Commission In A Tangle

Failure to Appoint Successor to Mr. Blair Will Cause Much Trouble.

Probable That Some Forty or Fifty Cases Will Have to Be Gone Over Again.

Premier Laurier Emphatically Denies Statement Attributed to Him.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Dec. 1.—The business of the railway commission is getting into a tangle by reason of the delay in appointing a chief commissioner in succession to Mr. Blair. Mr. Blair went out of office without giving a judgment in between fifty and sixty cases heard by Mr. Mills and himself in Manitoba, the Northwest and British Columbia lass summer, and it is a moot point now whether or not the applications will have to be heard over agin. Commissioner Bernier, deputy chairman, does not consider he is entitled to pronounce on the cases that he was not privileged to hear, and even if Mr. Mills worked out the decisions alone in all these cases his sole judgment would have no force or effect. The busice department is closely observing the progress of events there. It is patiently awaiting the final decision of the superme court of Venezuela in the case of the American Ashalate Company. When that decision is handed down anonuncement will be made of the policy to be pursued by the government. Frequent reports reach troubles of foreigners in Venezuela and of the solowness with which the foreign governments are obtaining indemnity awaiting the final decision of the superme court of Venezuela in the case of the American Ashalate Company. When that decision is handed down anonuncement will be made of the policy to be pursued by the government. Frequent reports reach troubles of foreigners in Venezuela and of the solowness with which the foreign governments are obtaining indemnity awaiting the final decision of the superme court of Venezuela and of the policy to be pursued by the made of the policy to be pursued by the made of the policy to be pursued by the made of the policy to be pursued by the made of the policy to be pursued by the made of the policy to be pursued by the made of the policy to be pursued by the made of the policy to be pursued by the made of the policy to be pursued by the made of the policy to be pursued by the made of the policy to be pursued by the made of the policy to be p

Another World's
Fair is Ended
The Service of the Se

The machine shops at San Francisco were so full of work that the order had not yet been filled, although it had been sent months ago. There is a splendid head of water behind the new dam on the Mill Stone river, and the company will have all the power they want when the installation is completed.

Boards of mine examiners will be elected during this month. The men elect two representatives. Nominations will be made December 6, and pollting will take place December 10. Each colliery has its own board, which examines applicants for certificates as working coal miners as to their fitness. Without these certificates men caunot be placed in charge of stalls in the mines. TROUBLE IN VENEZUELA.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Reports reached the state department of a very unsettled state of affairs in Venezuela. Many citizens have been put in prison for alleged political offences, public opinion is inflamed and there is apprehension for their safety prevailing among the foreign element. The state department is closely observing the progress of events

THE CAPTURE OF "203 METRE" HILL



THE VALLEY OF DEATH - PORT ARTHUR.

Mr. Richard Barry, of the San Francisco Chronicle, who arrived in Victoria yesterday by the Iyo Maru, says that the black summit in the centre of the above picture is the first out-work of "203 Metre Hill," which lies beyond and slightly to the right of the black ridge. The road in the foreground was the scene of desperate engage-

Manila, Dec. 1.—Major-General H. C. Corbin, military commander of the Philippines, has appointed a board of three officers to take into consideration details for the administration of the staff department and their several divisions, and also to recommend the number of officers necessary to efficiently perform the administration of the country. This board will consider plans for the betterment of the service, seeking a means whereby increased efficiency may be attained with a possible reduction of expenses. The board will give special consideration to the reduction of the number of depots and garrisons, as well as to the amount of water and land transportation business, and to railroad and steamship companies capable of handling a large volume. It is his purpose to confer with steamship his purpose to confer with steamship companies in the United States with a view to get them to establishing a line of up-to-date interisland steamers to which the army business will be given. B. C. Packer's Association Will Ask Shateholders for More U. S. NAVAL PROGRAMME. New Battleships and Other Vessels Proposed to Be Authorized.

ECONOMIES IN PHILIPPINES.

Manila, Dec. 1.-Major-General H. C

Plaintiffs to Amend Plea

The Full Court Decides for New Evidence in Hopper vs. Dunsmuir.

Application Refused to Appeal From Injunction in Spencer vs. Drysdale.

Ask shareholders for More

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Dardanelles Will Remain Closed

Understood Great Britain Gave Formal Assurance Against Opening.

Morning Post Scornfully Refers to England's Mumerous Back bowns.

London, Dec. 3.—The possibility of Russia trying to send her Black sea fleet to the Far East strongly engages the attention of England, in view of the complications which would result if the attempt were made. It is understood that at the beginning of the war Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister here, questioned Foreign Minister Lansdowne on the subject, and received the most formal assurances that Great Britain would oppose an attempt of the tain would oppose an attempt of the Black sea fleet to pass into the Medi-

Black sea fleet to pass into the Mediterranean sea.

It is contended in some quarters that Great Britain could not suffer a violation of the treaties regulating navigation of the Dardanelles without violating the spirit of the Anglo-Japanese treaty, but whether this is so there is no doubt that the speedy fall of Port Arthur and the destruction of the Russian war vessels there would be welcome news to Great Britain, as tending to convince Russia of the uselessness of further trying to regain command of the sea in the Far Eastern waters.

mand of the sea in the Far Eastern waters.

The Morning Post, in a scornful editorial, declares that the British cabinet, which yielded to Russia on several points in the Far East, like the Malacca cases, and which had allowed the Dogger Bank affair to be referred to arbitration rather than go to war, will not be Medy to interfere to prevent the exit of the Black sea fleet, especially as neither France, Germany nor Austria is likely to interfere, and predicts that "ere long the Black sea squadron will be en route to join Rojestvensky."

A Sebastopol despatch to the Daily Graphic asserts that Admiral Alexieft and Grand Duke Alexander Michael both advocate sending out the Black sea fleet.

In Constantinople, according to a de-

sea fleet.

In Constantinople, according to a despatch to the Standard, it is taken for granted that both Great Britain and Turkey would resolutely oppose the exit of the Russian Black sea fleet.

New York, Dec. 1.—Prince Sadaniru Fushima of Japan, who is in this country on a friendly visit. was today the guest of honor at a meeting of the New York Chamber of Commerce, and was formally welcomed to the city by the president of the chamber in a brief address. The Prince, replying through an interpreter, expressed his pleasure at the reception accorded him and was then presented with the Chamber of Commerce medal. This evening he attended a performance of "Humpty Dumpty" at the New Amsterdam theatre.



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