

NORTH SEA INCIDENT.

The Verdict Hangs on Torpedo Boat.

THE FIRST PUBLIC SESSION.

Russians Still Affirm the Presence of Jap Boats, and Claim That an Attempted Attack Was Made.

Paris, January 19.—The international commission appointed to inquire into the North sea incident began its public sessions this afternoon. The meeting of the commission was held in the state dining hall of the D'Orsay palace (foreign office), which was crowded with high officials, diplomats and representatives of the navies of the principal maritime powers, including several staff officers of the Japanese navy.

Several members of the staff of the Japanese legation were among the diplomats present.

Admiral Fournier, of France, presided with Rear Admiral Beaumont, of Great Britain, and Admiral Von-Spann, of Austria-Hungary, at his right, and Vice-Admiral D'ubassoff, of Russia, and Rear Admiral Davis, of the United States, on his left.

A large force of British counsel and advisors were at the right of the court. Baron Taube, the Russian judicial adviser, and other Russians, were in the left part of the hall.

British Charges Read.

Hugh O'Berne, of the British embassy, agent of Great Britain before the international commission, read the charges, which consist of seventeen specifications, minutely setting forth the attack on the Hull fishing fleet. It was specifically declared that no Japanese torpedo boats and no warships whatever were among the fishing fleet, and that no Japanese war ships were anywhere in the North sea.

Baron Taube read the Russian reply, which specifically declared that two strange boats approached the Russian squadron, which the searchlights disclosed to be torpedo boats. Thereon fire was opened, the torpedo boats moving off and later disappearing. The Russian statement further asserted that Admiral Rojstevsky was absolutely obliged to act as he did in order to destroy the torpedo boats which had attacked his squadron.

The principal charges of the British statement follow:

"On the night in question there were not any warships whatever in the neighborhood of the fishing fleet except those of the Russian navy.

"No warships had been seen by the fishing boats since a long time previous.

"None of the boats making up the fishing fleet carried any kind of material of war.

"No Japanese warship of any kind whatever was at that time in the North sea.

"There were not any Japanese upon the fishing boats.

"The Russian fire continued after their searchlights clearly showed the vessels were peaceful fishing boats.

"None of the Russian ships gave or even offered assistance.

"The fire killed two men, wounded six, sank one boat and damaged five others."

The statement concludes that the attack was without any provocation upon peaceful fishing boats pursuing their usual and rightful avocation.

Reply Made by Russians.

The following are the principal points of the Russian reply:

"At about midnight the flagship Kniaz Souvaroff saw the outlines of two small boats which approached with great speed with all lights extinguished directly toward the battleship.

"When the two suspicious boats came within range of the Russian searchlights they were recognized as torpedo boats. Thereon the battleships opened fire.

"Thereafter a number of small fishing boats not showing the required lights were observed. Precautionary measures were adopted nevertheless. There was a strong feeling of danger upon the battleships and the duty of protecting themselves against the attack of torpedo boats obliged a continuance of the fire, despite the evident risks of hitting not only the shipping boats, but also the ships of the squadron itself which had arrived within the zone of fire.

"In the meantime the two torpedo boats drew off and shortly after disappeared. Fearing that some of the fishing boats were damaged, yet being certain that all danger from the two torpedo boats, or possibly others was not completely removed, Ad-

miral Rojstevsky considered it indispensable for the entire squadron to continue its route without stopping.

"Admiral Rojstevsky, while taking into account the damage caused to inoffensive fishermen, subjects of a neutral power, was nevertheless compelled to use all the means in his power to destroy the torpedo boats which attacked his squadron."

"Will Ruin The Democratic Party."

"It will ruin the Democratic party," was the warning of the men who tried to kill the Watts law two years ago.

The warnings were not heeded. The Democratic party is a very live corpse, thank you, and will live and flourish as long as it stands true to the best moral sentiment of the State.

We again hear the same "warning" when a plan to strengthen the Watts law and hold to the anti-jug law is suggested. Those who utter these warnings are sincere—or rather some of them are—but they are mistaken.

The Democratic party took a long step forward two years ago. It lost some votes; it gained some others. The good men who were misled will come back into the old ship. There can be nothing gained for the party or the State by listening to those who would save the party by steps away from sensible and progressive legislation. Those who are honest in their warnings are mistaken. The others are influenced by their own interests or are paid for expressing their opinions, and no attention need be paid to them.

Let the Democratic majority of 1905 hold fast to all that was done for temperance in 1903. Take a conservative step forward, and it will strengthen itself and bless the State!—News and Observer.

The Fortress of Gibraltar.

The fortress of Gibraltar is the subject of an instructive article in a recent number of the Outlook. The writer points out that Gibraltar is valuable to England for three reasons, and says they are its impregnability to withstand assault, its effectiveness in controlling the straits, and its usefulness as a coaling station and a base of operations, and he says: "Since Great Britain's occupation, her ablest engineers have spared no thought or pains to perfect its elaborate scheme of batteries, galleries and intricate subterranean works. Besides British workmen, several thousand Spaniards from Algeria and Linaea are employed daily on new works or improving the old, and the lighter guns if former days have given way to heavier ordnance. The expenditure for military protection alone, in a single year, has reached nearly a million and a half dollars."

He points out, too, that this one condition of its weakness is met by the fleet which England always keeps in the Mediterranean. He says:

"It seems to me there is a fair possibility that vessels at full speed, hugging close to the African shore, might get through with comparative safety, even in clear weather, while in dense fogs or storms they could go through unseen. Then again, the heavy dark mist-cloud, which so often envelops the upper half of the rock for days at a time, would make accurate aim exceedingly difficult and uncertain. So as Great Britain could not mine the straits, but one thing remains to make Gibraltar really the 'key to the Mediterranean,' and that is, a strong and effective squadron acting in conjunction with the land-batteries. This Great Britain has, and I believe her control of the straits cannot be reasonably questioned."

England has had possession of the fort 300 years. She has made it of great service to the commerce of the world as a coaling station, and as a base of supplies, and this is one reason, possibly, that other powers are content for its ownership to stay where it is.—Nashville American.

We learn from the French Broad Huster that there is an attempt being made to fasten a dispensary upon Hendersonville. The very same arguments are being used by those favoring the dispensary that were used here when the war was on to impose dispensary upon Franklin. Our town has had some experience along that line. The dispensary was tried for a time and proved a curse, and the first opportunity the people had to vote on it, the thing was buried beyond resurrection under a mountain of ballots, and the curse was removed. Hendersonville should profit by our experience. We are glad to note that the Huster is on the right side of the question, and opposes the dispensary.—Franklin Press.

The alarming reports of the unrest in Russia indicate that there is a point beyond which even people used to bring ruled with an iron hand will not go in the surrendering of their liberties. Whatever the outcome, the St. Petersburg strike is a favorable omen. Like all reforms of a pronounced character, however, the price will doubtless be more or less bloodshed.—Charlotte Observer.

CZAR IN DANGER.

Darkness Pervades The Russian Capital.

SITUATION GROWING TENSE.

The Authorities are Taking Drastic Measures to Preserve Order and to Prevent Rioting.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 21.—2:30 a. m.—With the Russian capital seemingly on the verge of an incipient revolution, thousands of workmen parading the streets, agitators and fanatics sowing the seeds of disorder, half the city in darkness and without fire protection owing to "walk-outs, the situation was hourly growing more tense when the authorities decided tonight to adopt energetic measures to preserve order, rioting and over-awe the violent minded, at the same time seeking to placate the striking workmen by offering satisfaction of the demands in so far as they are just and reasonable, thus acting with combined firmness and moderation.

The government tonight augmented the garrison of the city with 3,500 cavalry and 1,000 infantry from Tsarsko Zelo fortress.

The refusal to permit a delegation of workmen to present a petition to the Emperor at the Tsarsko Zelo has made it known that the great demonstration planned for Sunday with its unlimited possibilities for an outbreak will not be permitted to take place. At the same time acting in conjunction with a conference of employers, it has been determined to offer concessions in the terms of employment, which the employers declare that the great majority of the workmen would be inclined to accept if they were guaranteed protection on returning to work.

Later tonight it was reported that the leader of the workmen had been quietly spirited away and taken into custody in furtherance of the plan to disorganize the elements that are threatening the peace of the city. The authorities believe that by these steps they have the situation well in hand and announce that they expect peaceful solution of the problem.

The situation had entered an acute stage today and the strike had assumed an open political phase. The day was one of intense excitement. Mill after mill and factory closed. Throngs of workmen paraded the streets and when their colleagues refused to join them broke down gates and forced out the men. The whole industrial centre is idle. All the textile mills and every printing office in St. Petersburg are closed. One electric light plant and one water plant have shut down and 100,000 men are out.

Throughout the day workmen's meetings were held at which incendiary speeches were made, the wildest threats being uttered as to what would come in the event of the authorities and employers failing to meet their demands. The nervousness and dread of what the next few days might bring forth was increased by reports that the workmen of Moscow, Kieff, Kharkoff, Kischineff and other large cities in the interior might join the movement. While the government and employers the telegraphers and railroad employes threatened to join the walk-out, paralyzing the communications of the country. Many foreigners are preparing to send their families abroad. Every newspaper in St. Petersburg has been forced to suspend publication owing to the strike.

The suddenness of the strike and the far-reaching nature of the workmen's organization was largely a surprise to the government and employers. Starting with the walk-out of a few thousand employes of the Putiloff Iron works, due to purely industrial causes, it spread as rapidly as a conflagration through the laboring classes.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 21.—6 a. m.—A proclamation has been issued this morning forbidding all parades and other demonstrations in the city, and warning well disposed workmen and other private individuals to avoid gathering as the authorities determined to break up and disperse meetings imperilling public safety. The proclamation is printed in the Police Messenger, which is the only publication appearing this morning, the police having forced the printers to remain at work until the paper appeared.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 20.—In the midst of the fever of excitement today over the strike situation, the incident at the Winter Palace on Thursday is attracting secondary consideration. Sensational reports of a widespread conspiracy and wholesale disaffection in the army seem to be absolutely without foundation. Grand Duke Serhuss Michaelovitch, in his preliminary

report shows that the session of the battery contained charges of grape in readiness for a possible emergency such as to rake the streets in case of rioting, one of whom was introduced into a gun in front of the saluting charge. The gunners are under arrest and their antecedents are being examined, but it is impossible to learn whether anything important has yet been discovered. The military authorities are inclined to believe that the incident was the work of two men, one of whom inserted the missiles, while the other trained the gun.

An eye witness has reported that he had seen a cannoner carefully training the gun, but this does not agree with the statement by Grand Duke Sergius to a prominent military attaché that the gun must have been pointed downward, as the charge struck the ice, ricocheting and two balls entering the imperial pavilion. One ball also pierced a palace window, others striking the facade of the palace, or actually flying over the palace and dropping around the stable of Alexander II., in the palace square beyond.

ST. PETERSBURG IN DREAD.

The Crisis is Near at Hand and Revolution Imminent.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 22. 1:05 a. m.—Despite official assurances at midnight that the situation was well in hand and that ample steps had been taken to protect the vast industrial reaction of St. Petersburg and insure the safety of the city, the greatest uneasiness for to-day pervades the entire population.

Picked troops are stationed at various points in the city, and each house contains a miniature garrison, with gearmains in the court-yards and machine guns ready for the first emergency. The Winter Palace is strongly picked, with Grand Duke Vladimir in command. Final instructions were issued to-night.

The plan of the government is to prevent the workmen from coming to the center of the city to-day by guarding gates and bridges. A collision, therefore, is believed to be more likely to occur in the outskirts of St. Petersburg. Meantime the strikers are carrying out their original programme. The few mills and factories remaining active in the city were closed during the day, one of the last of them being the government powder mill. Strike leaders visited every shop in the city, and all of them, even those of butchers and bakers and laundries, were closed. Traffic was stopped on the street car lines, the men having joined the strikers.

Preparations for a big demonstration at Winter Palace square at 3 o'clock to-day have not been suspended, although the leaders have been warned that it cannot take place and the Emperor will not be there. The workmen are convinced that his majesty will appear and listen to the grievances set forth in the petition.

The deputation which on Friday took the invitation to Emperor Nicholas to attend the meeting having failed to gain access to his majesty, Father Gopon to-day sent it by his secretary to Interior Minister Sviatopolk-Mirsky.

During the day, Antonius, Metropolitan of St. Petersburg, formally excommunicated Father Gopon, on the ground that he was causing the people to rise against the Emperor, the head of the Church.

Rumors that the troops have plainly indicated their sympathy with the strikers, and if it comes to a collision they will refuse to fire upon them, are everywhere rife and the workmen themselves and thoroughly convinced that such is the case. But the authorities maintain that the loyalty of the troops is beyond question pointing out that the only time the Russian regiments showed treachery was in the December revolution of 1821, when the guard regiments participated, but they say that the troops then were practically soldiers of fortune returning after the Napoleonic wars, imbued with the revolutionary ideas of France. It is fully realized however, that if the troops mutiny or actually join the workmen that the government will be faced not only with riot but with revolution.

Father Gopon, at the request of Minister of Justice Muravieff, went to the Minister of Justice to-day and had a long interview with M. Muravieff, at which the Minister tried to dissuade him from his programme for Sunday.

Father Gopon, however, could not be budged, and at the end of the interview left, saying, "We must each do our duty according to the light given us."

TONIC TO THE SYSTEM.

For liver troubles and constipation there is nothing better DeWitt's Little Early Risers, the famous, little pills. They do not weaken the stomach. Their action upon the system is mild, pleasant and harmless. Bob Moore, of LaFayette, Ind., says: "No use talking, DeWitt's Little Early Risers do their work. All other pills I have used gripe and made me sick in the stomach and never cured me. DeWitt's Little Early Risers proved the long sought relief. They are simply perfect." Sold by W. H. Justus.

TEMPERANCE.

Splendid Session of Anti-Saloon League.

ENCOURAGING REPORTS.

Many Practical Speeches Made—Important Resolutions Passed—A Number of Recommendations Adopted.

The committee on recommendations to the General Assembly reported, through Hon. H. A. London, the following, which was adopted by sections:

"First. That the manufacture, sale and rectifying of vinous, malt or spirituous liquors be prohibited in towns heretofore incorporated, or that may hereafter be incorporated with less than 200 qualified voters.

"Second. That the Watts act be rigidly enforced by appropriate legislation, and especially that the duties of the county and municipal officials be more specifically described in the execution of temperance laws.

"Third. That we heartily favor an anti-jug law.

"Fourth. That a committee on legislation be appointed by the president of this convention to aid in securing the legislation above recommended."

The report of the committee on principles and policies was presented by Dr. A. J. McKelway and finally after exhaustive discussion as follows:

"1. Recognizing that the liquor traffic is the source of disaster and crime we reaffirm the principles of state regulation now contained in the Watts law. Holding that the liquor traffic should not be forced upon any community against its will, we also hold that on account of the nature of the traffic and especially its debauching effect upon the fountain of government, the suffrage of every advantage should be given the cause of temperance consistent with the rights of self-government. While the sale and manufacture of liquor is allowed now only in incorporated towns, it is the privilege of the governing bodies of both counties and towns to refuse license. We advocate the extension of the same principle of police power, so that where not incorporated towns, through the sale of liquor, becomes a nuisance to neighboring counties, such sale shall be prohibited by legislative action.

"2. We recommend that the legislature pass a state anti-jug law.

"3. That no liquor shall be sold, rectified or manufactured in a town having less than 200 qualified voters.

"4. That all saloons should be required to close their doors between the hours of 8 p. m., and 6 a. m.

"5. That no spirituous vinous or malt liquors shall be shipped into or out of prohibition territory.

"6. That the Watts law be amended so as to forbid the rectifying of liquor wherever its manufacture and sale are forbidden.

"7. That in any prohibition or dispensary territory the possession of any person of a license to sell or manufacture liquor shall be considered prima facie evidence of guilt.

"8. That the laws be so amended as that where a person has been convicted once of the illegal sale of liquor a second conviction shall be punished by imprisonment.

"9. That our representatives in Congress be urged to support the Hepburn Doolittle bill, or some other similar provision, to prevent the shipment of liquor from one state into the prohibited territory, of another state.

"10. That whatever public sentiment shall support the action, counties having prohibition shall be taken out of the operation of the Watts law by legislative enactment and prohibition made permanent.

"11. That the sale or distribution of liquor by a club to the member should be forbidden.

"12. That the drinking or handling of liquor in restaurants in towns where prohibition or dispensary prevails should be forbidden.

"13. That we recognize the dispensary as an alternative to the saloon and the temperance people are justified in supporting it, when, in their judgment it is the only means in destroying the saloon with prohibition as the ultimate goal.

"14. That a committee be appointed consisting of Mr. James H. Pou, Jr., Mr. Stephen McIntyre and Mr. W. C. Douglass embody such of these principles as call for legislative action, in a bill to be presented to this legislature.

Constipation and piles are twins. They kill people inch by inch, sap life away every day. Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will positively cure you. No cure no pay. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. Justus Pharmacy.

Reverie.

It was in the summer of 1915. That was plain enough, because I knew I left Asheville in 1905, and I had been gone just ten years.

I looked up and saw a sign in large letters, "This way for Electric Cars Over the Great Scenic Railway to Fruitland, Fair View, Bat Cave, Chimney Rock, Rutherfordton and All Points East." I stopped in amazement and although my destination was Hendersonville, I decided that I could go there some other time. When I entered the station and called for a ticket to Bat Cave, the agent asked if I wanted to travel in the Palace or open car, and I said I wanted a Palace car by all means. I seemed to be lost somehow. I couldn't convince myself that this was the Asheville I once knew. A Palace car to Bat Cave and Chimney Rock! How strange it sounded! Could it be possible? Think of such a thing flying down through that rugged country!

The rustle and bustle around the depot was just like that at St. Louis or Cincinnati. Passengers were hurrying to and fro. It was midsummer and the traffic was heavy. "Yours is the rear coach on first track," the gatekeeper said as he handed back my ticket and reached for the next one coming behind. Sure enough, there they were, three open cars in front and two Palace cars hooked on behind. I got aboard. Elegant carpets on the floor, windows like those in the parlors of the wealthy.

The cars were all full of happy tourists who were just out for a day's pleasure down at Bat Cave and other places. We started. On we sped faster and faster, until the mile-a-minute rate was reached. At Fruitland a number got off to change cars for Hendersonville, but my destination was Bat Cave. On we went, through tunnels, around the sides of huge cliffs, over gorges so deep that you got dizzy in spite of all you could do and down narrow valleys. A fellow traveller remarked that it was wonderful what changes had been wrought by the application of electricity—that some ten years ago he had joggled along in a hack over the Hickory Nut Gap road, taking almost a day to go from Asheville to Bat Cave, and that he had never dreamed of ever going over the same route in a Palace car at the rate of sixty an hour.

I could hardly realize it myself. All the once small towns of the famous "Land of the Sky" had become populous cities of wealth and influence. Hendersonville, Brevard, Saluda were manufacturing and distributing points as well as resorts of health and pleasure. Bat Cave and Chimney Rock had become the most famous resorts for pleasure-loving people anywhere to be found. Thousands had to be turned away every year for want of accommodations. Familiar names as proprietors, could be seen in New York papers advertising their hotels and inns. In summer they were crowded with visitors from the coast, who sought fresh, cool air, and in winter thousands flocked there to escape the blizzards, ice and snow of the bleak regions of the north.

The beautiful Broad river valley presented a view never to be forgotten, and one which I decided could never be reproduced on canvas. It was evening and the hot summer's sun had just hidden itself behind a towering peak that looked as if it might have been left there by the kind hand of nature purposely to give the little city a shade in the afternoons. The river crept lazily along through the narrow, shaded valley. Hundreds of visitors and tourists in evening dress were walking and chatting pleasantly. Others of a more romantic nature whizzed by in automobiles, while children just like children always did and always will do, played in the sand near the river's edge, and preferred to be barefooted and dirty to automobiles, model playgrounds, or anything else that 20th century civilization could offer.

Looking down the river I could see beautiful residences, large hotels with pretty, vine-clad porches, the mountains towering heavenward on either side were now tinted in golden hues from the setting sun. Farther on down right at the point where the narrow vale spreads out into the hills of Rutherfordton, could be seen the far-famed, natural curiosity and wonder of the century, Chimney Rock.

While contemplating all this, shaking hands with old friends and meeting new ones, my bunkie punched me on the side of the head, and as I woke up he shouted: "For Christ's sake get up. It's three below zero and the snow is two feet deep." Just then half a dozen trumpets blared out that hateful call known in the Army as "reveille."

N. B. HUGGINS.

World's Fair Grounds, St. Louis, Mo.