

ONE RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP WAS DESTROYED AFTER THE BOMBARDMENT OF MARCH 18 IN GREAT FIGHT OUTSIDE PORT ARTHUR

Report Intimates That Loss of Little Fellows Was Small.

A RUSSIAN SPY IN JAP DIET

Vladivostok Fleet Bobs Up Again—Japs Building Railroad South From Ping Yang.

Tokio, March 23.—A special dispatch from Woji says the Japanese fleet made another attack on Port Arthur March 18, bombarded the city and its defenses, and fought a furious engagement with the Russian fleet outside the harbor, destroying one Russian battleship. Seven Japanese casualties are reported. There is no information concerning the Japanese fleet's condition.

The navy department has not been advised of this engagement, but evidently expects news.

A SPY IN THE HOUSE.

A Member of the Japanese Diet To Be Placed on Trial.

Tokio, Wednesday, March 23.—The House of Representatives today appointed a committee of eighteen members to investigate the charge that Tei-suke Akiyama, a member of the Parliament, is in the employ of the Russian Government. Akiyama is the publisher of the Nirokushin, a Tokyo paper which has been bitterly assailing the Government, particularly upon its financial policy. It has also charged the Government with having forced capitalists to contribute to the war effort. A local prosecution resulted in a decision yesterday ordering the permanent suppression of the publication and the imprisonment of the paper's signatory for four months. The charge was subsequently appealed, and both Akiyama and his friends vigorously deny the charge that he is a spy.

The committee and the later discussion of the question in the House promises to be exceedingly bitter.

THE LONG LOST FLEET.

Vladivostok Squadron on a Hunt for New Jap Ships.

Paris, March 23.—The Echo de Paris correspondent at St. Petersburg says it is rumored in naval circles there that Captain Reitzelstein's Vladivostok squadron has been ordered to undertake a certain point in the sea between the Japanese and two cruisers bought from Chile by Japan, and to return with them to Vladivostok.

The correspondent says it is also rumored that Emperor William of Germany has refused to accept three cruisers built at Kiel and Kiel, on the ground that they did not conform to the terms of the contract, and that Russia is negotiating for their purchase.

The Russian general staff, the correspondent says, estimates that the number of Japanese troops landed in Korea does not exceed 75,000.

U. S. DIDN'T PROTEST.

Paris, March 23.—The foreign office here has received details of the bombardment of Port Arthur, March 21-22, similar to the St. Petersburg official report, and also a mail report of the Chemulpo, which states that the action of the foreign commanders, and the non-participation of the commander of the United States fleet, General Mischenko, will be to harass and retard the Japanese in every way possible.

The authorities here believe that it will be only a matter of a short time when active land operations will begin.

WILL HOLD KOREA FAST.

Japs Build Railroad in Case of Retreat From Manchuria.

London, March 23.—The Seoul correspondent of the Times says that while depicting precipitancy in administrative action, the Japanese government, and appoint no more for the present. Many of the foreigners who are mostly French, occupy advisory posts with emoluments, aggregating \$100,000 annually, and half of these posts are absolute sinecures.

The Japanese are displaying great vigor in the construction of a light railway to Ping Yang, and other strategic projects, according to the correspondent, who says that as an evidence of the thoroughness of her plans, Japan is preparing for the possibility of military reverses in Manchuria, but that whatever happens she intends to hold fast to Korea. Should she fail to expel the Russians from Chinese territory and be compelled to defend the Korean frontier, the existence of a railway in the rear running to a port within ferrying distance of Japan will be of inestimable value to Japan.

Japan has 3,000 engineers working on the railway, and 100 miles of material obtained from disused lines in various parts of Japan, are now awaiting shipment to Ping Yang. This scheme was designed to be completed by September next, and the road will be made permanent.

SEIZURE THE FILIPINOS.

Manila, March 23.—Captain Dewitt, with a detachment of constabulary, and Lieut. Pitney, with a detachment of scouts, have just encountered Macario Sakay, the so-called president of the Filipino Republic. Sakay, with fourteen of his followers were killed, and the remainder of the band were captured. There was no casualties on the part of the Americans.

PORT ARTHUR EXPECTS A SIEGE.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—The feeling here is that the Japanese tactics are preliminary to a landing on the peninsula in an attempt to cut off Port Arthur, simultaneously with a general bombardment and commencement of a siege. For this the Russians declare they are fully prepared. During the last ten days a general shutting down upon newspaper telegrams from the Far East have been noticeable. This is owing to increased precautions to prevent the enemy from obtaining news of the movements of Russian troops.

The Russians are being massed in force along their first line, from Feng Huang Cheng northward for thirty miles, while their second line extends from Mukden to Hai Cheng. All the rolling stock required for use in the Far East has now crossed Lake Balkal. The last locomotive was taken over yesterday. Prince Khilkoff, the Minister of Public Works and Railroads, who has been personally superintending this work, leaves Balkal in a few days.

Forty trucks of grain reach Port Arthur daily.

AMUSED AT THE JAP POT SHOTS

Russians Say Enemy Wastes Shells and Does Little Harm.

BATTERIES HIT A BATTLESHIP

Port Arthur Officials Say the Shooting Is a Matter of Luck—Makarov's Policy.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—Further details of yesterday's attack on Port Arthur are expected during the day, but nothing in the way of private or newspaper dispatches supplementing the official accounts has been received up to the present.

According to the information there now exists a complete embargo upon newspaper dispatches direct from Port Arthur.

The military authorities seem to manifest no displeasure at the Japanese tactics yesterday. On the contrary, they declare that such bombardments wear out the guns and machinery of the ships and waste ammunition without compensating advantages.

They point to the small damage at Santiago by the American fleet as proof of their futility. From the position taken by the Japanese, which could not see the town or the batteries, the range was from six to eight miles, with a high angle of fire, and precision was impossible. Although the general target was large, only a lucky chance could really damage the batteries or ships. So far as is known, the Japanese accomplished nothing yesterday. On the other hand the Russians had better luck, a shell from the battleship Retzian, which was firing over the hill, landing on one of the Japanese battleships.

Of course, it is admitted that these pot shots are of little value to the commander at Port Arthur, is being commended for his self-restraint in not risking his ships in an engagement with the enemy.

A prominent Russian admiral explained to the correspondent of the Associated Press how absolutely essential conservatism on the part of the Russian naval commander at Port Arthur was at present. He said: "If Admiral Makarov, whose disposition would be to go out and meet the enemy, should give battle upon the approach of the Japanese and defeat them his victory would be fruitless, as necessary as it could be purchased by some injuries to ships, and our lack of adequate docking facilities at Port Arthur would render it impossible to refit them, whereas the Japanese have ample docks in which to repair their vessels."

IS MAKAROFF BOTTLED AT LAST?

A Report From Tokio Says Japs Have Blocked the Harbor.

London, March 23.—A correspondent of the Times at Tokio, under yesterday's date, cables that it is rumored that the Japanese have succeeded in blocking the entrance to Port Arthur.

CHRISTIANS IN PERIL.

Chinese Rebel Leader Says He Will Wipe Them Out.

Shanghai, March 22.—A proclamation of the rebel leader, Yuan, who at the head of a thousand opium smugglers recently defeated a detachment of Chinese troops, says he has no intention of causing trouble to the Chinese or to the foreigners in China, but, being determined to eradicate the false foreign religion, he will raise 10,000 men, march to the western ocean and destroy the Christian religion of foreign countries. The proclamation condemns the Roman Catholics.

DEATH OF WM. GREY.

Woodstock, Ont., March 23.—Wm. Grey, aged 92, an old and prominent resident of this city, died this morning.

A THREAT FROM AUDITOR-GENERAL

Russians Say Enemy Wastes Shells and Does Little Harm.

THE CORNWALL CANAL LIGHTS

Trouble Over the Contract Awarded M. P. Davis for Lighting Under Hagart's Administration.

Ottawa, March 22.—The Auditor-General has threatened to ask for his remuneration unless certain amendments to the audit act are carried out this session. This threat is contained in the preface to two enormous blue books emanating from the guardian of the public treasury, which were laid on the table of the House today. It is curious that it should come upon the heels of a lengthy correspondence between the audit office and various persons in regard to the lease of hydraulic privileges on the Cornwall Canal to Mr. M. P. Davis, and a contract made with him for the supplying of lights for the canal.

Mr. McDougall claims that the correspondence in connection with the canal, which is the subject of the blue books, is a long and tedious one, for which he has been asking for some years. But it also shows that he indulged in language of a heated character, for which he afterwards felt sorry. For example, he says, "Excuse me, but I have some of my remarks in connection with this correspondence, which I would have been different if written in cooler blood."

The first contract for the canal, when Mr. Davis was made by the late Government, when Hon. John Hagart was Minister of Railways. It gave Mr. Davis the exclusive right to develop power for 21 years, fixed the rate at which he was to supply electric energy for the operations, and required him to furnish lights to be erected along the banks of the canal, at such points and in such numbers as the chief engineer might deem necessary, at 30 cents per light. In 1900 another contract was made, which provided for 250 lights in summer and 150 in winter. The lights used in winter are strung all over the canal banks, and in view of this fact, the claim is set up that the cost of furnishing illumination is practically as great as in the season of navigation. As to the supply of energy for the locks, the Government will have their machinery installed by the 1st of August, and it has been found that the power required will fall only a few horse-power short of the quantity originally estimated by Mr. Schreiber.

When the contractor made his demand for the payment of energy for the canal, the Government objected and threatened to use their powers of expropriation. The contractor then agreed to modifications, and the new arrangement was entered into. It is claimed that not a cent was paid under the contract of 1900, but under the existing agreement payment will be made for 250 lights in summer and 150 in winter. The lights used in winter are strung all over the canal banks, and in view of this fact, the claim is set up that the cost of furnishing illumination is practically as great as in the season of navigation. As to the supply of energy for the locks, the Government will have their machinery installed by the 1st of August, and it has been found that the power required will fall only a few horse-power short of the quantity originally estimated by Mr. Schreiber.

The Auditor-General caustically comments upon the action of the Deputy Minister of Railways, and points out that the contracts of 1896 and 1900 were made upon the eve of Dominion elections.

THE AMER POISONED?

St. Petersburg, March 23.—A dispatch received from Ashkabad, the capital of the Russian trans-Caspian territory, says a rumor is current there that the Amir of Afghanistan has been poisoned.

LATER.

London, March 23.—No credence need be attached to the rumor from Ashkabad to the effect that the Amir of Afghanistan, Habibullah Khan, has been poisoned. All trustworthy news from Kabul reaches the British Indian Government weeks before it could possibly be known at Ashkabad.

THE BOMB OUTRAGES

Two French Anarchists Confess to Explosions at Liege.

Liege, Belgium, March 23.—The authors of the recent bomb outrages here, two French anarchists, Laobin, alias Beaumanois, and Gudefin, have been arrested. They confessed and say their object was to avenge the expulsion from Belgium of fellow-anarchists.

HE BRIBED HUNDREDS

Chicago Lawyer Accused of Buying Off Jurors.

Chicago, March 23.—Startling information on the alleged bribing of jurors by Alexander Sullivan in the interest of the Union Traction Company has been supplied in the disbarment proceedings brought against Sullivan. James J. Lynch, the former bailiff, on the stand being Master-in-Chancery Learning, and was cross-examined by Lawyer Gilbert. In reply to questions, Lynch said: "I was familiar with the traction company as it was a number of times."

ANOTHER EARTH SHOCK

Sydney, C. B., Has Second Seismic Disturbance Within a Week.

Halifax, March 23.—A severe earthquake shock was experienced at Sydney, B., shortly after 1 o'clock yesterday morning. Window-panes rattled and nearly every person in the city was aroused by the shock, which many describe as resembling a sudden upheaval, followed by a rocking motion. This is the second seismic disturbance in Nova Scotia this week and some alarm is felt.

THE N. W. T. CROP.

Regina, N. W. T., March 23.—The final crop bulletin of the Northwest Territories for 1903 has been issued. The total wheat yield was 16,111,569 bushels and the average yield per acre 19 bushels. The average for the last six years was 19.2 bushels per acre. It is estimated that there will be an additional 300,000 acres under cultivation this year.

THE WAR NEWS.

Alexieff reports that the Japs bombarded Port Arthur Sunday morning, doing little damage. A dispatch from Tokio intimates that this attack covered a second attempt to block the harbor entrance, which they say was successful. Provisions in large quantities are being rushed to Port Arthur, prolonged siege of the fortress being expected.

St. Petersburg expects an early attempt of the Mikado to cut off the stronghold by sea and land. Rumors of another big battle at sea are to hand in which it is stated the Russians lost a battleship. The Jap losses are not given. Japan is rushing work on a railroad from Ping Yang to Southern Korea, as a means of retreat in case of defeat on the Manchurian frontier.

The Japs have fortified and hold Anju in Korea. A member of the Japanese Parliament is accused of being a spy in the services of Russia, and is to be placed on trial by a committee of the Diet. Yuan, the Chinese rebel leader, says he will raise a great army to wipe out the Christians. From a Russian source it is learned that the Vladivostok fleet is to go on the Pacific on a hunt for the warships newly purchased by Japan from Chile.

WEATHER BULLETIN.

TOMORROW—FINE AND MILD.

London, Wednesday, March 23. Sun rises, 6:45 a.m. Moon rises, 10:18 a.m. Sun sets, 6:33 p.m. Moon sets, 12:06 a.m. Rain has fallen today over Ontario and Quebec, attended by a few local thunderstorms, and rain is now settling in over the Maritime Provinces. The weather has been fine and quite cold in the Territories and Manitoba, but now seems unlikely that the cold will spread eastward.

RECAPS.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 32-44; Calgary, 12 below-8; Qu'Appelle, 10 below-4; Winnipeg, 4-12; Port Arthur, 20-36; Parry Sound, 28-42; Toronto, 20-45; Ottawa, 25-38; Montreal, 22-36; Quebec, 20-38; Halifax, 16-30.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather. Calgary 10 12 Fair. Winnipeg 14 16 Clear. Parry Sound 30 32 Fair. Toronto 20 22 Fair. Ottawa 25 27 Fair. Montreal 22 24 Fair. Quebec 20 22 Fair. St. John's 28 30 Cloudy.

WEATHER NOTES.

It keeps snowing in Manitoba and the Territories, but conditions are not at present favorable for a return to the old weather from the lakes and eastward. Since yesterday morning rain has fallen generally from Ontario to the Gulf. The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 3 p.m. Tuesday were: Highest, 51°; lowest, 31°.

ANOTHER CRACK AT PORT ARTHUR

Japanese Ships Again Shelled the Stronghold.

SMALL DAMAGE, SAYS MAKAROFF

No Casualties on Russian Ships But Several Ashore—General War News.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—The Emperor has received the following telegram from Viceroy Alexieff: "Lieut.-Governor Stoessel reports that at midnight of March 21, Japanese torpedo boats were discovered by our searchlight. Our guard ships and fort batteries opened fire upon them. There was a beaten path from the shore to a position between Liao Tshin and Guldubina Bay (Pigeon Bay), while the cruisers formed up in two sections to the south and southeast of Port Arthur."

"At 6:30 o'clock in the morning four of the enemy's ships appeared from the south, followed by the whole squadron of eleven ships and eight torpedo boats. The Russian fleet, with the proposal of the Government, moved to meet the enemy."

"At 9 o'clock the enemy's battleships opened fire on Liao Tshin, after which they took up a position behind the rocky eminence of Liao Tshin and bombarded Port Arthur."

A LATER DISPATCH.

A later dispatch from Viceroy Alexieff to the Emperor says: "According to a supplementary report from Lieut.-General Stoessel, the enemy's fleet consisting of six battleships and twelve cruisers. About 9 o'clock in the morning the fleet divided, the battleships and torpedo boats taking up a position between Liao Tshin and Guldubina Bay (Pigeon Bay), while the cruisers formed up in two sections to the south and southeast of Port Arthur."

"At 9:20 the battleship Retzian opened fire over the crest of Liao Tshin against the enemy's battleships, which replied by firing on the town. "Meanwhile our fleet formed up in line in the roadstead."

"About 11 o'clock in the morning the cannonade slackened, and the Japanese fleet retreating, drew off slowly to the southwest, and at 12:30 had disappeared."

MAKAROFF'S STORY.

Another telegram from Viceroy Alexieff to the Emperor gives Viceroy Alexieff's report as follows: "At midnight of March 21 two of the enemy's torpedo boats approached the outer harbor, and were repulsed by the searchlights of the batteries, and fired upon by the forts and by the gunboats Bober and Otavny."

"A second attack was made at 4 o'clock in the morning by three torpedo boats, which also were repulsed. "At daylight three detachments of the enemy's fleet, consisting of six battleships, six armored cruisers, six second and third-class cruisers and eight torpedo boats approached from all sides. At 7 o'clock our squadron commenced to leave the inner harbor, the cruisers leading with the Askold flying flag at their head and the battleships following."

"The enemy's battleships approached Liao Tshin, and fired 100 shells from their twelve-inch guns at Port Arthur and 20 shells at the environs of the town."

"Our shells, fired at a range of 80 cables, were well placed. About 10 o'clock a Japanese battleship was struck by a shell and retired. "We lost no men during the bombardment, which ceased at 11 o'clock when the enemy's ships reassembled, and after passing along the outer roadstead drew off without attacking our fleet."

JAPS HOLD ANJU.

The following dispatch has been received from Viceroy Alexieff, dated Mukden, March 22: "General Mischenko reports that on March 17 our scouts approached Anju and observed on the left bank of the Cheng Cheng River, opposite Anju, the longest period of a single enemy. Up to that date the enemy had not appeared at Yong Hyen (15 miles northwest of Anju). It is supposed that there is one Japanese division at Anju and that the remainder of the first army corps is at Ping Yang."

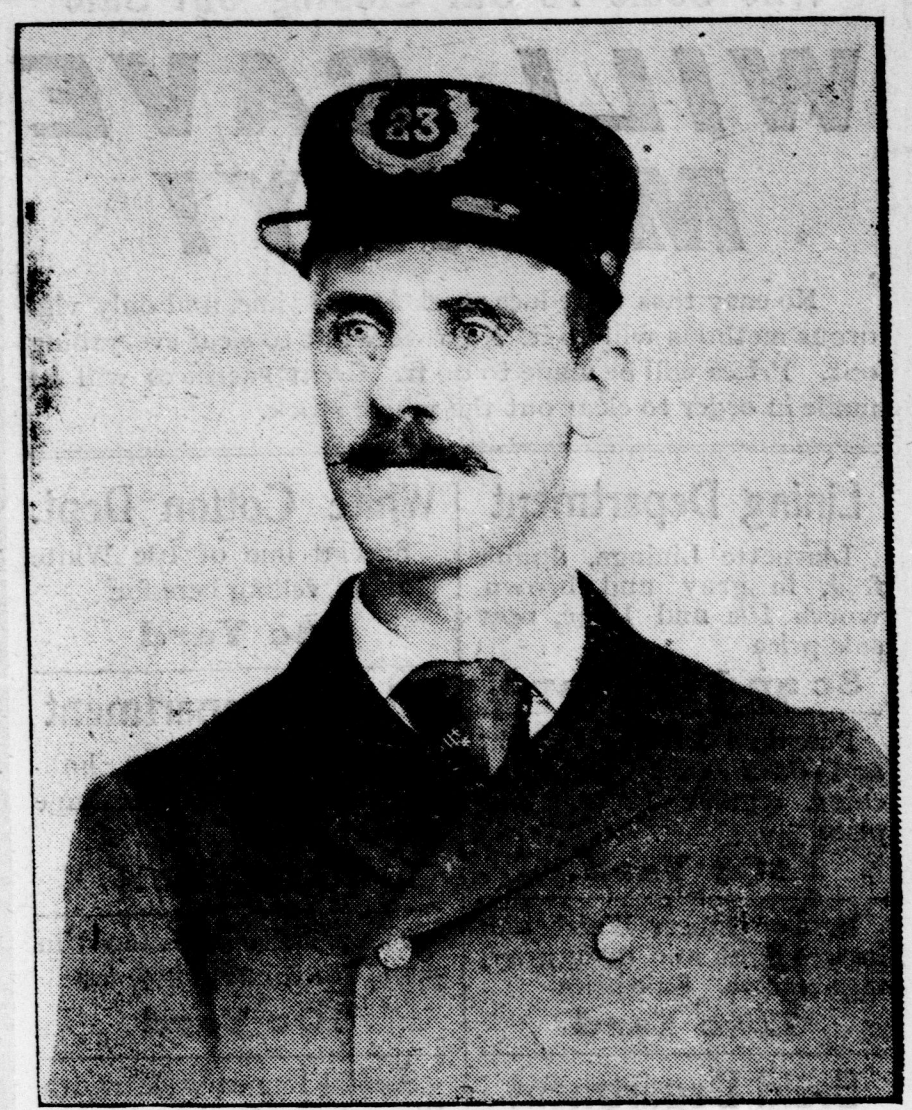
"In consequence of the report that two squadrons of the enemy had arrived at Pak Yang (15 miles northwest of Anju) our cavalry were dispatched for the purpose of preventing the enemy from crossing the Pak Chon River. Our cavalry found three Japanese squadrons on the left bank of the river, but they withdrew towards Anju on the arrival of our detachment. The Japanese squadrons numbered 190 each."

"On the night of March 20 two detachments of our cavalry occupied Yong Pyon, March 19, and material for pontoon bridges has been placed in readiness north and south of Anju."

HE WENT OVER BODY OF A PRETENDED AUNT FROM MONTREAL.

Chicago, Ill., March 23.—A growing plot to get valuable foundry and machine tools of the Iroquois was admitted to the police yesterday by John Mahken, who was arrested several days ago and who was accused of seeking to get possession of the body of Mrs. Amelia Mueller, of Milwaukee, and also that of Mrs. Frank R. Greenwald. On Mrs. Mueller's body was \$40. On Mrs. Greenwald's fingers were several valuable rings.

London's New Fire Chief.



LAWRENCE CLARK, OF HAMILTON. Unanimously Chosen by the City Council to Succeed the Late John A. Roe.

would occur, but not in time for the information to become known. Consequently there was considerable alarm when the firing was heard. It is expected that the river will be entirely opened in a few days.

JAP DIET SCANDAL.

Tokio, March 23.—A legislative scandal is threatening in connection with the proposed tobacco monopoly. It is alleged that certain members of the Diet agreed to support the bill in return for a share of the compensation paid to manufacturers for a share of the increase secured. It was originally proposed to support the bill for a sum equal to three years' income, and it is said that the illicit project was to secure four years' income. The police are investigating the matter, and possibly it will be ventilated on the floor of the House. The incident is likely to have the effect of leaving the three years' provision unchanged.

LONDON WAR NOTES.

The Tokio correspondent of the Times says it is rumored that the Korean Government yesterday decided to open Yungnampho to foreign trade.

News from New Chungwang that a south wind is dispersing the fog points to the imminence of active operations, which it is expected, will at least reveal the carefully laid Japanese plan of campaign.

EXPECT A SIEGE.

The Russians are continuing preparations for a prospective siege of Port Arthur by rushing large quantities of supplies to that point. According to the Standard, as many as 40 cars loaded with barley, chickens and other foods, arrive there daily.

IT LOOKS LIKE A SHORT SESSION

Government Caucus Talks Over the Programme To Be Laid Before the House.

CRISIS IN THE FRENCH CABINET

Paris Thinks the Combe Ministry Is About to Fall—Loubet Figuring On New Gov't.

Paris, March 23.—The belief steadily grows that the Combes ministry may not be able to weather the recent minor reverses, and it is even said in high quarters that a culmination of the crisis is likely to come next Friday, with the retirement of Marine Minister Pelletan, and probably all the ministers of the present ministry. The naval inquiry committee is expected to make its report Friday, and this probably will bring on an issue in which the strength of M. Pelletan and the ministry will be tested. President Loubet is said to be prepared to invite M. Millerand or M. Doumergue to form a new ministry in the event of the fall of the old cabinet.

MURDERED HIS FAMILY.

El Paso, Texas, March 23.—Because his wife, from whom he obtained a divorce a week ago, refused to remarry him or permit him to take the children to St. Louis, where he had secured employment, Max Vandervelt yesterday shot and killed her and their daughter Cora, aged 5 years, mortally wounded another daughter, Eleanor, and then blew out his own brains.

Man Confesses Plot to Plunder Iroquois Victim

He Wept Over Body of a Pretended Aunt From Montreal.

Chicago, Ill., March 23.—A growing plot to get valuable foundry and machine tools of the Iroquois was admitted to the police yesterday by John Mahken, who was arrested several days ago and who was accused of seeking to get possession of the body of Mrs. Amelia Mueller, of Milwaukee, and also that of Mrs. Frank R. Greenwald. On Mrs. Mueller's body was \$40. On Mrs. Greenwald's fingers were several valuable rings.

Mahken's story implicated a man who claimed to be a physician. Mahken knew him as "Dr. George." The New York police are said to have information that a man answering to the description of "Dr. George" has been implicated in several life insurance schemes. He is also said to have advised to start a suit for damages and that was what I was about to do when arrested." Mahken is 28 years of age.