

AMERICA LAUNCHES BATTLESHIP AS PEACE MESSENGER WHILE JAP AND RUSS FLEETS NEAR WAR'S HUGE HORROR

HOSTILE FLEETS ON THE EVE OF DEADLY BATTLE

Russian Admiral Passes Singapore into Waters Patrolled by Japanese Squadron.

CLASH IS EXPECTED AT ANY MOMENT NOW

Ozar's Capital in Suspense—Russia Has Staked All on Rojstvensky.

London, April 8.—The Russian and Japanese naval squadrons were this afternoon only about thirty miles apart and may be in touch at any moment.

The nearness of the fleets is apparent from dispatches from Singapore.

The imminent prospects of a fearful battle between the Russian and Japanese squadrons in the China sea have intensified interest in the war immensely.

It is taken for granted that Admiral Togo's ships, reported to be in the neighborhood of Singapore, in the middle of March, are still in that vicinity, and the report that twelve Japanese ships were seen steaming ahead of the Russian warships, which have passed Singapore, is interpreted to mean that the Japanese ships are scouts sent out by Togo to get in touch with the Russians, and that when their object is accomplished they will retire on the main body of the Japanese squadron.

The reports about the numbers of the Russian ships vary, but at any rate one or thirty-five battleships, cruisers, colliers and torpedo-boats have passed the port of Singapore. The underwriters here presume from the northeasterly course they were steering, that the Russian ships are attempting to reach the French port of Saigon, Cochinchina.

However, it is pointed out that a Japanese scout, which has been seen at still off Hortsburg Light, where it was reported March 14.

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CORNERED WHEAT; DIED A PAUPER

Edward W. Mitchell, Once Worth Millions Succumbs in Chicago Hospital.

Chicago, April 8.—Edward W. Mitchell, at one time a leading figure on the Chicago Board of Trade, organizer of a corner in wheat in 1868 and once worth millions, is dead at the county hospital at 70 years of age, a pauper.

His fall came in 1870, only two years after he had cornered the wheat market and made a fortune. Since then he has lived in the hope that one day he would regain his former wealth. But his failure had so shaken him that he never regained his position, but grew poorer and poorer, until in recent years he depended entirely upon the charity of his friends.

Members of the Board of Trade have made up a subscription to help defray the funeral expenses.

ELECTRIC SPARK TO CIRCLE GLOBE

Effort to Be Made to Send Time Signals Around the World May 3.

Washington, April 8.—Encouraged by the degree of success attending the last effort to distribute time signals, New Year's eve, the naval observatory is preparing to make another attempt in the hope to span the globe itself. Rear Admiral Chester, superintendent of the observatory, has issued a notice to all agencies willing to co-operate that the observatory proposes to send out a special series of telegraphic time signals beginning at 11:55 p.m., United States eastern time, May 3, and ending at midnight. This will be done at the request of the American Railway association in connection with the international congress of railways to meet in this city on the following day.

It is pointed out that if care is taken by the telegraph companies, the signals may serve to afford fairly accurate determinations of longitude at any telegraph station on the continent.

CUTS AN ARTERY BUT WILL LIVE

Rooney, in Shadow of Gallows, Attempts Suicide in His Cell at Fargo.

Fargo, N. D., April 8.—John Rooney, the thrice condemned murderer, has attempted suicide by cutting a small artery in his left wrist. He was weakened by the loss of blood, but suffered no serious injuries.

Rooney secured a penknife in some manner and used it to inflict the wound. He insists he will never hang and declares that if no other opportunity offers itself he will cheat the gallows by starving himself.

He was returned to Bismarck on a delayed train yesterday afternoon.

JUDGE ALBION TOURGEE ILL

Jamestown, N. Y., April 8.—A letter has been received from Miss Alice Tourgee announcing the critical illness of her father, Judge Albion Tourgee, American consul at Bordeaux, France. Little hopes are entertained for his recovery.

MILLERS TRY TO BEAT JAP WAR TAX

Rushing Flour to the Orient to Forestall the New Tariff.

Seattle, April 8.—Since the announcement that after July 1 Japan would levy a war tax on flour, large quantities of that commodity have been rushed to Seattle so as to assure its reaching the orient in time to avoid the war tax.

When the Great Northern liner Minnesota sails April 29 she will have between 65,000 and 70,000 barrels and will leave behind some 30,000 barrels for lack of room.

The Kanagawa will also take 10,000 barrels today. One company has chartered a special steamer to take 6,000 barrels and it is estimated that fully 200,000 barrels will leave Seattle and Tacoma by the first of June.

CARNEGIE MILLION FOR AGED MINISTERS

Melrose, Mass., April 8.—The conditional pledge by Andrew Carnegie to give \$1,000,000 to the fund for superannuated preachers was announced to the New England Methodist conference here today by Rev. Dr. James B. Brady, field agent of the Preachers' Aid society, appointed last year to raise a fund for this purpose. Dr. Brady stated that Mr. Carnegie had promised to give the last million dollars of a fund of \$25,000,000 to be raised by the society.

RUSSIAN ENVOY IS ILL

St. Petersburg, April 8.—A telegram received here from Peking says the illness of M. Paul Lessar, the Russian minister to China, is critical. He has been unconscious since Thursday evening.

MINNESOTA SPONSOR SPEAKS FOR HERSELF

Newport News, Va., April 8.—It is almost an unknown thing for a sponsor to speak for herself at a launching luncheon, her nearest relative usually doing that; but Miss Schaller today proved to her southern hosts that a western girl can say things when she has to. President Orcutt introduced her. In response Miss Schaller said:

"I came to Newport News with the idea that my duty as sponsor ended with the breaking of a bottle and naming of a battleship, but Mr. Orcutt said one of the toasts at this luncheon would have to be responded to by my father or some one who would represent me. Father refused to act, as he is on a pleasure trip and doesn't want to work. I could not find a representative, and so I am just going to tell you how I feel about it myself.

"This is the first battleship I have ever christened, and I like the experience so well that I think I'll adopt launching as a profession. I never thought that she would make such a hole in the sea, but the surgeon of our party will attend to that. My greatest worries were that I would either miss the ship or hit her so hard enough to sink her. The first was dismissed when somebody told me the iron plating came from our own state's iron ranges, so I knew it was the best and hit her as hard as I could.

"I shall always take a personal interest in the battleship Minnesota and feel as if I were part owner. As stood on that platform today, almost in sight and in hearing distance of the scene of battle between the first ironclads known in history, I hoped that the new Minnesota would behave as gallantly as her predecessor did; that her guns will never speak except in the right; that her flag will always represent justice and truth; and that, best of all, she will be heralded as messenger of peace, as a representative of the prosperous West.

NURSE AS MILLIONAIRE'S BRIDE

New York Sun Special Service. Boston, April 8.—Miss Mary J. Sullivan, the prettiest nurse in Boston, and on the staff of the Massachusetts general hospital, is to be married after Easter to Stephen Codman, a millionaire and member of an old Beacon street family. Mr. Codman has wooed her for three years, but not until today did her purpose waver to devote her life to caring for the sick.

BELASCO SCORES THEATER TRUST

Declares Klaw & Erlanger and Brooks Threatened to Drive Him Out of Business.

New York Sun Special Service. New York, April 8.—"I think Abraham H. Erlanger is the most abhorred man in the whole country." So spoke David Belasco as he gave evidence in his suit against Joseph Brooks and Klaw & Erlanger, who, he says, threatened to drive him out of the theatrical business unless he should allow them one-half the profits from the play, "The Auctioneer."

Abe Gruber, Erlanger's counsel, took Belasco in hand to cross-examine him, but failed to shake the witness' testimony.

Twitted about his memory with reference to his version of the interview with Erlanger, when the latter told him he would either get half the profits of Belasco's enterprise or drive him out of business, Belasco replied with some heat:

"I have a pretty good memory for strong interviews when I am cursed and damned and forced to do things I don't want to do. Erlanger said to me then: 'I am a mogul and a king. I will crush you, if you don't do what I want.' I replied I knew it, but I wanted a route. I don't care so much for the money as for artistic success. I would have struck him there and then, but I was at his mercy in the matter of booking. I wanted business for my star, and I either had to go to him or do without.

"I have had to pay," continued Belasco, "half my profits to Charles Froeman for booking Mrs. Carter and Miss Bates. When it came to booking Miss Crossman I had to hire halls or other places whenever I could, for the syndicate would give me no route. The same difficulties confront me in all my present ventures."

RESERVOIR BREAK KILLS HUNDREDS

New Dam of Waterworks at Madrid, Spain, Collapses, Engulfing Many.

Madrid April 8.—Four hundred persons were killed or injured today by the collapse of a new water reservoir in course of construction. Fifty bodies have been recovered.

The prince of the Asturias, the war minister, the governor of Madrid and a representative of the king have gone to the spot to superintend rescue. Troops are helping the sufferers and recovering bodies.

Belief for Andalusia. A royal decree today orders the expenditure of \$200,000 for road construction to alleviate distress in Andalusia.

BOSTROM, SWEDISH PREMIER, IS OUT

His Resignation Paves Way for Harmony Between Norway and Sweden.

Stockholm, April 8.—Premier Bostrom has resigned, owing to expressions used by the prince regent in his recent statement on the subject of the dual government.

Bostrom's resignation, which will doubtless mark the fall of the whole Swedish ministry, paves the way for an amicable settlement of the differences between Sweden and Norway over the desire of Norway to establish its own consular service. That there is any friction at all is due entirely to Premier Bostrom and his political coteries. He has not the confidence of the entire Swedish people as shown repeatedly by only the liberal press and at liberal gatherings, but even in the riksdag, where his Norwegian policy has been freely criticized. The refusal of the ministry to accept the recommendations of the joint commission favoring separate consular departments angered the Norwegian government. A suggestion to begin new negotiations was rejected on the plea that Bostrom did not keep faith, and Norway went to work to establish a consular service ignoring Sweden at every point.

Crown Prince Gustaf, the regent of Sweden and Norway, is apparently convinced that Norway's position is just. Bostrom's resignation will enable him to select as premier a Swede not so objectionable to the Norwegians as Bostrom.

The unique Forestry building, the most admired on the Lewis and Clark exposition grounds, has been completed. It is constructed of two miles of five and six-foot fir logs, eight miles of poles, 43,000 fir stakes and 30,000 fir bark shingles. The largest log is 7 feet 9 inches thru, and to raise it in place 112 horsepower was required.

Arrangements are being made to bring over to California a large number of the Japanese now employed on Hawaiian plantations. The steamships Centennial and Oriental have been chartered for the first loads, one to sail from Honolulu in March and the other in April. The Centennial is to make monthly trips.

A measure has been introduced in Canada which, it is expected, may result in the nationalization of the Canadian telephone system.

The first race meeting ever held in Abyssinia came off at Adis Abeba recently. The chief event was won by one of the Emperor Menelik's horses.

NEW BATTLESHIP MINNESOTA NOW BRIDE OF SEAS

Queen of the American Navy Is Successfully Launched at Newport News.

CHRISTENED BY MISS ROSE MARIE SCHALLER

Daughter of Minnesota Gives the State's Name to the Great Vessel.

By H. C. Stevens. Newport News, Va., April 8.—Another battleship, Minnesota, is on the waters of the sea today, her launching a complete success.

At exactly 12:35 the last stroke of the saw which severed the restraining blocks, was heard and the ship began to move down the ways.

Miss Rose Marie Schaller, her sponsor, at the word from President Orcutt, seizing in both hands the bottle of American champagne, dashed it against the red bows of the ship and said in a clear voice:

"I christen thee Minnesota."

Then she and her maids of honor, and the others on the launching platform, began to cheer and applaud. When the ship ducked her nose in the water as a sign that she was off the wooden ways, there was another mighty cheer.

President Orcutt congratulated and thanked Misses Schaller, Day and McMillan upon the successful completion of that part of the ceremony and his compliments were acknowledged gracefully by the trio of western girls.

The officers of the command said after the launching that the Minnesota was christened with more enthusiasm than any of her predecessors.

Under Cloudless Sky. The sky was cloudless, the wind light from the northwest, and the temperature just right for the Minnesotans, who could witness with reaching imagination, believe themselves on the shores of Lake Superior in May, were it not for the soft, southern voices of the Virginians participating in today's great event.

As the official Minnesota party ascended to the launching platform a cheer rolled out from the throats of the thousands of spectators and still another cheer greeted the ascent of the christening party to the launching booth above the large platform directly adjoining the bow of the ship. The Minnesotans present were:

The Minnesota Party. Christening party: Miss Rose Marie Schaller, sponsor; Miss Constance Day and Miss Lillian McMillan, maids of honor; Frank A. Day, governor's representative, and Mrs. Day; Mrs. John A. Johnson, wife of the governor; Senator and Mrs. Albert Schaller, parents of the sponsor; Miss Schaller, sister of Senator Schaller; Dr. and Mrs. T. P. Quinby, uncle and aunt of the sponsor.

Legislative Delegation—Senator and Mrs. Jepson, Senator Smith, Representative and Mrs. Lewis, Representative Hayes, Representative Burrows, Governor's Staff—Colonel and Mrs. Alvin H. Poehler, Colonel and Mrs. Ernest L. Welch.

Assistant United States Attorney General M. D. Purdy and wife of Minneapolis; Mr. Gjertsen, representing the Minnesota Alumni association; Chauncey Richardson, Senator Clapp's secretary; Judge C. E. Otis and daughter, St. Paul.

Washington Officials—Assistant Secretary Charles E. Darling, representing the navy department; Virginia Burrows of Michigan and Senator Carter of Montana, representing the senate; and Judge A. G. Dayton, former representative of the western contingent, and government officials and naval officers in uniform added to the brilliancy of the occasion.

President Orcutt acted as toastmaster. He welcomed the guests warmly and introduced the speakers with short, witty remarks. The luncheon began at 1 o'clock. The toast to "The President of the United States" was drunk standing amid great enthusiasm.

Frank A. Day responded to the toast. ("His remarks appear below.") Governor Montague, in responding to the toast, "The Commonwealth of Virginia," welcomed the visitors of his sister state in a way that confirmed his reputation as a graceful, eloquent and courtly speaker.

THOUSANDS SEE LAUNCHING

Crowd of 15,000 Persons Present When Vessel Takes the Dip.

Special to The Journal. Newport News, Va., April 8.—It seemed as if every man, woman and child in town was at the launching of the battleship Minnesota today. Added to these the neighboring cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Richmond, Fortress Monroe and Hampton turned out liberal contingents by special train and boat. A conservative estimate placed the number of spectators at 15,000. These sightseers began gathering early. They packed every point of vantage in the vicinity of the yard, and watched with interest the workmen performing their delicate

Continued on Fifteenth Page.