

### Russians To Blame

#### International Commission Decides That Rojestsveny Was Not Justified.

#### No Torpedo Boats Were Among the Trawlers at Time of Attack.

#### Diplomatic Language of Finding Will Not Offend Guilty.

PARIS, Feb. 25.—The decision of the international commission on the fishing trawler case was announced at the closing session of the commission today. The decision, long expected, and the circumstances and incidents and gives the opinions of the admirals of the various important points involved.

"The commission," the decision says, "recognize unanimously that the fishing fleet committed no hostile act; the majority of the opinion that there was not, neither among the fishing boats nor in their vicinity, a torpedo boat."

"The decision says: 'The opening of fire by Admiral Rojestsveny was not justified.'

"The decision further says the Russian commissioner did not share in the latter opinion.

"In any event," the decision continues, "the commissioners are glad to recognize unanimously that Admiral Rojestsveny's personnel were not to blame for the commencement to the end, to prevent the trawlers from being the object of fire by the Russian squadron."

#### U. S. Admiral's View.

Admiral Davis was seen tonight by the correspondent of the Associated Press and discussed the conclusions of the commission and the general effect of the decision. The admiral did not desire this to appear in the form of an interview, but the following can be accepted as his approval of the decision.

"The admiral is very favorable to Great Britain, as they sustain the statement of facts as presented by Great Britain."

"The admiral is very favorable to the first semi-official forecasts were misleading and gave the British and American public an entirely erroneous idea."

"The admiral is very favorable to the admiral's report, and his message to Washington notifying the authorities not to place credit in the forecasts."

"Today he again sent a cable to Washington summarizing the decision and advising the authorities that it was favorable to Great Britain. As evidence of this, the admiral says, he has placed the commission's findings that Admiral Rojestsveny was responsible for the incident and that the Russian fleet was not to be placed credit in the forecasts."

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Davis' judgment, the best means of securing a just conclusion.

#### News in London.

London, Feb. 25.—The foreign office announced today that the North Sea commission with apparent unanimity, but declined to give any official expression of opinion thereon. An official said to the Associated Press: "The finding of the commission is final, and, therefore, must be satisfied, and it would be a waste of time to express dissatisfaction."

The Associated Press understands, unofficially, however, that the foreign office was pleased with the findings. The findings were received in London with every sign of gratification, which was all the more marked on account of premature reports that the findings had been of an anti-British character. The whole report is regarded here as a vindication of the British case, even the phrase that the firing was not unduly prolonged, which seems to afford a certain justification for opening the firing at the same time taken as implying that the Russians continued to fire after they had discovered their mistake. The finding of the admiral that no torpedo boats were at the scene of the accident gives considerable satisfaction, and it is pointed out that the British contentions were further upheld in the finding that the trawlers *Rusa* and *Aurora* were the boats that were closing session of the commission presented a brilliant scene. The spacious salon of the foreign office, members of the diplomatic corps, including the British, Russian and American ambassadors, messengers, army and navy, judges of the highest French court and the wives and other relatives of members of the commission.

#### Golden Harvest From Clearwater

#### Small Affluent of Silk'ee Sene of Latest Placer Activity in New North.

#### Sixteen Pounds of Dust Brought by One of Discoverers—Big Pay For Years.

ANOTHER story of gold discovery in the northern section of British Columbia, toward which in the middle 'seventies' the restless argonauts of the Fraser and Cariboo turned their steps, is told by passers-by on the trail of the Cassiar country just evening, one of whom—Mr. Charles L. Oullin—is just now experiencing the manual excitement complained of by President Roosevelt as strenuously overdone, when he interdicted all further presidential hand-shaking.

The scene of the new and in Clearwater creek reports that are brought of its richness and the extent of the diggings are supported by an exhibit of "boks" of less than sixteen pounds, but NOT OUNDS BUT POUNDS, and of a standard value of \$1.00—or about \$5,000, which represents a short season's takings for the three owners of the discovery claim.

The convincing sack of gold dust, which it is claimed to be a most promising gold product in its superior value and in its brightness in contrast with the dullness of the Yukon gold, is in the possession of the discoverer, E. Conover, who with two partners, Wilson and Jackson, old time Cassiar prospectors and miners, up to date are the sole proprietors of the new gold field.

At daybreak the wind increased in force, fanning the flames into a seething fire, which in a few minutes had spread around the fire. The fire swept along Central avenue south, eating up building after building before the occupants had time to escape. The fire spread rapidly. A general alarm was sounded and every engine in the city responded. Hotel guests were awakened and hundreds of these hastily dressed and hurried to the scene. The firemen and the police worked valiantly, but owing to the water pressure giving out at 5 o'clock, bucket brigades were formed by residents. The flames went beyond control and the occupants of lodging houses and cheap restaurants directly in front of the fire were in jeopardy. Many jumped from windows and sustained severe bruises and shocks.

#### Country Lit up for Miles.

The fire started in the Grand Central hotel and its origin is a mystery. All of the guests had retired for the night and only the night clerk and watchman were on duty when the fire broke out. The fire started in the middle of the night and the fire department reached the scene the flames spread rapidly. A general alarm was sounded and every engine in the city responded. Hotel guests were awakened and hundreds of these hastily dressed and hurried to the scene. The firemen and the police worked valiantly, but owing to the water pressure giving out at 5 o'clock, bucket brigades were formed by residents. The flames went beyond control and the occupants of lodging houses and cheap restaurants directly in front of the fire were in jeopardy. Many jumped from windows and sustained severe bruises and shocks.

#### Friends to Be "Tipped."

Capt. Conover came down by the Cottage City with Mr. Oullin and a few other friends. The streets are filled with merchandise taken from the stores in the threatened districts. The charred bodies of three women are reported to have been found in the ruins of the Grand Central hotel. After the water pressure gave out, bucket brigades were formed and hundreds of citizens and visitors volunteered their services. At 9 o'clock the fire was still burning, but was pronounced to be under control.

#### Crowded With Visitors.

The spring season always attracts a large number of visitors to this resort. The city has been filling up with visitors for several weeks and it is estimated that fully 20,000 of these sojourners are here. The three large hotels, the Arlington, the Eastman and the Park, were not injured.

#### A SANGUINARY STRUGGLE.

Japanese Achieved Recent Victory at Great Cost of Life.

Tsintchen, Feb. 25.—The Japanese army has achieved a recent victory at a great cost of life. The Japanese pressing forward a bayonet charge were repulsed with heavy losses. The Japanese were blown up by bursting mines and the Japanese machine runs which took position to support the bayonet charge were blown up and beaten back. The Japanese came on with greater resolution, however, and the Russians finally yielded numbers and a determined series of attacks, which continued night and day. The Japanese on Friday attacked on a hill opposite the Tsent pass, but were repulsed with great loss. News has just been received here that the Japanese renewed the attack on the Tsent pass tonight.

#### STRANGED AND ROBBED.

#### American Lady Residing Near Naples Found Dead in Her Home.

Naples, Feb. 25.—Catherine Macready, of New York, who lived alone at Cassara, was found dead in her home here. She had been strangled and robbed, and a coroner's inquest returned a verdict that the woman had been murdered.

### Millions Are Lost in Fire

#### Arkansas Health Resort Is Visited by an Extensive Conflagration.

#### Block After Block Consumed and Population Became Panic Stricken.

#### Three Corpses Found in Ruins and More Will Probably Be Discovered.

HOT SPRINGS, ARK., Feb. 25.—Fire swept the southern portion of this city early today, doing immense damage and causing the loss of millions of dollars. Three charred corpses were found among the ruins, and as several persons are reported missing, the death toll may be increased. The identity of the victims has not been established.

The fire, which started at 3:30 o'clock this morning, was the worst this state has ever known. In five hours had burned over an area of one square mile. Block after block of residences, business houses, hotels and other dwellings were swept away, and the entire town was panic-stricken. Street car wires and telegraph and telephone lines were destroyed, and these services were temporarily deranged.

The fire swept an area including ever house in Chapin street, all of Market street from Central avenue, West Sprague to Grand avenue, and a portion of Oak street. Among the buildings destroyed were the Grand Central hotel, the Lee House, Moody Hotel, Plateau hotel, Columbia hotel, the county court house, all fire stations, the Jewish church and many residences and stores, conservatively estimated to number from 200 to 250.

#### Flames Spread Rapidly.

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### A Royal Betrothal.

Heir to Crown of Norway and Sweden to Wed King Edward's Niece.

London, Feb. 25.—The betrothal is announced tonight of Prince Oscar, eldest son of the Crown Prince of Norway and Sweden. The announcement states that the engagement has the entire sanction and approval of King Edward.

#### TUNNEL UNDER LAKE ERIE.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—In the Senate today a bill authorizing the construction of a tunnel under Lake Erie and Niagara river and maintaining an inlet pier to supply water to Buffalo, was passed.

#### FIRE IN PENNSYLVANIA VILLAGE.

Corning, N. Y., Feb. 25.—For the third time in two years the entire business section of Lawrenceville, Pa., a village sixteen miles south of here, was destroyed by fire, thought to be of incendiary origin. When discovered the fire was beyond the control of the volunteer department.

#### TROUBLES OF NEWSPAPERS.

St. Petersburg Journals Feel Wrath of Offended Autocrats.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.—(2 a. m.)—Street sales of the *Russ* have been suspended on account of an article in its issue of Friday regarding the censorship in Russia and asking whether they indicate the existence of a government.

The *Journal Narodny* is planning to publish an article on the censorship of his predecessor, the suspension of which expires March 1, but under a preventative censorship, which will require its demands to be in the hands of the censor at midnight.

#### PUBLIC DISSATISFIED.

Official Reports of Fighting in Manchuria Do Not Reassure People.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 26.—(2 a. m.)—Related reports of the attack on the Russian left at Tsinkichchen do not satisfy the curiosity of the public as to what is going on in Manchuria, but the military authorities explain that the Japanese probably are attempting only to force the Russian advance posts. One Associated Press dispatch from Tsinkichchen is interrupted at an interesting point by a statement that the result of the battle, but it is evident that both sides lost heavily.

#### DOWN AMONG THE DEAD MEN.

Interesting Operations Carried on in Paris by U. S. Ambassador.

Paris, Feb. 25.—The French curiosity has been excited by the statement that are going on in the search for the body of John Paul Jones, and crowds daily surround the high mounds of dirt of the ruins of the St. Louis cemetery. United States Ambassador Porter personally is directing the operations of the search for the body of the hero of the Revolution. The search is being conducted in the deep and muddy trenches, which coffins are piled in double tiers. Experts are working to identify the body of the hero of the Revolution. The search is being conducted in the deep and muddy trenches, which coffins are piled in double tiers. Experts are working to identify the body of the hero of the Revolution.

#### TO CONNECT WITH THE G. T. P.

#### McLean Bros. Amended Proposal to Increase Importance of Coast Kootenay.

Vancouver, Feb. 24.—(Special)—Another plan for connecting both the Grand Trunk Pacific and the western extension of the Canadian Northern railway with the coast is being advanced by the McLean Bros. of this city, owners of the present charter of the Vancouver and Coast-Kootenay railway. The plan is to connect with their proposed line between here and Midway at a point south of Kamloops and Nicola in the northern part of the Spokan route. The line would then run north along the high tableland of the upper country through Kamloops across the Thompson river and thence north to connect with the transcontinental lines, either at the Yellow Head or Pine River pass.

#### Burned Itself Out.

At 9 o'clock the fire practically had burned itself out and the work of restoring to order was begun. The streets are filled with merchandise taken from the stores in the threatened districts. The charred bodies of three women are reported to have been found in the ruins of the Grand Central hotel. After the water pressure gave out, bucket brigades were formed and hundreds of citizens and visitors volunteered their services. At 9 o'clock the fire was still burning, but was pronounced to be under control.

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### Dream of The Moujiks

#### Dangerous Movement Develops Among Russian Peasants and Causes Alarm.

#### Ignorant Serfs Led to Believe That Czr Has Granted Re- allotment.

#### Proprietors Remonstrance Unheeded by Tenants Busy Dividing Estate.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 25.—(2 1/2 a. m.)—The beginning of a dangerous movement has been observed among the peasants of some of the southern provinces where revolutionary agitators are circulating a manifesto providing for a general division of land. A new allotment has been dreamed up by the peasants since emancipation, and according to private reports the stories have spread like wildfire and are implicitly believed.

The proprietors are remonstrating with the peasants but they are busy dividing their estate last week and found the peasants at work measuring off and staking their plots, in response to his demands for an explanation, they told him of the coming manifesto. Refusing to listen to his declaration that the report was a mere rumor, they replied: "We have heard the 'little father' has decided." When the proprietor asked what would become of him, they replied: "Oh, we will leave you the buildings and forty acres."

Once the peasantry become possessed of the idea that the Emperor has willed a division of land, it will be exceedingly difficult to dissuade their minds, and agrarian troubles on a large scale are feared. The moujiks are likely to turn upon the proprietors as they have done years ago in the provinces of Saratov and Poltava, when most completely anarchically reigned for some time.

#### Reservists Rejoice Fully.

Amid the reserverist agitators are spreading the story that the war is over. A case is cited which occurred a fortnight ago at Ekazan, where two hundred reservists, who had been called to duty, told the officers they did not intend to serve.

"The war is over," said the leader. "We know you simply want to make money out of a contract for feeding us. We will not serve," and they marched off.

Private reports also leave no room for doubt that the strikers in the whole province below Moscow are almost entirely political. The reports, however, are generally in the south of Russia is becoming worse instead of better, and contains many factors which are causing the authorities the greatest concern. The possibility of the necessity for the dispatch of additional troops to the Caucasus is already being considered.

#### STRIKES IN RUSSIA.

#### Reports From Caucasus and Poland Are Disquieting.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 25.—The reports today, both from Poland and the Caucasus, are very disquieting. Owing to the lack of direct telegraphic communication with many places in the Caucasus, verification of the reports is difficult. It is possible, but it is positively known that almost a reign of terror exists in the territory between the Caspian and the Black Seas. Private vengeance has glutted the streets of Baku, Batoum and Tiflis with dead Armenians and Muslims. The reports, however, are of the firing of the Black Sea fleet in Pott, etc., are not confirmed. In Poland the situation is similar, but assuming a critical stage, and it is feared the authorities may again be forced to accept violent measures.

#### Report of Assassination.

Constantinople, Feb. 25.—Advices from Batoum say the prefect of police and several leading merchants of that city have been assassinated and that numbers of Ottoman subjects have been murdered by Georgian strikers. The reports are very disquieting and the latter has promised the necessary protection. Revolutionary movements in favor of a republic are being carried broadcast in Batoum. The movement is not confined to the city, but has spread to the surrounding provinces and the peasants and agricultural classes, who claim that the land owners are treating them as serfs.

The Greenwood smelter employs about 110 men on an average; that at Boundary Falls some 60 odd; the Grady smelter, Grand Forks, employs about 800 men; and the Hall smelter at Nelson, running on a profit basis of less than 10 cents per ton of ore, is therefore directly concerned with the same number of men. A few others are chiefly supported by the output of mines operated by the same interests, about the same number of men. A few others are chiefly supported by the output of mines operated by the same interests, about the same number of men.

#### First Train in Three Days.

Warsaw, Feb. 25.—The first train in three days on the Vienna railway left here at noon today, bringing three hundred passengers. The strike appears to be settled. Trains are running tonight, though the lock-out on the Vienna line continues.

The resumption of traffic on the railway, however, was offset by a walk-out by street railway employees today. The men demand an eight instead of a sixteen-hour day, and an increase of 50

per cent in wages.

The price of meat is raising daily. The price of coal has already doubled. The Normal school pupils and those of the Warsaw consular and the Lodz commercial college discontinued their studies today.

Some of the passengers who arrived on the Vienna railway trains today tell stories of the hardships they suffered on the journey. They were held up three days at Skienwicz, where the only hotel had sleeping accommodations for eight persons and travelers were forced to sleep on benches. Supplies of food gave out and some of the men hired vehicles and drove to Warsaw, but on reaching the outskirts of the city they were waylaid by roughs, severely handled and robbed.

Mails which arrived in Warsaw by wagon were also plundered.

#### CARTER HARRISON'S OPPONENT.

#### Jeanne Charcot's Divorce.

Chicago, Feb. 25.—Judge Edward F. Dunn, of the Circuit court, was today unanimously nominated by the Democratic city convention as candidate for mayor.

#### Granddaughter of Victor Hugo Seeks Relief From Marriage Ties.

Paris, Feb. 25.—The Tribunal of the Seine has postponed the hearing of the divorce suit of Jeanne Charcot, a granddaughter of Victor Hugo, for a divorce from her husband, Dr. Jean Charcot, head of the French Antisiphilic expedition on the ground of desertion. The postponement was made because of the absence of Dr. Charcot.

#### General Strike Is Threatened

#### Smelter Employees of Boundary and Kootenay Districts on Eve of Strike.

#### Demand Eight Instead of Twelve Hour Shifts and Owners Say It Is Impossible.

Private telegrams received by members of the legislature noted in Victoria indicate that the relations between the smelter owners of the interior and their employees have during the past 48 hours become so strained that a general strike of smelter men is a matter of time. The smelter men at Boundary and Kootenay are already out; and it is further maintained by those in touch with them that the strike will be followed by those at Grand Forks, Boundary Falls, Trail and Nelson—the new smelter at Marysville being just about ready to blow in and therefore not being affected in the same way in the present disaffection. The statement of the News-Advertiser's correspondent as to the situation at Boundary having reached a climax is not yet corroborated by advices to either the Greenwood or the Grand Forks smelters.

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#### The Metric System.

In connection with Mr. Brodeur's department the work of dissemination of information regarding the metric system is proceeding apace. A large number of metric system sets have been secured by the department to present to the public in Canada. The application must be made to the department for them. It is the intention of the government to make the metric system compulsory in Canada.

#### How Money Is Wasted.

A curious point was brought out by Mr. Morin, the member for Dorchester, in supply this week. He mentioned that at a place called Diarua county a sum was voted for a pier. Mr. Morin declared that this pier was built on a creek which the municipality owned, and that the pier was not water around and no vessel could use the pier. Mr. Morin gave this as a sample of the waste of money for the purpose of influencing electors.

According to a statement made in the House yesterday, there are four petitions of public accountants vacant and it is not the government's intention to fill them. The suggestion has been made to the government to drop the outside staff altogether and centralize the analytical work at the head office in Ottawa.

#### General Orders.

The Governor-General has been gazetted honorary colonel of the Governor-General's Foot Guards. Captain Hulme retired from the Dawson Rifle Company. Sergeant F. E. Davis and Al. Brown, who were appointed provincial lieutenants in the Fernie Rifle Company.