...assins ...re Indicted

...ers of Russian Minister ... the Interior to Be Tried.

...ent Discloses Destructive ...ty With Many Ramifications.

...ents of the Bandits Be ... and After the Crime Traced.

...tersburg, Dec. 9.—The indict... ...n which Sasoneff, the assassin ...te minister of the interior, M. ...ve, and Sikorifsky, Sasoneff's ...e, will be tried on December ...which has been shown to the ...l Press, states that both men ...to a fighting or social revolu... the object of which was to ... the autocracy and replace it ...publican or socialistic regime. ...cles for the distribution of ...ions among peasants, stir... university students, fomenting ... disturbances, inciting soldiers ..., and also preaching terrorism ...murder of statesmen who sus... ...e autocracy and took steps ...s political disturbances where ... The murders of Sipliguine ...ve, the predecessor of the late ...f the interior, and Bogdano... ...ernor-general of Ufa, and the ...on the lives of Prince John ..., governor-general of Fin... Pobedonostoff, procurator... ...f the holy synod, are laid at ... of the fighting organization, ...e document says, condemned ...ve to death soon after his ...nt. The first attempt on ...'e's life was frustrated by the ... explosion of April 13, at ... Du Nord, by which Pokati... ...lown up with a bomb similar ... that killed Von Plehve.

...ictment reveals in this con... ...scandal in high life, a room ...the one in the Hotel du Nord ...y Pokatiloff, having been oc... ...a naval cadet and a lady of ...h, who, however, escaped ...ening at supper at the time. ...cution of Von Plehve's death ... the indictment says, was ...rtaken by Sasoneff, aged 25, ... student at the Moscow Uni... ...d the son of a merchant at ... Samuel Levi Sikorifsky, ...a leather worker of Knishin, ...vince of Grodno. The move... ...both men showed a murder ...ed for Minister Von Plehve's ...ourney on Thursday to the ...ation on the way to Peter... ...rt to the Emperor. Sikorif... previously made two trips to ...burg. On Wednesday, July ...day before the murder, he ...rstroff, having disguised him... ... cloak of the naval pattern, ...ft a handbag containing his ... fifteen revolver cartridges. ...rning of the murder, Saso... Sikorifsky met on a bridge ...nal near the Warsaw station, ... armed with an infernal ma... ...ingenuity of which is min... ...ribed. Enclosed in tin was ...magnesial dynamite. The de... ...pparatus consisted of glass ...l with sulphuric acid, the ...s being attached to lead ... arranged that the tubes ...k whichever way the bomb ...de the acid tubes were larger ... with chlorate of potash and ...ch would detonate the dyna... ...es constructed on exactly the ...ciple were found in Pokati... ...ge. ...ctment then describes in de... ...urder of Von Plehve and his ...Fillipoff, and also gives the ...ount of the wounds inflicted ...inister. Sasoneff was knock... ... the explosion, losing con... ... but recovered later. Saso... ...t recognized as the murderer ... regained consciousness and ...ong live the fighting organi... 'Down with autocracy." ...y, having ascertained that ... was dead, proceeded to ...here he took a boat, telling ...n to row out near the Bal... where the battleship Slava ...ed. He threw his bomb into ...nd the boatman thought he ...pting to blow up the Slava. ...he boatman was offered ten ... put in shore and insisted ...g over Sikorifsy to the po... ...incident gave rise to the ... an attempt had been ma...e the Slava, which the Asso... ...s denied at the time. The ...ative, in fact, confirms the ... Press statement regarding ... The bomb was subsequent... ...y. The indictment says that ...d Sikorifsky, after a long ...nfessed, the former to the ...d the latter as an accom...

...IBUTIVE JUSTICE.

...Who Smacked General An... ...s Face Asphyxiated.

...e. 8.—M. Syveton, the Na... ...puty whose action in strik... ...inister Andre in the Cham... ...uties November 4th, which ... minister's resignation, was ... late this afternoon, having ...iated by gas. ...nstances of his death were ...ramatic. Syveton's trial for ...al attack upon General An... ...hamber of deputies was to ...row. The first information ... reached the chamber when ... were anxiously looking out ...eton's entrance, this being ... Chamber's order expelling ...ed. His non-appearance ...rise and enquiries were ...brought the unexpected re... ...e chief of police that he ...nd dead in his apartments ... The authorities say his ...cidental. M. Syveton told ...at he expected a sentence ... imprisonment.

...EN'S HOME BURNT.

... Pa., Dec. 8.—The chil... ...of the Sisters of Mercy at ... was destroyed by fire to... ...umber of children for a ...missing and thought to be ...e located later. It is an... everyone in the building

...E STEAMER O. K.

...ec. 8.—The agents of the ... Glasgow deny the stat... ...asgow, December 5, to the ... speed trials of the Allan ... Victorian, the largest tur... ...t built, have been so dis... ... to raise serious doubts ...vde shipbuilders as to the ...ines in the case of large

To prove to you that Dr. Chase's Ointment is a certain and absolute cure for each and every form of itching, bleeding and protruding piles, we have guaranteed it. See testimonials in any paper and ask your neighbor what they think of it. You can use it and get back if not cured. 60c a box, at all dealers or EDMANSON, BATES & CO., Toronto.

...se's Ointment

Proposed Line Of Ships To Mexico

An Interesting Debate on Project at Vancouver Board of Trade Meeting.

Suggested That Delegate Should Be Sent From B. C. to the Republic.

(From Friday's Daily.)

At a meeting of the Vancouver Board of Trade held on Tuesday evening the following interesting debate occurred respecting the inauguration of the proposed steamship line with Mexico:

Mr. Harvey, agent of Messrs. Andrew Weir & Company, said that the steamers to be put on the route would be of 5,000 tons, electric lighted, with a speed above that required by the government. The service would be monthly. He had been somewhat disappointed in finding that comparatively no trade existed. He had expected that some was carried on, the developments of which could be proceeded with. Mr. Harvey suggested that an accredited representative be sent to Mexico in the interests of the industries of British Columbia. He was going down himself early in the year, when the representative might accompany him. Mr. Harvey quoted figures of trade done by Canada and the United States with Mexico, to show that in 1903 Canada did trade to the amount of $262,000, while the United States did $83,000,000, exports and imports combined, being about half and half of each.

Mr. Moody said he had had business connections with the western coast of Mexico for the last twenty years. Only two short lines now extended across Mexico, but a road was being constructed south from Kansas City by Mr. Stowell, which would open up one of the richest mineral districts in the world. In this district there would be an enormous demand for coal and coke, principally, and lumber. When other lines were completed, this demand would be increased, and Mr. Moody did not see why British Columbia could not supply this article. The coal at present is imported from West Virginia, and he felt quite sure a good business could be worked up if favorable rates could be secured. The lumber in this province was the finest in the world, and the opportunities excellent. It was for these reasons that he and his associates had come here from Texas to engage in the business.

The chairman remarked that Mr. Harvey need not be so pessimistic. He could remember when there was a boat to Victoria three times a week and once a week to Seattle, with no connection with China. There was a hope that the trade with Mexico would grow.

Mr. Buscombe thought a representative should be appointed. If trade was to be done, they should find out what was wanted.

Mr. Murray was of the opinion that it was not necessary to send a special man down at present. He had faith in the enterprise of their own dealers to find the market there if there was any.

Mr. E. E. Evans' opinion was there were very few opportunities for trade with Mexico. If our coke was of superior quality, a market for it could be found in San Francisco without going to Mexico. His firm had also investigated the demand for fish there, and found there was little to do. The demand for canned salmon was small, and only an inferior brand was wanted. It was very easy to get copies of the manifests of steamers doing trade with Mexico out of San Francisco to see what articles are required. It was impossible to compete in commodities shipped from San Francisco. As to coal, his firm represented the Western Fuel Company, and it was able to look after its own business.

Neither could Mr. Alexander give a hopeful view of the markets in Mexico. Investigation had been made of the demand for lumber, and it was found that only 5,000,000 or 9,000,000 was imported, and this mostly by a French company mining at Santa Rosalia in lower California. There was nothing on the coast, and inland transportation was by means of mules. All the coal and coke was brought from Europe, but he did not know the reason, some coming from Australia. The only return cargoes were of ore and such things as sharks' fins, etc.

If Australia could send coal, Mr. Murray did not see why British Columbia could not, and he saw no reason lumber could not be shipped. He had hones. once the service was begun, a business would be built up.

"How do we know what they want unless somebody goes down to find out?" Mr. Buscombe asked.

In response to a query, Mr. Harvey said the freight on lumber from Vancouver to Mexico on these steamers would be about $10, and Mr. Beecher went on to say that the rate from Puget Sound was only $7 or $8. Then the Americans had intimate trade connections in Mexico, as many of the people doing business in that country were Americans. He referred to the trip made by Mr. E. E. Sheppard on behalf of the Dominion government, which resulted in nothing. Mr. Sheppard had come to Mr. Beecher's company, saying that business could be done with Peru and Chile, when the company had sold lumber there for thirty years past. It was unfortunate that more adequate information was not obtained before the matter was taken up. He was sorry to say that the last place to which a steamship line should be bonused was to Mexico. In the shipment of coke, coal and lumber British Columbia dealers were handicapped. If the Dominion government wanted to bonus a steamship line, the boats should run to North China. No matter what was the result of the present war, the opening up of Manchuria would reveal one of the richest countries in the world. Trade connections already existed and there would be exchange both ways right from the first. He suggested this route to Mr. Harvey.

Mr. Jackson thought Mr. Buscombe's suggestion to send a man was going too far at present, and moved that the matter be referred to the committee on trade and commerce to obtain information. Mr. Buscombe seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Russell suggested that if the government were approached, it might send a representative.

"Perhaps another Sheppard," was the sarcastic remark from another member.

"Will you embody that in your resolution," the chairman asked Mr. Jackson.

"No," was the reply, "we have had enough of government experts, the less we have to do with them the better."

OFFICE OF AGENT-GENERAL.

Warm Words of Appreciation From a B. C. Visitor to London.

In a letter received by Hon. R. F. Green from James Anderson, Kaslo, there is the following reference to the office of the agent-general and the work of his office which will be interesting to readers of the Colonist:

"Before leaving this side I had on one or two occasions seen notices in some of the papers (particularly the Kootenaian) describing the British Columbia office in London as of very little use to British Columbia generally, and I had my mind made up that I would make some enquiries on the point myself. I am glad to say that the result of my enquiries from several of the most prominent mining men in London was strongly in favor of your government's office in London, and very flattering as to the manner in which British Columbia was put before the old counry people by Mr. Turner and his assistants. The office, which is a very fine one, is most centrally situated, being only about three or four minutes' walk from the Bank of England, which is, of course, the centre of business in London; and, in my opinion, the criticism of this office has been very unjust. I know that the position of a member of the government of the day is at the very best a thankless job, and I feel sure that the opinion of one who is so much mixed up in mining as I am would be appreciated by you, hence the reason of my going into this matter fully.

"I may say that, almost on my arrival at Kaslo, the Kootenaian people asked me regarding the London office, and I gave them my impressions as above, asking them, in justice to your government, to take notice of my remarks in the Kootenaian, but this, I regret to say, they have not done so far.

"I am sure it is needless for me to tell you that we had a most enjoyable trip, but all the same we are very glad to get back again to Kaslo.

"JAMES ANDERSON."

THIRD SQUADRON ORDERED.

Russia Will Send More Ships From the Baltic to Aid Rojestvensky.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 8.—The Associated Press is authorized to announce that Russia has no intention of sending the Black sea fleet to reinforce Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron. It is, however, Russia's purpose to despatch a third squadron from the Baltic so soon as it can be made ready. The third squadron will consist of five armorclads, four cruisers, ten torpedo boats, two transports and two hospital ships.

Important Debate In The Reichstag

Outlook for Peace Improved Because of Russia's Evident Downfall.

Germans Advised Not to Lend Any Assistance to Ships of Czar.

Berlin, Dec. 9.—In the Reichstag Herr von Volmar, Socialist, assailed the government in a lengthy speech, during which he alluded to a telegram recently sent to President Roosevelt by Emperor William, expressing admiration for the United States. He said the Socialists did not see their ideal in American conditions, republican capitalism being then monarchic. "But," he added, "we can learn from American free self-government in choosing our highest official and in taking back his commission after a fixed period. There is no need of a law in the United States against arbitrary encroachments upon popular rights. The most loyal German can learn from the exchange of telegrams that there is nothing absolutely fixed in political and social order and that Germany's mixed undeveloped Slavic political condition cannot last for ever and that the German people finally are marching toward freer conditions."

Herr Von Volmar pointed out that the increase in the army was unnecessary.

"Russia," he continued, "is so crippled from a military and moral sense that there can arise no question of danger on the eastern frontier for a long time, and Europe is thereby relieved of an enormous burden, and Russia's defeat has given a severe blow to France's policy of revenge."

In referring to published statements that Russia intends to raise a great loan in Germany and that Germany will get the largest part of the orders for war material and for building the new Russian fleet, he said: "It would be a crime to advise Germans to lend money to Russia under the present circumstances, and it would be a breach of neutrality if Germany allows the new Russian fleet to be built here."

He declared that Chancellor von Buelow's policy toward Russia is a reliance policy against democracy, supporting this with a quotation from the speech of the state's attorney at the Koenigsberg trial, who said that Germany had an interest in maintaining Russia's despotism.

Chancellor von Buelow, in replying, showed evident respect for his antagonist, who is a Bavarian nobleman, and still betrays the effects of a wound received during the Franco-Prussian war. The chancellor denied that a secret treaty exists between Germany and Russia, explicity declined to take Herr Volmar's optimistic views regarding the French plans for revenge, and remarked "Germany has been able to become the pivotal point in the peace movement precisely because of her strength. Any weakness of our race would immediately arouse warlike passion. Germany's weakness would not be a danger to us alone, but also to the peace of Europe and of the world, which we all want to maintain."

JAPAN AGREEABLE.

Invitation to Hague Conference Meets With Warm Approval.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The charge d'affaires of the Japanese legation today informed United States Secretary of State Hay that the invitation of President Roosevelt to the second peace conference had been communicated to the imperial government, which heartily sympathizes with the beneficent purpose that inspired the invitation. He said that experience has shown that there is urgent need for more exact definition and uniform practice of international law than now exists in respect to some of the questions which it is intended to be submitted to the conference. The Japanese government, he said, does not find in the fact that they are engaged on the war any sufficient reason why they should not, under the present circumstances, take part in the proposed conference, provided that the conference does not take, or presume to take, action affecting in any way the present conflict. Subject to these reservations, the imperial government, he said, gladly accepts the invitation.

FATAL GAS EXPLOSION.

Shamokin, Pa., Dec. 8.—An explosion of gas in the Pennsylvania colliery today caused the death of one man and serious injury to five others, two of whom died.

SIDNEY MILL SEIZED.

Action Due to Alleged Non-Compliance With Provincial Law.

The Sidney Lumber Company is once more in trouble. Mr. J. Murray, forester ranger, has seized the plant and has placed Sheriff Richards, who made a previous seizure of this place, in charge. The company is charged by the inspector's department with noncompliance with the provisions of the provincial law dealing with the export of logs. Several parties who sold logs to the company are interested in the seizure.

Messrs. Moore and Cuthahee of Seattle, are the principal shareholders in the Sidney company.

Mr. Murray seized everything in sight. He inspected the offices and searched for the books, but none could be found, and it is surmised that the officials of the company got wind of the trouble and sent the books away.

Sheriff Richards will hold the plant as it is until further instructions from the attorney-general's department.

RIFLES AND BULLETS

By Walter G. Hudson, M.D.

This article is from the pen of Walter G. Hudson, M.D., of New York city, president of the Manhattan Rifle and Revolver Association and recognized as one of the highest authorities on the subject.

Target shooting as a sport has been more or less sharply divided into match rifle shooting and military rifle shooting. The points in which the match rifle differs from the military are its lighter trigger pull, finer sights and better finish, and, in addition, various departures from military styles are allowed in the way of special attachments, buttplates, heavier weight of barrel, etc. The match rifle also is developed with accuracy as its chief aim, and accuracy at the particular distance it is to be used; while the military rifle has to be adapted to all ranges, and be strongly built and serviceable under adverse conditions, even if at the expense of some accuracy.

In view of these considerations it is scarcely to be wondered at that the target rifle developed with the sole object of shooting from the offhand position at 200 yards, as in vogue by the German-American (schuetzen) clubs, should differ so much from the long range match and military rifle. The schuetzen rifle has changed but little in many years, and in its present form is probably as near perfection for its purpose as it is possible to get. Most of the modern schuetzen rifles still use black powder and in the finest American makes the bullet is pushed down from the muzzle as in the old muzzle loading rifles. They are extremely accurate, and the shooting is generally done on sheltered ranges so that this kind of shooting brings the game down to merely one of skillful holding.

On the other hand, the long range match rifle has of late years approached more and more closely to the military, so much so that most of the match rifles now in use in England are merely military rifles fitted with fine target sight. Skill in shooting at the long ranges, whether with tmilitary or match rifles, involves not only good holding, but also a knowledge of the effects of disturbing factors, such as changes of light, wind, barometric pressure, temperature, etc.

It must not be supposed, however, that schuetzen rifle shooting is of no value to riflemen who aspire to honors with the military or long-range rifle. It has the advantage of using very cheap ammunition, it is generally done on ranges povided with facilities that insure comfort to the shooter during even the coldest and most disagreeable weather and it is the best possible training for fine holding. Therefore it is far better for the riflemen who would keep in practice to shoot 50 or 100 shots at 200 yards, say once a week or two weeks during the winter with a schuetzen rifle than to abandon the game altogether during cold weather. There are a large number of civilian riflemen who confine themselves almost entirely to this kind of shooting, and who are, nevertheless, very well posted and skillful riflemen, able to take up other branches of rifle shooting at short notice; and their skill in holding and intimate knowledge of many of the technicalities of the rifle, leaned by long and careful practice with their own weapons, certainly puts them far in the lead of the novice, no matter what other branch of rifle shooting they adopt.

But it is in long-range shooting, undoubtedly, that the rifleman finds the highest development of the sport. And in late years, since the advent of the modern smokeless powder rifle of high power and small calibre, it is gratifying to note in our American, as well as in the British weapons, that the military and match rifles have approached very near to each other. In the old black powder days the match rifle, with its paper-patched bullet, heavy charge of powder and necessity of cleaning after each shot, was a far different weapon than the military rifle. In those days to attempt to shoot 1,000 yards with a military rifle would have been considered the height of folly. But now there is little difference in the scores made with match and military rifles at these long ranges. Indeed our Krag, when a good barrel can be selected and when the drag is removed from the trigger pull, is, in the opinion of many expert riflemen, fully capable at the mid and long ranges of holding its own against the finest match rifles that can be produced. There are few target sites that afford better aiming than the 1901 model Krag sight; and while it is true that the target sights, as a rule, are farther apart and adapted to the back position, the modern high-power rifle seems to shoot so much better from the prone position as to more than compensate for any slight advantage the target sights might thus gain over our military sight. A glance over the records of those long-range matches of recent years that have been open to both military and match rifles will show that in 90 per cent. of the matches the Krag has come out victorious. Indeed, the remarkable development of accuracy in the American high-power rifle within the past few years has not been due to any particular refinement in the weapon or sights, but solely to the improvement in the bullet and in the more uniform measuring of powder charges.

The first thing that may be taken as true of all projectiles, no matter how thrown, is that they fall toward the earth as soon as the support is removed from them, just the same as though they were not projectiles. But even while they are falling, the energy applied is driving them ahead. From this it will be clear that no weapon, however powerful, can drive a bullet so fast that it will go in a straight line—it immediately begins to fall, as soon as it leaves the barrel, unless the latter has been directed upward to some extent: in which case, besides its forward motion, it will rise until the upward force also imparted to it has been expended, and then begin to fall according to the well-known law of falling bodies—slowly at first, but faster the farther it falls. The flight of a bullet, therefore, is always in a curved line.

When we increase the proportionate length of our bullets and use a quicker twist or rifling, it becomes necessary to harden the bullet by the addition of tin or antimony, so that it will hold on to the rifling and not be blown straight through the barrel without following the groves—stripping, riflemen call it. But when we reach a certain point in lengthening the bullet and increasing the pitch of the rifling, no alloy of lead is sufficient to give good results. Therefore in the modern, high power rifle the bullet is made up of a core of lead, with a jacket of very tough metal, gengrally an alloy of copper and nickel, and the tough jacket holds on to the rifling so well that we are enabled to fire charges of highly explosive compounds behind the bullets, giving nearly double the velocity that it was possible to obtain with the old black powder rifle. The modern, high power rifle is therefore one which fires a jacketed bullet, very long in proportion to its diameter, by means of a charge of smokeless powder several times as strong as black powder, with nearly double the velocity obtained with lead bullets and black powder, and as a result of the long bullet and high and well sustained velocity the curve described by the bullet is much nearer a straight line—"its trajectory is flatter," its penetration greater and its range farther.

There is another deviation laterally from the straight line shown by a rifle bullet and more pronounced in rifles having a quick twist. This is called "drift." It is a lateral movement, due to the spin of the bullet on its long axis. As the bullet is constantly falling in its flight the under surface meets with more air resistance than the upper and the bullet therefore tends to roll laterally on this denser air, so that a rifle having a right-hand direction to its pitch of rifling will cause a bullet to drift to the right, while one with a left-hand twist will drift to the left.

Blair Makes An Explanation

Ex-Chairman of Railway Commission Throws Some Light on His Career.

Sensational Statements Made in Papers are Utterly Baseless.

Montreal, Dec. 9.—Hon. A. G. Blair, ex-chairman of the railway commission, has issued a long statement regarding the reports that have recently appeared in Toronto and Ottawa papers. Mr. Blair declares that all these statements are utterly baseless. D. Russel stated that Mr. Blair and himself had entered criminal libel proceedings against the Montreal Herald for publishing the story. The letter in full is as follows:

Sir,—Since my return from the maritime provinces I have seen the full text, with scare headlines, of a flaring political statement, in which my name is freely used and in which I am referred to as not having been frank with the public as to the reason of my resignation of the chief commissionership of the railway commission; with having conspired with two important railways and other parties to damage the government; with having plotted to make an attack upon the administration of the interior department; with having co-operated with others to expose scandals against the government on the eve of the elections; with being privy to an arrangement whereby several of the government candidates in the province of Quebec, in consideration of $10,000 each were to withdraw from the field on the eve of the contest; with failing to take the platform against the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme; with having been sandbagged into silence lest some secret which I feared to have come out should be exposed, and with having arranged that I should receive $100,000 as soon as the scheme outlined should be carried out.

Let me deal with these statements, seriatim, first, having however, given to the public the assurance that these allegations constitute a tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end.

First—That I was not frank with the public as to the real reason for my resignation. What I stated at the time was, and still remains, true. I said I intended taking up more congenial employment, and so I do. I intend, and I more than hinted at that time that I had found my position on the board more uncomfortable than I feared I should when I accepted the appointment. I could enter fully into details on this subject, but do not think it necessary—at least at present.

Second—As to my co-operating in hostility to the government with two of the great railways. My answer is that I took no part whatever, except by voting, in the election from the beginning to the end of the contest. It is true I resigned the office between two and three weeks prior to election day, but I was not of the opinion that my resignation would cause more than a few day's comment and the result showed that my judgment in this respect was sound. I hear now for the first time that two of the great railways in Canada had anything to do with my resignation, and speaking for myself, I do not know and have no information which would lead me to believe that the railways in question were antagonistic to the government.

Third—That I conspired with others to make an attack upon the administration of the department of the interior. I pronounce this statement wholly devoid of truth. I never heard from any source whatever that such a movement was in contemplation by any one. I most assuredly had no such thought in my own mind. No one ever mentioned the subject to me, nor did I to any one.

Fourth—As to my having conspired with any one to expose scandals against the government on the eve of the elections. The statement is wholly void of truth. Such an intention on any one's part I hear for the first time from the World publication.

Fifth—What is alleged as to the intended withdrawal of the Quebec candidates is, so far as I am concerned or am aware, an entire fable. The statement is the creation of a very disordered or a very malicious mind, and indeed the same may be said with almost the whole publication.

Sixth—As to having failed to take the platform after my resignation from the board. I did not state at any time that I intended doing so. The telegram announcing my resignation said in effect that beyond reaffirming my objections to the railway scheme I intended to take no part in the campaign. I had not the slightest thought when I resigned of going into the fight and my telegram contained all the reaffirmance of my views on the railway question I had at any time in contemplation.

Seventh—It is said that the fear of the disclosure of some secret compelled me to silence, and that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was able to force me to pursue this course. If any one either in or outside the government is in possession of a secret of the nature described, I hereby give my permission to disclose it, but invite him to do so. I make the statement in the most explicit terms, that no living man, either Sir Wilfrid nor any other person, ever made any threat to me, or by any other means sought to compel me to silence. I will say this for Sir Wilfrid, and he will bear me out in what I have said, and also in what I am now about to say, that he did not even suggest to me that I should take part in the campaign, nor did anyone on his behalf do so. I understand that a member of the government made a statement in Montreal that "Blair dare not speak, that the government had the papers which shut his mouth." If there is any member of the government from whom this street report emanated, he will do me a favor if he will produce the papers, and let the public know what these potential documents may be.

Eighth—As to the last allegation that I was to receive $100,000 cash when the scheme, as laid out, had materialized. I give this and the connected statements an emphatic denial. No such arrangement nor understanding was had by me with any person. I did not receive $20,000 as alleged, nor any other sum on account. No question of $65,000, nor any amount whatever; nor any dispute of any kind involving such a question, has arisen between Mr. Russel and myself. The statement in its entirety is absolutely untrue in every respect. Let me add that I recently saw in a government newspaper that my expectations and plans at the time of my resignation from the railway board as to my own future, had not been realized, and would need to be revised. This is a very interesting statement, and I confess I am indebted to the newspapers for the information. I had not made the discovery, and except that the public press has so stated, I still remain in blissful ignorance of the same.

(Signed) Yours faithfully,

A. G. BLAIR.

SHOOTING AFFRAY AT FORT CASEY

Unfortunate Affair in Which the United States Soldiers are Mixed Up.

Port Townsend, Dec. 9.—An unfortunate shooting took place last night at Fort Casey, just outside the reservation limits. John Dollar, a resident of this city, was in the Waterfront saloon there at the time, when a shot fired through the wall struck him in the head, killing him instantly.

This morning it was reported that several soldiers had fired at the building to get even with the proprietor, but the latest advices are to the effect that while there were several men in the crowd outside, there was but one gun, and the man who did the shooting is now in the hands of the military authorities. So far they have refused to divulge his name, but he is a member of Eighty-fifth Company, Coast Artillery.

Dollar will be buried at Coupeville. He leaves a wife and two small children here.

COLOMBIAN BONDHOLDERS.

London, Dec. 9.—At a meeting yesterday of Colombian bondholders residing in London, a motion was unanimously carried requesting President Roosevelt to act as arbitrator in fixing the amount of the debt of Colombia to be assumed by the Republic of Panama.

MULOCK IN MEXICO.

Mexico City, Dec. 9.—The reduced postal rates between Mexico and Canada, agreed upon by both governments, probably will go into effect at once. The rate from Canada will be two cents, gold, and from Mexico five cents, silver, as is now the rate to the United States. The amount of correspondence between this country and Canada is steadily increasing. Sir Wm. Mulock, postmaster-general of Canada, now here, is working actively to promote direct trade with the Dominion.

Biggest Strike In Northwest

Railroad Telegraphers and Employers Unable to Agree as to Wages.

Prospect That all the C. P. R. Telegrahers Will go out To morrow.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Nelson, Dec. 8.—If an assertion which reached the Daily News today from, apparently, an authentic source, can be relied on, the most extensive railway telegraphers' strike in the history of the continent will be declared within three days. According to the information, the strike will embrace the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern railways, in Canada, and the Great Northern and Northern Pacific systems in the United States. There seems to be good reason to doubt the correctness of the assertion that the strike will extend to the last three lines mentioned, but there is no question as to the authenticity of the statement that the Canadian Pacific will be tied up within the time stated.

If the information is at fault as regards the Canadian Northern, Great Northern and Northern Pacific, the strike will, naturally, be of far less importance than is believed here it will be, but in any event it will be of great importance to the country north of the international boundary line, as the telegraphers of the Canadian Pacific system have burned their bridges and may be expected to put up a hard fight to force their demands, which will have the effect of paralyzing business for at least as long a time as they succeed in controlling the situation.

The grievance over which the strike will be declared originated on the Canadian Pacific system and is, in effect, a demand for an increase of wages, which the order of railway telegraphers has been unable to procure a settlement of to its satisfaction.

The time limit of the existing wage schedule for telegraphers on the Canadian Pacific expired some months ago, and the telegraphers were at liberty to ask the company for a revision of the schedule. The order of railway telegraphers decided to ask for an increase all along the line. The increases asked amount to an average of about 15 per cent. of agent increase throughout the system.

The agitation started in the eastern provinces, when the grand division of the order took the matter up and a committee was appointed and an endeavor was made to negotiate the increase. In due course the demand was carried to General Manager McNichol at Montreal. The committee was informed by Mr. McNichol that its demand could not be granted, and negotiations were then carried to President Sir Thomas G. Shaughnessy.

President Shaughnessy refused to grant the schedule asked, but proposed that the subject be left to arbitration. He proposed one arbitrator be appointed by the Canadian Pacific, one by the order of railway telegraphers, and that the two appoint a third, both sides to the controversy to bind themselves to abide by the decision of the arbitration board.

The telegraphers have considered President Shaughnessy's proposal and have finally declined to arbitrate, taking the position that their demands are just and that they do not care to accept a compromise, which would be most likely the result of arbitrating the question.

The executive committee of the order of railway telegraphers has submitted the question as to whether a strike will be declared to a referendum of the order on the Canadian Pacific railway system, and it is known that the vote was in favor of a strike.

It was stated yesterday that the time set for declaring a strike was Saturday night, though some persons so situated that they should be in a position to know, prefer to believe that it will come tomorrow night or Monday. It is known that the Canadian Pacific officials expect the strike to be declared not later than Monday, and that they would not be surprised if the operators should be called out tomorrow night.

Superintendent J. S. Lawrence, of the Kootenay division of the Canadian Pacific railway, had a conference today with the committee representing the order of railway telegraphers for his division. Nothing could be learned as to what transpired during the conference beyond the fact that at its conclusion Mr. Lawrence told the men that when they did go out he hoped they would leave the railway in working order and they would do nothing to interfere with the service. He was assured that the committee will do everything in its power to see his wishes were complied with.

C. H. Powell, representative of the order of railway telegraphers, was in the city this evening, and leaves in the morning over the Crow's Nest Pass branch of the C. P. R. While here he was a sphynx and gave out nothing relative to his mission.

As regards the extension of the strike to the Canadian Northern, Great Northern and Northern Pacific, it was pointed out today, as tending to disprove the claim that the strike would so extend, that the time limit of the existing wage schedules on those lines has not expired, and should the telegraphers go out they would do so in violation of their agreement, which, it was argued, they would not be likely to do.

Enquiry as to whether the commercial operators would join the railway telegraphers in the strike, developed the information that, for the present at least, the commercial men will not go out, although it is said there might be a possibility of their doing so later under certain conditions.

JAP FLEET AT PORT ARTHUR.

Chefoo, Dec. 8.—The lightship which was stationed at New Chwang arrived here today, having left the station in anticipation of the immediate closing of the Liao river by ice. Her commander reports having seen four Japanese battleships, three cruisers and ten torpedo boats outside of Port Arthur. He believes the entire Japanese fleet is now there.

Fearful Cost Of 203 Metre Hill

Japanese Casualties Said to Have Exceeded Those at Battle of Nanshan.

Reported Russian Reserves are Retiring to the Liato Mountain.

London, Dec. 10.—According to the Morning Post's Shanghai despatch, the Port Arthur forces, including the exception of those in the fort have retreated to Liato mountain. Details continue to filter in of the capture of 203 Metre hill.

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent before Port Arthur explains that the final capture was due to a strong and sustained feint against the eastern face on the night of December 5th and that the position of 203 Metre hill being an enfilading one, forced the Russians to evacuate without a contest a parallel line of semi-permanent defences extending eastward and irregularly over the slopes within a half a mile north of Etze mountain.

The Japanese casualties at 203 Metre hill alone exceeded the total of the battle of Nanshan, according to the Daily Mail's Tokio despatches. At two o'clock in the afternoon of November 29th a Tomuyasu detachment, with a battalion of infantry, and a company of engineers, received orders that they must capture 203 Metre hill, while a Yosid detachment of the same strength had similar orders to recapture Akasaka hill. On November 30th it became necessary to reinforce the attackers with a detachment under Major Shizuta. The cold was so intense that many of the men were frost bitten, as it was necessary to pass the night without shelter. The Japanese, after the capture of 203 Metre hill, anticipated a terrible bombardment from the Russian forces and made preparations accordingly, but the Russians remained strangely quiet. The same correspondent states that the Russians at Port Arthur on December 7th resumed mine clearing operations, presumably to enable the torpedo boat destroyers to attempt to escape and join the second Pacific squadron.

The Daily Telegraph's Tautsin corresoundent reports that General Oku, after a three days' artillery engagement, drove the Russian on Sunday off the slope of Gushan, an island in the river twelve miles north of Liaoyang. The Russians, he is added, abandoned supplies and several guns and retired to a position several miles northwest, from which they heavily bombarded the Japanese, setting fire Tuesday to the kerosene storehouses and caused a great conflagration which did not cease until Wednesday. The Japanese are still gallantly holding the island with a handful of men. Their casualties number 5,000.

CELEBRATE FEAST OF ST. GEORGE

Winter Palace in St. Petersburg Is Scene of a Festive Gathering.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 9.—The Winter Palace today was the scene of the celebration of the feast of St. George, the greatest military holiday of the year, to which every man in Russia, no matter what his rank, upon whom the cross of St. George or a sword for bravery has been conferred, is invited to be the Emperor's guest at dinner.

Notwithstanding the absence at the front of a large number of the officers of the army and navy, usually present, it was a brilliant spectacle. Many sailors of the cruiser Variag and the gunboat Korietz, sunk off Chemulpo at the opening of the war, were present.

The ceremony consisted of a grand imperial procession and Te Deum at the cathedral, followed by a dinner spread in the Nicholas and St. George white saloons. About 400 guests were present.

The Emperor displayed especial attention to the officers, soldiers and sailors who earned their decorations during the present war.

EPIDEMIC AT WINNIPEG.

Red River Fever Believed to Have Appeared Again.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 8.—Nine deaths were reported Sunday and 13 Monday from what is alleged to be typhoid fever, but is generally believed to be a revival of the epidemic frequently fatal in the early days of the country and familiarly known as Red river fever. This disease, while not characterized by high temperature, is fatal in numerous cases.

INSULT TO "OLD GLORY."

St. Louis, Dec. 8.—The Lanao Moros have returned the flag presented to the Philippine World's Fair board with the message: "We have plenty of these flags in our own country." All the other tribes accepted the flags given them.

RUSSIAN DESTROYER SAILS.

Brest, Dec. 8.—The Russian torpedo-boat destroyer Prounitelny, which was towed here for repairs from Camaret, December 5th, left today.

Charters Wanted For Railroads

McKenzie & Mann to Construct Transcontinental Connecting Links.

Hon. Fielding to Visit Europe—News Notes of the Dominion.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Dec. 9.—Hon. Mr. Fielding, accompanied by his wife and daughter, leaves tomorrow on a trip to Europe. After visiting Genoa and the German spas, they will return by way of England in January.

D. D. Mann, who is in Ottawa today, states that the Canada Gazette will contain two applications from his firm for railway construction. One of the applications will be for a line from the mouth of French river, on Georgian bay, via Ottawa, to Montreal. The other application will be for a line from a point on the James Bay railway, north to Toronto, to Montreal via Ottawa. It will connect at Montreal with the Intercolonial railway, having Halifax and St. John as seaports.

News of the illness of J. G. Jardine, commercial agent for Canada in South Africa, has been received at the department of trade and commerce. Jardine has been advised by his physician to return to Canada, and will sail on December 21st.

The Allan Steamship Company is to establish regular service between Canada and Japan. Three vessels will be employed between Vancouver and the Orient. The service will be commenced next spring.

Montreal, Dec. 9.—The Parisian with Earl Grey on board is not now expected to reach Halifax until daylight Saturday morning.

Leda Desjardins was tonight arrested by a detective, charged with stealing a thousand dollars from her boarding house mistress, Mary Murphy. Miss Murphy kept the money under her mattress.

REMARKABLE APPOINTMENT.

Toronto, Dec. 9.—Knox College authorities have arranged with Rev. Principal Sheraton of Wycliffe of the Anglican College, to take up the lectures of the late Principal Caven on Hebrew exegesis. The appointment is regarded as a remarkable one.

EARL GREY'S RECEPTION.

Halifax, Dec. 9.—Arrangements for the reception of Earl Grey are now complete and everything points to a grand welcome to both the Earl and Countess Grey. The weather here is beautifully fine, clear and cold, and the indications are that the same condition will prevail tomorrow. The route through which the procession will pass from the landing to the provincial building is being decorated with flags and bunting.

A FATHER'S MISTAKE.

Papineauville, Que., Dec. 9.—Word has been received here of the shooting of Euclide Delatie, by his father, Octave Delatie, in the district of Cheneville. The father, thinking he saw a deer in the bushes, got his rifle and fired at the supposed deer, but on going to the spot found he had shot his own son. The body has been brought here and an inquest will be held.

Mrs. Chadwick is still the center of curious interest. Her leap into notoriety eclipses even Carrie Nation's record.

WHAT BOY

Not having a watch has not envied his chum who has one, the possession of

A TIMEPIECE

To all watchless boys "The Colonist" says send us four new subscribers to the "Semi-Weekly Colonist" at $1.00 each and we will send you one of the celebrated

INGERSOLL