

THE PEOPLE.

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WONDERFUL WAR NEWS.

Twenty Russian Ships Put Out of Commission in One Week.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 15.—2.45 a. m.—A communication from Viceroy Alex. I. just received, confirms the report of the landing of 19,000 Japanese troops at Chemulpo. The viceroy adds that reports have been received of attempts to cut the telegraph wires along the Chinese Eastern railway and also to destroy one of the abutments of the Sungari bridges. These attempts, he adds, were immediately detected and decisive measures taken to guard the railway.

A Splendid Victory.

Nagasaki, Japan, Feb. 14.—According to advices received, the engagement at Port Arthur commenced at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 9th. Altogether 12 vessels were destroyed, and 8 captured.

Six Norwegian Steamers chartered by a Russian naval contractor have been captured. The vessels are the *Lena*, *Activ*, *Sentis*, *Seirstad*, *Argo* and *Hermes*. They carried coal cargoes. The *Hermes* arrived here today under convoy of a cruiser. It is rumored that 15,000 Japanese soldiers have been killed, presumably by the sinking of a transport. Disturbances are reported proceeding in Seoul.

A Japanese Riposte.

London, Feb. 15.—The Daily Mail's Port Arthur correspondent under date of Feb. 12, says: Official advices state that the Japanese landed 600 soldiers near Taku-Wen with disastrous results, 410 being captured by the Russians. The remainder escaped to their ships. It is further stated that the Japanese landed at Dove Bay, where thirty of them were killed, and the remainder retreated.

News between Sakata and Otawa has been suspended on account of Russian raiders. Great indignation is felt at Yokohama over the sinking of a commercial steamer, and it is believed that it is a violation of international law of warfare.

Norwegian Captain Imprisoned.

Chefoo, Feb. 14.—Capt. Gunderson, of the Norwegian collier *Bygdo*, has been imprisoned at Port Arthur for four days for having in his possession a chart of the Singautau coal station west of Port Arthur, and showing the chart to the Japanese. The Japanese were arrested with him, but their whereabouts are not known.

It is reported that a correspondent has been arrested in attempting to send news by the steamer *Chefoo*, sailing for Port Arthur. The Captain was allowed to leave on agreeing to say nothing about the unconfirmed report that fifty-one Russian sailors had been killed in the engagement Tuesday. One refugee says he saw seven bodies landed from a disabled cruiser which was in a bad position, with a heavy list, bow down.

Whereabouts Unknown.

Chefoo, Feb. 15.—All of the steamers that have left Dalny have heard nothing of the Japanese fleet or navy.

An Oriental Celebration.

Tokio, Feb. 12.—The night celebration far exceeded that of the day in noisy enthusiasm. Early in the evening impromptu processions of thousands of men began to form, and paraded through the principal streets and surged about the public buildings and palaces, carrying banners and cheering wildly. The Russian Legation was dark and silent. The people have been restrained and calm for so many months that they are pouring out their long pent up feelings into a wildly enthusiastic celebration of victory.

The Chinese Court.

Peking, Feb. 14.—An imperial edict declares that the Court has no intention of leaving the Capital.

Port Arthur Sealed.

London, Feb. 15.—The Tokio correspondent of the Times says: "It is said the Japanese squadron has sealed Port Arthur."

Reported Japanese Defeat.

Chefoo, Feb. 12.—It is reported that 15,000 Japanese troops were landed at Dove Bay last Wednesday morning, and that they were met by the Russians, who engaged them in a hand-to-hand fight. The reports say the Ja-

panese were driven back. It is also reported that Japanese troops have been landed forty miles farther west.

Significant.

Tokio, Feb. 14.—The Japanese government denies that Pavloff, Russian minister to Corea, withdrew from Seoul to-day under Japan's pressure, but that his withdrawal was entirely voluntary. An officer escorted M. Pavloff to Pascal. The Japanese fleet was given instructions not to interfere with M. Pavloff's departure. From Pascal M. Pavloff will go to Chefoo. The above disclaimer by Japan indicates that despite the fact Corea is largely dominated by the Japanese military force, the government has no intention at present of assuming territorial possession.

Brice's Local Option Bill.

The discussion of Senator Brice's bill to regulate the dispensary law so as to allow the voting out of established dispensaries consumed three hours of the senate's session Thursday morning. The bill was amended and sent to the house. One of the amendments submitted by Senator Blake, which was accepted, will, say the opponents of the bill, completely preclude its efficiency. This amendment is that no counties voting out the dispensary shall thereafter be allowed to participate in the school fund derived from the dispensary profits. The argument is made that no community would be foolish enough to deprive itself of this source of revenue. Senator Brice says that if a deficiency exists in a school fund in a county it must be supplied by taxation on the other counties of the State. Section 6 of article 11 of the constitution of 1895 may be construed so as to substantiate this view of the matter, it is said.

When the bill was brought up Senator Ransom offered an amendment as follows:

"Provided, a tax of one-half mill is hereby levied upon every dollar of the value of all taxable property in all counties having no dispensary, and in all counties voting to remove or close the dispensaries as above provided; for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the enforcement of the dispensary law in said county under and by direction of the governor, said tax to be collected as other county taxes and forwarded to the State treasurer to be expended, or so much thereof as may be necessary, as now provided by law for such purposes. Any balance remaining unexpended at the end of the year to be returned by the State treasurer to the county treasurer of such county for general county purposes, and that the value of all confiscations of contraband goods seized in such county, as determined by the State board of directors, shall be paid to the fund raised by said levy for the enforcement of the law as above provided. And any amount expended in said county for the enforcement of the dispensary law shall be refunded to the State treasury upon the collection of the tax above levied."

A Postmaster in Trouble.

Spartanburg, Feb. 10.—A warrant has been issued against Postmaster J. T. Robinson, of Cowpens, charging him with violation of sections 3890, 3891, and 3892 of the revised statutes of the United States, which relate to the unlawfully detaining of mail matter in the postoffice at Cowpens and otherwise interfering with matter addressed to another person than himself. Mr. Robinson has given bond for his appearance before U. S. Commissioner McGowan. The case has been placed in the hands of the government postoffice authorities.

A Little Of.

The Raleigh Times says: "It is now beyond doubt that the destruction caused by the fire in Baltimore is the greatest ever experienced in any single fire in the history of the world." While the loss was appalling, it was yet about \$70,000,000 less than that incurred in the Chicago fire, without considering the sacrifice of life. But our Raleigh contemporary has forgotten the little affair presided over by Nero. There were no fire insurance companies in those days, so the estimates of losses are not accurate, but the city was burning for fully one week. In such fires as destroyed the cities of Rome, Vienna, Jerusalem and London, the losses were total, there being no insurance, the great boon of modern property holders. Nor were there fire-proof vaults and safes, so that the destruction of treasure of all kinds was enormous.—The State.

The Local Option Measure.

To the Editor of The State:

In order to show the sentiment of the people of this place in reference to the bill introduced in the senate by Mr. Brice of York, providing for local option, I circulated in this town a petition sent me by Mr. J. W. Hamel, chairman of the State Temperance, Law and Order league, urging the passage of the above named bill. I presented the petition to 212 persons and out of that number ten (10) refused to sign it. No one was urged or persuaded to sign it. There are two men in the place to whom I did not present it, as I understood that they were opposed to it.

The local option bill, according to Mr. L. J. Williams, now pending, has a nigger-in-the-wood-pile feature in it, and is not worthy of consideration by the general assembly, and should be stricken from the calendar. I have reference to the half-mill tax feature of said bill. While in reality it would amount to very little, every one knows how utterly opposed the average voter is to an increase of taxes. So for some partisan to ring the changes at this point out a little, would be to defeat the proposed end.

Will our lawmakers consider for a moment the following questions? Is it right, is it just, is it reasonable, is it according to principles of free government to impose upon a commonwealth a law that is as a galling iron yoke upon the necks of the people? Certainly if a community does not want to sell liquor, they ought not to be compelled by law to do so. Give a long-suffering people a chance to say by popular vote what they want and let them have that. This is all we are asking for at your hands.

H. L. Baggott.

Saluda, Feb. 10.

A South Carolinian.

Among the United States naval officers detailed to follow military operations in the far east for the navy department is Lieutenant Newton A. McCully, U. S. M., of South Carolina. He will be attached to the Russian fleet as soon as the permission of the Russian naval authorities is secured by Ambassador McCormick, who has been cabled to make the necessary arrangements, and given the list of officers, both military and naval. Lieut. McCully entered the service in 1883, and was commissioned Lieutenant in 1890.

The White Knight Cigar is strictly a first-class smoke. For sale at the Camden Drug Company. Call for them.

Records of Great Fires.

In the Chicago fire of 1871 over 18,000 buildings were destroyed, of which 2,400 were stores, shops or factories, and about 100,000 people were rendered homeless. The district over which the conflagration swept was three and three-quarter miles in length by more than a mile wide, covering the most densely populated portion of the city. It is said that 250 lives were lost by accidents during the progress of the fire, and total value of property destroyed was estimated at \$192,000,000.

When the Russians evacuated Moscow in 1812 the Czar ordered the city to be fired, and a large number of convicts were pardoned and released from the jails on condition that they would do the work of setting fire to the houses. It was well done; the entire city was reduced to ruins on September 14 and the eight following days, and the destruction of property estimated to exceed \$150,000,000.

In 1845 the lower portion of Pittsburg was blotted out by fire, which speedily passed beyond control of the defective apparatus then employed. On this occasion there were 1,100 buildings burned, whose value was \$10,000,000.

In 1842 Hamburg was burned; 4,219 buildings were destroyed, their estimated value being \$35,000,000; 100 lives were lost by falling walls and similar accidents.

Jerusalem has been partly or wholly burned seventeen times, each conflagration being kindled by the city was taken by a conquering force.

In 1838 Charleston, S. C., was swept by a fire. It is estimated that on this occasion 1,158 buildings were destroyed, whose value was \$3,000,000.

In 1866 Portland, Me., suffered from a great fire, which destroyed over one-half the buildings in the city and occasioned a loss of \$11,000,000.

In 1889 occurred the great fire at Seattle, in Washington, in which property to the value of \$20,000,000 was destroyed.

In 1866 Yokohama was almost destroyed by fire, only the palace of the emperor and a few temples escaping.

In 1873 Yeddo, Japan, suffered from a fire which destroyed 10,000 houses, and left over 1,000,000 persons homeless.

The Boston fire of 1872 is reckoned the fourth most destructive fire of history, the loss exceeding \$75,000,000.

In 1822 Canton, China was almost obliterated by a fire which swept over three fifths of the city.

The great fire of London in 1666 destroyed property estimated to exceed \$58,000,000 in value.

Push the Pigs.

In breeding hogs for profit they should never be kept over winter. Feeding stock hogs through the winter to keep them in growing, thriving condition would cost almost as much as it would to prepare them for market earlier in the season. If your pigs are of good stock and have good care, March or April pigs should be slaughtered in December, and even May or June pigs will make good meat at about Christmas holidays. Get your hogs fat at from six to nine months old. But for this purpose it will not do to raise the long-nosed, razor-backed elm peelers, but you must get improved blood. Then, with good blood, good feeding and early marketing, you will more than double your profits.

Talk With Farmers.

We know that rest to the toiler is sweet, and that social and festive pleasures are specially delightful at this period. There is nothing wrong in needful rest, nor is there anything censurable in social mingling at any proper period. Still the expanse of coming time unfolds to view the necessity for labor—reminding the farmer, as well as men of all other pursuits, that the bread of life must be earned "in the sweat of the face."

Here we are in mid-winter. All vegetable life seems suspended, save here and there a sprig of grass sheltered from the winds, frosts and snow by which its kindred have been deprived of vitality; or an evergreen that seems to stand as a pledge of new life when the spring comes with its rejuvenating influences. The period of resuscitation to vegetable nature will soon arrive, and no man doubts that then the farmer must be busy. But there is something to be done now, in anticipation of an abundant harvest the coming year.

Don't leave an acre unturned that you intend cultivating this year, if it is possible to treat it in this way. Whatever plow you bring into use, be sure that you turn the top of your land to the bottom, carrying by the process all that has accumulated upon the surface, so that by decomposition it may increase the productive force of the soil. When you have turned your land, bring your plows back, put your horses in their warm stalls, and take a good rest while the frosts and snows and the sun shine finish the work of preparing your land for the spring planting.

The Mild-Eyed Pets.

The Jersey cow needs no defender or apologist. She has taken her place and fills it well. Her good qualities are well known and conceded; and while we advocate a larger breed of cattle to cross on our native stock to increase their beef and milk producing qualities, we would not detract one particle from the excellent qualities of the Jersey. We want to be understood upon this point. We are in favor of every kind of a good cow in her place, but for the farmers of South Carolina we are for that breed of cattle that will make cattle-raising more remunerative to the breeder. We care not what it is or where it comes from. It is our aim to put before our readers the facts about all the breeds, and let them decide for themselves which suits them best.

Make Your Composts.

We clip the following valuable paragraph of advice from The Planter's Journal, and commend it to the consideration and observance of our readers. The article from which it is taken was written on the subject of preparing compost:

Remember that there is nothing upon the plantation—if it will decay—but that it will add to the fertility of your soil. All the litter and leaves that fall in your yard from the shade trees, the ashes from the kitchen, the blood and offal from your pork, hogs and bees, the chips from the wood pile, and in fact all the vegetable litter about the place should be thrown into the compost heap, and the soapuds every week, if not otherwise used upon your fruit trees, should be poured over the compost heap. The litter from weeds, briars and other brushwood, from the jams of your fences, may also be used

in the same way. And litter from the forests, that prolific source of vegetable, ad habitum, at will and in any quantity.

The Spinners Now an Element.

New Orleans, Feb. 11.—Cotton today made what would be considered sensational advances in ordinary times, closing prices being from 85 to 95 points higher than the close of yesterday. The market, however, showed little excitement and the tone throughout was steady.

The statement was openly made that spinners were bulling the market and specially March. The demand for March contracts was enormous, bids being continually made for from 1,000 to 5,000 bales. Offerings were not at all free and the consequence was that March made the greatest gain of the week, 99 points.

Funnlettes.

He was a masher. She was a woman who was spoiling a \$14 hat in the rain. He raised his umbrella, and hurried along and overtook her and began:

"Madam, permit me to offer the use—"

"Oh, thank you ever so much!" she interrupted, as she took it from his hand and walked on, leaving him to skip for a door way.

A newsboy who noted the performance from his position under an awning, looked from one to the other several times, and then approached the masher and queried:

"Under the circumstances, you don't want to buy a newspaper, do you?"

And the answer was such a melancholy shake of the head that the boy recommended a change of climate.

Johnson—"Do you know young Jones?"

O'Kelly—"Yis, sor; I know him."

Johnson—"Can a person believe what he says?"

O'Kelly—"Faith, an it's just this way—when he tells ye the truth ye can believe ivery word he says, but when he lies to ye ye better have no confidence in him at all."

"Is there any one waiting on you?" asked a dry goods clerk of a young lady on the opposite side of the counter. "I hardly know," she replied, "George is so peculiar; I don't know whether he means anything or not." She blushed and asked to look at some lace.

D. Autry

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