Report Of First Capture

Japanese Warships Said to Have Seized Several Russian Merchantmen.

St. Petersburg Views Situation as Hopeless and Action Momentarily Expected.

Mikado's Note Constitutes Hostile Act According to British Foreign Office.

Paris, Feb. 8.—The papers here publish "on high authority" the report (first circulated in Berlin) that Japanese warships have captured some Russian merchant ships in Chinese waters. The report lacks confirmation in official circles here as well as in Berlin. The latest official despatches received at the Foreign Office indicate that actual hostilities are not likely to break out immediately. This was shown by two despatches saying that both M. Kurino, the Japanese minister to Russia, and Baron De Rosen, the Russian minister to Japan, still remained at St. Petersburg and Tokio, respectively.

Reports of France's intention, with Great Britain and other powers, to make a supreme effort to avert war, continue to circulate. The Foreign Office declines to confirm or deny them. In case Japan makes the first move on Korea, it is reiterated that Russia will not make a counter move, and will, for the present, await more aggressive action on the part of Japan further north. But, if Japan makes the first move toward Vladivostock or Port Arthur, it is said that Russia will immediately join issue and that war will thus be precipitated. All, therefore, is hinging on Japan's first strategic move.

United States Consul-General Gowdy said: "If a Russian-Japanese war occurs, I do not anticipate that it can exert any adverse influence on the steady trade between the United States and Europe. About the only immediate effect will be to stimulate the demand for foodstuffs and materials of war."

St. Petersburg, Feb. 8.—The situation is such that the authorities are prepared at any moment to hear that Japan has made a aggressive move, which would make a semblance of peace any longer impossible. War is regarded here as practically inevitable and the general impression among military men is, that once the torch of war is lighted, it will be the signal for a long and bitter contest, with no chance to place limits on the extent of the conflagration.

In the first hours of excitement after the receipt of the news of the Japanese action, the imperial train was ordered to be prepared to start for Moscow, but since then calm counsels prevailed and the order was countermanded. It is a question whether the Czar will go to Moscow at all. Certainly no manifesto will be issued until war is actually on.

M. Kurino, the Japanese minister, says he will leave St. Petersburg Wednesday morning. The United States embassy will probably look after questions involving the protection of Japanese subjects.

Ambassador McCormick, under instructions today, asked Foreign Minister Lamsdorff if Russia objected.

At an important council held at the palace today under the presidency of the Czar, it was decided to telegraph Viceroy Alexieff to scrupulously avoid any step which might provoke hostilities.

London, Feb. 8.—The British Foreign Office does not regard the Japanese note presented February 5th to the Russian foreign office by M. Kurino as establishing a state of war, though it holds it a hostile act without any further notification on the part of Japan, which the foreign office also understands will not be given.

The course taken by the United States embassy at St. Petersburg in undertaking to look after the interests of Japanese subjects in Russia was adopted because the British Government regarded itself as being too intimately concerned in the dispute to accept such a responsibility.

No such arrangement as suggested by the St. James Gazette (that a demand will be made that Russia must either grant Chinese sovereignty in Manchuria or fight Great Britain and the United States) is known by the foreign office here, nor has the foreign office late tonight received news of the embarkation of Japanese troops. Finally, neither at the British foreign office nor in any diplomatic quarter is any hope entertained that mediation could now be of any avail.

Home Secretary Akers-Douglas, replying to a question in the House of Commons today on behalf of the government, informed the Liberal leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, that His Majesty's government had been officially informed of the rupture of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan, but had no further information regarding the details that had even appeared in the newspapers. Mr. Akers-Douglas added that the question of belligerency law had been fully considered, but he declined to answer a number of technical questions regarding instructions relative to coaling, repairs, etc., sent to the authorities of British ports, without the notice of such question.

Rome Feb. 8.—King Emmanuel had a long interview with Premier Giolitti and Marine Minister Mirabello today as a result of the severance of diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan, and ended with expressing the hope that war may be avoided. His Majesty asked the minister to keep Foreign Minister Tinni, who is now in Naples, informed of all that transpired in the East.

Minister Mirabello has cabled instructions to the commander of the Italian squadron in the Far East to send the Italian third-class cruiser Piemonte from Shanghai to Japan, to keep the third-class cruiser Elba in Korean waters to protect Italian interests, and to have the armored cruiser Vetter Pisanni communicate between them. The third-class cruiser Paglia, now at San Francisco, has been ordered to Japan. Although it is hardly considered that their sailing will be necessary in view of the limit of Italian interests in the Far East, two other ships are ready to start for the Far East. An exchange of views is taking place between countries whose rulers, like the King of Italy, have received letters from the King of Korea announcing his intention to abstain from any act which might be interpreted as a breach of neutrality. Although not unexpected, the latest news from the Far East deeply affected the Pope, whose mind immediately turned to the faithful and the missionaries exposed to the horrors of war. The pontiff said: "I still have hope in the peaceful disposition of the Czar. Let us pray that God may guide him."

Berlin, Feb. 8.—The conservative Deutsche Tage Zeitung affirms, upon diplomatic authority, that three Russian ships have been captured by the Japanese. The correspondent of the Associated Press finds no official confirmation of the statement.

The Japanese legation today added to the obscurity of Japanese immediate intentions as looked upon from here by saying that it is not believed that war will result.

MANY WORKMEN KILLED.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 8.—Fifty workmen were killed today by the caving in of an embankment on the Warsaw & Vienna railroad.

Japan Lands Troops In Korea

Fleet of Transports Arrive at Masampho With Army Corps.

Russia Deliberately Precipitated Crisis By Movements of Soldiers.

London, Feb. 7.—In a despatch dated Nagasaki, February 6th, and which was delayed by the censor, a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph asserts that Russia deliberately precipitated the crisis by secretly despatching a few days ago from Port Arthur transports loaded with a full division of troops and escorted by a fleet and landing them near the Yalu river thus occupying Northern Korea.

"Japanese patience became exhausted, and today Japan moved her ships, and took unresisted possession of certain merchant vessels including the Shilk and Manchuria."

The correspondent continues: "Two other Russian vessels were seized and escorted to Sasebo, Japan."

The Daily Telegraph says it supposes the foregoing seizures occurred at Masampho, but that the censor suppressed the location.

"Russia is negotating with a syndicate of French, Belgian and Dutch bankers," cables the Brussels correspondent of the Standard, for a loan of $200,000,000."

In a despatch from Nagasaki, dated February 8th, a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says it is assured that the Russian fleet will fight. The Russians long ago decided upon war and their delay was due to lack of preparations and uncertainty whether certain powers would intervene or not."

London, Feb. 8.—The Chefoo correspondent of the Daily Mail cables that sixty Japanese transports are landing troops at various ports in Korea from Masampho and Fusan, on the south, to Kunsan, Mokpho and Chemulpo, on the west.

Seoul is to be occupied and the landing is being covered by the torpedo division. The main body of the Japanese fleet, the correspondent continues, will sail in the direction of Port Arthur.

Berlin, Feb. 8.—A despatch received here from Port Arthur says news has been received there that Japanese troops have been landed at Mashampho. The despatch says further that the Russian warships at Port Arthur frequently put to sea and that the inhabitants of Seoul are expecting the arrival of the Japanese troops.

White Horse Busy.—A correspondent writing from White Horse under date of January 27th says: "Every day people are coming over the trail from Dawson en route to Bullion and Alsek creeks. From three to seven outfits are leaving White Horse daily for the diggings. Not many, however, are coming out, owing perhaps to the intense cold which has prevailed here for some time. C. E. Wynn Johnson of Skagway, who has just returned from Bullion, states that he believes that gold is widely and evenly distributed over the district, even if the placers are not extremely rich. He thinks the field is almost bound to be a good one for capitalists. It may turn out that water will interfere with digging next summer, in which event it might be necessary to deflect some of the streams, and that is where capital could find profitable employment."

A BOLD DECEIVER.

New York, Feb. 6.—James M. Abeel, a young man who, it is alleged, courted Miss Elenor Anderson under the name of J. Odgen Goulet and who was brought here from Canada to stand trial on a charge of forgery, was released on $5,000 bail today.

THE CAPILLARY ELECTROMETRE

Ingenious Instrument Invented By Chicago University Investigators.

Chicago, Feb. 6.—The capillary electrometre, a new instrument delicate enough to register the minute discharges of electricity in the nerves and muscles, has been invented by research workers in the physological laboratory in the University of Chicago. The invention will greatly aid the cure of lockjaw, and will be of great use in nervousness. A glass tube with a hole in it no larger than a capillary gland on the back of a human is the mechanism of the instrument. The tube at one end contains mercury which penetrates the small extremities of the tube. The tube rests in a cup of acid and the two are joined by a platinum wire. All life action is chemical and electrical, the inventors believe, and by the action of the electricity discharged from a moving muscle on the mercury in the tube, the amount of energy expended may be gauged.

ASKED TO INTERVENE.

Austrian Peace Committee Requests Roosevelt to Mediate in Far East.

Vienna, Feb. 8.—The Austrian peace committee has sent a telegram to President Roosevelt asking him to intervene in the Russo-Japanese conflict under the provisions of the international arbitration tribunal at The Hague.

WEAK LUNGS.

Made Sound and Strong by the Use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Weak lungs means weak health, continual coughs and colds—touches of grip and bronchitis, then deadly pneumonia, or lingering, hopeless consumption. Weak lungs are due to weak blood. The one sure way to strengthen weak lungs is to build up your blood with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Every dose makes rich, red blood, adds strength, vigor and disease resisting power to weak lungs. Thousands of weak-lunged, narrow-chested men and women have been made sound, healthy and happy by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills—and they will do the same for you. Mrs. J. D. Naismith, Winnipeg, Man., says: "I contracted a severe cold, which developed into bronchitis and lung trouble. The best of doctors and many different kinds of medicine failed to help me, and my friends all thought I was going into rapid consumption. I had no appetite, was forced to take to bed, and felt that only death would release me. My brother urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and to please him I began them. A few boxes proved they were helping me, and I began to get real strength. I continued the use of the pills and was soon able to leave my bed and sit up. I grew stronger day by day. The cough that had racked me almost beyond endurance disappeared, my appetite returned, and I am again strong and healthy, much to the surprise of all who saw me while I was ill. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cured me after other medicines failed and I shall always praise them."

Bear in mind that substitutes and ordinary medicines will not cure. See that the full name, "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," is printed on the wrapper around every box. Sold by all medicine dealers or sent post paid at 50c. a box or six boxes for $2.50 by writing direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

APPALLING SCENE OF DESOLATION AND RUIN

One Hundred and Forty Acres of the Principal Business Section of Baltimore is Now a Wilderness of Burnt and Blackened Walls.

One Hundred and Fifty Millions Damage as Estimated by Insurance Men---U. S. Congress Appropriate One Million Dollars for Relief of the Sufferers.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 8.—Baltimore is staggering tonight under a fire loss which no one has the temerity to put into figures. The important commercial district is a mass of blackened ruins, the result of a conflagration which raged for nearly 48 hours in spite of almost superhuman efforts, but for the hard fighting forces, which more than half a dozen cities muster, tonight the city is overcast with gloom. The only lights in the burned district are those from the smouldering ruins; the stores are closed in nearly every street. Apparently there is but one cause for gladness, and that is that there are no homeless, for the residence section of the city escaped.

At 2 p.m. the Associated Press sent out a bulletin saying the flames would be held in check at the Union docks and prevented from leaving Jones' Falls. At 3 o'clock the bulletin was confirmed.

A score of times small fires were found near the sides of lumber piles on the east bank of the falls, but these were quickly extinguished.

Throughout the terrible contest which firemen and fire waged for supremacy, humanity was handicapped by a gale which carried burning brands to remote sections. But for the work of volunteers in extinguishing these embers, the burning area would have been much greater. As it is about seventy-five blocks, or 140 acres, are gone. The burned district is within the territory bounded on the west by Liberty street; on the north by Lexington; on the east by Jones' Falls, and on the south by the Basin.

The district thus swept by fire comprised nearly 2,500 buildings. Insurance companies have opened temporary offices in the Lexington hotel, but their representatives decline to estimate the loss. The answer of one is typical of all: "It's too big. We have not figures to describe it. Make it about $100,000,000 is the best we can do."

The same indecision was true in regard to estimates concerning insurance. The city was early placed under martial law to prevent looting. The struggle today has been with the one end of confining the fire to the west side of Jones' Falls. No one dare guess the result if the flames had jumped this stream. That the fire was checked was the result of its meeting the concentrated labors of nearly 100 fire companies, aided by the powerful tug Cataract.

Again and again the heat, driven across Jones' Falls, set fire to buildings and lumber piles; hand-to-hand fights occurred which, fortunately, were won by the firemen.

For several hours in the lumber districts of the east side, volunteers watched every ember.

Bucket brigades were formed. Had the fire gained a foothold in the east side lumber yards nothing could have stopped it.

The programme adopted last night, blowing up buildings in an attempt to stay the progress of the flames, was continued until the fire was under control. With the fire under control, the waste which lies in the wake of the flames presents a view terrible in its grandeur. It can be likened best to oceans of great coke ovens shooting out its thousand leagues of flames from pyramids of brick, stone and cement.

When the fire has died out nothing remains but ruins, from which rise hundreds of towering, insecure shafts, all that is left of handsome business houses.

Business men prosperous Saturday are poor today.

Expressions heard among these men reveal an astounding number who were but poorly protected by insurance. Few persons have explored fully even such portions of the burned district as the cooling ruins would permit, for the high wind made it dangerous to pass through streets bordered by crumbling walls and covered with masses of wires lashed about by a high wind. Some of these wires are strung from charred wooden poles which are left standing in a section where buildings supposed to have been fireproof did not escape.

Many of the walls fell during the day, sending out clouds of dust.

In the fire district, men prominent in the commercial life were found, many with heat-blistered and smoke-begrimed faces, had been up all night, and as the morning broke were taking their first inventory of the losses. The heat and flames were then raging beyond and extending the ruin, square by square, until the very water's edge was reached.

(Continued on Page Three.)

THE JAPANESE IN KOREA.

JAPANESE RECONNAISSANCE IN COREA.

AFFAIRS GROWING SERIOUS.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Simultaneously at the American state and navy departments today, the announcement was made that a serious state of affairs is prevalent in San Domingo. Complaint has been made to the state department by the owners of the San Isidro plantation that their property has been besieged and an appeal is made for immediate relief. Other Americans having interests in San Domingo have made similar complaints. Secretary of the Navy Moody and Acting Secretary of State Loomis had long conferences with the President today on the subject. Upon his return to the navy department from the White House, Secretary Moody had a conference with Rear-Admiral Taylor, chief of the bureau of navigation, and a cablegram was despatched to Rear-Admiral Wise, commanding the training squadron at Guantanamo, instructing him to take immediate and effective steps for the adequate protection of American life and property in the Dominican Republic, limiting his course of action at all times to the recognized tenets of international law. Rear-Admiral Wise is expected to proceed at once in his flagship, the Minneapolis, to Dominican waters and make a personal investigation.

Entertainment at Saanich.—The North Saanich Church of England gave a public entertainment in the Institute hall Friday evening last, which was largely attended, and after all expenses were paid $30 went to the new organ fund. Refreshments were served by the ladies and dance wound up the most enjoyable evening ever spent in Saanich. Mr. Petch of Victoria gave six of his special selections in songs and story. Then Herr William Peters gave a splendid exhibition of his art, and for half an hour kept the audience intensely interested. Mr. McClure, of Tacoma, gave two selections in negro and Pennsylvania Dutch dialects in matchless style. There are few delineators of these two dialects such as Mr. McClure. Mrs. Cudihee favored the audience with a humorous recitation.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.

Chicago, Feb. 6.—The organization of the society for the promotion of international arbitration was perfected today at a meeting at the Northwestern University. Edmund J. James, president of the Northwest University, was elected president. Among the prominent men interested in the organization are Dom. M. Dickison, Robt. T. Lincoln, Judge Peter S. Grosscup, Richard Harlan and others. The newly formed society will co-operate with the national arbitration committee of which John Foster is chairman and also with the English parliamentary committee of London. One of the objects of the society is the prospect of a treaty between England and America, such as was proposed in 1897.

Chinese Suicide.—R. Bing, the first Chinaman to dump a load of coal at Union wharf, committed suicide yesterday morning at Union Bay. He was found hanging to a rafter in a shed.

Hon. Prefontaine Wants Damages

Takes Action For Libel Against the Montreal Star and the Patrie.

Three Cornered Fight on In St. James Division and Montmagny.

Montreal, Feb. 8.—Joseph Bergeron, who was rescued in an unconscious condition from a house on Dufferin street suffering from sewer gas poisoning yesterday, died today.

At a meeting of the directors of the C. P. R. this afternoon a dividend of three per cent on the common stock and two per cent on preferred stock was declared.

Mr. Savard, ex-M. P. for Chicoutimi, has announced his intention of running in the coming bye-election in Montmagny as a Liberal Independent. This will make the contest a three-cornered one. There is also a three-cornered fight on in St. James division of Montreal. Philean Lanctot, who styles himself a Liberal workingman's candidate, having held his first meeting tonight.

Hon. R. Prefontaine, minister of marine and fisheries, has taken action for libel against Hugh Graham of the Star and J. I. Tarte of La Patrie for alleged libel, in the publication of what purported to be the fac-simile of a circular sent out by Mr. Prefontaine's secretary, Mr. Clement, it was alleged, with the object of catching votes in the approaching election in St. James division and Hochelaga. The circular was the regular one used for applicants for the civil service.

For the federal bye-election in Montmagny the Conservatives have nominated N. M. Rosseau to oppose Armand Lavergne, Liberal candidate.

Rev. J. C. Farthing of the new St. Paul's, of Woodstock, has been appointed canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ont., by Bishop Baldwin.

BIG BRIDGE COMPLETED.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 6.—The two ends of the big cantilever bridge being built by the Wabash railroad over the Monongahela river, were connected today, overcoming the last obstacle of the road in its fight for an entrance into Pittsburg. The bridge is the longest of its kind in America, its entire length being 1,400 feet. When completed it will cost over $1,000,000.

Stonkey Brand Soap makes copper like gold, tin like silver, crockery like marble, and windows like crystal.

WAR'S FIRST ALARM

London, Feb. 9.—In a despatch from Tokio a correspondent of the Daily Mail says the Jiji Shimpo has received a telegram from Fusan, Korea, declaring that firing of guns was heard to the east of Kojo island at eight o'clock Saturday morning.

MORLEY'S AMENDMENT.

Motion Introduced in House of Commons Yesterday.

London, Feb. 8.—John Morley introduced in the House of Commons his amendment to the speech from the throne, the text of which was cabled to the Associated Press February 2nd on the occasion of the opening of parliament.

SERVIA'S NEW CABINET.

Belgrade, Servia, Feb. 8.—The new cabinet is composed as follows:

Premier, M. Druyes; minister for foreign affairs, M. Pasyes; minister of finance, M. Pacsu; minister of the interior, M. Protics; minister of education, M. Davidovics; minister of war, General Putnik; minister of agriculture, M. Radovanovics; minister of public works, M. Peravelimirovics; minister of justice, M. Enistics.

MARX OFFERS EVIDENCE.

Turns on His Bandit Accomplices But State Declines His Aid.

Chicago, Feb. 8.—Gustave Marx, self-confessed participant in the car-barn murders, turned aside from his co-defendants, Peter Neidermeier and Harvey VanDyne, at the opening of the trial of the three men today and offered to become a witness for the state. The states attorney refused the offer.

An Extraordinary Offer.

Our Regular No. 7 High Grade $40 BELT for only $5

Warranted to be superior to all others.

DON'T Try an electric belt before seeing our No. 7 20th Century belt. Call or write for book. It is free. We are the largest dealers in electric belts and appliances in Canada. The genuine Karn Belt can only be obtained from us. Never sold in drug stores.

THE F. B. KARN CO. 224 Victoria St. Toronto, Ont.

Alsek Diggings Are Very Rich

One of the Most Important Placer Fields in the Golden North.

Situate in Canadian Territory and Controlled From White Horse.

Mr. T. A. Dickson, surveyor of the firm of Dickson & Dickson, surveyors, White Horse, Y. T., arrived in the city on Monday afternoon, coming over here from Seattle on the steamer Princess Beatrice. Mr. Dickson, who is staying at the Dominion, was seen last evening and willingly gave some very interesting information respecting the new Klondike of the Yukon Territory, the Alsek diggings. The district in which these important placers have been found is situate about 100 miles west of White Horse and 25 miles north, and is connected with White Horse by a fairly good trail. If the diggings turn out as the most conservative of those who have seen the claims think they undoubtedly will, the government will make a good road during the coming summer, and by so doing will vastly increase the importance of that already thriving town, White Horse.

While no longitude has yet been taken by any engineers or surveyors, the locality has been fairly accurately determined, and Messrs. Dickson are about to publish a map of the district, which will be simply invaluable, and place it on sale. The diggings so far discovered and partly worked are situate on the watershed of two rivers, Alsek and White. On the former are the two creeks, Fourth of July and Ruby, and on the latter Bullion and Sheep creeks.

The White river is an important branch of the Yukon, and flows to the north, and the Alsek river is an independent river, which flows south into the ocean through Alaskan territory. Bullion and Sheep creeks drain into Kluane lake, a body of water 60 miles long, which is drained again by the White river. The diggings are situate roughly, 75 miles east of the boundary between Alaska and Yukon territory.

Mr. Dickson has four claims there, and has no doubt as to the richness of the discovery. The day before Mr. Dickson left Skagway, the 25th ult., Capt. Turnbull, of the stern wheeler Yukoner, sent word to Mr. Rogers, the White Pass and Yukon agent there, that it was an easy matter to get $1.00 to the pan with the thermometer 20 degrees below zero, and ten cents to the pan at 47 degrees below.

There are sixty miners on Bullion creek this winter sinking to bedrock on their claims.

Mr. Dickson and his brother are the only people who have exact geographical knowledge of the district, and their map will be a valuable addition to knowledge on the Yukon country.

There is any quantity of spruce fir in the district for lumber for building, fluming, etc., and the probabilities are there will be a sawmill in the early summer.

A number of miners left White Horse on the 25th January last to sink to bedrock on Fourth of July and Ruby creeks. The whole camp is controlled from White Horse for supplies, police and mining recording, and already there is a patrol of Mounted Police in the district.

The pioneer discovery party, headed by a Mr. Smith, got the discovery claims free, i. e., they are exempt from the 2 per cent. royalty, and are thus well repaid for the hardships endured in prospecting this valuable and vast tract of country.

On Bullion creek a hole forty feet by six by six yielded $750, and, judging from all accounts, the diggings promise to rival the now world-renowned Klondike placer gold fields.

PROVINCIAL HOUSE CLOSES ITS SESSION

Manitoba Assembly Prorogued Yesterday—Speech From the Throne.

Winnipeg, Feb. 8.—The Manitoba legislature closed today. The speech of the Lieut.-Governor, in proroguing the House, was as follows: "I have pleasure in relieving you from your legislative duties at the close of this short but very important session. I desire to congratulate you upon the zeal and energy you have manifested in the discharge of the onerous duties devolving upon you.

"The various measures you have passed during this session affecting existing laws will, I have no doubt, tend very much to advance the best interests of the country. I note with satisfaction your action in strongly commending and endorsing the policy of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain involving certain fiscal changes within the Empire, and feel sure that the inauguration and putting into practical effect of such a policy will tend to advance the best interests of the province.

"I also note with satisfaction the provision made for the erection of an agricultural college within the province, which will, I feel, meet the hearty approval of the people.

"I thank you for the supplies you have granted for the public service, and feel convinced that they will be applied in such a way as to merit your approval.

"In relieving you from further attendance, I desire to extend to you my best wishes for your future welfare and happiness, and hope that the blessing of Divine Providence will attend you until it shall be my duty to summon you again to assist us with your counsels in the administration of the affairs of the province."

TORONTO STOCK MARKET.

Toronto, Feb. 8.—On the Toronto stock market today there was very little liquidation outside of C. P. R., which broke two points to 115, last sale at 115¼ on local office posting New York price today as 114¾. Trading was light and closing prices lower in many cases. Local fire assurance stocks were not dealt in, and did not reflect any material weakness from Baltimore fire. British Assurance closed a point lower in bid at 95 with sellers at ½ Western Assurance was offered point lower at 96.

FIRE IN NEW YORK.

New York, Feb. 6.—Fire tonight in the factory building at Sixtieth and Second avenue South, Brooklyn, occupied by William Lane & Son, shoe manufacturers, and Michael Cooper, ladies' wear, caused damages estimated at $100,000.

CLEVER MEN FROM SCOTLAND.

Scotland gives us a notable man out of every 31,500 of her population, says Tit-Bits. Ireland falls a long way behind her sister country, producing one in 44,000 (taking in this, as in all other cases, the nearer hundred); and England actually takes the last place with one man of mark to every 40,500 of her children; so that, at the very outset, we are brought face to face with the astonishing fact that Scotland's capacity for producing great men is roughly 50 per cent greater than that of England. This is, indeed, a feather in Scotland's cap.

Public Works Will Wait

Federal Government Decide to Postpone Expenditures Until After Next Session.

Additions to Civil Service Were Not Provided For In Last Estimates.

Commercial Agent Points Out Trade Preferences Offered By New Zealand.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Feb. 8.—The Yukon hydraulic commission will hold a meeting here the second week in March.

It is said that Hon. Mr. Hyman will succeed Hon. Mr. Cartwright after the session, and people are wondering when British Columbia is going to secure a federal portfolio again.

As there is to be another session of parliament the government has decided to postpone the commencement of construction of many public works for which appropriations were voted last session. These include public buildings, wharves, piers, dredging, etc.

By the civil service act of last session some clerks were transferred from the temporary to the permanent list on December 1st. Since then they have received no pay. This business-like administration forgot to ask parliament for the appropriations.

The government received today a copy of the preferential tariff act passed by the New Zealand parliament. It was sent by Mr. Larke, Canadian representative, and in his opinion presents advantages to Canada if she choose to embrace them in the way of trade to the amount of $1,500,000. There are three schedules to the act. The first doubles the duty upon cement of foreign origin, but on British made cement the old duty of two shillings per barrel is retained. The second schedule contains a list of goods the duty on which is retained under the old tariff when of British origin, but on similar goods of foreign origin the duty is increased one-half. This list includes baskets and wicker goods, bicycles and tricycles, boots, shoes and slippers, candles, carriages, carts and wagons, china, porcelain and parian ware, clocks, cordage, and rope, cream of tartar, earthenware and stoneware, fancy goods and toys, fish potted and preserved, furniture and cabinet ware, glass and glassware, hardware, hoops, iron nails, pipes and fittings, lamps and lanterns, pianos, paperhangings, wrapping paper, plate and plated ware and pumps and other apparatus for raising water. The third schedule is composed of goods which hitherto have been admitted free, but a duty of 20 per cent will be levied on goods of foreign origin, the produce of British dominions still being on the free list. This schedule includes fittings for bicycles and tricycles, gas engines and hammers, and engines, gum boots, rubbers, manufactures of iron and steel, printing paper, rails for railway and tramways, sail cloth and ducks, surgical and dental instruments. Mr. Larke strongly advises Canadians to endeavor to capture this trade at once. Certificates or origin are required with all shipments of British goods and a copy will appear in an early bulletin of the department.

Under clause two of the tariff an opportunity is afforded for further extension of the preferential list, and Mr. Larke recommends negotiations should be entered into at once with the sister colony with a view to securing further extensions for Canada.

Mr. Larke urges the government to take up the question of making Noumea, in New Caledonia, a port of call for the steamships of the Canadian-Australian line. A detour of only sixty miles would be involved and he believes quite a trade would be built up with this colony, as steamship communication is very infrequent at present.

JAPANESE CIVILIZATION.

Mr. Douglas Sladen tels us in his new book on Japan of how once a year paupers who have not enough to eat walk a couple of hundred miles to see the irises of Harokiri in bloom. It is not a religious, simply an aesthetic pilgrimage. They go as people here go to see a football match—because they like it. It forces upon one the old reflection of whether our "civilization," with all its progress in prosperous ugliness, is not travelling on the wrong lines. Is not the Japanese pauper, feasting his soul on beauty, nearer the Kingdom that the British laborer, roaring blasphemously at a referee or a player on "the other side."

ROBBED AND SHOT.

Street Car Conductor Fatally Injured by Bandits in Chicago.

Chicago, Feb. 6.—Two unidentified robbers shot and fatally wounded Geo. Brekler, a conductor on the Western avenue electric line early today, when he resisted their attempts to rob him. The attempted robbery occurred at the terminus of the line. The robbers escaped.

The Love of Eating.

IS THE AMERICAN BECOMING A GOURMAND?

In our largest centers of population, such as New York and Chicago, we daily see more attention given to the inner man. Cafes and lunch-rooms are filled with men and women who seem to give all their time and attention to thoughts of properly or improperly feeding their stomachs. "It is of course best to eat slowly, but not too much," says Dr. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y. In this 20th century people devote so much time to head work that their brain is fagged and there isn't sufficient blood left to properly take care of the other organs of the body. The stomach must be assisted in its hard work—the liver started into action—by the use of a good stomach tonic, which should be entirely of vegetable ingredients and without alcohol. After years of experience in an active practice, Dr. Pierce discovered a remedy that suited these conditions in a blood-maker and tissue-builder. He called it Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery—an alterative extract that assists in the digestion and assimilation of the food in the stomach—so that the blood gets what it needs for food and oxidation, the liver is at the same time started into activity and there is perfect elimination of waste matter. When the blood is pure and rich, all the organs work without effort, and the body is like a perfect machine.

FREE! Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is sent *free* on receipt of stamps to pay expense of customs and mailing *only*. Send 31 one-cent stamps for the book in paper covers, or 50 stamps for the cloth-bound volume. Address Dr. R.V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

Provincial Legislature

Interim Report From Select Committee on Government House Enquiry.

Long Lake Dam, Okanagan Causes Considerable Animated Discussion.

Large Number of Bills Disposed of—Session Drawing to a Close.

Feb. 8th, 1904.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock p.m.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

Mr. Clifford presented an interim report from the select committee to inquire into all matters relating to the construction of Government House, as follows:

(Legislative Committee Rooom,
8th February, 1904.

Mr. Speaker:

Your select committee appointed by resolution of the House on January 21st last to inquire into certain matters pertaining to the construction of Government House beg to make this interim report:

At a session of the committee held on February 6th, Messrs. Maxwell, Muir and W. T. Dalton, referred to in the resolution, through their respective counsel, declined to give evidence touching the charges made in the memorandum attached to the award, claiming that the memorandum is an integral part of the award, and, is, therefore privileged from any review by any legislature or a committee thereof.

Your committee would respectfully suggest that the House reaffirm its action that the charges contained in the memorandum are distinct from the award, and that the action of the committee in pressing the inquiry into the charges contained in the memorandum be endorsed. And, further, your committee respectfully request that they be empowered to compel witnesses to testify, as without this power, the committee feel that they will be unable to thoroughly perform their duties before the close of the season.

CHAS. W. D. CLIFFORD,
Chairman.

The report was received.

Mr. Clifford presented a petition from A. M. Gregg and others, residents of Victoria, asking amendments to the "Game Act."

Laid on the table.

Mr. Ellison presented the first report from the mining committee, as follows:

Legislative Committee Room,
4th February, 1904.

Mr. Speaker:

Your select standing committee on mining beg leave to report as follows:

That your committee has resolved that it is not deemed advisable to make changes in either the "Mineral Act" or the "Placer Mining Act" at this session of the legislative assembly.

PRICE ELLISON,
Chairman.

The report was received.

NEW BILLS.

The Hon. Mr. Wilson asked leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Bills of Sale Act.'"

Mr. Bowser asked leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act respecting the Fraudulent Preference of Creditors by persons in Insolvent Circumstances."

Mr. McInnes asked leave to introduce a bill intituled "An Act to amend the 'Animals Act.'"

Granted, bills read a first time; second reading next sitting of the House.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Oliver moved the following resolution:

That an order of the House be granted for a return of copies of the forms being used by the assessors under the provisions of the "Assessment Act"; also copies of the instructions issued to assessors in connection with carrying out the provisions of the "Assessment Act."

Mr. Oliver said he had been informed that the assessors had not been sending out the forms to all the taxpayers, apparently a couple out hundred miles apart and another; also the forms sent out were not those prescribed in the act.

Hon. Mr. Tatlow said this was the first information the government had had on the matter. The instructions issued were explicit, and he had no reason to doubt that they were not being carried out, but he should take strict enquiry at once. Fortunately this return would not cost anything, but the return asked for by Mr. Henderson the other day would cost $5,000 to print.

Mr. Paterson discussed the hardship of a man owning personal property valued at $499 escaping payment of tax, and the man with $500 having to pay on the whole $500.

Mr. Oliver handed his marked copy of the act to the finance minister.

LONG LAKE DAM.

Mr. Oliver moved the following resolution: That an order of the House be granted for a return of copies of all correspondence between Albert Geer and T. R. Williams, of Long Lake, near Vernon, and the department of public works, in reference to damages to the land of the said Albert Geer and T. R. Williams; also copies of all correspondence between the department of lands and works and any other person re the construction of a dam at Long Lake.

Mr. Oliver gave a lengthy description of the dam referred to, and the work done in connection with it; also how the breaking of a log jam doing damage twelve years ago. The government had spent $1,000 for, as he alleged, protection of the town of Vernon. He contended that, under present conditions, owing to the work done by the government, the town was in the same position of danger as it was in 1892. Owing to the construction of the dam by the government, the property of the farmers on Long Lake was damaged. He read affidavits from the complainants. Geer claims to have lost 60 acres of land, and Williams twenty-five acres by the erection of the dam. He had been asked to bring this matter up in the House. One of the sufferers had become disgusted, sold out his land for a merely nominal sum and left the country.

The Premier said the work complained of was erected under the chief commissionership of Mr. Wells (Columbia). The Premier had looked into this matter and ascertained while at Vernon that this work was undertaken in the public interest, and he had not heard a single complaint. On the contrary, he heard the work commended. The government, however, was sensible of responsibility if persons had been damaged through government works. It was not right to blame the present government for all the little legacies which the government had inherited, and so far not been able to attend to, in view of the press of important work done since coming into office. The government was only too willing to have the Long Lake dam matter laid before the House. As for the attempted aspersion of Mr. Price Ellison touching this matter, it was simply absurd to charge a man to whose enterprise and energy Vernon owed so much, with self-interest in the affair. The Premier then scathingly criticized Mr. Oliver's insinuations against the character of the hon. member for Vernon. From the gossip and prattle of the corridors, it would seem as if there was not a member of this House who had a clear title to his seat. The government offered no opposition to this motion; when the facts