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TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR TEN PAGES—WEDNESDAY MORNING MARCH 23 1904—TEN PAGES ONE CENT

JAPS BLOCK PORT ARTHUR ENTRANCE FIERCE BOMBARDMENT ON MARCH 22 THE BATTLESHIP HIT BY RUSS SHELL

Town and Environs Shelled All Night and Until 11 a. m.
March 22 With Much Damage.

London, March 23.—A correspondent of The Times, at Tokyo, under yesterday's date, cables that it is rumored that the Japanese have succeeded in blocking the entrance to Port Arthur. The Russians are continuing preparations for a prospective siege of Port Arthur by rushing large quantities of supplies to that point. According to Novikoff, as many as 40 cars loaded with barley, chickens and other foods arrive there daily.

The Tokyo correspondent of The Times says it is rumored that the government yesterday decided to open Yonampko to foreign trade. News from Newchwang that a southward dispersing of active operations, which, it is expected, will at least reveal the carefully laid Japanese plan of campaign.

According to The Standard's St. Petersburg correspondent, the Russian government has just privately informed the powers that since the outbreak of war, exactly 100,000 troops have been forwarded to the far east by the Siberian Railway. The board of trade warns the masters of British ships that they must not resist, being stopped and searched by warships of either of the belligerents for contraband.

The Daily Telegraph's Seoul correspondent under date of March 22, reports the rising of a mob of Koreans against Japanese soldiers at Samung, north of Genan. The Japanese dispersed the mob, killing five men and wounding twenty.

The Daily Chronicle publishes unconfirmed rumors from Chetoo and Newchwang of bombardments of Port Arthur on March 12 and 17, a number of Europeans and many Chinese being killed in the first, and two guns being dismantled, and fifty soldiers killed in the latter.

The Standard's Shanghai correspondent says a recent arrival from Port Arthur declares the Russians recovered fifteen Japanese torpedoes from the exploded, because in their excitement the Japanese forgot to withdraw the safety pins.

BATTLE AT PORT ARTHUR.

St. Petersburg, March 22.—The emperor has received the following telegram from Viceroy Alexieff:

"Lieut. Gen. Stoessel reports that at midnight on March 21 Japanese torpedo boats were discovered by our searchlights. Our guard ships and fort batteries opened fire upon them, the firing lasting for twenty minutes. At 4 o'clock in the morning the attack was renewed.

"At 5:30 o'clock in the morning four of the enemy's ships appeared from the south, followed by the whole squadron of eleven ships and eight torpedo boats. Our squadron left the roadstead to meet the enemy.

"At 9 o'clock the enemy's battleships opened fire on Liaotshin, after which they took up a position behind the rocky eminence of Liaotshin and bombarded Port Arthur.

A later despatch from Viceroy Alexieff to the emperor says:

"According to a supplementary report from Lieut. Gen. Stoessel, about 9 o'clock in the morning the fleet divided, the battleships and torpedo boats taking up a position between Liaotshin and Goulubnaya Bay (Pigeon Bay), while the cruisers formed up in two sections to the south and southeast of Port Arthur.

"At 9:20 o'clock the battleship Retzian opened fire over the crest of Liaotshin against the enemy's battleships, which replied by firing on the town. Meanwhile our fleet formed up in line in the outer roadstead.

"About 11 o'clock in the morning the cannonade slackened and the Japanese fleet, retreating, drew off slowly to the southeast, and at 12:30 had disappeared.

"During the bombardment five soldiers were killed and nine were wounded. One soldier on the shore was bruised."

Another telegram from Viceroy Alexieff to the emperor gives Vice-Admiral Makaroff's report as follows:

"At midnight of March 21 two of the enemy's torpedo boats approached the outer roadstead, but were discovered by the searchlights of the batteries and fired upon by the gunboats Bobr and Otavjay. They were obliged to retire.

"A second attack was made at 4 o'clock in the morning by three torpedo boats, which also were repulsed.

"At daybreak three detachments of the enemy's fleet, consisting of six battleships, six armored cruisers, six second and third class cruisers and eight torpedo boats approached from all sides. At 7 o'clock our squadron commenced to leave the inner harbor, the cruisers leading, with the Askold flying my flag, at their head, and the battleships following.

"The enemy's battleships approached Liaotshin and fired 100 shells from their twelve-inch guns at Port Arthur and 108 shells at the environs of the town.

"Our shells, fired at a range of eighty cables, were well placed.

"At 10 o'clock a Japanese battleship was struck by a shell and retired.

"We lost no men during the bombardment, which ceased at 11 o'clock, when the enemy's ships reassembled, and after passing along the outer roadstead, drew off without attacking our fleet."

A NOTICE FROM THE HUMAN GAME-WARDENS



EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT, (to Turk): We have permitted anything in reason, my friend, but we cannot wink at extermination.

Paris, March 19.—It is the expectation in official quarters that France and other signatories of the Berlin treaty will unite in emphatic representations to Turkey against carrying out the Sultan's plans for the suppression and probable extermination of a considerable portion of the Armenians.

Chairman Blair's Apology For His Telephone Decision. Suggests Supreme Court

Adverse Comment of Newspapers Causes Him to Declare That the Public Are Entitled to Be Informed—Agrees to Appeal if Desired.

Ottawa, March 22.—(Special).—Before proceeding with the business before the railway commission this morning, A. G. Blair made a statement regarding his decision on the Port Arthur and Fort William applications. The statement is a good deal of an apology—some might call it a whine.

He says: "Before taking up the business on the order paper, I desire to take a stand for public information, especially with reference to the decision of the board, or perhaps my own decision, I should say, in the telephone case. That decision has been the subject of much extreme criticism and personal remarks upon my own conduct, and motives have been freely made. I do not propose to make any comment upon these personal references to myself. I do not think it would be dignified nor in accordance with my own sense of propriety if I were to do so.

"To inform the public, I am entitled to be informed on one or two matters, and I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to make such information public.

When the telephone case was under discussion before the board, I intimated that certain of the questions raised being purely questions of law, it might very well be that these questions should be referred to the Supreme Court. I still feel as I then expressed myself, and I think I can say that such is the opinion of the board. When questions arise before this board, which must necessarily be determined upon strictly legal grounds, it may often be well to have them adjudicated upon by the highest legal tribunal in the land. Whatever may be a man's own personal views, and whether he may think that the law should be other than it is, is entirely outside the question. The question is, What is the law? And if he decides according to his conviction, his judgment and his conscience, as he should only decide, then if he is right the courts, if they are appealed to, will confirm his judgment, and if he is wrong, the courts will set his judgment aside. One who has to decide questions of law does so without knowledge and in the expectation that one from of other, I take this department to afford the utmost facility to any litigant who may appear before us to have my judgment upon a question of law reviewed. I would only be too happy to be set right if I am wrong. That is particularly so in a case such as the telephone case, which involves questions that are likely to come before this board frequently in the future. I take this opportunity, therefore, of notifying the parties interested in that case, that I so far as I am concerned, am prepared to refer the legal questions involved to the Supreme Court.

Not the Governor.

"I think that an appeal to the governor-in-council would not be desirable in that case. It is a question of law purely and simply, so far as it now stands, and I say it with all respect, the governor-in-council is not a tribunal to determine questions of law. I do not think that the privy council would be able to do so. I take this opportunity to state that I have not yet decided to decide legal questions. It was a question of policy to be settled, no better court could be devised."

BOURASSA STIRRING UP FRENCH-CANADIAN M.P.'S AGAINST THE MILITIA BILL

There is a Probability of a Solid Quebec Vote Against Government Measure.

Ottawa, March 22.—(Staff special).—The militia bill was discussed in the house to-day with an absence of acrimony that altogether disguises the true demeanor of the house on this important measure. Clouds are gathering, and they will discharge their fury before the debate on the militia bill has run its course. Contrary to first expectations the militia bill will not have a smooth passage through the house. Henri Bourassa, M.P., has been among the French-Canadian members of the house. He has made all kinds of appeals to them not to support the militia bill, and he has been partially successful. Several French-Canadian Liberals have assured Sir Wilfrid Laurier that they will record their votes against the measure. Their open and expressed hostility represents the work that Bourassa has already accomplished.

What He Has Told Them.

And Bourassa is still at work. He is pointing out to his compatriots that although too much power is delegated to the governor-general, and that the changes effected by the new bill mean nothing less than a step towards militarism, the fearful phantom that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has so vividly pictured during the past five years. A strong supporter of the Laurier government in the house and one who knows what is going on among the French-Canadian said to-day that HE FEARED THE POLITICAL OUTCOME OF THE FRENCH-CANADIAN LIBERAL MEMBERS VOTING AGAINST THIS MILITIA BILL. There is a probability not at all remote that the solid Quebec vote in the house will go against this measure. Bourassa's mischievous work is causing the government considerable anxiety, but so far he has held his promise of making an issue of the militia bill.

Taken as a Joke.

There was a deluge of petitions favoring an act for the better observance of the Lord's Day. These petitions the house greeted with hilarious applause. They were not taken seriously. Sir Wilfrid Laurier laid on the table the house papers in connection with the Alaskan boundary award. Mr. Fisher presented the report of the department of agriculture.

When the militia bill was announced on the order of the day, many objections were forthcoming. E. F. Clarke of Toronto argued that the public had

Premier Can't Get Support For His "Soo" Relief Bill

Ottawa, March 22.—(Special).—Before proceeding with the business before the railway commission this morning, the premier gave his supporters in the house an appetizing luncheon in the Speaker's dining-room of the legislature, and said some pleasant things to each and every one in advance of a caucus to discuss a heavier bill, consisting of his Soo relief bill. It was after 2 o'clock when the door was closed and the faithful sentinel posted outside, and not till 3:30, the hour at which it was necessary to get to work in the legislative chamber, when the gathering broke up. The caucus was a long way from reaching a conclusion, and the premier invited the boys to come back after the evening session to have it out. The second gathering did not begin until 12:30, and lasted for fifteen minutes before Premier Ross left the room. Some time previous to that Mr. Gross of Welland went to his hotel.

Not much information escaped, but the World heard enough from two or three of the members to form the opinion that the party is not united in support of the bill. It was to convert the opponents that the second session was called, and there is every reason to believe that they remain obstinate.

One who is most energetic in his opposition to the relief legislation made a statement to The World that the bill would not be given its second reading until next week. This, no doubt, means that sufficient support has not yet been promised, and another caucus will have to be held before the decision to push the measure is announced.

Previous to the afternoon session the Conservative opposition met and hour discussing the measure. The members are said to be determined to exhaust every means to prevent the bill becoming law, even if it is necessary to prolong the session for several weeks, and it is on this account partly that the government is anxious concerning its ability to force it thru the house.

The prohibition bill was not even mentioned in the afternoon session. It seems to be the settled opinion around the house that there will be no bill.

Caucus Which Failed Till 12.30 This Morning Lusted To Reach Agreement.

The government is finding the Soo re-organization proposition a heavy load. At the noon hour yesterday the premier gave his supporters in the house an appetizing luncheon in the Speaker's dining-room of the legislature, and said some pleasant things to each and every one in advance of a caucus to discuss a heavier bill, consisting of his Soo relief bill. It was after 2 o'clock when the door was closed and the faithful sentinel posted outside, and not till 3:30, the hour at which it was necessary to get to work in the legislative chamber, when the gathering broke up. The caucus was a long way from reaching a conclusion, and the premier invited the boys to come back after the evening session to have it out. The second gathering did not begin until 12:30, and lasted for fifteen minutes before Premier Ross left the room. Some time previous to that Mr. Gross of Welland went to his hotel.

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Provocation Not Sufficient, Crown's Jury Brings in Verdict on Death of John Met.

Port Arthur, March 22.—(Special).—The coroner's inquest into the death of John Met was closed today. After hearing all evidence the jury brought in a verdict that death was caused by a shot from a revolver in the hands of Charles Donati, and in the opinion of the jury there was not sufficient provocation to warrant the use of firearms.

Donati and her sister gave evidence, and according to their testimony the men were only acting in their usual manner in the store and at no time were they afraid of them. They did not try to molest the women when they went into the shop. Neither of them thought there was justification for the shooting.

A. M. McCutcheon and S. Campbell also gave evidence that Met was shot while on the street.

Chairman Blair's Apology For His Telephone Decision. Suggests Supreme Court

Adverse Comment of Newspapers Causes Him to Declare That the Public Are Entitled to Be Informed—Agrees to Appeal if Desired.

Ottawa, March 22.—(Staff Special).—The vigorous language used by the auditor-general in his comments on the M. P. Davis contract is the political topic of the hour.

It is noted as a significant coincidence that the bill designed to limit the powers of the auditor-general was introduced on or about the time that Mr. McDougall, by his vigilance and courage saved the country several hundred thousand dollars.

The auditor-general in his report shows a reticence under the ordeal of having to fight the government every inch of the way. It will surprise no one if he soon carries out his threat to resign.

M. P. Davis, whose contracts are the subject of the most striking passages in the auditor-general's report, is father-in-law of D'Arcy Scott, son of the secretary of state.

WITH PRUDENTIAL HAND.

Ottawa, March 22.—(Staff Special).—The auditor-general's report contains considerable correspondence tending to illustrate the laxness of the government in the interpretation of contracts.

According to the report in 1896 Mr. Haggart made a contract with M. P. Davis whereby Mr. Davis became lessee of the water power on Sheik's Island dam and the surplus power of the Cornwall Canal for a rental of \$1000. The terms of the lease provided that he should supply lights for the canal at 30c per light per night, and also power at 140c per horsepower for the operation of the gates.

This agreement contained certain provisions to protect against paying for lights and power not required. A new agreement was made in 1900 which the auditor-general states was "FOLLOWS NO APPARENT PURPOSE, EXCEPT TO THROW AWAY EVERY SAFE-GUARD WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED WITH SO MUCH LABOR AND FORESIGHT" in the first agreement.

The second agreement worked out that while the Soulanges Canal, with similar lights and power, but with government owned plant, was costing \$3500 a year, the Cornwall Canal was costing \$3,515.

Mr. McDougall, in the case of the first agreement, refused to pay the Davis demand, and was supported in his contention by A. B. Aylesworth, K.C., and on Nov. 25, 1902, the treasury board over-ruled the auditor's contention, but on March 7, 1903, caused this over-ruling, and on Aug. 13, 1903, a new agreement was made embodying the safeguards previously discarded.

"Of this the auditor-general says: 'Present value of the payment to be made, presuming that the requirements of the government on the Cornwall Canal remain as they are now, will be \$680,000 less than that which it would have been if the second contract had remained unchanged.'"

Mr. McDougall notes that the savings from 1901 to this date have been \$52,000.

Edwards Morgan & Co., 26 Wellington Street East, Toronto. Edwards & Ronald, 40 Canada Life Building, Windsor, Chartered Accountants.

TO BUILD G.T.P. MAY NEED WORK OF 50,000 ITALIANS

Labor for the Big Job Must Be Imported, But Not for a Year Yet.

A prominent Toronto contractor talked of interestingly last night to The World on the question of labor supply, suggested by the remark in yesterday's paper on the need of extra hands to build the proposed G. T. P. Railway.

"Labor is fairly plentiful just now," he said, "as it always is in the beginning of the season. We can always get plenty of men in the early part of the summer, too, but as the season advances they get scarcer. Last year I could have used from 100 to 200 more men than I could get."

"There is no need just now for any special effort to get laborers into the country, but if a big job like the new Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was started they would have to be imported."

"This year there is a tendency for more men to come in on account of the state of trade on the other side of the line."

Outside the city wages are about \$1.50 a day, and we get plenty of men at present at that rate. There would be a tendency for wages to rise if the new railway was begun, but there can be nothing done this year. By the time they get the sections surveyed and the contracts let the season would be over.

In a Hundred Mile Sections.

"It is impossible to say, and I would not care to hazard a guess, but if you insist I should think the contracts would not be let for less than 100-mile sections."

"It is impossible again to say how many men would be employed upon such a section, so much depends on the nature of the work and the conditions of the ground. Where machinery is used it makes a great difference. But not less than 2000 men would be needed on such a section."

"When the contracts are let there is a lot of heavy work getting roads, and the sections in small sections each man has to break in his own road, and that takes a lot of time. In a 100-mile section a road can be got in at the centre, and they can work on both ends, and there may be parts of the road not let for less than 40-mile sections."

Italian Labor Predominant.

"If men had to be imported they would probably be Italians and Swedes. Italians are driving the other nationalities out nearly altogether on the large contracts."

"No, we can't get Irish. They are the

MAJORITY OF SIXTEEN.

London, March 22.—The majority again fell very low to-night in the house of commons, a motion from the Irish benches censuring the government's action with regard to Irish waterways being defeated by a majority of only sixteen.

The figures were greeted with prolonged Irish cheers, being stopped by John Dillon to the effect, "You shall drink it to the dregs," while John Gordon Swift, MacNeill, the member for South Down, and other Irish members shouted: "We've twisted your pigstails now."

FOR LORD MILNER.

London, March 22.—The Durban Mercury urges South Africans assure Lord Milner of their continued admiration and confidence in view of the bitter attacks to which his policy is now being subjected.

FAIR AND MILD.

Meteorological Office, Toronto, March 22.—(8 p.m.)—Rain has fallen to-day over Ontario and Quebec, attended by a few local thunderstorms and rain is now settling over the Maritime Provinces. The weather has been the same quiet calm in the Territories and Manitoba, but it now seems unlikely that the cold wave will spread eastward.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 32-44; Calgary, 12 below-48; Toronto, 20-34; Winnipeg, 14-28; Port Arthur, 20-34; Parry Sound, 28-42; Toronto, 20-42; Ottawa, 28-35; Montreal, 22-36; Quebec, 20-25; Halifax, 16-30.

Probabilities.

Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay—Fair and mild.

Ottawa Valley and Upper St. Lawrence—Clearing and mild.

Lower St. Lawrence—Showery at first, then clearing; mild.

Gulf—Showery and mild.

Maritime—Fresh southerly shifting to southwesterly winds; milder and showery.

Lake Superior—Fair, not much change in temperature.

Manitoba—Fair and a little higher temperature.

Tremont Lush Center, Spring Lamb Mint Sauce and Green Peas, 8c.

RISE INTO THE WEST.

Ottawa, March 22.—One of the largest movements of settlers that ever went north is that going from the Western States to Canada, leaving the last week in March and the first week in April. Hundreds are now on the way from Oklahoma, Indian Territory, Kansas and Missouri to join excursions starting from Kansas City.

Try the deacon at Thomas.

Insist on Having It.

When you ask for "Club's Dollar Mixture" do not let any dealer persuade you to take something else as good. There is no tobacco just like "Club's Dollar Mixture." It smokes cool, "will burn the tongue," and is sold at a popular price. 1-lb. tin, \$1.00; 1-2-lb. tin, 50c; 1-4-lb. package, 25c; sample, 10c, at tobacco shops or from A. Clubb & Sons, 44 West King.

TO-DAY IN TORONTO.

Voting on waterworks by-law, 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.

Transportation commission, at City Hall, 10 a.m.

Canadian Order of Chosen Friends, Temple, 10 a.m.

University Alumni wait on government, 12 noon.

The legislature, 3 p.m.

Robertson Auxiliary, St. Giles' Presbyterian Church, 3 p.m.

Industrial School Board, City Hall, 5 p.m.

Prof. G. H. Griggs on "The New Social Ideal," Conservatory of Music, Hall, 8 p.m.

Open meeting N.W.C. Guild, gymnasium, McGill-street, 8 p.m.

Princess, "The Isle of Spies," 2 and 8 p.m.

Grand, Hermand, 2 and 8 p.m.

Masonic, "Eucle Tom's Cabin," 2 and 8 p.m.

Sho's, Vestia Tilly and vaudville, 2 and 8 p.m.

Star, The Jeffries and burlesque, 2 and 8 p.m.

CONFEDERATION LIFE.

The association issues a contract called the Guaranteed Dividend Policy, which is issued at ordinary rates, but contains guaranteed results at the end of the period. Write for particulars, 339

Broderick's Business Suits, \$22.50, 115 King-street west.

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A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

The Confederation Life Association's annual report for 1903, just published, shows that the association had a most successful year.

B. B. B. Pipes 75c each. Alvie Bellars.

STAMPSHIP MOVEMENTS.

March 22. At. From.

Montreal to New York London

K.W. derGosse, New York Genoa

Calabria, New York New York

Western, Quebec to Philadelphia

Kaiser W. H. Bremen New York

Vaderland, Antwerp New York

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