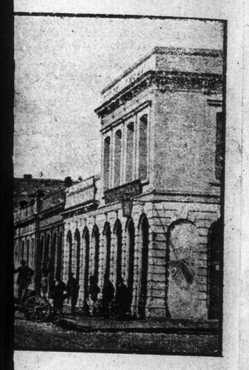
By Edgar Fawcett.

to a partnership. Upstairs in this ...ing was the Masonic hall and Far-...s photographic studio. Here is a ...ple of Mr. Fardon's work on my... Across the street is Moore & Co., ...gists, an old established business of ... or '60, the present proprietor's ...er being the founder of the business. ... Bank of British North America ... door is so far as I can remember ...pioneer bank in Victoria. I assisted ...e assaying department for a short ... in 1867. The next building is the ...d Campbell's corner (The Adelphi). ... of our pioneers do not remember ...genial face of Frank Campbell, his ...er and all the associations connect-



RT STREET NORTHWARD.

...th it? When was Frank not at ...rner? I should say only when he ...eting and sleeping. Morning, ... and until 11 o'clock at night he ...on duty. All the births, deaths ...marriages were recorded on his in-...nce board. All the news of the ...ents from abroad and at home ...ere recorded by Frank. There ... lived a better tempered or so good ...d a fellow. Before going home ... a lodge or a political meeting the ...hing was to call at the "corner" ... last bit of news. It was the ...g place of many who made it ... headquarters. Evening after ...g for years Frank had his au-... Everyone knew him and to ...him was to like him—"requiescat ...ce." Across Government street ...ext to Zelner's drug store I see ...n of J. S. Drummond, stoves and ...e. He was a grand master of ...lows, a prominent Mason, a fire ...an officer of militia and served a ...n the city council. Beyond Drum-... I cannot make out any more ...r buildings, even with the magni-...glass, and I have looked long and ...until my eyes ache. A deal might ...itten of many more of the old ... and their inhabitants, but it ...e undertaken by some one else ... better memory and who was ...nd took a prominent part in af-...f that day.

Elenora Petrelli, once a world-re-... opera singer, and widow of Prince ...roff, of Russia, died in an obscure ... Chicago, alone and in want save ... charity of strangers. Daughter ...ress of one of the wealthiest Counts ...ndinavia, this wonderful woman ... see two great fortunes melt away ... have her title of royalty taken from ...riven by necessity to sing for a ...n the royal opera companies of the ...d, the singer won her way upward ... profession, until at the Russian court ... Petersburg she became the wife of ... von Petroff, a Boyar nobleman. ...gan the series of misfortunes which ...lly left her adrift as a poor teacher ...c in Chicago at the age of 87 years.

British Women's Immigration so-... endeavoring to raise £2,000 to ...00 women to Canadian factories.

...ecently in dispute, which will be ... assistance to Messrs. King and ...n in actually marking the bound-...on the maps. It will be essen-...owever, to give definiteness to the ...ry, and to avoid friction a line ... drawn from end to end with ...ent monuments of some kind, in ...hat there may be no further dis-...s to its exact location. This ...ke eight or ten years more, as it ... covering miles of unsurveyed ...ccupied territory.

... the session Mr. Prefontaine, ... of marine and fisheries, will go ...and to confer with the admiralty ... purpose of obtaining two war-... which to train Canadians for ...al reserve. This is in connec-...th the bill which the minister ...roduce during the coming session ...blish a navy in Canada. One ... cruisers will be placed on the ...and one on the Atlantic coasts. ...neral meeting of the Rideau Club ... held next Monday to consider ...ent blackballing of Ministers ... and Prefontaine. A resolution ... presented to authorize the com-... of management to transfer to ... membership any one previously ...s privileged members.

...000

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...ses that begin with fever—all inflam-...ll catarrh—all contagious diseases—all ...s of impure or poisonous blood. ...us debility Liquozone acts as a vitali-...plishing what no drugs can do.

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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. XLVI., NO. 28. VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1904. FORTY-FIFTH YEAR.

Mr. Balfour's Thorny Path

Continued Existence of Government After Events of Week Creates Surprise.

Premier's Explanation of Conduct Towards Former Colleagues Unsatisfactory.

Expert Election Forecasters at Cross Purposes on the Situation.

London, March 12.—The continued existence of the present government after the past eventful week in parliament creates surprise amongst its most faithful supporters. No less than 110 members of the House of Commons put themselves on record this week as willing to turn out Mr. Balfour rather than sacrifice their adherence to Mr. Chamberlain's out and out protectionist principles. As a result Mr. Balfour has foregone his personal policy of retaliation and retains office only by the support of those [illegible] openly uphold preferential duties. This section of the Unionist party, though strong enough to decide the fate of the ministry, is not strong enough to affect anything as an individual unit. Complications within the Unionist party came during the week to an almost Gilbertian climax.

On all sides it is admitted that a dissolution of parliament alone can solve the existing complex and muddled condition of the parties in the House of Commons. The cabinet itself, so recently reconstructed, has been on the verge of a serious split during the week. Austen Chamberlain, the chancellor of the exchequer; Colonial Secretary Lyttleton and several minor members of the government threatened to resign unless Mr. Balfour withdrew his support of the motion which denounced Joseph Chamberlain's proposed preferential duties based on the taxation of food. Both without and within, Mr. Balfour gave in to the Chamberlainites, and still further antagonized those free trade Unionists, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Chas. Ritchie, Lord Geo. Hamilton and Sir John Gorst, formerly his colleagues and their supporters.

In addition to these tactical difficulties in which the fiscal question has involved what was known as "the strongest government of modern times," Mr. Balfour has been subjected to a personal attack. Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Brodrick bitterly resent the criticism of their administration of the war office contained in the recommendation of Mr. Balfour's army reorganization committee. Mr. Balfour's explanations of his conduct toward the late Duke of Devonshire and Lord George Hamilton and Mr. Ritchie in connection with their resignations from the cabinet, and his alleged suppression of Mr. Chamberlain's withdrawal from the government are held by such a careful organ as the Spectator to be entirely unsatisfactory.

Lord Rosebery's bitter satire and comparison of Mr. Balfour as a "pretty Fanny" was a striking instance of the bitter feeling. To use the words of one of Lord Rosebery's friends, "The ex-Premier never let himself out so much in public. The advisability of such out-spokenness may be questioned, but therein Lord Rosebery gave his fellow-peers and the world a glimpse of the contempt he privately feels for what he deems to be the decay of the English political system as personally administrated by Mr. Balfour and his friends." In his passionate attack before the sedate House of Lords on Thursday, Lord Rosebery only voiced the bitterness against Mr. Balfour which prevails among the families of those members of the cabinet who resigned though their relatives had for centuries supported the Tory leaders. Mr. Balfour's reply to Lord Rosebery is expectantly awaited.

Winston Spencer Churchill (Conservative), unceasingly harries Mr. Balfour. In a letter to his constituents Mr. Churchill says that the amendment introduced by Mr. Wharton condemning Joseph Chamberlain's policy, but supporting Mr. Balfour's retaliation programme, was drawn up by decree of the Premier. The protectionist members, he says, compelled the withdrawal of this amendment. "Face to face with immediate ruin," wrote Mr. Churchill, "Mr. Balfour surrendered. The government, which at 4 o'clock in the afternoon resolved to support a free trade declaration, opposed in word and spirit to protection and preference based on the taxation of food, at 5:15 p. m. resolved to do nothing of the kind, and at midnight appealed to its followers to meet with a direct negative a proposal to condemn the policy of preferential or protective tariffs. When Mr. Balfour had the power to combat protection, he had not the will. Now he has the will, but he has no longer the power."

Experts in British elections express diametrically opposite forecasts regarding the probable result of the appeal to the country which is now somewhat impatiently awaited by the public. They all agree, however, that neither Mr. Chamberlain nor Mr. Balfour, on their respective planks of protection and retaliation, are likely to be returned to power. Whether the Liberals or a coalition of the Liberals with the Unionist free traders could secure a sufficient majority to remain in power without the consent of the Irish party, is regarded as extremely doubtful. The best balanced opinion is when Mr. Balfour either ends the tenure of the present government, or it is ended for him, there will be a series of see-saw political evolutions, with the Irish party holding the scales.

INSURANCE MAN DEAD.

Montreal, March 12.—Geo. Simpson, manager for Canada of the Royal and Queen's Companies of England, is dead of cerebral hemorrhage, aged forty-two years.

GERMAN EMPEROR'S TOUR.

Bremerhaven, Germany, March 12.—Emperor William sailed this morning for the Mediterranean on the North German Lloyd steamer Koenig Albert. On His Majesty's arrival at Vigo, Spain, he will be met by the King of Spain.

RUSSIAN REFUGEES.

New York, March 11.—Of the two thousand and sixty-five steerage passengers brought here by the steamship Graf Waldersee today, fully eighteen hundred are Russians, many of them, it is said, being refugees who fled to escape possible army service against Japan. An imperial edict, issued several weeks ago, suspended the issue of passports to any male between the ages of fourteen and forty-five, the prescribed period for army service, the result being, according to some of those on the Graf Waldersee, a large exodus from all villages within reach of the frontier.

THE BRISTOW REPORT.

Washington, D. C., March 11.—The house passed the McCall resolution providing for a committee before which members of the house might testify and for an investigation of the Bristow report, and at 6:20 p. m. adjourned until tomorrow.

A GREAT STORM.

Astoria, Ore., March 11.—A great storm is raging along the North Pacific coast, the wind blowing at the rate of 72 miles an hour. The storm has paralyzed shipping, the steamer Oregon being the only vessel to reach port in the past twenty-four hours.

IN A BUFFER STATE.

New York, March 11.—The rivalry of England and Russia for Persia is each day being accentuated. The Perezhewis Wjedomasti publishes a special despatch dated Askabad, according to the St. Petersburg despatch to the Herald, that the Persian and Khorassan are full of English secret agents, who are spreading lies of Japanese victories with a view to destroying Russian prestige."

BRITISH FIRM WINS.

Captures a Big Engineering Contract in the United States.

Philadelphia, March 11.—The Pennsylvania Railroad Company today awarded the contract for its four East River tunnels to R. Pearson & Son, Limited, of London, Eng., and the O'Rourke Engineering & Construction Company of New York, was awarded the contract for two North River tunnels.

Bradstreet's Weekly Review

Better Weather Conditions Improves Trade at Many Eastern Points.

Pacific Coast Cities Give Indication of Good Spring Trade.

Toronto, March 11.—Bradstreet's trade review says: The freight blockades on the railroads caused by the snowstorms and ice and drifting snow, is slowly being raised and the outlook for business at Montreal is showing a corresponding improvement. It is expected there will be considerable activity developed in general trade the next week or two. Wholesale country remittances have been slow, owing to the severe winter, and the contraction in retail business, there have been comparatively few failures since the turn of the year. Conditions of general trade continue healthy and the outlook is far more satisfactory. Values of staple goods are firmly held and there is some talk of finished cotton goods being further advanced.

The outlook for general trade at Toronto now is better than it has been for weeks. The railways which were refusing to accept freight during most of last week, are now in a better position. A few days of rain, followed by fine, bright spring weather has imparted a much better tone to trade circles. The general outlook is encouraging.

In Quebec weather conditions have seriously interfered with trade. The latter is not reported good, and collections are very slow. Frequent renewals are being asked and a change is not looked forward to until the fine weather sets in. City trade is reported fairly active, and the wholesale milliners are getting ready for the spring openings.

The produce markets at the Pacific Coast have been much unsettled of late, but in staple manufactures there has been a steady movement for the coming season. Prices generally at Victoria, Vancouver and other centers, are firm for cottons and leading lines in fabrics. The buying for the spring has been on a good-sized scale. The prospects for the northern trade on the opening of navigation are bright.

Manitoba patent flour advanced here the past week to $6, but there is no demand for it for Japan so far.

The approach of the spring season is causing more inquiry for staple goods at Winnipeg. The turnover in general lines is expected to be heavy this year. The recent heavy storms caused a very quiet spell in general trade, but the inquiry for goods for the spring is increasing. The deliveries of wheat have been delayed by the storms and remittances have been a little slow. Otherwise the conditions of trade are fairly satisfactory and the outlook is promising.

Wholesale trade at Hamilton is looking up now that the shipments are being made with ease, and the outlook for shipping facilities have improved. The spring business has been a trifle quiet in common with that of other distributing centres, as reported to Bradstreets, but the outlook shows a steady healthy development in trade for the next few months. It is also expected that payments will soon be much better. "Country trade is improving and this will continue with the improvement in the facilities for transportation. Spring orders are coming to hand fairly well now, and business in this respect will continue to improve from now on. Values of domestic staples are firmly held.

In Ottawa the outlook for trade has very much improved this week. The opening of Parliament will help to improve local retail trade, and the indications for orders for spring and summer goods from the country retail merchants are showing signs of more activity.

IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT.

Distinguished Honor Shown to a Brilliant Young Canadian.

The Toronto Mail and Empire of Tuesday, March 1, says:

An appointment of special interest in local financial circles is that of Mr. Hubert Lorne Watt to be treasurer of the Canada Life Assurance Company, which was ratified at the company's annual meeting the other day.

Mr. Watt, who has been acting treasurer since 1902, joined the estate department in 1897, and became assistant to the treasurer in 1900. Prior to his engagement by the Canada Life Mr. Watt, who is a barrister by profession, had a large experience in investigating securities while with a firm of commercial lawyers.

When it is considered that the funds of the Canada Life are over $27,000,000, and that one of the chief sources of a life company's revenue is its interest earnings, it will be apparent how important it is that the treasurer's department should be in the charge of an official of tried capacity such as Mr. Watt has proved himself to be.

Mr. Watt is the younger brother of Dr. A. T. Watt, superintendent of British Columbia quarantines, and son of Dr. Hugh Watt, ex-M. P. P. for Cariboo district.

Nearly every city in the interior of Egypt is now lighted by electricity.

FRENCH NAVAL SECRETS.

Paris, March 12.—Martin, the non-commissioned officer accused of disposing of French naval secrets to a Japanese naval attache, was lengthily interrogated today. The proceedings were secret. The magistrate has summoned the general naval staff to testify on Monday. The staff is seriously concerned over the documents Martin obtained. The investigation has indicated that the general instructions for war time are among the documents.

TRYING TO FOMENT TROUBLE.

New York, March 12.—The German press continues to give prominence to any news which points to a conflict between England and Russia, says a Berlin despatch to the Herald. The Cologne Gazette publishes a telegram from Teheran which is republished in every paper in Berlin, stating that at the request of the Russian government the telegraph connect the Persian telegraphic system with that of the Russians. It is further added that in Persia an armed conflict between Russians and English is regarded as certain.

Rich Strike In Rossland Mine

Six Hundred foot Stope at Josie Producing Very High Values.

Increased Activity is Apparent At Interior Mining Centre.

Rossland, B. C., March 12.—Ore shipments from Rossland camp for the week ending tonight were: Le Roi, 5,146; Centre Star, 1,710; War Eagle, 1,530; Kootenay, 129; Jumbo, 250; Le Roi No. 2, 670; White Bear, 60. Total for week, 9,486 tons; and for the year to date, 92,176 tons.

The past week witnessed marked activity throughout the camp. The great plans for an increase of output which mark Rossland's new era of prosperity are materializing, one indication being the increased number of men employed. The Le Roi people are working over four hundred men, the largest number in two years, while Le Roi No. 2 has 150, the greatest number in twenty months. The total number of men employed in the mines is approximating 1,000.

An incident of special interest, locally and generally, will take place tomorrow, when the bulkheads will be removed in the Le Roi deeps and the ore skips will commence piping to the deep levels. The 1,350-foot hoist thus brought about is the longest in any provincial metalliferous mine, and in this respect Rossland maintains her prominence.

It is now an open secret that the west six hundred foot level in the Josie mine is producing remarkably rich ore. The characteristic product of the camp is comparatively low grade, but Josie's 600 stope is a marked exception. The values are said to be easily $100, while numerous specimens are shown that run several ounces over this amount. It is intimated that the White Bear Company will hurry forward arrangements for the construction of the milling plant, while the report as to the construction of a siding at the Jumbo mine is definitely confirmed.

TO PRECIPITATE CRISIS.

Toronto, March 12.—It is said in some quarters that Premier Ross has determined to press the proposed radical temperance measure for the closing of bars in the province despite the fact that the Liberal caucus pronounced against him. Gentlemen well acquainted with the discussion in the party of this question, give the opinion that there will be no bill presented to the house as it would down the government, but that immediately after the session Premier Ross will resign and thus precipitate a political crisis.

FRENCH SHORE MODUS.

St. John's Nfld., March 12.—Governor Boyle signed the French shore modus vivendi bill yesterday, and today he transmitted to the legislature a message of thanks from the British cabinet for the prompt and unanimous passage of this bill. The prospect of completing an Anglo-French treaty covering this matter of the French shore is understood to be good.

Proposals For Peace

Suggestion That France And the U. S. Act Jointly in the Matter.

French Correspondent Describes Affairs at Dalny and Adjacent Country.

Smallness of Russian Army in Liaotung Peninsula Remarkable.

Paris, March 12.—Pierre Giffard, writing to the Matin from Port Dalny, graphically describes the country and its condition. While traveling from the north he saw oceans of snow stretching off in every direction, suggesting the terrible hardships endured during military concentration now going on. South of Mukden the snow had almost disappeared and the plains were being cultivated by the Chinese. M. Giffard passed thorugh many miserable, dirty Chinese villages and open stretches of country well suited to make superb battlefields. According to this correspondent, Port Dalny appears to have died before it was fully born, and to have been deserted by its parents. He describes it as having a desolate appearance. Leading officers who had been stationed at Port Dalny had gone northward and the inhabitants were seeking, by every available means, to get away. Much murmuring and protesting was heard. The prevailing feeling was that Russia should have more soldiers at Port Arthur and other points on the Liaotung peninsula. The actual force there, M. Giffard says, was then not over 20,000 men. People there felt that this not only did not afford them sufficient protection, but disclosed to the Orientals the inferiority of Russia's military preparations.

PEACE PROPOSALS ALREADY.

An informal suggestion that France and the United States act jointly as peacemakers in the Far East has been made within the past week and although officials consider that any peace overtures would be futile at the moment, yet the suggestion leads to the belief in very high quarters that France and the United States will become the eventual peacemakers. The suggestion came from prominent railway man who probably has the largest railroad dealings with Russia of any American. During a recent visit here he called at the American Embassy and other official quarters. In the course of his visit he strongly urged that France and the United States, by reason of their international friendships toward the two belligerents, were specially qualified to initiate a peace movement. The American believed that Russia would gladly avail herself of the opportunity even now, and that international influence would favorably incline Japan. The suggestion was entirely unofficial, but none the less it was expected it would prove a germ for official action. However, no such official action is likely at the present time, as it is the accepted view of the French and American authorities that neither of the belligerents would listen to any peace overtures. As one of the highest officials summed up the situation: "The suggestion is worthy of consideration as showing the two republics are well qualified to become the eventual peacemakers, but certainly such a movement would be most untimely now, for both parties are in hot blood and unfortunately nothing will avail until there has been some blood letting."

RUSSIAN COMMENT.

The Russian naval attache here, commenting on the Port Arthur bombardment of March 10th, points out the similarity of the four Japanese attacks. Destroyers by night and bombardments by day; their attacks are audacious but always ineffective, he said. The bombardments are always of the same fashion, about the same hour, about the same duration and in full daylight. Their strategic work lacks variety, probably due to the comparative youthfulness of the Japanese naval organization. It is noticeable that Admiral Makaroff's report says that he hoisted his flag on the Novik, which had been represented as out of commission from injuries, and it is also notable that he says our ships are ready to resume the struggle. With Admiral Makaroff commanding we expect sharp, aggressive action."

The Japanese legation understands that Vice-Admiral Togo, commander-in-chief of the Japanese blockading squadron, directed the attack. It is said in this connection that during the bombardment of Vladivostock the Japanese fleet was temporarily divided, both sections remaining under command of Admiral Togo, with Vice-Admiral Kamimura second in command.

STRAIGHT SHOOTING.

Eyewitnesses say that the Japanese fire which was indifferent in the previous attacks, showed marvelous accuracy. The fire came from the direction of Pigeon bay, where the Russians reported sighting double the previous number of Japanese vessels, and it is supposed that transports of various kinds accompanied the fleet. It is reported that the Retvizan, which it is understood was then inside the entrance, was struck several times and that there were fatalities among the crew. It is also said that the Golden Hill forts were badly damaged, and that there were many casualties among the remaining non-combatants. In the new town, which suffered most, one building in the [illegible] bureau was destroyed and a shell annihilated an entire family. The Russians are suppressing the circulation of foreign newspapers, and any person suspected of being a correspondent is ordered out of their lines. Resi-

(Continued on Page Eight.)

Kuropatkin Off For the Wars

Former Minister Leaves in a Special Train For Far East.

Makaroff the Hero of the Hour to the People of St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, March 12.—General Kuropatkin, accompanied by his entire staff, left here at 6 o'clock this evening on a special train for the Far East, where he will take charge of the military operations. The departure of the General was marked by demonstrations of patriotism and personal regard such as seldom have been witnessed in the Russian capital. The thousands of persons who lined the Nevsky Prospect and the approaches to the Nicholas railroad station vied with the highest personages in the empire, including the principal military authorities and members of the imperial council and persons prominent in society who had assembled inside the station, in giving vent to expressions of confidence in the new commander.

GEN. KUROPATKIN OFF.

For two hours before the departure of the train the railway station and the streets were crowded with spectators, the principal military officers, members of the Imperial council, foreign military attaches, members of the French embassy and persons prominent in society gathered in the Imperial waiting room. General Kuropatkin was cheered continuously as he drove through the streets, and just before his arrival at the station Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaivitch, Grand Duke Peter and the Duke of Mechlinburg-Strelitz drove up. The senior General in the army, General Ignatieff, presented General Kuropatkin with a sacred picture inscribed: "By this sign thou shalt conquer." As the train steamed away it was followed by continuous cheering.

SELLING NAVAL SECRETS.

Preparations Made to Try Man Accused of Playing Traitor.

Paris, March 11.—The authorities have assigned two leading lawyers to defend the non-commissioned officer, named Martin and his wife, who are accused of disposing of secrets of the department of marine to a Japanese naval attache. The cases is being compared with that of Dreyfus and threatens to prejudice the Dreyfus appeal. It is the understanding in diplomatic quarters that the government is not likely to make representations on the subject to Japan, but will confine its action to the prosecution of the accused. This was the procedure adopted in the case of military attaches implicated in the Dreyfus case.

RAILROAD TROUBLES.

Helena, Mont., March 11.—No trains have reached Kalispell for two days because of snowslides at Nyack and Paoli. Great Northern trains are being moved via Helena and Spokane over the Northern Pacific. The slide at Nyack is 1,000 feet long and sixty feet deep. Railroad officials are contemplating tunneling this slide rather than removing it, as it is being added to constantly by other slides.

MISSIONARY MURDERED.

New York, March 12.—The Presbyterian board of foreign missions has received no word from Persia regarding Dr. Benjamin Larabee, the missionary who, it is reported last night, had been murdered at Khoi, Persia. Though cable enquiries were made today doubt is felt as to whether the missionary reported slain was Rev. Benjamin Larabee or the Rev. Benjamin W. Larabee, his son. The last advices from the son stated that he was to leave for a visit among the villages. The father, it is believed, was too old to go much among the missions. The conditions in Northwestern Persia have, however, been much disturbed. What the general conditions have been in the Urumia region is intimated in the letter from Dr. J. P. Cochran, a medical missionary in Urumia, who wrote:

"The last summer has been full of trouble and anxiety, due largely to the lawless condition of the country. The lawless disregard of the government always was very evident, but becomes painfully so whenever there is any unusual uprising among the Kurds or the rougher elements in the towns and cities. For some time back there has been a great deal of grumbling against the government for giving away in concessions so much to foreigners. In many cities of the land there have been open demonstrations against the king, demanding that Europeans who have charge of his work be expelled. In Tabriz there was a demonstration which compelled the Crown Prince to remove to a neighboring town, the European chief of the customs and his family keeping careful watch over him. Outrages against the Christians were detailed, including the killing of a native Christian."

Conflicts So Far Only Preliminaries

Japanese Evidently Puzzled at Disappearence of Vladivostock Fleet.

Until Enemy is Located Transportsation of Troops is Too Hazardous.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE LONDON TIMES AND VICTORIA COLONIST.

London, March 12.—The military expert of the Times in discussing the latest phases of the war in the Far East this morning arrives at the conclusion that the conflict is thus far in its initial stages. "The main army of Japan," says the military correspondent, "which is thought to be still within the island empire is having its onset deterred by a dread of encountering the Russian Vladivostock fleet while in transport. It is suggested that the Vladivostock cruisers put out to sea two days before Admiral Kamimura reached the fortress, and we are moreover asked to believe that the battleships Retvizan and Czarevitch are again afloat and almost ready for service. It is evident that Admiral Kamimura is as ignorant of the whereabouts of the Vladivostock cruisers as we are in London and until they are located, it may be that the main body of the Japanese armada will not set sail without a shore escort. The failure of the Japanese to detach a force to watch Vladivostock the moment success was gained at Port Arthur is the least satisfactory of their proceedings at sea, but the delay may have been imposed by the necessity of refitting the cruisers Nishin and Kasuga and repairing the damage done at Port Arthur to other of the armored cruisers. If Admiral Kamimura cannot bring Captain Reitzenstein into action, his natural course will be to return and act as escort to the transports if the hour has arrived for the grand invasion. It is asserted that the Russians must attack the armada at sea or else abandon all hope of interfering with the impending landing. Similarly at Port Arthur it will be then the moment for Admiral Makaroff to make his effort, and it is on the cards that the main naval actions of the war are still to be fought. Neither side has any object in avoiding an action, and if a battle is fought the result will probably be decisive.

RACING AT NEW ORLEANS.

New Orleans, March 12.—The New Orleans Derby, one and one-eighth miles, which marked the close of the Crescent City Jockey Club's winter meeting today was won by Ostrich by a length. Auditor was second by two lengths and Conkling third. The race was worth $6,000; time, 2:05 1-5.

Their Last Drawingroom

The Governor-General and Lady Minto Hold Brilliant Final Audience.

Supreme Court Judges and the House of Commons Woolsack.

Proposal to Construct a Railway North Through Centre of Province.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, March 12.—The last public drawing-room by Lord and Lady Minto took place tonight in the Senate chamber. It was a brilliant success. Over 800 prominent persons were presented. Subsequently the Speaker and Mrs. Belcourt held a reception in the Commons chamber.

The annual meeting of the British Empire League will be held on Wednesday, when a lively discussion on the subject of preference is expected.

Senator Kerr, of Toronto, will move the address in the Senate on Monday, Senator Tessier, of Quebec, seconding.

The judges of the Supreme court who were offended last year because the wool sack which they used to occupy at the opening of parliament was removed, remain d away yesterday, and learned today, to their great chagrin, that the wool sack had been replaced for their convenience.

Application will be made for an act to enable the Nicola, Kamloops and Similkameen Coal & Railway Company to enter into an agreement with the C. P. R., or any company to which the Railway Act applies, for working the said railway and to extend the time for the commencement and completion of the railway.

The Boundary, Kamloops & Cariboo Central Railway Company are seeking incorporation for the purpose of building from a point near Midway, thence northwesterly by the most feasible route to Okanagan Lake and Grand Prairie, thence northerly to Kamloops, thence northerly by the valley of the North Thompson river, through Cariboo to Nechaco river, thence by Fraser Lake northerly, either by following the Bulkley valley or Babine Lake to the town of Hazelton, or some point on the Skeena, thence northerly to the Stikeen river, thence to Teslin Lake, thence northerly to the confluence of the Hootalinqua river with the Yukon river in the Yukon Territory; with power to build a branch line from Kamloops to Princeton.

WORK ON CANAL.

Operations Will Commence at Panama in Two or Three Months.

Washington, March 11.—In the house committee on state and foreign commerce today, Rear-Admiral Walker, president of the Panama canal commission, said he believed work on the canal could be begun within two or three months, by which time the question of title would be cleared up and a transfer made to the United States. The French company has about 800 laborers at work on the Guelbra cut, and this work could be continued indefinitely. Incidentally Admiral Walker remarked that he expected no trouble whatever with Colombia. The liquor question was injected into the discussion by a remark of the admiral that the principal revenues would come from licenses from eating houses and saloons. He was asked at once if it was necessary to grant liquor privileges. He replied very probably that it would. Laborers of the tropics all use alcoholic beverages, and that it would be impossible to obtain or retain laborers for this class of work if the sale of liquor was prohibited. He said, however, that they were not hard drinkers, consuming only beer and light wines. The admiral said the blacks were Jamaicans, were good laborers and could be obtained in the vicinity of the canal zone, but there were not enough of these laborers, including the blacks who could be taken from the southern states, to prosecute the work, and coolie labor from China and Japan would have to be brought over for this work.

POISONED BY ACCIDENT.

Halifax, N. S., March 12.—Arthur Graham, a wealthy Western stock rancher, who settled in Smith's Cove, Digby, three years ago, is dead as the result of drinking aconite liniment.

COLOMBIA'S ARMY.

Washington, March 12.—The state department has received the following cablegram from United States Charge Snyder at Bogota, dated yesterday: "The Colombian government has just issued a decree reducing the standing army from 11,000 men to 5,000 men. Also declaring peace again in the republic, except Panama."

BATTLE IN DOMINGO.

Insurgents Routed After Prolonged Fighting.

Washington, March 12.—Very much belated cablegrams from United States Minister Powell just received at the state department report a big battle across the river from San Domingo March 4th, in which the insurgents were worsted, and fled leaving their guns and ammunition on the field. The insurgents, however, were reported to have been in possession of the town of Azua. The steamship Topeka touched at San Domingo March 8th and proceeded to Azua.

San Domingo, Wednesday, March 9.—The United States gunboat Topeka arrived here yesterday. The government has sent an ultimatum to the insurgents demanding their surrender and granting forty-eight hours for non-combatants to retire. If this is not complied with the government will attack by land and sea, adopting such measures as it finds necessary including a bombardment. A large force is to attack San Pedro de Macoris.

LORD ROSEBERY SPEAKS.

Explains Attack on Mr. Balfour in House of Lords.

London, March 12.—Lord Rosebery, speaking at Newcastle on Tyne tonight, referred to the incident in the House of Lords on Thursday. He said he objected to heat in controversial matters. He had for a long time entertained friendship and regard for Premier Balfour, but when he was called a "calculating" there was no man in the world from whom he would accept that description of himself without violent public repudiation.

It is estimated that nearly all the pine timber now growing in Minnesota (about 30,000,000 feet) will be cut and marketed within the next fifteen years.

The Men Behind the Guns in the Japanese Navy