Fire's Great

The Berlin Felt Boot Company's Large Establishment Goes Up In Smoke.

Department Was Powerless and Flames Left to Complete Their Work.

Loss Will Exceed One Hundred and Seventy Five.

Berlin, Ont., Feb. 16.-One of the Berlin, Ont., Feb. 16.—One of the most disastrous conflagrations in Ber lin's history occurred this evening, when a large four-storey building of the Berlin Felt Boot Company, the largest of the kind in the Dominion, was burned to the ground. The fire was discovered in the spinning and carding room on the first floor about 6:45 and no time was lost in getting the fire brigade out, but owing to the severity of the weather and low pressure and a strong wind, very little could be done to save the structure. The fire raged for over two hours and a batf and is still burning.

The Waterloo fire brigade arrived about 8 o'clock to render assistance. Pieces of the burning embers were carried for a mile. The fire was quite visible at the distance of six miles morth. The loss is estimated by George Rumpel, one of the proprietors, at \$175,000: insurance between \$40,000 and \$50,000. The industry employed about 200 hands and was established thirty years ago, and was known from Victoria to Haiffax.

•••••••• To Checkmate England

St. Petersburg, Feb. 16.—
Lieut.-General Ivanoff, governorgeneral and commander of the
troops in Turkestan, has gone to
Tashdend with General Sakbasioff, chief of the staff of the
anilitary district. It is said in
high military circles that General
Ivanoff has been instructed to
propare for the contingency of
military action in the direction of
India in the event of Great Britain adopting an attitude openly
mostifle to Russia or attempting
to prejudice Russian interests in
Persia or Thibet.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE IRISH MEMBERS

William Redmond Resents Statement as to New York



Destruction FIRST DESCRIPTIVE STORY OF BATTLE AT PORT ARTHUR

An Eyewitness of The First Action of the War Succeeds in Getting Through The Russian Lines at Port Arthur And Sends an Uncensored Description of the Attack by The Japanese Fleet.

The Mobilizing

Of Japan's Army

Three Hundred Thousand Soldiers at Bases Ready For Embarkation.

Task Carried Out With Great Precision and in Perfect Secrecy.

Nagasaki, Feb. 12, via Shanghai, Feb. 15.—The mobilization of the Japanese army has been carried out methodically. It is estimated that 300,000 troops are now ready to be placed in the field without impairing the national defence. The movements of the troops are surrounded in secrecy. They are being moved at night toward their bases at Sasebo, Kurea, Mojui and Yokosuka, and the dights of ordinary trains are extinguished when in the neighborhood of troop trains.

Russian Barbarity

Special to Colonist. Special to Colonist,

Hakodate, Saturday, Feb. 13.—
Intense indignation is felt at the action of four Russian cruisers in sinking the little steamer Nakinour Maru. The latter had stopped and hauled down her flag and all her crew and passengers, had gone below, but the Russian ships surrounded her and kept firing, and finally fired a torpedo into her, sinking her. No attempt was made to rescue her crew or passengers, who numbered thirty-three.

SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE COLONIST.

London, Monday, Feb. 15.—The Daily Mail has just received the following uncensored details of the first bat-

"Yeenhow (New Chwang), Wednesday Morning, Feb. 10.—I have just reached here by special train from Port Arthur, and to save time have written my account while traveling on a locomotive. There was no other method of getting out of Port Arthur or of transmitting a message of this length, as since the bombardment, on Tuesday, no seeks have been permitted to leave the harbor, and the railway telegraphs are reserved for the exclusive use of Russian officials. There were only four special correspondents present at the bombardment, Reuter's representative, two foreign correspondents and myself; unfortunately one of them was wounded.

"About midnight on Monday the town was roused by the firing of big guns. I hastened up the hill on which the main battery is situated, and saw that six Japanese torpedo boats had approached within half a mile of the Russian fleet, and were showing lights, funnels and signals just like those of the Russians. "The Japanese torpedo boats crept quite close to the Russian ships. Before being discovered each of the Japan-

ese boats discharged torpedoes, three of which took effect, striking the battleships Tsarevich, cruiser Pallada. The three damaged ships returned to the harbor entrance to avoid sinking. "Notwithstanding the continuous fire from the ships and forts, four of the Japanese torpedo boats escaped; , however, sunk and another, in a sinking condition, was deserted by her crew and afterwards captured by the

"I saw several Japanese cruisers in the distance. The remainder of the fleet was still farther off, lying eastward, showing searchlights. After the retiring of the Japanese torpedo boats, the Russian cruiser squadron. eastward, showing searchights. After one returned of the Japanese corpers boats, the Russian cruiser squadron, under Admiral Prince Moktompsky, followed to investigate, and then returned. The action ceased at 3 a.m. The loss on the Russian ships was eight killed and twenty wounded. Apart from the disablement of the three Russian ships, the damage done to the fleet and the fort is not very great. There are many Russian torpedo boat destroyers in the harbor, but they were not ready to resist an attack. The Japanese, in fact, created a great deal of surprise, only by their unexpected onslaught, but by the promptness and bravery with which they acted.

"On Tuesday morning the news arrived from Dalny that the Japanese fleet was steering westward in attack formation. It came in sight about 11 o'clock. There were in all fifteen ships in two lines of battle, six battleformation. It came an signat about 11 o cook. There were in an inteen sin ps in two these of battle, six battle ships, six first-class cruisers and three second-class cruisers. The Russiane had outside thirteen large vessels under Admiral Stark in the flagship Petropavlovpski, and Rear-Admiral Prince Mok tompsky in the flagship Peresviet, excluding the Pallada, the Tsarevitch, the flagship of Rear-Admiral Mollas, and the Rethvisan, which were lying

"The action was commenced by the big guns of the land battery. The morning was dull with a light wind, and the heavy smoke rendered it difficult to observe the details of the action, but I witnessed all that was possible from Beacon Hill, opposite the entrace to the harbor, in the line of fire, Two shells fell near us and about twenty others fell in the old town and the western harbor, where many steamers flying neutral flags were anchored. commencement of the action all the people fled towards the hill outside the town and got under its pro-

"A little while after this the first shell, a big 12-inch one, exploded, smashing the office fronts of Guensberg's Yalu Concessions Company and the Russo-Chinese Bank. The streets were then entirely deserted, but the local police kept splendid order. There was no looting, and the women and children were very brave. Regiments from the adjoining barracks and camps came pouring through the town to take up defensive positions in the event of the Japa-

"The Japanese warships steamed slowly past in line of battle to the westward and about four miles off, each vessel beginning to fire when opposite the Russian ships, which were two miles off shore. The action now became general. There was no manoeuvring, simply heavy, fast firing on both sides. I counted over 300 shells, a few of which reached the mark. Others did not explode during the action. Several merchant steamers outside in the roads moved their position, but none were allowed to leave their auchorage in the harbor.

william Redmond Resents Statement as to New York
Corruption.

Loudon, Feb. 16.—Wm. Redmond research at lines are being ready for each of the reserves. All the steamers of fagarises merchant lines are being repaired of the reserves. All the steamers of fagarises merchant lines are being repaired of the reserves. All the steamers of fagarises merchant lines are being repaired to fagarises merchant lines are being repaired to find the discussion of the sabilect of Chines and the sability and the sability and the sability and the sability and the

war stracking Pore Arthur week a number of American naval officials. This caused something akin to a feeling of consternation among the Russian officers.

ARRIVALS FROM JAPAN.

Subordinate Officers of Nippon Lines Lose Their Johs.

Subordinate Officers of Nippon Lines Lose Their Johs.

San Francisco, Feb. 15.—George Morgan, a nephew of J. Pierpont Morgan, a nephew of J. Pierpont

....... Wirings From

Ottawa City

First Batch of New Rifles Completed and Will Be Issued

Capital's Leading Citizens Pay High Compliment to Ex-Mayor Cook.

rom Our Own Correspondent. Ottawa, Feb. 15.—Sir Charles Ross, of Quebec, is in the city today, and says the first batch of new rifles from his factory are completed. Shipments will be sent to the militia and Mounted Police departments.

A meeting of the city council and a representative delegation of citizens, headed by Sir Sandford Fleming, presented to the city corporation a portrait, in oil, of ex-Mayor Cook, painted by J. Colin Forbes. This was a spontaneous offering of the citizens of Obtawa to mark the resigning mayor's two

Russians After Japs Special to Colonist

Wei Hai Wei, Saturday, Feb.
13.—Two Japanese battleships,
four cruisers are cruising outside
here. A German vessel, which
was looking on, was chased.

Chefoo, Saturday, Feb. 13.—
Four Russian battleships and three cruisers left Port Arthur yesterday in search for the Japanese squadron, which was reported south on Wednesday night and seen at a distance from Chefoo. The captain of a British steamer passed a German vessel, the Thetis, some way out from Wei Hai Wei, and saw her later take a course contrary to her former one and signal. The seven warships then turned back to Chefoo.

New regulations regarding the free entry of returned packages and coverings and of articles of Canadian growth, produce or manufacture, returned after exportation, have been issued by the department of customs. LIBERAL NOMINATED.

Welland, Ont., Feb. 15.—Monck Liberals have nominated F. A. Ross, Welland Port, as a candidate for the House PILLS KILL GIRLS.

Bracebridge, Ont., Feb. 15.—Two little girls, aged four and five, daughters of Samuel McMurray, of Vankoughnet, are dead from eating proprietary pills in the absence of their parents.

CAPE COLONY ELECTIONS. Progressive Party Has Secured Major-ity of Five Over Africander Bund.

Cape Town, Feb. 15.—The parliamentary elections just held in Cape Colony have resulted in a Progressive majority of five over the Africander Bund. The final figures are Progressive 50, and Bund 45 members.

PREPARING FOR HOT TIME. R. L. Borden Resting Preparatory to Opening of Parliament.

Gallatin, Mo., Feb. 15.—Leo Deford, cashier of the Bank of Alta, Mont., which failed last month, following his disappearance when a warrant for his arrest charging him with using \$20,000 of the bank's funds was issued, surrendered here today.

FATAL FAMILY QUARREL. New York, Feb. 15.-Frank Bartrenk

Conservatives **Are Victorious**

St. John City Captured By Turn Over of Twelve Hun dred Votes.

Liberal Majorities Are Whittled Down in Every Constituency.

Yesterday's Bye-Elections Indicate a Turning of the Tide.

Montreal, Que., Feb. 16.—Eight byeelections to fill vacancies in the House
of Commons were held today, resulting
as follows:

East Lambton—Armstrong (Conservative), elected over Jenkins (Liberal), by
550 majority. At the last election in
this constituency Oliver Simmons (Conservative), was elected by a majority
of 221.

East Bruce—Donnelly (Conservative),
is elected over Robb (Liberal), by 150
majority. The Conservative majority
at the last election was 43.

Hochelaga (Montrenl)—Rivet (Liberative), by 636. The Liberal majority at
this elected over Banarad (Conservative), by 636. The Liberal majority at
the last election was 665.

In St. Hiacinthe, Blauchet (Liberal),
is elected over Tache (Conservative),
by 195 majority. The Liberal majority
at the last election was 1.111.

In Montmagny, Lavergne (Liberal),
is elected over Romsseau (Conservative), by 300 majority, At the last
election the Liberal majority was 213.

In St. John, N. B., N. B. Daniels
(Conservative), was elected over McKeowm (Liberal), by 285 majority. This

***************** Up To France.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 16.—Admiral Wirenuz has been instructed to hold the Russian squadron, consisting of the battleship Ozlabya, the cruisers Aurora and Demitrie Donzkoi and a number of torpedo boat destroyers at Jibuttil, Freuch Somaliland until further orders.

Paris, Feb. 16.—The stopping of the Russian squadron at Jibuttil may lead to international complications, Jibuttil being a neutral French port. It is understood France is not likely to ask the squadron to leave. ***********************

LORD ROBERTS SENDS RESIGNATION

Retires From the War Office and is Succeeded By Connaught.

London, Feb. 15.—It is officially an-counced that Lord Roberts has retired from the War Office, but, at the special request of Premier Balfour, he has consented to place his services at the disposal of the committee for imperial

Efferce.
The Duke of Connaught has been appointed inspector-general under the new army reform scheme. PRINTER IN TROUBLE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 15.—War-

Pneumonia is second only to consumption in the number of deaths which it causes and like consumption always has its beginning with a cold.

At this season you can scarcely glance over a paper without seeing the record of several deaths from this dread dis-

New York, Feb. 15.—Frank Bartrenk shot and killed his wife Rosie at his shot and killed his wife Rosie at his some here today, shot and seriously wounded his stepson, Vincent Horonick, and then committed suicide by shooting in himself. The murderer had had trouble with his wife and through a court order she was to leave the house. She had returned today for some effects when the triple crime was committed.

The French minister of war, General Andre, is one of the most abused men in France, because of his recently announced purpose to promote equality in the ranks of the army. To further this object he has recently abolished the custom of "presenting arms" as a mark of respect. He is accused of fostering socialism in the French ranks and of deliberately following out the policy of realigious and political persecution. He condemned to two years' hard service in the ranks 60 polytechnic students who rebelled against the severity of an examination. General Andre is a great favorite with the common sold'er. He began life in the army as a lleutenant in the imperial guard.

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London Is Still Guessing

Conflicting Reports From Fa East Throw Little Light on Matters.

Tokio Has Not Received Detailed Account of Battle at Port Arthur.

London, Feb. 16.—The despatche from the Far East contain numerous un confirmed and conflicting rumors, amounthem a report of another engagement at Port Arthur in which the Russian lost eight vessels sunk and ten cap

lost eight vessels sunk and ten captured.

A correspondent of the Daily Mail who witnessed the engagement off Port Arthur, confirms previous accounts of the fight and asserts again that one Japamese torpedo boat was stank and amother deserted by its crew in a sinking condition. It was subsequently captured by the Russians.

He says also that the Japamese lost one hattleship and had one cruiser put out of action, and the colonel of the Fifth Russian regiment was killed by a shell during the bombardment.

Cathegrams to the Daily Mail from Wei-Hai-Wei and New Clavang report a Japamese fleet, with transports, cruising in the Gulf of Pechili, apparently with the idea of effecting a landing near Port Dalny.

In connection with the rumors of another bombardment of Port Arthur, the owners of the British steamer Foxton Hall, which was detained by the Russians at Port Arthur, have received news that she has been destroyed by fire.

******************* Chinese Unrest

Special to Colonist.

New Chwang, Friday, Feb. 12.

Great unrest prevails along the Chinese railway and an attack is being planned. All the Chinese regular troops were removed yeserday to the sonthward around Pekin. Another coup de etat is being planned as a protest by the reform party against the Chinese government's inactivity and refusal to assist the Japanese. It is learned from undoubted Chinese sources that a fleet of Japanese transports is in the Gulf of Pechili, waiting to land somewhere between Dalny and Kinchow bay.

February 12th a correspondent of the Times says that the Russlan Vladivo-Times says that the Russlan Vladivo-stock squadron is still in the eastward of Tsguru Strait, the eastern exit being of Isgurn Strat, the eastern exit being guarded by torpedoes.

Tokio, Feb. 15.—The Japanese minister at Washington has officially advised his government that he is receiving offers of large contributions to the war fund from Americans, and requests instructions. It is considered probable that Japan will refuse to accept this aid.

The cabinet will consider the question and formally instruct the minister shortly.

Many applications fer permission to enlist in the Japanese army and navy are coming from various parts of the world. All these applications have been refused, and no foreigners will be allowed to participate in the military or mayal operations of Japan except as spectators.

naval operations of Japan except as spectators.

At a meeting of newspaper men and commercial men today it was resolved to support the government irrespective of party lines. Those present at the meeting approved the proposed plan of curtailing the domestic administration expenses and applying this amount thus saved to the war fund. A plan will be devised for the relief of disabled soldiers and sailors. The meeting also agreed to send a letter of congratulation to Vice Admiral Togo.

A detailed report of his battle at Port Arthur has not been received from Vice Admiral Togo by the Navy department and the public is as yet without the full particulars of the engagement. A letter from one of the men who par A letter from one of the men who par-ticipated in the naval fight says that the torpedo attack succeded through a clever feint. The majority of the torpedo ves-sels manoeuvred in front of the Russian line and held its attention while the rest

line and held its attention while the rest worked around to the rear and got close to the enemy before being discovered, when they fired their destructive missiles and got out of range.

No further news of the Russian Vladivostock fleet has been received here. It is thousant to haye returned to the port of Vladivostock in preference to risking a fight or exhausting its fuel.

Enormous military activity continues, but the government carefully conceals its plans. Every moment of delay helps the Russians to become better prepared for a conflict. The Japanese apparently are unconcerned. They fully realize that the limited capacity of the Transsiblerian railway, the distance of the Russians from their base of supplies and lack of communication by sea sets limitations on the proposed accomplish-

Siberian railway, the distance of the Russians from their base of supplies and lack of communication by sea sets limitations on the proposed accomplishments of Russia in Manchuria. They feel that no danger attaches in that quarter and are awaiting the completton of Japan's naval programme.

Marquis Ito today gave the Associated Press a written expression of his sentineurs towards the American people, as follows: "It is with profound satisfaction that I see so many symptoms of spontaneous sympathy with which the free-thinking people of your great nation seem to watch the present crisis. In my opinion, it was evident that Russia's fligh-hunded expansion towards the hegemony of the East, combined with her recent strenuous military efforts hereabouts, has been becoming a daily menage to our future safety and peaceful existence. Either to enter into cordial and durable understanding with her, cleanly defining and mutually recognizing the respective spheres of interests and binding her thereby to a certain amount of self-restraint in the future, or else to have recourse to measures for safeguarding our future independence, cre it was too late, was the drastic different allernative, and we have sacrificed much energy, time and many oportundities for the sake of peace. Having failed, however, there remains no other way for us but to stand up in defence of our future safety and our own future and the sake of peace and civilization. No trace of race prejudices, no smack of revenage, of Chauvinism, nothen but the cool reason of state, necessary and self-preservation influenced Japans' action."

Washington, Feb. 15.—What the Russians have accomplished at Harbin, the great inland metropolis of Manchuria, is told in a report to the American state department by Mr. Miller, the American to the commendation of the future of Russia, and none but Russian and Chinese are permitted to own land, construct buildings or engage in any permanent enterprise. The city has been created by the Russian government under the management of the