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THE WAR IN THE EAST.

Report of Loss of Six Ships by the Japs in Last Attack on Port Arthur Flatly Denied.

London, Feb. 25.—The British Foreign office has received an Official Dispatch saying that not one of the Japanese vessels were injured in the attack on Wednesday, the 24th.

An Important Move.

London, Feb. 26.—War correspondents and Europeans in Japan comment in amazement upon the success of Japanese officials in preserving secrecy regarding all the operations of war, and declare this conspiracy of silence is not only confined to government and service circles, but that it extends to every section of the community. All classes of people are submitting with marvelous patience to being deprived of news which they recognize is imperative to the success of the national cause. It is undoubtedly in pursuance of this policy that no Japanese account of the Port Arthur attacks has yet been published and none is expected until Admiral Togo has completed his designs there.

Predicts Japanese Victory. Senator Nelson says United States interests will benefit.

In an address before the Minnesota Association, of Washington, Monday night at the Dewey, Senator Knute Nelson predicted that Japan would win in her conflict with Russia because the Japanese people had the right of the controversy.

"Russia is a despotism," said Senator Nelson, "and Japan represents progressive ideas and representative constitutional government." A victory for Russia means the closed door in China for the United States. A victory for Japan means the open door to our trade in the Orient.

With our possession of the Philippines and the construction of the Panama canal, the United States cannot help but be interested in the war between the two nations that is now being waged for supremacy.—Washington Post.

Millions for Postal Service.

The House Committee on post offices and post roads has completed the post office appropriation bill and authorized Chairman Overstreet to report it to the House. The bill carries a total of \$169,997,588, or \$1,911,818 more than the estimates of the Department, which were for \$168,085,770, and \$16,486,089 in excess of the appropriation for the present year.

This increase over the estimate is made by reason of the increased compensation allowed to the rural free delivery carriers. The committee cut down the estimates on other items by \$3,255,000, and then added \$5,110,000 to the estimates for the rural free delivery carriers, making the total sum for those carriers, \$20,180,000. Their compensation is thus increased from \$600 a year to \$720. A provision, however, directs that hereafter they be not allowed to solicit business or receive orders of any kind from any company, person or firm, and that they shall not carry merchandise for hire during the hours of employment.

For something strictly stylish and up-to-date in millinery, go to Hirsch Bros. & Co.

ANOTHER APPALLING FIRE.

\$3,000,000 Go Up in Smoke in Rochester, New York.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 26.—The sun set tonight with ten engines pouring streams of water on the ruins of what was practically the retail dry goods district of this city, for three out of the five department stores were consumed in to-day's disastrous fire, one of which the Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company was by far the largest establishment of this kind in the city and the oldest.

Following is a table of losses: Granite building \$300,000; Marble building \$75,000; Buell estate \$20,000; Cornwell building \$60,000; Kirley building \$35,000; Walkover Shoe company \$10,000; Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company \$250,000.

The loss on stock was as follows:

Sibley, Lindsay & Curr company, retail, \$300,000; wholesale \$1,250,000; tenants in Granite building \$200,000; Beadle & Sherburne company \$350,000; Rochester Dry Goods company \$150,000. The smaller losses foot up to \$80,000.

Insurance men place the loss at \$3,000,000. Of this amount \$750,000 represents the loss on buildings, and the remainder the loss on stocks of goods and to occupants of offices. It is estimated that 2,500 people are thrown out of work, temporarily at least, because of the fire.

The fire started in the store of the Rochester Dry Goods company.

Sibley, Lindsay & Kerr company's six story wholesale building, together with the stables in the rear, was destroyed with all its contents, this loss being placed at \$1,450,000.

The fire was discovered by a night watchman in the employ of the Rochester Dry Goods company. It was first seen at 4.50 o'clock, and the watchman says it started from a fuse which blew out in the electric elevator connection. Almost simultaneously an explosion occurred in the basement of Beadle & Sherburne's, next door. Smoke and flames poured through the elevator grating in the sidewalk, and in an incredibly short time the buildings were a mass of flames.

Mr. Williams' Leadership.

The Democratic leader in the House gives us real joy. What American politician since Lincoln has had a more felicitous method of expressing his opinions? Mr. Williams has a good head, and his thoughts are seasoned with a spicy humor of a strictly American brand. Seriousness and fun are delightfully allied. Arguing against the resur rection of the currency question, in favor of the theory that issues are made by conditions and environment, he observed: "In 1896 the Democratic party stood for bimetalism, and so far as the question of ratio is concerned, I believe God, in His wisdom, fixed for silver and gold the same law that rules with respect to the price of cotton or corn, a ballet dancer or an opera singer—the law of supply and demand." He added, with rare and charming frankness and good humor, that the more he read history the more he believed the Confederate States were right in their interpretation of the Constitution—which was no reason for fighting the civil war again, or brooding over a difference which has become obsolete.

His closer arguments are admirable for cogency and clearness, but what gives them their charm is the infusion of such illustrations as he made the other day in debate: "The claim that the Republican party is responsible for the prosperity, which the gentleman leaves to be inferred, reminds me of an old Lincoln story. A woodpecker sat on the top of a tree and he pecked and he pecked and he pecked, until a strong wind came along and blew the tree and the woodpecker to the ground. The woodpecker believes to this day that he pecked the tree down." He is not a pitiless story teller. On the contrary, his humor and his anecdotes come only to support the position he has assumed, and we have not noticed any instance of mere jesting apart from the purpose for which legislatures are assembled.—Colliers Weekly.

An American Whiskey Claim.

Tokio, Feb. 25.—The Japanese government to-day passed the famous White whiskey claim by handing to U. S. Minister Griscom a check for \$115,000 in favor of the American Trading Company.

The claim arose from a customs decision rendered in 1900, holding an importation of 8,000 barrels of whiskey to be alcohol, and increasing the duty from 40 to 85 per cent.

The Japanese at first rejected the claim for the repayment of the amount alleged to have been overcharged by the customs department, but upon Mr. Griscom arriving at Tokio he renewed it and pressed the case with firmness. His success in securing payment is very gratifying to American commercial men, and a settlement of the matter is regarded as another mark of the friendliness of Japan for America.

Dick Declared Successor to Hanna.

General Charles Dick was nominated by acclamation for both the unexpired and regular terms for United States senator to succeed the late Senator Hanna at the caucus of the Republican members of the legislature this evening. The name of General Dick was the only one presented. As the Republicans have a large majority in both branches General Dick's election is assured and the balloting on Mar. 1, will be only a formality.

The caucus decided upon today, it being the opinion of members of the legislature, concurred in by General Dick that inasmuch as the election was to fill a vacancy, the caucus should not be dispensed with even though more than enough votes to elect had been pledged.

Hampton Statue Will Be Erected.

The fund for the Hampton monument is but slowly increasing and many counties have made a deplorable showing. The \$20,000 appropriated by the legislature has now become available for use and according to the testimony of sculptors a very handsome design can be obtained for the sum it is proposed to pay. Mr. Chas. Frederick Niehaus and Mr. F. Wellington Ruckstuhl, both sculptors of widest renown, who have done many statues of southern men, have shown to the commissions models of their work now standing. No one has yet been selected to make the Hampton statue. The statue will take three years to complete when once begun.



Chicken Column.

How a Fowl Breathes.

Every writer on the subject of the care of poultry in winter is emphatic in the demand for fresh air. The reason for this is the peculiar anatomical construction of fowls. The lungs by which respiration takes place, are located in the posterior and superior part of the breast. They adhere to the ribs and are maintained below by a resisting membrane moved by muscular power which causes the inhaling and exhaling. These lungs are pierced with holes, and the air circulates in all parts of the body, even in the cavities of the bones. Air is brought into the organs by a long air-tube. The wind-pipe and bronchia have complete cartilaginous rings. But the most remarkable disposition of the respiratory apparatus of the fowl is the presence of air-cells in the breast and lower part of the abdomen. This proves that the fowl requires in the interior a larger quantity of air, in proportion than the order of Mammalia.

Cheap Culture.

A dozen fowls may be easily fed, all the food required, from the scraps from table and kitchen of any average sized family. The meat, bread, vegetable and other scraps will feed a dozen fowls even on a town lot where they have no range.

On farm, scraps from table and kitchen will feed twenty-five or more, even fifty fowls. Fowls pick up on farm, fields, woods, and about barns nearly all food needful.

On town lots where fowls should be kept for eggs only, a cock is not necessary.

Fed on scraps, and eggs and manure gathered properly fowls cost nothing on town lots even, that is a dozen laying hens to an average family. The product of eggs and manure is all profit, and greatly aids in feeding family and manuring garden.

Several cows, a few fowls and pigeons will feed the farmers' family.

Scurvy Legs.

Scurvy Legs: This is sometimes called "scaly leg," and is one of the most disagreeable sights witnessed in a poultry yard; it not only disfigures the fowls and denotes filth, but it is also a source of annoyance and discomfort to the birds; it is the work of a very minute parasite, and is contagious. There are quite a number of remedies for the disease, but more depends upon care for a few weeks than anything else. Take three tablespoonfuls of lard, and add to it two tablespoonfuls of Kerosene oil and one of glycerine; then drop into the mixture, which should be mixed warm (not hot), twenty drops of carbolic acid; wash the legs of the fowl and wipe dry, rub on the mixture very thickly, having it warm. Not overlooking any part; repeat this twice a week for two or three weeks, and the legs will soon become clean and perfectly smooth.

FARM CLIPPINGS.

Fattening Hogs.

The results of different experiments in pig feeding vary so widely, that seems wise for any farmer who has any considerable number of hogs to fatten, to take two or three of the methods that have produced the best results with others, and compare or confirm them in his own feeding. The following summary of results as obtained by Prof. T. Hunt, of the Illinois College farm, in his experiments, will be of interest to those engaged in practical pork producing.

1. It requires 13.80 pounds of skim milk to produce one pound of pork when fed with corn meal ratio 1-7 to fattening hogs.

2. Skim milk could not be economically fed to fattening hogs unless it was waste product which could not be otherwise utilized.

3. It required on an average 4 1/2 pounds of shelled corn to produce one pound of pork during an average period of four weeks, or one bushel produced 13 1/2 pounds.

4. It required 4 1/2 pounds of corn meal to produce one pound of pork, or one bushel of corn made into meal and fed dry produced 12 1/2 pounds of pork.

5. When fed dry, shelled corn is more economical than corn meal to feed fattening hogs.

6. It required 7 1/2 pounds, or one peck of ground oats to produce one pound of pork, when fed with equal parts, by weight, with corn meal.

7. One bushel of corn is worth nearly three bushels of oats as food for fattening hogs.

8. Corn fed pigs gained about 4 1/2 pounds per week, and ate about 21 pounds of corn per 100 pounds of live weight.

9. Pork was produced during the cold weather, with corn at 28 cents per bushel, for less than three cents per pound.

10. An insufficient food supply for two weeks caused a very considerable loss in feeding thereafter.

11. Indian corn is the most economical pork producing material during the winter months in regions where extensively grown.

Death on Lice.

The following ideas of different farmers about the best method of destroying lice on cattle was collected by an industrious editor, whose name we are unable to give—the facts are worth a place in memory, and in scrap books:

R. L. A.—For lice on cattle, add three ounces of camphor to pint of alcohol and apply it with a sponge. This is sure to kill the parasites, and will not take the hair off.—L. H. Donaldson, Tuscola county, Mich.

Put equal measurements of lard and kerosene together, and apply warm with a swab, and card it into the hair well.—J. C. Wood, Allegheny county, N. Y. Strong old fashioned soap will do the business.—H. M.

Feed a large spoonful of equal parts of salt and saltpeter for nine successive mornings.—F. H. S.

Kerosene poured upon a cloth and rubbed upon the back and neck of the creature will prove efficacious. Do not pour it upon the animal, or it will blister.—Subscriber.

Twenty-five hens and fifty pigeons on a farm will find all eggs needful for average family and some to sell, will furnish all fowl meat in abundance fowls for family all year and some to spare for marketing.

The New Buildings At The Fair Grounds.

The contract for the designs for the buildings for the new fair grounds has been given to Messrs. Shand & LaFaye, architects. These designs have been submitted, and have practically met the approbation of the committee.

There will be an exhibition arena with grand stand and mile race track with grand stand, and athletic park with stand. These will be separately fenced in. Around the exhibition will be placed the woman's building, 66 by 108 feet with an art wing 25 by 50 feet; the poultry building, 50 by 150 feet, and the commercial building, 68 by 130 feet. All of the buildings will be one story, and arranged after the usual exposition style, with high roofs and large entrances. There will also be three cattle stall buildings, one sheep stall building and one for hogs.

Adjoining the race track will be three large stables for wintering horses. "Bob" Davis, the well known trainer, who thinks there is no place like Columbia for wintering, was largely instrumental in having these stables established. He is now in Charlotte, but intends to come back next year to Columbia.

"Of course," he said yesterday, "I'm coming back. There isn't any place like Columbia for horse flesh. I am just waiting until the track out at the new grounds is completed, and accommodations are arranged for my stock."

Tit for Tat.

A cook at a cheap boarding-house in New York played a little game on a gambling boarder, a newspaper humorist, by serving him with a piece of sole leather instead of beefsteak. "You've changed your butcher, Mrs. Hasche?" said the boarder, looking up at the landlady after seeing two or three minutes on the leather. "Same butcher as usual replied the boarding mistress with a patronizing smile. "Why?" "Oh, nothing much," said the humorist, trying to make an impression on the steak with his knife and fork; "only this piece of meat is the tenderest I have struck in this house for some weeks."—Norristown Herald.

A Grammatical Point.

Amos paralyzed his teacher at the grammar school the other day, and gave him a pointer that had never before penetrated his repository of educational knick-knacks. Says the teacher:

"Amos, what part of speech is the word book?"

Amos—"Book is a common noun, third person, singular number, masculine gender, nom."

"Masculine gender, you young idiot, what do you mean?"

Amos—"I mean that this book I'm speaking of is of the masculine gender."

Teacher—"What book is that?"

Amos—"It's a hymn book."

Citizen to undertaker: I thought Mr. Mould, that you were going off on a vacation? Undertaker, I did intend to start over a month ago, but old Mrs. Bently was taken dangerously ill, and I've been sort of hanging on, and (in a low, injured tone of voice) I'll be blamed, sir, if she ain't getting better.—Epoch.

New minister (who doesn't know that the late lamented died of dynamite): "And did your husband die in peace, Mrs. Bently?" Mrs. Bently (with a sob): "No, sir; he died in pieces."—Epoch.