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TWENTY-SIXTH YEAR — EIGHT PAGES—TUESDAY MORNING MARCH 14 1905—EIGHT PAGES — ONE CENT

TIE PASS NO REFUGE FOR RUSSIANS JAPS PRESS ONWARD TO OUST THEM

By Another Movement They Will Force the Battered Enemy Into Plains and Take it Into Camp.

The Russian general staff reports that "the main body has already completed its retreat and the rearguard southward are falling slowly back."

What either the main body or the "rearguard" consists of has not been definitely fixed, but from the despatches from correspondents with the Japanese and the Russians the two combined must be a small portion of the army which Gen. Kuropatkin had gathered along the banks of the Shakhe at Hun River.

And yet those who have reached Tie Pass, worn out from days of fighting and retreating, are not out of danger, THE JAPANESE, IT IS REPORTED, HAVING ALREADY STARTED ANOTHER TURNING MOVEMENT WHICH WILL FORCE THE RUSSIANS ON TO THE PLAINS NORTH OF THE PASS, WHERE IN THEIR DISORGANIZEZD STATE THEY WOULD BE EASY PREY FOR THE VICTORY-FLUSHED SOLDIERS OF THE MIKADO. The men who escaped are strengthening the fortifications in Tie Pass, but it is hardly possible that the pass can be held in the face of overwhelming forces opposed to the Russians, and it is not likely that Oyama will rest satisfied with his victory at Mukden as he did after Liaoyang.

General Kuropatkin now admits that 50,000 wounded were carried off the field. This, with the 26,500 dead left on the field, the 40,000 prisoners, and the wounded left in the hospitals comes somewhat nearer the latest Japanese estimate that the total Russian losses were three hundred thousand, 155,000. AT THIS RATE KUROPATKIN CANNOT HAVE MORE THAN 100,000 EFFECTIVE FIGHTING MEN WITH HIM. The army of Gen. Linevitch seems to have made the best retreat, but this no doubt was due to the stubborn fight made by Gen. Rennenkampff on his extreme left and the equally fierce resistance of Gen. Kaulbars on the right, the latter general losing 28,000 men.

Neither the army of Kaulbars nor that of Rennenkampff has yet been accounted for by the despatches. After his defeat around the western tombs Kaulbars, finding his retreat directly northward cut off, made a detour to the eastward, where he was still fighting at last accounts. Rennenkampff must also still be in the hills to the eastward, as it took the Associated Press courier three days to reach Tie Pass. The Japanese report the capture of 24 more guns, 36 in all, a rather small number considering the decisive defeat and the number of men captured. The Japanese losses have been remarkably light in view of the length and severity of the fighting.

RUSSIANS BEG MERCY.

Soldiers Surrender in a Constant Stream According to Japs.

Newchwang, March 13.—The question of transporting and caring for the thousands of Russian prisoners now is engrossing the attention of Japanese authorities. It is said that more than 40,000 prisoners will be sent to Japan by way of Dalny, and that large numbers will be shipped from Yinkow as soon as the Liao River opens.

Japanese officers, arriving, say that Russian soldiers are surrendering in a constant stream and that great bodies of men, kneeling, beg mercy from the victors. Starving, wounded and half frozen Russians, the officers say, are hiding in the country side and, as their escape is impossible, they must either surrender or starve to death. The country being denuded of provisions.

The Japanese report that the stores of charcoal captured by them exceed the quantities in their possession before the battle of Mukden.

ONE DIVISION ANNIHILATED.

Official Report From Tokio Relating to Sinking Operations.

Tokio, March 13.—The following report was received to-day from the headquarters of the Japanese armies in the field:

"It is estimated that the spoils which fell into our hands in the direction of Sinking (Yenden), since the occupation by us of Tsinkhetchen on Feb. 24, have been as follows:

"Rifles, 22,000; machine guns, 6; small ammunition, 320,000 rounds; shells, 19,500; entrenching tools, 6000; wire, 1200 bundles; materials for a light railway of 33 miles; wagons for the latter, 450; garments, 10 cartloads; coal mining machinery for 8 pits; timber, 4000 pieces.

"Besides these we took large quantities of cattle, fodder, tents, stoves and maps and telephones, as well as a great number of bullocks and horses.

"The enemy left about 1200 dead on the field. We took 80 prisoners. It is estimated that the enemy's casualties were about 20,000. Fifteen prisoners say that the 71st division was almost annihilated.

"Altho the enemy set fire to the stores at Machuntan and Mialupao, we captured thousands of bushels of provisions and enormous quantities of ammunition and other war supplies at these places."

KAULBARS IN THE HILLS.

Has Not Extricated Himself Tho He Has Lost 28,000.

St. Petersburg, March 13.—(5.40 p.m.) Emperor Nicholas has summoned a war council for to-morrow, at which the whole situation will be considered. Little information was vouchsafed at the war office to-day. Gen. Linevitch's army, altho its units were scattered and Gen. Kaulbars was the heaviest loser, Gen. Kaulbars was the heaviest loser, leaving 28,000 prisoners in the hands of the Japanese. Kaulbars himself, with the remnant of his army, had a narrow escape. When the Japanese drove their wedge across the railroad above Mukden he just managed to pull clear by withdrawing south of the city and then moving northeastward into the mountains, barely in time to avoid Gen. Kuroki's columns, which were already at the Hun River bombarding Fu Pass. According to the latest advices Gen. Kaulbars is being pursued and has not succeeded in extricating himself from the mountains. Gen. Meyendorff, commander of the first army corps, was wounded in the shoulder.

We Tin, Iron or Copper. The Canada Metal Co. 25

PEACE FORCED.

Washington, March 13.—When the czar calls his war council tomorrow he will be able to inform them that Japan will welcome peace on reasonable terms, and will promptly name her conditions, provided she receives trustworthy assurances that they will be seriously considered.

This the emperor has learned from friendly chancelleries in Europe, as well as the general terms acceptable to Japan. These, it is said, include the retention by Japan of Port Arthur, a Japanese protectorate over Korea and an indemnity. From a high official the Associated Press hears that Russia has recalled her second Pacific squadron. An attache of a Russian embassy in Europe is quoted as expressing the belief that Kuropatkin's recent defeat will force Russia to ask for peace.

Briefly, these were reports current in diplomatic corps to-day, and as a result of this important official information, Washington believes to-night that Russia and Japan are on the verge of peace. If it be true that the second Pacific squadron has been recalled, even the most optimistic of Russia's friends admit that this is a strong indication that Oyama's mighty blow has made for peace.

RUSSIA'S ARMY SHATTERED GATHERS WITHIN TIE PASS

Rumors Current of a Wide Eastward Flanking Movement to Cut Off Retreat.

St. Petersburg, March 14.—(1.55 a.m.)—Russia's grand army, with the exception of thousands killed or taken prisoners on the plains and mountains around Mukden, is gathering slowly behind the fortifications of Tie Pass, which were built as a refuge before the battle of Liaoyang and is feverishly engaged in the work of reorganization and further strengthening its lines.

According to the general staff, the main body has already completed its retreat and the rearguard southward is falling back slowly, keeping in touch with the pursuing columns of Japanese. In the complete absence of further information yesterday, it is difficult to say whether the pursuit has slackened or is being conducted by only a portion of the Japanese.

Every Man is Valuable.

To the Russian army every man now is valuable, and the footsore and disheartened detachments have been given scarcely an hour's rest before being set at work with spade and pick, improving the defences of the pass. It may be, however, that even now they are being turned out of those positions. Rumors are current that a wide eastward flanking movement, begun before the battle, still is in progress and on the other side it is feared that columns are moving north of Fakoman to take a position in the Russian rear.

50,000 Wounded Carried Off.

Gen. Kuropatkin still holds command. An officer of the general staff said today that probably he will not retire until some semblance of order has been restored. The question of his successor is undetermined. There are indications that the food supply at Tie Pass is none too large, immense quantities having been burned at Mukden; and Russian correspondents telegraph that they have had nothing to eat for two days.

Gen. Kuropatkin admits that 50,000 wounded were carried off, but says nothing as to how many killed, wounded and prisoners were left behind; and from his picture of a little handful of two officers and 150 men of the Imperial Rifles marching off, led by their gallant colonel, clinging to their standard, can be derived some idea of the losses sustained by the regiments that bore the brunt of the fighting. The exploit of the 600 at Balaclava pales besides this.

The Russian army is so badly crippled that offensive operations are impossible.

PEACE IS EXPECTED.

Change Noticed in Japanese and Russian Embassies in London.

London, March 13.—While reports of peace negotiations are not confirmed at the foreign office or the Russian or Japanese embassies, a distinct change of opinion obtains in diplomatic circles, where heretofore talk of propositions for peace always have been minimized, but where now peace evidently is expected. This change particularly is noticeable at the Russian embassy, where it was stated to-day that it was probable, however, Emperor Nicholas, influenced by public sentiment, might consent to negotiations. The embassy said the St. Peterburg despatches to-day summed up the situation correctly. It was said at the embassy that certainly no negotiations had hitherto been attempted by either of the belligerents, but, "when negotiations commence it will not be thru another power, but direct with Japan." At a neutral embassy, however, the opinion was expressed to-day that the German emperor would be the peacemaker for Russia.

Smoke Alive Bollard mixture.
Union Blue Label Cigars are best.

IAN MACLAREN WORN OUT.

London, March 13.—The Rev. Dr. John Watson (Ian MacLaren) has resigned the pastorship of the Sefton Park Presbyterian Church, in Liverpool. In his farewell address Dr. Watson said he was worn out and could not go on. He never had been strong, he said, and had to do his work with hindrances from bodily weariness, and now his strength is nearly exhausted.

Babbit Metal, best made. The Canada Metal Co. 25
Use "Maple Leaf" Canned Salmon. The best Packed.

STRAW STACK FELL ON HER STRANGE DEATH OF WOMAN

Husband Could Not Release Her and Got Help When It Was Too Late.

St. Thomas, March 13. — A strange death was that of Mrs. George Lowry, wife of a young farmer near Fort Dover. On returning from church on Sunday evening, she went with her husband to the barn, and while he was throwing the hay she went to the straw stack to get out the bedding for the horses.

Just how it happened is not known, but in some manner the straw stack toppled over and the whole weight fell on the young woman. There was considerable snow and ice on the top of the stack, which added to the weight and rendered the woman's fate a terrible one. When her husband reached her only her feet were visible, and despite all his efforts he could not release her. He was alone on the farm and had to saddle his horse and ride half a mile before he could get help.

When at length Mrs. Howard was released she was quite dead. It is thought that she was suffocated almost instantly, her body being a mass of bruises from the terrible weight that had fallen on her. Mrs. Lowry had been married only a year. Her maiden name was Mabel Steele.

HEAVY SENTENCES IMPOSED.

Fifteen and Ten Years With Many Lashes Given Highwaymen.

Whitby, March 13.—(Special.) — A sensation was caused to-day by the heavy sentences meted out by Judge Richards to two highwaymen convicted before the grand jury, and who for some time terrorized the city. John Sanderccck was given fifteen years and seventy-five lashes, and William Macdonald, ten years and seventy-five lashes. The severity of the sentences is due to the brutality of the men to the victims they held up. They kicked one man in the face after robbing him. It is hoped this will act as a warning to others. Several similar cases have been reported during the past few months.

DON'T SHOOT, I'LL DROP.

New York, N.Y., March 13.—The finance committee of the state senate to-day notified the Merchants' Association that they had decided not to investigate the telephone business here. Clarence Whitman, chairman of the Merchants Telephone Co. some days ago notified the senate committee that the New York Telephone Co. had agreed to have the prices for telephone service reduced about 20 per cent., it is expected, by April 15. Mr. Whitman reported that in view of that statement the Merchants' Association desired to withdraw its demand for an investigation.

THE SOVEREIGN BANK OF CANADA
28 King St. West. Toronto.
Savings Department.

SUNDAY CARS RAN.

Port Arthur, March 13.—(Special.)—Port Arthur operated its street cars thru Fort William yesterday, despite the objection of Mayor Rutledge of that town, who stated he would not sanction the operation of the cars thru the town on the Sabbath. The action of Port Arthur is the result of the recent decision of the supreme court. Superintendent McGayley informed Mayor Rutledge that Sunday cars would be operated thru Fort Cilliam. The council will take action to stop the service.

On "Walt Whitman."

A. E. S. Smythe spoke on "Walt Whitman, his life and his works" before the Unitarian Club at Webb's parlors last night, and emulated his lofty aspirations and poetic literary thoughts, drawn from nature and breathed to the world from a heart earnest and reverential in its intensity. H. W. Brick presided and a discussion on the lecture was contributed to by Arthur Cox, Rev. Sunderland, A. Oldham and others.

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Smoke Alive Bollard Violetta cigar.
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RUSSIA AND JAPAN MAY AGREE WITHOUT OTHERS' MEDIATION

Diplomat Representing One of the Neutral Powers Warns His Government Against Secret Agreement.

Washington, D.C., March 13. — Convinced that Russia and Japan will both soon succumb to the enormous financial strain placed upon them by the war, a diplomat representing one of the neutral powers most interested in the final issue has within the last two days sent a confidential message to his government, warning it to be on the lookout for a secret agreements to be negotiated between Russia and Japan direct, providing the preliminaries for a settlement of their difficulties.

What it was that prompted the sending of this message cannot be learned, but its author is an official at all times exceptionally well informed on affairs of state and in the diplomatic corps his belief that peace negotiations, when they begin, will be conducted between St. Petersburg and Tokio direct finds considerable credence. Indeed, another diplomat expressed the opinion to-day that the field of battle would be the scene of first negotiations between the belligerents looking to peace.

However secret the negotiations, it is declared that Great Britain, the United States, Germany and France are keenly on the alert for just such a development, and would promptly demand the terms of agreement for their inspection. It is learned that the Chinese government is prepared when the hour of peace comes to call the attention of the powers to the repeated assurances which each has given of faithful adherence to the Hay principle, that "China's administrative entity must be maintained."

G.T.R. LETS OPERATORS GO AND WILL USE TELEPHONE

Twenty Offices on Middle Division Lose Either One or Both of the Co.'s Telegraphers.

What is either the beginning of a simple policy of retrenchment on the part of the Grand Trunk Railway, or else a threat more or less veiled, directed at the Order of Railway Telegraphers, has come out in the statement that the company is laying off a number of the operators. Whether this is to curtail expenses, in view of the recent award of the arbitrators, which means perhaps $5 a month more money to each operator, or whether it is an intimation that the company is prepared to resist any demands that might be further contemplated, by showing how its method of resort to the telephone—that is the question.

At any rate, it is stated that there are twenty offices on the middle division where operators yesterday received a discharge notice. In the majority of cases, only night men are affected, but in a few stations both the night and day men are to be relieved, closing the offices entirely so far as the operators are concerned. On the eastern division it is said there are fifteen offices similarly treated. The increased rates of wages as per the schedule recommended by the arbitrators last month went into effect on March 1.

The plan adopted by the railway to dispense with these telegraph operators is by utilizing for despatch and other railway work instead of the dots and dashes of the ticker, a system called composite telephony for which the telegraph wires are used, but without interfering with the telegraph system. Just how successfully the substitution can be made is still a matter of experiment, so telegraphers say, and they point to the experience of the New York central after some trouble when its staff. That railway then installed a telephone system of this sort at a cost of 25,000, which was used only a few weeks and then the telegraphers were called back.

The action of the G.T.R., however, is causing considerable uneasiness among the operators, who do not know to what extent the company proposes to dispense with their services. The matter will in all likelihood be made the subject of protest by the O.R.T. officials to the G.T.R. management at Montreal.

NOT YET COMPLETE.

But Canada's Offer to Provide Garrisons Will Soon Be Ready.

(Canadian Associated Press Cable.)

London, March 13.—In the course of the debate on the army estimates in the house of commons, the secretary of state said the Dominion government had offered to assume at an early date the entire responsibility for garrisoning Halifax and Esquimalt, providing Canadian troops for purpose, and until those troops were ready paying the cost of the imperial troops retained at those stations.

"Arrangements for this are not yet complete, but I have no doubt a satisfactory conclusion will soon be reached."

THE BYLAW FAILED.

Whitby, March 13.—Two industrial bylaws were voted upon to-day. One was for a windmill works coming into Canada from Michigan, which carried by a small vote. The bylaw for the Farmers' Co-operative Company was nine votes short of the three-fifths of the property owners which was required. This shortage is said to be due to a large number of cases of illness which prevented voters from getting to the polls.

BIG ROUBERY IN MONTREAL.

Montreal, March 13.—When Mr. Larose, foreman with L. T. Michaelson & Son, jewelers and diamond importers, entered the workroom at 411 St. James-street, this morning, he found the door of the large safe amidst a heap of refuse on the office floor, and all the valuable contents gone, the loss being estimated at something between $3000 and $4000. The detective force is on the track of the robbers.

DEATHS.

BEASLEY—On March 11th, 1905, at 240 Church-street, Toronto, Charles Harold Beasley, aged 5 years 5 months and 11 days. Killed instantly by street car; the beloved son of Wm. Beasley, confectioner. He leaves father and mother, four brothers and two sisters to mourn his loss.

Funeral from the above address on Tuesday, March 14th, 1905, at 3 p.m., to Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Friends and acquaintances kindly accept this intimation.

GAGEN—On Sunday, March 12th, 1905, at the residence of her son-in-law, J. W. Lee, 5 Willcocks-street, Toronto, Caroline Gagen, widow of the late George John Gagen, in her 84th year.

Funeral from the above address on Tuesday, March 14th, at 4 p.m.

MULVIHILL—On March 13, Johanna Mulvihill, relict of the late John Mulvihill, engineer G.T.R.,

Funeral on Thursday morning at 8.30 a.m., from her son's residence, No. 620 Bathurst-street, to St. Mary's R.C. Church, thence to St. Michael's Cemetery.

NOBLE—At his late residence, 182 Duchess-street, John Noble, beloved husband of Mary Ann Noble, in his 56th year.

Funeral Wednesday, March 15th, at 2.30 p.m. Belfast papers please copy.

RAYMER—At Box Grove, March 12th, 1905, Emeline Burkholder, beloved wife of Franklin H. Raymer, in her 41st year.

Funeral from her late residence to Box Grove Cemetery, on Wednesday, March 15th, at 2 p.m.

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TO-DAY IN TORONTO.

Presbyterian Home Mission Committee, Knox Church, 9.30.
Presbyterian W.H.M.S., Old St. Andrew's, 10, 3.30, 8.
Lenten services: St. James' Cathedral, "Herod," 12.30; Church of Ascension, 12.25.
C.M.A. Reception Committee, 2.
Rev. Dr. Milligan on "Wants That Are Wants," C. H. E. Association, Normal School, 3.
Evangelist Newell at Cooke's Church, 3.30, 8.
Citizens' League, Y.M.C.A., 4.
Toronto Press Club, King Edward, 6.
Caledonian Society, St. George's Hall, 8.
Army and Navy Veterans, Occident Hall, 8.
Central Presbyterian Church Choir, service of praise, 8.
Theatres—See public amusements.

EVERY EYE IS ON MR. SIFTON WHY DID HE QUIT CABINET?

Liberals Declare it Was Not for the Sake of Principle, But for His Own Sake.

Ottawa, March 13.—(Special.)—Hon. Clifford Sifton is the man who is being watched in connection with the crisis arising out of the separate schools clauses of the autonomy bill. He is carrying on the negotiations between the government and those of its supporters who cannot support the separate schools clauses. What satisfies him will satisfy them. If he and the government can't agree upon a compromise then there will be war to the end between the government and the western Liberals, with the possible exception of Thomas Greenway.

The Ontario Liberals and their colleagues from the west believe their political future depends on the negotiations between the government and Mr. Sifton. They knew that the autonomy bill is unpopular among their constituents. But they think at the same time that if the government will modify the separate schools clauses sufficiently to enable Mr. Sifton to support them, they can vote with the government with comparatively little danger. If, on the other hand, the government cannot come to terms with Mr. Sifton, and if the latter finds it necessary to still oppose the bill, they feel that they could support it only at the risk of their political lives.

What's His Purpose?

This is the way the Liberals representing strong Protestant constituencies size up the situation. Their reasoning is probably astray in the importance it attaches to Mr. Sifton's actions, but there can be no doubt that the acquiescence of the former minister of the interior, in modified clauses, would greatly simplify the difficulties which beset the Ontario Liberals and their brethren from the west. So far Mr. Sifton has used the advantage which his position offers for all it is worth. He has pressed the government wherever pressure could be conveniently applied. And, for what purpose? That is the question that puzzles the government's friends.

When it is gently intimated that Mr. Sifton left the government on a question of principle, Liberals put their hands over their mouths and indulge in quiet merriment. They insist that he did not leave for principle's sake, but for Mr. Sifton's sake, and that no one was happier than he when he found a plausible excuse for getting out of the cabinet. Mr. Sifton left the government, giving as a reason the school question. But, there are other reasons, so his late friends say. Their feelings are reflected in a cartoon published in Le Nationaliste, M. Bourassa's organ, which The World reproduces to-day.

Scandal Forced Him Out.

Le Nationaliste conveys the impression that scandal forced Mr. Sifton out of the cabinet. The scandals alleged are more than departmental. All Ottawa is ringing with one or more of them. The result is that the Sifton has gone out of the cabinet on strong grounds, he is largely discredited. He cannot reenter the cabinet. Apparently he is not at all anxious to go back. But strange to say, he is conducting negotiations with the government on behalf of the Northwest Liberals. The infirmity in his hearing grows. He is physically debarred from going higher in political life, even if the situation gave him ground to hope for such promotion, and he cannot go to England as Canadian high commissioner, an office which his friends have connected him with more than once.

Three courses are now open to Mr. Sifton. He can fight the government either by himself or with Mr. Fielding if he can get him, or with more or less of the west behind him. He can make terms with the government for a modified schools clause, and remain in the house as a private member, or he can effect a compromise with the government and then go into the politics of the new provinces, where there are likely to be large railway exploitations based on the guaranteed bonds of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

With the Two M.'s.

For some reason or other, rumor will not entirely dissociate Mr. Sifton's resignation from the interests of Mackenzie & Mann. It is well-known that Sifton was Mackenzie & Mann's "Man Friday" in the cabinet until he was carried off his feet by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway scheme. Sifton was obliged to bear in silence the blow administered thru the political influence of Hon. George A. Cox, but, the beaten, he cherished a revenge. It is a question if the negotiations looking to a compromise on the school question, which are going on to-day, are not related to the schemes of Mackenzie & Mann. Mr. Sifton is in a position to say that he will consent to a compromise only on terms which will ensure Mackenzie & Mann's interests of fair treatment at Ottawa. Le Nationaliste throws out a broad hint in this direction, and in so doing it shares the views of prominent friends of the government.

Need Government Favor.

Mackenzie & Mann have not enjoyed the government's favor since the revelations which connected the firm's name with the Russell-Blair conspiracy. They have not been any too successful in restoring themselves in the good graces of the government, and it may be that Mr. Sifton is giving them a friendly lift in the negotiations now proceeding in connection with the autonomy bill. Fortunately, Mr. Sifton will soon have to show his hand. If he is sincere in his opposition to the autonomy bill he will consent to nothing short of complete withdrawal of the clauses which interfere with the right of the new provinces to manage their own educational affairs. If he is playing the part of a political trickster or as a friend of Mackenzie & Mann he may be expected to sell out as much of the principle he pretends to be fighting for as will buy back for Mackenzie & Mann the favor of the government.

Events of the new two or three days will show whether Mr. Sifton resigned for principle's sake or for reasons best known to himself and Mackenzie & Mann.

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Superior Workmanship on Union Label Cigars. 246
Smoke Blue Union Label Cigars. 246

HOW IT CAME ABOUT

SIFTON: Remain in a cabinet which intends to give Catholic schools to Catholics? Oh, no! It is too much, my conscience won't stand for it.—From Le Nationaliste.

SIFTON'S CABINET BOLT SUGGESTS A CONSPIRACY

Le Nationaliste Believes Construction of Transcontinental Railway is Intimately Connected With Attitude of Ministers on School Question.

Montreal, March 13.—(Special.)—The editor of Le Nationaliste, writing from Ottawa, says: I was right in believing that the near future would bring surprises. Is not, in fact, the school question and the attitude taken at first by the ministry simply a pretext adopted by certain ministers and their associates, for the overthrow of the Laurier cabinet?

Are we in presence of the same conspiracy which had in view the construction of the railway by Mackenzie & Mann, the railway magnates, and which was wrecked at the last elections by the purchase of La Presse and the resignation of Mr. Blair, after being exposed by The Nationaliste?

Putting all the following facts together and connecting them with each other, does it not appear that Mr. Sifton did not resign thru principle alone, and that the anticipated departure of Mr. Fielding was prompted by something else than the school question?

It is in fact a secret from no one that Mackenzie & Mann would like to see the government overthrown in order to secure the construction of the transcontinental railway, because of the lands in the Northwest, which they jointly own with Mr. Sifton.

Long Relationship.

As a matter of fact, the relation of these powerful contractors with the ex-minister already dates back a long time when they had in the ex-minister a powerful ally in the construction of the Yukon Railway.

Shortly after the election of 1900, when the favors accorded Mackenzie & Mann by Premier Roblin in the Manitoba Railway contract were being ratified at Ottawa, The Globe, La Patrie and The Free Press, the three principal ministerial organs at that time, violently denounced them. Mr. Sifton deemed it necessary to take a short journey to Manitoba; when he returned an order was given to the Liberal members to support the project and the ministerial press made a somersault, advocating what it had blasted.

Let us examine now the different attitudes and declarations of the ex-minister of the interior.

It is a fact that before his departure for the south he expressed himself as satisfied with separate schools.

When he got back The News and other papers announced before he had even given out an interview, that he was going to resign. Where did these sheets get their information?

At that very time the member for Brandon declared that he was satisfied with Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech on the school question.

What Took Place?

What then took place between Saturday and Monday, the day he tendered his resignation, which was accepted on the Tuesday. We do not know this. What we can affirm is that on this very day the rumor of Mr. Fielding's resignation was not a secret from any one, however slenderly informed, and that the finance minister had not yet reached Ottawa.

On Wednesday Sir Wilfrid Laurier announced in the house the retiral of the member for Brandon, and the latter declared that BEING OPPOSED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATE SCHOOLS he could not longer remain in the ministry.

Certain apparently well-informed people pretend that the school question is only a pretext, an opportune and solid lever permitting Mackenzie & Mann to regain their prestive lost at the last election.

Mr. Sifton by resigning would force Mr. Fielding's hand, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, discouraged, might himself resign to Mr. Fielding's profit.

Of course, we hesitate to believe such an act of disloyalty or bad faith on the part of the minister of finance.

Fielding's Role.

But for a long time he has been accustomed to hear himself called Sir Wilfrid's successor. The members from Quebec, tho, have helped the conviction that he alone aside from Sir Wilfrid Laurier had influence in their province, and in the circumstances it may be imagined that before the agitation by the Tories and the fright of the Grits he alone could do what Sir Wilfrid could no more do—that is to say—save the party. One can more easily place credit in a conspiracy when he must needs later, thanks to that conspiracy, play the role of providential friend.

Otherwise the old separatist of Nova Scotia remains especially the man of his province, which is entirely in the hands of Mackenzie & Mann.

All this is without doubt pure hypothesis, but is there not the beginning of the proof by writ in the telegram sent to the minister of finance by the famous Dave Russell.

"Hon. W. S. Fielding, Ottawa: I sincerely hope that the school question will be settled to your satisfaction, and that it will not be necessary for you to resign, but if you resign you can count on MY CORDIAL SUPPORT AND THAT OF MY FRIENDS, as well as the influence of The Telegraph and The Times.

"David Russell."

Whence comes this sudden friendship,—what is the cause of this familiarity between the minister of finance and the famous promoter?

This David Russell is the man who negotiated the sale of La Presse when it was ready to sink before falling into the hands of Mackenzie & Mann.

Then there is the tie. It is held; but other facts emerge to strengthen it. First there is the reply of the minister to David Russell:

"My thanks for telegram.

"W. S. Fielding."

Why This Reply?

Why did Mr. Fielding send this reply? Since when has he been at David Russell's call? Why this sentiment of gratitude for a personage with whom he was not on friendly terms at the last election, and who to-day has the insolence to exhort to treason by a telegram?

It may be said that this was a joke of the minister's. I reply that jests are not made with everybody, that the reply is a bad one, and that it was no time for joking.

Is not all this explained by the enigmatical words of M. Tarte in La Patrie of Wednesday: "The true reasons of Mr. Sifton's retirement are a mystery for many people. For others who pretend to know, they are less mysterious."

Laurier is not going, it is hoped, to force him into a compromise shameful for himself, to discredit him thus in the Province of Quebec, which is his

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SCHOOL QUESTION UNSETTLED.

Ottawa, March 13.—(Special.)—The school question, as it is now popularly known, is in an unsettled condition to-night. Hon. Clifford Sifton has so far refused to agree to a compromise.

The ministers are worried, having reached the conclusion that there is no settlement in sight short of the complete withdrawal of the educational clauses.

The rumor is afloat that Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick will resign. As an Ontario man said to-day, "A compromise that satisfies the western Liberals will drive Mr. Fitzpatrick from the cabinet."

Mr. Fitzpatrick is strongly opposed to the emasculation of the separate schools clauses. He is further incensed at the action of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in seeking to create the impression that the minister of justice smuggled into the educational clauses a meaning which was far from the intention of his colleagues.

To some of his friends Mr. Fitzpatrick has indicated his intention of resigning his portfolio, but the threat is not taken seriously. The prime minister has a great hold on Mr. Fitzpatrick, and the latter would hesitate to make an open break with his chief.

Still almost anything may happen in the present strained condition of affairs. The ministers are suspicious of one another.

To-night some comment was caused by Mr. Sifton whispering to Mr. Fielding and subsequently taking the minister of finance out of the house. The minister of finance and the former minister of the interior are supposed to have a good deal in common. At all events they are on very friendly terms.

For the first time petitions were presented to the house to-day declaring against any modification of the separate school clauses of the autonomy bill. The petitions came from Quebec, and it developed that they had all come thru the prime minister's hands, whose frank the envelope bore.

It looks as if the premier is interested in having petitions circulated in favor of the bill.

SEES NO NEED TO CHANGE RELATIONS WITH BRITAIN

Sir Wilfrid Declares That Our Present Status in Regard to Motherland is Satisfactory.

Ottawa, March 13.—(Special.)—Col. Sam Hughes to-day projected into the deliberations of the house a question which led to a long discussion. He moved a resolution declaring in favor of the colonies entering into full partnership with the union of the British empire, while at the same time retaining their loyal self-government. In support of this theory, the colonel made a strong speech, showing why Canada should take on new responsibilities.

McPherson of Vancouver, Cockshutt of Brantford, and Dr. Black of Hants, took part in the discussion. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and R. L. Borden wound up the debate. The prime minister, while studiously gentle in his treatment of the subject, declared that PRESENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MOTHER COUNTRY AND THE COLONIES WERE SATISFACTORY, AND SUCH BEING THE CASE THERE WAS NO REASON FOR CHANGING THEM.

Col. Hughes Moves.

Col. Sam Hughes moved: "That in the opinion of this house, the best interests of Canada and the empire at large would be advanced, and the peace, progress and prosperity of humanity be assured, by a full partnership union of Great Britain and her colonies wherein there would be a united imperial parliament, empowered to deal with inter-imperial, international, commercial, financial and other necessary national problems; but leaving to the existing parliaments their present powers, functions, control of tariff and other matters necessary for their own purpose."

Col. Hughes reflected sadly on the circumstance that E. F. Clarke was to have seconded the resolution. He said he was no pioneer in the movement for a full partnership union of Great Britain and her colonies. As early as 1846 a great Nova Scotian, Hon. Joseph Howe, took a strong stand on the question, and predicted a day when the British empire would be a united whole. Even as Mr. Howe's prediction that the whistle of the locomotive would yet be heard in the passes of the Rockies had been fulfilled, so would his prediction of a united empire be realized. Col. Hughes recalled the time when as a school teacher he had difficulty in making his pupils understand why different portions of the British empire were painted on the map in different colors. To remedy this defect the colonel seized the opportunities of a certain Saturday and painted all the British possessions one color. "Needless to say," said the gallant colonel, "that color was red."

Bond of Union.

It had been said that Britain and her colonies were divided by great stretches of ocean. The ocean, he argued, was really a bond of union. What was needed was a high tone in the national life of the country, a contentment which begets pride in the country's flag. A closer union was essential in the interest of the mother country. Britain had reached the climax of her greatness. She had achieved more than any other nation in the world had ever achieved. Her enemies would now gladly cripple her trade, they would resort to war if they dare. It was now known that at the time of the Transvaal war various European nations sought to intervene and cut off all the British possessions in South Africa. It was in the interest of the colonies also to enter a closer union. The colonies were loyal to the core, they were growing to manhood, and it was absurd to say that they must remain as they are to-day. If there was no union it would not be the fault of the colonies, but of the motherland. Of the various courses open to Canada, including independence and annexation, Col. Hughes' preference was strongly for a full partnership union.

Insidious Efforts Made.

Col. Hughes spoke of the insidious efforts that had been made to break down the relations between Canada

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Chinese Celebrate Victory.

Newchwang, March 13.—Just as the Koreans celebrated the Japanese victory at the battle of the Yalu, so the Chinese at Newchwang are now in a spirit of great jubilation celebrating the fall of Mukden. There is a great display of fireworks, Chinese lanterns, transparencies and banners of the guilds, and the streets are crowded with merrymakers, who applaud the efforts of the stilt-walkers, Japanese and Chinese are paroding the streets hand in hand.

Ready to Order or Made to Order.

By making a particular effort the Dineen Company is able to show an assortment of Ladies' Persian Lamb Jackets made up in the new vogue of style. If you cannot find among these made-up garments a jacket that will suit to the last point of perfection, your order will be taken for a made-to-order jacket at the same price—$110 to $125. The skins are selected from newly-arrived Leipzic purchases. The W. & D. Dineen Company, corner Yonge and Temperance streets.

FINE.

Meteorological Office, Toronto, March 13.—(8 p.m.)—The weather remains everywhere fine and cold.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 44—56; Calgary, 10—22; Qu'Appelle, 6 below—23; Winnipeg, 34 below—12; Port Arthur, 14 below—18; Parry Sound, 10 below—18; Toronto, 8—26; Ottawa, 4 below—22; Montreal, zero—16; Quebec, 6 below—10; Halifax, 4—24.

Probabilities.

Lower Lakes, Georgian Bay, Ottawa Valley and Upper St. Lawrence—Light to moderate winds; fine, not much change in temperature.

Lower St. Lawrence and Gulf—Fine, not much change in temperature.

Maritime and Superior—Light to moderate winds; fine; not much change in temperature.

Manitoba—Fine; stationary or a little higher temperature.

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