The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

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Admiral Stark Is Relieved

On Account of Ill Health Russian Commander Will Retire.

Makaroff Now Acting Chief And as Squadron Commander.

Czar Visits the Shipyards And Cheers Workmen on Battleships.

St. Petersburg, March 16.—Official orders were published today relieving Vice Admiral Stark from the command of the Port Arthur division of the navy on account of illness.

No successor will be appointed, Vice Admiral Makaroff having determined to serve as squadron commander as well as commander-in-chief of the entire Russian naval forces in the Far East.

Captain Schensnovitch, commander of the battleship Retvizan, has been decorated with the Cross of St. George for repelling the last Japanese torpedo attacks, and sinking the Japanese ships. The talk of poisoned sweets having been left behind the fleeing Japanese is based on the misinterpretation of a Russian technical term.

General Seilinski, chief of staff to the Viceroy, in a telegram said that pyroxylin had been found in the form of small torpedoes which the Japanese intended to use in bestrewing the roads over which the Russians were expected to pass between Anju and Ping Yang in order that the explosions resulting from the impact of the horses hoofs might cause a stampede. These torpedoes were disc-like in shape and six inches in diameter.

The Emperor and his brother, the Grand Duke Michael, heir presumptive to the throne, wearing naval uniforms, visited Galernii Island this afternoon and inspected the battleships Borodino, Orel and Andrew.

His Majesty and the Grand Duke Michael were accompanied by the Grand Duke Alexis, High Admiral, and Admirals Avelen and Rijtestvinsky. Captain Seberiannikoff received the visitors on board the Borodino, which the Emperor inspected minutely, examining the arrangements of her guns and torpedo tubes and manifesting special interest in the stoutness of her armor. His Majesty examined the guns already on board the Orel. The Andrew is so little advanced in construction that she was not inspected by the Imperial party. His Majesty conversed with the dockyard employees, told them their present work would soon be finished and requested them to exert their best efforts, promising to repeat his visit in a month.

Great crowds of people greeted the Emperor on his arrival and departure. His Majesty will go to the new admiralty yard tomorrow and later in the week to the Baltic works.

A FIGHTER DEAD.

New York, March 16.—John Flood, who fought John L. Sullivan thirty rounds on a barge anchored in the East River, near Hell Gate, in 1880, died suddenly today at the Knickerbocker hotel of heart disease. It is believed that Flood was 55 years old and apparently in perfect health. He was employed as a detective by a firm of horse dealers and was well known to horsemen throughout the country.

Still Looking For Russians

Port Arthur Fleet Has Not Yet Been Located By the Japanese.

Proposal to Create Japanese Tobacco Monopoly Worries the Americans.

Tokio, March 16.—Tokio is unadvised regarding the naval plans and movements of the Russians, and is in doubt whether the remnant of their fleets is still at Port Arthur or is en route to Vladivostock.

Late this afternoon a telegram reached the navy department saying that seven Russian ships have been reported as passing Fort Lazaff. The report was not circumstantial. It did not give the character of the ships or the direction in which they were sailing. It is anticipated that the Japanese, by their activity, will speedily determine the whereabouts and intentions of the Russians.

United States Minister Griscom called on Prime Minister Komura today and renewed his representations concerning American interests affected by the proposal of the Japanese government to extend the tobacco monopoly so as to exclude manufactured tobacco. He urged the fair treatment of American interests and adequate compensation in the event of a monopoly being created. It is understood that Komura gave him satisfactory assurances.

American capital is heavily interested in tobacco manufacturing in Japan, and the creation of a monopoly means early and complete exclusion of American tobacco interests.

AMICABLE ARRANGEMENT.

New York, March 16.—A cable to the Sun from London says: The Times and some other papers give prominence to a report that an announcement is expected that an amicable arrangement has been effected by France and Great Britain on an outstanding questions between them, including that of the French shore, Newfoundland.

VOTE OF CENSURE.

London, March 16.—In the House of Commons tonight Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader, gave notice that he would move the following vote of censure: "That this house disapproves the conduct of His Majesty's government in advising the crown not to disallow the ordinance for the introduction of Chinese labor in the Transvaal."

Sir Henry may ask that a day be set for debate on this point.

WILLIAM AND ALPHONSO.

Vigo, Spain, March 16.—Emperor William and King Alfonso lunched today on board the Spanish royal yacht Giralda. Emperor William subsequently sailed to Gibraltar on board the North German Lloyd steamer Koenig Albert.

CAPTAIN REITZENSTEIN COMMANDER of THE VLADIVOSTOCK SQUADRON

MAJOR GENERAL PFUG

RUSSIAN SOLDIERS' TENT AND "DUG-OUT" PROTECTION FROM THE WEATHER. FROM THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

An "Irish" Stratagem

Balfour's Government Placed in a Minority By a Freak Vote.

John Redmond and Party Organize a Coup That Succeeded.

Wild Scenes in the House on the Result of the Division.

London, March 15.—The government was defeated in the House of Commons this afternoon by 141 to 130 votes on a motion of John Redmond, the Irish leader for a reduction of Irish education estimates. As it was in the nature of a snap division, engineered by the Nationalists, the government refused to resign, but it was regarded as another straw showing the direction of the wind. Mr. Redmond's motion was made with the object of calling attention to Irish grievances. The division was taken almost immediately after the commencement of the discussion when the Liberals and the Nationalists were in strong force.

The result was greeted with great cheering, especially from the Irish benches. The opposition immediately moved to report progress. Here Mr. Balfour opposed the motion. He admitted amidst much laughter that it was obvious the government had been defeated on a proposal to reduce a vote by $500, but there was considerable amount of financial business to be transacted before March 31st and he could not see why any time should be wasted. Mr. Balfour added that the honorable member had succeeded in reducing the vote for Irish education by $500 and the government accepted the opinion of the house on the subject.

Mr. Redmond retorted: "We have defeated the government." It was then that Mr. Redmond moved to report progress. This was defeated by 171 to 140 votes, the government majority being 25. The government in the interim had succeeded in mustering enough ministerialists to save the situation as in the event of a second adverse vote the ministers would have been bound to resign.

The defeat of the government was the result of a successful coup planned by Mr. Redmond and the senior whip of the parliamentary party, Sir Thomas Esmonds, yesterday evening. Seeing a short list of questions for today, and knowing that the majority of the house expected the Irish members to occupy all the afternoon in discussing Irish education, Mr. Redmond and Sir Thomas decided to force a division almost immediately after question time, when the greater number of the government supporters would be still lunching at their clubs. The manoeuvre succeeded to perfection. Mr. Redmond rose holding a large sheaf of notes in his hand, as if intending to make a lengthy speech, but to the astonishment of all except those in the secret, the Irish leader spoke only a few words and then sat down, while his party demanded the division for which such careful plans had been laid.

A scene of indescribable excitement occurred when Sir Thomas Esmonds and Anthony J. Donelan, the two tellers, went to the right of the Speaker's chair, thus showing that, for the first time in many years, the Unionist government had been beaten. When the clerk of the house handed the division papers to Sir Thomas Esmonds there was a perfect hurricane of cheers from the opposition, lasting several minutes. William Redmond, in his exuberance, snatched a hat from the head of a colleague and waved it wildly. The members rushed in and a terrible din prevailed. Ultimately sufficient quiet was restored to enable the figures of the vote to be called out. Mr. Balfour, who was in the distinguished strangers' gallery at the time, appeared momentarily astounded at the jubilant uproar. The cheering of the opposition was resumed when Mr. Balfour entered the chamber, and was greeted with derisive cheers and cries of "resign" and "another message for Joe."

The premier, who had by this time regained his accustomed composure, philosophically surveyed the excited house. The long-sustained jubilation did not tend to the advantage of the opposition; the government whips had time to collect their disordered forces from all parts of the house and various haunts in London. Driving and running furiously came the absent supporters of the present government. When another division was taken on the motion to report progress, Mr. Balfour had 25 votes to the good. John Redmond said to a representative of the Associated Press after the division: "While the general position of the government has not been weakened, my impression is that a dissolution will follow another such blow. Naturally, we are elated. The moral is that the time is at hand when Ireland will hold the balance of power."

F. B. WADE RETIRES.

Annapolis, N. S., March 15.—F. B. Wade, M. P., owing to poor health, will not seek re-election to the new House of Commons. O. T. Daniels, Bridgewater, will be nominated by the Liberals.

Engagement Sunday

Tientsin, March 15.—A foreigner, just arrived from Port Arthur, reports that a short engagement took place between the Russian and Japanese fleets on Sunday last, the Russian protected cruiser Diana receiving some injuries. About twenty or thirty shells were exchanged. The Imperial Chinese Railway Company is considering the withdrawal of its station force and all of its movable property from New Chwang.

REFUGEES RETURN.

Washington, March 15.—A cable was received today from Commander Mason of the United States cruiser Cincinnati, announcing the return of that vessel to Chemulpo, Korea, with a party of twenty-five refugees, mostly women and children, from the mining regions near Chinnampho.

HARCOURT'S SON ELECTED.

London, March 15.—Lewis Vernon Harcourt, eldest son of Sir William Vernon Harcourt, the Liberal statesman, who recently announced his intention of retiring from Parliament, has been elected unopposed to represent the Rosendale division of Lancashire in the House of Commons in succession to Sir William Mather, Liberal, who retired.

Russians Fired On Heroic Rescuers

A Commander of Japanese Destroyer Attempted to Save Drowning Foemen.

Fire of Port Arthur Batteries Compelled Him to Give Up Attempt.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Tokio, March 16.—The commander of the torpedo boat destroyer Sazanami which captured the Russian destroyer Stereguscntcky, which he afterwards abandoned as she sank, in an official report declares that he tried his best to rescue the Russian crew, but that the steady fire of the Russians, which was not abated, despite the fact that they could plainly see that they were endeavoring to rescue their associates from death, compelled him to abandon his task. He declares, however, that many of them jumped overboard and swam to the Russian destroyers that were near the Port Arthur harbor entrance. Of the four Russians taken aboard of the Sazanami, two were seriously wounded and in a dying condition. His report states that Port Arthur was badly damaged by the fire of the Japanese battleship division.

Orders have been issued that all Russian wounded who die on board a Japanese hospital ship or aboard of their warships shall be buried with full military honors.

Tien Tsin, March 16.—Colonel Muenthe, personal aide de camp to General Yuan-Shi-Kai, and Dr. Lavelle, a Frenchman, who is one of the viceroys of Chi-Li province advisers, have left New Chwang on an official mission to Admiral Alexieff at Harbin.

Col. Muenthe is quoted as declaring that China has no desire to join in the present conflict, and that despite the efforts of certain officials at the Pekin court, General Yuan-Shi-Kai's influence will be cast in favor of the observance of an attitude of strict neutrality.

A GREAT LITTLE WORKER.

play of its valves and the rhythm of its pulse such assistance as is best supplied by builder and nerve restorative.

lacking in nourishing qualities and requires throb. If the action of the heart gets irregular and fluttering, the blood is Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, the great blood pain. Five times stronger than any other. Good for internal and external use. Large bottles 25c.

Inhabitants Without News

Residents in Korean Towns Unable to Keep Posted on Events.

Japanese Attacks Have Compelled Gradual Occupation of Liao-tung.

Confirmation of Deadly Effect of Bombardments of Port Arthur.

Yin Kow, March 16.—The only reliable reports at the present moment from the chief Manchurian cities show a quiet movement along the railway and such cities as Mukden, which are off the main line, are undisturbed. The people here are not in possession of definite news of outside events. The chief movement on the Fong-Huang-Cheng to the Yalu, leaving small bodies of troops at Antung and other points to guard the river.

A fortnight ago a few spies visited Antung, but since then no Japanese have been seen west of the Yalu.

The continued attacks of the Japanese have compelled the steady occupation of the Liao peninsula.

The last bombardment of Port Arthur rendered every part of the fortress of Port Arthur unsafe.

Residents assert that fragments of Japanese shells fell everywhere and that some railway coaches and buildings were destroyed, though most of the damage on the whole was unimportant.

Foreigners choosing to remain in the interior must now sign an agreement restricting their movements and stipulating that a special pass is necessary when leaving their bounds.

It is authentically reported that for a week past there has been only a small and changing military garrison at Hai-Cheng, but that a large force has been stationed at the invaluable fortified and strategical town of Ashan Shan, where the Japanese army concluded its advance during the war between China and Japan.

RUSSIAN WAR FUNDS ACCUMULATE

Money Pouring In For Patriotic Purposes Beyond the Expectations.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Odessa, March 16.—The subscriptions to the new navy and other patriotic funds are coming in at a rate that surprises even the most optimistic officials. At Kursk, the municipal assembly assigned 50,000 roubles to the fleet fund, 100,000 to the military hospitals and 100,000 to the fund for the relief of the families of the reservists.

At yesterday's meeting of the St. Petersburg Credit Association it was decided to subscribe 100,000 roubles to the fleet fund and 100,000 for the war sufferers. Throughout all of Russia commercial bodies are taking similar action.

MEDIATION IMPRACTICABLE.

Paris, March 15.—Official denial is given of the report printed here this morning that exchanges of views were now going on between Paris, London and Washington relative to offering mediation in the Far Eastern war. The foreign offices here is not aware of such an exchange and considers that mediation is impracticable as neither would consider it.

Significant Action

Seoul, March 15.—The Japanese authorities have ordered the newspaper correspondents at Ping Yang and Anju to return. They also refuse to honor the permits formerly given for correspondents to accompany troops to the front and are holding them at Seoul. This action is regarded as significant.

PAYING FOR CANAL.

Paris, March 15.—The officials of the American embassy are considering all the possible points of French law to insure the protection of the United States when the payment of $40,000,000 for the Panama Canal Company's property is made. One of the points considered is whether it is desirable to have the courts appoint a liquidator to receive the money instead of paying it direct to the officers of the old company. Some legal authorities assert that this would be the best means of protecting the United States against any subsequent claim on the part of the stockholders of the company that the officers of the new company were not authorized to receive payment. American Ambassador Porter is satisfied that no such claim is valid or a liquidator is not necessary. Inquiries into the matter find that the company has ample rights under the charter to sell the property.

Another Army Corps In Sight

French Correspondent Declares One Is moving South From Vladivostock.

Claim Four Japanese Cruisers and Five Torpedo Boats Are Destroyed.

Paris, March 16.—The Temps correspondent at St. Petersburg asserts that a Russian army corps is descending from Vladivostock toward Korea. He adds that Port Arthur has a garrison of 30,000 men, and is provisioned for a year.

The Russian ministry of marine, the Temps correspondent further asserts, claims that Japan's losses since the opening of the war, are four cruisers and five torpedo boat destroyers and the machinery of a 12,000 ton battleship seriously injured.

The correspondent concludes his despatch with asserting that the concentration of Russian troops at Mukden and Harbin is considered as terminating the danger from a Japanese landing in the northern part of the bay of Korea.

SIR WALTER SENDALL DEAD.

London, March 16.—Sir Walter J. Sendall, former governor of British Guiana is dead. He was born in 1832.

SAFETY FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

When a mother finds it necessary to give her little one medicine she cannot be too careful as to the remedy employed. The so-called "soothing" medicines always contain poisonous opiates, and these should never be given to a child. Strong drugs and harsh purgatives should also be avoided. An ideal medicine for young children is Baby's Own Tablets, which cure all the minor ills of childhood, and the mother has the guarantee of one of the foremost analysts of Canada that this medicine contains no opiate. Milton L. Hersey, M. A. Sc., demonstrator in Chemistry, McGill University, says: "I hereby certify that I have made a careful analysis of Baby's Own Tablets which I personally purchased in a drug store in Montreal, and said analysis has failed to detect the presence of any opiate or narcotic in them." Analysis is proof, therefore mothers know that in giving their little ones Baby's Own Tablets they are giving them an absolutely safe medicine. Sold by all druggists or mailed at 25c. a box by writing the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

No Retreat At Port Arthur

Report of Abandonment of Fortress Absolutely Without Foundation.

Enemy's Fleet Has Not Been Seen in Neighborhood For Two Days.

Difficulties of Housing Troops in Far East Is Now Growing Acute.

St. Petersburg, March 15.—From the highest official quarters the Associated Press has received information that there is absolutely no foundation for the rumors persistently issuing from Tokio that the Russians are abandoning Port Arthur. Nothing has occurred there to warrant such reports. The Japanese fleet has not been seen for forty-eight hours. The motive of the government at Tokio in spreading this story is probably to influence public feeling in Japan for the purpose of creating enthusiasm while a war loan is being floated. The newspapers here manifest the greatest indignation, the Bourse Gazette characterizing the report as a British invention. Attention is called to the order of the day issued by Lieut.-General Stoessel, commander at Port Arthur, in which he declared that the place would never be surrendered, as representing the Russian position. Relative to this point, a military officer said yesterday: "If we abandon Port Arthur we leave our fleet there to be doomed. It is too absurd to discuss."

General Kuropatkin expects to reach Mukden March 26. Everything will be done in order to get him to the front on schedule time. The General may proceed on a flying visit to Port Arthur, but he is more likely to enter at once upon his duties as commander-in-chief of the Manchurian army. He bears an autograph letter from the Emperor to Viceroy Alexieff, to whom he will report. It is understood that the Viceroy will then turn over the entire direction of the land operations to General Kuropatkin, who will transmit his reports to the Emperor through the Viceroy, but practically this is the only point on which Viceroy Alexieff will maintain superiority. Gen. Kuropatkin had his plan of campaign practically perfected before he left here. He returned to St. Petersburg quietly from his country seat, and his presence here was not known for four days, during which he developed the elaboration of his plans in conjunction with his staff and with the aid of the information of the minister of war as well as of the special reports from the seat of war.

Opinion prevails here that General Kuropatkin will signalize his birthday, which occurs on March 30, and which is also his patron saint's day, with some important act.

On account of the difficulty in housing the vast number of troops poured into Mukden, 14,000 have been sent forward within the last few days towards the Yalu river, as reinforcements for the 7,000 troops already at Kasan and Anju, and the stream of soldiers from European Russia is now being held at Harbin.

The housing problem will disappear with the advent of warm weather, but in the meantime the government is hurrying forward large numbers of portable, collapsable wooden quarters, 1,600 of these having already been despatched from St. Petersburg and 3,000 from Moscow.

Prince Louis Napoleon has gone to the Caucasus, accompanied by Prince Murat. Prince Louis Napoleon will relinquish his command of the cavalry division of the Caucasus and then proceed to the Far East, where he will take supreme command of the cavalry under General Kuropatkin.

General Neidermuller has gone to the front to take charge of the military communications, and will be responsible for the regular movement of military trains.

The Dowager Empress today inspected her own Red Cross detachment, which is proceeding to the front.

The statement by General Zilinskai that the Russians found poisoned swords left by the fleeing Japanese, has aroused much comment. Similar swords were used by the Chinese during the Boxer rebellion, especially in Manchuria, and the slightest wound inflicted by them proved fatal. The use of such weapons is prohibited by the Geneva and The Hague conventions.

CHILI BOUNDARY STATUE.

New York, March 15.—The dedication of a great statue of Jesus Christ on the boundary line between Chile and Argentine has been the occasion of impressive ceremonies in which high officials of both countries participated, cables the Valparaiso correspondent of the Herald. The dedication gave an opportunity for the expression of the most cordial feelings of friendship and ended in the Argentine minister of foreign affairs accepting an invitation to visit Santiago de Chile.

Bombardment Was Terrific

A Large Portion of Town of Port Arthur Is Now In Ruins.

Many Guns In Forts Were Dismantled by the Japanese Fire.

For a Time It Seemed That the Entire Town Would Be Destroyed.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Tokio, March 17.—While there are varying reports as to the truth or falsity of the rumor that the Russian Port Arthur fleet has succeeded in making its escape from that harbor, there is no question that the recent bombardment was fruitful of results from a Japanese standpoint.

More than one-quarter of the new portion of the town is in ruins, while several of the guns in the forts on Tiger Tail peninsula were blown from their mounts and disabled.

Despite the denials from Russian sources, the Japanese government has information from its spies showing conclusively that the bombardment was so terrific that for a time it seemed that the entire town would be destroyed. The town is now practically deserted by all but the military.

Odessa, March 17.—The influence of the war on trade, and especially on the cost of foodstuffs, is daily growing more marked. Flour, beef and other necessaries continue to soar upward, and are already almost beyond the reach of persons of moderate circumstances. Reports from Kieff, Khargoff, Poltava, and even at Trakhan and Caucasian ports show a similar state of affairs existing there. Everywhere trade is suffering and many merchants face bankruptcy.

Shanghai, March 17.—The disarmament of the Russian gunboat Mandjur has now been completed and all of the essential parts of the guns are in the possession of the Chinese port authorities. The officers and crew of the Mandjur have taken passage on a French steamer for Russia, after having first pledged themselves to take no part in the war unless first exchanged.

Paris, March 17.—Count Melidorff, the Russian ambassador to France, said last night in discussing the reasons for Russia's unpreparedness for war: "We did not expect there would be war in the Far East. When, at the close of the present century the history of the preliminary negotiations between Japan and Russia is written, it will be seen that nothing could justify the anticipation of what has actually occurred.

"Russia sent a reply, and before receiving it, Japan broke off diplomatic relations. The war will, however, have an excellent result for Russia. It will stop foreign immigration and will draw Siberia closer to the nation than ever before, while many of the officers and soldiers who go to Manchuria will eventually take up their permanent residence in far eastern Russian territory.

"The war will be a lengthy one, but Russia will ultimately triumph. There must be fully two hundred and fifty thousand men out there, but this by no means justifies the belief that a quarter of Russia's military forces is in the field."

Togo Ordered In Hot Pursuit

Hantom Russian Fleet Reported and Japanese Give Chase.

The Czar's Troops Taking Up Extended Position Near Wiju.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Tokio, March 17.—The navy department has received a despatch stating that seven Russian warships have been seen passing Port Lazaref. No information is given as to whether they were part of Port Arthur squadron or whether they were the Siberian squadron and accompanying colliers under Captain Reitzenstein.

Hurry orders, it is believed, have been forwarded to Admiral Togo to detach a squadron from his command and send it in pursuit.

Port Lazareff is just north of Gensan, on the Northeastern coast of Korea. It was off this port that the Russian Siberian squadron was reported to have been seen two weeks ago.

The latest reports from Korea state that the Russians are occupying an area having a forty-mile base, extending from Wijn to Chang Tong and south to the Pak Chou river.

TORONTO BOARD OF TRADE.

Toronto, March 16.—The New York Life Insurance Company, which holds the mortgage on the Board of Trade building, will take over the building, the Board of Trade continuing to occupy the premises on a rental basis.

HELD IN THE ICE.

St. Pierre Steamer Returns to Port After Prolonged Stay in Ice Fields.

St. Pierre, Miquelon, March 16.—The Propatria arrived here at 9 o'clock this morning, apparently without much damage. She struck heavy ice two hours after leaving here on February 28th, being completely stopped four hours later and remaining so until 9 o'clock this morning. The steamer had to use her own woodwork for fuel. The passengers and crew are in good health, not having suffered, the provisions supply being sufficient.

RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

George R. Parkin Sails for America in Connection With Examinations.

London, March 16.—George R. Parkin, representing the trustees of the will of the late Cecil Rhodes, sailed for New York today from Southampton on the North German Lloyd line steamer Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, in connection with the holding of examinations in the United States and Canada for Rhodes scholarships at Oxford.