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RUSSIA AND JAP FLEETS CLOSE TOGETHER; FATEFUL BATTLE NOW MATTER OF HOURS; STRAITS OF MALACCA WILL SEE STRUGGLE

Rojestvensky's Powerful Squadron Sighted by Togo's Scouts—Latter Retiring Upon Main Fleet.

Russian Admiral May Attempt to Make the French Port of Saigon.

Penang, West Coast of Malay Peninsula, April 8.—Two steamers which have arrived at Penang report the sighting of a large Russian fleet in the Straits of Malacca. It included 25 transports and was steering toward Singapore.

The steamers also report having sighted twelve cruisers, presumably Japanese, steaming some distance ahead—evidently a Japanese scouting squadron.

There is much excitement here and at Singapore over the anticipation of an engagement in the Malayan waters.

Singapore, Straits Settlement, April 8—2:10 p.m.—The Russian fleet, reported by the British steamer Tara, has been sighted heading apparently for the Durián Straits, 37 miles south-south-west of Singapore.

Singapore, Straits Settlement,

ACTOR STODDART SERIOUSLY ILL

Prostrated at Galt and May Never Appear On Stage Again.

Galt, April 8.—J. H. Stoddart, the veteran actor, who is ill at the Hotel Grand here, is suffering from severe nervous prostration. He is in a serious condition, and his son in New York was telegraphed for. While hope is entertained that he may recover, his extreme age, bordering on 80 years, and the consequent enfeeblement of his recuperative powers, make it altogether unlikely that he has made his last appearance on the stage.

Fell Dead In Street.
Dundas, April 8.—James Scott, aged 75, fell dead on King street this morning. Heart failure and old age are the supposed cause of death. The late Mr. Scott leaves a widow, one son in the United States, and two daughters residing in Stratford. Mr. Scott had lived in Dundas for many years, and was employed for a number of years by the Hon. Thomas Bain.

3 P. C. of Gross Earnings; Railway Taxation Report

Committee Recommends That Telegraphs, Express and Tramways Be Taxed on Same Plan.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Toronto, April 8.—The purpose of the report of the provincial railway taxation commission is that the railways should pay more taxes. As to the method of imposing this tax, the report carefully sets forth the commissioners' opinion. It is pointed out that municipalities should not view with a jealous eye the amount of corporate taxes which may pass to the Provincial treasury, because it is returned to them in one form or other, and if the treasury does not find some means of sharing in the general increase of the

country's wealth it will be forced to curtail aid to education, etc., or resort to direct taxation. The recommendation is made that the railways be taxed at the rate of 2 per cent on the gross receipts from their business within the Province of Ontario.

"Inasmuch as the business of telegraph, express and sleeping car companies is so intimately associated with railroad corporations, especially in Canada, and inasmuch as electrical railways are not only furnishing urban service, but are extending throughout the country in competition with the regular steam railroads, and are likely to be indefinitely extended in the future,"

London, April 8.—A dispatch from Singapore to a news agency says that the British steamer Tara reports having passed off One Fathom Bank, in the Straits of Malacca, at noon Friday, steaming southward.

A Batavia, Java, dispatch to the same paper says that Chinese junkers report that Japanese warships are patrolling all the straits available to Rojestvensky in an attempt to reach the China Sea.

Jibuti (Gulf of Aden), April 7.—Vice-Admiral Nebogatoff's division of the Russian second Pacific squadron sailed this morning.

Hong Kong, April 8.—In consequence of the appearance of a fleet in the Straits of Malacca, the China squadron is preparing to put to sea. The armored cruiser Sutlej leaves today for Singapore, and the first-class battleship Ocean and a cruiser will follow.

MAKING FOR COCHIN-CHINA
Russian Fleet's Path to French Port
Barred by Togo.

London, April 8.—The sudden shifting of interest in the war from the land to the sea, and the apparently imminent prospects of a fateful battle between the Russian and Japanese squadrons in the China Sea, have revived all the interest shown here in the earlier developments of the struggle in the far east. It is taken for granted that Admiral Togo's ships, reported to be in the neighborhood of Singapore in the middle of March, are still in that vicinity, and the report from Penang that twelve Japanese ships were seen steaming ahead of the Russian warships, is interpreted to mean that the former are scouts sent

Toronto, April 8.—It is reported that Mr. W. H. Hearst, a well-known barrister of Sault Ste. Marie, has been offered the position of Minister of Mines in the provincial cabinet. The Conservatives have no hope, it is said, of unseating Mr. C. N. Smith, the Liberal member for the Soo, and an arrangement is contemplated whereby Mr. W. R. Smythe, the member for Algoma, is to resign and accept a Government position, thus affording Mr. Hearst a chance for election. The latter gentleman is said to be acceptable to the party in New Ontario, and with the prestige of a cabinet minister would, it is held, have no difficulty in securing a seat should one be opened voluntarily or otherwise.

Swedish Premier Resigns.
Stockholm, Sweden, April 8.—Premier Boström has resigned owing to expressions of disapproval by the prince-regent in his recent statement on the subject of the dual government.

A SOO MAN FOR MINES MINISTER?

Reported That Barrister W. H. Hearst Will Be Given the Portfolio.

country's wealth it will be forced to curtail aid to education, etc., or resort to direct taxation. The recommendation is made that the railways be taxed at the rate of 2 per cent on the gross receipts from their business within the Province of Ontario.

out by Togo to get in touch with the Russians, and when their object is accomplished, to retire on the main body of the Japanese squadron.

The reports about the number of the Russian ships vary, but at any rate, over 25 battleships, cruisers, colliers, and torpedo boats have passed the port of Singapore. The underwriters here presume from the northeasterly course they were steering, that after passing Singapore, the Russian ships are attempting to reach the French port of Saigon, Cochinchina. However, it is pointed out that a Japanese squadron of 22 ships is still off Horsburgh light, where it was reported March 14. The two naval forces were this afternoon only about 30 miles apart, and may be in touch at any moment.

St. Petersburg Hears News.
St. Petersburg, April 8, 6:35 p.m.—The admiralty has just received official advice from Singapore confirming the arrival of Rojestvensky's squadron off that port.

The Final Trial.
St. Petersburg, April 8.—Intense interest was aroused here today by the announcement that Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron was passing Singapore, but the admiralty does not admit that it has received official confirmation of the report. In fact, the officials have observed unusual reticence for some time about the movements and intentions of the squadron, but as stated several times in these dispatches, the Associated Press had positive knowledge that Admiral Rojestvensky was leaving Admiral Nebogatoff (commander of a division of the second Pacific squadron), behind and was bound for the Far East to try conclusion with Admiral Togo. All Russia's hopes of changing the fortune of war are staked upon the issue, and for some time the admiralty has declared that only peace could intervene to prevent a final trial for the mastery of the sea.

Clearing Up at Mukden.
Gen. Oku's Headquarters in the Field, April 7, via Fusan.—The Japanese are making every effort to prevent the appearance of disease during the coming warm weather. Thousands of soldiers and Chinese are engaged in cleaning Mukden and the vicinity of the battlefields. The Russians left the city in a very sanitary condition, and this will result probably in much sickness during the summer unless the sanitary measures of the Japanese are successful. Strict orders have been issued regarding the maintenance of purity of the drinking water, and other preventative measures will be taken.

RAT PORTAGE NO MORE
The Town Council Changes the Name
to That of Keenora.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Winnipeg, Man., April 8.—At Port William at present there is no sign of the ice breaking up or moving out into Lake Superior, but with warm weather and high winds during the next two weeks, navigation should open there. The Port William harbor is already becoming dangerous for vessels to cross. A team of horses yesterday went through the ice and would have been drowned but for the timely assistance of the large gang of men employed on the Ogilvie mill property, who rescued the horses with rope and tackle.

At a meeting of the town council, Rat Portage, last night decided to change the name of the town to Keenora.

ALEXANDRA FOR PEACE
Queen Deplores World-Wide Strife
and Hopes for Better Times.

Paris, April 8.—The Gaulois publishes a dispatch from the representative of the paper who says that he had the honor of being received by Queen Alexandra yesterday, on board the royal yacht at Marseilles. The writer says that the queen refused to speak upon political matters, and he gives the following report of the Queen's conversation: "Queens must do all in their power to prepare their children for the exalted positions which they will be called upon to occupy. It should be their task, however difficult, it may seem, to comfort the afflicted and unhappy. That is the best and sweetest part they can play, and for myself I have no wish to play any other."

"In the troublous times in which we are living it is impossible not to be affected by the dissatisfaction of the masses, which is in many ways natural enough. Believe me, if the social problem ever can be solved, it will be by means of the goodness of women. By mutual love and a common reverence for the rights of justice and charity. Your task as men is war, but we women speak always of peace—peace in every nation, peace between all nations."

"I was educated in the school of a king who was before all things just, and I have tried, like him, always to preach love and charity. I have always mistrusted warlike preparations, of which nations seem never to tire. Some day this accumulated material of soldiers and guns will burst into flame in a frightful war that will throw humanity into mourning on earth and grieve our universal Father in heaven."

ONE BOER LEFT Solitary Irreconcilable Prefers Resi- dence in Ceylon.

Colombo, Ceylon, April 8.—Robert Rogers, one of the two remaining Boer prisoners who refused to take the oath of allegiance to King Edward, has left for Holland, after being detained four and a half years. He was not allowed to return to South Africa.

The only prisoner left is H. Engelbrecht, a Free Stater. On being asked why he did not take the oath, he replied: "I never could be true to the King. How can I make myself a false man?"

STRIKE IN U. S. COLLIERY 300 Men Out as Result of Dismissal of Employee.

Halifax, N. S., April 8.—More than 300 miners of the Acadia Coal Company at Westville, Pictou, are out on strike, and nothing has been done at the collieries for two or three days. The trouble is chiefly friction with Thomas Blackwood, underground manager, who is said to be opposed to the union. A miner had been discharged from the work. The men considered it a wrongful dismissal and went on strike. It looks as if the strike would be prolonged.

Mrs. John Bell Dying.
Belleville, April 8.—Mrs. John Bell, wife of John Bell, K.C., for half a century solicitor of the G. T. R., is dying in this city from alleged cerebro-spinal meningitis. Five doctors have given her up.

Bristol Their Nominee.
Toronto, April 8.—Edmund Bristol, by the unanimous vote of the delegates assembled in convention at Victoria, last night, was chosen the Conservative nominee for Center Toronto, in the bye-election to be held on April 15th.

FOUR HUNDRED PERSONS DIE IN DISASTER AT MADRID

Awful Catastrophe at Spanish Capital Through the Collapse of a Reservoir.

Madrid, April 8.—Four hundred persons were killed or injured today by the collapse of a new water reservoir in course of construction.

Fifty bodies have already been recovered. The Prince of the Asturias,

poorer and poorer, until in recent years he depended entirely upon the charity of his friends.

ONCE HE CORNERED WHEAT
Mitchell, Formerly Worth Millions,
Dies a Pauper at Chicago.

Chicago, April 8.—Edward W. Mitchell, at one time a leading figure on the Chicago Board of Trade, organizer of a corner in which in 1868, and once worth millions, is dead at the county hospital, 70 years of age, a pauper.

His fall came in 1870, only two years after he had cornered the wheat market and made a fortune. Since then he has lived in the hope that one day he would regain his former wealth, but his failure had so shaken him that he never regained his position, but grew

Former Minister of Finance Morine, but a division of the House sustained the Premier by a vote of 19 to 6.

In moving for the adoption of the bill the Premier claimed that the treaty of 1818 does not give the Americans right to fish in the bays, harbors and creeks on that section of the coast where they were granted certain treaty privileges. His contention was based upon the fact that the treaty does not specifically state that the bays, harbors and creeks shall be open to American fishermen.

Mr. Morine moved that the bill be read six months hence, and his motion was seconded by Mr. Cashin, the senior member for Ferryland, who temporarily abandoned the ranks of his party for the purpose of doing so. Mr. Morine contended that the Premier's argument in support of his measure was untenable, and declared that under the terms of the treaty the Americans have the right to land on the island and to do everything necessary to secure cargoes of fish for their vessels.

THE WEATHER. Tomorrow—Milder, a Few Showers.

Toronto, April 7—3 p.m.
With the exception of a few very local showers in Quebec and Eastern Nova Scotia, the weather in Canada today has been fair. It has remained cool in Ontario, and temperatures have been slightly lower in the Territories and Nova Scotia, while in Manitoba it is somewhat warmer.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 38-50; Calgary, 28-52; Edmonton, 30-50; Qu'Appelle, 34-54; Winnipeg, 24-52; Port Arthur, 16-42; Parry Sound, 24-34; Toronto, 38-42; Ottawa, 28-36; Montreal, 32-40; Quebec, 30-40; St. John, 34-50; Halifax, 30-44.

FORECASTS.
Saturday, April 8—3 a.m.
Today—Moderate westerly winds; fair. Sunday—A little milder, and a few scattered showers.

TEMPERATURES.
Stations. 8 a.m. Max. Min. Weather.
Calgary 28 52 Fair
Winnipeg 24 52 Clear
Toronto 38 42 Cloudy
Ottawa 28 36 Fair
Montreal 32 40 Cloudy
Quebec 30 40 Cloudy
Father Point 30 40 Cloudy

LESSAR SERIOUSLY ILL Czar's Minister at Peking Lies at the Point of Death.

St. Petersburg, April 8.—A telegram received here from Peking says the illness of M. Paul Lessar (the Russian minister to China) is critical. He has been unconscious since Thursday evening.

CURZONS MOVE OUT Earthquakes Kenier the Vice-Royal Lodge Unsafe.

Simla, India, April 8.—The vice-regal lodge here has been declared to be unsafe, as a result of the earthquakes. Lady Curzon, wife of the viceroy, with her children and the vice-regal staff, have moved into houses situated within the lodge grounds. Lady Curzon's bedroom was considerably damaged. The shocks have ceased and the residents of Simla are reassured.

THE KING'S MOVEMENTS Royal Yacht Preparing to Sail for Island of Minorca.

Marseilles, April 8.—It is expected that the British royal yacht Victoria and Albert, with King Edward and Queen Alexandra on board, will sail this afternoon, although a violent storm in the Mediterranean may delay her departure. The first stop of the ship will be Port Mahon, Island of Minorca. Her ultimate destination has not yet been disclosed, but the fact that Port Mahon is on the direct route to Tangier, Morocco, gives rise to reports that King Edward may stop at that port. The officers of the yacht refuse all information regarding the destination of the Victoria and Albert.

King Edward, wearing the undress uniform of an admiral, mounted the bridge of the yacht this morning, and surveyed the horizon. The crowds of people lining the quay cheered the King when he appeared on deck.

INCREASE IN REVENUE All Expenditures Combined Leave a Surplus of Over \$4,000,000.

Ottawa, April 8.—The revenue and expenditure statement of the Dominion shows total receipts on consolidated fund account for the nine months ending March 1 to have been \$51,430,768, which is \$12,710,403 in excess of the ordinary expenditure. Taking all the expenditures combined, there is a surplus of over \$4,000,000. Receipts display a gain of \$1,257,201 over the same period of the previous year, and expenditures an increase of \$6,000,000 in round numbers. For the month of March the gain in revenue was \$251,411, while the expenditure exceeded that of a year ago by \$1,047,497. Capital expenditure for the nine months amounted to \$8,395,029, an increase of \$1,822,159. The sum of \$1,145,249 was paid out in bonuses, as compared with \$622,181 for the same period of the year previous.

COAST OF NEWFOUNDLAND TO BE BARRED TO AMERICANS

St. John's, Nfld., April 8.—Premier Bonine has moved in the Legislature for the adoption of a new bill against American fishing vessels. It provides that if an American fishing vessel is found within three miles of the coast of Newfoundland, with bait, supplies or outfits purchased within any port in the island, the vessel, equipment, stores and cargo shall be forfeited. It also provides that the task of proving that the bait, supplies or outfits were not purchased in violation of this act will rest upon the owners of the vessels. The bill was opposed by the Opposition under the leadership of

Former Minister of Finance Morine, but a division of the House sustained the Premier by a vote of 19 to 6.

In moving for the adoption of the bill the Premier claimed that the treaty of 1818 does not give the Americans right to fish in the bays, harbors and creeks on that section of the coast where they were granted certain treaty privileges. His contention was based upon the fact that the treaty does not specifically state that the bays, harbors and creeks shall be open to American fishermen.

Mr. Morine moved that the bill be read six months hence, and his motion was seconded by Mr. Cashin, the senior member for Ferryland, who temporarily abandoned the ranks of his party for the purpose of doing so. Mr. Morine contended that the Premier's argument in support of his measure was untenable, and declared that under the terms of the treaty the Americans have the right to land on the island and to do everything necessary to secure cargoes of fish for their vessels.

GERMANY FEELS HURT Thinks Should Have Been Consulted Over Moroccan Affairs.

Berlin, April 8.—The speech of the foreign minister, M. Delcasse, in the Chamber of Deputies, yesterday, on the Moroccan situation, in which he omitted to make any mention of Germany, indicating also that France holds to her policy regardless of German claims, is exceedingly annoying to the German governmental world. A point of pride appears to be the only actual barrier between Germany and France, Chancellor Von Bülow has said that Germany ought to have been consulted regarding the Franco-British agreement, and M. Delcasse says that France is willing to discuss any misunderstanding that might occur. But neither makes an offer which he thinks should come from the other.

The Spotted Plague.
New York, April 8.—Dr. Herman M. Biggs, medical adviser of the commission appointed to deal with the epidemic of cerebro spinal meningitis, said that he did not consider the situation alarming. The percentage of deaths from meningitis, when compared with those of other diseases, was not large.

The deaths from meningitis for the past six days were 95, against 131 deaths in the previous week.

FRANK OLIVER, OF EDMONTON, NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, Ont., April 8th.—Frank Oliver, M. P., Edmonton, was sworn in as Minister of the Interior at noon today, in place of Hon. Clifford Sifton, who resigned. Mr. Oliver leaves at once for the west to stand for re-election.

The new Minister of the Interior was born in Peel County, Ont., in 1853. He went to the Northwest at an early period in his career and became a member of the Northwest Council in 1883, and was elected to the Legislative Assembly, which succeeded the

THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH LANGEVIN A Winnipeg Conservative Wants Roblin Government to Tell About Them.

Winnipeg, April 8.—"There has been one allegation made in connection with this unfortunate Shuretti episode that the ministers of the Roblin Government have ignored, and that is that the Manitoba Government have been negotiating for a year past with Archbishop Langevin with regard to the school question. It is a most important matter, in view of the developments at Ottawa, and I feel that the public is entitled to some statement on the point from Premier Roblin. If he remains silent, then he must stand convicted of the charge." Thus spoke a well-known citizen and a leading Conservative to a Free Press reporter yesterday, and he added: "I would like to know if Attorney-General Campbell resented the proposal made to him by Mr. Shuretti at the time it was made. I would also like to know if Mr. Campbell ever saw the proposed amendments to the Manitoba school law prior to his recent interview with the papal legate at Ottawa. The public, I am sure, would be glad to know these things, and are entitled to know them. What amazes me is that Premier Roblin allows his ministers to issue statements, while he remains in the background. Has ever such a spectacle been seen in Canada before? If there has been I have no knowledge of it."

Revel Given a Fright.
Revel, European Russia, April 8.—"This city has just recovered from a great fright. Stories were industriously circulated that the revolutionists had planned an armed attack on the military for yesterday, and the inhabitants were warned that if they did not show their sympathy with the revolutionists by hanging out red flags when the fighting began, they would share the fate of the troops. Consequently people remained indoors in a state of terror all day long, but nothing happened. In hundreds of houses, however, red flags were ready to be flung to the breeze."

Church and State.
St. Petersburg, April 8.—The revolt against the type of the church administration is attracting immense attention. The clergy are now speaking their sentiments quite as openly on religion as the Liberals do on the political field. The intimate connection between the movements for the regeneration of the church and the reorganization of the state is shown in a strong letter printed this morning and ascribed to "A High Ecclesiastic," in which the writer says:

"The church as a living idea is inextricably bound up with Russian life, and when the Russian public realized that they could not any longer exist without breaking the shackles of the bureaucracy the church awoke from two hundred years of lethargy, and its first murmur was that it was the universal right of every citizen to do his task with freedom."

The letter further declares that for years the clergy were held so closely in the view of obedience to the idea, but to the dictators of one man, who virtually said, "I am the church."

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NEW SWEDEN-NORWAY UNION Prince Regent Calls Council of State to Arrange One.

Stockholm, April 8.—Crown Prince Gustaf, who is acting as regent during the illness of King Oscar, has convoked a joint council of state, and appealed to it to negotiate immediately a new arrangement of all matters connected with the union of Sweden and Norway, aiming at perfect equality for the two countries.

He indicated the lines that will probably lead to a satisfactory solution of the trouble. The gist of his suggestion is the creation of a common Swedish or Norwegian minister of foreign affairs, who will be responsible to both kingdoms, and the appointment of separate consuls for Sweden and Norway, who will be amenable to the minister of foreign affairs in all matters affecting foreign powers.

Telephone Girl to Wed A Montreal Millionaire

Gives Her a Check for \$100,000 to Purchase the Trousseau.
New York, April 8.—To be a telephone girl, working for a small salary one day and to have a man hand her a check for \$100,000 the next, has been the unique experience of Miss Anna Bennett, whose engagement to E. E. Whitney, of Montreal, was announced yesterday. Mr. Whitney gave that sum to his fiancée, telling her to be generous with it, and to use it for the purchase and preparation of her trousseau. He also told her that he had ordered an automobile of special design to cost \$5,000, and a large subterranean diamonds as betrothal gifts.

Until last Saturday Miss Bennett, whose home is in Brooklyn, was employed at the switchboard of the Grand Central station, and was there in the acquaintance with Mr. Whitney began and ripened into a warmer attachment. His home is in Montreal, where he is engaged in the asphalt business, and he has been a widower for two years. As Miss Bennett is a Roman Catholic, and Mr. Whitney is a Protestant, a dispensation for their marriage will be obtained, and it will then take place in St. Cecilia's Church, North Henry street, Brooklyn. Another telephone girl, Miss Ida Schwindt, who is employed in the Park Avenue Hotel, has shared in the good fortune of her lifelong friend, Miss Bennett.

To her Mr. Whitney presented a check for \$500 for the purchase of a gown to be worn as bridesmaid at the wedding, and a diamond cluster ring. Mr. Whitney's son will be the best man.