particularly called to the examination, as it appears to be designed, especially in the rapid copying and computation exercises to test the qualifications of such persons. The manual of examination issued by the commission contains full information relative to the examination, which is open to all citizens of the United States who comply with the requirements, except that legal residents of Delaware, Maryland, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming and the District of Columbia will not be admitted thereto on account of the excessive number of appointments which those states have received under the appointment.
Applicants should apply to the Civil Service Commission for application form 303 and a copy of the Manual, and the application should be properly executed and filed with the Commission at Washington.