

London Hears That Pt. Arthur Has Fallen; Admiral Togo Has Czar's Fleet Bottled Up

The Position of the Russians Is Known To Be a Desperate One—The Battleship Retvizan Is Aground at the Entrance and All Craft Landlocked—Jap General Staff Leaves Tokio for the Front—Czar's Army Numbers 177,000.

London, March 2.—A rumor was circulated in the lobby of the House of Commons this afternoon that Port Arthur had fallen. The origin of the rumor could not be traced and no confirmation whatever was obtainable.

New York, March 2.—The position of the Russians at Port Arthur says a cable to the World from Berlin, is described by the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Schlesische Zeitung as desperate.

"The damaged Retvizan," he states, "blocks the narrow entrance to the harbor against other battleships. She can neither be repaired nor moved. All the other battleships are landlocked. Scarcely anything is heard of the torpedo boats. It is assumed that they are without ammunition. There are consequently still only the three cruisers, the Bayan, the patched up Novik and the Askold have been put out of action."

According to accounts now published the Novik and the Askold have been put out of action.

CHINESE ASSIST JAPS.

St. Petersburg, March 2.—According to a special dispatch from Port Arthur 20 Chinese have been arrested there for signaling to the Japanese ships from the shore with flashlights and lanterns. A warning has been issued that similar offenders will hereafter be treated as spies and shot.

Although it is denied that the present plans of the admiralty contemplate the dispatch of either the Black Sea or Baltic fleets to the far east, both are being prepared with the greatest haste to meet any emergency that may arise. General Alivier, the artillery specialist, and Admiral Verkhovsky have been inspecting the ships and crews of the Black Sea fleet.

Work on the warships is being pushed night and day. The battleship Borodino, the battleship Orel, and the transport Kamchatka, are nearing completion at the admiralty dockyards here. In the dead of night the icebound Neva is like an Arctic landscape lighted for half a mile by the flare of blazing stacks, the silence broken by the din of drumming and the clanging of the ship Borodino must be taken to Cronstadt to receive her armor, and it is reported that the ice-breaker Ermak will be brought from Revel to cut a channel to the arsenal there. The battleship Alexander III., at Cronstadt, is ready, and the Russian fleet, recently at Jibuti, French Somaliland, is returning so that when the spring opens Russia will have an imposing naval array in the Baltic. About 800 volunteer workmen have left here to

work at the dockyards of Port Arthur and Vladivostok.

RUSSIA'S GREAT ARMY.

177,000 Men on the Scene by Middle of March.

London, March 2.—The correspondent of the Times at Vienna says: A dispatch from St. Petersburg says that by March 20 the Russian army in the Far East will consist of 123,000 infantry, 16,000 Cossacks, 5,000 artillery, 8,000 engineers and 25,000 railway guards, a total force of 177,000. These figures are probably based upon the assumption that no hitch will occur in the transport arrangements during the next three weeks. They are held to be approximately accurate, as it is calculated the railway cannot feed and supply more than 180,000 men.

FRANCE IS WORRIED.

New York, March 2.—The French foreign office, according to a Paris dispatch to the World is worried over the movement of Chinese troops towards the Manchurian frontier.

The officials fear that Japan may follow her dominion of Korea by coaxing or forcing China to be third party in the combination of "Yellow peoples."

The French Minister to Pekin has been instructed to join the other foreign representatives in strongly urging on the Chinese Government the necessity of maintaining strict neutrality.

SCHOOL CHILDREN HELPING

The Masses of Japan Will Stand by the Government.

Chicago, March 2.—Eki Hiohi, first secretary of the Japanese legation at Washington and Tosaburo Kadoya, of the Yokohama Specie Bank, have arrived at Chicago en route from Yokohama to Washington. Secretary Hiohi was one of the Japanese commissioners who signed up the treaty between China and Japan at Shanghai last fall which, like the American treaty with China, provided for the opening of the Ports of Mukden, Antung and Tating-tao.

"On many points the Japanese Government and the United States seem agreed," said the diplomat.

"They are united on the open door policy and the integrity of China. Japan and the United States would suffer most from the acquisition of parts of China by Russia. The Russian policy in Manchuria seems to be to exclude all other nations."

"The impression among my people is that the Government did not go to war quickly enough. They clamored for it long before hostilities broke. If people will do all in their power to

SMALLPOX HITS THE FAR WEST

Sixty Indians Succumb to the Disease—Government Fights Plague.

Winnipeg, Man., March 2.—A scourge of smallpox has nearly wiped out the Indians of the Isle of La Crosse district, 60 victims being numbered in a few weeks. The epidemic is still in active operation, according to last reports. The Catholic mission at that point, under Father Simeon, is making heroic efforts to cope with the dread situation, and a doctor from Prince Albert took route a few days ago for that distant post with a fresh supply of medicines. The mission is usually well-stocked, and one of the sisters in the little convent there is a qualified physician.

Commissioner Laird, of the Indian Department, stated that an expedition provided with medical comforts, and headed by a body of Northwest Mounted Police, had been dispatched to the scene. Dr. McCullough, of Battleford, is in charge of the medical equipment, and he has sent back word that the epidemic is of much greater consequence than at first thought. From information received it was found that his stock of vaccine was not nearly adequate, and he wanted a great deal more. The disease has extended further on to Portage la Roche, and the frenzied natives fleeing from the danger were spreading the disease. Dr. McCullough and Mr. Donahue (Conservative) party will remain in the country

OFF TO THE WAR

Sir William Nicholson to Represent Britain During Campaign.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, March 2.—Sir William Nicholson, director-general of mobilization and military intelligence, of the British army, and Lieut.-Col. A. Haldane, arrived here today. They were met by Lord Dundonald, who accompanied them to Government House, where they are the guests of Lord Minto. Sir William has had a long and distinguished military career. He is 59 years of age and has been in the army since 1865. He got his promotion after the South African war. He goes as British representative to watch the military operations in the war between Japan and Russia. Lieut.-Col. Haldane has had also a distinguished career. He met his D. S. O. at the Dardanelles, where the Scotch Chiper, after having his legs shot from under him, played the Highlanders on to victory. "The Cock of the North." Col. Haldane was captured in South Africa, and wrote a book telling how he escaped from Pretoria. Sir William and Col. Haldane leave by the Limited today for the Pacific coast.

ANOTHER BYE-ELECTION

A Yorkshire Division Carried By the Liberals.

London, March 2.—The bye-election to fill the seat in the House of Commons for the Normanton division of Yorkshire, was riding, remained vacant by the death of Benjamin Pickard (Liberal), resulted in the election of Wm. Parrett (Liberal) and Labor over Mr. Donahue (Conservative), by a majority of 3,346.

THE TRANSVAAL'S GIANT DEFICIT

Serious Financial Condition of the New South African Colonies—\$5,000,000 Deficit.

Johannesburg, March 2.—Lord Milner, British high commissioner in South Africa, in delivering the parliamentary address in the Intercolonial Council for the Transvaal at Orange River Colony, revealed the grave financial condition of the colony. He said a deficit amounting to \$5,000,000 was due to the shrinkage in railroad receipts and the general paralysis of industry, while almost all of the \$150,000,000 loan had already been expended on railroads, repatriation of Boers, and the development of the country. The only resources now available were the land and minerals. Lord Milner said he was not dismayed, and that he hoped for improvements when a adequate supply of labor was forthcoming.

THE KING APPROVES

Connaught Is Now Inspector-General of British Army.

London, March 2.—King Edward has approved the appointment of the Duke of Connaught to be inspector-general of the army under the new reform scheme.

FOR PROHIBITION

Eleven Out of Fourteen Vermont Counties Against License.

Burlington, Vt., March 2.—A decided change in sentiment on the license question was shown yesterday at the annual local elections held throughout the state. Only 21 cities and towns, according to returns received at six o'clock, voted in favor of liquor-selling, as compared with 60 last year, when the prohibition law of half a century was annulled.

This city voted for license, but Rutland went to license.

Only three out of fourteen counties remain in the license column, against nine last year.

MEXICAN PILGRIMS.

City of Mexico, March 2.—A great pilgrimage to Lourdes, Rome, and the Holy Land, is being organized here. It is expected that at least 2,000 people will make the journey, going in special trains to New York, and thence by steamer to France. Many wealthy pilgrims desire to pay their respects to the new Pope.

THE "RIPPER" TO DIE.

New York, March 2.—Emil Totterman, convicted of murder in the first degree for killing Sarah Martin in a James ship hotel on Dec. 20, was today sentenced to electrocution at Sing Sing prison in the week beginning April 18. The crime attracted wide attention on account of its resemblance in details to the noted "Ripper" murders of London. The victim was a woman of the streets.

THE WAR SITUATION.

The Japanese general staff has left Tokio for Korea, and it is expected that within a few days a general advance of the Mikado's armies will commence. Troops continue to pour in by way of Chemulpo. A Japanese fleet of nine warships is reported off Vladivostok. Admiral Togo appears to have succeeded in actually bottling the Russian fleet at Port Arthur. The Retvizan is reported aground at the entrance, and rendered useless for some time to come. Smallpox has broken out amongst the Czar's troops in Eastern Siberia en route to the war, while pneumonia and bronchitis has attacked thousands of the soldiers. Intense cold and blizzards prevail, and many are frozen, or, partially frozen, are being left behind without medical aid. The Russian commissariat department is reported as having broken down, the men at times going for twenty-four hours at a stretch without food or water. There is no further confirmation of the bombardment of Port Arthur, although London hears a rumor that the fortress has fallen.

A PLENARY COUNCIL

Roman Catholic Church Hold a Conference on the Matter.

Ottawa, Ont., March 2.—A conference of bishops of the kind, and fraught with great possibilities to the Roman Catholic Church in Canada, opened today at the Archbishop's Palace. Representatives are in attendance from all the provinces of the Dominion, under the supervision of Monsignor Sbarretti. The object of the conference is an elaborate plan for a plenary council, which, however, may not be held for some time yet. The present meeting was decided on at a recent conference which Monsignor Sbarretti met the archbishops of Canada.

Never before in the history of the Catholic Church in this country has a plenary council or a preliminary meeting for one been held. The conference is a private one. No information regarding the deliberations will be given out for the reason that recommendations will be submitted to different bishops for metropolitan of the ecclesiastical provinces before they can be passed on to the plenary council. The conference likely will last for several days.

UNITED STATES AND PANAMA.

Washington, March 2.—It was decided at the cabinet meeting yesterday that troops should not be sent to the Isthmus of Panama. Preparatory orders that had been sent to the Third Infantry to prepare for service there will be revoked. Marines will continue to guard the interests of the United States on the isthmus. The cabinet was disinclined to have two jurisdictions on the isthmus, and was influenced by the fact that naval vessels must remain there for some time.

ENTERS THE CABINET.

Winnipeg, March 2.—As was expected, John H. Agnew, member of the Manitoba Legislature for Virden, has been chosen to fill the vacant portfolio in the Manitoba cabinet. Mr. Agnew will be sworn in today. He is one of the youngest members of the House, only having been elected in July last. Mr. Agnew succeeds the late John E. Davidson.

A MIDNIGHT MURDER.

London, N. H., March 2.—Mrs. Zelia Smith, a widow, aged 68 years, was murdered Monday night in her room at the home of her brother, John Marshall, with whom she lived alone on a farm several miles north of this township. The brother found the body. There were indications of a struggle, and a heavy drawer had been rammed, leading to the belief that robbery was the motive of the crime.

WEATHER BULLETIN

TOMORROW—SLEET OR RAIN.

London, Wednesday, March 2. Sun rises, 6:52 a.m. Moon rises, 7:57 p.m. 5th sets, 6:57 p.m. Moon sets, 7:04 a.m.

Toronto, March 2.—3 p.m. The disturbance which was over the lake region last night has now dispersed after carrying accompanying snowfalls to the Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys. The weather has been fair today in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, while in the Territories and Manitoba it has been fair and decidedly cold.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 2-3; Qu'Appelle, 14 below-6 below; Winnipeg, 4 below-4; Port Arthur, 16-28; Toronto, 25-30; Ottawa, 20-30; Montreal, 14-30; Quebec, 12-30; Halifax, 10-24.

FORECASTS.

Wednesday, March 2-4 a.m. Today—Fair and mild.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather. Calgary -20 -22 Clear Winnipeg -10 -12 Cloudy Parry Sound 26 24 Cloudy Toronto 26 26 Cloudy Ottawa 25 25 Cloudy Montreal 25 24 Snow Quebec 18 18 Snow Father Point 22 24 Cloudy

WEATHER NOTES.

Since yesterday morning snow has fallen moderately in the St. Lawrence Valley, and lightly in the Maritime Provinces. Elsewhere the weather has been fair. It remains decidedly cold in the Territories and Manitoba, but at present the outlook for Ontario and Quebec is mild.

The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 3 p.m. Tuesday were: Highest, 28°; lowest, 23°.

DISEASE FIGHTS FOR THE JAPS

Smallpox Raging Amongst Czar's Men in Siberia.

THOUSANDS UNFIT FOR SERVICE

Many Left Behind Partially Frozen and Without Medical Service—Commissariat Breaks Down.

New York, March 2.—Reports received here, says a cable to the World from St. Petersburg, from the troops along the route to Harbin show a disheartening condition of affairs. Disease is among the soldiers. A smallpox epidemic is raging in Eastern Siberia, and has spread among the regiments, vaccination being unheard of in the army. Pneumonia and bronchitis are claiming many and already thousands of men have been rendered unfit for service by frost bite. Intense cold, more than usual, is experienced, in East Siberia and blinding snow blizzards are frequent. At Yakutsk temperatures are as low as 25 degrees below zero are registered. The progress of troop trains is constantly impeded by snowdrifts.

At every station soldiers partially frozen are left behind in most cases without other medical attention than that afforded by the rough and ready service that the villagers can supply. The commissariat has broken down badly and the men have often to go 24 hours at a stretch without food or drink. The worst portion of the journey is across Lake Baikal.

THOMPSON PLEADS GUILTY

Admits Plugging Votes at Toronto Municipal Elections.

Toronto, March 2.—Sam Thompson, the deputy returning officer accused of conspiracy in plugging votes at the January civic election, pleaded guilty before Judge Winchester yesterday, and was remanded till April 2 for sentence. His poll clerk, J. J. Durand, is understood, will plead not guilty.

A CRISIS IN THE FRENCH CABINET

Members Fail to Agree and an Early Disruption Is at Hand.

Paris, March 2.—The Figaro this morning follows up the interview it published yesterday with Premier Combes upon the reports that the cabinet is likely to fall soon, with the report of a lengthy conversation between a member of the cabinet, whose identity is not divulged, and an intimate friend.

The minister said there was a total absence of cordial relations among the cabinet members, who avoided exchanges elsewhere than at the official meetings, and who even then did not discuss matters, but simply accepted the proposals made by M. Combes. He added that all the members would be glad to resign, and that the cabinet would be dissolved at once, but that none was willing to compromise his colleagues by taking the initiative in resigning, and declared the Chamber of Deputies would at once reverse the cabinet if it could vote secretly, but that the deputies feared the accusation of reactionary tendencies if they did not support the Government's anti-clerical policy.

FOSTER ON PROTECTION

He Says England's Prosperity Is Not Due to Free Trade.

Toronto, March 2.—Hon. Geo. E. Foster addressed a meeting here, called by the British Empire League. He said it was useless to conclude from the results of bye-elections in Britain that Chamberlain was making no progress. There was much inertia to overcome in English thought. The last fifty years in England had been prosperous, but not because of free trade, but because of the tariff. He urged that the colonies, Barlow Cumberland, who recently returned from campaigning in England, where he was driven from a platform in the Newton-Abbot election, complained of the "ignorance" met with there.

HARCOURT'S RETIREMENT

English Press Unanimous in Its Expression of Regret.

London, March 2.—The press of the whole country expresses regret at the announcement of the approaching retirement of Sir William Vernon Harcourt. The Times laments the disappearance of a picturesque personality from the House of Commons, where he stood as the representative of larger days.

The London Daily Mail says nothing could be simpler than the unostentatious announcement of the "Old Reformer" to withdraw from politics—a man who has sacrificed great ambitions and a great fortune for Liberalism and the state.

The Telegraph calls Sir William "the last of the great Parliamentary lions," and says he played the part in British politics that Mirabeau played in the early days of the French revolution.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Convention at New York in Search of a Scientific Basis.

Philadelphia, March 2.—Distinguished prelates and educators, prominent writers and speakers on religious workers numbering nearly 4,000 are in attendance at the annual convention of the Religious Education Association, which began here today.

Nearly two score meetings will be held during the three days of convention. The general theme of the convention, "The Bible in Practical Life, in Religious Experience, in Education and in Social and Civic Life," will be discussed in three mass meetings in the Academy of Music, the First Baptist Church and the Baptist Temple.

The departmental sessions of the convention opened at 10 o'clock in the First Baptist Church. The devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. F. N. Foloubet, of Auburn, Mass.

"What Would Constitute a Scientific Basis for Religious and Moral Education, and to What Extent Does Such a Basis Already Exist?" was the first subject proposed for discussion, by President G. Stanley Hall, D.D., of Clark University, Worcester, Mass.; second, from the standpoint of ethics, by Frederick Tracy, Ph.D., University of Toronto, Canada; third, from the standpoint of psychology, by Professor Shailer Mathews, D.D., University of Chicago; fourth, from the standpoint of educational practices, by Luther Halsey Gulick, M.D., New York. The subject was later discussed by other delegates present.

SEES A DEFEAT FOR MR. BORDEN

English Paper Says Conservatives Will Be Beaten at the Polls Next Elections.

London, March 2.—The Morning Post says Quebec is still the political stronghold of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but while Mr. Tupper and the Conservatives are disquieting among themselves Mr. Borden's unostentatious reorganization is not likely to be crowned with victory at the next general election. The Post believes that the conservative party has been greatly strengthened since the beginning of last year.

THE STAR APOLOGIZES

Makes the Amende Honorable to Hon. Raymond Prefontaine.

Montreal, March 2.—The Star published the following yesterday: "On Feb. 6 the Star unwittingly did Hon. Mr. Prefontaine an injustice in attributing to him and to his agents certain comments appearing in La Patrie of this city, on the date in question. These comments were based on the distribution of a circular letter by Mr. Jules de Clement, private secretary of the minister, to applicants for Government positions. In this circular the age, address and special qualifications of the applicants for certain positions are requested. La Patrie commented vigorously, 'the time of benefits has arrived,' 'the Government will set running in the city of Montreal a flow of milk and honey.' The divisions of St. James' and Hochelaga will be particularly well looked after, and will be filled with Government benefactions, which will make them a promised land, where places will be provided, according to merit, to all those who are anxious and hungry to eat at the Government trough."

There was much more to the same effect, all of which, through the misunderstanding of a translator, the Star credited in error as being part of an election circular put out by political agents of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. The articles in question were headed: "Hon. Raymond Prefontaine Issues a Remarkable Circular—His Bureaucracy is Low." To an erroneous assumption was due the Star's comment. There was no intention on the part of the Star to do the Minister of Marine and Fisheries an injustice; that an injustice was done was due to misunderstanding and error. For this the Star expresses unqualified regret. Had the article been fully appreciated, and a distinction made between the circular and Mr. Prefontaine's remarks, the confusion would not have arisen. It was one of those innocent mistakes often made by translators, who are not thoroughly familiar with the language they are translating. We are informed that there was nothing unusual in the circular being sent out by Mr. Clement, as it was a part of the routine business of the department."

MANIAC COUNT STARTS REVOLT

Germany's Agent in West Africa Responsible for War

ALL OVER A STOLEN LANTERN

To Punish the Natives for the Theft He Declared He Would Wipe Out Five Villages.

Berlin, March 1.—The rising of native troops in the Cross and Nassau-Ng Rivers region of German Kamerun, Equatorial West Africa, resulting in several factories of the Northwest Kamerun Company being burned down and four Germans killed, as announced in these dispatches Monday, was caused by the eccentric conduct of Count Von Puckler, president of the district commissioner, who reported to the theft of a lantern from the North-West Kamerun Company. Von Puckler, who was the Government's district commissioner, was reported to be a quiet and sensible administrator, having sound knowledge of native ways and character. He formerly was all German, but recently had been employed by the Government. Herr Schoeller, president of the company, received in December last a long letter from Count Von Puckler regarding the stolen lantern, concluding with the assertion that he intended to make the property of white men respected by burning five villages. Herr Schoeller inferred from the violence of the language of Von Puckler that the latter was deranged, and wrote both to the count and to the agents of the company commanding that nothing be done over so trivial a matter. Herr Schoeller's letter arrived too late. Count Von Puckler with 25 men, tried to arrest the headmen of the company, but the count was killed and his escort with difficulty escaped. During the next few days the natives burned down and four agents were killed. A punitive expedition has now been ordered by the district commissioner. The agents of the company, as appears from information subsequently received by Herr Schoeller, had recently given way to fits of fury against the negroes, attributable to the state of his health, as a result of his long residence in the hot climate of Equatorial West Africa.

BRITAIN AND U. S. STAND TOGETHER

Mr. Hay and Ambassador Durand Discuss the Far Eastern Situation.

Washington, March 1.—There was a long conference at the state department after the cabinet meeting today between Secretary Hay and Sir Mortimer Durand, the British ambassador on several phases of the far eastern war. The Russian Government's declaration of contraband articles is vital to the two English-speaking countries. But this is only one of many questions which have a dual interest to Great Britain and the United States, because of the similarity of their interests in the far east, and also because both countries are strongly under Russian suspicion. This last fact makes it necessary that there shall be a very thorough understanding between the London and Washington Governments regarding their fulfillment of for both Governments that it is their firm intention to observe complete neutrality, losing no opportunity however to adequately protect their own interests.

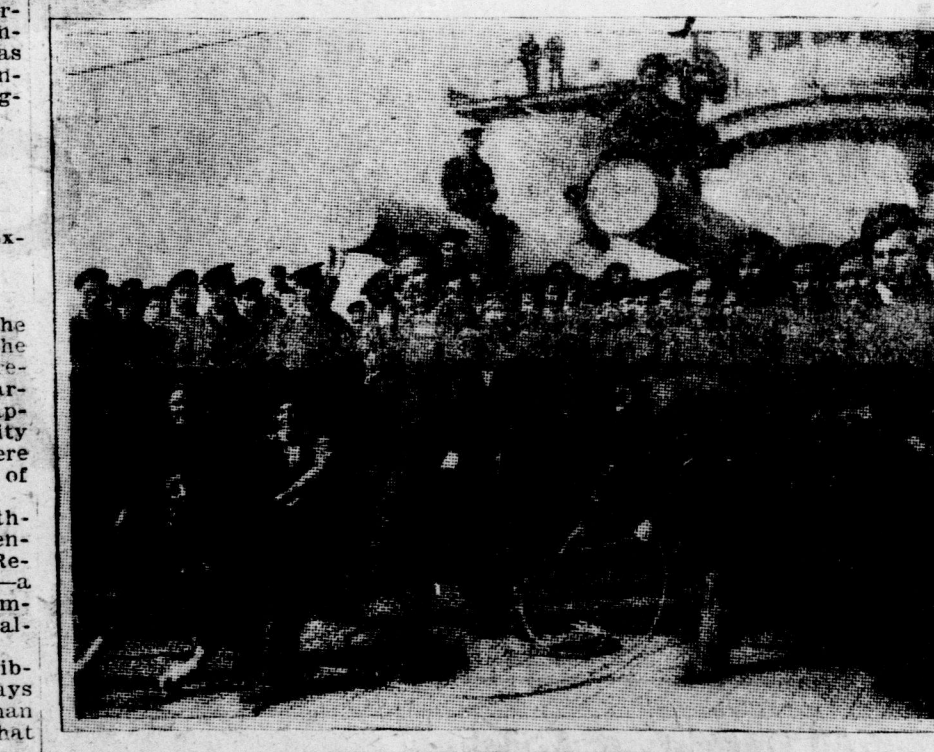
PROSPECTIVE JUDGES.

Ottawa, March 2.—The report is current, although it lacks confirmation, that Mr. Frank Anglin is to be elevated to the bench. The appointment of Mr. T. Macbeth, of London, Mr. D. J. Donahue, of St. Thomas, and Mr. E. C. S. Haycke, to be county court judges, is looked for at an early date.

A CASE OF DESTITUTION.

Toronto, Ont., March 2.—A case of great destitution has just come under the attention of the city relief officials. A mother, with eight children, the youngest six months old, were found living in one room in a cellar through which an open sewer ran. She paid \$8 a month for the room. Had practically no furniture. The husband is away sailing on a cattle ship and has been no help to the family. One boy, a cork-maker, has been on strike. One of the other children works. Six of the family have died of consumption.

THE SCENE OF THE TORPEDOING OF THREE OF RUSSIA'S LARGEST WAR VESSELS: PORT ARTHUR HARBOR.



THE CREW OF THE "VARIAG."

On Feb. 9, the Russian cruisers "Variag" and "Korietz" steamed out of Chemulpo harbor to face a superior Japanese force under Admiral Uru. Both Russian ships sank after being driven back into port. On the "Variag" 37 were killed and 42 wounded, the survivors taking refuge on foreign vessels in the harbor.