

(pp. 185, 204, 217, 236). It was reported on the 29th that Port Arthur itself had fallen. This report has proved to be untrue; but the Japanese are said to have captured Shantaiku, one of the important natural defenses of Port Arthur, about ten miles from the fortress, after three days of desperate fighting.

After capturing several neutral vessels for carrying contraband goods, and sinking some, the Vladivostock squadron (pp. 185, 265) returned to Vladivostock on the 2d. The commander, Rear Admiral Jessen, reported the squadron in perfect condition. It had sunk a small Japanese vessel; searched the British steamer Camarra; captured but released a Japanese passenger steamer, most of whose passengers were women; sunk four Japanese schooners; searched and released the steamer Schinau from Australia for Yokohama; sunk the German vessel Thea with a cargo of fish from America to Yokohama, as a prize impossible to bring into a Russian port without endangering the squadron; sunk the British steamer Knight Commander for the same reasons; and captured the German steamer Arabia, as a prize caught carrying goods to the enemy. The Arabia was brought into Vladivostock by the squadron. She was immediately put on trial before the Russian prize court at Vladivostock, but no decision has yet been reported. The question at issue is whether her cargo of flour and railway material, consigned to Japanese ports by American consignors who had chartered the vessel from her German owners, are contraband of war. The flour is charged with being contraband under the Russian rules of war as "foodstuffs sent at the enemy's cost or order," and the railway material as having been shipped with a distinctly hostile purpose—the construction of government railways in Korea for military purposes.

In consequence of Russia's interference with neutral vessels on the high seas the Pacific Mail Steamship Company has directed its general freight agent to accept no cargo consigned to Japan, Korea, Siberia or Manchuria, including the port of Newchwang.

Diplomatic relations between France and the Roman Catholic church have been severed, at least temporarily. Following the events of two months ago (p. 135), the church authorities addressed letters to the bishops of Laval and Dijon, France, based upon accusations as to the former that he had married, and as to the latter that he had become a Free Mason. The letters summoned them to Rome, to appear before the Holy Office on the 22d of July. Both bishops referred their summonses to the French government, which forbade their departure and demanded of the Vatican that it withdraw the letters. This demand was made on the ground that in sending the letters without previous consultation with the French government, the Vatican was guilty of a breach of the concordat which has existed between France and the Vatican since the time of Napoleon I. The Vatican was advised by the French ministry, along with their demand, that in default of compliance diplomatic relations would be severed. On the 29th an unfavorable reply from the Vatican, dated the 28th, was received; and this was answered on the 30th. The French answer is cabled as follows:

After having on several occasions pointed out the serious blows struck at the Government rights under the concordat by the Vatican's dealing directly with the French bishops without consultation with the Power with which the concordat was signed, and seeing that the Pontifical secretary of state in his reply of July 25 affirmed those proceedings, the Republican government has decided to conclude official relations, which at the Holy See's desire had become objectless.

The French embassy to the Vatican was thereupon recalled and the Papal nuncio in Paris dismissed. The matter now awaits the action of the French parliament, which controls all treaties, and is expected to abrogate the concordat.

In American politics the principal news item of the week is the informal acceptance by Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia, of his nomination for President by the People's party (p. 215).

A call for the organization of a new political party to be named

the "Jefferson Democracy," has been issued by several representative trades' union men of Chicago. It is addressed "to the voters of the United States of America without reference to creed, color or nationality." The call is signed by John Fitzpatrick, chairman, 56 Fifth avenue; Arthur McCracken, secretary, 335 La Salle avenue; and John M. Vail, treasurer, 92 Hill street. Among the other signers are: O. E. Woodbury, Carpenters' Union; L. W. Washington, Colored Waiters' Union; E. N. Nockels, secretary Chicago Federation of Labor, and T. P. Quinn, Solicitors and Canvassers' Union. The call provides for holding a national delegate convention at Chicago on Monday, August 29. Only wage-workers, farmers and members of economic reform associations more than one year old are eligible to membership. The national convention of another side party, the Continental (p. 265), is called to meet at Chicago on the 31st.

Nominations for State officers were made in four States on the 3d by the Democrats. They respectively nominated for governor of Michigan, Woodbridge N. Ferris; for governor of Indiana, John W. Kern; for governor of Washington, George Turner; and for governor of Kansas, David M. Dale.

NEWS NOTES.

—William Pickens, a young Negro who graduated with high honors at Yale in June, has been elected to membership in the Phi Beta Kappa society.

—Robert E. Pattison, twice governor of Pennsylvania and a man of national fame as a Democratic leader, died at Philadelphia on the 2d, at the age of 53.

—Charles W. Fairbanks, of Indiana, was formally notified on the 3d of his nomination by the Republican party (p. 204) for Vice President of the United States.

—Mary Sherman Miles, wife of Gen. Nelson A. Miles, died suddenly on the 2d at West Point. Mrs. Miles was a niece of Gen. Sherman, and at the time of her death was 62 years of age.

—John Rogers, designer and sculptor of the Rogers group of small statuary, which were very popular in the '60's and early '70's, died, after a long illness from creeping paralysis, at his summer home in New Canaan, Conn., on the 27th.

—Lieut. Gen. Keller, of the Russian army, was killed on the 29th, at the age