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DESERET EVENING NEWS.

HISTORIAN'S OFFICE.
Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints.

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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

28 PAGES—LAST EDITION

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1904. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR.

DIVORCE PROBLEM CONFRONTING UTAH

Evil Increasing Here in Common
With Other Sections of the
Country.

FACTS ARE MOST STARTLING.

Interesting Interviews With Judges
Of the Supreme and District
Courts.

WHAT THEY WOULD RECOMMEND.

General Opinion Is That There Should
Be a Uniform Marriage and Divorce
Law for the States.

Shall Utah become as notorious as the Dakotas in the matter of granting divorces, and shall it become a Mecca for those who desire to sever their matrimonial bonds in the easiest and quickest possible manner? The bench and bar and the public in general who hold the interest of society and the welfare of the state nearest their hearts, with one accord speak out against the divorce evil which is growing at such a rate as to become appalling. In Salt Lake county particularly has the evil made rapid strides in the past few months, so that during the month of May the records of the office of County Clerk James show that there was one divorce to every 4.85 marriages in this county alone.

There were 21 divorce cases filed in Salt Lake county during that month, and 102 marriage licenses issued, making the ratio of divorces to marriages as stated above. The question of ways and means for preventing the increase of divorces has been widely and deeply considered, not only in this state but also in a large number of other states of the Union and the matter has received much comment in the public press in various parts of the United States.

It is the general opinion that a uniform law on marriage and divorce should be adopted by the several states. That it is believed by many, is the only possible way to check the divorce evil. It is thought by some, however, that the statutory grounds of divorce are too numerous and that they should be limited. But the general sentiment favors uniformity. A number of the judges of this district have expressed themselves in regard to the matter, and all favor uniformity in the marriage and divorce laws.

EIGHT STATUTORY GROUNDS.
There are eight statutory grounds for divorce in this state. They are: Impotency, adultery, desertion, failure to support, habitual drunkenness, conviction of a felony, cruelty and insanity. The last named ground was added to the statute at the last session of the Legislature. That something should be done to prevent the state from becoming a divorce Mecca is certainly very apparent to those who stop to consider the matter, and it is truly worthy of the deepest consideration. The "News" has obtained expressions from several of the judges of the state which are produced herewith.

WISE LEGISLATION NEEDED.
Chief Justice Baskin—I am opposed to this wholesale divorce; it is a menace to society. The manner in which our divorce laws are executed is decidedly detrimental to the public weal and its tendency is to detract from the sacredness of the marriage relation and the evil should be corrected by wise legislation.

BARTCH'S SUGGESTIONS.
Associate Justice Bartch—The number of divorces granted now is simply appalling when you consider the welfare of the state. The conditions here have a tendency to destroy the social system and reduce the true standard of morality. The duty of the state is to protect the family, and people who marry should be given to understand that they cannot be separated easily. There are several things which should be done to remedy the evil.

First—The laws should be amended so as to take away some of the grounds for divorce. They should be made to conform more to the Biblical causes. The causes at present on the statute are too numerous and it is entirely too easy to get a divorce.

Second—There should be a uniform law on marriage and divorce throughout the United States. The laws should prohibit divorcing persons from marrying again within three years after securing their divorce.

Third—The courts should be more careful in granting divorces and especially where the parties have children. In such instances it is often the case that if the court refuses to grant a divorce the parties will become reconciled. The court itself should hear referees, I cannot approve of the latter practice.

The way divorces are granted has a tendency to induce young people to take the sacredness of the marriage relation and the contract they enter into, which has in all civilized communities been regarded as the very foundation of the state. The marriage contract ought to be regarded as the most sacred, solemn and binding obligation that any man and woman can enter into. Every church in the land should inculcate the evil of too freely granting divorces without good and sufficient cause.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.
Associate Justice McCarty—I am of the opinion that the Constitution of the United States should be amended and that the Congress should be given the exclusive power to legislate on the subject of marriage and divorce. The laws governing the same should be uniform throughout the United States. Anything that so affects our social fabric should have uniformity and not be subject to the whims of the different state legislatures.

should be further limited with the possible exception of the ground of insanity. I am inclined to think that that ground should be dispensed with, although I am not prepared to make a positive statement to that effect, and the ground of failure to support should be limited in time to one year, the same as is required in the ground of desertion. Personally I believe that as great evils arise from those who are not divorced and should be as from divorces themselves.

DR. L. L. WATTERS HOME.

Young Salt Lake Who Gained Prominence in New York City.

Mrs. L. Watters and her son, Dr. L. L. Watters of New York, returned last night from the metropolis. The doctor left Salt Lake back in the nineties, for Columbia college, graduating with honors from the academic department in 1898. He took a second degree, master of arts there, later, and also graduated with a high stand from the medical department of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Watters' ability soon brought him into prominence in the profession, and he was for some time assistant chemist for the City of New York. Though his efforts for reaching and much needed reforms were instituted in the Charity hospital and other institutions on Blackwell's Island.

The doctor was taken with appendicitis last spring, and his mother hurried on to take care of him. He was fortunate in having attend him Dr. McElmery, President McKinley's physician, and he rapidly recovered from the shock of the operation. Doctor Watters will spend part of the summer with his parents before returning to New York, and thus secure much needed rest and relief from hard work.

TO DEPORT TONG.

Commissioner Says Chinaman Must Go
Back to His Own Country.

Chin Tong was ordered deported this morning by Commissioner Twomey, before whom he had a hearing on the charge of violating the immigration regulations. His attorneys will probably appeal the case. The commissioner granted a stay of two weeks to give the defense time to secure a certified copy of Chin's papers from Washington. The Chinaman claims he is entitled to remain in America.

CONFERENCE TOMORROW.

Mutual Improvement Workers Will
Hold Meetings in the Tabernacle.

Tomorrow the general conference of the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations will convene in this city, in consequence of which there will be no evening meetings in the different wards. At 10 a. m. there will be a conjoint officers' meeting in the Assembly hall and in the afternoon and evening public meetings will be held in the Tabernacle. On Monday and Tuesday business meetings will be held for the young ladies in the Fourteenth ward assembly rooms, and for the young men in Barratt hall. The programs to be carried out will pertain largely to Mutual Improvement work and will be of a character interesting and beneficial to all.

POSTPONED FOR ONE WEEK.

The St. George conference, announced for June 18 and 19, has been postponed for one week to enable visitors from Salt Lake City to attend it.

JOSEPH F. SMITH.

TERRACE POSTOFFICE.

It is Ordered Discontinued After June 15th.

(Special to the "News.")
Washington, D. C., June 4.—John E. Byrom has been appointed postmaster at Mount Idaho, Idaho county, Ida., vice Matthew S. Truscott, dead.

The postoffice at Terrace, Boxelder county, Utah, has been ordered discontinued after June 15.

AUTHORS' CLUB RESIGNS.

Withdraws From the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The Authors' club of this city has addressed the following letter of resignation to the General Federation of Women's clubs:
Salt Lake City, June 4, 1904.
Mrs. Emma M. Van Vleeton, Secretary of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.
Madam—The Authors' club, Salt Lake City, hereby resigns from the General Federation. Respectfully,
LAURA HYDE MERRILL, President.
ELIZA SLADE BENNION, Secretary.

FEDERAL COURT RULE DAY.

The following cases will be called on Monday in the federal court—the regular rule day for June:
U. S. vs. Knight.
Guth Adm. vs. U. P. Coal Co.
Evans Snider Buel Co. vs. Wool Growers Co.
Fairbanks vs. Colton Wax Union and Oil Co.
Gibson by guardian vs. U. P. Coal Co.
Toltec Ranch Co. vs. C. P. Ry. Co.
Dugan vs. Hingham & E. C. Ry. Co.
Clement vs. DeLamar.
Toltec Ranch Co. vs. Hunsaker.
Laskovitch vs. S. P. Co.
Kuykendall vs. U. P. R. Co.
E. L. Burke vs. S. P. Co.
Moisy vs. Fidelity & C. Co.
J. S. vs. Meighan et al.
U. M. Harris Adm. vs. S. P. Co.
E. L. Burke vs. S. P. Co.
E. L. Burke vs. S. P. Co.
Valentine Adm. vs. S. P. Co.
Jones vs. S. P. Co.
Taylor Adm. vs. U. P. Coal Co.
Gibson vs. U. P. Coal Co.
In re Madison bankrupt.
In re Provostgaard, bankrupt.
In re Majestic Copper M. Co., bankrupt.
In re Isaac Elwell, bankrupt.

Excise Commissioner Indicted.

St. Louis, June 4.—The grand jury today indicted James M. Seibert, state excise commissioner, on the charge of conspiracy to hinder the due administration of the law. The indictment grows out of investigations into flagrant violations of the excise laws in the city of St. Louis.

Russian Attack On Gensan, Korea.

One is Deemed Imminent—Commissioner of Customs Making Preparations to
Send Women and Children to a Mountain Monastery—Russians
Land Field Artillery on Sha River.

Seoul, June 4, 6 p. m.—The commissioner of customs of Gensan, Korea, wires that a Russian attack on that place is deemed imminent. He is making preparations to send the women and children to a mountain monastery, 20 miles distant. A junk has reported that the Russians have landed field pieces at Sha river, near Ham Heung, north of Gensan, on Broughton Bay, or the Gulf of Korea, at which place Cossack reinforcements are expected.

Convict Botha's Plea for Life is Granted.

Board of Pardons Takes the View That There Were Extenuating Circumstances in
Case of Notorious Wife-Murderer, So Execution Will Not
Take Place Next Week as Scheduled.

At two o'clock this afternoon the board of pardons after being in executive session for three hours commuted Botha's sentence to life imprisonment. When the fact was announced, Judge Warner, his attorney, was visibly affected and shed tears. He said it was simply a triumph of plain justice, tempered with mercy. The officers of the court took the same view of the decision, the result of which was conveyed to Botha by one of the guards this afternoon. Botha was very thankful and said he had expected the good news would reach him sometime before night. The vote for commutation was three in favor and two against. The ballot was a secret one.

The state board of pardons is made up of Gov. Wells, Atty.-Gen. Breeden, Chief Justice Baskin and Justices Bartch and McCarty of the Supreme court.

The state board of pardons met in special session this morning to consider the application of Charles Botha for a commutation of sentence from death to life imprisonment. Botha was convicted in San Jose, Cal., of the murder of William Tibbets, a well-to-do rancher in that county, and was sentenced by Judge Johnson to be executed on next Friday, June 10. Botha's case has been before the supreme court, which affirmed the judgment of the lower court. Botha also killed his wife at the time he killed Tibbets, but for that crime he has not been tried. His attorney in his defense undertook to prove that Tibbets had been intimate with Mrs. Botha and had induced her to leave her home and go with him to his home, and that the killing of Tibbets was justified. It was claimed that Botha shot his wife accidentally. Judge M. M. Warner of Provo, who was employed to appear in the case in the supreme court and before the board of pardons,

presented Botha's case to the board today, while Dist. Atty. Livingston, appeared before the board in behalf of the state. For two hours the board listened to the arguments of the attorneys and then went into executive session to consider the case.

WARNER MAKES HIS PLEA.

In making his argument before the board in behalf of a commutation of sentence for Botha, Judge Warner said that a man named Barney, who rode the range with Tibbets for years, had repeatedly warned Tibbets to leave the "Dutchman's" wife alone or he would get into serious trouble, and that several of Tibbets' neighbors had also warned him to leave Botha's wife alone. The attorney stated that he had written to these men and asked them to put no doubt on the form of affidavits and mail them to him here, but for some unknown reason they had not done so, although they had had ample time.

"Continuing, Judge Warner said: 'I am satisfied that if this board could compel those men to appear before me and testify to these matters, it will be shown beyond any question that Tibbets had been intimate with Botha's wife, and that he had induced her to leave her home in such a manner as would arouse the frenzy of any reasonable man.'

then kill the destroyer of his home. It is natural that a man would kill the paramour first. The fact that the shooting occurred as it did, that the wife was killed first, is strong proof that the killing of his wife was accidental.

"I believe if Tibbets had done what Botha did the feeling is such down there that there would only have been a coroner's verdict of justifiable homicide and the case would have ended. There is no doubt but that Botha did not have a fair trial. His attorney, Mr. Wanless, only had a few minutes before the trial to consult with the defendant and did not have time to prepare for trial. The attorney asked for a continuance but it was denied by the court. I am satisfied that if the case had been properly prepared the verdict would have been nothing more than voluntary manslaughter. As to Botha's crimes in Germany, I have two letters from his mother in which she says that she is coming here with the necessary evidence to show that he was never charged with the crime of murder there."

In concluding Judge Warner read at length from the abstract of the testimony of Botha and Rose, the only persons who witnessed the shooting.

SAID TRIAL WAS FAIR.

Upon request of Attorney-General Breeden, District Attorney Livingston who prosecuted the case in the lower court, made a brief statement in relation to the trial of Botha. He maintained that Botha had a fair trial and that the facts went to show that the killing was done deliberately and in cold blood, and that Botha bragged to one of the neighbors that he had killed his wife and Tibbets and had done a good job and could do it again if he had to. He also told this neighbor that he would be a woman first and sent them both to heaven together. Such testimony as that, the attorney declared, clearly showed that the killing of Mrs. Botha was not accidental as is claimed by the defense.

At the conclusion of his remarks the board went into executive session to consider the case.

ATHLETES WHO HOLD WORLD'S RECORDS.

Many of them Present at Championship Events of the American Athletic Union.

HELD IN WORLD'S FAIR STADIUM.

Heavy Rains Prevented Very Fast
Runs—Miss Alice Roosevelt
Presented Medals.

St. Louis, June 4.—Athletes from all parts of the country, many of them holders of world's records, were seen at the Stadium today, where the championship events of the Amateur Athletic union were held. The first part of the program was devoted to the Junior contests, postponed from yesterday on account of rain, and the closing numbers decided the senior championships. The heavy rains of the last few days prevented exceptionally fast time being made in the sprints and distance runs, but as the entries included the country's best men in their respective classes, great interest was taken in the several events. A feature of the day was the presentation of medals to the winners of the senior championships by Miss Alice Roosevelt, daughter of the president. President Roosevelt is the honorary president of the Olympic games, and Miss Roosevelt was requested by Chief Sullivan, of the physical culture department, to represent her father.

The contest included all the regulation events recognized by the A. A. U. In several there were so many entries that it was found necessary to divide them into heats. Eight hundred and eighty runs of A. A. U. championship contests at the Stadium, won by George A. Shipley, C. A. C. Chicago, Time, 3:06 1-5. Henry Christoffersen, of St. George, A. C. New York, a close second; J. A. Taylor, G. N. Y. A. A. New York City, third.

One hundred and twenty yard hurdle was won by Castleman of New York A. C. Time—1:11-5. T. E. Garrity, C. A. C. New York City, second; L. Smith, W. U. St. Louis, third.

Sixteen pound shot put, won by John J. Ryan, St. D. A. C. New York. Distance—35 feet, 2 inches. C. Van Dayne, G. N. Y. A. A. New York, second. Distance—37 feet, 8 inches. J. J. Schommer, C. N. Y. C. A. Chicago, third. Distance—37 feet, 1 inch.

regiment, Buffalo, Time—51 seconds. Joseph McGuchan, B. P. S., Bethlehem, Pa., second; W. J. Cornelius, C. Y. M. C. A. St. Louis, third. Previous champion was F. G. Waller, of Milwaukee, whose record was 1:01 4-5.

Running broad jump, won by L. Smith, W. U. St. Louis, distance 29 feet, 14 inches. E. L. Greene, G. N. Y. A. A. New York, second, 19 feet, 14 inches; E. Clark, Y. M. C. A. Kansas City, third, 18 feet, 8 1/2 inches.

The running high jump, won by C. Hall, P. A. C. San Francisco, height 5 feet 8 1/2 inches; Frank Olmstead, T. S. Bethlehem, Pa., second; J. W. Price, third.

Previous A. A. U. champion was A. E. McCachron of Milwaukee, whose record was 12:14-5.

220-yard hurdles—Won by J. P. Hill, M. A. C. B. St. Louis, Time—2:23 seconds. L. Smith, W. U. St. Louis, second. John Dillon, St. Louis university, St. Louis, third. Previous champion was C. George Poage, Milwaukee, whose record was 2:22 seconds.

All records of last year have been broken so far.

INTERCOLLEGIATE MEET.

Chicago, June 4.—Unusual interest was shown today in the annual track and field meet of the Inter-collegiate Athletic College association on the Marshall field. The advent of a crack team from Leland Stanford university gave added zest to the contest. The entry list contained the names of 200 athletes, many of whom have a national reputation in their particular line of sport. Seventeen colleges and universities had representatives on the field. In the number of entries the University of Michigan led the list, closely followed by the universities of Wisconsin and Chicago. The other institutions having competitors were the University of Illinois, Drake college, Northwestern university, University of Indiana, Iowa State college, Purdue university, Leland Stanford university, Iowa state normal, University of Minnesota, Iowa university, Oberlin college, University of Missouri, Beloit college and Lombard college.

JUDGE POWERS IS IN THE RACE NOW

Formally Announces His Candidacy for Democratic National Committee.

PEERY AND TARBET ALSO IN.

Willard I. Snyder May Become a Candidate for United States Senator After November Next.

Judge Powers, at the earnest solicitation of friends, today formally announced himself as a candidate for Democratic national committee of this state. Peery and Tarbet are still in the race, and the contest promises to be interesting.

"I was asked to make a run for the office," remarked Judge Powers this morning, "and at first declined, as it means a good deal of time spent away from business, without remuneration, as well as traveling expenses. But I have for certain reasons reconsidered and if the office should come my way, I would not run away from it." On the contrary, I should consider it an honor.

A senatorial bid is said to be buzzing around the cranium of Willard I. Snyder, recently elected delegate to the Republican national convention. It is said by friends of Mr. Snyder that he will without doubt become a candidate for United States senator if the state goes Republican this fall.

POLITICAL STRAWS.

The information that David Evans, the well known lawyer and mining man, is a candidate for national committee honors is incorrect. His name has been used in connection with the place without authority. He adds also, "that I am not, never have been, and never intend to be a candidate for that office."

At the Democratic convention held Thursday in Boise, Ida., a resolution was adopted demanding a plank in the national platform favoring an amendment to the Constitution giving Congress authority to deal with the subject of polygamy and punish those guilty of polygamous practices. This is regarded as having been inspired by Senator Dubois and is looked upon as aimed directly at the "Mormon" people. While the convention did not instruct for Hearst for the presidential nomination, it was dominated by that element and passed a resolution commending him for the nomination. The

minority attempted to have the delegation instructed, but the majority voted against it and the resolution was defeated.

AFTER POWDERLY.

Knights of Labor Want Him to Assume Leadership.

Boston, June 4.—A movement is under way in Knights of Labor circles to have Theodore V. Powderly, formerly general master workman of that organization, assume the leadership once more. Michael J. Kennedy, secretary-treasurer of District Assembly 30 of this city, is the instigator of the movement. Mr. Powderly has been asked to take charge of affairs, and he has intimated that if his election is unanimous he will accept. Arrangements are being made for a big mass meeting in Boston, and today the former leader was invited to come here and deliver an address.

Fatal Explosion of Gas.

Fairmount, W. Va., June 4.—An explosion of gas completely destroyed a Fairmount coal company's house today. The eight occupants were injured, four fatally.

TIBETAN EXPEDITION.

The British Capture Two Four-Pounders.

Simla, British India, June 4.—The British expedition into Tibet has captured two four-pounders from the enemy and a Lhasa general is reported to have been killed.

The Tibetans have refused to forward to Lhasa the letter from Col. Younge, husband, the political agent with the expedition, fixing the latest date on which the British are prepared to meet and negotiate with the Amhar and Tibetan delegates at Gyang-Tse before advancing on Lhasa.

TORNADO IN OKLAHOMA.

Demolishes Part of Town of Walters and Kills One Man.

Lawton, O. T., June 4.—A tornado demolished part of the little town of Walters, near here. One man was killed and 12 injured.

The southwestern part of the county was visited by a hailstorm of several thousand dollars.

Continued heavy rains in this part of the Kiowa and Comanche nation has turned all streams into torrents and the valleys are inundated.

A CASE OF SUICIDE OR OF MURDER?

New York, June 4.—Frank T. Young, known on the turf as Cassa Young, bookmaker, horse owner and stockholder in Pacific coast race tracks, was shot and killed in a hansom cab today while on his way to the White Star line pier to join his wife, with whom he was to have sailed for Europe.

Mrs. Young was waiting at the pier when news of her husband's death reached her. At first the death was reported as a suicide, but various circumstances caused the police later to change their views. With Young in the cab when a policeman was called, was Mrs. Nan Patterson, formerly an actress whose stage name was "Nan Randolph," who is said to be a member of the original "Floradora" sextet. She told the policeman that Young had shot himself after announcing to her that he was about to go to Europe, to be more probably for a few months. The policeman told the coroner, however, that the revolver was in the man's pocket, and that he did not believe Young could have put it there after shooting himself. Young died about five minutes after the policeman first saw him. The woman was taken to a police station where she collapsed.

There was a remarkable scene in the station when Young's partner, a man named Millin called. He said Young never carried a revolver, and that he did not believe the death was due to a self-inflicted wound. Millin said that Young, who came here from England 10 to 15 years ago, a poor man, was worth more than \$50,000.

Shortly after Millin made this statement Mrs. Patterson was brought in to be taken to the coroner's office. Millin was leading against the rail when he saw her. He started at her with a rush. She shrank back against a detective. Millin, again rushed at her, hit two or three detectives grabbed him and held him until the coroner was out of sight. Millin shouted at her as she left the station house.

The woman was taken to Coroner Brown's private office and closeted with him. While there Millin waited. He tried to break into the room and get at the woman again, but was prevented. He called the woman names and shouted he would kill her if he had a weapon.

Mrs. Patterson made a statement to the coroner. She said she was a niece of the cashier of a leading New York bank. Coroner Brown, however, said she heard a muffled report directly Young had told her he was going to leave her. She said she did not see any one else. She said she believed he shot himself with the pistol in his coat pocket. It developed in Mrs. Patterson's statement to the coroner that on her way down town Young stopped at a hat store and bought a new hat.

The hat in which Mrs. Patterson was held was at first fixed at \$1,000, she was held as a witness, but this was later increased to \$5,000 by the coroner on the request of the police officials.

Millin, the partner of Young, insisted upon being connected with the case, and was held in \$1,000 bail as a witness, which he furnished at once.

Mrs. Patterson is said to have come from Washington. When she left the Floradora company to go to Washington stories were printed about her having made a fortune in Wall street and to the effect that she would aid her father and return to her family.

Less than a month ago a New York paper printed a page review of Young's career under the title "The Luck of Cassa Young."

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.

Will Meet Yale and Harvard on Athletic Field.

London, June 4.—The official acceptance of the challenge sent by the Oxford University Athletic club on behalf of Oxford and Cambridge universities, to Harvard and Yale, for an athletic meeting in London this summer, has been received by cable.

The meeting will be subject to the conditions governing previous similar contests. The British university authorities say there will be no difficulty in meeting the wishes expressed by the Harvard and Yale associations.

COSSACKS ARE PUT TO ROUT.

Series of Fights Takes Place Some
Forty Miles North of Port
Adams.

RUSSIANS WERE DRIVEN BACK.

War Office at St. Petersburg Attaches
No Importance to the Encounters.

BIG ENGAGEMENTS IMPENDING.

Kuropatkin's Position Becomes Formidable But He Will Not Risk a Decisive Action at Present Time.

Tokio, June 4, 4 p. m.—The commander of the Japanese forces south of the Yalu river telegraphed from Seoul today news of a series of fights north of Pu Lan Tien, about 40 miles north of Port Adams, Liao Tung peninsula, Monday, received from Japanese cavalry scouting in the vicinity of Chu Chia Tung. It was learned that Cossacks had been located at Teissu and the Japanese thereupon dispatched infantry and cavalry, which defeated and pursued them. The Russian force consisted of three squadrons. At Chang Chia Tung this force was joined by two additional squadrons and the Japanese again attacked and defeated the Russians. Five companies of infantry and a battery of horse artillery joined the Russians at Lung Wang Miao, where the Japanese attacked for the third time and the Russian cavalry continued in contact Monday night.

Gen. Harauchi, in command of the Japanese forces south of the Yalu river, telegraphs from Seoul that an infantry reconnaissance dispatched from Gensan struck a patrol of Cossacks at Munch Hyan yesterday and killed five of them.

A SHARP ENGAGEMENT.

St. Petersburg, June 4, 3:40 p. m.—The war office has received news of a sharp fight 20 miles north of Saimatsa, north of Feng Wang Cheng, June 1, in which six Cossacks were killed and 22 wounded. The Japanese losses are not known. Five companies of Gen. Renneke's Cossack division, and a general anese detachment at Feng Chou Lin, pass, half way between Saimatsa and Ajudjan. The Cossacks dismounted and attacked on foot, but owing to the difficult nature of the ground and the strong defensive position held by the enemy and the latter's stubborn resistance, the attack was not pressed and the Cossacks drew off. No particular importance is attached at the war office to the appearance of this detachment of the enemy, it being believed that Gen. Kuropatkin is keeping his flank well protected in order to rid himself of the spying eyes of the Cossacks.

The war office has received no fresh news from Liao Tung. Since the receipt of the Japanese report the general staff is convinced that the Japanese losses in the fighting about Kin Chou were greater than officially admitted. It is known that only the very seriously wounded were taken to the rear. There are indications that both of the commanders are pursuing this plan, as the wounds made by the small caliber, high velocity bullets used in modern warfare, unless they reach a vital spot, heal quickly and in a few weeks most of the wounded men are again ready for active service.

LOOKING FOR BIG BATTLE.

St. Petersburg, June 4, 4:27 p. m.—The general public at the Russian capital is imbued with the belief that important military developments are impending at Liao Yang, and that a general engagement between Gen. Kuropatkin and Gen. Kuroki's armies is imminent. Although the authorities are doing nothing to discourage the idea of best informed circles at the war office do not anticipate a decisive battle immediately unless brought on more or less unexpectedly by an accidental collision between strong columns. When happens in warfare. The war office's information does not indicate that the Japanese have concentrated for an attack on Gen. Kuropatkin's army, it is expected they are not yet ready to assume the offensive. Nevertheless it is known that differences of opinion exist at the Russian headquarters as to the advisability of taking the aggressive and it is believed this matter was the subject of a conference between the commander-in-chief and the victory at Mukden Tuesday. Kuropatkin's position is becoming very formidable in the number and character of troops at his disposal. The condition of some of the Siberian reserves when called to action and brought a new hat. The colors was not satisfactory and caused Kuropatkin misgivings, but it is now reported that they have been drilled into a state of efficiency. More important, however, are the large reinforcements of field artillery, in which the Russian army was especially weak. These have now arrived.

Nevertheless Kuropatkin does not consider himself strong enough to risk the possibility of a defeat which might be irretrievable and result in disaster or at least years of campaigning. His attitude is his steady conservatism, although he listens to the counsel of the hotspurs.

Pike Day at the Fair.

St. Louis, June 4.—Today was "Pike" day at the world's fair, and despite the frequent showers, there was a large crowd on the grounds.

Pratensis Temple was formally opened with a program of music and addresses, and the building of the Disciples of Christ was dedicated.

Starr Jordan on His Travels.

Stanford University, Cal. June 4.—President Starr Jordan has started on a three weeks' trip to Cornell university, New York, where he will attend the annual commencement exercises of that university. En route, President Jordan will deliver the commencement address at the commencement of the agricultural college of Iowa. He will also attend the fifty-eighth anniversary of the University of Wisconsin.