The Colonist.

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NOVELIST STEVENSON.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—A dispatch to the Star, dated Apia, Samoa, December 8, confirms the reported death of Robert Louis Stevenson. His body was buried on the summit of Pala mountain, 1,300 feet high.

Mr. Stevenson's aunt, Miss Balfour, of Edinburgh, received a letter from his mother dated at Samoa, November 4, giving cheering accounts of his health. His uncle, Dr. Balfour, received a letter from Mr. Stevenson last week stating that he was better.

The Times hears from Sydney that advices just received from Samoa announcing his death say that for a long time he had been in unusually robust health, and lately had done a great deal of literary work. The Samoans bore the body to Pala, being obliged to cut a road through the thick bush covering the sides of the hill from base to peak.

The Times will say editorially: "A shock as of personal bereavement has gone through the multitudes who read his books. The world has lost not only a great writer but also a most attractive personality. In in the perfection of his accomplished work that we must seek consolation for his early death."

The Westminster Gazette says Novelist Stevenson was among the most loveable of modern writers.

The Pall Mall Gazette says in letters recently received Stevenson said he had two novels practically completed, one entitled "The Chief Justice's Clerk," the other "St. Ives." The latter is a story of a French prisoner who made his escape from Edinburgh castle.

The Daily Chronicle will say that by Mr. Stevenson's death the English speaking world of letters has lost a source of joy and life.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 17.—(Special)—Aldermen are indignant over the statement made by A. W. Austin in correspondence produced before the Toronto boodle inquiry by Marshall D. Barr. The correspondence, it is stated, included letters from Austin, then proprietor of the Winnipeg street railway, and pointed strongly to the conclusion that corrupt means had been used in the contest which was being carried on concerning the Winnipeg franchise about the same time. In one letter Austin gave assurance that he could, if he wished, control the council of this city at that time. One member of the council that gave the franchise has given instructions to his lawyer to demand an apology from Mr. Austin, and unless it is given he will issue a writ for damages. The result may lead to a civic investigation in Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg municipal elections take place to-morrow. There is a keen contest for the mayoralty between Gilroy and McMicken.

A masked burglar entered Ferguson's grocery store on Saturday and held up the proprietor, his wife and son, robbing the till. There is no trace of the robber.

Two houses occupied by Jewish residents in the northern part of the city were damaged by fire this morning.

B Cochrane, of Calgary, has declared himself a candidate for the next Dominion election.

Mr. Fisher, manager of the Globe Tea Company, a gift enterprise, was to-day $20 for an infraction of the Dominion lottery law.

TORONTO TOPICS.

TORONTO, Dec. 15.—(Special)—The executive of the Canadian Kennel Club have decided to hereafter run the affairs of the club independently of the American Kennel Club. This decision is the outcome of what the Canadian Kennel Club considers an outrageous demand of the American Kennel Club.

Mrs. McGill, aged 62, who for many years in conjunction with her husband conducted a private school here, is under arrest charged with stealing goods from various dry goods establishments in the city.

The executive of the Canadian Press Association met here yesterday and decided to hold their annual meeting and banquet during the first week in February. A resolution of condolence with Lady Thompson was also passed.

Edward Houghton, the young newspaper artist who shot himself last evening, died at the general hospital this afternoon.

PRINCESS BISMARCK.

BERLIN, Dec. 17.—Prince Bismarck's present plan is to start for Friedrichsruhe on Thursday, and to make the journey to Berlin. After his arrival in Friedrichsruhe he will select the spot where the body of the Princess will be buried.

SIR JOHN'S REMAINS.

It Is Expected They Will Reach Halifax About the 27th Instant.

Reception at Portsmouth—The Testimonial Fund—Minister Bayard's Sympathetic Letter.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 17.—There is still no definite news regarding the date of the departure of H.M.S. Blenheim. It is thought, however, that her speed may be retarded so as to enable her to reach Halifax about the 27th instant. The ministers and any friends who may go to Halifax to attend the state funeral would then be in a position to spend Christmas at home, leaving for Halifax on the 26th.

The date of the departure of Lady Thompson and family for Halifax has not yet been settled, but it will probably be next Friday or Saturday.

Lieut.-Governor Dewdney will attend the funeral as representative of the Pacific province. Mrs. Dewdney, who is an intimate friend of Lady Thompson, will spend some weeks in the East with her.

Hon. Mr. Bowell to-day received the following from the High Commissioner: The Imperial government having paid Canada the greatest possible compliment in sending the remains of the late Premier by a warship, I feel it my duty as representative of the government here to accompany the body and attend the public funeral at Halifax. The First Minister promptly replied as follows: "Am pleased to learn that the state of your health permits you to take the journey. We shall be glad to meet you at Halifax."

Hon. Mr. Foster to-day received contributions to the Lady Thompson fund amounting to $750.

Among the telegrams of condolence received by Lady Thompson was the following from Hon. R. J. Seddon, premier of New Zealand: "The government of New Zealand tender their sincere sympathy and condolence for your sad bereavment, and deplore the loss the Dominion has sustained."

Senator Prowse had a long interview with the First Minister this morning, when the claims of Prince Edward Island to representation in the cabinet were forcibly pointed out.

TORONTO, Dec. 17.—(Special)—At the services in the Toronto churches yesterday extended reference was made to the death of Sir John Thompson, and in the Roman Catholic churches, in addition to the tributes of respect to the memory of the deceased, prayers were offered for the repose of his soul.

Sir Richard Cartwright has sent $100 to Senator Smith for the Thompson fund. He writes that he will support the grant for family, and adds that it is a sound policy not to allow the widows and orphans of a distinguished public servant to be reduced to penury as a result of the awfully sudden catastrophe which deprived them of their natural provider.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The body of Sir John Thompson upon its arrival at Portsmouth will be received by a guard of honor consisting of two hundred sailors and marines. A salute will be fired when the body is taken on board H.M.S. Blenheim, which will sail for Halifax with the body on Thursday. The Blenheim is a first-class twin screw steel cruiser of 9,000 tons, having engines of 13,000 independent horse power natural draught, or 20,000 forced draught. She was commissioned on 26th May last, Captain E. S. Poe commanding. Her offices were turned over to her from H.M.S. Immortalite. She is one of the finest vessels in the fleet, is attached to the Channel squadron and it is said can easily make 22 knots an hour. The honor done to the remains of the late Canadian Premier in being transported on this magnificent ship is therefore of the highest.

U. S. Ambassador Bayard has written to Sir Charles Tupper, Canadian High Commissioner, explaining that he was absent from London at the time of Sir John Thompson's death and therefore was unable to present his regrets at the Dominion offices. "His worth, ability and patriotism," writes Mr. Bayard, "were well known to me. I mourn the loss caused by his death, not only to Canada, but also to the community and to good government everywhere. I am glad to see that Her Majesty's government will fittingly honor his memory by conveying his remains in a national ship to the shores of the country that he loved so well and served so faithfully." Mr. Bayard expresses the deepest sympathy with the Thompson family in their severe affliction.

The remains of Sir John Thompson are not sealed down yet, and Miss Thompson will take her last look at her father's body at 4 o'clock this afternoon, after which the coffin will be sealed in presence of Sir Charles Tupper, the Canadian High Commissioner, and Senator Sanford. Up to the present Miss Thompson has not seen the body of her father. Miss Thompson, Mrs. and the Misses Sanford will said for New York from Liverpool on Wednesday next on board the White Star line steamship Majestic. A large case five feet square and hermetically sealed, arrived at the Palace hotel to-day from Windsor, containing a wreath from the Queen. Lord Edward P. Clinton, the groom-in-waiting, this morning telegraphed to Senator Sanford saying that the Queen was sending a special wreath for the state funeral of the remains of Sir John Thompson and expressing the wish that the Senator would take charge of it. The date of the departure of the body of the Canadian Premier from England depends entirely upon the amount of coaling which the cruiser Blenheim, detailed to take the remains across the Atlantic, will require.

MONTREAL, Dec. 17.—(Special)—Sir Donald Smith, resident governor and chief commissioner at Montreal of the Hudson Bay Company, in an interview expressed himself as greatly grieved at learning of the death of Sir John Thompson. He said Sir John was a great leader and a man of wonderful ability and a steadfast friend. He declared that the sending of the body home on a cruiser was a feeling recognition of the work of the dead man.

INTERNATIONAL WATERWAYS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—In the senate today Mr. Vilas gave notice of an amendment to the sundry civil bill providing for the appointment by the President of a commission of three persons to act with any similar committee appointed by Great Britain or the Dominion of Canada, who shall investigate and report upon the feasibility of such canals as would enable vessels engaged in ocean commerce to pass to and from and between the great lakes and the Atlantic ocean.

FORT ERIE, Dec. 11.—William Dunn, an employe of the G. T. R., was killed in the yard here by falling between the cars.

ALMOST A CRISIS.

PARIS, Dec. 17.—Almost without warning the cabinet was brought to the verge of a crisis in the chamber late this afternoon. The appropriation to the legion of honor was under discussion. M. Rounanent, socialist member for a metropolitan district, made this item the peg on which to hang a violent harangue concerning the bourgeois ideas of honesty and the class of men selected for high honors in the republic. Finally he proposed that the government instruct the Council of the Legion of Honor to remove from the rolls the names of all who had been compromised by the Panama and other scandals. Amid protests and confusion he mentioned Engineer Eiffel, who was convicted in the Panama trials but was subsequently acquitted and was socially whitewashed during the reception of the Russian naval officers in Paris. M. Guering, minister of justice, and M. P. Poincarre, minister of finance, spoke in the name of the government against the motion. The vote was taken amidst growing excitement and confusion. The ultra Radicals were still protesting vehemently against the ballot box having been closed so as to shut out their votes, when it was announced that the motion had been rejected by 239 to 234.

ARMENIAN OUTRAGE.

Important Mass Meeting in the City of London—Letter From Mr. Gladstone.

Encounters Between Armenians and Turks Constant—Britain's and Russia's Attitude.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The mass meeting to protest against the Armenian atrocities was held this evening under the auspices of the Armenian society. Several delegations from foreign cities were present. Francis Seymour Stevenson, M.P., chairman of the Anglo-Armenian Association, presided and opened the meeting with a brief speech of welcome. He read a letter from Rt. Hon. Mr. Gladstone, who was unable to accept the invitation to be present but sent these words of encouragement:

"The terrible statements from Armenia have riveted the attention of the world. I heartily wish well your and every other effort to bring out the truth. Should the horrible allegations already made be sustained, they will prompt the civilized world anew to ask: How long are these things to be endured? I will not try to anticipate the result of the examination, but I feel morally certain that the administration will not rest without a most thorough inquiry into the matter in which, under the Cyprus convention, we have a separate, deep and painful interest. It is my present hope that the Ottoman government will, for its own honor, cordially concur in this searching examination."

Cardinal Vaughn and Hon. James Stansfeld, M.P., also wrote to express their sympathy with the objects of the meeting.

The Daily Chronicle correspondent in Moscow says: "Dispatches from Tiflis say that encounters between Armenian and Turkish villagers on Russian territory are becoming more frequent and serious. The governors of Erivan and Kars have taken energetic measures to quell the Armenians. Agent Leman, just here from the Caucasus, learns that the outrages in the Bitlis and Van districts were far less serious than reported, and that the cases of torture and murder will be found to be rare.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 17.—The Novosto says that the best pledge England and Russia can give of the mutual sincerity of their understanding is joint forcible intervention in Armenia. The writer advocates a policy which will culminate in Armenia's independence.

ITALY'S SCANDAL.

Profound Sensation Caused by the Documents in the Banca Romana Case.

ROME, Dec. 15.—The contents of the documents submitted to the chamber of deputies by Signor Giolitti have been made public and have created a profound sensation. The notes of the cashier of the Banca Romana contain the names of government officials, members of the chambers of deputies, journalists, and others as having taken money from the bank. Among the politicians named are Signor Zanardelli, formerly president of the chamber of deputies, and ex-ministers Grimaldi, Laiva and Micelli, and the deceased ministers Deprets and Cavlosilli. For press and election purposes some journalists received 200,000 lire and others 75,000 lire. The documents aimed at Premier Crispi mentioned several drafts in his name, and he figured also in connection with a note for 1,050,000 lire. This note was attributed in certain letters from Signor Crispi's wife to other persons, and mentioned their names. Among the documents are four letters written by Signor Tanlongo, manager of the bank, while he was in prison, addressed to Signor Giolitti. These letters state that the deficit in the bank was due to expenditures among ministers, senators, members of the press and others. Signor Tanlonge in one of the letters said that he gave a credit of 350,000 lire to a certain person on the recommendation and assurance of Signor Crispi that the creditors were solvent. He insinuates that the money was not destined for these persons. In another letter he declares that these states were imposed upon him by Signor Giolitti. In the chamber of deputies Premier Crispi declared that the documents were a mass of lies.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S POSITION.

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Dec. 17.—The shareholders of the Commercial bank, which suspended a few days ago, held a meeting today to receive a report of the directors of the bank concerning the suspension. Only verbal reports were read, from which it was gleaned that the liabilities of the bank will be largely decreased if the exchanges drawn by firms here on London agents, and which are now in the hands of the trustees, be honored on maturing. Even with this ray of hope it is said that the outlook of the bank resuming business is very unpromising. On the basis of the directors' admission at the meeting to-day, four of them are indebted to the Commercial bank for large sums, one director in particular owing the bank nearly $600,000. His only assets are 40,000 quintals of fish worth about $150,000, while his fishing premises, vessels and stores are worth hardly as much more.

JAPAN VINDICATED.

False Statements as to Outrages Contradicted—Gross Inhumanities by Chinese.

Japanese Programme Changed—Not to Be Led Into a Trap—Reforms in Korea.

A B de Guerville, the war correspondent of the New York Herald and Frank Leslie's Weekly, who returned from Japan by the Empress of India yesterday, gives an emphatic contradiction to the cabled statements of Mr. James Creelman and others of disgusting atrocities perpetrated by the Japanese at the fall of Port Arthur. M. de Guerville, who was formerly commissioner for the World's Fair from the United States to China, Korea and Japan, has been with the Japanese army almost since the initiation of hostilities; he was with the troops before, during and after the fall of Port Arthur, and he is therefore qualified to speak in the matter.

"It is not so," he exclaimed in conversation with a newspaper man yesterday, "that the Japanese relapsed into their former barbarism at the fall of Port Arthur. They did nothing of the kind. They have from the opening of the present war set the world an example in humanity to their foes. At Ping Yang; at Yaloo river; at each and every one of the less notable engagements, their kindness not only to their prisoners, well or wounded, but also to the populance of the invaded country has been something remarkable. Is it likely that they should at Port Arthur forget the lesson they had so grandly learned, and disgrace themselves hopelessly in the eyes of the civilized peoples of the world whose respect they had earned by their humanity as well as by their brilliant feats of arms? Let me tell you how it was, and all that there is of truth in this report of the Japanese armies lapsing into barbarism. As the Japanese army advanced through the peninsula countless horrible tales were related to them by the Chinese peasantry, who, grateful to them for the very food they ate as well as for deliverance from their oppressors, were soon their fast friends. These stories of cruelties to Japanese soldiers by Chinese forces were something frightful—enough to make one's blood boil with rage that such things could be. At Kinchiu they were told of three non-belligerent Japanese who were arrested as spies and without trial or proof of offending burned to death after horrible mutilation. Further on, absolute confirmation of the story was obtained. On November 10 two skirmishing battalions of Japanese cavalry—about 250 men—in advance of the column marching on Port Arthur came across a body of some 3,000 Chinese—horse, infantry and artillery. To engage the enemy was not to be thought of with the numbers so unequal, so the Japanese dropped back with the intention of awaiting the coming up of the advance guard of the main column. The Chinese had seen and identified them, however, and at once attacked, so that in desperation the little band, outnumbered ten to one, could only select an elevated position and make a good fight until the end came. Their forlorn hope was that the advance guard would come up before they had all been cut to pieces, but this hope was not realized. When the army arrived at the scene of the gallant stand, the fight was over and the Chinese had returned to Port Arthur. Then it was that the Japanese staff made what to my mind was a mistake. They marched the army through toward Port Arthur by a road bordered with the horribly mutilated corpses of their own dead heroes. The hands of many and their feet were gone; their bodies were vilely, fiendishly disfigured; and from the color of the blood and the appearance of these poor, abused bodies, it was all too evident that the hideous mutilation had in the majority of cases been the cause of death. The wounded had been butchered in fashion so cruel, so barbarous that nothing in the history of the savagery of the American Indians approaches it in horror. I watched the Japanese soldiery closely as they marched through the ghastly avenues of their mutilated dead. I saw by the flashing eye and the firmly compressed lips that there would be grim work when the army of the rising sun was face to face with the butchers of their comrades and countrymen. Nor was I wrong. You know how Port Arthur fell and how like demons the Japanese fought. Were they guilty of retaliatory atrocities? No, they were not. The most that can truthfully be said is that they used the cold steel more than they did firearms—the latter having won their former battles. As Japanese swordsmen do, they struck for the necks of their foes, and many Chinese heads were thus severed from the bodies at the taking of Port Arthur. The headless bodies were of course seen by the correspondents, but there were no instances of mutilation, of that I am sure. The Japanese fought for vengeance as well as victory and honor, but not for one hour or one moment did the army or any portion of it revert into barbarism or descend to the level of its less civilized foe. As for the foreign correspondents leaving the Japanese army in disgust 'as a strong protest against the inhumanity displayed,' why it simply isn't the fact. The correspondants, or at all events the wide-awake ones, left the army after Port Arthur fell because they saw that there would be no further movement in that direction and all were in haste to put themselves in position to move with the new division. As for myself I do not anticipate that there will be any more serious fighting. For that reason and because private business calls me, I have come home."

General Count Yamagati has been succeeded in the command of his famous division by General Nodzu, and new tactics will now be witnessed. It was General Yamagati's keen desire to press on to Moukden and Peking and dictate terms to China from the capital. The new commander will in all probability be content to occupy the Leiu Tung peninsula this winter and advance in the spring. Whether he is wise or foolish remains to be disclosed. There are many who hold that Japan should follow up her victories sharply as she has been doing—otherwise she may yet lose what she has so bravely won.

M. de Guerville expressed great surprise when told of Mr. James Creelman's statement that a "brother correspondent" had, in order to get him out of the way, given information to the Japanese war department that he (Creelman) was a Chinese spy. M. de Guerville says that he must be the correspondent referred to by Mr. Creelman, but he adds, "the man must be crazy. He has not enjoyed the confidence of the Japanese and has felt very sore about it. There is absolutely no foundation so far as I know for this wild story of his."

The mail advices from the seat of war brought by yesterday's steamer contain but little "news," although there is some mystery about the movements of the First Army corps under Count Yamagata, who is reported to be returning to Japan sick-listed. Meanwhile it is not definitely known whether his division will go into winter quarters or whether some combined movement between the two armies is in contemplation. From the latest accounts the capture of Port Arthur was attended by desperate fighting, the Japanese, burning with the desire for vengeance, aiming to destroy their foes without mercy, and refusing quarter to those who a few days before had brutally maltreated their wounded. The loss to the Japanese in connection with the taking of the great sea fort was very light—fourteen killed and thirty-two wounded at the battle at Dojoshi on November 18; three killed at Beikoshi two days later; and fifteen killed and one hundred and ninety-eight wounded at the taking of Port Arthur on November 20. The Chinese troops that were on their way to Port Arthur when that stronghold fell are now distributed along the coast at different points in the vicinity, threatening occasionally to attack Port Arthur in concert with the defeated troops. The Japanese army observes the greatest diligence. "The Japanese," says a Shanghai paper, "may rest assured their hardest work is yet to come. Hitherto by means of years of most careful preparation, they have been able to bring preponderatingly large masses of men against the wholly unprepared Chinese. Even thus they have found it rather 'hard walking' to get to Peking by the end of October. They may find it hard enough to get to Moukden by the end of November. What then? The roads are beginning to be at their best. There will be no fear of a landing along the Shanhaikuan seaboard. The Chinese forces gathered and gathering—very different from those who stubbornly fought against odds at Pingyang and Chiuliencheng—will advance into Manchuria and easily cut off the possibility of retreat." This is in Japan accepted as China's chief desire—to see the Japanese advance as far inland as Moukden at least, so that they may be cut off from their supplies and thus hopelessly situated be utterly annihilated. Hence, no doubt, the change in the Japanese plans—the refusal to walk into the trap by marching upon Peking or yet attacking Moukden. The Japanese Advertiser agrees that this alteration of the Japanese plans is wise indeed. "We cannot but think," it says, "that the Japanese are wise in taking this step. Even for the purpose of accomplishing a signal coup and of securing the imaginary treasures with the possession of which rumor credited the ancient capital, the undertaking was hugely difficult and hardly worth the trouble."

In connection with the movements of the Japanese fleet it is noted that three Japanese cruisers, the Yoshino, Naniwa and Takao, while reconnoitring in the neighborhood of the mouth of the Lia-ho river on November 25, discovered entrenchments garrisoned by Chinese troops. As three German men-of-war were lying there, the Japanese vessels went away without doing anything. The cruiser Chiyoda reconnoitred off Fuchow on November 26, when she discovered several hundred Chinese troops embarking in a steamer of about 600 tons at a certain place. The Chiyoda fired upon them and the enemy returned the fire. But their shots did not reach the man-of-war. The Chinese fled and the Chiyoda captured the steamer and brought her back to the rendezvous. The British cruiser Porpoise arrived at Chefoo on November 22, and sailed again at daylight the next morning. The British fleet in harbor on the 23rd consisted of the Centurion, Undaunted, Edgar, Crescent, Æolus, Leander, Mercury, Severn, Daphne, and Pigmy, but about noon that day it sailed for an unknown destination. The other men-of-war in port were the French Bayard and Lion, American Baltimore, German Alexandrine, and Russian Kreyaser. Rear-Admiral Hoffman hoisted his flag on board the German cruiser Arcona at Shanghai on November 26 under a salute from his own ship of thirteen guns. The British cruiser Caroline saluted his flag with the same number. He was to leave in the Arcona on the 27th for Chefoo. The Pigmy was expected at Shanghai on the 27th and is ordered to relieve the Peacock at Hankow for the winter.

The special correspondent of the Mainichi writes from Port Arthur under date November 25 as follows, concerning the attack on Kinchow by the Chinese: "On November 21, the day of the general advance on Port Arthur, when all our force was concentrated to the south, intelligence was received at the headquarters of the second army corps to the effect that Chinese troops numbering about 8,000 were advancing to the attack of Kinchow. Our army was not surprised at this news, for it was known that there were Chinese troops at Fuchow and Newchwang, and we had left two battalions of infantry for the protection of Kinchow. The garrison made preparations for the defence and even the coolies were armed. There was no Japanese artillery in Kinchow, but infantry men manned the guns captured there and fired on the enemy. It was somewhat strange for infantry men to work the big guns, but their aim was more accurate than that of the Chinese, and the latter, numbering about 8,000, were repulsed in a short time by only a little over 1,000 Japanese. Afterwards 200 sailors were sent to Kinchow from Talienwan."

Under date of the 4th inst. the following Seoul dispatch was published in the Jiji Shimpo just before the Empress sailed for Victoria:

"The Tai-won-kun has retired from office, and the Ming family are about to be restored to power. The King has accepted twenty conditions relating to the reform of the government, recommended by Count Inouye. In-yo-kin, minister for justice, and Jo-sei jun, minister for public works, have resigned their posts. The Tongnaks have risen in various districts of the kingdom, and disquietude prevails in Seoul."

LABOR DEMONSTATION.

MONTREAL, Dec. 17.—(Special)—Nearly a thousand unemployed workingmen marched to the city hall this afternoon and invaded the buildings and demanded work. A few days ago a local paper announced that work on the new East end railway station would be commenced to-day and as a result nearly 3,000 unemployed men gathered on the scene only to find that they had been misled and there was no work for them. When they realized their disappointment their indignation knew no bounds, and a large number of them formed in line and marched to the city hall, where they demanded to see the Mayor and Alderman Prefontaine, chairman of the road committee. Both of these officials addressed the crowd, and promised that work would be provided as soon as possible. The leaders declared that if they were not provided with bread they would take it by force. The crowd finally dispersed in disorder.

CAPITAL NOTES.

OTTAWA, Dec. 15.—(Special)—The finally revised voters' list for Yale and Cariboo received here was gazetted to-day.

New post offices were opened December 1 at Louis Creek, Yale, and Union Bay, Vancouver.

FOREIGNERS IN CHINA.

The Government Undertakes to Efficiently Protect All the Legations.

More Japanese Victories—The Red Cross Society and Its Treatment By Japan.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—A Tientsin dispatch says the foreign sailors and marines who were summoned to Peking to protect the legations of their respective countries were refused the right to travel through Chinese territory by the government authorities. The foreign ministers combined to protect their legations, whereupon the Emperor issued a new order and appointed officers and soldiers to afford the necessary protection to the legations. China has intimated to the diplomats that she objects to military guards in Peking and will undertake the efficient protection of the legations, consequently the English, American, French, German, Russian, Spanish and Italian guards, about fifty to each, have been ordered to winter in Tientsin, where the gunboats of the first five powers are stationed.

The Times correspondent in Tokio says that Marshal Yamagata, who left his command owing to illness, arrived in Hiroshima yesterday. The third army has been mustered at Hiroshima and hourly expects orders as to future operations.

A dispatch from Antong, dated December 15, says General Tachimi's troops were attacked at Sochimo and were holding the Chinese in check at Lichiangtwon. The Japanese on December 11 defeated the Chinese in the vicinity of Hung Kapatz. The enemy fled towards Ying Kow. On the 12th of December the enemy were driven from Chih Mon Chin by the third division, which was then advancing upon Hai Ching. Japanese losses on both of the days were seven killed. The Chinese lost one hundred in action at Yih Minshan. On December 14 the Japanese lost twelve killed and sixty-one wounded; Chinese lost over one hundred.

British warship Latona, now at Portsmouth, has been ordered to proceed to China.

The Times correspondent in Tien Tsin says that there are only fourteen shells to each gun in the city's defences. This scarcity is due largely to the action of the Pekin board of finance, which has curtailed the supplies of ammunition for years.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—An official telegram was received by Miss Clara Barton, president of the American Red Cross Society, from the Japanese legation, to correct the erroneous statements that the Red Cross had been rejected by Japan. The Japanese minister volunteered to ascertain the facts from his government, and as a result the following message was received from the minister of foreign affairs:

TOKIO, Dec. 16.—Kurino, Washington, Nov. 26: After the fall of Port Arthur a Chinese steamer entered Port Arthur with a few foreigners on board who stated that they belonged to the so called private Red-cross society of Tien Tsin, and asked that the wounded Chinese should be delivered to them for treatment at Tien Tsin. They produced certificates from Li Hung Chang and some of the foreign consuls. Our military authorities replied that while they appreciated the philanthropic spirit which prompted this action, the Chinese wounded were prisoners of war and could not be allowed to be taken to their own country, which was hostile to Japan, even though the request were made through the good offices of the consuls of neutral powers. They added that the Japanese field hospital would care for the wounded Chinese, for which course it had abundant facilities, and requested the Chinese vessel to leave the harbor within a specified time."

CABINET MAKING.

Nothing of a Definite Nature to Announce as to the Present Situation.

Return of Sir C. H. Tupper—B. B. Osler's Name Suggested as Minister of Justice.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 17.—People here continue busily engaged in assisting Hon. Mr. Bowell in cabinet making; but as yet there is nothing of a definite nature to announce. Your correspondent learns on excellent authority that up to the present the First Minister has not communicated with any outsider in reference to accepting a portfolio in his cabinet. The local Grits are in cold shivers lest B. B. Osler, Q.C., should join the ministry.

Sir C. H. Tupper returned from the Pacific Coast this afternoon. He drove straight to the Western block and called upon Hon. Mr. Bowell. Their greeting was of the most friendly character.

TORONTO, Dec. 17.—The World's Ottawa dispatch says: "There is great interest in the unauthenticated rumor that B. B. Osler has been offered the portfolio of Minister of Justice. The general suggestion that he should go into the cabinet came from Toronto. Negotiations in that direction are said to have been going on several days."

CANADIAN NEWS.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

TORONTO, Dec. 17.—The cold storage warehouse belonging to Will & Jones, and Jarvis' & McCallum's carpet factory at Strathroy, were destroyed by fire yesterday.

TORONTO, Dec. 17.—T. C. Radcliffe, chief of the Thamesville police, and David Stewart, of Paris, Ont., dropped dead on Saturday.

PORT ARTHUR, Dec. 17.—Capt. G. W. Corbett was drowned yesterday in the Kaministiquia river at his farm above the Kakabeka falls. He was the pioneer of this district.

MONTREAL, Dec. 17.—The C.P.R traffic for the week ending December 14 was $360,000; for the same week last year, $359,000.

TRENTON, Dec. 17.—The stables of the St. Lawrence Hall with the barns and sheds of the Quinte house and a small storehouse belonging to the Cooley estate were burned this morning. Loss $20,000.

QUEBEC, Dec. 17.—Thomas McDougall, formerly manager of the Montreal branch of the Quebec Bank, has been appointed cashier and general manager of that bank to replace the late Mr. Stevenson.