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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL L., NO. 128 — VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1908 — FIFTIETH YEAR

CHINA'S POWER NOT SUFFICIENT

Resistance to Japan's Demands in Tatsu Case Not Likely

ULTIMATUM FROM TOKIO

Sympathy With China on Account of Smuggling of Arms

London, March 7.—It is the general opinion in diplomatic circles that the chances of a rupture between Japan and China are small. The middle kingdom is not considered in a position to resist the demands of the island empire. Pending the receipt of advices from their respective governments, which have not yet arrived, neither the Japanese embassy nor the Chinese legation will discuss the Tatsu Maru incident.

While diplomatists consider that China is tecnically in the wrong, considerable sympathy is expressed for her, as it is felt that the Japanese customs authorities must have been well aware that the consignment of arms which was the direct cause of the dispute was intended for distribution to Chinese rebels.

Irreducible Minimum.

Pekin, March 7.—Japan's ultimatum in the case of the Japanese S. S. Tatsu Maru, recently seized by the Chinese, was presented to the head of the Chinese foreign board yesterday and today the board has the matter under consideration.

The irreducible minimum of the Japanese claims is the restoration of the steamer as well as of her cargo, and then payment of a full indemnity. Action is demanded within a "reasonable time." In case of default or postponement, Japan, according to the terms of her ultimatum, will "take immediate action." Japan expects a reply by tomorrow. She will not tolerate China's offer to investigate the cause. She insists upon an apology for the hauling down of the Japanese flag on the Tatsu Maru and will not accept mediation, affirming that China is in error and that the facts are incontrovertible.

Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to China, in delivering the ultimatum, made reference to Japan's sympathy for China in the matter of the contraband traffic in arms, and explained that China could not expect mediation so long as she did not admit the participation of the Portuguese.

"Not Unless Compelled."

Tokio, March 7.—"Japan will not resort to force in connection with the seizure of the steamer Tatsu maru, unless compelled to do so by the action of China." This statement was given to the Associated Press correspondent today by a high authority in the Foreign Office, who, continuing, said: "We propose to exercise the utmost patience and fully understand the difficulty the central government of China has in dealing with viceroys who possess extensive constitutional powers. It is quite apparent that the viceroy of Canton acted hastily in relying upon information which stated that the Tatsu was engaged in smuggling arms. He conceived therefore that he had a right to seize the vessel, but the facts show that the vessel's papers, including a manifest of arms consigned in regular form to a firm in Macao, were entirely legitimate. A representative of the firm at Macao boarded the vessel accompanied by the Portuguese authorities before the seizure by a Chinese vesssl. She was absolutely then in Portuguese waters.

Suicided While Insane.

Montreal, March 6.—B. A. Reinhardt, a well known business man, took his life this afternoon while in a state of mental aberration. Mr. Rheinhardt was the head of the Reinhardt Mfg. Co. until recently, when he had a nervous breakdown, followed by a mental collapse. At his home today he eluded the watchers, and going to the kitchen he secured a large carving knife, which he carried to the conservatory and stabbed himself several times in the abdomen. He died shortly afterwards.

King Edward in France.

Paris, March 5.—King Edward arrived here this evening from London. Sir Francis Bertie, the British ambassador to France, met him at the station and escorted him to a private hotel. Although he is travelling incog as the Duke of Lancaster, King Edward will visit President Fallieres before departing for Biarritz on Saturday.

Crazy Doukhobors

Fort William, Ont., March 5.—At the inquest on the Doukhobor who died recently, the jurymen decided to investigate the conditions of the house. They found men, women and children naked, many of them not having worn clothes since their arrival here. The verdict was that the man came to his death from pneumonia and starvation as a result of no medical attendance. A witness in the box stated that the Doukhobors were going to take the corpse to the bush and there leave it. No attempt at burial would have been made.

Husband's Inhumanity

Tweed, Ont., March 5.—The coroner's jury brought in a verdict holding Richard Lindsay guilty of criminal neglect in connection with the death of his wife and two new-born babies. Lindsay was sent up for trial at Belleville. Lindsay had been sent for a doctor to attend his wife. He took a cow along with him to sell. Succeeding in this, he forgot the doctor, and proceeded to spend the money for liquor. Alone with a young son, Mrs. Lindsay gave birth to twins. The boy ran to neighbors, half a mile away, but before these could reach her, she had died, together with the two babies.

Three Men Drowned.

Pittsburg, March 7.—Three lives were lost when the towboat Stella Moren, with two flats of coal, went over dam No. 2 on the Monogahela river at Port Perry, Pa., and sank in twenty feet of water. The dead are: John Cox, engineer; Charles Loraine, deck hand; John Bush, fireman. The Stella Moren was owned by the Monogahela River Consolidated Coal and Coke company.

Help Western Publishers

Toronto, March 7.—The committee on resolutions of the Canadian Press Association yesterday proposed a resolution to the effect that the Canadian Press Association tender to the publishers in the northwest the assurance of hearty co-operation in any action they may take to remedy telegraph rate grievances before the Dominion railway commission.

For Strathcona Horse.

Calgary, March 7.—At the finance committee meeting yesterday the question of accepting the offer of the Department of Militia for the industrial school site, three miles from the city, was discussed. It is understood that the site is wanted for the barracks for the Strathcona Horse, and the committee decided to recommend the sale, on condition that it was purchased for that purpose.

Killed by Street Car

Toronto, March 7.—G. H. Scott, 45 years old, agent for the Fairbanks-Morse Manufacturing company was struck and almost instantly killed on a street railway crossing last night.

Insane and Desperate.

Winnipeg, March 6.—While being taken to Portage la Prairie, jail by Constable Williamson, Thomas Dempsey, of Rollin, Man., cut his throat while on the Canadian Northern train

Bracebridge, Ont., March 6.—Mr. Morrison ,was the unanimous nomination for the Dominion house at a Liberal convention held here today. A. Snyder, of Gravehurst, was the choice for the seat in the legislature.

BLACK HAND AGENT HAS CAREER ENDED

Receives Five Bullets While Trying to Kill Italian Banker

New York, March 7.—Repulsed in a daylight attempt of the "Black Hand" to rob his bank today, at the point of a gun, Pasquale Patti, who conducts a large banking and exchange business in the Italian quarter on Elizabeth street, in a pistol duel, in which his son-in-law, Louis Cartiar, joined, shot Francesco Pellatro alias Giuseppe Sapio, who is dying tonight in a hospital with five bullet wounds in his body, as a result of his attempt to hold up the bank. A second man, Michele Dogestino, who the police believe is an accomplice of Pellatro, was arrested while running from the bank after the shooting.

For fourteen years, Patti told the the police, he has constantly received "black hand" letters, and only a month ago the front of his bank was blown out by a bomb, and $40,000 scattered in the street, which was saved by prompt work on the part of the banker.

The closing hour of the bank was near at hand today, and the neighborhood were teeming with people returning from a half holiday's toil, when Pellatro entered Patti's bank. Patti was talking with his family when Pellatro, drawing his revolver, declared his intention of killing the banker. Quickly seizing a revolver on the shelf, Patti opened fire on Pellatro, while on the other side of the bank, Louis Cartier, who conducted the branch post office station in the institution, drew his revolver and also began firing.

Pellatro fell to the ground with five bullet wounds in his body, while Dogestina was caught running from the bank.

Pellatro told the coroner tonight that he went to the bank to kill Patti, but fired no shots. The police have been unable to find Pellatro's revolver. Patti is held by the police pending further investigation of the affair.

MILITARY EXCHANGES

Arrangements in Regard to Militia Officers in Mother Country and the Colonies

Ottawa, Mar. 7.—The report of the militia council says correspondence has taken place between the Canadian and Imperial governments relative to a proposal emanating from the latter that officers of the Imperial Yeomanry regiments in Great Britain when visiting or temporarily residing in the colonies should be attached to colonial mounted forces for training purposes, and similarly that members of the colonial mounted forces visiting the British Isles should be attached for a like purpose to Imperial Yeomanry regiments.

The report also says that arrangements are in progress between the Imperial and Dominion governments, and also the principal of McGill university, whereby commissions in the imperial army and the Canadian permanent forces may be granted to undergraduates of Canadian universities.

Fruit Packing Frauds.

Ottawa, March 6.—Minister Fisher will submit legislation to the Commons later in the session providing for amendments to the Fruit Marks act, which will considerably increase the penalties for fraudulent packing and branding of apples.

Mabel Allen Acquitted.

Toronto, March 6.—A verdict of not guilty was brought in after three hours' deliberation by the jury in the case of Mabel Allen, of Mount Albert, who was charged with having set fire to the barn of Jacob Hopkins, a farmer. The girl, who is only eighteen years of age, was alleged to have committed the deed because Mr. Hopkins had given her a promise of marriage and then thrown her over. The evidence was of a melodramatic character.

FUNERAL DAY IN COLLINGWOOD

Bodies of Little Victims of Fire Sorrowfully Committed to Earth

SOME YET UNIDENTIFIED

Teachers Tell of Being Unable to Open Rear Door of School

Cleveland, March 6.—North Collingwood today came to a full realization of its affliction. Slowly and solemnly the processions of death began to wend their way towards the cemeteries, bearing the charred remains of children whose lives were snuffed out in Wednesday morning's catastrophe in the Lake View school. From nine o'clock in the morning until dusk there was no cessation in the funeral cortege. One of the saddest funerals was that of the three children of Janitor Herter, jointly with the services for three other little ones.

Murmurings against the janitor could be heard about the village as grief-crazed parents sought an object upon which to wreck vengeance, forgetting, as they did, that Herter himself was walking with bowed head and broken heart behind the coffins of three of his loved ones. A detail of police was placed about the Herter home when the hour for the funeral came. Fully five hundred persons had gathered, but when the coffins were carried to the doorway the crowd spread and opened the way for them without protest or expression of hostility.

Tonight there are twenty-eight of these bundles of human flesh still awaiting identification or claimants.

At the continued inquest two of the teachers told of their unavailing attempts to open one of the double doors at the rear, which they said was locked.

The body of Miss Katherine Weiler, one of the two teachers who lost their lives in the fire, was positively identified today by a dentist, who established the identification through her gold filled teeth. The body of Rose Machnich, a former pupil in the school, was identified also today by her shoes. When Mrs. Machnich was positive of the identification, she fainted upon the charred body of her child.

So far one hundred and sixty-seven bodies have been recovered. The list of missing now tallies with the number of unidentified, which would indicate that all of the bodies have been found, and that the total death list will stand at 167. In fully one hundred cases the funerals were individual.

The unidentified will be buried Monday, according to present arrangements. The expense of the funerals, together with the funerals of children whose parents are not in financial condition to meet the expense, will be borne by public subscriptions, which are growing larger every hour. Already thousands of dollars have been raised. In addition to this, a bill has been introduced into the state legislature, appropriating $25,000 for the relief of the needy fire sufferers.

ROSSLAND MINING OUTLOOK IMPROVES

Mines in South Belt Under Lease—Ore Production For Past Week

Rossland, March 7.—The finding of good values in the South Belt has resulted in the leasing of half a dozen Rossland properties which have been idle for years. The lessees are all practical miners. The O. K., a free gold property, has been leased by Ontario miners. The South Belt ore is silver-lead and a shipment of 30 tons just made to Trail smelter went $50 per ton. The Sunset, on which $260,000 has been spent in development, has been leased, as also the Homestake, which is owned in Eastern Canada.

W. A. Carlyle, consulting engineer for the Le Roi, left today for London after an examination of the Le Roi.

The largest copper furnace in Canada will be started at the Trail smelter next week.

Nelson, March 7.—Following are the shipments from the mines of southeastern British Columbia districts for the past week and the year, together with the smelter receipts:

Boundary—Week, 23,663; year, 169,630.

Rossland—Centre Star, week, 3,042; year, 32,420.

Le Roi—Week, 1,634; year, 15,130.

Le Roi No. 2—Week, 354; year, 6,351.

Evening Star—Week, 76; year, 334.

Total—Week, 5,606; year, 54,405.

East of Columbia River—Week 1,900; year, 24,955.

Grand total—Week, 31,197; year, 249,429.

Smelter receipts: Granby, 23,691 and 169,630; Trail, 5,280 and 50,718; Le Roi, 1,706 and 16,496; Marysville, nil and 5,730. Total, 30,677 and 242,574.

Left For Mediterranean

Winnipeg, March 7.—William Whyte, second vice-president of the C. P. R., Mrs. Whyte, Sir Daniel MacMillan and Lady McMillan left tolay on a three months trip to the Mediterranean.

Offered Professorship.

Winnipeg, March 6.—W. J. Rose, the Manitoba Rhodes scholar, just completing his term at Oxford, has been offered a professorship in the Western Methodist college here.

Presbytery Nominations

Brockville, Ont., March 6.—The Brockville Presbytery nominated Rev. James Carmichael for moderator of the general assembly and Walter Paul, of Montreal, for moderator of the synod of Montreal and Ottawa.

Sentence Commuted

Ottawa, March 5.—The sentence of death on Samuel Prior for the murder of a little girl at Wolseley, Sask., has been commuted to life imprisonment on the ground that Prior was not fully responsible for his conduct.

Woman's Suicide.

St. Catherines, Ont., March 5.—Mrs. A. C. Sangster was found dead in her room this afternoon, having strangled herself. She was the wife of the superintendent of the Hamilton Cataract Power company at Decew Falls, and leaves three children.

MURDEROUS CHINESE

Boston Tong Feud Massacre and Its Sequel—Nine Chinamen Are Found Guilty

Boston, March 7.—Warry Charles, one of the wealthiest and most influential Chinamen of Boston, and eight of his countrymen, claimed to be notorious hatchet men, were found guilty by a jury in the Superior court late today of murder in the first degree on four counts, alleging the killing of four Chinamen in Boston on August 2 of last year. A tenth defendant, Yee Watt, who had also been on trial on the same charges, died suddenly in his cell last Tuesday, while the trial was in progress.

The men found guilty today are: Mh Sing, Hom Woon, Loong Gong, Wong Duck, Wong How, Joe Guoy, Dong Bok, Ling Yee Jung and Warry Charles.

The men were accused of the murder of Chin Mong Quin, Wong Shu Chung, Chin Leet and Lee Kai Nem.

In each case Warry Charles was accused of being an accessory before the fact, in that he counseled, hired and commanded others to commit crimes.

The case had been on trial for 33 days. The murders for which the nine Chinamen were found guilty grew out of a long standing feud between the Hip Sing Tong and the On Leong Tong, rival Chinese societies. Early in the evening of August 2, 1907, a number of strange Chinamen suddenly appeared in Oxford place, in the heart of the Chinese quarter of Boston, and at a given signal, which was the discharge of a firecracker lighted by a cigar which one of the strange Chinamen was smoking, they immediately began firing from revolvers upon scores of Chinese merchants and laundrymen, who were in the rear of the places of business. Promptly boltng about after a hard day's work, forty shots were fired, and when the police appeared they found three Chinamen dead in the alley and a dozen others seriously wounded, one of whom died.

Shoy Tong, one of the principal witnesses for the state, testified that Warry Charles, a rich and influential Americalized Chinaman of this city, and president of the Hip Sing Tong, had instigated the killing. In his testimony Tong said:

"Charles said that we would have to do some killing and make the Chinese business men so afraid that all of them would join the society."

Charles is also alleged to have said: "We were getting no one, and must kill some one."

Tong testified further that Charles proposed sending to New York, Philadelphia and Chicago for "hatchet men" who were unknown, to do the killing, as they would be better able to escape. The nine Chinamen were returned to their cells in the Charles street jail tonight, and the usual time will be allowed the attorneys for the defence to apply for a new trial before the men are sentenced by the court.

Crusade Against Liquor.

Toronto, March 6.—The city council has applied for legislation to apply the local option system to the wards of the city. The idea is to have the vote taken by wards and gradually to close out the hotels in the city.

Stole Jewels From Friend.

New York, March 6.—Charged with the theft of jewels valued at $20,000 from one of her wealthy friends, Mrs. Jeanette Newmann, who lives at the Stratford House, this city, was locked up at police headquarters today. The police say Mrs. Newmann has made full confession, and told them she was actuated by her desire to keep her children in a private school and to maintain her own social position. The jewels were owned by Mrs. Evelyn Bell, who lives in Central Park west, and also has a home in Port Chester.

BRITAIN VISITED BY VIOLENT GALE

Numerous Wrecks of Small Craft Reported—Twenty Lives Lost

London, March 6.—A violent gale has swept the coasts of the British Isles today.

There have been numerous wrecks of small craft on east coast of Ireland. Altogether about twenty lives have been lost.

Mabel Allen's Trial

Toronto, March 5.—The trial of Mabel Allen, charged with setting fire to the barns of Jacob Hopkins, near Mount Albert, began in the Sessions court this morning before Judge Winchester. The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

Coal and Steel Dispute.

Halifax, March 6.—In interests of the whole Dominion, Byron E. Walker, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, who is in the city, says the difficulty between the Dominion Coal and Steel companies regarding the price of coal and terms of contracts should be settled. He suggested that the matter be placed before a tribunal of representative Canadians, and that public opinion should be so aroused that the leaders of the opposing forces would have to bow to it.

PROVIDES WORK FOR UNEMPLOYED

Government Orders Opening of Road in Nanaimo District

E. AND N. IMPROVEMENTS

Reported Intention to Build New Bridges Over Several Rivers

Nanaimo, March 7. — Government Agent Bray has received instructions to put a large number of men at work opening a new road in Cedar district. In all it is supposed that about 100 men will be put to work. The starting of this work is timely, and if care is exercised to see that those are employed who have been living in the city and are in need of work, should do much to relieve the serious situation.

Extensive repairs, it is reported, are to be made shortly on the E. & N. railway, which will give employment to hundreds of men. A new steel bridge, it is said, will be built across the Cowichan river, one across the Chemainus river and one across the Nanaimo river, besides two between Duncan and Shawnigan Lake, and a smaller one at Raymond's Crossing.

A drowning accident occurred at Union Bay last night, by which a sailor on the steamer Wellington, named Fred Larsen, lost his life. Larsen was on a visit to friends on the Norwegian steamer Mathilda, now bunkering at that port, and in the darkness lost his footing and fell overboard between the vessel and the wharf. It is thought deceased must have hit a fender between the Wellington and the wharf. The harbor is being dragged tonight, but at this hour the body has not been recovered. Deceased was 27 years of age, and his family reside in Bergen, Norway.

Royal Reception at Lisbon.

Lisbon, March 7.—King Manuel and the Queen mother, Amelia, held their first public reception at the palace today. It passed off without incident.

Suffocated in Tunnel

Baltimore, Md., March 7.—Four men are dead and ten others were taken to a hospital today suffering from the effects of gas which overcame them while at work in the Pennsylvania railroad tunnel near the John street entrance. A number of others were affected, but managed to reach the entrance to the tunnel and the safety of fresh air before being overcome. The accumulation of gas is said to have been due to the fact that the exhaust fan depended on to carry off the gas and smoke from trains using the tunnel was out of order, and had not been working for several days. Of the dead one was the white foreman of the gang and the others were negro laborers.

King Edward at Biarritz.

Biarritz, March 7.—King Edward arrived here tonight. He was greeted by an official deputation.

PRESIDENT GOMPERS CALLS CONFERENCE

Recent Decisions of U. S. Supreme Court Require Consideration

Washington, March 7.—The far-reaching character of the recent decisions of the Supreme court of the United States affecting labor organizations has led President Compers, of the American Federation of Labor, to issue a call for a meeting of the executive council of the federation in this city in the early part of the week beginning March 16. The call expresses the hope that the executive officers of the international trade unions of America will meet with the executive council on Wednesday morning, March 18, "there and then to consult and take such action as the importance and merits of the subject herein dealt with may be considered and determined as setting forth the position and demands of labor."

The suggestion is made that it would be most advantageous if two or three of the executive officers of each international union were in attendance at the conference, and under any circumstances that the international unions shall be represented by at least one executive officer and one or two other representatives whom that executive officer shall select. The call concludes:

"In the interest of the working people of our country, for the protection of their rights as well as the maintenance of the trade unions and the labor movements of our country that have done so much for the improvement of the conditions of all, I appeal to you, in their name, that your organization will be represented at the conference on Wednesday morning, March 18."

Valuable Horses Burned.

Listowel, Ont., March 6.—Fire this morning destroyed the large sale stables of W. G. Kidd. Thirteen horses, some of them thoroughbreds and some trotters of note, were burned to death. One of the sires burned was the famous Oliver Wilkes.

To Investigate Charges.

Washington, March 6.—The house of representatives today unanimously adopted a resolution to investigate the charges brought by Representative Lilly, of Connecticut, of corrupting influences on members of the house naval affairs committee in connection with authorizations for submarine torpedo boats.

ROBBERS WORSTED

Three Men Raid New Jersey Post Offices—Two Wounded and Captured by Farmers

Camden, N. J., March 7.—A battle between farmers and three robbers, in which two of the latter were wounded, followed the daring robbery early today of the post offices at Pedricktown and Bridgeport, near here. Two of the men were captured, but the third succeeded in eluding the farmers. He is being closely followed, and his arrest is expected at any minute.

The robbers arrested appeared at Pedrickton shortly after midnight and stole a team of horses from a livery stable. They then went to the postoffice, blew open the safe and stole $250 in money and stamps. The force of the explosion wrecked the building and the place took fire. The robbers then fled, and nothing further was heard from them until two hours later when they appeared at Bridgeport, eight miles from Pedricktown. The robbers took $200 in stamps and $50 in cash from the Bridgeport postoffice and escaped.

A posse was organized and the desperadoes were traced to a clump of woods and both sides opened fire. One of the robbers fell and the second threw up his hands and surrendered. The third held his ground for some time, but fled further into the brush.

The two men captured were locked up in jail. When arraigned before Mayor Ladd at Woodbury, they gave the names of Wm. McCloy and John Burns. Both prisoners were committed to jail under the care of a physician.

Ottawa, March 6.—A return tabled in the house by the minister of public works shows that the total expenditure on Rideau hall from 1891 to December 31, 1907, was $670,541. Of this amount $305,552 was for maintenance of buildings, $183,250 for heating and lighting, $122,299 for construction and improvement of buildings and $26,900 for improvement of grounds.

GERMANY LAUNCHES GREAT BATTLESHIP

First of the Vessels of Dreadnought's Class Now in the Water

Wilhelmshaven, March 7.—The first mammoth warship of the German navy was successfully launched here today and christened Nassau by the Grand Duchess of Baden. Emperor William, the Grand Duke of Baden, Prince Henry of Prussia and Prince Henry of the Netherlands, as well as a brilliant assemblage of prominent officials, were present.

Wilhelm Von Hengstenberg, lord-lieutenant of Hesse Nassau, made a speech in which he greeted the new vessel as a welcome addition to Germany's sea power and a defender of the interests of the empire. The launch of the great battleship Nassau inaugurated a new era in the German navy. She is the first of the mammoth vessels of which the active squadrons are in future to be composed, and is in size, armament, speed and installation, superior to any warship hitherto built in Germany.

The Nassau displaced 17,960 tons, and is built entirely of hardened steel. Her dimensions and the thickness of her armor are not exactly known, as everything connected with her construction has been kept secret by order of the marine minister. It is known, however, that she is to be fitted with three sets of triple expansion reciprocating engines, and is to be provided with three propellers. The minimum speed she is expected to attain is 19 knots. Her crew is to number 966, including 27 officers.

The Nassau's first keel plate was laid down in the imperial navy yard at Bremerhaven in the last quarter of 1906, so that the construction has been rapid. Her internal fittings and armament are to be completed in the first quarter of 1909. The cost of construction, including trial guns, will total $9,190,000, of which $5,567,500 is accounted for by the hull and internal fittings, $3,375,000 for artillery and $247,500 for torpedos.

Emperor William made no speech at the launching except to propose the health of his royal guests at the luncheon after the ceremony.

A naval authority informed the Associated Press that the following are approximately the dimensions of the new warship: Length, 472 feet; beam 92 feet 9 inches; draught, 26 feet; tonnage, 18,000; horse power, 27,000; speed, 19 knots a nhour.

The armament of the new vessel will consist of 12 11-inch guns, 12 6-inch guns, 6 torpedoe tubes for the discharge of torpedoes 19 inches in dinmeter.

The Nassau's radius of action at a speed of ten knots is 5,000 miles. This indicates that the vessel is designed for use in home waters.

Although the keel of the new ship was formally laid down in July, 1907, this date hardly represents correctly the speed of the Germans in shipbuilding, because several months had been spent previous to the laying of the keel in gathering materials. The battleship will be ready to go to sea the end of 1909.

The twin ship, the Sachsen, is to be launched from the Weser ways at Bremerhaven in a very short time, while work is proceeding rapidly on the Wurtemburg at the Vulcan yard, Stettin, and on the Baden at the Germania works, Kiel. These latter two ships, although classed with the Nassau, are to have an even larger displacement, namely, 18,700 tons, and are to be fitted with turbines, probably of the Parsons type. Two other battleships are also to be laid down this year, and these are, it is believed, to displace over 20,000 tons. It has been stated in well-informed naval circles that each of these vessels is to be armed with ten 11-inch guns of 50 calibre in length, with great muzzle velocity.

The previous largest German battleships are those of the Deutschland class of 13,191 tons, carrying crews of 730, including officers.

MUCH TALK OF LETTER EPISODE

German Government Would Have Text of Missive Published

ENGLISH FEELING QUIETER

Explanation by Lord Tweedmouth Tomorrow is Awaited

Berlin, Mar. 7.—That Emperor William had written a letter to Lord Tweedmouth, it was learned today, was known to a small circle of Berlin diplomats before the London Times published its statement concerning it. The emperor told several persons close to him that he had written to Lord Tweedmouth, and official circles here continue to scout the imputation that the emperor tried to influence Great Britain's navy plans.

The German government thinks that the publication of the letter would be the best way to dissipate the excitement among certain classes in England. The government explicitly declines, however, to believe that the excited utterances in the Times and several other British newspapers represent the feeling of the English people. Decisive action on the part of the government apparently is impeded by the emperor's absence at Wilhelshaven.

Further Opinions.

Cologne, Mar. 7.—The Cologne Gazette prints a dispatch from Berlin reflecting the satisfaction in Berlin political circles at the promptness with which the English people have refused to accept the Times' version of the Emperor's letter, and declaring that Germans can be fully satisfied with the comments on this subject in the English and other foreign newspapers. The despatch then refers to the position taken by several English papers that it is improper for a monarch to hold private correspondence with a minister of a foreign power, which dictum it regards as impossible of acceptance in so sweeping a form. In support of this, it points to the memoirs of Queen Victoria, with correspondence with foreign personages often touching political matters. The despatch concludes with the statement that nothing is known in Berlin with reference to the statement appearing in the English newspapers that negotiations have been going on between the British and German governments for a mutual restriction of warship building plans.

Excitement Moderated.

London, March 7.—As a result of the official explanations that are given here and at Berlin of the Emperor William-Tweedmouth correspondence, the opinion is expressed by the majority of the morning newspapers that the Times has discovered a "Mare's Nest," or at least has unnecessarily magnified the importance of the affair. Pending Lord Tweedmouth's promised statement on Monday next, however, decided comments are withheld.

The Daily Telegraph in a statement claiming to be a true explanation of the affair, describes the Emperor's letter as an innocent and hastily penned after-dinner note of colloquial character and unsuited for publication in its verbatim form. 'While all the newspapers agree as to the advisability of publishing the correspondence, if the Emperor's consent is obtained, in order to clear up all suspicions, it is considered impossible that either house of parliament could call for its publication, as such action would amount to an insult to the Emperor.

That both Emperor William and Lord Tweedmouth have been guilty of a serious indiscretion there is but one opinion, and even newspapers friendly to the government remind Lord Tweedmouth that it was his duty to submit such a communication to the cabinet. Lord Tweedmouth is seriously taken to task for allowing the contents of the letter to become known. The Chronicle editorially hopes that the unfortunate series of indiscretions may lead to a real effort by Germany and England to arrest new naval construction, in which case both countries would have an equal reason to rejoice.

The Chronicle says it is able to state that Lord Tweedmouth communicated the Emperor's letter to the King and the foreign office before sending a reply to it. The Chronicle adds that the Emperor's letter, besides depreciating British comments on the German naval policy, mentioned that Germany's chief object was to substitute new ships for old ones and to protect Germany's over-sea commerce.

Waits Explanation

No further light upon the subject of Emperor William's letter is expected until Lord Tweedmouth makes his promised statement on the occurrence in the House of Lords next Monday.

There is a great curiosity as to whether or not the first lord of the admiralty will read what Emperor William wrote. Even if the substance of the letter is inoffensive, the language may be so informal that the Emperor would prefer that it be not spread before the eyes of the people at large.

It is still held today that the immediate cause of the Emperor's letter was another written by Lord Esher, who is a member of the entourage of King Edward to the maritime league in which he said: "There is not a man in Germany, from the Emperor down, who would not welcome the fall of Sir John Fisher." Sir John is senior naval lord of the admiralty.

Hugh Cecil Lea, Liberal member of parliament from St. Pancras east has given notice of a question asking full publicity for the letter to the premier. Several other members have given notification of similar questions.