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NO. 10.

# ROJESTVENSKY MAY GIVE UP COMMAND

## Report That Russian Admiral Has Telegraphed to Czar That He is Unable to Proceed.

St. Petersburg, May 15.—A naval action within a few days is regarded as likely in well informed circles. The Associated Press learns that Admiral Rojestvensky and Rear-Admiral Nebogatoff joined forces May 10th. There is reason to believe that the united fleet will proceed northward immediately.

Upon the strength of an untraceable rumor, an evening paper here got out an extra edition stating that a naval battle had commenced, but the admiralty had no confirmation of the report and discredits it.

The Russian fleet which appeared off Honkohe bay, a short distance north of Kamranh bay, sailed northward early in the morning of May 14th. No warships have since been sighted there.

Admiral De Jengueires, the French naval commander at Saigon, telegraphs from Nhatrang, Annam, that he has visited all the bays so far north as Turan and found no Russian vessels.

### SATISFIED SHIPS ARE BEYOND FRENCH LIMITS.

Paris, May 15.—In regard to the press dispatches saying the Russian fleet has returned to Honkohe bay, the French officials say they are positive the Russians are not within French waters. The actual location of the fleet is not known, but communications with the French navy and civil authorities in Indo-China satisfy the officials here that the Russians remain outside French limits.

### FORAIE JAPANESE MINISTER INTERVIEWED.

Paris, May 16.—The Journal's Tokyo correspondent cables as follows:

"In the course of an interview, Count Okuma, formerly Japanese foreign minister, referring to the Kamranh bay and the Honkohe incidents, stated that the presence of the warships in Indo-China waters created a disquieting situation. It was only the remembrance of their long friendship with France which restrained the Japanese from proceeding to extreme measures. The government was endeavoring not to embitter the situation. It was necessary, however, to adopt a definite attitude. The Japanese thoroughly understood French obligations towards their Russian ally, but the present circumstances were not affected by considerations of European politics. Concerning peace, Count Okuma declared that Japan would neither demand a cessation of hostilities nor consider any proposition leaving Russia an opportunity for future vengeance. Japan must become the arbiter of the Far East."

The postponement yesterday of the neutrality interpellations in the deputies' request, and brought on a sharp discussion between M. Depressne and Vaillant and Depressne. The premier appealed to the patriotism of the deputies to refrain from accusations affecting the good faith of the country, pointing out that a debate on the subject would not be advantageous and might lead to embarrassments.

M. Vaillant asserted amid an uproar that the government's orders to observe neutrality were not executed. He added: "Neither does the Russian fleet respect our neutrality, and it is necessary to show our impartial neutrality by acts instead of words."

M. Depressne declared that the country was entitled to know the actual situation so as to be able to judge who was responsible.

The government's motion for an indefinite postponement of the interpellation prevailed by 499 to 84 votes.

### URGES FRANCE TO RESPECT NEUTRALITY.

London, May 15.—At the foreign office today the Associated Press learned that Foreign Secretary Lansdowne has made no further representations to the French government regarding the continued stay of the Russian Pacific fleet in Cochin-China waters.

No alarm is felt in government circles here that Japan will permit her protests to go so far as to produce a rupture of peace, but it is fully recognized that Japan has the power to bring her ally into conflict by a hostile act. Therefore, the British government, the Associated Press understands, is using every effort to keep the Japanese cool, and at the same time urging upon France the necessity of recognizing neutrality in which Great Britain agrees in principle with Japan.

Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister here, said to the Associated Press today

### TRAVELLERS THIS PROVINCE MINISTER MAY BE ASKED FOR OPINION

Ottawa, May 16.—British Columbia has, rightly or wrongly, attained to the position of first place, in the opinion of the average Ottawa legislator, as an exponent of freak legislation. The late session of the British Columbia legislature was not more conspicuous in that way than the half-dozen immediately preceding, but on the other hand it did not demonstrate to the Provincial House as clearly as the previous sessions that it had learned anything by the experience of the past.

The act licensing commercial travellers does not by its title indicate anything more than an enactment of a legislative character, such as any well-ordered city might pass. Its objectionable feature lies in its discrimination, for it provides that only those salesmen not residents of British Columbia shall be required to pay the license fee, which is placed at \$100 and \$200 per year, according to the kind of goods sold. Practically the legislature imposed an import tax on all goods brought into the province from any of the other provinces, when such goods are sold by agents personally appearing in the province. Goods sold as a result of solicitation through the mails would be exempt from the tax. The tax, or license fee, is certainly invidious and discriminatory. It imposes a handicap on a Canadian merchant in Calgary, for instance, when he undertakes to penetrate into the interior of British Columbia, and would thus appear to be an assumption of the power of legislation in respect to matters affecting trade and commerce which would be ultra vires of a provincial legislature.

The Northwest Travellers' Association has sent a memorial in respect to this act to Sir Richard Cartwright, minister of trade and commerce, in which it is stated that the act is a violation of the spirit and intention of Confederation. It is pointed out that British Columbia would have the same right to impose an such like, but this would be a violation of the spirit and intention of Confederation. There can be no doubt as to the right of a province, the memorial says, both in law and equity to regulate peddlers and such like, but this would be a violation of the spirit and intention of Confederation. The Canadian Pacific railway was built at great cost to unite the provinces commercially, and now it is proposed that the commerce which the construction of the road was intended to develop is to be restricted by unfriendly legislation.

This is the opinion of the Northwest Commercial Travellers' Association, and it is shared in by the commercial men of the Eastern provinces. The disallowance of the act is asked for, and no doubt such like, but this would be a violation of the spirit and intention of Confederation. The justice department will probably be asked for an opinion as to the constitutionality of the law, and if it is reported to be unconstitutional, it will be nothing to do but disallow it. Had the law applied to all commercial travellers there would have been no discrimination, and the right of the province to regulate commerce would have been maintained. But the British Columbia legislators, with the object of protecting the few resident commercial houses by imposing restrictions on the many non-resident agents, apparently have defeated the ostensible purpose of the local government, which was the collection of revenue. But whether the law is constitutional or otherwise, it is certainly looked upon by every commercial man in Canada outside of British Columbia as mean, narrow and unational. While it may bring a little money to the provincial treasury, it would also have the effect of diminishing interprovincial trade, which is the best trade to cultivate and enlarge in any country.

### AS TO CONSTITUTIONALITY OF ACT PASSED AT THE LAST SESSION OF LEGISLATURE.

St. Petersburg, May 17.—Very disquieting reports are in circulation this evening about Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's health. It is said that he has telegraphed to the Emperor that it is impossible for him to proceed.

An evening paper prints a report that the admiral has suffered a nervous breakdown.

No official confirmation of the report that Rojestvensky has requested to be relieved from duty is obtainable at the admiralty. The admiral's health, however, has been the cause of considerable anxiety here. It is well known that he suffered from kidney trouble before leaving Kronstadt, and throughout the long voyage to the Far East he had several times to such an extent that he had to be carried about on a stretcher. But the Russian commander stuck to his post bravely.

If he is now compelled on the eve of battle to give up his command, the admiralty would regard it as little short of a national misfortune.

Rojestvensky has proved a genius as an organizer and confidence is felt that he will show equal ability as a fighter. Should Rojestvensky be compelled to leave the fleet the command will devolve on Rear-Admiral Volkensam, who is now with Rojestvensky.

### FOURTH DIVISION TO SAIL NEXT MONTH.

St. Petersburg, May 17.—It is announced from Kronstadt that Vice-Admiral Biriuff, commander-in-chief of the Baltic ports, has ordered the construction of the fourth division of Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet to hold their ships in readiness to leave for the Far East by June 14th without fail.

### THE INDEPENDENCE OF ROJESTVENSKY.

Saligon, Cochin China, May 17.—Admiral DeJengueires, the French naval commander at Saigon, who has been cruising along the Annam coast on board the second-class cruiser Guichen, returned here today.

According to the reports gathered concerning the Russian fleet, Admiral Rojestvensky showed absolute disregard of the discussions on the subject of neutrality. The Russian commander proceeded as if his position gave him complete independence, declared that he acted on his own judgment, and said that criticisms did not change his opinions. Iron discipline, it is said, was maintained on board the Russian warships.

A correspondent of a Hanpi newspaper, who was said to have been lost off Port Daye (40 miles north of Kamranh bay) was rescued by a junk and brought here today.

While on the junk the correspondent saw thirty Russian warships anchored in the bay. The junk later was stopped and searched by sailors from the Russian repair ship Kamshatka. The boarding officer blindfolded the correspondent and took him on board Rear-Admiral Nebogatoff's flagship, the Nicoya, where he was closely interrogated. The statements of the correspondent were found to be satisfactory, and he was well treated. The Russian officers said they had not been ashore since February. They expected an engagement to take place soon. The united Russian fleet was then about to start for Vladivostok. The bottoms of the vessels of Nebogatoff's division, the correspondent asserted, appeared to be foul, and the ships were weather beaten. The entire Russian fleet comprised 60 vessels with a number of auxiliaries.

### BALTIC DELAYED.

Liverpool, May 17.—The officers of the White Star line steamer Oceanic, which arrived here today from New York on May 10th, say the mishap to the Baltic, of the same line (which had been in wireless communication with the Oceanic), occurred May 14th and necessitated a delay of only six hours. A small part of the machinery was affected, and no further delay was expected.

The Baltic left Queenstown on May 11th for New York.

### GOING TO ENGLAND.

Miss May Sutton Will Attempt to Win Title From Miss Douglas.

New York, May 17.—Miss May Sutton, of California, the American lawn tennis champion in the women's singles, is to make a tour of the most prominent English meetings, and will attempt to win the English national title from Miss Douglas, and paired with the national champion Bolcom War, win the English doubles. Miss Sutton, who is not yet 20 years of age, will sail for London from this city on Saturday.

### POLICE DROP CROOKER CASE.

Kansas City, Mo., May 14.—The police have completed their investigation of the death of Herbert Y. Crocker, son of Richard D. Crocker, the ex-Tammany leader, and unless the relatives of young Crocker request it, no further action on the case will be taken by the local police. Charles Wilson, the negro porter at the Coates hotel, who accompanied Crocker on his visit to the opium den and later put him on a train at the depot, was released today. Al Lee and Al Ghee, the Chinese proprietors of the opium den, are being held, and will be prosecuted in the police court for conducting an illegal business.

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The father is suspicious that his daughter was poisoned. He states that a young lady of the colony named that Dominico Labatts had been keeping company with her previous to the arrival of his former sweetheart, and had promised to marry her. The physician is of opinion that the young lady died a natural death.

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General Wood, with detachments from the Fourteenth cavalry, the Seventeenth, Twenty-second and Twenty-third infantry, and constabulary corps, has driven Pala and his followers into a swamp which has been surrounded.

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### TO IMPROVE DEFENCES.

Report That Three Million Dollars Will Be Spent on New Forts.

Montreal, May 15.—The Dominion government is about to spend something more than \$3,000,000 in improving the defenses of Quebec. In the older days Quebec may have been the American stronghold, but since the American has wiped away that title. Three years ago when Col. Strange, British inspector of artillery, was in Canada, he pointed out the inadequacy of the fortifications of Quebec, and recommended among other things the erection of forts along the south shore of the St. Lawrence in order to prevent foreign vessels entering the harbor of Quebec. Since then negotiations have been going on with the Imperial government with the result that an understanding has now been arrived at. Two forts are to be built at Beauport, nine miles out from Quebec on the south shore. The forts will give a sweeping observation of both the north and south channels of the St. Lawrence. The plans are being prepared by the British war office, engineering department. Work will be begun on the forts next month. When completed the forts will be armed with long range guns of a modern pattern.

### FRANCHISE EXTENDED.

Montreal, May 15.—Despite the fact that legal opinion was presented to the council today by three city attorneys that the action of that body in extending the gas franchise of the Montreal Heat, Light & Power company by simple resolution instead of by-law, an amendment for in the city charter was illegal, the council today, by a vote of twenty to fifteen, voted to over-ride the mayor's veto, with the consequence that the company gets its franchise extended unless some citizen cares to take the matter into the courts. It was expected by some opponents of the measure that some of the aldermen who at the last meeting voted for the extension of the franchise would, in view of the mayor's veto and pronouncement of the attorneys, change their votes, but instead of this being the case, one more favorable vote was polled for the measure.

### LOST IN SPECULATION.

Toronto, May 15.—T. H. Lloyd, arrested at Newmarket, charged with misappropriation of trust funds and released on bail, admits that he lost \$20,000 in speculation that was entrusted to him by his clients. He says he has no justification to offer and is ready to accept the responsibility for his act. Before action was taken he offered to transfer everything he had to trustees to be named by the directors so that it might go to help him realize on his property, and he believed his assets sufficient to pay everybody if properly handled. Lloyd speculated in Le Roi, War Bagle and other ventures.

### HOTEL KEEPER DEAD.

Toronto, May 15.—Charles Nurse, proprietor of Nurse's hotel, at the Hubber, and better known for his many feats of life-saving, is dead.

### CALGARY STOCK SALE.

Calgary, N. W. T., May 15.—The stock sale and fat stock show here was a great success today. Hon. John Dryden addressed the stockmen.

### PIERCE FIGHT ON THE CENTENNIAL

Tacoma, Wash., May 17.—A desperate battle has occurred on the deck of the steamer Centennial, in which seven men were slightly injured and three are thought to have been drowned.

The Centennial came from San Francisco, via Seattle, and brought from the latter port a gang of 18 men to handle the ship's cargo here.

Owing to existing trouble between the sailors' union and the longshoremen's union, Capt. Pierce has been threatened by a boycott by the sailors if he employed Tacoma longshoremen, and since had hired a crew at Seattle.

When the steamer arrived in port about 40 longshoremen boarded her, armed with clubs and pistols. The sailors of the Seattle men were beaten wherever found. About 30 shots were fired before order was restored.

### THE VACANT PORTFOLIO.

Hon. Charles Hyman May Be Sworn In as Minister of Public Works This Week.

Ottawa, May 17.—Hon. C. Hyman is in London today, and will return here on Saturday, when he will likely be sworn in as Minister of Public Works.

### TELEPHONES.

C. M. Hays was examined at the special telephone committee meeting today. He gave evidence as to the exclusive contract with the Bell Telephone Company, and contended that it was in the interest of the railways and the public that there should be only one telephone system. Telephones were in their nature a monopoly. Mr. Hays was cross-examined by Mr. W. Mulock, who showed that an exclusive contract was against the public interest.

### YUKON COMMISSIONER.

There is not much probability that the question of appointing a successor to Mr. Congdon, as Yukon commissioner, will be taken up until about the close of the session, which is yet some distance off. Mr. McInnis is still here, and does not appear dispirited.

### AMERICAN SILVER.

Hon. W. S. Fielding said that he expected the session to make arrangements with the banks, which would have the effect of shutting out American silver.

### IMPERIAL POLITICS.

Report That Government Has Decided to Postpone Dissolution Until Next Year.

London, May 16.—The Chronicle this morning claims to have good authority for asserting that the government has decided to postpone the dissolution of parliament until the fall of 1906, and that this decision means the death blow to tariff reforms.

It is rumored in Liberal quarters that Premier Balfour will refuse to accept Joseph Chamberlain's compromise proposals, and that the struggle will result in Austen Chamberlain's resignation from the chancellorship of the exchequer.

While it is impossible to confirm either of these reports, such an issue is considered by many well-informed politicians as extremely probable.

### WILL GIVE CONSENT.

Dominion Government Will Approve of Leasing Site For Pendray's Works.

A special dispatch to the Times from Ottawa today says: "It is understood that George Riley, M. P., has succeeded in obtaining the consent of the minister of the interior to grant a lease on the Indian reserve to Pendray & Co. for their works."

The application of Mr. Pendray was for a lease of about an acre of foreshore, situated just north of the railway bridge. The object in view in obtaining this site was to get facilities for shipping, conveniently either by water or by rail.

The city council was asked to endorse the proposition, and did so. It would appear that the lease is to be granted so that the works now located on Humboldt street will, when necessary, be removed to the new site on the Indian reserve waterfront.

### BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

Kirk La Shelle, the theatrical manager, died at his home on Tuesday at Debates, La. He had been seriously ill only about a week.

### SHANGHAI DOUBTS TRUTH OF REPORT.

Shanghai, May 16.—The rumored landing of German troops at Hai Chou and Kiangs is very doubtful. The rumor possibly originated from the presence of a German gunboat in the harbor on a surveying expedition.

### ANOTHER STEAMER SUNK BY A MINE.

Tokio, May 16.—The steamer Nikke is ashore at Fusan. She has not sustained damage, but it is expected that she will be floated off at full tide.

The steamer Kile, of 1,178 tons capacity, struck a mine and sank off Port Arthur on the night of May 11th. The crew were rescued and brought to Osaka.

### GERMANS SAY THE STORY IS INCORRECT.

Berlin, May 16.—The foreign office replying to an inquiry of the Associated Press regarding the excitement at Tokyo over the reported landing of German troops at Hai Chou, says the report is wholly incorrect and one of several.

### CONFLICTING REPORTS HAVE REACHED TOKIO.

Tokio, May 16.—3 p.m.—It is semi-officially announced that the Japanese government has received conflicting reports relating to the Hai Chou incident, one being to the effect that German troops occupied the place and raised and saluted their flag, and another to the effect that the Germans were merely engaged in surveying. Pending the receipt of full and correct information the government here refrains from discussing the matter.

### ST. PETERSBURG, MAY 17.—VERY DISQUIETING REPORTS ARE IN CIRCULATION THIS EVENING ABOUT VICE-ADMIRAL ROJESTVENSKY'S HEALTH.

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### ANOTHER DIVISION OF SHIPS ALMOST READY.

St. Petersburg, May 16, 1.40 p.m.—The naval game in the Far East is watched with intense interest by the admiralty, but the admiralty can throw little light on the situation. It cannot confirm the report that Admiral Rojestvensky's ships are over-manned instead of under-manned, as when they left Libau there was still hope that Chili and Argentine warships could be purchased, and portions of the crews designed for them were carried on the Russian fleet.

Many naval men incline to the opinion that Rojestvensky will pass out of the China sea into the Pacific through the Ballintang channel north of the island of Luzon and into Formosa a wide berth instead of sailing through the 200-mile stretch of the straits of Formosa, in which the Russians might be subjected to a torpedo attack.

Another division of reinforcements for Rojestvensky is most ready at Kronstadt, and will be sent out under the command of Rear-Admiral Paregou. It will consist of two fine new battleships, the Slava and the Empress Alexander II, two cruisers, a torpedo cruiser, a gunboat and a transport and several minor units. The division is now engaged in speed trials and manoeuvring off Kronstadt. The appearance of this reserve division in the Far East in the course of the summer, should the hostile fleets suffer equally in the coming battle, is counted upon to give Russia the necessary decisive preponderance upon the sea. The possession of this division, naval men believe, may ultimately prove Russia's salvation.

### REPORTED OCCUPATION OF CHINESE TERRITORY.

Tokio, May 16, 11 a.m.—It is reported that Germany has dispatched a force of troops and occupied Hai Chou in the southern portion of the province of Shantung, where they raised and saluted the German flag.

Hai Chou is on an extensive bay, north of the old channel of the Hoang river. Germany's object and intentions are not clear. It is suggested that she is seeking an extension of her interests in China, and is taking advantage of present political conditions, but explanations may eventually clear up the situation.

### SIGHT MISHAP TO WHITE STAR LINER ON VOYAGE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.

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## THE SENTENCE ON CAPT. MATT RYAN

### ALSO UPON THE MATES OF AGNES G. DONOGHUE

#### Case of Seizure of Sealing Schooner by Uruguayans Before Dominion House Today.

Ottawa, May 17.—R. L. Borden brought up in the House today the seizure of the Agnes G. Donoghue for poaching, or intending to poach, in territorial water when the owners say that the boat was seized on the high seas. The owners say that the schooner wouldn't have gone to Uruguay, but would have shipped their pelts from Falkland Islands, at Port Stanley, only that there was a tax of ten shillings per pelt. Uruguay had sentenced the captain of the Agnes Donoghue to three years' penal servitude, the mates to one year and the crew to six months. The schooner was confiscated.

Premier Laurier said that all the government could do was to make representations to the British government. The sentence was a very severe one, but it was rendered by the courts of Uruguay.

Captain S. Balcom, owner of the schooner, confirmed the above news this morning. He said that he had placed the matter in the hands of the government, and if it could not do anything he was afraid that he would be helpless in the matter. The vessel he contends was illegally seized. He received a telegram from Capt. Matt Ryan today reporting that the latter was still a prisoner, but that the case had been appealed in the higher courts in Uruguay.

Capt. Ryan is well known in Victoria, having followed the sealing business out of this port for a number of years. When his vessel was captured she was off the Uruguayan coast. After the schooner was made prisoner she was towed to Montevideo, and she there remained since last fall.

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