

RESULT OF BATTLE AWAITED.

ATTACK ON HANKOW WELCOMED BY CHINESE PREMIER.

Imperialist Victory Would Mean Brief Lease of Life for Throne, While Abdication Would Probably Follow Defeat—Government Leaders See Way of Avoiding Results of National Convention in Renewal of Hostilities, Fearing Choice of Republic.

Peking, Jan. 1.—According to reports current in Government circles, the leaders of the Imperialists are delighted at the outbreak of hostilities at Hankow, as this will give an opportunity of avoiding the results of the National Convention agreed to by the edict of the Imperial Court and by the representatives of the parties to the peace conference at Shanghai.

Hankow was the scene of severe fighting between the two armies on several occasions before the recent armistice was decided upon.

Much depends upon whether the fighting near Hankow was authorized by the Republicans and whether it will be followed up by the Republicans or Imperialists. The Associated Press is informed that the news of the attack was welcomed by Yuan Shi Kai, who will now await the issue of the battle.

The Daily News, the organ of the foreign office, proposes, in an article printed today, that the Republicans and Imperialists prevent the partitioning of the country and save it from anarchy by forming a united government, which shall control affairs until an Assembly can be elected and the country shall be turned into a republic or remain a monarchy.

Tang Shao Yi, Yuan Kai's representative at Shanghai, has tendered his resignation as a peace delegate, but Yuan has refused to accept it. It is said that the reason why the Imperial princes have refrained from sending large sums of money to aid the Government is that they feel the Government's cause is a hopeless one, and also because some of them seriously distrust Yuan Shi Kai.

EMPEROR SPIRITED AWAY?

London, Jan. 2.—The Daily Telegraph's St. Petersburg correspondent says that news received there from Manchuria reports the secret flight of the Emperor and the Dowager Empress of China, through Mukden, on the way to the Imperial residence at Shikho, near the Mongolian frontier.

The correspondent adds that it is rumored the Russian Government intends to refrain from any interference in China, but is ready to recognize a Republic when it is firmly established.

The Peking correspondent of the Daily Telegraph describes Yuan Kai Shi as being confronted with difficulties. He says Yuan is suspected by the Manchus of playing double. He has not been shaved for days and does not sleep. He is being attacked and betrayed in every quarter, according to the correspondent, but still is holding his own courageously like a lion at bay.

ANOTHER DEMAND FOR MONEY.

Paris, Jan. 1.—A special dispatch to the Paris edition of the New York Herald, from its Peking correspondent, says that Yuan Shi Kai, the premier, tomorrow will present to the throne a signed demand of all the commanders of the northern army that the wealth of the princesses and nobles shall be commanded for a continuance of the war.

The memorial characterizes the attitude of the revolutionists as unbearable expressions of loyalty to the monarchy and a desire to fight the issue to a finish. It insists that unless the princesses contribute they shall be treated as traitors. It is stated that if the memorial is rejected by the throne, Yuan Shi Kai will insist that his resignation be accepted.

Dr. Henry N. Snyder, president of Wofford College, is to make an address at the Academy of Music in the near future. The address will be delivered for the benefit of the new Methodist church and will be under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of that church.

The Sumter County Trustees Association met Wednesday in the grand jury room at the court house. Mr. A. H. Gaudin of Florence made the principal address for the occasion.

DEATH FROM "UNLOADED" GUN.

Birt C. Smoak Died From Wound Inflicted by Supposedly Unloaded Gun.

Orangeburg, Dec. 29.—A sad tragedy, by which a popular young man of this county, Birt C. Smoak, met his death, occurred last Saturday at Meggetts, in the lower part of this State. It was the old story of the "unloaded" gun. The unfortunate young man who met his death at the hands of one of his friends, was a son of Samuel P. Smoak of the Lower Fork section of Orangeburg county, who was engaged in business in this city several years ago, but, who, for the past two or three years has been successfully engaged in business at Meggetts.

It appears that on Saturday afternoon several young men were at the home of a friend and, for the fun of the thing, they were making ready to move the piano of the household to some other place while the friend was out. Everyone was in good humor and bent on Christmas fun. Then Julian Peoples, who was in the party, seeing an old rifle in the corner of the room, picked it up and pointing it at Birt Smoak, said "Look out, Birt, I am going to shoot you." The gun went off, the shot entering Mr. Smoak's heart, and he succumbed to the wound in five minutes. Mr. Peoples had no idea that the gun was loaded, and he and Mr. Smoak were the best of friends.

CLOTHES SAVES DILLON MAN.

Frank Niernsee Was Shot in Back by Negro but Wound Not Expected to be Serious.

Dillon, Dec. 30.—Frank Niernsee, superintendent of the Dillon oil mill, was shot in the back here this evening about 5 o'clock by a negro named Joe Hagan. This morning Mr. Niernsee gave the negro orders not to come around the mill until he had sobered up, as he had been drinking. Hagan was foreman of the gas producer. The negro returned to the mill this evening, and as Mr. Niernsee was passing through the boiler room, he saw Hagan but paid little attention to him. After he had passed a few feet beyond him the negro fired a load of shot at him. The heavy clothing worn by Mr. Niernsee was all that saved him from a very serious, if not fatal, wound. While the wound is very painful, the doctors think that it is not dangerous. The negro was caught at once and lodged in jail by Sheriff Lane. Mr. Niernsee is very popular in Dillon.

SOME HARD WARDS.

What Those Who Stood the Examination for West Point Had to Spell.

The following words were those given in a recent examination for West Point and the readers of the Item can test their ability to spell and see whether or not the examination in spelling was an easy one.

- Spelling: 1. Abscess. 2. Absence. 3. Admirable. 4. Aeronaut. 5. Fascination. 6. Grievous. 7. Incurrigible. 8. Lieutenant. 9. Surgeon. 10. Belleivable. 11. Belligerent. 12. Catastrophe. 14. Complimentary. 15. Discipline. 16. Fugitive. 17. Hemorrhage. 18. Inexhaustible. 19. Monosyllable. 20. Synonymous.

It is with the greatest surprise and consternation that we read of the resignation of Editor James A. Hoyt of the Columbia Record. We cannot understand it, and we have been looking in all of the papers for some light on the matter. We hope that it is not that the people of Columbia were unwilling to stand by him in his fight against professional race track gambling. If an editor who is of so great value to the field as James A. Hoyt is to be forced, frozen or bought out because he makes it too hot for the most corrupting influences that are threatening us, the people of the State want to sit up and take notice. The well springs of truth, the very source of the water of community life, are being poisoned and corrupted and we do not think that the people will submit quietly to any such condition. You may fret and fuss at the newspaper as much as you want to and cuss out the editor, and swear that the only influence that it exercises is to drive people in a direction different to that in which it advises but at heart you know that a corrupted and tainted newspaper means the most grievous corruption for the community and you are going to stand for it.—Florence Times.

COLLEGE STUDENTS LEAVE.

Winthrop Girls and Clemson Cadets Left Tuesday Morning for Their Respective Institutions.

Tuesday morning was going away time for the college boys and girls who have been home for the past week in order to spend Christmas and the holidays with their parents and relatives and to enjoy the festivities of the season.

The passenger station yard was crowded when the first train from Columbia pulled in and it was also crowded when the second train to Columbia came along, for both trains carried off many of Sumter's fair daughters and handsome sons to return to their respective institutions of learning. There were many friends and relatives present to see the boys and girls go off for school and the place was merry until the trains pulled out. Among those to leave for the various boys' and girls' colleges throughout the State and elsewhere were:

For Winthrop: Misses. Carita and Genevieve Randle, Maggie May Seale, Eleanor Hughson, Louise Carson, Sarah Heriot, Alice Hill, Margaret and Rosa Cheyne, Susie Dick, Fannie and Mary Mellette, Adelle Pitts, Franke's Lesesne, Irene and Agnes Bryan, Innis Cuttino, Clara Childs, Anna Brown.

For Davidson: Quay Willford and Shepherd Nash; for Clemson, Irvine Richardson, Alex Haynsworth, Thomas Siddall, Mellette Pitts, Leon LeGrand.

The students leaving tonight for the College for Women are: Misses Agnes Haynsworth, Pauline Blanding, Sue Duffie, Nancy McKay, Elizabeth White, Gertrude Knight, Martie Boyle, and Madelle Boatwright, who has been visiting Miss Emma Baker.

For Washington and Lee, George Shore and Julian Schwartz. For the Citadel: Harold McFadden, Eugene Cuttino, Merrimon, Eugene Dabbs. For Porter: Mark Reynolds, Edwin Randle, Stephen Shore.

SUMTER SHRINERS' CLUB ENTERTAIN.

Dr. E. R. Wilson Gives Reception to Shriners and Their Ladies.

One of the enjoyable entertainments during the season was that given Monday evening by Dr. E. R. Wilson at the residence of Col. Thomas Wilson on Broad street to the Sumter Shriners' club and their lady friends.

The house was tastefully decorated for the occasion and all of the Shriners were entertained in a most enjoyable way. There were more than thirty of the Shriners and their lady friends present for the occasion. Refreshments were served during the course of the evening which were much enjoyed by those present.

NEW RATES IN EFFECT.

Express and Freight Charges to Be Reduced.

Columbia, Jan. 2.—Orders issued by the railroad commission last year, reducing the express charges in South Carolina and adopting a standard freight tariff, will go into effect today.

The orders were adopted during last year by the commission after several hearings and after long consideration of the testimony presented. The standard freight tariff will reduce the freight rates on intra-State business materially. The estimated reduction has been placed at from 12 to 20 per cent. The express charge reduction is placed at about 8 per cent.

The annual report of the commission has been completed and will be sent to the general assembly. The commission will urge upon the legislature the passage of a law to give the body jurisdiction over all grade crossings in the State. It has been the policy of the commission to work for the elimination of all dangerous crossings in the State.

FOR THE WINTHROP GIRLS.

On Saturday morning Misses Genevieve and Carita Randle entertained in honor of the Winthrop students at home for the holidays. All of the Winthrop students were present at the informal entertainment and spent a very pleasant morning.

Games were played which afforded much amusement to those present. Miss Teresa Chandler being the fortunate winner of the first prize and the booby prize being awarded to Miss Louise Carson. The mornings' entertainment was ended in a delightful automobile ride, the young ladies being taken over the city and finally deposited at their homes. Dainty refreshments were served during the course of the morning after the games had ceased.

Persons troubled with neuralgia, migraines or other very much annoying ailments are often very much benefited by massaging the affected parts thoroughly when applying Chamberlain's Liniment. This liniment relieves rheumatic pains, neuralgia, migraines, etc. Try it and you will be all right. Sold by all dealers.

REFUSE TO ENDORSE LAFOLLET.

OHIO PROGRESSIVES PLEDGED TO NO CANDIDATE.

Permanent State Organization Formed and Declaration of Principles Adopted—Convention Divided on Question of Endorsing Candidacy of Wisconsin Senator for President.

Columbia, Ohio, Jan. 1.—Progressive Republicans of Ohio met today, formed a permanent organization, adopted a declaration of progressive principles, but voted—52 to 32—not to give their endorsement to United States Senator Robert M. LaFollette as a candidate for the Presidential nomination.

After refusing the endorsement of the League, the delegates voted—81 to 11—in favor of a resolution, as a personal expression of the delegates, naming Senator LaFollette as "the living embodiment of the principles of the progressive movement and the logical candidate to carry them to successful fruition."

The vote was on the adoption of an amendment to the report of the resolutions committee, which had been unanimously in favor of not naming a candidate.

Gifford Pinchot, who declared he spoke only for himself, and in no way for Col. Roosevelt, and former Secretary of the Interior Garfield were the leaders in the debate against any candidate's endorsement. Senator Works of California, and Senator Clapp, of Minnesota, were equally vigorous in urging that the Ohio progressives concentrate their efforts in working for the election of Senator LaFollette.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOTES.

The Shoe Factory.

The shoe factory people have telegraphed that they will be in Sumter on Saturday and the question whether we are to secure this factory for Sumter, is placed squarely up to our business men. It should be understood that this factory was promoted by the Chamber of Commerce and is endorsed by the Committees on Manufacturing and Finance. Having already a small shoe factory in Sumter, it was decided, if possible, to completely reorganize that plant. With this object in view, advertisements were inserted in the larger shoe magazines in order to secure the proper parties who might become interested therein. A large number of replies were received and from these, after considerable correspondence, two men became interested who had had years of experience in the manufacture and marketing of shoes. They stand ready to invest every dollar that they have in the business. These men come to Sumter at our invitation. One of them has been making shoes since a boy and was the principle factor in the building of a factory which in two years has grown from a few hands employed to over 200 hands today, with a large force on the road. There is no reason why the history of shoe manufacturing in Lynchburg, Va., should not be repeated in Sumter. That city has now three factories doing over \$5,000,000 business with many hundreds of men employed.

One of these men has already been in Sumter and they will both be here on Saturday to meet our business men. They can be here at no other time. There will be a public meeting at that time, the hour to be announced later. At the former meeting in Sumter, the enterprise was heartily endorsed by the few business men present and committees were appointed to solicit tentative subscriptions to the stock. The ground has only partially been covered. A total of \$25,700 has been subscribed so far. In order to prepare for the coming of these gentlemen on Saturday and that we may have a full meeting at that time, it has been decided to hold a preliminary meeting tomorrow, Thursday, at the Chamber of Commerce at 5 o'clock and every one interested or who has already subscribed should be at that meeting. Those who have already subscribed are as follows:

Bultman Bros, \$5,000, plant to be included at inventoried value, balance in cash; Johnson and Co, 4,000; Nell O'Donnell, \$2,000; C. G. Rowland, 2,000; R. I. Manning, \$2,000; E. L. Witherspoon, \$2,000; Dr. C. S. Baker, \$1,000; George D. Shor., \$500; D. R. McCallum, \$500; J. W. McKelver, \$500; Bartow Walsh, \$100; Cecil Wilson, \$100; H. D. Barnett, \$1,000; G. A. Lemmon, \$500; C. L. Stubbs, \$100; S. W. Stubbs, \$100; George L. Ricker, \$100; L. D. Jennings, \$1,000; D. D. Moise, \$1,000; J. W. Shaw, \$1,000; D. C. Shaw \$500; R. B. Belser, \$500; I. A. Ryttenberg, \$200, Total \$25,700.

Mrs. A. R. Tabor, of Crider, Mo., had been troubled with sick headache for about five years, when she began taking Chamberlain's Tablets. She has taken two bottles of them and they have cured her. Sick headache is caused by a disordered stomach for which these Tablets are especially indicated. Try them and you will be all right. Sold by all dealers.

PANAMA CANAL TOLLS.

ENGLISH PAPER THINKS PREFERENCE IMPROPER.

Most Shipping Authorities Hesitate to Believe There will be Discrimination in Panama.

London, Jan. 2.—The Morning Post has started a strong agitation against the reported proposal of the United States government to grant preference to American shipping in the Panama canal. It devotes three columns and a long editorial this morning to that subject.

It declares that such discrimination would be a violation of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty and says:

"By no sophistry can the American government pretend that it is not bound by the terms of the treaty. An evasion of the obligation into which it entered would prove to the world that its pledges are meaningless."

The Post gives interviews with various shipping authorities in different British ports, most of whom refuse to believe that the Washington government has such an intention.

Sir Walter Runciman, senior partner of Walter Runciman & Co., of Newcastle-on-Tyne and London, thought that if the report was true the British government had been caught napping, but he doubted if such discrimination, even if adopted would have the expected result of encouraging traffic in a manner to make the canal pay.

J. H. Turner, agent general for British Columbia, agreed that it would be a violation of the treaty and that it would seriously injure British Columbia. That it would also injure the canal itself for many years, until the United States had built up a merchant fleet.

Mr. Bartow Walsh Tuesday assumed his new duties with the Consolidated Insurance Agency in which he has recently purchased an interest.

The material for an artificial stone coping around the church grounds has been placed on ground at the Presbyterian church and the work on the coping is now well under way. Mr. W. A. Weathers being in charge of the work. The coping is being placed around the grounds by the Ladies' Aid Society of the church.

SUN INAUGURATED PRESIDENT.

TAKES OFFICE AS PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF CHINA.

Coincident With Accession of Revolutionist, Come Events of Importance on Both Sides.

Coincident with the inauguration yesterday of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, leader of the revolutionary element, as provisional president of China, came two other developments, one tending toward the consummation of popular government and the other having an opposite bearing. The first, and probably the more important of the two, was the mutiny among the Imperial guard at Peking. The revolutionary spirit had been making head among these soldiers for some time, it is said, but yesterday it reached the point of an open break from the Manchu authority. Should this spirit of which the revolt of the guard of the arsenal is a symptom, permeate all the troops about Peking the doom of the imperial government is sounded, as not even Yuan Shi Kai, with all his mastery of men and government, can withstand the popular tide unless he has troops.

On the Imperial side, however, there was one crumb of comfort. The empress dowager has given the premier \$2,000,000, which it is thought will suffice to carry on the government beyond the time fixed for the meeting of the national assembly.

Yuan also repudiated the action of Tang Shao Yi in agreeing to the revolutionists' plans for the meeting of the convention, the premier maintaining that he would stand for the two points he first outlined, viz. that the delegates be properly elected and that the meeting place of the convention be Peking.

A number of citizens on Broad street state that the split log drag is keeping that street in a much better condition than it is usually in during spells of bad weather.

The continued rains are keeping roads and streets in bad condition and it is reported that the roads are almost impassable at many places. There are very few farmers coming to town now except those who come on the train, and there is almost no cotton being brought in on account of the condition of the roads.

Atlantic Coast Line. The Standard Railroad of the South Ramifies the "Nation's Garden Spot" Through the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. FOUR FAMOUS TRAINS. "NEW YORK AND FLORIDA SPECIAL" (January to April); "FLORIDA AND WEST INDIAN LIMITED," "PALMETTO LIMITED" AND "COAST LINE FLORIDA MAIL." Dining Cars—a la carte service. All year round through car service from New York to both Port Tampa and Knights Key, connecting with steamships to and from Havana. For beautifully illustrated booklets and copy of the "Purple Folder," address, T. C. WHITE, General Passenger Agent, Wilmington, N. C. W. J. CRAIG, Pass. Traffic Mgr.

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