

Oswald Fritz Blise, the German lieutenant who is now undergoing his six months' imprisonment for publishing a novel of garrison life, is only 26 years old. He is the son of the head master of a school in Thuringen.

It is announced, with evidences of serious belief in its truth, that the young men of Utah who adhere to the Mormon faith intend to make an aggressive movement against the polygamous practices of the saints, with a view to force President Smith to declare against further plural marriages.

Monsignor Sogaro, rector of the Academia Dei Nobili Ecclesiastici, has sided to add the German language to the courses taught in his school in view of complaints that the papal representatives in German countries seldom know that language and therefore were unable to attend to their duties properly.

Commissioner Hugh J. Lee, who two years ago went to Wales, Alaska, for the United States government to look after the reindeer and the natives, has established a temperance camp there, and has dealt so fairly but firmly (as justice of the peace) with the lawless and drunken set he found there that in a year there has been but one case of drunkenness.

Recent experiments in France show that the white blood corpuscles or "leucocytes," besides absorbing foreign bodies, destroying worn out cells, absorbing liquid poisons and carrying food substances to the tissues, also fulfill a very important function in distributing medicinal drugs to all parts of the body and carrying them in particular to the location in which they will do the most good.

Scientists have explained the great dustfall that surprised Southern England in 1903. By a study of the weather maps it was shown that the dust originated on the northwest coast of Africa, and, after riding out in a great cloud, far over the ocean, to the neighborhood of the Azores, it turned to the northeast and was sprinkled over England. It resembled, when swept up, a fine reddish-yellow powder.

In the current discussion regarding the frequent breaking down of men who carry the administrative burdens of the world, it is not to be forgotten that the average length of human life increases and that the average of the term of service of many great workers lengthens. A better understanding of the laws of health which touch both the individual and the community represents the great cause of this prolongation.

Robert B. Armstrong, the assistant secretary of the treasury, in charge of customs, has a photograph of the first custom house ever built in this country. It was erected at York, Va., during the revolution, and it was there that the first dollar of revenue was collected by the government of the confederated colonies that were struggling desperately for their independence. The building, which was a small one, was constructed of imported bricks, and is still standing on the original site.

In 1899 a commission was appointed by the Japanese government "to consider whether by a meat diet or by other means" the race could be made taller, but it came to the conclusion that, as the Japanese exceeded taller races in strength and endurance, the wise plan was to disregard stature. The Japanese are fond of bathing, and use baths heated to a degree that would be intolerable to the average American, but they also use cold bathing. Water, indeed, is freely used, both internally and externally.

It is a Chicago University professor—Dean James H. Tufts—who has discovered the virtues of flitting. "Play," he says, "is an important factor in gaining control of our faculties. Coquetry, like other forms of play, is a training for the abilities which one needs in serious life. It is not merely an outlet for the dissipation of surplus energies, as it has been considered, but it is distinctive and tends to the development of the higher and intellectual faculties."

The reports which come from Australia indicate that the population is not growing at a satisfactory rate. The birthrate continues to decline, while the mortality among infants goes on increasing. Meantime, the emigration from the island exceeds the immigration. Australia has an area more than sufficient for the population of the whole of Europe. Yet it has but 3,750,000 inhabitants, and at the present rate it will take 46.2 years to double the population, and 113 years to give it a population of 20,000,000.

The highwater mark of advanced surgery has been reached by a delicate and daring operation which has restored life to a human heart which had ceased to beat. Dr. W. W. Keen, the famous Philadelphia surgeon, whose fame is familiar in all the great medical and surgical centers of the world, is authority for the statement that such an operation has been successfully performed in at least two cases that have come to his knowledge. It seems that the wonders of medicine and surgery will never cease.

MANY PERISH BY FIERCE TORNADO

NUMEROUS FATALITIES RESULT FROM A FURIOUS WIND-STORM IN TEXAS.

Sixteen Persons Known to Be Dead, and the List Is Likely to Be Larger—Many Injured—Much Property Destroyed.

St. Louis, May 7.—A special to the Republic from Dallas, Tex., says: The tornado in northwest Texas Friday night killed Mrs. Mary Wagley, her daughter Anna, and George Anthony, at Moran. A dozen persons were severely, but not fatally, injured. At Putnam one man was killed and one woman was injured. Their names have not yet been learned. A negro cabin was swept into the Brazos river, five miles above the Texas & Pacific railroad crossing, and three negroes were drowned. A wreck train was blown from the railroad track near Crescent, and George Sommers and William Apple, negro laborers, were drowned. Twenty houses were wrecked at Moran and half a dozen at Putnam. Hundreds of head of live stock are reported killed in Shackelford and adjoining counties. Crops were badly injured by the wind, rain and hail. Wire service is still badly crippled and reports as to further fatalities are still incomplete, but it is believed that lives were lost in isolated places that will swell the number to 20.

More Deaths Reported. Houston, Tex., May 7.—Storm news is coming in very slowly, but it is certainly known that there have been many deaths in different parts of the state. Among the known dead are Will Perry, at Harrisburg, killed by lightning; Mrs. Allen G. Dennis, G. W. Mason and child of S. T. Harper, at Goldthwaite; Luther Rudd, Allen Dennis, Mrs. S. P. Harper and child and Joe Griffin are also badly hurt at the latter place. The damage to cotton and corn crops will be heavy. The damage to property will run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. At Ruby, John Mullen's house was wrecked. Mr. and Mrs. Mullen were carried nearly 100 yards by the wind; Mrs. Mullen is believed to be fatally hurt. Wesley Spurlock, 14 years old, was killed. At Sunset nearly 20 buildings were wrecked.

Two More Victims. Hamilton, Tex., May 7.—A tornado in the section of country about Star Mountain, located about 25 miles southwest of this place in Mills county, destroyed five houses, killing George Mason and blowing away one of his children. The child is still alive, but not expected to live. C. E. Bohocker had his home blown away and one child killed and other members of his family slightly injured. The house of Mr. Rayburn was also destroyed, injuring four of the family.

Fire in a Colliery. Shamokin, Pa., May 7.—Fire which broke out late Thursday night in the Locust Gap slope, operated by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company, was still raging fiercely Friday. John and Michael Bogian and Michael Shannon, of Locust Gap, who were in the mine when the fire started, were unable to reach the surface and a rescuing party is at work endeavoring to reach the entombed men. Locust Spring breaker, which prepared the Locust Gap coal for market, was forced to shut down, rendering over 1,000 men and boys idle.

Bishop Merrill Resigns. Los Angeles, Cal., May 7.—The resignation of Senior Bishop Stephen M. Merrill, of Chicago, was presented to the general conference of the M. E. church and referred to the committee on episcopacy, with instructions to report to the general conference with appropriate resolutions commensurate of the great service Bishop Merrill has rendered to the church in his 59 years as minister and bishop. Bishop Merrill is 79 years old, and it is because of his age that he has asked to be permitted to retire.

Name Debs for President. Chicago, May 7.—While 200 delegates waved hats and handkerchiefs and shouted themselves hoarse, the socialist national convention Thursday afternoon nominated Eugene V. Debs, of Indiana, as president of the United States. The scene was repeated on the unanimous nomination of Benjamin Hanford, of New York, as Debs' running mate.

Are Probably Dead. Shamokin, Pa., May 7.—Five miners are entombed and believed to be dead as a result of a fierce fire which is burning in the Locust Gap colliery of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron company.

Deadlock Is Broken. Sioux City, Ia., May 6.—E. H. Hubbard, of Sioux City, was nominated for congressman by the republicans of the Eleventh district on the fifty-fourth ballot, defeating Congressman Thomas and other candidates.

Minnesota Republicans. St. Paul, Minn., May 5.—The republican state central committee decided to hold the republican convention for the nomination of candidates for state officers in St. Paul, Thursday, June 3.

Killed by the Cars. Coshocton, O., May 5.—Harry Westfall and Emmet Lewis, two schoolboys aged 12 and eight respectively, were killed by a train at a Pan-Handle railroad crossing in Newcomerstown.

REPORT ON CROPS.

Rains Retard Farm Work in Many Sections—Chilly Weather Has Bad Effect.

Washington, May 4.—The weather bureau's weekly summary of crop conditions is as follows: The northern Rocky mountain districts and the states of the upper Mississippi valley have experienced a week of favorable temperatures, but throughout the southern states, Ohio valley and the greater part of the middle Atlantic states and New England it has been too cool for germination and growth. Rains have prevented farm work in the Ohio valley, Tennessee and portions of the lower lake region, middle Atlantic states and New England, while drought in the south Atlantic and east gulf districts and over the southern Rocky mountain region and western Texas continues with increased severity. With the exception of Kansas, southern Missouri and Arkansas corn planting has progressed slowly, but preparations for this throughout the corn belt have been extensive, and with good weather the coming week planting will be vigorously pushed in Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana.

In Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri winter wheat has advanced favorably except where damaged by floods in the last-named state. In Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, the Virginias, Maryland and North Carolina an improvement is indicated, but in Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania much will be plowed up, and the outlook in Michigan is poor. Wheat is now heading in southern Kansas.

Oat seeding is nearly finished in the northern portion of the central valleys and is well advanced in the lake region. In Iowa the stands are better than were expected, and while some complaints of slow germination are reported from Illinois, the general outlook in that state and in portions of Nebraska and Kansas is promising.

While most reports indicate that peaches have been extensively killed, the outlook continues promising in sections. Apples and other fruits in the more southerly districts have suffered less injury.

A HELP TO TRADE.

Improvement in the Weather Is an Aid to Distribution—Farm Work Progressing.

New York, May 7.—Bradstreet's says: "Long expected good weather has at last materialized and has helped farmers and retail trade in seasonal goods. Crop preparations and planting has made especially good progress, the present outlook being that while the winter wheat crop will be short, the acreage in spring wheat, oats and corn will be heavily increased. Retail and wholesale trade, however, has not experienced the stimulation earlier looked for, there being a disposition so far to regard results as below expectations. Reorder trade with jobbers is slow and fall orders are backward. Other conditions partake of irregularity. The iron trade is quieter, with prices distinctly weaker. On the other hand, rather less than the usual number of May strikes have occurred, and this year so far makes a more favorable showing than did 1903."

R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: "Somewhat better retail distribution has followed improvement in temperature, but it came too late to recover any large part of the tardy season's injury to spring trade. Some improvements in collections, particularly at the south and west, will also strengthen weak concerns. The percentage of idle factories has increased, especially in textiles and footwear. Commercial failures this week in the United States are 206, against 202 last week, 241 the preceding week and 175 the corresponding week last year. Failures in Canada number 27, against 16 last week, 12 the preceding week and 22 last year."

Proposed Visit of King. Paris, May 6.—The correspondent of the Temps at Madrid says it has been decided in principle that King Alfonso will visit Paris, Berlin and Vienna. The dates of his visits have not been fixed and are dependent on affairs in the far east and Spain's internal politics. The king's visit to France is expected to supplement President Loubet's visit to Rome and strengthen the Franco-Spanish understanding.

Hearst Wins in Iowa. Des Moines, Ia., May 5.—William Randolph Hearst swept the field in the Iowa state democratic convention held here Wednesday. He had a majority of over 150 in the convention, and Hearst resolutions were adopted, and Hearst delegates were seated and Hearst delegates were selected and instructed to vote as a unit.

Law Is Constitutional. Columbus, O., May 4.—The supreme court has decided the Russell inheritance tax law, passed at the last session of the legislature, to be constitutional. The law exempts all estates or inheritances under \$3,000. On all estates of more than that amount two per cent. is levied by the state auditors.

Fatal Disaster in a Mine. Wilkesbarre, Pa., May 6.—An explosion of gas occurred at the No. 11 colliery of the Lehigh & Wilkesbarre Coal company, at Plymouth, Thursday, in which two men were killed, one fatally injured and four others injured.

Three Hanged. Winchester, Tenn., May 6.—Henry Judge, Joe Delp and John Evans were hanged here Thursday for the murder of Simon Bucher and his wife last August.

HAS NO AMBITION FOR SECOND PLACE

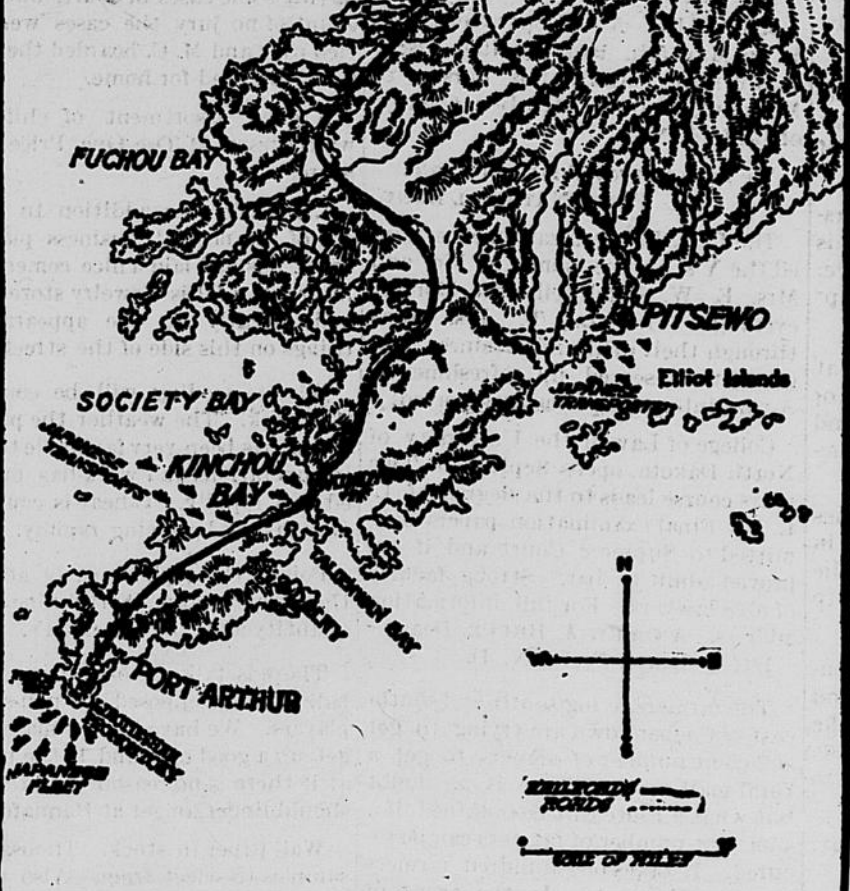
SPEAKER CANNON DECLARES HE WON'T ACCEPT VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION.

Believes He Can Be of More Service to the Nation by Remaining in the House—He Hopes to Be Re-elected as Speaker.

Washington, May 4.—"Even at the risk of being accused of declining that which I probably could not get, if I desired it, I answer most unequivocally that if the nomination were tendered to me I would not accept it under any circumstances whatever." Thus strongly did Speaker Cannon in an authorized interview with a Post reporter Tuesday emphasize his determination with reference to the vice presidency. As he concluded dictating what he had to say, the speaker added: "If there is any language which can be more decisive, write it in."

"What are your reasons for such a statement?" he was asked, and replied: "I have been for almost 30 years a member of the national house of rep-

MAP SHOWING MOVEMENTS FOR NAVAL AND LAND ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.



Japanese transports have arrived at Pitsewo and Kinchou to land troops, and the Japanese fleet is lying behind the Liaotieshan promontory. This information comes from Port Arthur direct and from Newchwang.

representatives. I may say my life work has been in connection with legislation in the house. I have been re-nominated by the republicans of the congressional district in which I reside, and I have accepted the nomination. I have every reason to hope I shall be re-elected."

Wants to Be Speaker Again.

"If the republicans have a majority in the next house of representatives," he continued, "of which in my judgment there is no reasonable doubt, I will be a candidate to succeed myself as speaker. If, perchance, however, the republicans should not have a majority in the next house, I will take my place on the floor and give the best service it is in my power to give to the minority. In my judgment I can do better service in my capacity as a member of the house of representatives than I can do elsewhere."

Can Find Stronger Men.

"I have no ambitions, touching the public service, outside of and disconnected with the house of representatives. One word more. There are many men in the republican party in the middle west and elsewhere who are better equipped for the great office of vice president than I am, and would add more of strength to the ticket than I would, so that the decision, as above announced, and my duty as a citizen and a republican run together in the conclusion that I have come to, which is final."

"Have you taken into consideration," he was asked, "that it has been suggested that your candidacy on the ticket as vice president is necessary to carry Illinois?"

"There is nothing in the suggestion," he replied. "The republican party is as strong in Illinois as it has been in a quarter of a century."

Novelist Passes Away.

Buda-Pesth, May 6.—Maurus Jokal, the Hungarian novelist, died Thursday evening from inflammation of the lungs. He was 79 years of age.

Originated Famous Celebration. New York, May 6.—Joseph Stillwell Cain, known as the father of the celebration of Mardi Gras in this country, is dead here, aged 72 years.

Refuse to Repeal Crimes Act. London, May 5.—The house of commons by a vote of 197 to 124 rejected a resolution in favor of the repeal of the Irish crimes act.

Found Dead.

Ottawa, Ont., May 5.—W. F. McCreary, M. P. from Selkirk, was found dead in the Russell house Wednesday afternoon.

DEATH OF SAM PARKS.

Life of Once Noted Labor Leader Ends in Sing Sing Prison—His Career.

Ossining, N. Y., May 5.—Sam Parks, the New York labor leader, who was sent to Sing Sing prison some months ago, after his conviction on a charge of extortion, died in prison Wednesday. He had consumption at the time of his conviction, and had failed rapidly since he was sent to Sing Sing.

Sam Parks was prominent for years in labor circles, being a leader in Chicago before coming to New York, and the loyalty to him of his associates was remarkable. He was walking delegate, or business agent, of the local House-smiths and Bridgemen's union for several years, and it was under his leadership that the big strike of iron workers in New York last year was inaugurated. That strike involved the national iron workers' organization, and National President Buchanan finally announced himself as against Parks and the general strike throughout this country which the New York leader sought to have ordered. The contest was carried to the annual convention of the union, where Parks won to the extent that he prevented the recognition of a rival local union, which had the approval of both President Buchanan and the New York contractors. During last summer charges of extortion were made against Parks, and he was finally convicted, it

STATE OF SIEGE AT PORT ARTHUR

JAPS LAND TROOPS AND COMMUNICATION WITH RUSSIAN STRONGHOLD IS CUT OFF.

They Sink Ships in Harbor Entrance Also—Events Will Cause Important Change in Plans of Vice Admiral Skrydloff.

St. Petersburg, May 7.—A dispatch received Friday night says that Port Arthur is cut off from all communication by land, the Japanese having disembarked in its rear, occupied the railroad and cut the telegraph. Vice Admiral Skrydloff, who is en route to Port Arthur to take command of the naval forces in the far east, will be unable to reach his destination.

May Go to Vladivostok. Vice Admiral Skrydloff and Vice Admiral Bezobrazoff cannot now reach Port Arthur and will probably go to Vladivostok to join the cruiser squadron there. Rear Admiral Wittsoeff, who was left in charge of the fleet by Viceroy Alexieff, will direct operations at Port Arthur. Wittsoeff is a good officer, and it is believed he will render excellent service.

Departure of Alexieff.

It was because he was convinced that Port Arthur was about to be cut off that Viceroy Alexieff, accompanied by his staff and Grand Duke Boris, left hastily. The strength of the garrison at Port Arthur will not only say that it is adequate for defensive purposes. It is not believed that the force there exceeds 10,000 soldiers.

Alexieff at Mukden.

Mukden, May 7.—Vice Admiral Alexieff has arrived here.

Gen. Pfug Reports.

St. Petersburg, May 7.—The ministry of war has received the following telegram from Maj. Gen. Pfug, chief of the military staff:

"According to the information I have received, seven of the enemy's transports, and afterwards about 40, appeared opposite Pitsewo on the evening of May 4. On the morning of May 5 the Japanese began to land at Pitsewo and on the coast near Cape Terminal (about 15 miles southwest of Pitsewo), under cover of artillery fire. At this moment about 60 transports were observed bearing down upon the whole front and our posts retired from the shore. All papers in the post office at Pitsewo were removed and the Russian inhabitants abandoned the town. According to Chinese reports, by the evening of May 5 about 10,000 of the enemy's troops had landed and taken up quarters in the Chinese villages near the points of debarkation. The enemy sent two columns of about one regiment each, one in a westerly direction and the other to the southward."

A Terrible Blunder.

Tokio, May 7.—Gen. Kuroki, in reporting Thursday, tells of a bloody encounter during the Russian retreat on Sunday last, when a large force of Russians mistook a small body of their own men for Japanese, killing and wounding 180 of them.

Loss Was Enormous.

St. Petersburg, May 4.—In a report received by the emperor from Gen. Kuropatkin under Tuesday's date, it is stated that at least 2,000 to 3,000 men were killed in the Yalu river fight.

Say Port Arthur Is Blocked.

London, May 5.—The Tokio correspondents of both the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Chronicle assert that Port Arthur is effectually "corked."

Nine Ships Sunk.

Tokio, May 5.—Tuesday afternoon during a fierce fog the Japanese successfully blocked Port Arthur by sinking nine merchantmen at the entrance, which now is absolutely sealed. The Japanese fleet in effecting the blocking sent a steamer into the entrance at full speed. The naval officers who made the two previous attempts begged permission to carry out the next attack in daylight, that being easier, and their request was granted. So determined were the naval chiefs to succeed this time that they decided if necessary to lose half their men. The number of casualties has not yet been given out.

Kuropatkin Off for Front.

St. Petersburg, May 6.—Gen. Kuropatkin has gone to the front from Liaoyang to inspect the situation personally.

Placed in the Tomb.

Springfield, Ill., May 7.—The funeral of Judge William M. Springer, for 20 years a representative in congress from this district, and later a federal judge in Indian territory, who died last winter in Washington, D. C., took place Thursday afternoon from the First M. E. church in this city. Rev. Dr. Nelson G. Lyons officiated, and addresses were made by former Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson, of Bloomington, Ill., Rev. Dr. W. N. McElroy and Rev. Dr. John A. Kumler. Many prominent men were present from other cities. The remains were interred in Oak Ridge cemetery.

Electrocuted.

Plattsburg, N. Y., May 4.—Allen Mooney, the condemned murderer, who shot and killed two women at Saranac Lake, N. Y., on November 4, 1902, was put to death in the electric chair at Clinton prison, Dannemora, Tuesday.

Flour Mills Closed.

Minneapolis, Minn., May 5.—On account of the small demand for their products all of the flour mills in Minneapolis have closed until trade increases to warrant resumption of business.