Commanded The Nisshin

Captain Hill Who Brought Japanese Ship From Genoa.

Arrived On Olympia Yesterday and Brought Interesting News.

Japan Determined to Take Port Arthur Regardless of Cost.

Captain William Hill, late commander of the steamship Columbia, and still later of the Japanese purchased cruiser Nisshin, on her eventful voyage from Genoa to Yokohama, just about the time of the outbreak of hostilities between Japan and Russia, was by a long odds the most important personage aboard the Northern Pacific liner Olympia, which arrived from Yokohama yesterday afternoon.

Captain Hill willingly discussed the Oriental situation and other kindred topics with a Colonist reporter. His account of the trip of the cruisers Nisshin and Kasuga, Japan's purchases from Chili, and splendid specimens of the work done by the Ansaldo Brothers at their yards at Genoa, sounds like a romance.

From the moment the big warships steamed out of Genoa harbor it was known to every man on board that the probability of a fight with Russian ships, or at least a hot chase, was imminent. A vigilant watch was kept night and day all the way to Port Said, and at the entrance to the Suez canal the first of the Russian warships was sighted. There was some delicate manoeuvring in getting the two Japanese vessels through the canal, the Russians hanging doggedly on their heels all the way, and being pushed as close up to them as decency would allow. At Suez the Japanese vessels had a short lead, and it was fully expected that if any trouble was going to take place, it would be in the run down from Suez to the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb.

Sure enough the RUSSIAN CRUISER AURORA, supposed to be one of the fastest vessels afloat, began to stoke up as if for a hot run; the black smoke poured from her tall funnels in clouds, and the commanders of the Japanese boats were soon made aware that an attempt was going to be made to haul up closer to them. Orders were given for the Nisshin and Kasuga to increase their speed, and at about eighteen knots, and steaming with beautiful ease at that, the Japanese boats began to draw away from the champion courser of the Russian navy. The Aurora was quite evidently being put to her utmost speed, but doing her very best she could not hold her place in the race, and by the afternoon was more than hull down astern, and by nightfall out of sight. The Nisshin and Kasuga kept up the pace until there was no further apprehension from that squadron. Captain Hill said he was quite disappointed at the wretched performance of the dreaded Aurora.

The Russian force consisted of one battleship, two cruisers and about a dozen destroyers. In an engagement the odds would have been somewhat heavy for the two Japanese vessels. It was learned afterwards that the Russians put into Jibutil, on the Somaliland coast, a French coaling station across the gulf from Aden. From this point to Yokohama nothing occurred to disturb the progress of the Kasuga and Nisshin.

The reception at Yokohama was fervid and spontaneous. All classes, from the Mikado himself to the humblest ranks, united in doing honor to the men who had brought out the ships. The captains and officers were feted by royalty and the members of the cabinet, the naval and military authorities. Immediately the temporary crews of the two cruisers were paid off the vessels were taken in hand by the outfitters and prepared for instant service with

THE BLOCKADING SQUADRON at Port Arthur. They are now off that port with Admiral Togo's fleet. The work of getting them ready occupied only fourteen days.

Captain Hill says that the Nisshin and Kasuga are two of the most powerful vessels in the world and stand at the head of their particular class. The firm of Ansaldo Brothers at Genoa is really a branch of the famous Armstrong firm at Elswick, England, and the work done in the Italian yards is in reality directed by British foremen, and is from plans drawn at the Armstrong works.

The actual steaming time of the cruisers from Genoa to Yokohama was 29 days, with six days in port at Colombo.

Captain Hill had the privilege of conversing with the members of the Japanese admiralty, and from them learned that Japan's objective point is Port Arthur. The Japanese will take that place regardless of cost, and, having secured it, will place it in such a state of defence as will ensure it from all chance of recapture by any force. It is the intention of the Japanese, once they have Port Arthur and the end of the Liao Tung peninsula in their hands, to entrench themselves there and not follow the Russians into northern Manchuria or Siberia. It is no part of the Japanese plan of campaign to be drawn into any

SCYTHIAN TRAPS

the Russians may set.

After Port Arthur is secured, it is possible that attention will be paid to Vladivostock, but Captain Hill said it was most improbable that any attempt had yet been made by the Japanese to reduce that place, for the reason that the ice extends fourteen miles to sea beyond the lighthouse at the entrance to the harbor, which is also tremendously fortified. When the ice is gone the task of bombarding Vladivostock will be difficult enough.

Asked as to whether the magnificent gun practice shown by the Japanese at the several battles near Port Arthur and at Chemulpo were due to the presence of white men aboard the Japanese ships, Captain Hill most emphatically declared that there is not a white man employed on any Japanese warship, from the bridge to the stokehole. The law is most strict against anything of the kind, and he was certain, from what he knew personally, that not a white man is carried aboard the ships of the Mikado. As the minister of state for the navy, Baron Gombei Yamamoto, had assured him, it was

NOT MEN BUT SHIPS

that presented the greatest difficulty to Japan in this crisis. They could do with many more ships, but they had trained men enough to man another navy the size of that which at present represents Japan's entire sea power. Indeed, trained men for the navy and the army are in excess of the supply of arms and ships. Speaking of the personnel of the Japanese navy Captain Hill said that the Japanese naval seamen was as smart, intelligent and brave as any in the world. They are splendidly trained, and they take their duties with a relish that is very inspiring to their officers. Everywhere is the enthusiasm of patriotism, both afloat and ashore.

Speaking then of the fight at Chemulpo, Captain Hill said that the unfortunate Varing sank in only six fathoms, and that her upper works are plainly visibly above water. The Japanese divers are now busy plugging up the holes rent in her side by the Japanese shells, and she will be pumped out, taken to dry dock and repaired as quickly as possible. In fact, it was expected that the Varing would be able to fly the flag of her new commission early in May, under a Japanese name, and with her guns ready to pour destruction into the forts or ships of her late owners. The Japanese had in this as in all other matters which they undertook displayed their accustomed energy and thrift.

The Japanese count upon adding every one of the fine Russian warships now in Port Arthur harbor, where they are absolutely helpless, to their navy within a few months. The facilities possessed by the Japanese for repairing vessels of war are superb. They will then have a fleet immensely superior to anything in the Pacific.

Captain Hill considers the position of the Russians at Port Arthur as absolutely hopeless. Their fleet is "bottled up," and cannot possibly get away, and every attack of the Japanese is rendering it more inefficient.

In the opinion of Captain Hill the Russians were caught totally unprepared, both on land and sea. From what he could learn from the Japanese and Chinese officials in touch with the intelligence department, the condition of Russian affairs on land and sea in the Orient could be truthfully described as one of

THE MOST HOPELESS MUDDLE.

It is well known to the Japanese that many of the Russian ships were not properly provisioned or provided with suitable ammunition, that their tubes were foul, their boilers leaking and necessary repairs to vital parts of the working mechanism had been neglected for months. On the other hand the Japanese navy and army are in a perfect state of efficiency, ready to go anywhere and do anything. Captain Hill was not at all astonished to learn that the Japanese had reached a point between Mukden and the sea. It was just exactly what he would have expected them to do. To them and their commanders nothing seems impossible. The plan of campaign is to clear every Russian out of the Liao Tung peninsula, then crush Port Arthur.

Regarding the war correspondents in Japan Capt. Hill gave an amusing account. Those unfortunate gentlemen were literally "sweating blood" in their endeavor to get the news, and yet they were unsuccessful. Mr. Bennett Burleigh, the doyen of the corps of correspondents, had tried to steal away to Nagasaki and thence to the Korean side. He was conveyed back to Tokio, firmly yet politely, and warned, good naturedly but unmistakably, not to repeat the offence. The correspondents were in despair at the extraordinary reticence of the Japanese officials and people. It appeared as if the Japanese government were profiting by the example of General Kitchener, who coolly packed the war correspondents, their baggage and effects down the Nile one fine morning before he and his command disappeared into the Soudan deserts.

The mischief wrought by the press despatches from the Transvaal had also deeply impressed the Japanese authorities, and it was evidently such examples that had made them determined to make quite sure of secrecy by imposing the command of silence upon the whole nation. When the Japanese troops have reached their positions in the field and at sea, Captain Hill thought that there would be no objection to the correspondents taking their places with the army corps and squadrons.

One of the many pleasant functions which Captain Hill was invited to attend when in Tokio was the grand banquet to the foreign correspondents given by the members of the Japanese press. It was a very fine affair. On Captain Hill's night sat the correspondent of the London Morning Post, and on his left Mr. Martin Egan of the American Associated Press. Nothing could have been happier or more cordial than the speech-making. It was a feast of fellowship.

Captain Hill will pay a few visits in the United States before proceeding to England. His officers and most of the crew of the Nishin, as well as those of the Kasuga, will sail back to Genoa via the French mail and other fast routes. The crews and officers of the two cruisers on the way out were British; the engineers were all Italians.

Another interesting passenger amongst those on board the Olympia was a Russian locomotive engineer, who had worked on the Northern Manchurian railway since it was built, and is now on his way to join his brother who lives in Vancouver. He reported the weather in Manchuria as terribly severe this winter, and the Russians had great trouble in operating the line. He had nothing to say about the war.

MARQUIS ITO TO RESIDE IN SEOUL

Will Act as Adviser to Emperor of Korea and Commanders in the Field.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Tokio, March 9.—It has been finally decided that the Marquis Ito and Viscount Aoki are to go to Korea as special ambassadors. The well-known ability of the Marquis will make him a valuable aid to the Japanese forces in Korea. Of course, he goes as an imperial advisor, and, therefore, cannot take the field in person. His knowledge, however, will be at the disposal of the actual field commanders.

PERSEVERING SUICIDE.

Tired of Life He Tries to Batter His Skull in With a Hammer.

Newburgh, N. Y., March 10.—Ambrose Arnott, aged 60, a well-known farmer of Goledinbeam, this county, was discovered early this morning in the kitchen of his home, with his skull fractured in two places. Arnott regained consciousness this afternoon and told the coroner that he was tired of life and had tried to knock his brains out with a hammer.

Port Arthur Again Bombarded--Street Scene in the City

FROM PHOTO BY AMERICAN MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY.

Miners Urged to Accept Reduction

The Ballots Sent Out and With Them an Appeal to Act Wisely.

Country Passed Apex of Prosperity and Now Depression Is Expected.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 10.—The United Mine Workers' local unions in Indiana, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Illinois, Maryland, Central Pennsylvania, Michigan, Kentucky and West Virginia and Iowa that are to participate in the referendum vote Tuesday on the proposition of accepting a reduction of 5.55 per cent in wages or closing the soft coal mines on April 1st, will receive their ballots tomorrow. With the ballots will be sent out the circular letter that the national convention authorized President Mitchell and other officials to issue, setting out their recommendations that no reduction be made, the latter says in part:

"No one who is familiar with the past history of the United Mine Workers of America will charge us with being afraid to strike if in our judgment a strike would accomplish beneficial results; but when it is proposed to strike on the issue of a single cent of wages our organization has obtained for the mine workers in the past seven years by means of conciliation and arbitration and strikes, when the difference between us and our employers is but 3 cents per ton on a run of mine basis and 5 cents per ton on a lump coal basis, we believe it is time to stop and carefully consider the possible consequences."

The letter then reviews the concessions secured for the workers since 1897, including 75 per cent increase in wages, and continues:

"It is conceded on all sides that the apex of industrial activity has been reached and we are slowly moving towards an industrial depression. The operators came into the joint convention asking for a reduction of wages of 15 per cent. Their proposition was opposed by us with all the information and all the skill at our command. As an ultimatum from which they could not be moved they offered us a reduction from the present scale of prices of 5.55 per cent. We know how hard it is to be compelled to accept a reduction in wages, but it is better to accept a slightly lower rate and hold our organization intact ready to take advantage of any future movement than to bring on a disastrous strike."

The latter then recites that there is no assurance the situation in West Virginia outside of the Kanawaha field and a few operations of the Baltimore & Ohio could be controlled. Neither the Irwin, Connellville, nor Klondyke fields in Pensylvania be depended upon to cease work. This would result in others weakening and returning to work at lower rates which would have their effect on other fields and weaken the organization. "The experiences of the past have shown us conclusively the folly of striking when the markets are going down," says the letter. "We are now upon the eve of a Presidential election, and these years are proverbially dark because of commercial disturbances which they produce. A two-year contract would carry us beyond the period of the election and the unsettled industrial condition that follow its wake. In addition to that it would cause our contracts to expire at the same time as the anthracite award and place us then in a position to act with greater unity. When we consider that the price offered to us on a two year contract is the highest price we have had for many years with the exception of the present, we repeat it would be the most serious mistake our organization has ever made to take the chances of losing the scale we are offered." The letter closes with an earnest plea to accept the reduction.

JAPANESE SQUADRON HUNTING FOR ENEMY

Patrolling Coast on Look Out For Russian Vladivostock Fleet.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

Tokio, March 11.—The Japanese fleet is still patrolling the Manchurian and eastern Korean coasts in an endeavor to locate the Russian Siberian squadron. The bombardment of Vladivostock is an incident to other operations, the character of which is very carefully concealed.

A FORTUNATE GUNBOAT.

Shanghai, March 11.—The final arrangements regarding the stay of the Russian gunboat Mandjur here for the remaining period of the war, have been completed. The guns of the boat will be placed in the custody of one of the Chinese cruisers, and the crew of the Mandjur will be permitted to remain on the boat.

TO HOLD HER OWN.

Moscow, March 11.—The newspaper Novoe Vremya condenses the general Russian opinion of Great Britain's attitude into one significant sentence. It says: "Great Britain is maintaining the strictest neutrality, but at the same time she is sending her expedition into Thibet and more guns into India."

JAPAN'S WAR LOAN.

Yokohama, March 11.—The subscription to the war loan on the part of the foreign inhabitants amounted to more than $100,000. Of this amount one-half was subscribed by an American firm, while the remainder was contributed chiefly by Germans.

PROLONGED ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR

Viceroy Alexieff Reports Bombardment Yesterday by Japanese Squadron of Fourteen Warships.

Tokio, March 10.—Russian and Japanese mounted scouts met south of Ping Yang yesterday. After a brief engagement the Russians retreated. No casualties are reported on either side.

St. Petersburg, March 10.—The Czar has received the following message from Viceroy Alexieff, dated today at Mukden:

"The commandant of the fortress at Port Arthur reports that at about 1 o'clock this morning the outlines of vessels, apparently torpedo boats were seen at sea within the area swept by our searchlights. Our batteries opened fire upon these vessels. Our torpedo boats put out to sea at 2;40 a. m. and about 4 o'clock met the enemy west of the Liao Tieshin lighthouse. After firing several shots the enemy retired to the south in the direction of Shandul. Our torpedo boats returned to the harbor at 6 o'clock.

"Later, the torpedo boats were again sent to sea to reconnoitre. They returned in half an hour, having learned that an enemy's squadron was approaching.

"At 8 o'clock, the Japanese opened fire upon our cruisers and fortress. The enemy had fourteen ships and fired the entire time from behind Liao Tishin.

"I have the honor to report the above to your majesty.

(Signed) ALEXIEFF."

RUSSIA GIVES WARNING.

Russia has served notice on China that the latter must not send troops into Thibet on a great well, and that she must exercise her influence to restrain the Chinese bandits, who are supposed under the control of Chinese officers, from interfering with the railway and telegraph lines. A refusal to heed these warnings will be considered as a breach of neutrality.

JAPAN'S ILLUSION.

The Novoe Sti declares Japan is beginning to lose her illusion regarding Anglo-American support, but still looks to China, forgetting that Chinese intervention would be the signal for the interference of European powers.

KUROPATKIN'S SCHEMES.

General Kuropatkin is busy preparing for his departure to the front on Saturday. Arrangements have been made to give him a big farewell demonstration. He will travel on a train specially fitted to be used as his headquarters while directing the field operations. The Grand Duke Boris will be his aide de camp and will start tonight. The General will stay a day at Moscow to visit the Trinity monastery. To facilitate the working of the army machinery at such a distance from the war ministry, upon General Kuropatkin's recommendation important reforms will be effected in the army administration whereby much of the existing red tape will be abolished and commanders in the field will be allowed more authority in matters that pertain to military operations.

A GROTESQUE ARMY.

Paris, March 10.—A report just received here through official channels describes the Chinese forces marching northward as being an undisciplined and almost grotesque military organization, showing an entire absence of equipment and training. As evidence of the unreliability of the forces, the following occurrence is cited: The body of Yuan-Shi-Kai's cavalry, was paraded before French and German military attaches. The former asked the commander why the cavalry remained in the towns and had no fixed manoeuvres. The Chinese general answered: "Because many horse markets exist within the interior, and we know the cavalrymen would sell their horses, disband and leave us without cavalry." The report gives this as showing the lack of reliability and unity of the Chinese forces.

SCOUTING EXPEDITION.

Washington, D. C., March 10.—The Japanese minister has received the following cablegram from Tokio, dated today: "Vice-Admiral Kamimuna, commander-in-chief of a division of the Japanese fleet, made a demonstration to the northeast of the batteries of Vladivostock on the 6th inst., and bombarded the harbor with the object of observing for forty minutes, beginning at 2 p.m. Some soldiers were seen at the batteries, but there was no reply to the bombardment. On the next morning the squadron scouted to the Bay of America and the Bay of Strereoku, but found nothing unusual. At noon the squadron again made for the eastern end of Vladivostock, but seeing none of the enemy's ships, they returned to Postiet to discover if they were there, but did not find them."

NO SEA FIGHT SUNDAY.

Vladivostock, March 10.—The acting chief of the staff today officially announced that the reports of a sea fight between the Russian and Japanese squadrons on Sunday last are absolutely unfounded. (The sea fight was supposed to have taken place Monday.)

MILITARY TRAIN WRECKED.

Tomsk, Western Siberia, March 10.—A military train bound for Irkutsk, Western Siberia, was derailed today. One person was killed and a number of others was injured.

CHINESE SUFFERING.

Yin Kow, March 10.—The concentration of troops at the Russian strategical base has resulted in much suffering among the Chinese inhabitants, especially at Liao Yang, where even private buildings have been appropriated to accommodate the soldiers, and thousands of Chinese are consequently without homes. Russian troops are encamped at all the essential points along the railroad.

ITO'S MISSION.

Tokio, March 10.—It is believed in diplomatic circles here that Marquis Ito, who is to leave Tokio March 15th for Korea, will be able to allay the fears and imagined dangers which are reported to be haunting the Korean Emperor who has not yet published the text of the Japanese-Korean protocol of the official organ of Korea. The Japanese government expects to realize $5,000,000 by the increased taxation. The Emperor and Empress have donated $5,000 for the Crown Prince and Crown Princess $1,250 for the relief of the widows and orphans of Japanese soldiers. The Japanese journalists are rejoicing at the friendly tone observable in the American papers which have just been received in this country. Information obtained from private sources points to the effect that the Japanese squadron has bombarded Vladivostock twice since March 6th.

DOMINION LINE.

Montreal, March 9.—The announcement was made today that during the coming season the Dominion Line boats running to Liverpool would not carry any first-class passengers, accommodation being divided into second and third.

The announcement of the purchase of the plant of the Locomotive & Machine Company, Ltd., of Montreal, by the American Locomotive Company, shows that the price paid was $1,500,000. Of this $400,000 will be used to retire the bonds of the company and $450,000 to pay various creditors, the balance payable in 4 per cent bonds going to vendors. The American Locomotive Company officials announce that an additional $500,000 will be expended upon the plant, that 2,000 men will be employed and that the capacity of the works to begin with will be 150 locomotives per annum.

Mrs. Abrey Kamoo, a remarkable woman, has died in the Boston city hospital, aged 96. She was born in the United States, educated in Germany, served as a drummer boy in the United States army in 1862, until her sex was discovered, and then became an army nurse, serving until the close of the war. In 1875 she went to Boston from New York and established a successful business as a dermatologist. She was the daughter of a triplet, herself a triplet and twice the mother of triplets. Her father, aged 114, lives in Los Angeles.

HEARST AND BRYAN FORM AN ALLIANCE

Silver King Will Present Journalist's Name to St Louis Convention.

New York, March 10.—An alliance between Wm. J. Bryan and Wm. R. Hearst with the view to dictating the Democratic presidential nomination, is said to be a certainty, says a despatch to the World from Washington. In fact it is asserted by a man very close to Mr. Hearst himself that the present arrangement is Mr. Bryan will present Mr. Hearst's name to the St. Louis convention. Among visitors at the White House who gossip about the probable action of the Democratic convention, the name of Hearst is heard as often as the name of any other man, with the possible exception of Cleveland.

CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.

British Ship Rescues Derelict's Crew, and Suffers From Explosion.

New York, March 10.—The British steamer Cape Corrientes, has arrived in port from an eventful voyage during which she rescued nine men from the Russian schooner Emilija, of Riga, while dismasted in mideean. Two days later a tremendous explosion occurred on the steamer, which severely burned the third engineer, Neil McArthur. A hose was turned on the fire and all the crew and shipwrecked men working with buckets soon had the fire under control. The injured engineer and the shipwrecked crew were landed at St. Michael's, Azores.

Speculating on The Situation

Military Affairs on the Yalu Keep the Newspapers Guessing.

London Papers' Contradictory Stories Offer Food For Reflection.

London, March 11.—Speculation regarding the military situation on the Yalu river is rife today, but no news of a reliable character has been received. The Nagasaki correspondent of the Daily Express says that 200,000 troops have been shipped from Japan, and that a portion of the second corps is now on its way to Korea. The correspondent of the Daily Chronicle at Tokio evidently relies on the same news, cables that the transportation of the northern Korea of three divisions of Japanese troops has been completed, and that these men are beginning to advance while some divisions of the second army corps have already been mobilized.

As an illustration of the curiously contradictory character of the reports from the Far East, a correspondent of the Daily Chronicle at Kiu Chau quotes Fung Wang Chang, which is about forty-five miles northwest of Ah Tung in Manchuria, as one of several points of Russian concentration, while other correspondents have reported that the Japanese have captured Fung Wang Chang. Other correspondents report that the Russians have mined all points where it is possible to cross the Yalu river.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says that the Japanese after Port Arthur is neutralized probably will move two armies to the north simultaneously, one from the southern part of the Liao Tung peninsula, and the other from the Yalu river.

The Russians are now moving northward in Korea, this correspondent continues, with the intention of making Wiju their defensive base. A correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, who was in Japan recently, wires from Seoul that the Japanese are making steady progress with their land operations. The roads are occupied by Japanese troops.

According to a Tien Tsin correspondent of the Standard the Russians are withdrawing the superfluous troops from Port Arthur to Harbin and Kirin, because of the shortage of provisions and because it is doubtful whether or not they would be able to hold either Port Arthur or New Chwang against a resolute attack. The spirit of the Russian troops, who are largely recruits, has been broken by starvation, cold and harsh treatment from their officers. The Russian losses on the Yalu are reported to reach a total of 2,000 men.

Rabbling from Tokio, a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says the Jiji Shimpo has received a communication from Pekin declaring that Great Britain and the United States have protested against Russia using junks in the channel of the Liao river at New Chwang on the ground that this prevents the egress of the warships of these powers from the river.

The Standard this morning publishes an article in which the writer points out the defenceless condition of the Amur River, and asserts that if it be true that the experiences of the Yalu River proved, says, and she is short of gunboats on the river. It is probable that when the ice disappears the Japanese will send a fleet of armed gunboats down the river and make themselves felt along its entire length.

The Times publishes a despatch from Tokio saying the ice on the Yalu river has begun to melt. Japanese scouts have encountered forty Cossacks, the correspondent continues, at Kuan, 58 miles north of Ping Yang on the road to Wiju.

A BANKER'S SUICIDE.

Berlin, March 10.—Albert Jaffe, a partner in the Frankfort banking firm of A. Jaffe & C. Trier, shot and killed himself today. Jaffe lost several million marks in private speculation and his financial ruin was completed by the depression following the end of the war.

MANIACS AT A RELIGIOUS REVIVAL

A Woman Declares She Has Divine Order to Slay Her Own Child.

Bangor, Me., March 10.—Maniacal proceedings are reported among the five hundred members of a so-called religious sect living in a colony on Beals' Island, near Jonesport. One woman who tried to kill her children after announcing at a revival that God had ordered her to make the sacrifice, has been adjudged insane and brought to the hospital here. Jonesport deputy sheriffs and citizens have gone to the island to calm the excitement. Persons just returned from the scene assert that during the revival the woman who was brought to the hospital called out that the voice of God had told her that a certain dog must be killed. The animal was brought into the meeting house and slaughtered. Then she announced that she had received another divine command that a cat in the village should be put out of the world. The execution was carried out, but when she arose a third time and declared that she had been commanded to slay her baby, a furious discussion was precipitated which broke up the meeting. The authorities heard of the affair and seized the woman before she could carry out the "command." The islanders are now destroying their watches, jewelry and other articles of ornament.

The Commons In Session

New Speaker Elected Yesterday And Formal Opening For Today.

Outline of Probable Legislative Programme In Speech From the Throne.

Exports Show Serious Falling Off And Imports Largely Increase.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, March 10.—There was a large attendance in the House of Commons today when the entire proceedings was devoted to the election of a speaker.

Mr. Belcourt, of Ottawa, was elected Speaker of the Commons. His election was moved by Premier Laurier and Hon. Mr. Cartwright. Mr. Borden paid a graceful compliment to the ability of the new Speaker, after which he was introduced by the prime minister.

To Alaska boundary question soon came before the House, Mr. Borden asking for papers today and Premier Laurier said he would expedite the printing.

Mr. Lancaster of Lincoln gave notice of a bill to amend the act respecting masters and mates and to stop the practice of alien mariners coming over to Canada and taking positions upon Canadian vessels to the detriment of our own mariners. Mr. Lancaster's desire is to assimilate the Canadian law to that of the United States.

The speech from the Throne will be tomorrow's bill of fare. There will be a reference to the prosperity of the country and paragraphs dealing with the Alaska boundary award. The most important measure of the session will be that ratifying the amendments in the Grand Trunk Pacific contract. Other government bills will probably provide for the organization of a naval militia, the better observance of the Lord's day; to regulate the sale of seed in Canada; amendments to the militia act; to the election's act and to the act of last session regardiug the civil service which has been found unworkable.

His Excellency held the usual state dinner at Government house tonight.

Trade returns for February show a continued decrease in the exports, the decrease for that month alone being over $2,000,000, while for the eight months the total decrease in exports amounts to $5,232,000. Imports in these months show an increase of nearly nineteen millions.

Ralph Smith arrived this morning.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell, the new Senator from the Eastern townships, took his seat today.

Six members of the Commons took advantage of the fact that no Speaker had been appointed to claim their seats without the formality of an introduction.

Negotiations are in progress between the Dominion and Mexico for the inauguration of a two-cent postal rate between Canada and that country.

REPORT ON B. C. BY CONSUL SMITH

Tells of Financial Problems With Which Government Had to Deal.

Following is a report forwarded to the Washington state department by United States Consul Abraham E. Smith, of Victoria:

The funded indebtedness of the province of British Columbia is $8,500,000. The deficit of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903, was $1,510,820.53, and the anticipated deficit of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, is $298,089.65.

The provincial treasury being entirely depleted of funds from the current expenses, an extra session of the legislature was called November 27, 1903, under auspices of the new government, in which the government refused to allow necessary funds to run the government unless certain measures were passed to provide additional receipts. In consequence, after a protracted struggle, the legislature passed an assessment act, which it is estimated will increase the revenue at least $200,000. This assessment law, which is retroactive and goes into effect at once, affects nearly every business in the province and has aroused much feeling and bitter opposition, but it was demanded by those who loaned the government the funds to carry on its conduct and thus pushed through the legislature.

An amendment to the "land act" was also passed doubling the timber license which is now made $140 for one year for each 640 acres of land west of the Cascade range and $115 for the same period east of said range; for each five years $700 west and $575 east of the Cascade range. The schedule on all timber and wood cut is also largely increased. An additional income of several thousand dollars is also expected from this source. Through what is claimed to have been a clerical error in drafting this act, the owners of timber land crown granted prior to 1887 are free to export their logs, cedar or fir, to the United States, upon the payment of the royalty of 50 cents per 1,000 feet.

It is now doubted that the government fully intended, when it drafted the bill, to embrace within its application timber lands crown granted prior to 1887, but by some mistake such was not done. The order in council prohibiting the exportation of cedar logs does not affect the lands in question, and export of timber cut from them can only be prevented by an amendment to the present act. Ever since the passage of the order in council prohibiting the exportation of cedar logs from farm lands held under license, the holders of lands crown granted prior to April, 1887, have been selling to American mills. The owners of such are still in a position to sell to the American mills.

A law was also passed making an increase in the assessment of railway companies land from $3,000 to $10,000 per mile. This law has also naturally caused great remonstrances on the part of the railroad companies and it is believed will retard the building of needed new lines in the province. The burden of this increased taxation, of course, comes chiefly on the Canadian Pacific railway and the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railway.

It is confidently expected that these measures will relieve the existing financial stringency and produce enough revenue to more than overcome the expected deficit in from revenues of the province for the present year, and indeed to show a balance on the credit side for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904.

With this end in view the government has dispensed with a number of the members of the civil service, from which a saving of $20,000 to $30,000 in salaries is assured.

A law was also passed for an additional loan of $1,000,000, the same to be raised by the sale of debentures bearing 5 per cent interest, payable half-yearly by the treasurer of British Columbia. The debentures mature in ten equal payments of $100,000 each on the first day of March, commencing with 1905, the final payment occurring March 1, 1914

Rosebery and The Premie

Resents Use of the Word C umny As Applied to Former Libera Leader.

Lord Lansdowne Offers an E planation of the Use of Term.

The Lords Aghast at the In dent Which Closed Without Comment.

London, March 10.—An extraordina scene disturbed the customary decorum of the House of Lords this evening. a recent debate in the House of Co mons Premier Balfour had used t word "calumny" with reference to so statement made by Lord Rosebery the fiscal controversy. When the Hou of Lords met today Lord Rosebe asked Lord Lansdowne the foreign se retary, what justification existed for t Premier's use of such a word. Lo Lansdowne admitted that the Premi had used the word in the heat of debat

He said he thought the circumstanc justified some warmth on the part the Premier, but that he had consult with Mr. Balfour, who told him th he did not desire to impute to Lo Rosebery a deliberate attempt to m represent him.

After Lord Lansdowne had finishe Lord Rosebery again rose and declari the explanation had not been satisfa tory, he fiercely attacked the Premi whom he accused of being too thi skinned," adding: "People who live glass houses should not throw stone is all very well to defend [illegible] by saying it was due to the heat of debate and it was only a 'Prime Fanny' way. If a man cannot curb his t better than that he is unfit to be t First Lord of the Treasury.

"I do not personally care a farthi what language Premier Balfour us about me, and I only brought the ma ter before the house in order to poi out that there are decencies of deba that should be used, even by those w occupy the highest positions."

As Lord Rosebery finished this tira and sat down a painful silence ensue and the Lords looked at each other u comfortably. After a long pause Ea Spencer, the Liberal leader, rose an said he thought Lord Rosebery had n been fairly used, etc.

After an awkward silence, Lord Cha cellor Halsbury asked whether Lo Rosebery had any motion to make. Lo Rosebery then moved an adjournment the debate, an almost unparalleled mo tion in the House of Lords, but he di hold her place in the race, and by the afternoon was more than hull down astern, and by nightfall out of sight. The Nisshin and Kasuga kept up the pace until there was no further apprehension from that squadron. Captain Hill said he was quite disappointed at the wretched performance of the dreaded Aurora.

The Russian force consisted of one battleship, two cruisers and about a dozen destroyers. In an engagement the odds would have been somewhat heavy for the two Japanese vessels. It was learned afterwards that the Russians put into Jibutil, on the Somaliland coast, a French coaling station across the gulf from Aden. From this point to Yokohama nothing occurred to disturb the progress of the Kasuga and Nisshin.

The reception at Yokohama was fervid and spontaneous. All classes, from the Mikado himself to the humblest ranks, united in doing honor to the men who had brought out the ships. The captains and officers were feted by royalty and the members of the cabinet, the naval and military authorities. Immediately the temporary crews of the two cruisers were paid off the vessels were taken in hand by the outfitters and prepared for instant service with

THE BLOCKADING SQUADRON at Port Arthur. They are now off that port with Admiral Togo's fleet. The work of getting them ready occupied only fourteen days.

Captain Hill says that the Nisshin and Kasuga are two of the most powerful vessels in the world and stand at the head of their particular class. The firm of Ansaldo Brothers at Genoa is really a branch of the famous Armstrong firm at Elswick, England, and the work done in the Italian yards is in reality directed by British foremen, and is from plans drawn at the Armstrong works.

The actual steaming time of the cruisers from Genoa to Yokohama was 29 days, with six days in port at Colombo.

Captain Hill had the privilege of conversing with the members of the Japanese admiralty, and from them learned that Japan's objective point is Port Arthur. The Japanese will take that place regardless of cost, and, having secured it, will place it in such a state of defence as will ensure it from all chance of recapture by any force. It is the intention of the Japanese, once they have Port Arthur and the end of the Liao Tung peninsula in their hands, to entrench themselves there and not follow the Russians into northern Manchuria or Siberia. It is no part of the Japanese plan of campaign to be drawn into any

SCYTHIAN TRAPS

the Russians may set.

After Port Arthur is secured, it is possible that attention will be paid to Vladivostock, but Captain Hill said it was most improbable that any attempt had yet been made by the Japanese to reduce that place, for the reason that the ice extends fourteen miles to sea beyond the lighthouse at the entrance to the harbor, which is also tremendously fortified. When the ice is gone the task of bombarding Vladivostock will be difficult enough.

Asked as to whether the magnificent gun practice shown by the Japanese at the several battles near Port Arthur and at Chemulpo were due to the presence of white men aboard the Japanese ships, Captain Hill most emphatically declared that there is not a white man employed on any Japanese warship, from the bridge to the stokehole. The law is most strict against anything of the kind, and he was certain, from what he knew personally, that not a white man is carried aboard the ships of the Mikado. As the minister of state for the navy, Baron Gombei Yamamoto, had assured him, it was

NOT MEN BUT SHIPS

that presented the greatest difficulty to Japan in this crisis. They could do with many more ships, but they had trained men enough to man another navy the size of that which at present represents Japan's entire sea power. Indeed, trained men for the navy and the army are in excess of the supply of arms and ships. Speaking of the personnel of the Japanese navy Captain Hill said that the Japanese naval seamen was as smart, intelligent and brave as any in the world. They are splendidly trained, and they take their duties with a relish that is very inspiring to their officers. Everywhere is the enthusiasm of patriotism, both afloat and ashore.

Speaking then of the fight at Chemulpo, Captain Hill said that the unfortunate Varing sank in only six fathoms, and that her upper works are plainly visibly above water. The Japanese divers are now busy plugging up the holes rent in her side by the Japanese shells, and she will be pumped out, taken to dry dock and repaired as quickly as possible. In fact, it was expected that the Varing would be able to fly the flag of her new commission early in May, under a Japanese name, and with her guns ready to pour destruction into the forts or ships of her late owners. The Japanese had in this as in all other matters which they undertook displayed their accustomed energy and thrift.

The Japanese count upon adding every one of the fine Russian warships now in Port Arthur harbor, where they are absolutely helpless, to their navy within a few months. The facilities possessed by the Japanese for repairing vessels of war are superb. They will then have a fleet immensely superior to anything in the Pacific.

Captain Hill considers the position of the Russians at Port Arthur as absolutely hopeless. Their fleet is "bottled up," and cannot possibly get away, and every attack of the Japanese is rendering it more inefficient.

In the opinion of Captain Hill the Russians were caught totally unprepared, both on land and sea. From what he could learn from the Japanese and Chinese officials in touch with the intelligence department, the condition of Russian affairs on land and sea in the Orient could be truthfully described as one of

THE MOST HOPELESS MUDDLE.

It is well known to the Japanese that many of the Russian ships were not properly provisioned or provided with suitable ammunition, that their tubes were foul, their boilers leaking and necessary repairs to vital parts of the working mechanism had been neglected for months. On the other hand the Japanese navy and army are in a perfect state of efficiency, ready to go anywhere and do anything. Captain Hill was not at all astonished to learn that the Japanese had reached a point between Mukden and the sea. It was just exactly what he would have expected them to do. To them and their commanders nothing seems impossible. The plan of campaign is to clear every Russian out of the Liao Tung peninsula, then crush Port Arthur.

Regarding the war correspondents in Japan Capt. Hill gave an amusing account. Those unfortunate gentlemen were literally "sweating blood" in their endeavor to get the news, and yet they were unsuccessful. Mr. Bennett Burleigh, the doyen of the corps of correspondents, had tried to steal away to Nagasaki and thence to the Korean side. He was conveyed back to Tokio, firmly yet politely, and warned, good naturedly but unmistakably, not to repeat the offence. The correspondents were in despair at the extraordinary reticence of the Japanese officials and people. It appeared as if the Japanese government were profiting by the example of General Kitchener, who coolly packed the war correspondents, their baggage and effects down the Nile one fine morning before he and his command disappeared into the Soudan deserts.

The mischief wrought by the press despatches from the Transvaal had also deeply impressed the Japanese authorities, and it was evidently such examples that had made them determined to make quite sure of secrecy by imposing the command of silence upon the whole nation. When the Japanese troops have reached their positions in the field and at sea, Captain Hill thought that there would be no objection to the correspondents taking their places with the army corps and squadrons.

One of the many pleasant functions which Captain Hill was invited to attend when in Tokio was the grand banquet to the foreign correspondents given by the members of the Japanese press. It was a very fine affair. On Captain Hill's right sat the correspondent of the London Morning Post, and on his left Mr. Martin Egan of the American Associated Press. Nothing could have been happier or more cordial