The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

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The Week At Ottawa

Debate on Autonomy Bill Reveals Dangerous Character of Legislation.

Mr. Clifford Sifton's Recantation Suggests Nigger in Wood Pile.

Grand Trunk Pacific About to Acquire Charter for Northern Road.

From Our Own Correspondent.

OTTAWA, March 25.—Judging from the tone of some of the speeches delivered in the Commons this week in the autonomy debate, one can readily realize the dangerous character of the school legislation which the government propose to foist upon the new provinces. In justice to Sir Wilfrid Laurier it must be said that he made a very moderate presentation of the case on the second reading, while Mr. Borden's great speech was a model of moderation, as it was of constitutional argument. The views presented by Mr. Borden are simply his own. The Conservative party, as such, on a ticklish question of this kind, cannot be reasonably asked to adopt a strict party policy, and the caucus left it an open question with the members of the party to follow such line of action as their conscience may dictate. The circumstances of one province are not those of another; unquestionably, however Mr. Borden will carry with him the bulk of his followers and some Liberal members from Ontario and the West although the actual number of the latter will not be known until the division bells ring. It is said that Mr. Greenway will be one. Possibly also Mr. Borden's amendment declaring in favor of

"Home Rule" on Educational Matters

for the new provinces may be sidetracked by another amendment from the ministerial benches but anyway before the matter is finally disposed of Mr. Borden at some stage or other, will secure an explicit declaration from the House on his amendment.

Ample time was reserved to Hon. Mr. Fielding, who has been kicking ever since he returned from Europe, to import into the discussion a phase of a most unfortunate character. His speech was unworthy of a statesman. It was a direct appeal for the votes of Roman Catholics for himself when the time comes for him to form a government. Liberals are freely speaking of Mr. Fielding as the prospective successor to Sir Wilfrid Laurier when the time comes for him to lay down the reins of office. Mr. Fielding went so far as to say that the adoption of Mr. Borden's policy would mean that if ever he got an opportunity of forming a government it would have to be composed exclusively of Protestants.

There Was Loud Dissent

when he uttered this opinion, and the following day the minister of finance, realizing that he had put his foot in it, endeavored to qualify his statement, but it had gone on record and will stand against him.

The surprise which Mr. Sproule sprang upon the government by reading the opinion of Christopher Robinson that no constitutional obligation exists in parliament to ingraft a separate school system in the Northwest, has, for the time being, dumbfounded the government and its supporters.

Mr. Monk's contribution to the debate was a moderate one, and expressed views which nearly all Conservative members from Quebec hold. Living as they do in the midst of a strong Roman Catholic community, it could hardly be expected that they would do otherwise than support the system which Protestants have in the province of Quebec.

Great interest was manifested yesterday in Clifford Sifton's speech. It was pretty well understood that he would

Swallow Laurier's Amendment

to the school clause holus bolus, and this is one of the mysteries of the political situation today. Mr. Borden clearly showed there is no practical difference between the original clause 16 and Sir Wilfrid Laurier's amendment. Mr. Sifton endeavored to meet this opinion but signally failed.

The Eastern independent press is a unit in stating that had Mr. Sifton adhered to his original dissent to clause 16 he would have been the biggest man in Canada, instead of which he has been won round and politicians are asking what is the consideration. Some members go so far as to say that Mr. Sifton obtained a promise from the government for further assistance to the Canadian Northern, whose interests he has been specially watching in the cabinet for some years, but of this more later.

The bill confirming the sale of the E. & N. railway to the Canadian Pacific will be considered in the railway committee next Tuesday. Mayor Barnard, finding that he had some time at his disposal, has been spending a few days in Montreal.

Grand Trunk Pacific Again.

The general belief here among British Columbia members is that the Grand Trunk Pacific will secure the charter of the Pacific Northern Company. It is not known whether there will be any railway subsidies granted this session, but the latter company made a formal request for a contribution from the federal treasury of $6,400 per mile for sixty miles, which, added to the British Columbia subsidy, would make a nice little nest egg if the Grand Trunk Pacific secures the charter. Should this subsidy be granted, a stipulation is to be insisted upon by the British Columbia members that the Grand Trunk Pacific must commence construction on the British Columbia end simultaneously with the other sections. Some British Columbia members freely express approval of the action of the McBride government in refusing a land grant to Mr. Morse. They are very much annoyed at the apparent breach of faith on the part of the Grand Trunk Pacific Company, as last year they refrained from moving an amendment to the contract on receipt of a specific pledge from Mr. Hays that the interests of British Columbia would not be neglected by the company. It was on the strength of Mr. Hays' letter that the Senate rejected Mr. Macdonald's amendment in favor of construction being commenced in British Columbia this year.

Senator Templeman said that in the event of British Columbia not being fairly treated by the Grand Trunk Pacific Company, the government would take steps to compel them to commence early construction on the coast.

Senator Domville will move in the Senate a resolution in favor of a grand demonstration on October 21 in honor of the hundredth anniversary of the death of Nelson.

KANSAS TOWN BURNING.

Brazil, Kansas, March 25.—Carson, a town of 1,500 people, is reported burning and the whole business portion is threatened. Two blocks have burned and the fire is not under control. Assistance has been sent by the Brazil fire department.

A QUEENLY MOTHER.

Helena of Italy, With Infant in Arms, Receives Visiting Empress.

Rome, March 25.—King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena went to Civita Pecchi today to meet Empress Augusta of Germany. They took with them the Crown Prince of Italy, aged six months, as the Queen nurses him.

Although there was a heavy rainstorm a crowd of 10,000 assembled in the harbor to witness the arrival of the Empress of Germany. The meeting of the sovereigns was most cordial. The Queen and Empress embraced and kissed each other, and Queen Helena presented her guest with a handsome bouquet of flowers. The Empress said to King Victor Emmanuel that she was very happy to be in Italy. After an hour's conversation the Italian sovereigns returned to the station, accompanied by Princes Eitel, Frederick and Princess Oscar.

THE GREAT REVIVAL.

Great Crusade in England to Conclude Next June.

London, March 25.—The great Albert hall revival meeting under the direction of the Rev. Reuben A. Torrey and Charles M. Alexander will close on March 29. Dr. Torrey, in an interview today, said that over 5,500 persons publicly announced their conversion, while others had privately acknowledged conversion and changed their mode of living.

Dr. Torrey and Mr. Alexander were entertained at luncheon today by Dr. Ingram, Bishop of London, who complimented them on their work. He said that a new atmosphere was felt all over the city and that many churches are holding special prayer and revival meetings.

The mission will conclude in June. After that the revivalists will go to Germany for a short series of meetings, and, returning to England, will visit the provinces, concluding at Oxford in November, after which they will return to America.

SETTLERS FROM NORTHWEST.

Forty Farmers From Manitoba Are Now Inspecting Okanagan Valley.

Vernon, B. C., March 25.—(Special)—Forty substantial agriculturists from Manitoba and the Territories, who are selling out their farms at good figures with a view to settling in Okanagan, where more equitable climatic conditions are obtainable, arrived today in charge of A. L. Bond of Winnipeg. The party is being shown the valley by H. Percival Lee of Vernon, who originated the idea of bringing personally-conducted excursions. He says the visitors are simply delighted with the climate and amazed at the richness of the soils, fruit growing possibilities and variety and quality of the agricultural products of the district. This means the advent of hundreds of other home-seekers and the running of similar monthly excursions from Winnipeg.

Mr. Bond declares that Okanagan fruits sold in Manitoba is primarily responsible for this movement of settlers into the valley, and the knowledge of the splendid climate, which is generally becoming known on the outside.

THE PRINCIPLES OF A RAILWAY POLICY.

In the discussion of a railway policy we are asked to discard the consideration of "academic" principles and consider the needs of the present only. We are asked to accept the assurance that "an aggressive railway policy," whatever that may imply in its totality, would sweep the country and maintain the present Government strongly entrenched in power. Even if this were true, and we are taught to beware of the Greeks when they come bringing presents, popularity is no real test of the merits of the measure. It more often represents what the people are led to believe that what they ought to believe. The country was swept last general elections by a policy of the Dominion Government with respect to a transcontinental railway. We believe that a more ill-conceived and ruinous contract in the public interests was never entered into by the Government. We are beginning to realize in British Columbia the full force and effect of its wisdom. Nevertheless, the electors threw up their hats for it, and even many Conservatives, who had never cast Liberal votes in their lives before, joined in the acclaim. The man who always walks in the procession is not always right, nor is he always entitled to our respect. Therefore, we say the popularity with which a measure may be received is not the true criterion of its merits. It may be entirely bereft of principles. An "aggressive policy," which undoubtedly means the indiscriminate ladling out of favors to railway companies in various parts of the Province, would no doubt be popular. It would probably carry into power any Government that proposed it. The spending of money is always popular and will even make "good fellows" of Governments. It would probably stimulate speculation to an unusual degree, and many would make money as a consequence. Incidentally, considerable development would be brought about.

The day of reckoning, however, would come also. We have had experience of this before in British Columbia, and those who prepare to repeat the experiment on a still larger scale will be responsible for a large crop of evils, should their views be carried into effect. Some one in a facetious moment asked: "What has posterity done for us?" We may also ask: "What has posterity done to us that it should be shouldered with burdens and problems not of its own making?" And posterity means, in this instance, our own sons and daughters and the sons and daughters of our neighbors and friends.

The lack of comprehensive, underlying principles in much of the legislation of the past of British Columbia is responsible for many of the problems of our Government today. We complain of the land grant to the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Co., of the liabilities imposed by aid to the Victoria & Sidney, Shuswap & Okanagan, and Nakusp & Slocan railways, and of the coal and other lands given to the Canadian Pacific Railway. These in their day were part and parcel of a progressive railway policy.

Are we satisfied with the results? Would the Legislature, with the facts now before their eyes, make the same bargains ever again? Is it not a fact that these contracts were entered into as the result of the exigencies of "the living present" without reference to any principle?

Are we not now, in the dyking situation in the Fraser River valley, dealing with something which has resulted from the same lack of forethought? The reclamation of lands in the various dyking districts, which has involved a liability of over $1,000,000, was undertaken as the result of pressure brought to bear on the Government of the day, without due and careful enquiry respecting the requirements. The Governments that did these things were not unmindful of the people's interests. They were anxious to bring about prosperity and development; but their acts in these matters formed no part of a matured policy on well-defined lines. There was an absence of those "academic" principles, which we are cautioned against considering lest they should interfere with the operations of an "aggressive railway policy."

So far as the remarks of the Colonist on the desirability of co-operation between the Province and Dominion in respect to railways are concerned, they were intended to apply to conditions as they should be, if the Government at Ottawa were conscious of its responsibility and realized its duty concerning the Province of British Columbia and were not intended to have bearing upon the present railway situation. In relation to the latter, the duty of the Government is plain. It must cut its clothes according to its cloth. With existing liabilities of between $12,000,000 and $13,000,000, with a deficit in sight next year, notwithstanding increased taxation, and with no new sources of revenue to draw upon, to assume the additional responsibility of paying the interest upon millions more of debt, besides giving away land and other concessions, would be an act of unutterable folly, and a crime against the people who have to bear the burdens of increased taxation.

In reiteration of what was stated in previous issues, the Province, in view of the present prosperity of Canada and the immediate prospects of development in the West, can afford to take a reasonable risk in assisting railway construction upon business principles, but it cannot afford to plunge or gamble to please those who have personal ends to serve.

LINEVITCH TO BE REINFORCED.

Probably Will Be Given Seven Army Corps, 240,000 Men.

London, March 25.—The Chronicle today prints a St. Petersburg despatch stating that the Russians are aiming to concentrate along the line of the Sungari river, between Bodune and Kirin, an excellent strategical position. According to reliable information, Linevitch is to be speedily reinforced with seven fresh army corps, totalling 240,000 men. It is stated at the war office that the two great armies will probably be formed with the supreme command of both in Grand Duke Nicholaievitch, and General Kuropatkin and General Linevitch under him, at the head of separate commands.

DYNAMITE EXPLOSION.

Wheeling, W. Va., March 25.—A quantity of dynamite was accidentally exploded this afternoon near the camp of Carhill & Parnill, sub contractors on the Wabash extension at Okonoko, W. Va. Three workmen were killed and two injured.

STANDARD OIL MANIPULATION.

Chanite, Kansas, March 25.—The Standard Oil Company cut the price of crude oil today for the Kansas field, affecting all grades of oil, two cents. Thirty-two degrees gravity and above is now quoted at 68 cents. Thirty degrees oil and lowest grade, the standard is at present buying in Kansas, is 48 cents. The quotation for 22 to 28 degree oil is 26 cents.

LABOR SITUATION CRITICAL.

Shiftiness of Russian Workmen Causes Shut Downs—Trouble Brewing.

St. Petersburg, March 26.—(2:15 a. m.)—The industrial problem in St. Petersburg has again entered on a difficult stage, the owners of many factories having, in consequence of continued backing and filling by their employees, decided to close down their works entirely, locking out thirty thousand men. The idle workmen are in an ugly frame of mind. The machinery in one of the big cotton mills was wrecked yesterday and the spirit of disorder is in the air. Trouble is expected and it is believed the wilder spirits are now not without bombs and other weapons of defence and reprisal. Guard officers continue to receive warnings that they will sign their death warrants if they order their troops to fire and a separate democratic propaganda of demonstration and disturbance is evident. The proprietors of the cotton mills and woolen mills, which have been operating on the smallest possible margin of profit, are generally planning to pay off and discharge their employees, trying with the aid of the authorities to send them back to the villages. It is openly stated among the workmen that the fighting wing of the social revolutionists has passed sentence of death on 30 personages, the list being headed with the name of Grand Duke Alexis and ending with that of the Emperor and also containing the name of the Dowager Empress.

ABANDONED PURSUIT.

U. S. Marshal Returned to 'Frisco Last Night After Effort to Arrest Kirk.

United States Marshal Cody, who came from San Francisco to arrest John L. Kirk, the former bartender who was wanted for safebreaking at Cape Nome, left for San Francisco last night by the steamer Princess Beatrice, having abandoned the effort to secure the fugitive who has been in hiding since his release as a result of habeas corpus proceedings taken by Mr. George E. Powell.

Kirk is alleged to have robbed the safe in the New Eldorado saloon at Cape Nome in May, 1902. He was then in company with his wife, a music hall performer under the name of Lulu Watts. She and another woman are said by the marshal to have gone into the bar-room at the back of the saloon—the northern saloons are arranged with a wholesale place in front and the bar-room at the rear. The women engaged the bartender in conversation while Kirk went to the safe, which was unlocked. He opened the safe and took from it a tin box which contained $260 and a diamond ring. He looted this.

Kirk was suspected and arrested the same day. Bonds were fixed at $1200 in the preliminary hearing and the trial fixed for the autumn. In the meantime Kirk took a steamer and left Nome. He was traced to Nevada, then to California and ultimately to this city, where he was arrested about a week ago when a request was received from San Francisco.

Kirk's friends then stated that his wife had sold her valuables, even a diamond which she had inserted in a tooth—a feature which earned her the name of "Diamond Tooth Lu"—and put up the bond for the fugitive, which bonds were estreated when they left Nome.

John Oliver's attitude on the Dyking Bill towards his leader may be expressed in the language of Dante's Inferno—"To me leave thou the task of speaking."

All Talk Of Peace

Diplomatic Circles in Europe on the Qui Vive for Settlement of the War.

Negotiations Said to Have Already Begun Between the Belligerents.

Believed That Preliminary Steps Were Taken in St. Petersburg.

PARIS, March 26.—(1:30 a. m.)—Enquiry last night tends to strongly confirm the statement in last evening's despatches that approaches toward peace between Russia and Japan have already begun at a private conference in another European capital. In view of the statement from St. Petersburg that pour parlers were going on in Paris, the Associated Press last night called at the Russian embassy and the Japanese legation. Ambassador Nelidoff stated specifically that he knew nothing about such negotiations being in progress here, and Minister Monito, while declining to discuss the question of peace, authorized the statement that no pour parlers were occurring in Paris. At the foreign office it was also stated that officials there were not aware of steps towards peace.

The foregoing statement by Count Nelidoff, while indicating that negotiations are not proceeding here, do not alter the main statement that peace preliminaries are

Actually Progressing

elsewhere. The real explanation is probably to be found in the Paris despatch of last evening that a preliminary conference had already been held at a northern capital. There are strong indications that this capital is Stockholm, and that the negotiations will be conducted at Stockholm if the preliminaries prove successful. Copenhagen is also mentioned, but it is understood that the point was raised against future conferences there on account of the large and influential British element at that capital, whose sympathies might be hostile to Russia. The personage acting for Russia in the preliminary stage of the negotiations is described as a "leading general." The personage acting for Japan is not disclosed, but he is believed to be one who has heretofore taken a prominent part in Japan's affairs. There is reason to believe that

St. Petersburg and Tokio

are aware of the results of the meeting, and that similar information is in the possession of certain diplomatic circles in Paris. This simultaneous receipt of identical information in St. Petersburg and Paris probably accounts for St. Petersburg's view that the preliminaries actually occurred here.

Concerning the final result of peace efforts, they seem to hinge less upon the actual terms than upon Japan's willingness to pause during the successful culmination of her military campaign, as Japan is proceeding on the theory that, once in possession of Vladiovstok, she can dictate her own terms, including indemnity, which Russia thus far has strongly resented.

Opinion in London.

London, March 25.—Officials and diplomats in London preserve a sphynx like silence on the subject of peace prospects in the Far East. The information contained in the Associated Press despatches from St. Petersburg today was conveyed to Baron Hayashi, the Japanese ambassador at London. He said he did not know of any negotiations and repeated his statements that Japan intended to continue the war until Russia expressed a desire to make terms of peace.

While naturally it is impossible to obtain any direct confirmation from officials, the manner of reception of the Associated Press information by the officials conveys the impression that there is cognizance of

Tentative Proceedings

at least, and that much more is known than will be admitted.

In well-informed circles in London it has been known for some time that peace in the near future is not only possible, but probable. All movements leading to the commencement of actual negotiations have been concealed under such a successful show of ignorance and incredulity that even those in the closest confidence of the highest personages have been deceived. A brother official said to the Associated Press today: "If I knew it were true that these negotiations were going on, I would consider it of little less than a crime to give out even a hint of their nature, so much hangs in the balance and so much might be lost by premature disclosure."

N. Y. MOTHER'S SUICIDE.

Takes Carbolic Acid and Arsenic and Then Turns on Gas.

New York, March 25.—After turning on the gas in the chamber in which her two children were asleep, Mrs. Voltier Makowski, wife of a Brooklyn man, today committed suicide by taking carbolic acid and arsenic poison. Edmond, the elder of the children awoke and discovered that the chamber was filling with gas, shut it off. Attempting to awaken his little sister, she was found in the room unconscious and later dying in the kitchen. Their father was absent. The boy went into the street in search of help and summoned an acquaintance he met. The mother was dead before a doctor reached the house. No reason is known for the mother's action.

GREAT LABOR CONFERENCE.

Employers and Employees at New York Revising Agreement.

New York, March 24.—The second session of the general convention of employers and employees, called for the purpose of revising the arbitration agreement and discussing other matters affecting more than 100,000 mechanics in the building trades, was held tonight. Thirty of the 32 employers' association were represented at the meeting, and also all of the 22 unions. After the present arbitration treaty had been considered, section by section, a special committee composed of four members of the employers' association and four members of the unions, to draft a revised arbitration agreement, was appointed.

It was decided that the present arbitration agreement adopted at a conference held in July 1902, remain in force until the revised draft is approved of and adopted by the joint convention.

A KINDNESS RECIPROCATED.

Paris, March 25.—Foreign Minister Delcasse has transmitted to two little girls of Dijon, exquisite gold brooches set with diamonds from Emperor Nicholas. The children embroidered a dainty lavette for the baby heir to the Russian throne.

EMIGRANTS FROM IRELAND.

Queenstown, March 25.—The season's tide of emigration fully set in today, when the White Star liner Celtic took 1,040 Irish from this port for America. Reports from the interior lead to the conclusion that emigration from Ireland will exceed the record for several years past.

RUSH OF IMMIGRANTS.

New York, March 25.—The total arrivals of immigrants at Ellis Island for the past week has numbered over 26,000. This number is far in excess for the same period in years past. There will be no let up during the coming week, over 23,000 being expected from the eighteen vessels due before next Saturday.

MINING AT ROSSLAND.

Rossland, B. C., March 25.—Matters in a mining way are moving along smoothly and the output continues to be of a satisfactory character. The shipments for the week were: Le Roi, 2,850; Centre Star, 2,040; War Eagle, 1,260; Le Roi No. 2 30; Spitzee, 120; White Bear, 75; White Bear (milled), 600; Jumbo, 50 tons. Total for week, 7,025; and for the year, 81,701 tons.

REVOLUTION IN CRETE.

Canea, Island of Crete, March 25.—A revolutionary band of 600 persons, demanding Greek rule, and which has been active for some days, fired on Cretan gendarmes today, seriously wounding two of them. Cretan reinforcements are expected from Candia. Prince George, in a proclamation issued today, urges the people not to encourage the revolutionary movement, which at present appears to be confined to Canea. The outlying districts are quiet.

STEEL COMPANIES RESUME.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 25.—Announcements were made today that operations would be resumed at once on the plant of the American Steel Hoop Co. at Greenville, Penn., Liard and Warren, Ohio These mills have been closed down ever since the beginning of the strike of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers several months ago. It is stated that 50 per cent of the strikers have promised to return to work at the company's terms. The American Steel Hoop Co. is a subsidiary company of the U. S. Steel Corporation.

A FATAL EXCURSION.

Florida Boating Party Meets With Disaster—Four Are Drowned.

Rock Ledge, Fla., March 25.—Several parties went yesterday to Ocean Beach from Georgiana. Returning, a squall overtook a party of five in one rowboat, containing Mr. and Mrs. Miller, of Chautauqua, N. Y.; Mr. Moore and daughter, Miss Edith, of Holyoke, Mass., and A. A. Baldwin, of Georgiana, with whom the rest were boarding. The boat was capsized and all but Mr. Miller were drowned.

When the squall struck all clung to the overturned boat but one by one they lost their holds and sank, the heavy waves gradually exhausting their strength. Mr. Miller drifted with the boat to the shore opposite Lotus, wher his cries for help were heard.

At a late hour this afternoon none of the missing bodies had been found.

A BOY'S TRAGIC FATE.

Missing Lad Believed to Be Locked in Unknown Empty Freight Car.

New York, March 25.—Locked in a freight car somewhere between New York and the lakes, dead or dying from starvation and fright is, the police fear, the fate of seven-year-old John Donohy of this city. The lad has been missing from his home since March 20, but it was not until today that the possibility of such an end for the little fellow occurred to the officers who have been searching for him. It was not until today that they succeeded in finding any tangible clue upon which to work. Then it was learned that young Donohy, with several companions, was seen playing around some empty freight cars at Eleventh avenue and Fifty-third street late last Monday night. One of the boys had told the police that he saw Donohy and another boy enter one of the cars just before it was attached to a train which was being made up. As the train was moving away the other boy jumped out, but he saw nothing more of Donohy. Since that time nothing has been heard from the missing boy. The police believe the car may have been locked by some trainman who did not know the lad was in the car, and that it is now somewhere far out on the line.

SAN DOMINGO'S CREDITORS.

Foreigners Take Advantage of Situation to Press Their Claims.

San Domingo, Republic of Santo Domingo, March 25.—Statements published that diplomats here and financial representatives of foreign governments, which are creditors of Santo Domingo, have, after a conference, agreed on a temporary settlement of the financial questions involving this republic are premature. Foreign creditors and principally Italy and Belgium are taking advantage of the deferring of the proposed convention between the United States and Santo Domingo and of the Venezuelan situation to demand the payment of their claims. In order to meet their agreement it has been proposed by the Dominican government that an American be designated as commissioner for the collection of all dues at southern ports, forty-five per cent. of such collections being set apart for the expenses of the government; should the convention be ultimately rejected, the money to be divided in just proportions to all creditors, including the Santo Domingo Improvement Co. of New York. It is also suggested that the American government take charge of the customs house at San Cheg and Samana under the arbitral award in the Santo Domingo Improvement Co. case. It is understood that the Improvement Co. claiming prior rights, demands that fifty-five per cent. of the moneys collected at the northern ports be also deposited in an American bank to await the final disposition of the convention. It is doubtful if such a proposition will be accepted. Thus far nothing has been decided. The government is asked to form an agreement being realized in order to prevent difficulties with European creditors which might lead to intervention and also precipitate internal troubles. The country is quiet, although the situation is unsettled.

MARCONI'S HONEYMOON.

Liverpool, March 25.—William Marconi and his bride were passengers on the steamer Campania, which sailed from this port today.

PORT ARTHUR ADMINISTRATION.

Local Government Machinery Gives Promise of Success.

According to intelligence from Port Arthur the local administration machinery is working well, promising successful results ere long. The staff of the naval station are engaged in investigations on the sea day and night, and their business is also approaching completion, but many repeated investigations are required as to the disposal of vessels sunk in the harbor. On the whole, the position of these ships gives prospects of their recovery, but it is impossible to obtain details under the existing circumstances. Most of the Japanese officers at Port Arthur are residing in buildings formerly occupied by Russian officers. Of the scenes of recent operations on the main defence line that in the direction of Panlung shan is most terrible and the collection of dead still continues there. A large number of uniforms are being discovered on the scene covering the bones of their wearers, who died brave deaths last summer. There are over 10,000 Russian wounded under Japanese and Russian medical treatment at Port Arthur.

The 25 destroyers, whose names were recently announced, are expected to be all completed in August or September nxt. Their names were, of course, given with the Emperor's sanction, but one or two of the names are said to have been specially suggested by **His Majesty.**

It seems, according to news received by the Kanagawa, that the railway at the Russian rear before the battle of Mukden was then destroyed by Chinese brigands, which must have made the retreat more difficult. The Asahi war correspondent wired that on Feb. 16 and 17 parties of Hunghutzu cut the railway between Teihling and Kaiyuan. About the same time the Chinese brigands, working for the Japanese, destroyed a large amount of Russian stores at Fakimen.

A Shanghai report states that the Italian government has resolved to withdraw the troops from China. Leaving a very few guards, including sailors and cavalry, at the legation in Pekin, all the others will be recalled during this month. The Italian Asiatic squadron will also be recalled, except one or two cruisers.

A bullet proof jacket invented by a Tokio Japanese has been successfully tested at Omori. Regulation military rifle bullets fired at a distance of 25 yards failed to penetrate the jacket, which weighs ten pounds.

A large number of Koreans intend to emigrate to Mexico. Thirteen hundred left Chemulpo on March 1.

THE QUESTION AT ISSUE.

The Toronto Globe, in its issue of Saturday, March 18, has a leading article on the school question on which it makes a fervid appeal to its readers not to be misled by the sectarian cries raised on all sides. It remarks that leaders of political, racial and religious coteries are making full use of so rare an opportunity for the sectional agitation by which they live and lead; and that appeals are being made to the narrowest prejudices and the bitterest passions.

In order to steady public opinion upon the subject, the Globe points out very distinctly and categorically that:

1. The question does not touch the merits or demerits of the separate school question in any way.

2. That it is not a question of the continuance of separate schools as a feature of the educational system of the Province of Ontario.

3. That it is not a question whether or not separate schools are to be introduced in the Northwest. Separate schools are now established there, have been there for a quarter of a century, and are established not by practice merely, but by law, maintained and administered as part of the educational system.

4. That the question is: "Shall the Dominion Parliament, in giving full Provincial status to Saskatchewan and Alberta, leave their Legislatures absolutely free exclusively to make laws in relation to education; or shall any of the provisions of the British North America Act limiting the autonomy of Provinces in matters of education be introduced into the Provincial constitutions? That is the question. It is essentially a question of the interpretation and application of constitutional documents. Either Parliament is under obligation to insert a clause in the autonomy bills limiting the educational autonomy of the Provinces in accordance with the provisions of the B. N. A. Act, or it is under no such obligation. If such a clause is required by the Act of Constitution of Canada, then it must be inserted, no matter what public opinion in Ontario may say. If such a clause is forbidden by the Act of Constitution, then it must be omitted, no matter what public opinion in Quebec may say."

But the Globe, in dealing with it, leaves the matter very much as it is, claiming that constitutional authorities of note can be quoted for either view of the case. It does, however, remark that: "Nothing is more discouraging, nothing more inimical to the weal of Canada, than this sudden and utterly unwarranted outbreak of unintelligent and bigoted political and sectarian rancor, setting the Ultramontanes of Quebec and the Orangemen of Ontario at each other's throats, matching the violence of the French Nationalist press by the violence of the Anti-French press, and planting in every community a root of bitterness that will yield return in mistrust and disunion. Such a campaign is the worst form of social, political and sectarian devilment, which no pretence of loyalty or liberty can mask."

It is interesting and extremely important to note the opinion of so eminent a constitutional authority as Christopher Robinson, K. C., which was read in Parliament by Dr. Sproule and published in our Ottawa correspondence yesterday. It is as follows:

"The right of the Dominion Parliament to impose restrictions on the Provinces about to be formed in dealing with the subject of education and separate schools, is not beyond question. I am of opinion that section 93, B. N. A. Act, does not apply to the Provinces now about to be established. Its provisions would appear to be intended for, and confined to, the then Provinces and to the Union formed 1867. There is not in any part of the Northwest Territories as a Province right or privilege with respect denominational school possessed by any class of person, created by the Province, or existing at such union and a right subsequently established by the Dominion in the part now about to be made a Province, does not appear to me to come within the enactment."

THE SACRIFICE.

Life.

"Young man, can you sit up and make love to a girl every night and do your work during the day?"

"No, sir. And I've decided to give up my job, as I can't keep it and do justice to the girl."

It is understood that Earl Roberts will pay Canada a visit this year. It is needless to say that "Bobs" will be welcome.

All Quiet At The Front

According to Russian Reports Both Sides Are Busy Reorganizing Forces.

Russian Squadron Reported to Have Sailed From Madagascar.

Officer Arrested at Simintin Complains of Harsh Treatment by Japs.

GUNSHU PASS, March 25.—(Evening)—On the front all is quiet. Both sides are busily reorganizing and affecting new concentrations.

A large party of Japanese prisoners passed through this place today on the way to Harbin. One of the Japanese is a spy, who was captured in a uniform of the 11th Siberian Rifles. He will be tried by court martial.

Reports to the effect that Gen. Ma has occupied Mukden and Tie Pass with Chinese troops are unfounded.

The Japanese have refused to confirm Chinese officials who have been appointed to various posts in Southern Manchuria.

The Chinese governor of Kirin is said to have received letters from Field Marshal Oyama, informing him that the Japanese will enter Kirin April 10.

The appointment of Gen. Kuropatkin to the command of the First Army is proving a source of great satisfaction to soldiers and officers.

RUSSIAN SQUADRON MOVING.

London, March 25.—A despatch to Lloyds from Tamatave, Madagascar, says: "The Russian squadron has sailed; destination unknown."

The correspondent of Reuter's at Tamatave forwarded a despatch in exactly the same words as the above. The only explanation at present seems to be that Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron did not leave the vicinity of Madagascar since it sailed from Nosaib Island March 16.

WAR VIOLATION PAROLE.

Harbin, March 25.—Sergius Poletik, the Russian officer who was captured on board the steamer Nigretia, en route from Shanghai to Vladivostok, and released on parole, and who, with Capt. Sealonsky and Lieuts. Barabash and Lepoi, of the Port Arthur garrison, has arrived at Harbin, on his way to Russia, declares, in view of the arrest of a Russian officer at Sinmintin, for violating his parole by traveling overland, that he and his fellow officers were informed by the Japanese consul at Shanghai that Japan had no objection to their returning to Russia by way of Sinmintin.

Capt. Poletik's statement is as follows: "In view of the arrest of a Russian officer at Sinmintin, and Japanese statements regarding the arrest, I regard it my moral duty to declare that no conditions as to non-passage through Sinmintin, which then did not enter into the zone of hostilities, were imposed on us, and many officers returned by this route, including myself and three others from Port Arthur, who arrived at Mukden on Feb. 24. The officer arrested at Sinmintin at the moment of its occupation could not have known at Shanghai that the road was in the hands of the Japanese. Further, I was present at a conversation in the Astor house at Shanghai of officers with the Japanese consul, who stated that there could be no objection on the part of the Japanese to our passage through Sinmintin. The Russian consul at Shanghai also would not have allowed officers to attempt the trip if Sinmintin had not been regarded as neutral."

SITUATION GLOOMY.

Paris, March 25.—A St. Petersburg correspondent of the Matin states that the situation of the Russian armies in Manchuria is extremely gloomy, as is also the situation in Vladivostok.

FIRE IN INDIANA.

Carbon, Ind., March 25.—Fire here this afternoon destroyed twenty business houses and 40 residences, causing a loss of $200,000. The business section of the town is practically wiped out.

The town was without fire protection and the high wind fanned the blaze until efforts to control it were futile. A special from Brazil, six miles south of here, brought a portion of the fire department from that city, which saved part of the residence section. The town has about 1,500 inhabitants.

ROYAL LOVERS MEET.

Gustavus of Sweden Visits Fiancee and Mother on Board British Cruiser.

Naples, March 25.—Prince Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden went on board the British cruiser Essex in the harbor here today to pay a visit to the Duchess of Connaught and his betrothed, Princess Margaret Victoria. The Essex later proceeded to Capri, where the Duchess of Connaught and her daughter visited the Crown Princess of Sweden, who is stopping on the island.

DISCOVER MANY BOMBS.

Eighty Deadly Missiles Located in Cemetery at Warsaw.

Warsaw, March 25.—(Midnight.)—The police discovered 80 bombs today hidden in a brick grave in the Powonski cemetery in Warsaw.

M. Maximivitch, the governor-general of Warsaw, received the following consuls, officials, clergy and civilians today, and in his speech promised an impartial government, without prejudice to any nationality. The speech has made a most favorable impression in Polish circles.

RELICS OF THE LOST CAUSE.

Tattered Confederate Battle Flags Sent Home by Their Captors.

Washington, March 25.—Acting under authority of congress, Gen. Ainsworth, the military secretary, today began the delivery to the governors of all the southern states affected, of all Confederate flags captured by the Union forces during the war of the rebellion. At the same time the military secretary addressed a letter to each of the governors, informing him of the action of congress and of the steps taken by the war department for the return of the battle-flags.

Since their capture, these flags have been stored in the war department, and many of them are in a fair state of preservation. There are about 540 of them, but some cannot be returned from lack of identification.